



No scope for terrorist 'safe havens' in India: Amit Shah

'India has always adopted zero-tolerance policy against terrorism; timely intelligence sharing can strengthen regional security; drug proceeds used for terror financing; India doesn't believe in attacking other countries'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 13: Asserting that there is no scope for terrorist "safe havens" in India, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday called for stronger regional cooperation among BIMSTEC member countries to combat terrorism, disrupt terror financing and prevent terrorist networks from establishing their bases in any nation.

Addressing the first meeting of home ministers of the seven-member regional grouping in New Delhi, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) urged countries to strengthen intelligence-sharing mechanisms and coordinate their efforts against terrorist networks, organised crime and cross-border activities.

He said India follows a policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism and called on member



countries to ensure that their territories are not used to harbour, recruit or train terrorists, raise funds or plan activities against neighbouring states.

"India has always adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy against terrorism," Shah said, stressing that the security arrangements of each member country should

contribute to the security of others.

He called for the timely exchange of verified and actionable intelligence on terrorists, their associates, financial channels and cross-border networks to strengthen regional security.

HM Shah also urged member countries to cooperate on

mutual legal assistance and extradition, in accordance with their domestic laws and applicable agreements, to ensure that those involved in criminal activities are brought to justice.

The Union Home Minister said terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking were interconnected challenges that required coordinated action across the region.

He called for a "whole-of-region approach" to tackle narcotics smuggling, pointing out that proceeds from the illegal drug trade could be used to finance organised crime and terrorist activities.

"The diversion of precursor chemicals and financial transactions conducted through the dark web has made the challenge more complex, requiring closer cooperation among law enforcement agencies," he said.

The Union Home Minister also sought | [More on P6](#)

Darbar Move: CM calls for hassle-free transition

Directs coordinated transport, security, accommodation arrangement | Winter Secretariat to function in Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed arrangements for the Darbar Move Session 2026-27 at a high-level meeting, directing all concerned departments to ensure a smooth, secure and well-coordinated transition of offices from Srinagar to Jammu, along with adequate facilities for employees.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Estates, Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwini Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police, Traffic, J&K, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy



Commissioners of Srinagar and Jammu, Director Information and other senior officers. Jammu based officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M. Raju, gave a detailed presentation on transport and logistical arrangements for the Darbar Move convoy.

The Chief Minister directed the Managing Director, JKRTC, and the Traffic Department to ensure adequate bus availability and organise the down convoy over two consecutive days, October 31 and November 1, 2026, for the safe and efficient movement of employees and equipment. He stressed close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure hassle-free | [More on P6](#)

Standardisation of names of 28 locations in UT

Ladakh integral part of India: MEA rebuffs China's objection

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 13: After China objected to the naming of 28 strategic locations and geographical features in Union Territory for official mapping, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday reaffirmed that Ladakh is and will always remain an integral part of India.

The MEA, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the exercise was aimed at ensuring accurate identification of geographical features and improving public awareness of the strategically sensitive border region.

"The UT of Ladakh is an integral and inalienable part of India. No amount of denial by the Chinese side can change this established fact," MEA

spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at the ministry's weekly briefing.

The government had announced standardised names for 28 locations on October 2 after consultations with the Ladakh administration. The locations have been incorporated into India's official maps.

Among the places identified are Gogra and Hot Spring, which emerged as major friction points during the 2020 military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops. Both locations are significant for patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Other locations on the list include Alisha Giri, Brangsa, Chapchinal Pass, Kanishka Peak, Karun Pir, Kuxel, Martand Giri, Parpik Glacier, Skamri Glacier, | [More on P6](#)

Winter chill grips Kashmir

Upper reaches witness snowfall, rains lash plains

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 13: Winter chill gripped Kashmir as upper reaches, including Gulmarg, Razdan Pass, Wussan received fresh snowfall, while rains lashed plains on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Gurez Valley, Razdan Pass in Bandipora district, higher reaches of Wussan in Ganderbal district, near



Harmukh Peak, Affarwat peak in Gulmarg, Zojila Pass, Sadhna Top and Sinthan Top witnessed

Fresh snowfall raises hopes for strong winter season in Gulmarg

Tourists enjoy season's first snowfall, stakeholders pin hopes on winter rush

Waris Fayaz

Fresh snowfall in the upper reaches of Gulmarg has delighted tourists and raised hopes for a strong winter tourism season, with stakeholders expecting a surge in visitors to

the famous ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The Affarwat slopes, home to the iconic Gulmarg Gondola, received fresh snowfall on Tuesday, draping the mountains in white and offering visitors an early glimpse of | [More on P6](#)

Strengthen operational preparedness to maintain peace across J&K: DGP

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 13: Calling on the officers to ensure effective co-ordination to address emerging security challenges, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday directed them to strengthen operational preparedness to maintain peace and security across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing an operational review meeting in hybrid mode at PCR Kashmir here, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) laid emphasis on strengthening the professional competence and operational preparedness of J&K Police. "All officers



should remain alert, proactive, and operationally prepared," he said.

The meeting was attended by the top officers who at the outset of the meeting briefed the chair on the operational preparedness and key

security-related developments in the UT of J&K.

They apprised the DGP of the measures being undertaken to maintain peace and security, the steps taken to strengthen intelligence-gathering mechanisms, and the | [More on P6](#)

Unseasonal rain, hailstorms damage basmati paddy in Jammu

Farmers report 100% crop loss, seek compensation

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Oct 13: Unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms and strong winds have damaged standing basmati paddy crops in the Marh area of Jammu district, leaving farmers worried about heavy losses and prompting them to seek compensation from the administration.

Farmers said the sudden change in weather struck when the crop was nearing harvest, damaging plants and affecting their prospects of recovering the money invested in cultivation.

Dayaram, a farmer from the region, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)



that heavy rainfall followed by hailstorms and strong winds had destroyed his crop. "It rained heavily here,

followed by hailstorms and strong winds, which completely destroyed our crops. We have suffered 100 per cent crop loss.

This year, we were expecting a bumper harvest because the rainfall had been good and the crops were growing well. But the unseasonal rain and hailstorms destroyed everything," he said.

Farmers said the damage had come as a major setback after months of work and expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation and labour.

They said the loss of standing basmati paddy could affect their household incomes, particularly for those who depend largely on agriculture for their livelihood.

The affected farmers urged the administration to assess the damage promptly and provide compensation | [More on P6](#)

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit

J&K emerges as birthplace of purple revolution: Jitendra Singh

Says 8,000 youths gained employment opportunities

Highlights scientific initiatives, weather monitoring, Himalayan research

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 13: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as

the birthplace of the Purple Revolution, with nearly 7,000 to 8,000 youths finding employment and livelihood opportunities through the Aroma Mission.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit and Agriculture Science Congress 2026 in Srinagar, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the summit was being held in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time, bringing together scholars, students and experts



from across the country.

Congratulating the organisers, he said Jammu and

Kashmir's unique Himalayan landscape, with its rivers, glaciers and natural springs,

makes it an ideal destination for scientific research and academic activities.

He, however, noted that the region's terrain also makes it vulnerable to natural disasters such as flash floods. Recalling the 2014 floods that inundated Srinagar and the cloud-burst in Kishtwar's Chisoti area last year, Singh stressed the need for stronger disaster preparedness.

To improve weather forecasting and monitoring, he said the Ministry of Science and Technology has installed automatic weather stations

across the region.

"Before 2014, there were only 17 radar stations in the country. Today, the number has increased to 50, and another 50 are being established under Mission Mausam announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Singh said several scientific projects have been launched in Jammu and Kashmir, including India's first capacity-building programme in glaciology at the University of Kashmir. He also highlighted the role of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan | [More on P6](#)

Arms, ammo recovered in Poonch

KNO Correspondent

Poonch, Oct 13: Security forces on Tuesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during a search operation in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a joint team of the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police recovered the arms and ammunition during the operation.

He said the recovered items included one AK-47 rifle, one magazine, six grenades with fuses and 30 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, besides food items and medicines.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been initiated | [More on P6](#)

Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan
assumes charge as Mission
Director NHM J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan, Tuesday formally assumed charge as the Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu & Kashmir, at the State Health Society, NHM Office, Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

Upon his arrival, he was warmly welcomed by the NHM staff, reflecting their enthusiasm and strong confidence in his leadership.

He took over the charge from outgoing Mission Director, Akriti Sagar, who was present on the occasion and provided a brief overview of the ongoing operations and functioning of the office. The joining ceremony was also attended by the Director Planning NHM J&K, FA & CAO SHS NHM J&K, Divisional Nodal Officer NHM Kashmir, and other senior officers of NHM. Addressing the officers and staff during his inaugural address, Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan, as per an official statement, underscored the critical importance of teamwork, innovation, and a people-centric approach in healthcare delivery. He reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to the core objectives of the National Health Mission, ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for every resident of Jammu & Kashmir. Highlighting the Union Territory's unique geographical and logistical healthcare challenges, the newly appointed Mission Director called for collective efforts and innovative solutions. He emphasized that the health and well-being of the people of J&K will remain the absolute central focus of all future NHM initiatives and programs.

ITI Seer Hamdan organises Cyber
Awareness, Hygiene Session for trainees
Trainees sensitised about importance of creating strong passwords,
safeguarding personal, sensitive information

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 13: Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Seer Hamdan organised a Cyber Awareness-cum-Hygiene Session for its trainees with the objective of sensitising them about the safe, responsible and secure use of digital technologies.

The session, as per an official statement, focused on creating awareness among trainees about the importance of cyber hygiene, online safety and adopting responsible digital practices in an increasingly technology-driven world. The initiative aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and practical precautions to



protect themselves from cyber threats, online frauds and potential misuse of digital platforms. The trainees were sensitised about the importance of creating strong passwords, safeguarding their personal and sensitive information, and avoiding the unnecessary sharing of private details on online platforms. They were also advised to exercise caution while accessing unfamiliar websites, downloading applications and interacting with unknown individuals online. Emphasis was laid on

remaining vigilant against suspicious links, fraudulent messages, phishing emails and unauthorised applications that may compromise personal information or lead to financial and digital security risks. The trainees were encouraged to verify the authenticity of online communications before clicking on links, sharing information or downloading files.

The session further highlighted the need to develop responsible digital habits, maintain privacy on social media and

use internet-based services judiciously. The trainees were urged to remain alert to emerging cyber threats and follow basic cyber safety measures in their daily lives.

The awareness programme formed part of the institute's efforts to promote digital literacy and ensure that trainees are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital environment safely and responsibly.

The session concluded with an emphasis on the message that cyber security begins with awareness, vigilance and responsible online behaviour, encouraging all trainees to adopt good cyber hygiene practices and contribute towards a safer digital environment.

NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss MUKESH KUMAR TEWATIA, S/D/W of KARAN SINGH. Resident of: at H. NO. 41 NEAR JAAT CHAUPAL NANGLA BHIKU NANGLA PALWAL, HR 121102 In Respect of LMV/Three wheeler/Motor Cycle/MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. HR30W2711 Chassis No. MA3EADE1S00552096 Engine No. D4FALM018450 In favour of: ARSHEED AHMAD MIR S/D/W of: GH MOHD MIR Resident of: RAKHI HARRAN GANDERBAL JK 191131 (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

Kashmir
Thunder
IS AVAILABLE
AT ALL LEADING
STALLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showkat Ahmad Dar, f/o Shahid Ahmad Dar, R/o Rakhi, hereby inform the general public that my son, Shahid Ahmad Dar, is beyond my control and has been borrowing money and other items from people without my consent. Therefore, the general public is hereby informed that I shall not be held responsible for any loans, debts, financial transactions, or other liabilities incurred by my son without my knowledge or consent in the future. This notice is issued for the information of the general public.

