



PM Modi to inaugurate 5 projects worth Rs 3,350 cr for Ladakh today

To address gathering via virtual mode

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation five major development projects worth around Rs 3350 crore in Ladakh on Thursday through virtual mode.

According to a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Prime Minister will also address a gathering on the occasion. "These projects will strengthen connectivity, improve energy infrastructure, conserve cultural heritage and enhance water security in the region," it said.

NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AT LEH AIRPORT

As per statement, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the



new passenger terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee airport, Leh, built at a cost of Rs 640 crore. Spread over 23,800 square metres, the modern terminal is designed to handle

35 lakh passengers annually. Incorporating geothermal energy to enhance efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint, the facility reflects the importance of sustainable infrastructure in

Ladakh's ecologically sensitive environment. Blending modern passenger amenities with elements of Ladakh's rich cultural heritage, the terminal will improve passenger convenience and strengthen air connectivity with the rest of the country.

NIMMU-PADUM-DARCHA ROAD

The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation the 298-km-long Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Connecting Nimmu in Leh with Darcha in Himachal Pradesh through the remote Zaskar Valley, the road provides an alternative connectivity corridor to Ladakh, supplementing the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways. Traversing challenging Himalayan terrain, including the high-altitude Shinkun La Pass, the road marks a significant engineering achievement. Its strategic importance lies in enhancing | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha links vision of 'Viksit Bharat' with secure, healthy Himalayas

Says disturbing Himalayan ecological balance would have far-reaching consequences

Calls for establishing balanced relationship between development & conservation

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Highlighting the need to establish a balanced relationship between development and conservation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' can only be realized when the Himalayas remain secure, healthy and vibrant.

Addressing the valedictory session of the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "We must establish an extremely important balance between development and the conservation of natural resources, because I firmly believe that development achieved at the cost of nature's stability is not truly development. Our dream of a developed India will be meaningful only when the Himalayas remain safe, strong, and vibrant," he said.

He underscored the critical importance of protecting



the Himalayan ecosystem and called for a comprehensive, science-based and people-centric approach to sustainable mountain development.

Congratulating the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) and SKUAST-Kashmir for jointly organising the Summit, the Lieutenant Governor said that building a resilient Himalayan landscape is no longer merely a subject of discussion but a matter of national importance. The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Summit had provided

a platform for meaningful deliberations on issues concerning water resources, forests, land, biodiversity and climate change, while amplifying the concerns of millions of people dependent on the Himalayan ecosystem.

The Lieutenant Governor in his message observed that the challenges posed by climate change, global warming, environmental degradation and unplanned development are becoming increasingly evident across the Himalayan region.

"Over the | [More on P6](#)

Snowfall in higher reaches, rains in plains, temps down

Rain, snow likely at many places today; dry weather expected from Oct 17

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 14: Snowfall was recorded in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, including Razdan Pass and Zojila Pass, on Wednesday, while rainfall in the plains brought down temperatures across the region.

Several other high-altitude areas also received fresh snowfall as wet weather conditions prevailed across the Valley, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a maximum

temperature of 18.2 degrees Celsius, 4.6 degrees below the seasonal average, while the minimum temperature settled at 10.5 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees above normal, the IMD said.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, 8.3 degrees below normal, while Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 8 degrees Celsius, 5.7 degrees below the seasonal average.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 17 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled | [More on P6](#)

J&K Homestay Policy to boost local tourism, rural livelihoods: CM Omar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday termed the Jammu & Kashmir Homestay Policy, 2026, a major step towards promoting sustainable tourism, strengthening local entrepreneurship and creating new livelihood opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the approval of the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Chief Minister, the Government has notified the policy to provide a simple and enabling framework for expanding quality tourist



accommodation, particularly in rural, border, heritage and emerging tourism destinations. The policy introduces a streamlined registration mechanism with Silver and

Gold classifications based on facilities, hygiene and safety standards. It will enable resident homeowners to host visitors, showcase the region's rich cultural heritage and hospitality, and generate sustainable income from tourism.

Under the policy, eligible residential properties can also be registered as Bed & Breakfast establishments, further augmenting the region's hospitality infrastructure and creating additional income opportunities for households.

The policy provides for provisional Silver registration within 28 days of submission

of a complete application, valid for six months. It also envisages financial assistance, including a 35 per cent subsidy under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), subject to a maximum project funding support of 20 lakh, along with domestic utility tariff benefits for eligible homestays.

In addition, the policy promotes clean energy adoption through solar subsidies under the PM Surya Ghar scheme and facilitates access to low-cost credit through Jammu and Kashmir Bank, as applicable under | [More on P6](#)

Govt notifies new timing for Kashmir schools

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 14: The School Education Department on Wednesday ordered change in school timing for all government and private schools from October-15.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) ordered that the schools falling in the Srinagar municipal limits shall function from 10am to 3:30 Pm.

However, the school falling outside the Srinagar municipal limits shall function from 10:30am to 4 pm.

DSEK said that the order and instructions shall | [More on P6](#)

Keep human compassion at heart of healthcare: LG Sinha

» Says medical fraternity must bridge urban-rural healthcare gaps » Congratulates GMC Srinagar on Advancing Internal Medicine Conference

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday hailed the Government Medical College, Srinagar, for organizing a conference on "Advancing Internal Medicine: From Evidence to Excellence in Clinical Practice."

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the critical role of internal medicine in delivering holistic and patient-centric healthcare. He said that physicians often face the challenging

task of identifying complex underlying health conditions from seemingly simple symptoms. "The strength of internal medicine lies in its ability to view the human body as an interconnected system and to understand the complete medical story of a patient through clinical knowledge, experience and careful observation," he said.

The LG also stated that observation, reason, human understanding and courage remain the defining qualities of a physician. He highlighted that physicians frequently serve as the

first point of medical contact for families and, in many cases, build enduring relationships across generations, rooted in trust, compassion and scientific evidence.

The Lieutenant Governor in his message lauded Government Medical College, Srinagar for its significant contribution to medical education and healthcare, noting that generations of doctors trained by the institution continue to serve across Jammu Kashmir and the country.

The Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

J&K relies on 84% imported power

Local generation falls by nearly 70 pc

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 14: With the onset of pre-winters, Jammu and Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

The official figures reveal that the Union Territory was importing nearly 2000 MWs of power from other states and UTs.

Top officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.



As of now authorities are generating 298 MWs of power from the Baghailhar-1 hydro-electric power project, 49 MWs from other projects of Kashmir division and 20 MWs through the Independent Power Producers in Jammu division.

According | [More on P6](#)

Edu Min cracks down on school textbook monopoly

Says pvt schools cannot force parents to buy books from specific outlets

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 14: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister, Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that parents should not be forced or directed by the private schools to buy textbooks from any particular outlet.

Speaking to the reporters on the sidelines of a meeting, the minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Private schools should give choice to the parents. It depends on them. They can buy textbooks from wherever they want."

"No private school should direct any parent to buy a textbook from any particular bookseller. That choice should be of the parents. There should be no restriction in this regard," she said.

On asking about some private schools teaching additional books except for those mandated by NCERT, Itoo said, "There is nothing wrong if any private school teaches additional books that increase the knowledge of students and can be useful and is in the interest of the child."

"However, if | [More on P6](#)

Shopian's hailstorm-hit apple growers 'unable to recover even basic costs'

Say many forced to sell at throwaway prices, seek proper compensation, crop insurance scheme

Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, Oct 14: Apple growers across south Kashmir's Shopian district said they are facing mounting financial losses as repeated hailstorms since April have damaged fruit quality. Many orchardists said they were forced to sell their produce at significantly lower prices, with some struggling to find buyers.

Growers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the damage had become more apparent during harvesting and grading, with a

substantial portion of the crop losing its market value.

In some severely affected pockets, orchardists estimate losses of 90 per cent or more and said the rest is not of good quality and is being sold at throwaway prices.

Growers said even apples that remain suitable for consumption are fetching low prices because hail marks and blemishes affect their grading and marketability. Many fear they may not recover even the money spent on fertilisers, pesticides, labour and other orchard operations.



"The fruit is being sold at throwaway prices, and in some cases, we are struggling to find

buyers willing to offer reasonable rates. We spend throughout the year maintaining our

orchards, but the damage has left us unable to recover even our basic costs," said an orchardist from the affected areas.

Shabir Ahmad, an orchardist from Mandujan Shopian, said repeated hailstorms had severely affected the quality of his produce.

"A large portion of the apples has developed hail marks and is being downgraded. The difference in prices between good-quality and damaged fruit is substantial, and growers are bearing the losses despite having invested heavily

in the crop," he said.

In Amshipora, growers expressed concern that the damaged harvest would leave them struggling to meet household expenses and clear payments to labourers and suppliers. They said the losses had upset their financial calculations for the season.

"We invest money on pruning, spraying, fertilisers and labour with the hope of earning a reasonable return during harvesting. But when hailstorms damage the fruit, the prices fall sharply. We are worried that the earnings from

this season may not even cover the cultivation expenses," said another grower from Aherbal hamlet of Kulgam.

Orchardists from other hail-impacted areas also said that the actual impact was becoming clear as the apples were picked, sorted and graded.

The financial impact extends beyond orchard owners, as the apple industry provides seasonal employment to labourers, transporters, packaging workers and traders. Lower prices and reduced demand for damaged fruit could affect earnings | [More on P6](#)

Strengthening Public Water Supply

DC Srinagar hands over newly procured Water Tankers to Water Works Division

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Wednesday handed over the keys of newly procured water tanker vehicles to the Water Works Division, Srinagar aimed to strengthen public water supply and improve water availability during the peak demand season.

The vehicles, as per an official statement, were formally inducted into the fleet of the Jal Shakti Department during a flag-off ceremony held at the Office of the Executive Engineer Water Works Division, Srinagar.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Imtiyaz Ul Aziz Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer,



Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulics, Er. Ambreen Anjum, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, and other Officers and Officials were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the three water tankers, comprising one vehicle with a capacity of 6,000 litres and two with capacities of 5,000

litres each, had been procured at a cost of Rs 72 lakh through convergence of various schemes and funds at district level in coordination with Jal Shakti Department through the convergence of district-level funds.

He said the addition of these vehicles would significantly enhance the district's capacity to address drinking water

deficit in tail end areas, particularly during the peak season and facilitate the provision of water in areas wherever the need arises.

Emphasising the need for efficient deployment of the tankers, the DC directed that the vehicles be utilised optimally to ensure the supply of safe and adequate drinking water to consumers, especially in tail-end areas where water supply constraints are more pronounced.

The DC further observed that every water tanker makes a significant change during the peak season and expressed confidence that the newly inducted vehicles would help improve water supply services and bridge gaps in service delivery across the District.

Ensure compliance with MDC Directions on Traffic Management in Srinagar: SMC Commissioner

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess compliance with the directions issued by the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) concerning traffic management, road infrastructure and urban mobility in Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was convened to review progress on actionable points arising from the MDC directions, identify issues requiring intervention, and ensure coordinated compliance.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner, R&E, SMC/Additional Chief Executive Officer, SSCL; Chief Engineer, SSCL; Joint Commissioner, Works, SMC; General Manager, Public Transport Operations (PTO), SSCL; Executive Engineer, City Roads, SMC; Executive Engineer, SSCL; and General Manager, Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), SSCL. During the meeting, a



comprehensive review was undertaken of key traffic management issues under the MDC framework, with particular emphasis on traffic congestion, road infrastructure, junction improvements, traffic circulation, road-user safety, inter-agency coordination and the effective utilisation of technology-driven solutions to improve urban mobility.