Sd/-
Showkat Ahmad Dar
F/o Shahid Ahmad Dar
R/o Rakhi Harran Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been incorrectly recorded in the School Record as "Saika jaan", whereas the correct name is "Aizah jaan". The student is studying in Class 2nd. Necessary correction in the school record is therefore required. Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may submit the same before the Principal Sadaat Valley Educational Institute Wakura GANDERBAL authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Sd/-
SHOWKAT AHMAD GANIE
F/o Aizah jaan
R/o _wakura gbl

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF J&K
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR GANDERBAL
Subject:- Issuance of legal heir certificate of deceased GHULAM RASOOL PARRAY S/o ALI MOHD PARRAY R/o NUNNAR Ganderbal

NOTICE

Sir,
Regarding the subject cited above. In this connection, that the deceased GHULAM RASOOL PARRAY S/o GHULAM MOHD PARRAY R/o NUNNAR Ganderbal expired on 27-09-2026 as per death certificates. The legal heirs of the said deceased are as below:-

S.No	Name	Relation with deceased.	Age
1.	MAHMOODAH	WIFE	45
2.	OWAIS RASOOL	SON	23
3.	SAQIB RASOOL	Son.	7
4.	YASIR RASOOL AGE	Son	16

Before issue the legal heirs certificate in favour of Legal heirs of above mentioned deceased, general public are inform through medium of this notice. if any body having objection with regard to applicant's claim of death/legal heir certificate, he/she may file objection before the office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Further no objection shall be entertained after the supulated time period.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showkat Ahmad Dar, f/o Shahid Ahmad Dar, R/o Rakhi, hereby inform the general public that my son, Shahid Ahmad Dar, is beyond my control and has been borrowing money and other items from people without my consent. Therefore, the general public is hereby informed that I shall not be held responsible for any loans, debts, financial transactions, or other liabilities incurred by my son without my knowledge or consent in the future. This notice is issued for the information of the general public.

Sd/-
Showkat Ahmad Dar
F/o Shahid Ahmad Dar
R/o Rakhi Harran Ganderbal

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- exen-mechospssgr@jk.gov.in

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2026-27/66/e-tendering
Dated:-12.10.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from Original Equipment manufacturers or registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	TS No	Earnest Money
1	2	3	4	6	7
Repairs to OTIS make G+2 (26 Passenger) Bed Lift installed near Burn Ward Section of SMHS Hospital, Srinagar followed by CMC for 01 Year	3.43	200	10/365	M&HDS/TS/54 Dated:-10/2026	2% of the estimated cost

AA Accorded Vide No:- 07 MCS of 2026 Dt:23.04.2026

Position of Funds:- Available with intending department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 12.10.2026(18.00hrs)and can be downloaded from 12.10.2026 (18.00hrs) to 27.10.2026 (13.00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 12.10.2026 (18.00hrs) to 27.10.2026 (13.00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 27.10.2026 at 15.00(hrs)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

DIPK-6690/26

DATED: 13-10-2026

No: M&HDS/TS/4543-47

Dated: 12.10.2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL &
HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA
E-MAIL, ID, XENMHD.BLA@JK.GOV.IN

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2026-27/99/2865-71
Date:	13-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on Percentage basis from experienced firms Registered with J&K Govt., PWD, Department through JKPWDOMS for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion (in days)
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Medical Grade (SS316) Reverse Osmosis (RO) Double Pass Plant of 500 LPH Capacity for Dialysis Unit alongwith allied works at CHC Chattergam Budgam.	13.93	1000.00	27860/-	30 days

Note: -

- AAA: -Administrative Approval accorded by Director Health Services Kashmir vide order No. 47/DHSK of 2026 Dated: - 10-10-2026.
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/56 of 10/2026 Dated: - 12-10-2026.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13-10-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 13-10-2026 to 02-11-2026
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 13-10-2026 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-11-2026 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	03-11-2026 (13:00 HRS)

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee from (LL) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Technical Specifications	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "C" duly accepted by the bidder.
05.	Tax Registration	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
06.	GST/Latest GST clearance certificate	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
07.	Non - Blacklisting Declaration	Undertaking as per Annexure "D" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any department
08.	Experience	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts in any Govt. / Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered. Similar nature of work means SITC of RO Plant (500 LPH or Higher Capacity)
09.	Other Documents to be uploaded	Design / Layout and Brochures of offered model of RO / Total Dissolved Solids at delivery point, Technical Data Sheet etc.
10.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.

Note: -

- > The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- > Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- > Contractor / Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.
- A. Cover-II shall contain:
 01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Instruction to Bidders: -
 - > The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
 - > The complete bidding process will be online.
 - > The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
 - > Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - > Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - > The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
 - > Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).
 - > Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
 - > Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to deposit additional performance security as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025.
 - > The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

DIPK-6685/26

DATED: 13-10-2026

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-99/2865-71

Dated: - 13-10-2026

Waqf Board sermon plan faces pushback

CM Omar, Mehbooba, MMU among others demand withdrawal of 'unacceptable' directive

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board's proposal for common themes in Friday sermons has drawn opposition from political and religious leaders across the Valley.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), Peoples Conference (PC) president Sajad Lone, National Conference (NC) leaders and Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir have questioned the move, citing concerns over religious freedom and the autonomy of the pulpit.

The opposition has further come from NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu and Budgam MLA Aga Muntazir Mehdi, while the MMU has urged the Waqf Board to restrict itself to managing religious properties instead of intervening in matters of faith.

CM Abdullah termed the proposal "an unacceptable attempt" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims, demanding that the Waqf Board chairperson immediately halt the initiative.

In a post on X, Omar said, "This is an unacceptable attempt by the BJP to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims and will not be accepted under any circumstances. The BJP appointed Chairperson must immediately halt this misplaced attempt to please her masters."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti strongly opposed the proposal, questioning who would decide what Imams should preach during Friday prayers. She said that local religious scholars were better placed



to understand the concerns of their communities.

"Our imams and maulvis know what to say and when to speak," Mehbooba said during a press conference in Srinagar.

Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a "laboratory for the BJP", she called for the Waqf Board to be brought under the administrative control of the elected Jammu and Kashmir government. Mufti suggested that religious matters be addressed through established bodies of Islamic scholars, including the MMU headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The MMU also rejected the proposal, saying even the suggestion that a statutory body could determine or regulate what was preached from the minbar, or pulpit, was unacceptable.

In a statement, the amalgam of religious and socio-religious organisations described the minbar as an "Amanah" (sacred trust), maintaining that religious guidance was the domain of Ulema, Imams and recognised religious institutions rooted in Islamic scholarship and the traditions of different schools of thought.

"The state or government cannot



assume for itself the authority to determine religious discourse and scripted speech to be delivered, or interfere in matters of faith and religious practice," the MMU said.

The amalgam drew a distinction between voluntary coordination among religious scholars to address common social concerns and intervention by an administrative body, saying any attempt by a state-linked institution to prescribe sermon themes amounted to intrusion into the religious sphere.

PC president and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone described the proposed vetting of Friday sermons as interference in religious freedom and the autonomy of the pulpit.

In a post on X, Lone said, "The pulpit belongs to faith, not government micromanagement. Hands off our mosques."

NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq demanded the withdrawal of the directive, questioning the authority of the BJP to decide what Imams and Khateeb should say during Friday prayers.

"What kind of an order is this, where you tell imams and khateeb what they have to say? Will the BJP

now decide which khutbah should be delivered? I think this order should be taken back," Sadiq said.

He said Imams and Khateeb spend years studying the Quran and Hadith and should be allowed to deliver sermons based on Islamic teachings and the issues faced by society.

NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar alleged that the move could allow the BJP to influence the content and direction of Friday sermons.

"Now @BJP4India will DRAFT Friday sermons for mosques across Kashmir," Dar wrote on X, alleging that the content, wording and intent of sermons could come under the party's influence.

Dar said he is confident that religious leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, would oppose the move.

Former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu questioned the implications of the proposal for religious freedom and constitutional guarantees. "If the BJP wants to decide what our Imams say in Friday sermons, what is left in this pretense of 'freedom of religion'??? Or the Constitution???" Mattu wrote on X.

MLA Budgam Aga Muntazir Mehdi said the Waqf Board's role should remain confined to managing its properties and institutions rather than dictating religious discourse. "Waqf's job is management, not dictating sermons," Mehdi wrote on X, maintaining that Imams and Khateeb did not need a prescribed agenda to guide their communities.

The controversy followed the Waqf Board's announcement that a proposed core committee comprising Muftis, Imams and Khateeb would identify common themes for Friday sermons across affiliated mosques and religious institutions—(KNO)

Board has no authority to dictate Friday sermons: Waqf Chief

Dr Andrabi rejects interference allegations



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 13: Amid a growing row over proposed common themes for Friday sermons, Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Tuesday asserted that no order had been issued making uniform sermons mandatory, saying religious scholars were free to decide what to preach and insisting that the Board had no authority to dictate sermon topics.

Addressing a press conference here, Dr Andrabi said the initiative was intended to encourage religious scholars to address pressing social concerns, including drug

abuse, suicides, family issues and mental distress among young people.

"Even Darakhshan Andrabi cannot take any such decision, nor can my officer take any such decision. It is the decision of the independent scholars, our preachers, our sermonists, that we should try to remove the vices in society," she said.

Stressing that the subjects would be decided by the scholars themselves, the Waqf Board chairperson said sermons could focus on whichever social issues they considered important. "If we want to talk about drugs today,

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

MP Mian Altaf visits GMC Anantnag

Seeks early opening of Sarai for patients

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Oct 13: Member of Parliament (MP) Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi visited Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag on Tuesday to assess the progress of a Sarai (rest house) under construction to provide accommodation and respite for patients from distant areas and their attendants.

During the visit, the MP inspected the facility and took stock of the work completed so far. He observed that the Sarai could offer considerable relief to patients and their families, particularly those travelling long distances for medical consultations, investigations and treatment at the medical college.

However, the MP expressed concern over the delay in completing the project, stating that the facility should have been made available to the public much earlier.

Calling for its early utilisation, Mian Altaf said the portions of the Sarai that had already been completed should be opened for public use without waiting for the entire project to be finished.



He said making the completed sections functional would provide immediate relief to patients and attendants, while the remaining construction and expansion work could continue simultaneously.

The MP said he had previously taken up the matter with the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and held discussions with officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) to explore measures for making the facility operational.

He added that he would once again take up the issue with the

concerned authorities to expedite the process and ensure that the infrastructure was put to use at the earliest.

The Sarai is expected to benefit patients and attendants who travel to GMC Anantnag from far-flung areas of South Kashmir and other districts, many of whom face difficulties arranging accommodation during prolonged treatment and hospital visits.

During the interaction,
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Drug addiction, peddling decline significantly in J&K: ADGP



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 13: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said drug addiction and peddling have declined significantly in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the progress to the Nasha Mukta campaign launched under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Jashn-e-Dal water sports event, Kumar said the campaign had received an overwhelming response across

the Union Territory.

"I would not say that drug addiction and drug peddling have completely stopped, but there has certainly been a significant reduction," he said.

Emphasising the role of sports in preventing substance abuse, the ADGP said sporting activities are vital for the physical and mental well-being of young people, helping them cope with stress, anxiety and other challenges.

"Sports are an excellent way to keep our children and youth

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

LG Saxena chairs first Ladakh Advisory Council meet



Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Oct 13: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday chaired the first meeting of the Advisory Council of the Union Territory of Ladakh to review major developmental initiatives and discuss key issues concerning the region's growth.

Highlighting the Administration's commitment to water security, Saxena discussed Project Him Sarovar, which envisages the creation of water storage ponds to harness glacial and snowmelt runoff.