The deliberations also focused on strengthening IT-based parking management systems, developing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, establishing an effective Traffic Control Room, and

systematically developing and upgrading bus stops to ensure organised parking, promote sustainable mobility, enhance real-time traffic monitoring, and improve public transport infrastructure across Srinagar.

The Commissioner emphasised the importance of ensuring effective and timely compliance with MDC directions through coordinated efforts, clearly defined responsibilities and result-oriented interventions. The discussions focused on identifying existing gaps, addressing operational challenges and formulating practical measures to streamline traffic movement and improve the overall efficiency of the city's transport network.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening the utilisation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS), real-time surveillance, Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) infrastructure and other smart mobility interventions to facilitate efficient traffic monitoring, improved junction management and better coordination among the concerned agencies.

Drug Control Department rebuts misleading Inferences

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The Drug Control Department, Jammu and Kashmir, has taken serious note of a news report published in a Jammu-based newspaper under the headline "Drug Seizures Mount, But Where Is Drug Controller J&K?" and rebutted what it termed as misleading inferences, stating that the factual position and enforcement efforts of the Department need to be placed on record for public awareness.

The Department, as per an official statement, clarified that Since January 2026, seizures of intoxicant drugs valued at 56,85,243 have been effected with the active support and coordination of the Police Department as part of ongoing enforcement efforts against drug peddling and the illicit circulation of habit-forming drugs. Significantly, these seizures have been made from drug peddlers and persons involved in the illegal trade, and not from licensed pharmacies or medical sale establishments.

Drug Control Department is mandated to regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Rules framed thereunder. In discharge of its statutory responsibilities, the Department has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards the irregular sale, purchase and diversion of habit-forming drugs. Drug Control Officers are actively engaged in regulatory inspections, scrutiny of sale and purchase records, verification of compliance with statutory requirements and initiation of appropriate legal and administrative action wherever violations are detected.

As part of its preventive enforcement strategy, the Department has also ensured 100 percent compliance with the requirements for installation of CCTV cameras and adoption of computerised billing systems by medical sale establishments. These measures are intended to strengthen traceability, improve transparency in pharmaceutical transactions, facilitate scrutiny of suspicious sales and deter diversion of medicines into unauthorised channels.

The department further stated that wherever irregularities or violations relating to the sale and purchase of habit-forming drugs are detected and substantiated, the concerned Drug Control Officers are recommending appropriate action, including cancellation of drug sale licences, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and prescribed procedure. Pertinent to mention here that since January 2026 to ending September, 2026, 25 drug sale licenses stands already cancelled. The Department does not hesitate to initiate stringent and appropriate action against any licensed establishment found indulging in unlawful practices. It is also pertinent to appreciate that the seizure of illicit drugs from peddlers is a multi-agency enforcement effort involving the Police and other concerned enforcement agencies. Such seizures demonstrate the importance of coordinated action against the illegal drug trade. It clarified that illicit stocks are recovered from peddlers does not, by itself, establish that the drugs originated from licensed pharmacies or that the regulatory system has failed.

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 ALI 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.	17
4.	YASIR RASOOL	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

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

NAME .AIZAH JAAN D/O SHOWKAT AHMAD GANIE R/O WAKURA GANDERBAL
ADHAAR CARD NUMBER .817778956010

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my driving license bearing No: JK1620110006991 . FROM PERVAZ AH MUGHAL S/O GH HASSAN MUGHAL TO PERVAZ AHMAD MUGHAL S/O HUSSAIN MUGHAL (as per aadhar card). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME . PERVAZ AHMAD MUGHAL S/O GHULAM HUSSAIN MUGHAL R/O NAGBAL DARA HARWAN SRINAGAR

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC
WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/8951-55

Dated: 14/10/2026

Cancellation of NIT

Subject:

- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of Snow clearance (Stage contract - 01) for the year 2026-27.
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-02) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-03) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-04) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-05) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-06) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-07) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-08) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-09) for the year 2026-27
- Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB) Sub- Division Tral on emergency basis by way of S now clearance (Stage contract-10) for the year 2026-27

Reference:

1. This office e- NIT No.139/EEA/RNB of 2026 -27/8902-12 Dated 13-10- 2026.
Due to Typographical error the works advertised vide above referred e -NIT No. are hereby cancelled and shall be invited a fresh.

Sd/-
Technical officer

DIPK-6722/26
DATED: 14-10-2026

sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

Fresh to 114 Sr. No. 2 Dated: 01/09/2026
E-NIT No:Fresh 151/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/7910-20 Dated: 14/10/2026
Phone:-01933-295302

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
2	Providing and laying of RCC Spun Pipes on Lassipora Sangam Road at Main Market Litter	14.64	300/-	2% of Adv cost	60 working days	DEE/CEE/ BEE	CDF 2026-27	140-DDCP of 2026 Dated: 27-08-2026	3 rd call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders. gov .inas per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14 - 10-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	14 - 10-2026from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14 - 10-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	22- 10-2026upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23- 10-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee	Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South.

In light of Circular issued by Finance department Vide No:FD-code/290/2026 Dated 22.05.2026 and circular issued by worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B)Department South Kashmir Vide order No:CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated: 05.06.2026 ,the following conditions are mentioned below:-

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) . mentioning Name of work/Nit NO.
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) mentioning Name of work/Nit NO
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0054010200003470, IFSC: JAKA0GOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids

SD/-
HEAD DRAFTSMAN
DIPK-6705/26
DATED: 14-10-2026

SD/-
TECHNICAL OFFICER

SD/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION PULWAMA

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR
Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018

E-mail: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org.
Tel. No. 0194 — 2493712 0194-2493711

Subject: First Tentative Seniority list of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med of Divisional Cadre

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in the Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

While due diligence has been exercised in compilation of the said seniority list, the possibility of inadvertent omissions, clerical errors, or discrepancies in the service particulars cannot be ruled out.

Accordingly, the First Tentative Seniority List of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned PMS are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this circular. After stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the valley for wider circulation.

S.	No	Name of the Employee	Date of Birth	Date of 1st Appointment	Date of promotion as PMS	Place of posting
1	Mr. Javid Ahmad Malyar	28.11.1969	,26.03.1996	11.03.2016	Block Shangus	
2	Mr. Bilal Ahmad Vaid	03.12.1970	13.08.1996	11.03.2016	Block Shangus	

DIPK-6731/26
DATED: 14-10-2026

SD/-
Director Health Services Kashmir

J&K Dy CM seeks resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar



Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Oct 14: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying the country needs a transparent, vibrant and impartial Election Commission to safeguard democracy.

Reacting to protests against the Election Commission, Choudhary, while speaking to reporters during his visit to Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal said the concerns raised by young people must be addressed rather than suppressed.

"If the youth and the people believe that Gyanesh Kumar should resign, then he should resign. The youth are on the streets and Gyanesh Kumar will have to resign," he said.

protesters, including women and said the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and the right to peaceful protest. "These young people are the future of our country. You cannot silence them by using force. This is oppression and such oppression cannot continue," he said.

Choudhary said an independent and impartial Election Commission was essential to strengthening democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and across the country.

"If we want to strengthen democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and across India, which we proudly call the world's largest democracy, we must ensure a transparent, vibrant and impartial Election Commission," he said.

On the controversy surrounding the Waqf Board's proposed common themes for Friday sermons, Choudhary said no political party had the right to interfere in the religious affairs of any community. "Whether it is Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism or Christianity, no religion gives any political party the right to interfere in its affairs. Religion has always been above politics and it must remain so," he said.

"God is one. His forms and the ways of worship may be different, but no political party should attempt to impose its agenda on any religion," the Deputy Chief Minister said—(KNO)

Identify new trekking routes, promote off-season tourism: Avny Lavasa

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 14: Secretary Tourism Avny Lavasa on Wednesday called for identifying new trekking routes, strengthening adventure tourism infrastructure and promoting off-season activities to attract more visitors to Kashmir throughout the year.

Chairing a review meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar, to assess the functioning and operational roadmap of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, Lavasa stressed the need for a structured annual event calendar to ensure sustained tourist engagement and effective promotion of the region's diverse tourism offerings.

She directed the department to plan major festivals, cultural events and seasonal activities well in advance, with proper inter-departmental coordination and wider publicity to attract tourists across different seasons.

Lavasa also called for greater focus on trekking, paragliding, water sports, skiing and mountaineering. She instructed the Directorate

to identify new trekking routes, strengthen safety measures and improve related infrastructure.

She also emphasised promoting adventure tourism as a key attraction for young travellers and niche tourist segments, particularly during the off-season.

During the meeting, Director Tourism Kashmir gave a presentation on the department's organisational structure, staff strength, vacancies, statutory enforcement framework and the progress of various government schemes, promotional campaigns and infrastructure projects.

Lavasa reviewed year-wise Capex budget allocations, expenditure patterns and pending developmental projects, directing officials to adhere to stipulated completion timelines.

She also reviewed the licensing framework for hotels and other tourist establishments and directed officials to clear pending registration and renewal applications promptly to facilitate ease of doing business.

The meeting also discussed revenue
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Div Com directs DCs to review Agristack regularly

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 14: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Tuesday directed Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to expedite registrations and data compilation under Agristack and SVAMITVA, stressing on constant review and timely achievement of district-wise targets.

Chairing a meeting with DCs, Garg reviewed the progress under both initiatives and emphasised achieving saturation of data entry of Khasras in approved villages under Agristack. He called for close monitoring and prompt action to ensure the completion of all assigned targets within the stipulated timelines.

He also took stock of farmer registrations under Agristack and the status of property cards generated across districts under SVAMITVA.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner congratulated the newly appointed Deputy Commissioners and extended his best wishes, urging them to discharge their duties



with dedication and ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of district administrations.

Garg also reviewed issues raised during previous meetings and field visits, directing the concerned DCs to prioritise their

resolution. The issues included the provision of potable water at Budgam and Srinagar railway stations, completion of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-I, security arrangements and basic amenities at transit accommodations for PM

Gurez observes shutdown to protest pregnant woman's death



SAJID RAINA

Bandipora, Oct 14: The death of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby triggered a shutdown and protests in Gurez on Wednesday, with residents alleging that a delay in shifting her to a hospital in Bandipora contributed to the tragedy.

Markets in Dawar remained closed as residents blocked roads, shut shops and staged a sit-in, raising slogans against the local administration, particularly the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), over the handling of the case.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo said strict action would be taken if any lapses were found. "We have taken action in the past in such cases. If the deaths occurred due to lapses, action will follow," she said. The deceased,

Hasene Bagem, wife of Showket Hameed Lone and a resident of Mazdun village in Tulail, was taken to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Sheikhpura late on Tuesday evening. Her family alleged that no medical staff were available there, following which she was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Gurez.

Doctors at SDH Gurez reportedly found her blood levels critically low and advised her immediate referral to District Hospital Bandipora.

the SDM.

"She remained in pain throughout the night, and the baby died in the womb before delivery at SDH Gurez around midnight," a family member alleged.

A senior doctor at District Hospital Bandipora told KNO that the woman was brought to the hospital at around 8 am on Wednesday and was declared dead on arrival.

SDM Gurez Dr Mukhtar denied the allegations, saying he was informed by medical authorities that the patient required referral to Bandipora.

He said snowfall around Razdan Pass had initially hampered movement, but after receiving assurances from Project Beacon that the road was open, the patient was shifted during the early hours of Wednesday.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Gurez Dr Feroz Iqbal, however, said the health department had informed the administration in time but was not allowed to shift the patient promptly.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora Dr Bhajan Kour said the health department had launched an inquiry into the incident and described the deaths as unfortunate—(KNO)

CDS signs MoU with Indian Navy to promote defence education

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 14: Career Defence School (CDS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to promote defence education and youth development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Aditya Hara, representing the Indian Navy, and Er. Vinay Rai, Founder and CEO of Career Defence School, marking an important step towards strengthening defence awareness and inspiring young students to explore opportunities in the armed forces.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to encouraging discipline, leadership, teamwork, patriotism and a spirit of national service among the younger generation, it reads, the statement said, adding, through this association, Career Defence School aims to further strengthen defence-oriented education, enhance awareness about career opportunities in the Indian Navy and other Armed Forces, and motivate students to develop the confidence, physical fitness and character required to pursue their aspirations.

It said the collaboration also opens avenues for exploring mutually agreed educational initiatives and student engagement activities in accordance with the provisions of the MoU.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Navy, Er. Vinay Rai, Founder and CEO of Career Defence School, said the association was a proud moment for the institution and reaffirmed its commitment to guiding

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Tral-Wahab Sahab road project incomplete for 12 years

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Oct 10: More than a decade after it was proposed, the Tral-Wahab Sahab road project remains incomplete, prompting residents of Tral and adjoining areas in south Kashmir's Pulwama district to urge authorities to expedite work on the vital connectivity link.

Residents said that the approximately eight-kilometre Syedabad Pastuna-Wahab Sahab road was planned to connect Syedabad Pastuna in Tral with Wahab Sahab Shaar in Pampore tehsil, providing a shorter route between the two areas without travelling via Awantipora.

They said the foundation stone was laid in 2015 by then MLA Mushtaq Ahmad Shah and work was subsequently initiated. However, the project has remained stalled for years, with little progress on the ground.

Initially estimated to cost around Rs 16 crore, the road is a long-pending demand of residents, who say its completion would improve connectivity, reduce travel time and benefit more than a dozen villages.

Nadeem Ahmad, a resident of Tral, said the road would provide direct connectivity to Khrew and Pampore, saving commuters considerable time and distance.

"It is an important project for Tral and neighbouring villages. Its completion would make travel easier for students, employees, traders and other commuters, but people are still waiting for the work to resume," he said.

Another resident, Wakeel Ahmad, said the road would provide a convenient alternative to existing routes and significantly benefit people on both sides.

Residents urged the administration, the department concerned and elected representatives to prioritise the project and ensure its early completion.

Meanwhile, an official acknowledged the delay, saying a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth around Rs 26 crore had been submitted for the road's construction.

However, he said the DPR is yet to receive approval and forest clearance has also not been granted—(KNO)

Army to organise medical camp in Basantgarh



KNO

Udhampur, Oct 14: The Indian Army will organise a two-day mega medical camp at Basantgarh in Udhampur district on October 17 and 18 under Operation Sadbhavana to provide free healthcare and welfare services to residents of remote areas. A spokesperson said the camp will be held at Government Higher Secondary School, Basantgarh, and the Primary Health Centre (PHC),

Basantgarh.

A multidisciplinary team of medical professionals, including surgeons, physicians, orthopaedic specialists, ophthalmologists, ENT specialists and dental professionals, will provide consultations and specialised healthcare services.

He said the facilities will include child healthcare, cardiac screening, respiratory care and diagnostic tests such as complete blood count (CBC), haemoglobin and random blood

sugar (RBS), besides prescribed medicines and preventive healthcare guidance.

The spokesperson said Army will also distribute assistive devices, including wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, walkers and hearing aids, to eligible beneficiaries based on medical requirements and availability.

The statement said special attention would be given to elderly citizens, women, children, persons with disabilities and economically disadvantaged families.

Dedicated welfare stalls for Veer Naris and ex-servicemen will provide assistance with pensions, documentation, welfare schemes and grievances. A separate youth facilitation stall will offer guidance on Agniveer recruitment, eligibility criteria and selection procedures.

Representatives of J&K Bank and the Agriculture Department will also provide information on banking facilities, government welfare schemes, agriculture, horticulture and livelihood opportunities.

Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, is scheduled to attend the camp. The initiative aims to strengthen the Army-Awam bond and improve

Continued on
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Crime Branch chargesheets three officials

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 14: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against three Agriculture Department officials for allegedly manipulating service records to secure undue benefits.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the chargesheet in Case FIR No. 02/2022 was presented before the Court of the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, against Abdul Rashid Gojri, Helper in the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Office, Beerwah; Manzoor Ahmad Wani, Section Officer in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Budgam; and Peer Abdul Rashid, retired Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO).

The case was registered under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the RPC and Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The spokesperson said the case originated from a communication dated February 15, 2022, from the Deputy Director Agriculture, Central Kashmir, regarding alleged manipulation of service records by officials to obtain undue benefits.

During verification, it surfaced that Gojri had allegedly submitted a forged date-of-birth certificate showing his date of birth as February 27, 1973, instead of his actual date of birth, February 27, 1975. Accordingly, an FIR was registered at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir, now Police Station SCW Kashmir.

Investigation revealed that Gojri was 17 years and two months old when he was initially engaged as a daily wage in the Agriculture Department. The spokesperson said Wani and Peer Abdul Rashid allegedly facilitated the inclusion of the incorrect date of birth in his service records by disregarding directions for document verification, thereby enabling the regularisation of his services.

The spokesperson said the investigation established the offences mentioned in the FIR against all three accused. After obtaining the requisite approval and sanction in respect of the two serving government employees, the chargesheet was presented before the court. The Crime Branch has advised the public to remain vigilant against fraudsters and report such incidents to the department—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

A Mountain Policy That Puts People And Nature Together

Jammu and Kashmir wanting to be the first Himalayan territory with a Mountain Development Policy is a good idea. And the Chief Minister saying it should not be made in isolation is even better. Because policies made in closed rooms usually fail on the ground. What he said about tourism is

worth thinking about. Many outsiders think Kashmir runs only on tourism. But the truth is agriculture and horticulture are much bigger. Tourism comes third or fourth. This is something we ourselves forget sometimes. The Chief Minister also spoke honestly about a problem we all see but rarely admit. We cannot

suddenly stop tourists from coming. Too many families depend on them. But yes, some places like Gulmarg and Pahalgam are getting too crowded. The answer is not to close these places. The answer is to open new ones. And to build them properly, with waste disposal and other facilities ready before visitors arrive.

Another thing he said should make us stop and think. We blame tourists for pollution. But what about ourselves? How many plastic bags do we use every day? Before pointing fingers at others, we should look at our own habits. The point about road construction is also important. Cutting hills carelessly may save

money in the beginning. But then landslides come, roads get damaged, and we spend again to repair them. That money could have built new roads instead. The big message here is balance. Development is needed. Jobs are needed. But if we damage the mountains, we damage our own future. The mountains

are not just scenery. They are our home, our water, our food, our life. A Mountain Development Policy is a good start. But it will only work if farmers, engineers, forest officers, tourists and ordinary citizens all become part of it. The government cannot do this alone. And it should not try to.

Zabarvan Legends Series: Taking India's Mountain Biking Ambitions To New Heights

Following its inaugural season in 2025, the international downhill mountain biking championship returns with three distinctive races across Sikkim, Ladakh and Pune, bringing some of the world's leading riders to India's mountains

Jaspreet Kaur

India's diverse mountain landscapes offer enormous potential for competitive adventure sports, yet professional mountain biking remains relatively underdeveloped. Zabarvan Xtreme, an Indian adventure sports organisation, is working to change this through the Zabarvan Legends Series (ZLS), an international downhill mountain biking championship that brings accomplished international riders together with emerging Indian athletes.

Founded by Sehan Shetty, a snowboarder, surfer and football player, Zabarvan Xtreme grew from his experience of pursuing adventure sports in India, where athletes often face limited access to specialised equipment, professional training, competitive opportunities and financial support.

"Zabarvan Xtreme was created to build an ecosystem for mountain sports where Indian athletes can thrive and see these disciplines as serious sporting opportunities rather than simply hobbies," says Shetty.

From Gulmarg To The Northeast: The 2025 Debut

The inaugural Zabarvan Legends Series, held in October 2025, travelled across Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir, Shillong in Meghalaya and Guwahati in Assam.

More than 30 riders participated, including Brazil's Douglas Vieira, Australia's Samuel Hill, the Czech Republic's Matej Charvat and Iran's Hossein Zanjanian. Vieira, a five time Brazilian national champion, emerged as the overall winner.



The series demonstrated India's potential to host international downhill racing across varied landscapes while giving Indian riders valuable exposure to professional competition.

Building on that experience, Season 2 introduces three new destinations, each with a distinct course inspired by its landscape and regional heritage.

Singge Oralo: Sikkim's Snow Lion

The opening race, Singge Oralo, held from 7 to 11 October 2026 at Zoom village in Sikkim, brought international downhill racing to the Eastern Himalayas.

Named Snow Lion, the 2 km course descended 200 metres through dense Himalayan forests at approximately 900 metres altitude. Riders navigated steep, loamy trails, exposed roots, narrow tunnels, rocky drops and centuries old granite stairways passing through historic mountain settlements.

With gradients reaching 40 degrees, the course demanded precision and adaptability as riders moved between soft forest soil, slippery roots and unforgiving stone surfaces.

The competition was inaugurated by Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), reflecting the state's interest in developing adventure sports and tourism. Lokesh Sharma of Sokpa served as the local organiser, bringing regional knowledge and

support to the international event.

The race attracted participants from eight countries, including India, Brazil, Australia, Iran, the Czech Republic, Taiwan, Nepal and Italy.

International Champions And Indian Talent

Brazil's Douglas Vieira continued his winning streak, securing first place in the elite category. Czech rider Matej Charvat finished second, followed by Iran's Hossein Zanjanian in third. Australian mountain biking legend Samuel Hill, an eight-time world champion, finished fourth.

Nepal's Nirav Shrestha secured seventh place, while Indian riders Taitus Marak, Virendra Mali and Aaronson Oniel Kharपुरi finished eighth, ninth and tenth respectively.

The second competition category saw encouraging performances from Indian riders, with Will Willbornson of Meghalaya finishing second and Darian Laloo of Meghalaya Pro Cycling securing third. Pushkar Regmi, representing Zabarvan EPIC, finished fourth.

Other participants included Ismamul Howk, Edgar Nonglait, Siddharth Khandelwal, Jenek Khumanthem, Rikzing Nedup Bhutia and Kaushal Kaushal.

The results highlighted the growing enthusiasm for downhill mountain biking in India, particularly in the northeastern



states, where challenging terrain has encouraged dedicated cycling communities.