He urged council members to suggest innovative measures to strengthen climate resilience, boost tourism and create employment opportunities for local youth.

On the Pashmina sector, the Lieutenant Governor said the Administration has extended a 25 per cent subsidy to Pashmina wool growers and aims to increase the Pashmina goat population to four lakh by next year.

Referring to sea buckthorn promotion, Saxena said Ladakh produced 2,200 tonnes of the crop

this year. He added that a processing plant is being established in Nubra to enhance value addition and expand market opportunities.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the need for glacier conservation in view of the challenges posed by global warming, saying Ladakh's fragile ecology requires proactive measures to ensure long-term climate resilience.

Appreciating the suggestions put forward by Advisory Council members, Saxena assured that the Administration would continue addressing key public concerns. He announced that the council would meet again soon to review progress and discuss future plans.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohammed Jaffer Akhoun; Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohammed Hanifa Jan; religious and community representatives; former civil servants; and senior UT Administration officials, including the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police. Some members joined the meeting virtually—(KNO)

Intensify anti-drug, anti-terror ops: SSP Neha Jain

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Oct 13: Stressing people-friendly policing, prompt grievance redressal and faster investigation of cases under the NDPS and UAPA Acts, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore Neha Jain on Tuesday directed officers to intensify anti-drug and anti-terror operations.

SSP Jain, who took charge recently issued the directions while chairing an introductory meeting with officers of Police District Sopore at the Conference Hall here in North Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Sopore, SDPO Sopore, SDPO Rafiabab, DySP DAR Sopore, DySP PC Sopore, DySP PC Wadoora, all

Station House Officers (SHOs) and in-charge police posts of the district.

At the outset, the officers welcomed the newly joined SSP and briefed her on their respective jurisdictions and current assignments.

Addressing the officers, Jain stressed the need for professional, accountable and people-friendly policing. She called for zero tolerance towards corruption and directed officers to ensure the prompt redressal of public grievances.

She emphasised enhanced coordination, effective supervision and a proactive approach to crime prevention. She also directed officers to focus on curbing the drug menace, strengthening the anti-terror grid and

maintaining law and order.

The SSP called for expediting investigations, particularly in cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

She also stressed the need to strengthen visible policing through regular patrolling and naka checking, while underscoring the importance of community policing and police-public cooperation in maintaining peace and stability.

SSP Jain directed all officers to discharge their duties with dedication, integrity and commitment to public service, and to uphold the highest standards of professionalism—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

Skills, Not Just Degrees Can Tackle Youth Unemployment

Too many young people in Kashmir are educated but unemployed. They have degrees. They have certificates. But they don't have jobs. And this gap is slowly turning into something worse - frustration, hopelessness and, in many cases, depression. The problem is not that our youth lack potential.

The problem is that we have trained them for jobs that don't exist. For decades, the only dream we sold them was a government job. Study hard, get a degree, wait for an advertisement, apply, hope. But government jobs are limited. And when lakhs of young people compete for a few thousand posts, most are left behind.

Not because they are not capable, but because the system failed to prepare them for anything else. This is where skill education comes in. And this is where the idea of demand-driven subjects in colleges makes sense. Why are we forcing students to study subjects that lead nowhere? Why not teach agriculture, horticulture,

tourism, music - subjects that actually have scope in Kashmir? Why not give them practical training that helps them start something of their own? The government says it is working on this. Colleges are being asked to introduce subjects students actually want to study. Faculty is being provided. Infrastructure is

being improved. Enrolment has gone up by 17 per cent. These are good signs. But we need to move faster. Unemployment is not just an economic problem. It is a social problem. An idle mind is not just unproductive - it is vulnerable. Young people who sit at home waiting for jobs that never come are easy targets for drugs,

depression and despair. The answer is not more degrees. The answer is skills. The answer is self-reliance. The answer is teaching our youth how to create jobs, not just how to seek them. We need to stop producing graduates who can only wait. We need to start producing young people who can build.

Towards A TB-Free India: Progress, Innovation And Community Participation

The government is using AI systems for the detection, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. The Cough Against TB solution uses acoustic AI, where a three-second recording of a patient's cough via a smartphone app analyses frequency patterns for TB signatures, screening over 1.62 lakh people. The Adverse Outcome Prediction tool flags patients at high risk of treatment failure, while DeepCXR uses radiology AI to read digital X-rays.

Press Information Bureau

India's fight against tuberculosis has achieved significant milestones, with yearly emerging cases dipping by 21%, compared to the global decline of 12% between 2015 and 2024. India's treatment coverage is 92% versus global coverage of 78%. Driven by the intensified TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, cumulative screenings have crossed 28.1 crore, with over 20 lakh individuals provided TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), 5.7 lakh new Nikshay Mitras added, and 46,118 Gram Panchayats awarded TB-free certification. The national response has been substantially accelerated through a 34-fold increase in X-ray screening via handheld units, the rollout of the TB Mukh Bharat App featuring the AI chatbot 'Khushi', and the introduction of the shorter, safer BPaLM (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid, and Moxifloxacin) treatment regimen for drug-resistant patients alongside advanced AI-driven triage tools. Building on this progress, the JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) campaign mobilises young people and communities to promote TB awareness, early detection, timely treatment, and treatment adherence, while addressing stigma. By strengthening community participation and collective action, the campaign reinforces the Jan Andolan approach towards achieving a TB-free India.

Introduction
India is on track towards tuberculosis elimination. New cases of tuberculosis emerging yearly in India have been reduced by 21% from 2015-2024 as compared to the global decline of 12%, according to the World Health Organisation's Global Tuberculosis Report 2025. India's treatment coverage is 92% versus global coverage of 78%.

This marks one of the most significant declines in TB incidence globally, exceeding the pace of reduction recorded in other high-burden nations. Deaths due to TB reduced by 28% during the same period. The Government of India's targeted, multi-pronged approach towards detecting, screening and treating tuberculosis has contributed significantly to this progressive trend. Advanced technology expanded local health services, community engagement, and affordable treatment have put India on track to eliminate this prevalent and potentially fatal disease.

JOSH Campaign to Mobilise Communities Towards TB Elimination

To further amplify this momentum towards eliminating TB, a nationwide social media campaign featuring JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams - across 11 states and 55 districts on a pilot basis - was organised on 13th October 2026. Every JOSH team has MY BHARAT volunteers, cadets from the National Cadet Corps, and a designated Class-I officer to spread awareness on timely screening and treatment.

This structure mobilises the youth towards grassroots community awareness. All ministries, departments, healthcare institutions, MY Bharat volunteers and youth organisations, students and citizens are encouraged to join in amplifying TB awareness, early detection, treatment adherence and stigma-free communities through posts, photographs, videos and inspiring stories highlighting youth-led action.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare held workshops on the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan with members of the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. However, to take this campaign forward, involving the communities was deemed crucial. The JOSH campaign endeavours to be the next step in increasing community participation, highlighting the importance of screening and early detection. The campaign highlights the requirement for diagnosis and treatment, along with community participation, to increase active screening and to find asymptomatic patients.

This community participation and awareness building, particularly in vulnerable and marginalised populations, is crucial for removing fear and increasing awareness in people about treatment and screening as well. Together with the initiative, this campaign



is aimed at making TB Mukh Bharat a reality through both institutional support and community mobilisation.

TB and Symptoms

What is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis, usually impacting the lungs. TB can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, kidneys, or the spine.

A person infected by the bacterium may become sick, but some do not. Inactive TB cases or latent TB infections also exist. People with inactive TB may not spread the disease to others like those with an active TB infection - yet they may develop active TB anytime and become sick. Babies and children, and people with weaker immune systems, are more likely to get sick when infected. Without proper treatment, active TB can be fatal.

TB Symptoms

Symptoms of active TB are usually specific to the site affected by the bacteria, though there are some symptoms common to all types of TB.

People with active or symptomatic TB can spread the TB bacteria to others. When they cough, sneeze or speak, tiny droplets containing the bacteria can be released into the air and inhaled by people nearby - especially in spaces with poor ventilation.

Although tuberculosis spreads through the air, it does not transmit through:

- Handshakes
- Using public toilets
- Sharing food and utensils
- Everyday social interactions

Patients with lung TB generally stop being contagious after they have been on appropriate TB medicines for at least two weeks. People with TB in parts of the body other than the lungs usually cannot spread the disease.

What Should You Do If You Notice Symptoms?

The National TB Elimination Programme provides free screening and treatment services across the country at all public health facilities and many private healthcare centres, too. If you or anyone you know is showing TB symptoms:

Call the toll-free Ni-kshay Sampark TB & Hepatitis helpline: 1800-11-6666 for guidance and visit your nearest government health centre - TB diagnosis and treatment are provided free of cost under government programs.

You can also download the TB Aarogya Sathi app on your Android phone for more information on symptoms and nearby health facilities. The app helps you locate the closest centres offering TB diagnosis and treatment and provides guidance on medication side effects as well as nutritional advice for TB

patients.

Strategic Plan to End TB in India

The Government is committed to eliminating tuberculosis (TB), in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. The National Strategic Plan to End TB in India 2020-25, announced in June 2020, aims to eliminate tuberculosis through four pillars: Build, Prevent, Detect, and Treat. The plan focuses on early diagnosis, reducing transmission, treating patients with appropriate drugs and regimens, and creating patient support systems.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

In 2020, the Government of India renamed the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) to the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP). This reflects India's goal to eliminate tuberculosis before the global target of 2030. The NTEP builds on the four pillars of the NSP: Detect - Treat - Prevent - Build. The key activities of the programme are:

Early diagnosis of individuals with TB through high-quality testing, and proactive community outreach to find missing cases in vulnerable populations.

Prompt treatment with quality-assured drugs and treatment regimens, including drug-resistant TB.

Engaging with patients seeking care in the private sector.

Patient-centric treatment support and nutrition interventions through direct benefit transfer and the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative.

Contact tracing and TB preventive treatment among household contacts, children, people living with HIV (PLHIV), and in high risk/vulnerable populations.

Airborne infection control measures.

Multi-sectoral response for addressing social determinants.

The government runs various programmes under NTEP.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

The Pradhan Mantri-TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (TB-Free India Campaign) was launched on September 9, 2022, as an additional key component of the NTEP. This initiative was launched to unite people from all walks of life in a 'Jan Andolan' (people's movement) and accelerate the nation's progress towards eliminating TB. Its objectives are:

- Provide Additional Support to TB Patients to improve treatment outcomes
- Augment Community Involvement
- Leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Nikshay Poshan Yojana and the Ni-kshay Mitra Programme

TB patients must eat a high-protein diet to counteract the adverse side-effects of the treatment drugs. The Nikshay Poshan Yojana, launched in 2018, provides financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 per month to each notified tuberculosis patient. Since its launch in April 2018, Rs.4,454.68 crores have been disbursed directly into the bank accounts of 1.38 crore beneficiaries.

TB treatment is long, lasting at least 6 months, and sometimes even longer. A Ni-kshay Mitra is a "TB Friend" or supporter who provides TB patients with help during this treatment period. A person, an NGO, corporations, religious and community groups, government officials and public figures can volunteer to be Ni-kshay Mitras.

The TB Friend provides regular food baskets to help patients reduce out-of-pocket expenditures. They can also provide psychosocial support by checking in regularly, and vocational support to help patients rebuild their lives after recovery.

As of November 12, 2025:

6,77,541 individuals and organisations, as Ni-kshay Mitras, distributed over 45 lakh food baskets to TB patients.

Over 2 lakh MY Bharat volunteers have come forward to serve as Ni-kshay Mitras. MY Bharat is an initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which connects 15-29-year-old people to various government departments, private organisations and civil-society partnerships to address real-world challenges and issues.