Druk Layul: Racing At The Roof Of The World

The championship now moves to Ladakh for Druk Layul, scheduled from 14 to 18 October 2026 at South Pullu, near the gateway to Khardung La.

Named after the legendary Tibetan Thunder Dragon, Druk Layul, meaning

Thunder Dragon's Heaven, presents an extraordinary high-altitude challenge in the stark Trans Himalayan landscape.

The approximately 3.5 km downhill course begins at an altitude of 4,300 metres and descends to 3,700 metres, with an elevation drop of around 600 metres. Riders will negotiate loose shale, rocky chutes, exposed traverses, technical switchbacks and fast sections punctuated by jumps and drops.

Approximately 25 athletes are expected to participate, competing in one of the world's most demanding high-altitude environments. Thin air, rugged terrain and temperatures ranging from minus 5°C to 15°C will test both physical endurance and technical ability. Riders will be given two days to acclimatise before racing.

The Secretary of Tourism has been invited as Chief Guest, reflecting the event's potential to promote Ladakh as a destination for international adventure sports.

The event is being organised in partnership with Unexplored Ladakh, a local mountain biking and adventure travel company, represented by Tenjin Jamphel. Its knowledge of the region, experience in mountain biking and familiarity with local terrain are important to developing the competition.

Already recognised internationally for trekking, mountaineering and adventure tourism, Ladakh offers considerable potential for competitive mountain biking. Zabarvan Xtreme envisages a longer-term association with the region, with the aim of establishing recurring competitions, encouraging local participation and creating opportunities for young Ladakhi riders.

Gaur Ghat: Downhill Racing Meets Maratha Heritage

The final leg, Gaur Ghat, will take place from 22 to 25 October 2026 in Pune, Maharashtra, beneath the historic walls of Sinhagad Fort.

Named after the historic mountain pass leading towards Sinhagad, the race draws inspiration from the landscape and heritage of the Maratha heartland.

Set at approximately 1,300 metres altitude, the 2.2 km course features a challenging 400 metre descent through the rugged Sahyadri mountains.

Unlike the Himalayan courses, Gaur Ghat presents dry basalt terrain, loose gravel, exposed bedrock, steep rock faces, technical switchbacks and rough rock gardens. Riders will descend ancient hillside trails once connecting villages and fortifications, passing through forested sections and exposed ridgelines overlooking the valleys below.

The course demands speed, control and careful line selection, offering a striking contrast to Sikkim's forest trails and Ladakh's high altitude desert.

Pune's active cycling community, young population and proximity to outdoor recreation destinations make it a promising centre for competitive mountain biking. Through Gaur Ghat, Zabarvan Xtreme hopes to place Pune on the international mountain biking map.

Building A Future For Indian Mountain Sports

Beyond the competition, the Zabarvan Legends Series seeks to address the challenges facing Indian mountain biking, including expensive equipment, limited training infrastructure, insufficient sponsorship and a shortage of professional racing opportunities.

Bringing international competitors to India allows local athletes to experience professional racing standards without travelling abroad. Equally important is the collaboration with local organisers and mountain biking communities, whose participation can help sustain the sport beyond individual events.

The series also offers opportunities for adventure tourism, local employment and sporting infrastructure, provided development remains sensitive to the fragile environments in which these races take place.

From Gulmarg, Shillong and Guwahati in 2025 to Sikkim, Ladakh and Pune in 2026, the Zabarvan Legends Series is establishing a growing national footprint.

For Zabarvan Xtreme, the ambition extends beyond successful races. It is about building a lasting ecosystem in which Indian athletes can train, compete internationally and pursue mountain sports professionally, while positioning India's extraordinary landscapes on the global mountain biking circuit.

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

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Central Team reviews Lumpy Skin Disease situation in J&K

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 14: Dr Sudam Bagh, Deputy Commissioner (Livestock Health), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries Government of India, accompanied by Dr Sandeep Pandita, Technical Assistant, M.S. Institute of Animal Health and Biological Production, R.S. Pura, Jammu, (Liaison Officer), Wednesday undertook an extensive field visit to the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)-affected districts of Samba, Kathua and Jammu and assessed the prevailing situation.

Dr Bagh, as per an official statement, inspected several LSD-affected villages and assessed the ground situation including the challenges faced by livestock farmers and the measures being undertaken to contain the disease.

As part of the outreach initiative, mineral mixture, wound-dressing materials and



disinfectants were distributed among livestock farmers. He also held interactions with officers from the Animal Husbandry Department and participated in awareness and sensitisation programmes to educate farmers about disease prevention, biosecurity measures, hygiene and appropriate livestock management practices.

As part of the disease surveillance and diagnostic exercise, teams from DDR&P, led by

Dr Abhimanyu Chauhan, Lab Officer, Talab Tillo, collected samples from LSD-affected cattle in Samba and Kathua districts.

Similarly, a team from the District Investigation Office (DIO), Jammu, led by Dr Ravinder Singh Thakur, Lab Officer, collected samples from affected cattle in Jammu district. These sample-collection activities were undertaken to facilitate laboratory investigation and support the assessment of

the disease situation.

Livestock Development Officer R.S. Pura Dr Muddassir Nazar also accompanied the visiting officer during the field tour of Jammu district.

Furthermore, a meeting with officers of Jammu district was convened at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the prevailing LSD situation, discuss field-level interventions and emphasise the importance of coordinated efforts, effective disease surveillance, timely reporting and sustained farmer awareness to strengthen disease-control measures.

The visit underscored the importance of close coordination between the Central Government and the Animal Husbandry Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in addressing the LSD outbreak and safeguarding livestock health and the livelihoods of livestock farmers.

District-Level Nasha Mukta pledge held at Samba to mark 6 Years of anti-drug campaign



KT News Desk

SAMBA, OCTOBER 14: The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare on Wednesday organised a pledge-taking ceremony here at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Complex Nandani Hills to mark six years of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment, Government of India.

All district officers present at the ceremony took the pledge, reaffirming their collective commitment to combating drug abuse and promoting a healthy and drug-free society.

Similar pledge-taking ceremonies were also held at the block level across the district to ensure wider participation and strengthen awareness against substance abuse.

The initiative, as per an

official statement, aimed to sensitise officials and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage collective responsibility in the fight against substance abuse.

The District Administration Samba reiterated its commitment to intensifying awareness activities and mobilising all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and contribute towards a drug-free India.

Solid Waste Management Rules

DC Kathua calls for effective enforcement, responsible waste handling



KT News Desk

KATHUA, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma Wednesday chaired a meeting here at the DC Office Complex to review the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the waste management practices being presently followed and stressed the need for effective implementation of the prescribed rules governing collection, segregation, transportation and scientific disposal of solid waste.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure strict compliance with the applicable rules and emphasised the identification and proper management of bulk waste

generators. He further directed the concerned authorities to issue notices to industrial units for ensuring compliance with the prescribed solid waste management norms.

The DC called for strengthening monitoring mechanisms, promoting waste segregation at source and intensifying public awareness campaigns to discourage indiscriminate dumping of waste. He stressed coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to improve sanitation standards and ensure environmentally sustainable waste management practices.

ADC Kathua Sachin Jamwal, CPO Kathua Ranjeet Thakur, ACP Ajeet Kumar, AO Akhil Kumar, CEO MC Kathua Amit Sharma and representatives from concerned departments were present in the meeting.

DC Rajouri chairs public grievances redressal, service delivery camp

KT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Dr. Devansh Yadav Wednesday chaired a Public Grievances Redressal and Service Delivery Camp here at the PWD Dak Bungalow to address the issues and concerns of residents of the Municipal Area and strengthen the delivery of essential services at the grassroots level.

Residents raised a range of issues related to civic amenities and public infrastructure. These included the parking facilities and a designated waste dumping site, replacement of damaged water pipelines, provision of a warehouse, restoration of public utilities damaged during recent flash floods, relief for affected families and repair of dilapidated internal roads.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, gave a patient hearing to the residents and assured them that all genuine grievances would be addressed in a time bound manner through coordinated action by the concerned departments. He emphasised the importance of proper planning,



inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of development works to improve civic amenities and ensure efficient service delivery.

Dr. Devansh Yadav also said that a cricket tournament would be organised shortly to channelise the energy of youth in a positive direction and encourage greater participation of local youth in sports.

Highlighting the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, he called upon young people to actively participate in awareness programmes aimed at preventing drug abuse and promoting a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

Regarding the issue of stray dog menace in the town, the Deputy Commissioner assured that effective measures shall be taken to control the

canine population. He further assured to facilitate the licensing of street vendors while ensuring proper regulation of vending spaces to prevent overcrowding and maintain public convenience.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to responsive governance, Dr. Yadav said that sustained and coordinated efforts would continue to address public concerns and improve civic facilities across the Municipal Area.

Among those present were ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq, IAS Probationer Akash Garg, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, ACD Sheraz Chowhan, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, ACP Mohd Rafeeq, DDE Mohd Nawaz Choudhary, EO MC Rajouri Ashiq Rafiq Malik and other concerned officers.

MVD intensifies Road Safety enforcement across Doda



KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 14: Motor Vehicle Department, led by ARTO, Kuldeep Kumar, has intensified road safety enforcement across Doda town.

The MVD team, as per an official statement, is conducting regular vehicle inspections, fitness checks and document verification drives to ensure strict compliance with traffic rules and prescribed safety standards.

The enforcement drive is being carried out on the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal, to improve road safety, ease congestion and promote responsible driving practices.

The enforcement team conducted inspections at various key locations across Doda town, including school zones, GMC Road, College Road and other important roads and

public areas. Special attention was given to areas witnessing regular movement of students, pedestrians and other road users to promote safer traffic conditions and ensure compliance with road safety regulations.

During the drive, the enforcement team, comprising Deputy Traffic Inspector (DTI) Karan Singh Manhas, Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) Rakesh and other field staff, checked vehicles for valid registration certificates, driving licences, fitness certificates, insurance documents and other mandatory papers. Vehicles were also inspected for compliance with prescribed safety standards and applicable transport regulations.

During the enforcement drive, the team issued 11 challans and imposed a cumulative fine of Rs.49,700 for various traffic and transport-related violations detected during the inspections.

Status of public services, development works reviewed in Sub-Division Gandoh

KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 14: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anil Kumar Thakur, during a tour to Gandoh Sub-Division, chaired a meeting in the office chamber of the SDM, to review the status of public services, road maintenance, electricity infrastructure, educational facilities and telecommunication services in the region.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Arun Kumar Badyal along with officers from various line departments attended the meeting.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, directed the officers of the Public Works Department (R&B) and PMGSY to ensure proper maintenance of respective



roads and take necessary measures to address road-related issues for the convenience and safety of the general public. The Executive Engineer, JPDCL was directed to expedite the completion of pending cable work in areas where electric poles have already been erected and ensure timely

completion of the work. The officers were also asked to coordinate with each other to resolve public grievances and ensure the effective implementation of ongoing developmental works.

Reviewing the education sector, the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Gandoh was directed to conduct

regular inspections of schools and ensure the proper implementation of the Mid-Day Meal scheme, maintaining prescribed standards of quality, hygiene and nutrition for students. The concerned officers were further advised to monitor the functioning of their respective departments and take prompt action to address issues affecting the delivery of essential public services.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner also directed representatives from BSNL and private telecom service providers to take necessary measures to improve and ensure reliable mobile network connectivity across Sub-Division Gandoh, particularly in areas experiencing poor signal coverage.