100-Day TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched one of India's most intensive TB elimination drives called the 100-Day TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan on 7th December 2024 in 347 high-priority districts across 33 States/UTs. To achieve early diagnosis of TB, vulnerability mapping and systematic screening of high-risk populations for TB were undertaken. The Jan Andolan also led to active involvement of over 30,000 elected representatives and 24 line ministries and support of Ni-kshay Mitras, exhibiting a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to TB elimination. The strategies of TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan have now been scaled up and expanded nationwide across all districts.

As of June 2026, the intensified campaign has crossed major milestones: over 28.1 crore people screened, 20 lakh individuals provided TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), and 5.7 lakh new Nikshay Mitras added.

During the second phase of the campaign starting March 2026, over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Shikshas were held across 1.2 lakh high-risk villages and wards, backed by active participation from 32 lakh students and 1.9 lakh MY Bharat volunteers. The treatment success rate under the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan has risen to 90%, surpassing the global average of 88%.

New Initiatives

New shorter, safer and highly effective BPaLM regimen having Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin has been introduced under the programme for drug-resistant TB patients, which will reduce the duration of treatment to 6 months. More than 15,000 MDR/RR-TB patients have been initiated on this regimen.

TB Preventive treatment: Recognising that prevention is as critical as cure, TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) is provided to eligible beneficiaries to prevent the progression of TB infection to active disease. Through targeted and innovative approach, the programme has successfully protected household contacts and people living with HIV (PLHIV) over the years by administering TPT. The intervention has also been integrated with active and intensive case-finding campaigns and expansion to other vulnerable groups.

Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are community health centres under the larger Ayushman Bharat scheme providing universal and affordable healthcare to all. There are 1,87,250 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in India (as on October 13, 2026) - including sub-health centres, primary health centres, urban

primary health centres, AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) centres and Urban Health and Wellness Centres. People showing TB symptoms can go to these centres to get diagnosed.

Healthcare workers at an Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district screen women for TB and other diseases (September 20, 2025), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Technological Infrastructure

More than 9800 rapid molecular testing facilities and 107 culture and drug susceptibility testing laboratories exist - the world's largest network - for early TB detection and care. Other tools are:

Over 500 AI-enabled hand-held chest X-ray units for community screening, with 1,500 being delivered to the states and union territories

Ni-kshay digital platform facilitates direct benefit transfer of nutritional support

34-Fold Surge in X-Ray Screening: Driven by the large-scale deployment of handheld X-ray units nationwide.

TB Mukh Bharat App & 'Khushi' Chatbot: A newly launched digital platform integrated with an AI-powered chatbot to track progress, guide citizens on symptoms, and locate nearby diagnostic centres.

Capacity Building: The Ministry has expanded radiographer positions under the National Health Mission alongside expanding Truenat and CBNAAT diagnostic machinery.

Finding TB Cases in Remote Kashmir

In the isolated Gurez valley of Bandipora District, Kashmir-located 2,400 metres high in the Himalayas and cut off during winter-the NTEP Kashmir team conducted an intensive TB screening campaign. Using mobile testing vans equipped with advanced diagnostic machines and portable X-ray equipment, the team screened 1,250 people over three days and identified over 250 potential TB cases for further testing. They also conducted awareness sessions with the Indian Army, local health workers, village representatives, and religious leaders. This effort reflects Jammu and Kashmir's commitment to achieving a "TB-free Kashmir" by 2025.

AI-Led Initiatives

The government is using AI systems for the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis in its push to integrate the technology into healthcare delivery to improve access and speed of care. These are:

In the area of TB Screening, the Cough Against TB (CATB) solution uses Acoustic AI, where a 3-second recording of a patient's cough via a smartphone app analyses frequency patterns for TB signatures. This has led to over 1.62 lakh people being screened, with a 12-16% extra yield in cases over conventional methods.

For TB Management, the Adverse Outcome Prediction tool uses Predictive Analytics, where AI flags patients at high risk of treatment failure, and once flagged, treatment is initiated. This has reported a 27% decline in adverse outcomes after nationwide deployment.

In TB Triage, the DeepCXR (Chest X-ray) solution uses Radiology AI, involving automated reading of digital X-rays to identify nodules or cavities for presumptive TB cases. It has been deployed in 8 States/UTs and is available free of cost to the government to bypass specialist shortages.

Gearing Towards Eliminating TB

India's steady decline in TB incidence is a powerful reminder that sustained commitment, community participation, and strong public health initiatives truly make a difference. With continued vigilance, expanded access to care, and collective responsibility, the country is moving closer to a future where TB-free India is not just a goal, but an achievable reality. The JOSH social media campaign endeavours to increase TB awareness and help in mobilizing communities towards eliminating TB. Through these initiatives spanning healthcare institutions at all levels, the youth, and communities, India is gearing towards eliminating a dangerous and prevalent disease to create a Viksit Bharat 2047.

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

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

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3-day UT-Level training programme on VPRP concludes in Srinagar

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) successfully concluded its three-day Union Territory-level training workshop on the Village Prosperity & Resilience Plan (VPRP) aimed at strengthening the capacities of JKRLM officials for effective planning, participatory development and the integration of community-driven priorities into Gram Panchayat Development plans (GPDs).

Designed to equip participants with essential skills and technical knowledge for the seamless formulation and execution of VPRPs, the three days training program, as per an official statement, focused on seeding of the concept of VPRP among rural population and aligning community-driven needs and aspirations with the broader framework of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs).

During the three-day sessions, resource persons alongside



thematic experts from JKRLM delivered extensive hands-on training across core VPRP components viz. Entitlement Plans, Livelihood Development, Plans Social Development Plans and Resource Development Plans.

The training aimed to educate members about both the awareness at the grass root level and translation of aspiration and needs into a structured plan which will be further dove

Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma while interacting with the participants emphasised the importance of clearly understanding their roles and responsibilities and effectively translating the knowledge acquired through training into action at the grassroots level. She urged the participants to disseminate their learnings among rural communities, enabling people to participate meaningfully in the

formulation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) and contribute towards sustainable village development.

Dr. Shubhra Sharma emphasised that the VPRP process must begin with an understanding of the needs and aspirations of rural communities. She stressed that participants must take this understanding to the grassroots, enabling people to identify their priorities and bring them into the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs). She noted that effective planning and convergence with government schemes are essential to ensuring that development reaches those who need it most and contributes to lasting improvements in rural livelihoods.

As part of the training programme, a house discussion was also held, allowing participants to engage in meaningful dialogue on local issues, opportunities and strategies for enhancing SHG initiatives through effective convergence and resilience planning.

DC Budgam chairs introductory meeting with district, sectoral officers

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Tuesday chaired an introductory meeting with district and sectoral officers to review ongoing developmental works and the implementation of government schemes across the district.

The meeting was attended by CPO Budgam, ACR, CEO, CMO, SDMs, SEs, Tehsildars, BDOs, and other sectoral officers from various departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the progress of ongoing projects, departmental performance and the implementation of key government schemes, including JKCIIP, HADP, PMAY, Mission Yuva, Agristack, Solid Waste Management, Udyam Jagrati, RDDs and DLC cases.

He directed all executing agencies to ensure timely completion of developmental works while maintaining quality standards. He also instructed officers to work with sincerity and dedication, ensure



saturation of targets and cover all eligible beneficiaries under government welfare schemes within the stipulated timelines. The Deputy Commissioner further directed officers to ensure timely tendering of all approved works so that projects are taken up and completed without delay.

Emphasising effective monitoring, the Deputy Commissioner called for regular reviews of major infrastructure projects and schemes to identify and resolve bottlenecks. He instructed officers to closely

monitor progress and ensure that all assigned targets are achieved in a time-bound manner. He also highlighted the importance of public participation in planning and implementing development initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to maintain transparency, accountability and integrity in their functioning. He stressed better inter-departmental coordination to ensure efficient public service delivery and effective implementation of government programmes.

Winter preparedness arrangements reviewed in Pulwama



KT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Tuesday chaired a preparatory meeting of concerned officers to discuss and finalize arrangements for the upcoming winter season and ensure timely preparedness across all departments.

The DC, as per an official statement, called for immediate formulation and submission of comprehensive Departmental Action Plans, emphasizing close inter-departmental coordination and a proactive approach to effectively address winter-related challenges. He directed officers to ensure timely execution of mitigation measures and preparedness plans, with focus on prompt response mechanisms to prevent inconvenience to the general public.

The meeting discussed prioritization of roads for snow clearance, uninterrupted power supply, timely replacement of damaged Distribution Transformers (DTs), and adequate decentralized buffer stocking of essential materials and equipment at vulnerable locations. The DC stressed that adequate manpower, machinery and resources should remain readily available for swift response during snow and other weather-related

emergencies.

Comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted water supply, healthcare facilities, firefighting services, relief and rescue operations and snow clearance were also reviewed. The DC directed departments to ensure availability of safety gear for frontline staff, adherence to duty rosters, improved ambulance services, particularly for expectant mothers and terminally ill patients, and adequate heating arrangements in hospitals and health centres.

Emphasizing preparedness at the grassroots level, the DC called for establishment of an Integrated Control Room at the district level along with department-wise emergency control centres. He directed officers to maintain close coordination with field functionaries, regularly monitor preparedness measures in vulnerable areas and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances during the winter season.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Awantipora, ADDC, Pulwama, ADCs, Pulwama/Awantipora/Tral, ACR, CMO, CEO, CAO, CHO, Tehsildars, BDOs, senior officers of PWD (R&B), Hydraulics, KPDC, PHE, Revenue, PMGSY, Irrigation and Flood Control departments, besides other concerned officers from various departments of the district.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

DIPR, Islamia College organise awareness programme

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: In continuation of its series of awareness initiatives under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar, Tuesday organised an impressive day-long awareness programme aimed at sensitising students about the growing menace of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, emphasised that creating awareness about drug abuse is a collective responsibility and a prime duty of every individual. He called upon students, teachers and civil society to work together to safeguard the younger generation from the devastating consequences of substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Assistant Exhibition and Cultural Officer (AECO), Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIPR, Syed Shakeel Shan, urged students to reconnect with Kashmir's rich Sufi heritage and the timeless teachings of Sufi saints, which advocate peace, compassion, discipline and moral integrity. He stressed the importance of respecting elders, following their guidance and strengthening moral character to resist negative influences and make responsible choices in life.

He also encouraged students to remain focused on education, creativity, innovation and social service, observing that a meaningful



and productive engagement in life can play a vital role in preventing substance abuse and building a healthier society.

The programme featured impactful thematic skits, musical performances and awareness speeches presented by artists of the Cultural Unit Kashmir and NSS volunteers of the college.

Through creative expression and thought-provoking presentations, the participants highlighted the harmful consequences of drug addiction and conveyed a strong message in favour of a healthy, responsible and drug-free lifestyle. The performances enthralled the audience and reinforced the importance of collective action against substance abuse.

The event witnessed the participation of faculty members, NSS officers, DIPR officers and a large number of students,



reflecting a shared commitment towards the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

At the conclusion of the programme, mementoes and certificates of appreciation were presented to the participating students, artists and the Principal in recognition of their contribution and support towards the awareness initiative.

Prof. Wahid expressed gratitude to DIPR for collaborating with the college in organising the programme. He appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Unit Kashmir, the participating artists, NSS volunteers and faculty members for making the event meaningful and impactful. He also reiterated the college's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at creating awareness among youth and promoting a drug-free society.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of Agriculture, allied sectors



KT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Agriculture and Allied Sectors at the Meeting Hall of the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to assess the physical and financial progress of schemes and review the implementation of key interventions across the district.