DC Reasi reviews progress of development works at Shiv Khori Shrine

KT News Desk

REASI, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Reasi and Vice Chairman of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board Kumar Abhishek on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing developmental works and the status of infrastructure and facilities at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed works being executed by various departments, including the construction and repair of stairs, roads, waiting halls, cafeterias, shelters and water points, besides other amenities along the shrine track. The progress of works at Shiv Khori Helipad, including



fencing and other security-related infrastructure, was also reviewed.

He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing works in accordance with prescribed quality standards. He stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination and directed the officers concerned to undertake regular site inspections to monitor the progress

and quality of works and address any bottlenecks affecting their timely completion.

The meeting also reviewed the availability and operational status of essential amenities for pilgrims, including water coolers, benches, fans, water purifiers, generators and CCTV cameras. He emphasised the need to ensure that these facilities remain functional and adequately maintained for the convenience of pilgrims.

KU hosts the launch of Dr. Asad Rahmani's book 'Where Have the Birds Gone?'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, October 14: The School of Biological Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with Kashmir Birdwatch, organised a book launch event for 'Where Have the Birds Gone?' authored by noted ornithologist and conservationist Dr Asad Rahmani, at the Main Campus on Wednesday.

The event, as per KU statement, provided a platform for academicians, researchers, students and bird enthusiasts to discuss bird conservation, the protection of biodiversity and the importance of preserving

natural habitats.

While presiding over the event Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that birds are an important part of the ecological system and their declining numbers in many areas call for greater awareness and collective action. She stressed on the need to encourage young people to develop a deeper understanding of nature and environmental conservation.

"Protecting our birds and their habitats is essential for maintaining ecological balance and we must inspire our younger generations to become active participants in



conserving our natural heritage," she said.

Dr. Asad Rahmani spoke about the motivation behind the book and the importance of

documenting changes in bird-life. He emphasised the need to understand the factors affecting bird populations and called for greater public participation

in conservation efforts. He also highlighted the role of research, education and community engagement in protecting birds and their natural habitats.

Dean, School of Biological Sciences KU, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad, in his introductory remarks, highlighted the importance of the book in drawing attention to changes in bird populations and the challenges facing their habitats.

Earlier, Dr. Ashfaq Zarri, Special Secretary to the VC and Joint Registrar KU, introduced the author and shared details of his professional journey and contributions to ornithology and bird conservation.

The book launch was attended by Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Dean Research KU, Prof. Bashir Ganaie,

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Controllor of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman Baba, senior University officials, deans, heads of departments, faculty members, research scholars and students.

The programme also featured an interactive question-and-answer session with the author, during which participants engaged in discussions on bird conservation, changing habitats and the importance of protecting biodiversity.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Yahya Bakhtiyar, faculty member, Department of Zoology, KU.

Sakeena Itoo calls for collective efforts to strengthen education sector in J&K

Emphasises quality education, coordination between government & private institutions

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting with Civil Society Members as well as representatives of Private Schools Association and Parents Association, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to discuss key issues concerning the school education sector and explore measures for improving the quality, transparency and overall functioning of the education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting witnessed detailed deliberations on a range of issues, including the availability and pricing of textbooks, freedom of choice for parents in purchasing books and uniforms, academic coordination between government and private schools, timely preparation for the commencement of the new academic session, issues related to school recognition and No Objection Certificates (NOCs), verification procedures and other concerns raised by the stakeholders.

Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Chairman JKBOSE, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir, Secretary JKBOSE, other senior officers of school education department were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, the Minister appreciated the constructive suggestions put forth by representatives from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions and underscored the need for sustained engagement among all stakeholders to address the concerns of students, parents and educational institutions.

She emphasised that the primary objective of both government and private educational institutions should be to ensure the delivery of quality education and provide students with an enabling environment for academic excellence, holistic development and future success.

"The objective should not be to compare government schools with private institutions, but to work collectively towards providing quality education to every child. Both sectors have made significant contributions to the education system, and their respective strengths must be acknowledged and further



strengthened," the Minister said.

Sakeena Itoo said that the government is committed to strengthening public education while also recognising the important role played by private schools in expanding educational opportunities. She called for greater coordination, mutual understanding and institutional cooperation to ensure that the interests of students remain paramount.

"Government has made concerted efforts in coordination to streamline the system and address longstanding administrative and academic issues", she said.

She acknowledged the role of departmental officers and the leadership of the concerned educational institutions in resolving pending matters and bringing greater efficiency to the functioning of the education sector.

Emphasising the importance of advance planning for the academic session, the Minister said that necessary preparations concerning textbooks, syllabus and other academic requirements must be undertaken well in advance, particularly in view of the proposed commencement of the new academic session in November.

She directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised during the meeting and take appropriate measures to ensure timely resolution of matters falling within their jurisdiction.

The Minister also called for the constitution of a representative committee comprising members of

Private Schools Associations, Parents' Associations, selected NGOs and officers of the Education Department to examine issues affecting the functioning of private schools and recommend practical measures for improving transparency, accountability and coordination.

She asked the Commissioner Secretary, School Education, to formulate a proposal for the committee at the earliest, incorporating suitable representation from all relevant stakeholders, so that the proposed mechanism could be made functional without unnecessary delay.

On the issue of textbooks and school uniforms, Sakeena Itoo stressed that parents must be provided the freedom to purchase books and other essential educational material from vendors of their choice. She made it clear that there should be no compulsion on parents to purchase books from a particular bookseller or publisher, and that any concerns regarding pricing, availability or other related practices must be addressed through appropriate institutional mechanisms.

The Minister urged private school managements to exercise greater responsibility in addressing such complaints and maintaining public confidence in their institutions. She observed that isolated instances of irregularities could adversely affect the reputation of the entire education sector and, therefore, required timely attention and corrective action.

She also stressed the need for private educational institutions to follow applicable rules and regulations in matters concerning the engagement and service conditions of teaching staff, while ensuring fairness, stability and respect for the contribution of teachers to the education system.

Referring to the similarities between the syllabi followed by government and private schools, the Minister called upon the concerned authorities to examine areas where greater academic coordination and uniformity could be achieved, in accordance with the applicable curriculum and academic framework.

She said that both sectors must complement each other's efforts rather than work in isolation, adding that the collective responsibility of all stakeholders was to improve learning outcomes and ensure better educational opportunities for children.

The Minister also took note of concerns regarding the processing of NOCs and other procedural requirements for private schools. She reiterated the need to simplify administrative procedures, improve coordination among the concerned offices and ensure that eligible cases are dealt with efficiently and transparently.

The Minister also referred to issues concerning lease-related matters and the functioning of the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee. She said that the government had taken steps, wherever feasible, to safeguard students' academic interests, including facilitating extensions to prevent students from missing examinations due to pending issues. She added that the remaining matters would be examined in accordance with the applicable legal and administrative framework.

Reiterating the government's commitment to the welfare of students, Sakeena Itoo said that every effort would be made to address genuine concerns and strengthen the education system through transparent, accountable and consultative mechanisms.

She called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination with the Education Department and contribute towards creating a more responsive, equitable and student-centric educational environment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana calls for dev model that balances growth with ecological protection

Minister stresses water security, forest conservation as pillars of Himalayan development

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Wednesday said that water security, forest conservation and sustainable development are closely interconnected and together form the pillars on which the future of the Himalayan region rests.

The Minister, who was the Guest of Honour, was addressing the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) 2026 at SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar campus here. The three-day summit (October 12-14) is being organised by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) in collaboration with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI). It has brought together scientists, policymakers, civil society representatives and community leaders from across India's mountain regions.

Speaking on the theme "Contouring Sustainable Himalayan Landscapes for Inclusive Viksit Bharat," the Minister termed it both timely and significant, emphasising that the development model for Jammu and Kashmir must balance economic growth with ecological protection.

He said the Himalayas are not merely a geographical feature but the lifeline of millions of people. He noted that forests, glaciers, rivers, springs and rich biodiversity sustain agriculture, horticulture, tourism and livelihoods, and play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring water security for large parts of the country.

Underlining the importance of water security as a key pillar of sustainable mountain development, the Minister said, "Water security must remain one of our foremost priorities." He stressed the need for protecting and rejuvenating springs, conserving catchment areas, promoting rainwater

harvesting, improving water-use efficiency and ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water sources.

"While expanding water supply infrastructure, equal emphasis must be laid on the conservation and replenishment of natural water resources that sustain these systems. A sustainable approach to water management is essential to ensure reliable access to drinking water for communities while preserving the ecological balance of the Himalayan region," he added.

The Minister expressed particular encouragement over the discussions on the proposed Jammu and Kashmir Sustainable Mountain Development Policy, whose first draft has been jointly developed by IMI and SKUAST-Kashmir and is being reviewed by national experts.

The proposed policy focuses on ecological carrying capacity, mountain-sensitive land-use planning, responsible tourism, resilient infrastructure, waste management, watershed and spring security, disaster-risk reduction and sustainable mountain livelihoods. The summit provides a platform for expert consultations and inter-governmental deliberations to further refine it.

"The real measure of development is not simply the number of projects completed, but the quality of life we secure for our people and the natural heritage we preserve for future generations," the Minister said.

Calling for a model of development in which economic progress does not come at the cost of ecological destruction, he said every village should have access to safe drinking water, forests and biodiversity must be protected, and young people should find sustainable livelihood opportunities in their own regions.

He expressed confidence that the deliberations of the summit would generate meaningful ideas, strengthen institutional partnerships and help shape a clear roadmap for the sustainable and inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir and the wider Himalayan region.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha links

be realised only when the Himalayas remain secure, healthy and vibrant.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined four key pillars for future action. The first pillar focuses on determining science-based carrying capacity and zoning to ensure holistic planning and sustainable development. The second pillar emphasises climate-resilient infrastructure and enhanced disaster preparedness through environmentally sensitive construction and strengthened community-based early warning systems integrating modern technology with traditional local knowledge.

The third pillar calls for promoting regenerative and inclusive livelihoods, including high-value horticulture, organic farming, modern sericulture, eco-tourism and other components of the green economy. The Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to empower youth and women as entrepreneurs and job creators. The fourth pillar advocates a zero-waste and circular mountain economy through improved solid waste management, wastewater treatment and recycling systems across urban, rural and tourist destinations.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Summit for preparing a draft policy addressing ecological security, responsible tourism, disaster management and sustainable livelihoods. He expressed the hope that the document would evolve into a robust policy and implementation framework through extensive consultations and serve as the basis for a new social contract between society and nature.

Emphasising India's civilisational ethos of environmental stewardship, the Lieutenant Governor in his message called for harmonising tradition with technology, local wisdom with modern science, and economic development with ecological sustainability.

"Today, as we build a developed India, we must strike a balance between tradition and technology, local knowledge and modern science, and economic and ecological development. I am fully confident that the right policies and the right decisions on the ground can carry all of these forward together," the Lieutenant Governor said.