During the meeting, the officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries departments, as per an official statement, gave detailed presentations highlighting the physical and financial achievements under their respective sectors, status of applications, beneficiary coverage, credit linkage, expenditure and implementation of various schemes.

Important interventions undertaken, interventions requiring support from the District Administration and field visits conducted by the concerned officers were also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure time-bound disposal of pending applications, strengthen inter-departmental coordination and closely monitor scheme implementation at

the field level.

He stressed effective utilisation of funds, timely completion of ongoing works and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach eligible farmers and beneficiaries without delay.

The DC further directed departments to identify key interventions requiring support from the District Administration and submit concrete proposals for prompt resolution. He also called for regular field inspections, close monitoring of physical and financial progress and timely corrective measures, while emphasising coordinated efforts to achieve targets under HADP and other flagship schemes within prescribed timelines, with focus on improving service delivery, promoting mechanisation, strengthening allied activities and enhancing income opportunities for farmers and other stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; DSEO, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, LDM J& K Bank, DDM, NABARD, AD Fisheries, AMO, Horticulture (P&M), Pulwama, besides other concerned officers.

RAMP Scheme

JKEDI concludes Entrepreneurship, Skill Development Programme

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, Tuesday successfully concluded the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the Govt. College for Women, M.A Road, Srinagar.

The program was organised in collaboration between JKEDI and Govt. College for Women, M.A Road, Srinagar at the district level.

The 20-day training programme, as per an official statement, drew an enthusiastic response from students, who participated actively throughout the sessions.

Professor Dr. Yasmeen Farooq, Principal of the college, attended as the Guest of Honour. The valedictory function was also attended by Dr.



Naila Khanday, Range Officer, JKEDI, Central Kashmir; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar; Dr. Sheeba, Assistant Convenor EDC, Govt. College for Women and designated course team for the program from JKEDI.

Professor Dr. Yasmeen Farooq expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the programme and congratulated JKEDI for organising the 20-day training within the college. She noted that the

collaboration between JKEDI and the institution had provided valuable practical exposure to students and would inspire more young women to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

Dr. Naila Khanday, in her welcome address, motivated the participants, encouraging them to convert the skills acquired during the training into sustainable enterprises and to view entrepreneurship as an empowering career option.

ACB, Education Department organise vigilance awareness programme at GGHSS Pulwama

KT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 13: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) J&K, South Kashmir, in collaboration with the School Education Department, Pulwama, Tuesday organised a Vigilance Awareness and Sensitisation Programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pulwama, as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 being observed on the theme "Probity for Prosperity."

The programme was aimed at sensitising officers and heads of educational institutions about vigilance measures, ethical conduct, transparency, accountability and the importance of maintaining integrity in the discharge of official duties.

Heads of educational institutions from across the district participated in the programme. The session provided an opportunity to deliberate upon the adverse impact of corruption on public service delivery and the need for greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of

government institutions.

DySP, Anti-Corruption Bureau, South Kashmir, Bahar Ahmad Khan, Senior Prosecution Officer, South Kashmir, Umar Mansoor and Inspector ACB South Kashmir, Bilal Ahmad addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of vigilance awareness in preventing corrupt practices and strengthening public trust in government institutions.

The speakers emphasised that integrity, honesty and accountability must remain central to public service. They also sensitised the participants about their responsibilities in ensuring transparent and ethical functioning of educational institutions and encouraged them to act as ambassadors of integrity within their institutions and society.

The programme further highlighted the important role of educational institutions in creating awareness among students and the wider community about the harmful effects of corruption and the significance of responsible citizenship.

MVD Pulwama intensifies checking drives

KT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 13: On the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Enforcement Squad of the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Pulwama carried out a vehicle checking drive Tuesday along the Nawa and Ring Road stretches in Pulwama.

The drive targeted traffic rule violations to ensure road safety and illegal vehicle trade practices across the area.

During the inspection, the squad recommended the suspension of three driving licences and three vehicle registration certificates. In addition, one registration certificate was recommended for blacklisting. A total amount of Rs 56,000 is expected to be recovered from the violators as compound

penalties.

In a related action, the team inspected Alamdar Automobiles located at Rajpora, Pulwama. The dealership was found operating without the required authorization for selling vehicles. The enforcement squad issued a formal warning to the management and shut down the premises immediately for unauthorized commercial activity.

The Enforcement Squad stated that these inspection drives will continue on a regular basis to enforce transport regulations throughout the district.

The drive was carried out by Rahil Anjum, MVI, Irfan Ahmad, AMVI, Suhail Ahmad and Gulzar Ahmad under the overall supervision of Mohammad Shafait, ARTO Pulwama.

Lal Chowk Post Office to remain open till 9 PM

Extended timings to benefit traders, businesses, tourists

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 13: In a move aimed at making postal services more accessible, the Lal Chowk Post Office in Srinagar will remain open till 9 pm instead of the existing 5 pm, allowing customers four additional hours to book mail and parcels.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the revised timings would particularly benefit shopkeepers, business establishments and tourists visiting Lal Chowk, one of Srinagar’s busiest commercial hubs.

Adam Mohiuddin, IPoS, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, said the extension was intended to make postal services more convenient for people who cannot visit the post office during regular working hours.

“Extension of working hours is intended to make postal services more accessible and convenient for people, particularly those unable to visit the post office during regular working hours,” Mohiuddin said.

He said the extended timings would give shopkeepers greater flexibility to book their mail and parcels after completing their business activities during the day. Tourists visiting Srinagar would also have additional time to access postal services.

The statement said the move was expected to improve customer convenience and strengthen postal services in the Lal Chowk area. By keeping the post office operational until 9 pm, the department aims to cater to a wider section of the public and ensure greater access to essential postal facilities. (KNO)

BIMSTEC adopts Delhi Declaration

Aims to combat cross-border terrorism, narcotics smuggling

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: BIMSTEC countries on Tuesday approved the Delhi Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to regional peace, security and development, with an emphasis on combating "cross-border terrorism, terror financing and radicalisation", narcotics smuggling, and other issues affecting the region.

The grouping also strongly condemned "terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism" in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, wherever, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes committed, a government statement said.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) reiterated "determination to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism" in a comprehensive and sustained manner, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law and called for effective implementation of the sanctions measures of the UN Security Council, including of the 1267 Sanctions Committee.

The grouping expressed its deepest condolences and solidarity with the victims of terrorist attacks in member States, including India, and their families, and with the governments of the affected States and called for those responsible to

be brought to justice in accordance with applicable domestic and international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

It acknowledged the "complex and evolving security challenges", and called upon member States to respond appropriately, in the spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility.

Underlining the crucial importance of fostering regional cooperation in security sector under BIMSTEC for preventing, combating and eliminating multi-dimensional challenges to the security, it stressed that security and development are inter-twined and enhancing regional cooperation under BIMSTEC in security sector will contribute to not only ensuring security but also realising developmental aspirations, it said.

It reaffirmed the principle that cooperation within the BIMSTEC in security sector is based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit and it is complementary to and not a substitute for bilateral, sub-regional, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the member States.

"In the Delhi Declaration adopted at the First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting, member countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation for

regional peace, security, and development. The declaration emphasised combating cross-border terrorism, terror financing, radicalisation, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and organised crime," the statement said.

The declaration outlines principles guiding security cooperation and prioritises information sharing, mutual legal assistance, extradition, capacity building, and the effective implementation of existing agreements and plans of action, it said.

The grouping underlined the need for cooperation to counter radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and specifically terror financing.

It also underlined the importance of promoting internationally agreed standards on combating the financing of terrorism and preventing money laundering, in accordance with domestic laws and applicable international laws.

It further called for cooperation to prevent the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and to tackle terrorist recruitment.

Recognizing the Bay of Bengal region as a common security space, the grouping said countries in the region face shared security challenges with transnational and regional dimensions including terrorism, violent extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime, cybercrime, money laundering, financing of terrorism

and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, human-trafficking, smuggling of arms, piracy, poaching, illegal human migration and misuse of cyberspace for terrorist activities.

The ministers agreed to a series of agreements and action plans to strengthen regional security cooperation, combat transnational crimes and improve disaster preparedness, it said.

The grouping also approved the Convention against Trafficking in Persons, the BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Drug Control and a memorandum of understanding on capacity building to combat money laundering and terror financing.

The BIMSTEC convention on human trafficking aims to enhance cooperation among member countries in preventing trafficking, criminalising the offence and ensuring the protection and rehabilitation of victims, the statement said.

The drug control plan of the grouping focuses on combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals, it said.

The grouping also agreed on the memorandum of understanding on money laundering and terror financing, which provides for the exchange of best practices and extensive cooperation in the areas of financial crimes, financial intelligence, investigations, asset recovery, anti-money laundering measures, countering the financing of terrorism, and

countering proliferation financing, it said.

The declaration appreciated India's leadership in strengthening regional security cooperation and emphasised the protection of victims of human trafficking involved in online scams.

The grouping approved the BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Illicit Financial Flows and Their Prevention, aimed at identifying the sources, risks, and channels of illicit financial flows among the member countries, it said.

"A Plan of Action for Enhancing Preparedness and Coordination to Address Natural Disasters in the Bay of Bengal Region, proposing coordinated efforts by member countries in regional risk planning, joint exercises, early warning systems, disaster mapping, training centres, information sharing, research, technological innovation, and tsunami risk reduction" was also approved, the statement said.

"India reiterated its commitment to sharing its expertise in police training, counter-terrorism operations, and forensic investigations. The meeting also emphasised cooperation in disaster management, including the proposed BIMSTEC Centre for Disaster Management in Jamnagar, Gujarat," it said.

BIMSTEC is a regional grouping comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No scope for

coordinated efforts to combat human trafficking, cybercrime and financial fraud, and called for stronger information-sharing mechanisms to address emerging security threats.

On India's approach to relations with neighbouring countries, Shah said New Delhi believed in respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country and resolving differences peacefully. "India has never believed in attacking any country or establishing dominance over them," he said.

The meeting comes as BIMSTEC seeks to strengthen security cooperation alongside its broader regional agenda. The grouping comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The BIMSTEC provides a platform for cooperation among countries in and around the Bay of Bengal, with security, counterterrorism and transnational crime among the areas requiring coordination.

The Union Home Minister urged member countries to translate their shared commitments into practical cooperation to prevent terrorist networks and criminal organisations from exploiting national borders and gaps in enforcement. (KNO)

Darbar Move:

transportation.

Reviewing security arrangements, traffic management along the National Highway and residential accommodation for employees moving to Jammu, the Chief Minister directed the Police Department and other agencies to put in place comprehensive security measures, particularly in residential areas where the employees would be staying.

The meeting was informed that medical assistance would be available along the convoy route, with doctors, paramedics and ambulances deployed in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

Arrangements for essential services, food, hospitality and other facilities were also reviewed. The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, was asked to examine traffic management within the city, particularly around major residential areas, and identify suitable locations along the convoy route for food and public convenience facilities, including washrooms, for employees and officials undertaking the journey.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for the functioning of the Winter Secretariat in Srinagar, which will operate with minimal staff presence. The Chief Minister directed the General Administration Department to issue monthly rosters for Ministers and Administrative Secretaries to be stationed at the Winter Secretariat, beginning with November.

The Chief Minister further directed that special casual leave be granted to Kashmir-based employees moving to Jammu in connection with the Darbar Move. It was informed that an order in this regard would be issued shortly.

Emphasising the significance of the Darbar Move as a distinctive administrative tradition of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister called for meticulous planning, effective inter-departmental coordination and adequate arrangements for the safety and convenience of employees.

He directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that the Darbar Move is completed smoothly and the official work of the Government commences seamlessly in Jammu.