PM Modi to inaugurate

operational mobility and strengthening logistical support for the Armed Forces. It will also benefit residents of Zaskar by improving access to healthcare, education, markets and essential services.

9 MW HANU SMALL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

As part of efforts to strengthen energy security and harness Ladakh's renewable energy potential, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 9 MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project and the 66 kV Double-Circuit Dah-Hanu-Khalti Transmission Line. These projects will strengthen power evacuation infrastructure and improve the reliability of Ladakh's electricity network, marking an important step towards harnessing the region's hydropower resources.

PETROGLYPH CONSERVATION PARK
Recognising the importance of preserving Ladakh's ancient archaeological heritage, the Prime Minister will inaugurate India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat, Leh. Ladakh is home to hundreds of prehistoric rock art sites featuring carvings of wildlife, human figures and symbolic representations that offer valuable insights into thousands of years of human history. The conservation park will provide a dedicated space for protecting these vulnerable archaeological remains, raising public awareness and encouraging responsible heritage tourism.

'PROJECT HIM SAROVAR'
PM Modi will also inaugurate 40 water bodies developed across 40 villages under 'Project Him Sarovar', an initiative aimed at addressing Ladakh's unique geographical and climatic challenges through water conservation, in line with the objectives of Mission Amrit Sarovar. Agriculture in Ladakh faces a seasonal imbalance between water availability and demand, with farmers often experiencing scarcity during the crucial sowing season despite substantial snowmelt and glacial runoff at other times.

"The project Him Sarovar seeks to address this challenge by conserving water when it is available and ensuring its availability when required, thereby supporting irrigation, sustaining agricultural livelihoods and strengthening

long-term water security in the region," the PIB statement added. (KNO)

J&K Homestay Policy

the relevant schemes and guidelines. The Chief Minister said the initiative would help extend tourism beyond traditional destinations, strengthen local economies, promote the region's heritage and ensure that the benefits of tourism reach communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The policy is expected to encourage greater community participation in the tourism sector while expanding accommodation options for visitors and creating new avenues for local economic growth.

Govt notifies

be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions without any deviation. (KNO)

Snowfall in higher

at 7.6 degrees Celsius, 4.9 degrees above normal.

The weather office has forecast light to moderate rain at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, with light snowfall over higher reaches. Thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms are also likely at isolated places from late Thursday afternoon through the night and into early Friday morning.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry on Friday, with the possibility of brief spells of light rain at isolated places. Dry conditions are likely to prevail across the region from October 17 to 24.

The IMD has advised farmers to ensure the safe storage of harvested apples, paddy and other crops during October 14 and 15 in view of the possibility of rain, gusty winds and hailstorms.

Travellers, transporters and the general public have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories, particularly in view of the possibility of snowfall on important mountain passes and highways. (KNO)

Edu Min cracks

the children are not interested in those books and are not beneficial for them, they shouldn't be forced into it. It shouldn't be used as a tool to mint

money from parents," the minister said.

She also said that the government in this regard has decided to form a committee with members of the parent association, private school association and NGOs. "If there is any complaint, that will be examined. If it is found to be correct, then action will be taken against those schools." (KNO)

J&K relies on

to the official figures, The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and 1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

It also said that from the centrally owned hydel projects in Jammu and Kashmir that has a generation capacity of nearly 2200 MWs, the authorities were generating nearly 1100 MWs of power.

In the previous week, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of 14 percent during the solar peak hours in the month of October.

The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in this regard had further said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 12 percent during the non-solar hours.

The official figures in this regard said that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 400 MWs against the available power position during the solar peak hours in the month of October.

It also said that during the non-solar peak hours, the regions may face a power shortage of 337 MWs.

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for October-2026 for both the Union Territories, NRPC has said that there will likely be a peak availability of 2450 MWs against the requirement of 2850 MWs—keeping a loophole of 400 MWs during the peak solar hours.

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

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

The official documents in this regard

said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak demand of 3813 MWs. (KNO)

Keep human

Governor also highlighted the emerging healthcare challenges. "While infectious diseases remain a concern, lifestyle-related disorders such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, fatty liver disease and cardiovascular ailments are assuming epidemic proportions. We need to ensure that advances in diagnostics, therapeutics and medical technologies reach physicians and patients in rural and remote areas as effectively as they do in urban centres," he said.

Sinha also called upon the medical fraternity to strengthen indigenous research and generate evidence relevant to India's diverse population. He said that the country's demographic diversity, combined with the expertise and commitment of doctors, presents immense opportunities for scientific discovery and innovation.

"Medical science is making historic advances, and new drugs and diagnostic tools have opened up new possibilities for treatment. The greatest need today is to ensure that these innovations are not available only to physicians in large cities, but also reach doctors in villages. We must ensure that there is not even the slightest gap between urban and rural areas in access to facilities and available tools. This should be the first objective of this conference," he said.

The LG also outlined a five-year roadmap and proposed six key commitments for the medical community including expanding access to advanced medical knowledge through digital health platforms and telemedicine, prioritising preventive healthcare and early detection of diseases, using technology and artificial intelligence as supportive tools while preserving clinical judgement, continuously strengthening research capacity, ensuring the wellbeing of doctors and addressing professional burnout and preserving human compassion at the centre of healthcare delivery.

The Lieutenant Governor also urged the young doctors to remain curious, embrace innovation and learn from experienced mentors. He also called

upon senior physicians to generously share their clinical wisdom and guide the next generation of healthcare professionals.

"Early detection of diabetes, hypertension and liver disease is less costly and can help reduce treatment expenses. I urge all physicians and internists to lead prevention campaigns at the community level, because a doctor's voice can have an extraordinary influence on society. I have every confidence that people will take your advice seriously when it comes to preventing lifestyle-related diseases.

We must value physicians' hard work, service and dedication. Along with caring for patients, hospitals and institutions, it should be ensured that doctors are cared for too. Providing them with better workplaces and working conditions should be a priority," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shopian's hailstorm

across the horticulture supply chain. In Kashmir, thousands of families depend on horticulture for their livelihoods. Growers said losses during the season could affect their ability to meet household expenses and invest in their orchards for the next crop cycle.

Orchardists have urged the authorities to provide compensation to eligible growers under applicable relief provisions, saying the few hundred per Kanal being offered is nothing but rubbing salt on their wounds.

"We appeal to the authorities to provide proper relief to affected orchardists. Farmers cannot bear the entire burden of damage caused by repeated hailstorms on their own," growers said.

President Fruit Growers Association Kashmir Bashir Ahmad Basheer told KNO that this year quality produce has fetched good returns, however, growers living in areas hit by hailstorms have suffered heavy losses and the government has failed to compensate them properly.

"There were several hailstorm attacks this year, due to which losses were heavy," Basheer said, adding that the government must take care of such areas and implement a crop insurance scheme so that growers do not have to face such things every year. (KNO)

Govt proposes BS-VII emission norms from April 2029

Adds brake, tyre, battery-durability rules

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The government has proposed introducing Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards for passenger vehicles from April 1, 2029, tightening pollution controls through new limits on exhaust emissions, real-world driving tests and battery durability requirements. According to a draft notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the new rules would apply to category M1 vehicles - primarily passenger cars - manufactured from April 2029.

It invited public comments for 30 days before considering the draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

India currently follows Bharat Stage VI standards, introduced nationwide in April 2020, which significantly tightened vehicle-emission requirements and brought the country closer to international regulatory practices.

BS-VII standards would be introduced in phases, with additional requirements taking effect in April 2031 and April 2035, including controls on brake-particle emissions, tyre abrasion and particulate emissions across different powertrain technologies.

The proposal would require manufacturers to demonstrate compliance not only under laboratory conditions but also through real-world driving emissions tests and checks on vehicles already in service.

The draft sets a three-phase timeline of April 2029, April 2031 and April 2035, giving carmakers about two and a half years before the first limits bite. Component and tyre suppliers face separate deadlines, and several limits, such as tyre abrasion and some



battery thresholds, are still to be notified. The rules cover electric vehicles for the first time through battery-durability and brake-particle requirements, and they push compliance monitoring into the vehicle itself.

Under the draft, the first phase from April 2029 would introduce BS-VII exhaust-emission limits for passenger vehicles, alongside requirements covering evaporative emissions, fuel consumption, electric energy consumption and battery durability. Real-world driving tests would measure gaseous pollutants and particle numbers, while on-board systems would monitor emissions and fuel or energy consumption. The draft also envisages an Environmental Vehicle Passport giving users access to information on vehicle emissions, fuel consumption and battery health.

From April 2031, the proposed framework would introduce brake-particle emission limits and tyre-abrasion requirements. The draft sets a brake-particle mass limit of 3 milligrams per kilometre for pure electric vehicles and 7 mg per km for other specified powertrain categories.

Further requirements are scheduled for April 2035,

including a common brake-particle mass limit across powertrain technologies and additional particle-number controls, subject to limits to be notified separately.

The proposed standards cover a range of powertrains and fuels, including petrol, diesel, compressed natural gas, ethanol blends, hydrogen and hybrid vehicles, as well as electric vehicles for applicable energy-consumption and battery requirements.

For M1 vehicles, the draft sets carbon monoxide limit at 1,000 mg per km for positive-ignition (petrol-type) engines and 500 mg per km for compression-ignition (diesel) engines. Nitrogen oxides (NOx) limits have been set at 60 mg per km for positive-ignition and 80 mg per km for compression-ignition.

Particulate limits have been proposed at 4.5 mg per km for both engine types.

The limits apply across fuels, including petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20), diesel, CNG, LPG, hydrogen, methanol, and flex-fuel and bi-fuel vehicles.

The draft also regulates non-exhaust emissions and vehicle durability. From April 1, 2031, limits on brake particle emissions (PM10) are set by powertrain.

They are 3 mg per km for pure electric vehicles and 7 mg per km for hybrids, fuel-cell vehicles and internal combustion vehicles. From April 1, 2035, a single 3 mg per km limit applies to all powertrains.

Abrasion limits for C1 tyres are to apply from April 1, 2031, with the limits to be notified separately.

For pure electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, batteries must retain at least 75 per cent performance for the first five years or 100,000 km, and 67 per cent up to eight years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first.

From April 1, 2030, type approval will include on-road emission tests using portable measurement systems, with a conformity factor of 1.0 for NOx and particle number, according to the draft. Vehicles must carry on-board diagnostics, on-board monitoring able to detect emissions at least 2.5 times the limit, and on-board fuel and electric energy consumption monitoring. Fuel-consumption data must be accessible from April 1, 2030, and the monitoring data from April 1, 2032, including over-the-air.

Emission compliance must be maintained for 160,000 km or eight years, with an additional lifetime period to 200,000 km or 10 years.

Buyers would get an Environmental Vehicle Passport showing fuel consumption, battery state of health and pollutant emissions, with provision for in-vehicle display, the draft rules said.

The draft also allows petrol-type and diesel vehicles fitted with geofencing technology to be approved as 'BS-VII-G' vehicles. Manufacturers must declare and label ethanol compatibility above E20.

PM Modi to inaugurate 12th BRICS Parl Forum on Oct 26

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: India will host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum later this month to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat said on Wednesday that the prime minister will inaugurate the multilateral event in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building, on October 26.

The three-day event beginning October 25 will conclude with the adoption of a joint statement. The Forum meeting 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 is likely to take the 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.