1,200 dengue cases

(GMC) Jammu have advised people not to become complacent because of the decline, stressing that timely diagnosis, adequate hydration, medical supervision and mosquito-control measures remain essential.

Health experts said dengue is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, particularly Aedes aegypti. Symptoms generally develop four to ten days after an infected bite and may last three to seven days.

"The period when the fever starts settling can be particularly critical for some patients. People should not assume that recovery has begun simply because the temperature has come down. Any warning signs during this phase require immediate medical evaluation," experts said.

They explained that dengue can affect platelet counts and blood vessels, increasing the risk of bleeding, fluid leakage and, in severe cases, damage to vital organs. Doctors also warned that a subsequent infection involving a different strain can increase the risk of severe disease.

Common symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, skin rashes and extreme weakness.

Doctors cautioned against ignoring severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, difficulty breathing, bleeding from the nose or gums, blood in vomit or stools, unusual tiredness, restlessness or irritability.

The advisory notes that nearly one in every 20 dengue patients may develop severe dengue. "People experiencing warning signs should not delay visiting a healthcare facility. Early medical assessment and appropriate supportive treatment can help prevent complications," doctors said.

They also cautioned against self-medication, noting the absence of a specific antiviral treatment makes prevention, early diagnosis and proper clinical management particularly important.

Experts stressed that eliminating mosquito breeding sites is among the most effective ways to reduce transmission, as Aedes mosquitoes can breed in small quantities of stagnant water collected in flower pots, buckets, discarded tyres, coolers, containers and even bottle caps.

"People must take preventive measures before mosquito breeding increases. Removing stagnant water, keeping water-storage containers covered and maintaining clean surroundings are essential steps," doctors said.

Residents have been advised to regularly inspect their homes and neighbourhoods, empty and clean water containers, use mosquito repellents and wear full-sleeved clothing. Doctors also recommended installing screens on doors and windows and using mosquito nets while sleeping, including during daytime rest, as dengue-carrying mosquitoes are commonly active during daylight hours.

Meanwhile, GMC Jammu has said

that arrangements have been made to manage dengue patients, including the availability of platelet stocks and the necessary hospital infrastructure.

Health experts reiterated that the decline in reported infections offers an opportunity to strengthen preventive efforts before cases rise again.

"Community participation is crucial in controlling mosquito-borne diseases. Every household must ensure that water does not stagnate in and around its premises. Sustained preventive efforts, rather than action only after cases rise, are necessary to protect public health," doctors said. (KNO)

Winter chill

gusty winds and hailstorms at isolated places are also likely during the period, it said.

The department has advised farmers to ensure the safe storage of harvested apples, paddy and other crops in view of the forecast.

Travellers and transporters have also been advised to plan their journeys carefully and follow traffic advisories, particularly in view of the possibility of snowfall on important mountain passes and roads.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry on October 16, although isolated places may receive brief spells of light rain. Mainly dry conditions are likely to prevail across the region from October 17 to 24, the department said. SRINAGAR RECORDS 20 C , JAMMU 30.5 C

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius, 2.8 degrees below the seasonal normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 11.2 degrees Celsius, 4.9 degrees above normal, the IMD data showed.

Kupwara recorded 6.1 mm of rainfall during the day, while Pahalgam received 2.4 mm. Gulmarg, a popular tourist destination in north Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 11.8 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees below normal.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 14.2 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees below normal, while Kupwara's maximum settled at 19.9 degrees Celsius, 3.4 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 22.2 degrees Celsius, 0.8 degrees above normal, while Kukernag registered 20.4 degrees Celsius, in line with the seasonal average.

In the Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius, 0.6 degrees below normal. Banihal recorded 19.5 degrees Celsius, 4.8 degrees below normal, while Batote registered 21.1 degrees Celsius, 2.1 degrees below normal.

Katra and Baderwah recorded maximum temperatures of 26.6 and 21 degrees Celsius, respectively, both below their seasonal averages.

The IMD data also showed that Gulmarg recorded 2.2 cm of snow depth, while Pahalgam recorded 1.2 cm. These figures indicate recorded snow depth and do not necessarily represent fresh snowfall during the reporting period. (KNO)

Fresh snowfall

the region's winter charm.

Tourists were seen enjoying

the snowfall, taking photographs and soaking in the snow-covered landscape.

"We are lucky to witness this," a group of tourists from Delhi told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The snowfall has also boosted optimism among tourism stakeholders, who believe it could help build momentum for the upcoming winter season and encourage more travelers to choose Gulmarg as a holiday destination.

"Snowfall is one of the biggest attractions for tourists visiting Gulmarg during winter. It creates excitement among visitors and raises expectations for the season ahead," said Shaista, a tourism stakeholder.

Stakeholders expect a strong tourist influx in the coming months, benefiting hoteliers, transport operators, guides, pony owners, shopkeepers and others associated with the tourism sector.

Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) Chief Executive Officer Alyas Ahmad Naisroo said all necessary arrangements are in place to welcome the anticipated winter rush.

"We are fully prepared for the upcoming season and have made all essential arrangements to ensure a smooth and pleasant experience for tourists," he said, expressing confidence that Gulmarg would witness a strong turnout this winter. (KNO)

Ladakh integral part

Shachmirik Pass, Shkorga Valley, Zorawar Peak, Dehra Compass and Drak Karpo.

The list also includes Jolmori, Kumarayana Point, Panglung, Rinchen Zangpo, Sakyasri Giri, Guru Rinpoche, Shamal Lungpa, Yangpa River, Marpa Lotsava Ri, Milarepa Kangri, Shiva Ri and Maheshwara Ri.

Shamal Lungpa has been described as a patrol and staging route dating back to the 1950s.

According to the MEA, the standardisation of names on Survey of India maps would help facilitate the accurate recognition of these places and improve public understanding of the region.

China has opposed India's move, maintaining its objections to Ladakh's status as a Union Territory and disputing India's territorial claims in the western sector of the India-China boundary.

The latest exchange comes amid continuing differences between the two countries over the disputed frontier, where both have accused each other of attempting to alter the status quo.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TENSIONS

Pertinently, the boundary dispute escalated into a deadly military confrontation in June 2020, when Indian and Chinese troops clashed in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh.

At least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed in the clash, the first deadly military confrontation between the two sides since 1975.

The incident had triggered a prolonged military standoff, with both countries deploying additional troops and equipment along the LAC.

Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks subsequently led to disengagement at multiple friction points. However, the boundary dispute

remains unresolved, with territorial claims and military deployments continuing to influence bilateral relations. (KNO)

Strengthen operational

efforts made to enhance overall operational effectiveness across the Union Territory.

During the review, the DGP emphasised the need to strengthen intelligence-based operations and maintain heightened vigilance. Stressing the importance of inter-agency coordination, the DGP called for seamless information sharing among District Police, intelligence agencies, and other security forces to ensure effective operational outcomes.

DGP Prabhat stressed the need to intensify patrolling, strengthen area domination, and undertake focused operations based on actionable intelligence.

The DGP underscored the importance of leveraging available technology to enhance surveillance, improve situational awareness, and strengthen the response capabilities of field formations. The chair also called for enhanced security in border areas, with close monitoring of sensitive locations, strengthened engagement with local communities to build trust and encourage the sharing of timely information, and coordinated efforts to prevent infiltration and other security threats.

DGP Prabhat also emphasised the effective utilisation of the tenant verification application and called for the maintenance of updated digital records of tenants and their verification status.

Emphasising the importance of institutional discipline and effective supervision, the DGP directed senior officers to conduct frequent inspections of Police Stations to review the maintenance of official records, ensure proper upkeep and hygiene of police premises, and assess the welfare, cleanliness, and living conditions of police personnel.

DGP Prabhat further stressed the need for routine checks to maintain discipline, punctuality, professional conduct, and operational readiness among personnel at all levels.

The DGP also directed Traffic Police to intensify enforcement against traffic violations, ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations, and take appropriate action against offenders.

DGP Prabhat emphasised the need for sustained traffic management efforts to promote road safety, ensure smooth traffic movement, and enhance public convenience.

The meeting was attended by Spl DG Coordination PHQ, ADGP CID, ADGP Armed, IGP Railways, IGP Kashmir Zone, IGP Hqr PHQ, IGP Security, IGP Traffic J&K, IGP Crime J&K, IGP Jammu Zone, IGP Armed Jammu, IGP Cyber Crime J&K (JK4C), IGP Technical PHQ J&K, all range DIsG of J&K, DisG of CID Headquarters, Crime, Traffic Kashmir/Jammu, IR Kashmir, SLA, Railways Kashmir, Railways Jammu, Civil Defence Jammu, Armed Jammu, Hqrs PHQ, all district SSp of J&K, all AIGs of PHQ, SSp of Traffic City Srinagar, PCR Kashmir, Security Kashmir, SIA, CIK CID, SBK CID, SO to IGP Kashmir, Jammu, PCR Jammu,

Traffic NHW, Traffic Rural Kashmir/Jammu, Security Jammu, Railway Jammu, Cyber Crime, EOW Jammu, SCV Jammu, ANTF Jammu, FPB Jammu, Railways, SBJ CID, All Zonal SPs of Srinagar City & Jammu City, SP Operations Srinagar/Jammu and other officers. (KNO)

Unseasonal rain, hailstorms

to families whose crops had been destroyed.

They also sought the involvement of the Agriculture Department and revenue officials in conducting field inspections to establish the extent of the losses.

"We have spent money throughout the season, hoping to recover our investment through the harvest. Now, with the crop damaged, we are worried about how we will meet our household expenses and repay what we owe," a farmer said.

Another farmer said the damage had come at a time when cultivators were preparing for harvesting and expecting returns from their fields.

"Farmers depend on the crop for their livelihood. We request the government to send officials to the affected fields, assess the damage and provide relief without delay," he said.

Farmers said timely compensation was necessary to help them manage the financial setback and prepare for the next agricultural season.

They appealed to the authorities to ensure that the assessment covered all affected fields and that eligible cultivators received assistance under the applicable crop-loss relief and insurance provisions.

The extent of the damage and the number of farmers affected were not immediately available.

There was no official estimate of the crop loss available at the time of filing this report. (KNO)

Arms, ammo

and further details are awaited. (KNO)

J&K emerges as

Geology, Dehradun, in advancing Himalayan research.

Referring to the Purple Revolution, Singh said the Aroma Mission, which originated in Jammu and Kashmir, has expanded to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Mizoram.

"Jammu and Kashmir has established a distinct identity across the country as the birthplace of the Purple Revolution. Nearly 7,000 to 8,000 youths have found new avenues of employment through this initiative," he said.

The Union Minister said the government provides technological support, guidance and market linkages to people interested in lavender cultivation and related activities. He added that advanced educational qualifications are not necessary, as participants receive technology and handholding support from the government.

Singh also said several young professionals from Jammu and Kashmir have left corporate jobs in cities such as Bengaluru to pursue opportunities under the Aroma Mission, which is fostering entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihoods in the region. (KNO)

Modi says India grows 'with the world, not at anyone's cost'

Cites strong economic fundamentals

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India's economic growth was anchored in strong fundamentals and a sustained reform drive, declaring that the country sought to expand its global economic influence through shared prosperity rather than at the expense of other nations.

"We do not grow at anyone's cost. We grow with the world. And for the world," Modi said, pitching India as a reliable economic partner amid geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and growing competition over critical technologies and resources.

Addressing the Bloomberg Economic Forum, he cited the country's 7.8 per cent economic growth in the April-June quarter, foreign-exchange reserves exceeding USD 700 billion and reforms spanning taxation, insolvency and labour laws as evidence of its resilience. "In this world full of uncertainties, India inspires reliability and stability," he said.