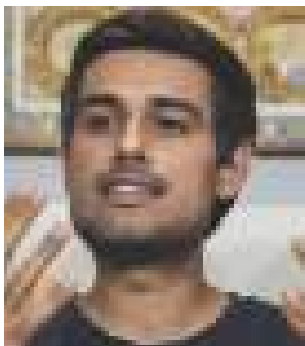
Fresh summons to YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in 2018 defamation case

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: A Delhi court has issued a fresh summons against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in a 2018 defamation case, noting that he has been living in Austria for the last seven years and has come to India for the protests underway in the national capital.

Judicial Magistrate Rahul Jain was hearing the plea filed by BJP IT Cell member Vikas Pandey seeking a fresh summons to Rathee.

In an order dated October 12, the court said, "From the available record, it is clear that the complainant has been trying to serve the



accused no. 1 (Rathee) since the last several years..."

Appearing for the complainant, Advocate Samaksh Sharma submitted before the court that Rathee ordinarily resides in

Austria and has come to India for the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protests in Delhi.

He submitted that issuance of a fresh summons is necessary, so that prompt steps for service can be taken.

The judge noted that Rathee was summoned by the court initially in July 2019.

The court directed that fresh summons be issued to Rathee at his address in Gurugram in Haryana.

The case pertains to a defamation suit filed by the BJP IT cell member Vikas Pandey in 2018 after Rathee uploaded a video on his YouTube channel against him.

Five priority areas identified for JJM 2.0, VB-G RAM G convergence

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Ministry of Jal Shakti on Wednesday called for enhanced convergence between the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 and VB-G RAM G programmes and identified five priority areas, including scientific identification of vulnerable drinking water sources, for states and Union territories to achieve it.

The other priority areas are: aligning JJM plans with gram panchayat plans, establishing technical scrutiny and approval mechanisms, ensuring seamless inter-departmental data sharing, and creating joint monitoring systems to track physical progress and water security outcomes.

The priorities were identified during the third virtual conference with states and Union territories organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) as part of follow-up consultations to the Departmental Summit on Water 2026 held on September 1-2, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said.

Addressing the conference, DDWS Secretary Ashok K K Meena called for scientific planning using the Decision Support System (DSS) developed under JJM 2.0 and Yuktadhara standard operating procedures to identify vulnerable drinking water sources and prioritise interventions based on local requirements.

Meena stressed that sustainable drinking water services require systematic protection, recharge and management of water sources, alongside regular maintenance of infrastructure.

He highlighted the scope for undertaking water conservation, groundwater recharge, source sustainability and maintenance-related interventions under VB-G RAM G to strengthen drinking water security.

The secretary also called for integrating JJM Village Action Plans and Source Sustainability Plans with Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs) and incorporating them into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) process.

He said water security interventions should be based on scientific assessments of local water resources and approved by the Gram Sabha.

He also underlined the role of gram panchayats, village water and sanitation committees and local institutions in planning, implementing and monitoring drinking water systems.

Meena urged states to undertake interventions such as check dams, gully



plugs, recharge shafts, injection wells, underground dykes and rooftop rainwater harvesting structures, depending on local hydrogeological conditions.

The conference brought together officials from state public health engineering and rural water supply departments, rural development and panchayati raj departments, along with representatives of the Union ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Deeksha S Bisht, Assistant Commissioner in the Ministry of Rural Development, said VB-G RAM G provides for 128 water security-related works covering groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, watershed treatment, rejuvenation of water bodies, source sustainability and maintenance of water-related assets.

She said states have been advised to prioritise water-related works in water-stressed areas based on groundwater stress classifications and local water security requirements.

Sumit Priyadarshi, Deputy Advisor at the National Jal Jeevan Mission, made a presentation on the use of DSS to identify drinking water sources facing water quality and quantity risks.

He urged states to use the data to prioritise interventions, validate risks through field assessments and monitor outcomes after implementation.

National Jal Jeevan Mission Additional Secretary and Mission Director Kamal Kishore Soan stressed that investments under VB-G RAM G should address drinking water challenges identified through DSS and translate into measurable improvements in water security.

Soan said efforts are underway to integrate information on drinking water sources and associated gram panchayats into the rural development management information system to improve monitoring of planning, expenditure and implementation.

He also urged states to prepare concrete action plans for presentation at regional conferences scheduled from November 2026.

SC asks Centre, states to reply to plea seeking ban on sale of alcohol in tetra packs, sachets

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and states to file their response in four weeks on a plea for banning the sale of alcohol in "inconspicuous packaging" such as tetra packs and sachets.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, R Mahadevan and Aparesh Kumar Singh gave the petitioner NGO 'Community Against Drunken Driving' two weeks to file its rejoinder thereafter and listed the matter for detailed hearing after six weeks.

Senior advocate Vipin Nair, appearing for the NGO, said alcoholic beverages being sold in tetra packs in 10 states and Union Territories (UTs) have deceptive imagery with names like 'Chili Mango Vodka'.

He said these tetra packs appear like fruit juice with alcohol content mentioned in smaller letters.

Nair said the Centre and states have not filed their response to the petition. The bench ordered, "Liberty is granted to the petitioner to serve the unserved respondents through the standing counsel for the concerned respondents... Four weeks' time is granted to the represented respondent(s) to file their counter affidavit(s)."

"The petitioner will have two weeks' time thereafter to file a rejoinder affidavit. List the matter after six weeks."

The plea sought a direction to the Centre to frame a policy applicable to all states and UTs and to ban the sale of alcohol in packaging such as tetra packs and sachets.

It also sought a direction to the Centre to frame a policy in respect of the states to amend their respective excise Acts, rules and policies forthwith, adopting uniform definitions of "bottling" limited to glass containers or other visibly distinct receptacles.

The petition said there should be standardisation and harmonisation of excise policies of different states regarding the bottling of liquor.

It said inconspicuous packaging had the potential to dramatically increase the public consumption of alcohol.

"The petitioner is constrained



to file this public interest petition after observing that alcohol, particularly cheaper alcohol, is being sold in inconspicuous packaging viz portable PET bottles, plastic sachets and tetra packs in various states across the nation," it said.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Action Alliance for Recycling Beverage Cartons (AARC), sought impleadment of the petitioner and said that in the garb of a public interest litigation (PIL), the instant matter is specifically, directly and categorically targeted at the paper-based carton packaging industry since the entire petition has been premised on the argument that purportedly the sale of liquor in glass bottles is better than the sale of liquor in aseptic paper-based carton packages.

The AARC said that liquor/alcoholic beverages have been permitted to be sold in aseptic paper-based cartons in India for the past 21 years, and are presently so permitted in 10 states and UTs.

"For example, the state of Karnataka has permitted such sales since 2005, the state of Andhra Pradesh since 2014 and the state of Uttar Pradesh since 2014. It is stated that state excise policies in this regard have been issued openly and in exercise of statutory power, and have continued uninterrupted since," it said.

The plea of AARC said at present, an estimated 10 billion packs of alcoholic beverage cartons are being sold in India in a year.

"It is stated that where a lawful practice has subsisted openly, under statutory permission, for

almost 21 years, and where investment and employment on that scale have been created in reliance upon it, a petition seeking its prohibition without any explanation for the delay in challenging the same, is liable to be dismissed on the ground of delay and laches and more so where the relief would have an immediate and irreversible prejudice upon a large body of third parties not before the court," it said.

The bench allowed the impleadment of AARC in the matter.

It directed that a copy be served to the office of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for his response.

"List the matter after six weeks. In the meantime, the petitioner may serve a copy of this petition in the office of the solicitor general."

"Four weeks' time is granted to the respondent no. 1, Union of India, to file a counter affidavit," it said. On May 20, the top court sought responses from the Centre and other stakeholders on a plea for a ban on the sale of alcohol in tetra packs and sachets.

On November 11, 2024, the top court sought a response from the Centre on a petition by the NGO which said that the excise policy of different states has age legislation making it illegal to consume or possess alcohol below a certain age but a robust mechanism to check the age of consumers or buyers at alcohol points of sale or consumption is absent. The petition has also opposed doorstep delivery of liquor service, contending it would hasten the formation of the habit of alcohol consumption among underage persons.

India condemns attacks on civilian infra in Saudi Arabia 'Totally unacceptable, must cease immediately'

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: India on Wednesday condemned the string of attacks on civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, saying the "totally unacceptable" acts need to cease immediately, even as it asserted that New Delhi remains committed to doing the best for the welfare and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.

At his bi-weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that according to the wishes of the family of an Indian national who died on October 11, a day after suffering injuries in the Riyadh airport attack, his last rites were performed in the Saudi capital, assisted by the Indian Embassy there.

The attack on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport last Saturday was the latest of several strikes targeting the facility in the past week. Eleven Indians were among those injured in the attack that claimed 12 lives.

"Out of the 11 Indians injured, three have been discharged while eight continue to be in the hospital, including four in the ICU. Our embassy officials are regularly visiting the injured. They are also in touch with their families. We remain committed to doing our best for the welfare and well-being of our nationals abroad," the MEA spokesperson said. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh said in a social media post on Sunday that one Indian national injured in the Riyadh attack had lost his life.

Saudi Arabia's energy ministry said a limited fire broke out in an administrative building at an Aramco facility in the kingdom's Eastern Province after it was targeted in an attack - even though no injuries were reported.

The incident came amid an exchange of attacks between the Houthis and a Saudi-led coalition on Tuesday night, marking a fresh escalation in the widening crisis in West Asia. Jaiswal was asked about the number of Indians impacted by the attacks in Saudi Arabia, and the efforts being made to assist them.

"We have a large diaspora there. Our embassy in Saudi Arabia has been in regular touch with our community members for their welfare. It has also issued advisories."

"A lot of Indians travel between Saudi Arabia and India, and some of them have been impacted by disruptions in flight schedules after the attacks on the airports there," Jaiswal said.

"The flights which have been disrupted include those originating or going to Riyadh, Dammam and Medina, and to one or two more airports, including Jeddah. The Indian Embassy is providing updated information to our travellers who are stuck there," Jaiswal said.

Quick Read

Zelenskyy says Russia continues strikes on Ukraine’s energy sites despite Trump’s ceasefire push

AP

Kyiv, Oct 14: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy voiced outrage Wednesday over Russia’s continuing aerial bombardment of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure in apparent defiance of US President Donald Trump’s demand for a ceasefire.

Moscow’s forces pounded Ukraine’s power grid, as well as oil and gas facilities, for the third straight night, Zelenskyy said, after Trump claimed that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an “energy ceasefire” 4.5 years after Moscow’s forces invaded.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, has agreed to halt Ukraine’s monthslong campaign targeting Russian oil refineries that caused fuel shortages for Russians, Ukraine’s last reported hit on an oil refinery was last Friday.

The Kremlin has not confirmed that Moscow signed off on the truce, with a spokesman saying only that “contacts on this matter continue.”

Trump’s efforts to stop the fighting have made no progress.

Ukraine claims it is pushing Russia back on the battlefield

Ukrainian officials say they are pushing back Russian forces in eastern Ukraine, which Russia’s bigger army has been trying to capture for years. Ukraine has liberated 277 square kilometers in the operation that started in the summer, Ukraine’s Third Army Corps commander Brigadier General Andrii Biletskyi said Wednesday.