"This year, in the April to June quarter, India's economic growth was 7.8 per cent. And this growth is taking place on a strong foundation," he said citing strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including drastic reduction in India's current account deficit from over 4 per cent 12-13 years back to about half a per cent now.

Modi argued that economic and technological strength should be measured not merely by the power a country commands, but by how effectively



it creates opportunities for others. "The real question is not who has the power. The real question is, how is this power being used?" he said, summarising his approach as "power to empower".

The prime minister highlighted India's digital public infrastructure, expanding startup ecosystem and clean-energy capacity as examples of how domestic capabilities could support inclusive growth. He said India was sharing its experience in digital identity, payments and public infrastructure with partner countries, particularly in the Global South.

"For us, reforms are not a compulsion. Reforms are our conviction," he said.

Modi also warned that supply chains, energy, critical minerals, payment systems and technology were increasingly becoming instruments of geopolitical pressure, making reliable partners

and resilient economic systems more important.

"They are all becoming tools for coercion and for exerting pressure," he said.

The remarks come as India seeks to attract investment, expand its role in global supply chains and deepen economic partnerships with emerging markets.

Modi pitched the country's growth not only as a domestic economic achievement but also as a potential source of technology, talent and solutions for other economies.

He highlighted India's digital public infrastructure, startup ecosystem, expanding clean-energy capacity and improving macroeconomic indicators to argue that the country's rise offered a model of inclusive growth amid geopolitical tensions, supply-chain disruptions and growing competition over critical technologies and

resources.

"Power is to empower," he said, arguing that the true measure of economic and technological strength lay in how effectively it could improve lives, expand opportunities and help other countries address shared challenges.

The remarks came as India seeks to consolidate its position as a major growth engine and an alternative manufacturing and technology hub amid an increasingly fragmented global economy.

Modi said India wanted to deepen international partnerships by sharing its expertise in digital payments, digital identity and public infrastructure, particularly with countries in the Global South.

The prime minister also highlighted the expansion of India's startup ecosystem and renewable-energy capacity, arguing that technology and innovation should benefit people across income groups and geographies. He cited India's COVID-19 vaccine supplies to more than 100 countries as an example of using domestic capabilities to meet global needs.

Warning that supply chains, energy, critical minerals, payments and technology were increasingly becoming instruments of geopolitical pressure, Modi called for greater international cooperation on climate change, public health, artificial intelligence and economic security.

Indian Navy to commission indigenous multi-purpose warship Samarthak

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: Indigenous multi-purpose warship Samarthak, endowed with weapons and electronic systems specifically optimised for operations in challenging maritime environment, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 16, officials said on Tuesday. The commissioning will mark another significant milestone in India's drive towards defence self-reliance and the vessel will form an "important component of the Navy's future and ideal 'utility' ship for strategically important operations", the defence ministry said. Samarthak will be commissioned at Karwar naval base in Karnataka.

Built by Larsen and Toubro under the government's Make in India initiative, the warship is the first of four multi-purpose vessels being inducted into the Indian Navy.

"Designed primarily for maritime



surveillance and patrol, Samarthak is also capable of undertaking low intensity maritime operations (LIMO), target deployment and trials platform, unmanned/autonomous system mothership, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), conversion to a limited hospital ship and fighting for salvage operations," the ministry said in a statement.

The warship's integrated combat suite combines

indigenous sensors, weapons and electronic systems specifically optimised for operations in the challenging maritime environment, it said.

The crest of Samarthak features the formidable Indian elephant emerging from the waves, symbolising strength, intelligence and agility. The ship's motto is -- 'Vijayarthama Eknishtatha' - 'Victory is Our Sole Aim', the statement said.

India likely to host 12th BRICS Parl Forum this month

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: India is likely to host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum later this month which could be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is learnt that the three-day event will be held in the Parliament complex.

The proposed Forum meet comes close on the heels of the high-profile BRICS Summit held here last month.

The high-level multilateral event is likely to draw parliamentary leaders, presiding officers and delegates from BRICS member and partner nations. Global cooperation and legislative diplomacy are likely to take centre stage at the meeting. Before formal sessions, delegation secretaries will finalise the declaration or a joint statement document.

The BRICS Parliamentary Forum serves as the official inter-parliamentary platform for

member states to align legislative agendas, promote democratic dialogue and champion the voice of the Global South.

It acts as the legislative dimension to the executive-level BRICS leaders' summits, ensuring that high-level international agreements are effectively integrated into national legal frameworks.

Earlier, India had hosted the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) in October 2023 here.

2019 remarks against PM SC stays defamation case proceedings against Rahul Gandhi

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed further proceedings in a defamation case before a trial court in Maharashtra against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Kumar Singh issued notices to the Maharashtra government and the complainant, M H Shrishimal, seeking their responses in four weeks.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks. Further proceedings before the trial court shall remain stayed," the bench ordered on a plea filed by Gandhi against a September 8 order of the Bombay High Court refusing to quash summons to him.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Raebareli MP, referred to earlier decisions of the top court and said the law is settled in the matter.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

On September 8, the Bombay High Court refused to quash the summons issued to Gandhi in 2019 in the defamation case.

It had dismissed Gandhi's petition against a Girgaum magistrate's order dated August 28, 2019, for a



process against him on Shrishimal's complaint.

The high court, however, continued its 2021 order directing the magistrate to defer the hearing on the complaint for six weeks so that Gandhi could approach the Supreme Court. Shrishimal had opposed Gandhi's plea in the high court, claiming that being a member of the BJP, he too was aggrieved by the remarks made against his leader.

The complaint had alleged that Gandhi defamed PM Modi in a public speech on September 20, 2018, in Rajasthan.

It claimed that Gandhi's statements amounted to direct allegations against all members of the BJP and Indian citizens connected to PM Modi.

Hyundai Motor Group to invest USD 15.5 bn in India by 2032

Executive Chair Euisun Chung meets PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: Hyundai Motor Group on Tuesday announced a comprehensive investment strategy for India, committing USD 15.5 billion by 2032, positioning the country as a core strategic market driving future growth and expansion across emerging markets.

Hyundai Motor Group, in a statement, said its Executive Chair Euisun Chung met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss India's automotive industry future and long-term growth strategy.

"The initiative was discussed during a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung at the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi on October 13, 2026, reflecting the Group's commitment to strengthening its presence in India and contributing to the automotive sector's growth," the Group stated.

The seven-year investment spans manufacturing expansion, research and development (R&D) infrastructure development, local supplier cultivation for parts localisation and future technology innovation - fostering a comprehensive automotive

industry ecosystem in India.

To effectively execute this large-scale investment initiative, the Group will establish a dedicated investment entity in India. The entity will systematically coordinate and execute investments across R&D infrastructure, future technologies and the broader automotive industry ecosystem. Additionally, it will serve as a platform to identify outstanding local partners, support strategic partnerships and foster collaboration with excellent local suppliers.

The investment extends far beyond new facility development. The Group will build a comprehensive automotive ecosystem in key areas, including manufacturing expansion. The Group plans to expand manufacturing capacity across Hyundai Motor India Limited and Kia India Pvt Limited to support significant volume growth while ensuring localisation to meet India's market demands.

This expansion will position India as one of the leading global export platforms for the Group, it stated.

"With approximately USD 700 million investment planned in the R&D centre, including its vehicle testing track, the Group will accelerate

next-generation automotive technology development and establish India as a core innovation hub," it stated.

Moreover, the Group will strengthen the local supply chain and support supplier development in India through strategic investments in regional partners.

These partnerships will enhance parts localisation, identify excellent local suppliers and build a stable, resilient supply-chain ecosystem across the Indian automotive industry.

"The Group aims to lead India's future mobility ecosystem through strategic investments in emerging opportunities. This includes support for high-potential startups and expansion into new mobility services integrated with its core vehicle business," it said. The Group will also explore opportunities in new business verticals, including specialized automotive financing, EV charging infrastructure, and end-of-life vehicle recycling.

Beyond direct job creation at Hyundai Motor Group facilities, the investment will stimulate employment across the broader automotive ecosystem through supplier partnerships, technology development and emerging mobility ventures, it said.

24-car Vande Bharat Sleeper ICF to finalise design by Nov 10, 4 years after outlining train details

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 13: More than four years after issuing the technical specifications for a 24-car Vande Bharat Sleeper train, the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, will finalise its design by November 10, a senior official said on Tuesday.

"The design is already at a very advanced stage. We are hoping to come out with its final version by November 10, 2026," the ICF official told PTI. He added, "Once the design

is finalised, we will start manufacturing the prototype. As per the current plan, we are hoping to have the prototype ready by May or June 2027. The prototype will then undergo trials."

The official said that once the prototype completes all stages of trials, the remaining trains will be made operational without much delay. On April 4, 2022, ICF Chennai released the technical specifications and standards for Vande Bharat trains, stating that a 24-coach train set would have 19 AC



3-tier coaches with 1,215 berths, four AC 2-tier coaches with 192 berths, and one First AC coach with 24 berths.

In 2023-24, while announcing a plan to manufacture 10 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper trains in collaboration with ICF Chennai and BEML, the Ministry provided an update and said, "50 rakes of Vande Bharat Sleeper in 24-Car configuration have been envisaged for manufacturing at ICF Chennai."

Medha is expected to supply propulsion systems for 33 rakes, while Alstom will supply them for the remaining 17. Besides 50 24-coach and 10 16-coach train sets, Kinert

Railway Solutions Ltd, an Indo-Russian joint venture formed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) and Russian company Transmashholding (TMH), is set to manufacture 120 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper trains at its factory in Marathwada, Maharashtra, by the end of 2027. Additionally, 80 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper train sets will be manufactured by the BHEL-Titagarh consortium. Some of these manufacturers have revised the completion deadlines in the past due to various technical reasons.

Rupee jumps 42 paise to close at 95.36 against US dollar

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 13: The rupee strengthened for the third straight session on Tuesday and appreciated 42 paise to close at 95.36 against the US dollar, supported by various RBI measures aimed at reducing spot dollar demand and curbing excessive positioning in

the foreign exchange market.

Forex traders said measures including a dedicated dollar window for oil marketing companies through designated banks and higher costs for certain foreign exchange hedging transactions are expected to reduce dollar demand in the spot market and curb speculative positions against the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.53 against the US dollar; in intraday trade, the rupee touched a high of 94.96 and a low of 95.53 against the greenback.

At the end of the trading session on Tuesday, the rupee was quoted at 95.36, registering a gain of 42 paise from its previous close.

In the last three trading sessions, the rupee has gained 152 paise against the American currency.

The central bank announced the creation of a special window for oil marketing companies, which will take the dollar demand away from the spot market and tightened rules governing forex derivatives trades to curb

speculative bets against the rupee.

It also asked banks to maintain a 20 per cent reserve for dollar purchases of over USD 2 million. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 102.32, lower by 0.26 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.93 per

cent at USD 104.59 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 1,109.10 points to settle at 73,033.78, while the Nifty surged 358.60 points to 22,721.95.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,305.13 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Quick Read

MI5 chief says Iran targeting military sites, with RAF Fairford plot ‘not unique’



AP

London, Oct 13 : Iran is trying to hit military sites in the UK and the suspected plot to attack a US-run military air base in September is “not unique,” the head of Britain’s MI5 spy agency said Tuesday.

Ken McCallum, who leads the UK’s domestic security service, said Tehran is seeking to intensify its attacks in Britain beyond the traditional targets of Iranians opposed to the country’s Islamic authorities.

That has included arson and sabotage attacks on Jewish sites that Britain says were carried out by Iranian proxies.

McCallum said another “major shift this year has been Iranian ambitions to come at harder targets, like military sites.”

The incident at RAF Fairford “is not unique. There have been other examples, not just in the UK but around the world,” McCallum said.