It was not possible to independently verify the claim, and Russian officials did not comment.

Ukrainian officials fear US support for the war effort is falling away after Trump struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to import Russian diesel despite international efforts to sanction Russia for its invasion and isolate Putin.

Ukrainian officials said the deal would help Russia continue its invasion, while European leaders fear Moscow’s wider ambitions on the continent and accuse Russia of sabotage as part of a hybrid war on the continent.

Zelenskyy was due in London on Wednesday for talks with British Prime Minister Andy Burnham as Kyiv and its European supporters race to shore up Ukrainian defences. The Ukrainian leader could go to Brussels to attend a European Union summit later this week after his London trip.

Saudi Arabia overturns Sri Lankan migrant worker’s death sentence over Facebook post



PTI

Colombo, Oct 14: Saudi Arabia’s Supreme Court has overturned the death sentence imposed on a Sri Lankan migrant worker over a comment he made on Facebook, Sri Lanka’s deputy foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Anojan Sivarasa, 27, was sentenced to death in September after being convicted of blasphemy against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad over his comment.

Sri Lanka’s Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Hemachandra confirmed in a Facebook post that the verdict had been overturned.

Hemachandra said, in a “major relief”, the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday set aside the death sentence imposed on Sivarasa.

He said this verdict was due to sustained diplomatic nd legal efforts by the government of Sri Lanka. The minister appreciated the Saudi Arabia government, the Sri Lanka ambassador, the secretary and officials of the Foreign Ministry, chairman and members of Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau and the legal teams of both countries for their dedicated efforts. Welcoming the decision, President Anura Kumara Disسانayaake said his government will continue to extend all necessary support to Sivarasa and his family as the remaining legal processes conclude.

“This brings immense relief to Anojan, his family, and all Sri Lankans who have followed his case with deep concern. It reflects the value of patient diplomacy, respect for the legal processes of a friendly nation, and the tireless work of those who stood by a Sri Lankan citizen abroad,” he said in a post on X. Appreciating the Saudi Arabian government, Dissanayake thanked the diplomats, civil servants and legal teams of both countries for their dedicated efforts in the case.

“My Government will continue to extend all necessary support to Anojan and his family as the remaining legal processes conclude. No Sri Lankan who leaves our shores in search of a livelihood should ever feel that they stand alone,” he added.

Trump says Greenland resource exploration is set to begin, but hurdles remain

AP

Washington, Oct 14: US President Donald Trump said “massive” oil, gas and mineral exploration is set to begin in “our new and beautiful Greenland” early Wednesday.

It wasn’t immediately clear what exploration or developments the US president was referring to in his post, and Greenland is a self-governing territory of Denmark, rather than a part of the United States.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform following a campaign event Tuesday in Wasilla, Alaska, to stump for Republican US Senator Dan Sullivan as he seeks his third term to represent the state in an election against



Democratic former US congresswoman Mary Peltola.

Rising energy prices — a direct result of Trump’s war in Iran — are creating serious and sustained financial hardships for America’s working class ahead of the midterm elections next month.

Trump’s comments Wednesday are likely aimed at addressing voters’ concerns

before they head to the polls.

But despite Trump’s optimism, resource exploration and extraction in Greenland has stymied companies for decades thanks to the island’s harsh climate, lack of key infrastructure and difficult geology.

Previous efforts to extract so-called rare earth minerals, as well as oil and gas, have

never progressed beyond the exploratory stage.

A recent deal paved the way for more US bases but didn’t offer exploration rights

Trump’s comments about the Arctic island come less than a month after he signed an agreement with the leaders of Denmark and Greenland to strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic following months of tensions with NATO allies over the US president’s repeated demands to take control of the semiautonomous Danish territory.

It does not grant the US any special exploration rights, but does place some limits on investments by non-NATO countries in strategic sectors.

Ranji Trophy: J&K collapse after MP declaration, match ends in draw

Shubham Sharma’s century powers Madhya Pradesh to first-innings lead as hosts slump to 88/7 chasing 326

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 14 : Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir were held to a draw by Madhya Pradesh in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match at the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, with the visitors securing a crucial first-innings lead.

Madhya Pradesh declared their second innings at 249/6 in 80 overs, setting J&K a target of 326 after earning a 76-run first-innings advantage.

J&K were reeling at 12/5 early in the chase as Avesh Khan and Aryan Pandey ripped through the top order. Shubham Khajuria, Qamran Iqbal, Shubham Pundir, Abdul Samad and captain Paras Dogra all fell cheaply, leaving the hosts in deep trouble.

Kanhaiya Wadhawan and Lone Nasir Muzaffar attempted a recovery with a 39-run stand for the sixth wicket. Muzaffar scored 13 off 54 balls before falling to Pandey, while Vanshaj Sharma was dismissed for six by Ravi Kiran.

Wadhawan remained unbeaten on 27



off 51 balls, while Auqib Nabi struck an unbeaten 30 off 32 deliveries, including four fours and two sixes, as J&K closed at 88/7 in 34 overs when the match ended in a draw.

For Madhya Pradesh, Avesh Khan and Aryan Pandey claimed three wickets each, while Ravi Kiran took one.

Earlier, MP skipper Shubham Sharma

produced a match-defining unbeaten 106 off 200 balls, hitting seven fours and three sixes, to lead his side to 249/6 before declaration. Atharv Mahajan contributed 39, while Saransh Jain remained unbeaten on 35 off 33 balls.

For J&K, Auqib Nabi took three wickets, Sunil Kumar claimed two, and Rohit Sharma picked up one.

3 J&K Khelo India soft tennis players to represent India at World Championship in China



KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 14: In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, three talented players from the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre; Sidhani Singh, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh Sambyal have been selected to represent the country at the upcoming World Soft Tennis Championship to be held in China from 26 to 31 October.

The selection, made by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and recommended by the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, marks a significant

achievement for the players and reflects their consistent performances, dedication and hard work over the past several years. All three athletes have earned medals at various national level championships, bringing recognition to Jammu & Kashmir through their outstanding performances.

Adding to their achievements, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh recently excelled at the Junior National Soft Tennis Championship held in Srinagar. Shreemai Bhatt secured two bronze medals while Madhvender

Singh Sambyal won one bronze medal, further strengthening their credentials at the national level.

These achievements have come under the guidance and mentorship of Indu Bhushan, whose support, training and guidance have played an important role in the players’ development and success. The players’ dedication, combined with consistent coaching, reflects the growing strength of soft tennis in Jammu & Kashmir.

Their selection for the World Championship is a matter of immense pride for the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Their success highlights the importance of structured training and the Khelo India initiative in nurturing young sporting talent and preparing athletes for national and international competitions.

The achievement is expected to inspire the aspiring soft tennis players across the region to work towards excellence and bring further laurels to Jammu & Kashmir on the international stage.

J&K to host nine National School Games events from Oct 15 to Dec 27

Over 3,500 athletes, officials expected; U-17 Wushu, Taekwondo in Kashmir; Fencing, Girls’ Cricket in Jammu: DG YSS

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 14 : Jammu and Kashmir will host nine National School Games events across four sports disciplines from October 15 to December 27, with more than 3,500 athletes and officials expected to participate, Director General Youth Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta said on Wednesday.

DG Gupta said the opening ceremony would be held at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal, tomorrow, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah scheduled to attend.

“These competitions will provide young athletes national-level exposure and help identify emerging sporting talent,” she said.

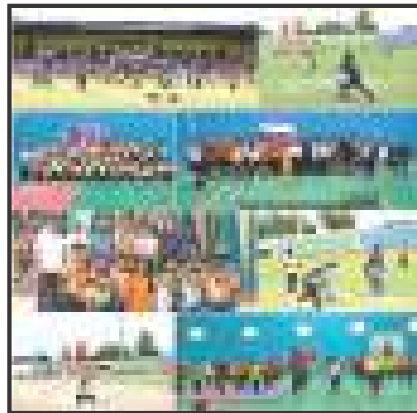
Gupta said Kashmir would host Under-17 boys’ and girls’ Wushu and Taekwondo competitions from October 15 to 27. Around 450 to 500 players and officials are expected to participate in Wushu, while Taekwondo is likely to draw around 800 to 1,000 participants, she said.

In Jammu, the events will include Under-17 and Under-19 boys’ and girls’ Fencing competitions and under-17 girls’ cricket. These competitions will be held at Khel Gaon, Nagrota, and continue until December 27, she said.

The DG said the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports is an affiliated unit of the School Games Federation of India, which provides states and Union Territories opportunities to host different sporting disciplines.

Highlighting the improvement in local athletes’ performance, she said Jammu and Kashmir had won four to five medals in 2022, while the tally rose to 73 last year. “We have come a long way,” she said, adding that the improvement reflected the growing enthusiasm among young athletes and their participation in

Jammu, Samba witness growing youth participation in cricket, badminton, gymnastics



KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 14 :The District Jammu Tennis Ball Cricket Championship commenced at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, with participation from schools and clubs across the district. Organised by the District Jammu Tennis Ball Cricket Association under the aegis of the J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association and recognised by the J&K Sports Council, the two-day championship features four categories: Under-12, Under-14, Under-17 and Senior. The competition aims to identify emerging talent and encourage wider participation in cricket across age groups.

Meanwhile, under the My Youth My Pride initiative of the J&K Sports Council, special summer badminton activities were conducted at the Sports Stadium, Samba, on October 12. More than 70 boys and girls participated in the competition, while over 180 spectators witnessed the matches. The activity provided young shuttlers with a platform to demonstrate their skills and gain valuable competitive experience.

In another sporting activity at Samba, the J&K Gymnastics Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council conducted a district-level gymnastics competition at the Indoor Complex, witnessing participation of around 50 boys and girls. Medals and certificates were distributed to the participants, recognising their performances and encouraging them to pursue the sport further.

The competitions reflect the continued efforts to strengthen grassroots sports and create opportunities for young athletes through district-level championships, special activities and the effective utilisation of available sports infrastructure.

Through initiatives such as My Youth My Pride and support for organised sporting competitions, the J&K Sports Council continues to encourage youth participation, facilitate talent identification and extend sports development opportunities across districts.

These efforts aim to nurture emerging talent, promote physical fitness and discipline, and provide young athletes with pathways to progress from local competitions to higher-level sporting platforms.



competitions. Citing an example, Gupta said Nasir Sofi was part of India’s under-14 volleyball team at the World School Games in Beijing, where the team won a bronze medal. She also said a J&K athlete had been selected to represent the country in judo this year.

She said the department was working to support young players through coaching facilities, guidance and information about opportunities to compete at higher levels.

“We are taking small steps. We are hand-holding the kids. We are trying to give them coaching facilities and tutoring, and tell them what the avenues are,” she said.

The DG YSS added, “Apart from hosting national-level competitions, Jammu and Kashmir sends around 2,000 to 3,000 athletes to events organised by other states and Union Territories each year. These competitions are held over an extended period, generally from October to March or April.”

Urging the media to publicise the National School Games, Gupta called for wider awareness among students and young athletes across Jammu and Kashmir to encourage their participation. The department, she said, would continue supporting young athletes and helping them improve their performance in the coming years—(KNO)