McCallum delivered a speech outlining major threats to the UK as detectives investigate a suspected terror plot against the US-run base in western England, which has been used to bomb Iran during this year’s war.

Scores of residents were evacuated from their homes near the base on Sept. 27 as armed police officers and army bomb-disposal experts swarmed the rural area. Police later said they had found a quantity of an accelerant — gasoline — in three vans at the site, but no explosives.

British authorities have linked Tehran to the incident, which led the US to pull its bombers from RAF Fairford. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Monday that the apparent plot was “almost certainly” directed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.

Seven men in their 20s have been arrested and released on bail under investigation.

Iran has denied involvement, although it has previously said that it considers any base used to attack its territory a legitimate target.

MI5 says AI could bring bioweapon risk
In a stark speech, McCallum argued that the UK faces a “new era of national security” and is at a turning point equivalent to the 9/11 attacks a quarter century ago.

He said his agency’s work countering state threats — chiefly from Russia, Iran and China — has quadrupled in the past decade, and claimed that both Russia and Iran are expanding their hybrid warfare campaigns against the UK.

Meanwhile, technology is racing ahead, with artificial intelligence “supercharging” the cyber-security battle between attackers and defenders, he said.

McCallum said terror plotters have used artificial intelligence for reconnaissance and attacks, including AI-enabled drones. Even more concerning, he said, is “AI’s potential to change the stakes on existing or even new bioweapons.”

He said terror groups “would dearly love” to have chemical, biological or radiological weapons, but these are hard to obtain.

India need to hunt for wickets, not contain West Indies, says Tilak

PTI

Hyderabad, Oct 13 : India need to hunt for wickets rather than containing a power-packed West Indies batting line-up, vice-captain Tilak Varma said on Tuesday, stressing the importance of bowling plan execution as the hosts look to seal the five-match T20 International series in the fourth game itself.

India are 2-1 ahead in the series and a win on Wednesday will give them an unassailable lead, while the visitors will be eager to draw level.

The West Indies demonstrated their batting firepower by chasing down India’s 249 in the second T20, with skipper Shai Hope smashing a 45-ball 102.

Tilak said India can ill afford to relax against a side whose power-hitting extends till the last batter in the line-up.

“The West Indies are a really good side, especially in T20 format. They play so much franchise cricket, so they know how to play this format. The power they have is unbelievable,” Tilak said at the pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

“Everyone can hit the ball. It is not just the openers, number three or four. All their players can strike the ball, and even the 11th batter can come in and hit. Until all 10 wickets fall, the game is not over. We cannot relax.”

India’s bowling unit came under scrutiny after the second match defeat. The visitors capitalised in the powerplay to pull off a remarkable chase.

The 23-year-old Tilak said the team had reviewed its defensive approach in that match, with head coach Gautam Gambhir encouraging the bowlers to be more aggressive and to attack for wickets instead of allowing the opposition to dictate terms.

Saudi Arabia urges Sanaa residents near oil facility to evacuate amid Middle East tensions

AP

Dubai, Oct 13 :The Saudi-led coalition on Tuesday asked residents in the Yemeni capital near a state oil company facility to evacuate ahead of “operations.”

Coalition spokesman Gen. Turki al-Maliki didn’t specify what kind of operations would be carried out. But Gen. Yahya Saree, a spokesman for the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, said there would be a “harsh and painful” response in the Saudi capital if Sanaa is targeted.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Tuesday. Read our full coverage here.

Saudis warn Sanaa residents to evacuate from around state oil company facility

The Saudi-led coalition on Tuesday asked residents of Yemen’s Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa, to evacuate the site of a state oil company facility and nearby storage areas ahead of “operations.”

The rare statement by coalition spokesman Gen. Turki al-Maliki Tuesday said it was for the residents’ safety. The evacuation area is situated on a hill in western Sanaa, overlooking the capital.

Houthi military spokesman Gen. Yahya Saree said in a brief statement that there would be a “harsh and painful” response in the Saudi capital if Sanaa is targeted.

The Houthi rebels also warned on Tuesday that Aramco oil facilities are their “legitimate” targets and asked people, including workers, to stay away from these sites.

Meanwhile, Houthi political bureau spokesman Mohammed al-Bukhaiti told Sky News in an interview Monday that Houthi military operations against Saudi Arabia would continue “until all Saudi oil facilities and vital facilities are destroyed” if Saudi Arabia does not respond to calls to end the war.

Think tank says Iran targeting ship-to-ship oil transfers

The Institute for the Study of War said Tuesday Iran appears to be targeting vessels carrying out ship-to-ship oil transfers in and near the Strait of Hormuz to hobble their ability to move energy through the strait.

The think tank posted on X that Iran has increased its threats against



vessels in the strait in order to reestablish control over the waterway by deterring vessels from using non-Iranian-approved routes.

It also said Iran may be developing its anti-ship missile capabilities to improve its ability to target vessels.

The UK’s Maritime Trade Operations Centre posted on X Monday that at least three vessels were attacked by unknown projectiles in the Strait of Hormuz a day earlier. The organisation did not identify the ships, and there were no immediate claims of responsibility for any of the attacks.

But Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran’s top security body, told state TV on Saturday that Iranian forces were striking five “smuggling ships” every night on average over recent months.

Rezaei appeared to be referring to US efforts to guide oil shippers through the strait before they are used to transfer oil to larger tankers waiting in the Gulf of Oman.

Israeli strike in Gaza kills 1
An Israeli strike Tuesday killed one person in the Gaza Strip.

Health officials at Shifa Hospital said they received a body that was partially charred. The Israeli military said the strike, in the Tuffah area of Gaza City, targeted a military operative.

The death is the latest since a ceasefire took effect just over a year ago. Nearly 1,500 Palestinians have been killed since then, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its count, but

says more than half of those killed were women and children.

Egypt, Iran foreign ministers discuss Middle East de-escalation

Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty called Tuesday for an immediate halt to Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Abdelatty said during a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, that there was “no justification for these attacks and they cannot be accepted.”

Abdelatty also urged prioritising diplomacy and finding a political solution to the conflict between Iran and the US to avert “further escalation and instability” in the region, according to the Egyptian readout of the call.

Turkish, Pakistani top soldiers discuss regional developments

Turkiye’s Defence Ministry said Tuesday the country’s army chief of staff spoke by telephone with his Pakistani counterpart as both countries weigh dispatching military support to Saudi Arabia under a trilateral defence agreement.

The ministry said Turkish Gen. Selcuk Bayraktaroglu and Pakistan’s army chief, Asim Munir, discussed “bilateral relations and regional issues,” without providing details.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said last week that Turkiye and Pakistan were considering military support for their ally under the deal but ruled out sending combat troops. He added that Turkiye was also trying to resolve the issue through diplomacy.

Germany briefly closes Nuremberg airport, scrambles jets to escort Corfu flight

AP

Berlin, Oct 13 : Authorities in Germany briefly shut an airport and scrambled fighter jets to escort a passenger plane from Greece over concerns about an in-flight emergency on Tuesday, the dpa news agency reported. Police cordoned off Nuremberg airport in southern Germany and launched an investigation before the commercial plane landed safely from the Greek island of Corfu and authorities issued an all-clear, the agency reported. Details about the emergency call were not immediately available. Earlier Tuesday, authorities noted a possible drone sighting at the air-

port. An airport spokesperson said six flights were delayed and two inbound flights were diverted to other airports as a precaution.

Authorities across Europe have stepped up surveillance of the skies in recent weeks amid an increasing number of mostly mysterious drone incidents and concerns about Russian malfeasance as Moscow’s war in Ukraine continues.

The German government last month blamed Russia for an attempted attack at Leipzig/Halle Airport in August using a drone laden with explosives, and announced a shutdown of a Russian consulate among other measures.

Ranji Trophy: Rain, bad light interrupt play on day 3; MP lead J&K by 227 runs

*Shubham Sharma scores 51, shares unbeaten 64-run stand with Atharv Mahajan; MP reach 151/5 after J&K bowled out for 120



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 13 : Rain and bad light interrupted play as Madhya Pradesh strengthened their position against defending champions Jammu and Kashmir, reaching 151 for five in their second innings to take an overall lead of 227 runs on Day 3 of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh resumed their second innings at 59 for four and added 92 runs during the day while losing one wicket. They reached 151 for five in 62 overs when bad light brought an early end to play, with captain Shubham Sharma unbeaten on 51 and Atharv Mahajan on 35.

Sharma and Mahajan shared an unbeaten 64-run partnership for the sixth wicket, helping MP recover after the visitors slipped to 87 for five.

The day was also affected by rain, which halted play and forced the players off the field before action resumed. Bad light later interrupted proceedings, with MP ending the day in a strong position ahead of the final day.

Jammu and Kashmir made an early breakthrough on Tuesday when Sunil Kumar dismissed Chanchal Rathore for eight, leaving MP at 56 for four. Rohit Sharma then removed Aryan Pandey for 17, caught by Shubham Pundir, at 87 for five.

However, the hosts could not make further inroads as Shubham Sharma and Mahajan batted patiently to frustrate the bowling attack. Sharma faced 132 balls and struck two boundaries and a six, while Mahajan faced 84 deliveries and hit four boundaries.

For J&K, Auqib Nabi and Sunil Kumar claimed two wickets each, while Rohit Sharma took one wicket in the second innings.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh were dismissed for 196 in their first innings, securing a 76-run lead after J&K had elected to bowl after winning the toss.

Rohit Sharma led the hosts’ bowling effort, 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. The visitors had resumed their first innings at 43 for three on the second day before being bowled out in 74.2 overs.

In reply, J&K struggled to build partnerships and were bowled out for 120 in 46.3 overs, conceding a 76-run first-innings lead. The hosts lost wickets at regular intervals, slipping from 41 for two to 68 for five before the lower order failed to offer much resistance.

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, while captain Paras Dogra managed just eight runs.

J&K fencers Mayank Sharma and Shivaansh Kapoor to represent India at Asian U-23 Championships

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has extended its warmest congratulations to local fencers Mayank Sharma and Shivaansh Kapoor on their selection to represent India at the prestigious Asian U-23 Fencing Championships 2026, scheduled to be held in Manama, Bahrain, from October 27 to November 3, 2026.

Mayank Sharma has earned his selection in the Sabre event, while Shivaansh Kapoor will represent the country in Epee. This selection marks a significant milestone for fencing in Jammu and Kashmir, bringing immense pride to both the Union Territory and the nation.

Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, Tazayun Mukhtar, extended heartfelt felicitations to the two athletes, lauding their relentless dedication, rigorous training, and commitment to the sport. Expressing full confidence in their abilities, the Secretary wished them grand success



at the continental championship, noting that their performances will inspire a new generation of aspiring fencers across J&K.

The selection follows intensive trials conducted by the Fencing Association of India on October 8 and 9 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to finalize the Indian U-23 squad. The Council also commended the sustained efforts of the athletes, their coaches, and the broader fencing fraternity in nurturing grassroots talent and helping local sportspersons excel on national and international platforms.

Reaffirming its steadfast commitment, the J&K Sports Council pledged continued support for promising athletes and the holistic development of sports infrastructure across the Union Territory.

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE SRINAGAR

MOVIES SCHEDULE

14 OCTOBER 2026 WEDNESDAY

DRISHYAM : THE CONCLUSION (UA 16+) HINDI ATMOS 10:45 AM 01:45 PM 04:45 PM 07:45 PM HINDI 12:00 PM 03:00 PM 06:00 PM	THE VVAAN (UA 16+) HINDI 11:05 AM	DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NOBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNDERSEA DEVIL (U) HINDI 04:00 PM
OTHER MOMMY (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 01:55 PM	THE SOCIAL RECKONING (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 06:15 PM	

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