



CM Omar calls Circular Economy Policy 2026 'decisive step towards green growth'

Policy envisages three-tier waste management framework, regional resource recovery clusters, Rs 3,548.7 crore 10-year planning envelope

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has described the newly notified Jammu & Kashmir Circular Economy Policy, 2026, as "a decisive step towards resource recovery, green growth and ecological sustainability," marking a shift towards a low-waste, resource-efficient development model tailored to Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geographical and settlement patterns.

The policy envisages a differentiated three-tier governance framework: Circular, Circular+ and Circular++ to align waste management, recycling, resource recovery and waste-water reuse systems with the capacities and requirements of local bodies. It provides for decentralised processing in small and remote areas, hub-and-spoke logistics across intermediate corridors, and advanced circular economy systems in major urban centres, including Jammu and Srinagar.

Recognising the diversity of



waste streams across Jammu and Kashmir, the policy covers municipal solid waste, food and wet waste, tourism-related waste, horticulture and agricultural biomass, packaging waste, construction and demolition debris, e-waste and wastewater. It also seeks to promote material recovery through repair, refurbishment and reuse,

including resource loops linked to wool and handicrafts.

To address terrain-related and logistical constraints, the roadmap provides for targeted regional value-chain clusters to facilitate the aggregation, transportation, recovery and productive utilisation of materials. These clusters are envisaged around urban material

THE POLICY OUTLINES AN INDICATIVE 10-YEAR PLANNING ENVELOPE OF RS 3,548.7 CRORE, with financing envisaged through convergence with Central schemes, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms and user charges, alongside opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships.

recovery, apple and horticulture biomass, tourism circuits and artisan material loops, linking waste management with local economic activity and livelihood generation.

The policy outlines an indicative 10-year planning envelope of Rs 3,548.7 crore, with financing envisaged through convergence with Central schemes, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms and user charges, alongside opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships. The framework seeks to support long-term infrastructure development while reducing dependence on recurring government subsidies.

A key objective of the policy

is to achieve over 90 per cent urban material recovery through improved source segregation, greater diversion of waste from landfills and the development of sustainable green livelihoods. It also seeks to create opportunities for self-help groups, youth and waste workers by integrating resource recovery into local economic activity.

With its focus on decentralised solutions, regional specialisation and resource efficiency, the Jammu & Kashmir Circular Economy Policy, 2026, provides a long-term framework for strengthening environmental sustainability while supporting more resilient urban and rural development across J&K.

Maintain professionalism, mutual respect in interactions: J&K Govt to employees

Circular warns against derogatory language

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued a circular reminding all officers and officials that they must maintain professionalism, courtesy, and mutual respect in their interactions with seniors, colleagues, subordinates, and the public.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), citing Rule 3 of the J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, the General Administration Department (GAD) directed that employees are expected to uphold integrity, discipline, and conduct befitting public servants.

The circular has been issued at a time when a major controversy has erupted over alleged misconduct by a senior IAS officer with a junior KAS officer.

It emphasizes that official interactions should be conducted with due courtesy, restraint, dignity, and mutual respect.

Seniority and supervisory



authority, the GAD said, must be exercised with responsibility and fairness, while all employees are expected to extend due regard to lawful directions, established procedures, and the responsibilities attached to their offices.

The department cautioned against the use of derogatory, threatening, or inappropriate language, stressing that conduct inconsistent with the dignity of office must be avoided.

The circular directed all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Heads of Departments, and Managing Directors to bring these instructions to the notice of employees under their administrative control and ensure strict observance. (KNO)

Weather to remain dry till Oct 24, predicts MeT

J&K records below normal maximum temps at most weather stations



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 16: Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday predicted that weather across Jammu and Kashmir is likely to remain dry till October 24.

The MeT department, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the weather is expected to remain generally dry till late afternoon on October 24.

From October 25 to 27,

generally cloudy weather with light rain at scattered places is likely, while higher reaches may receive light snowfall. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also expected at a few places during the period, it said.

The department advised farmers to resume harvesting and other agricultural operations from Friday onwards.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum | [More on P6](#)

2.7 lakh students to appear in BOSE exams

Confidential material reached local police stations: Chairman

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 16: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Friday said at least 2,70,000 students are all set to appear in upcoming board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard.

Addressing a press conference, JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the examination of 10th class is commencing on Monday, followed by 12th standard from 21st October, and 11th standard from October-29.

"In total, we have 2,70,000 students enrolled for exams in all three classes. There are 10 districts of the Kashmir region, plus 6 districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division," he said.

He said that the Board has setup 2402 exam centres for all the three classes. "We have appointed the staff including superintendents, deputy superintendents and supervisors. So, that kind of process has already been completed."



The Board chairman further said that The confidential material has reached the police stations. "All the arrangements that we had to make, we have made ahead of time."

He said, "The students in 11th and 12th have already had experience. But the students who are coming in 10th exams, I would like to request them not to worry. This is a normal exam. There is no need to worry. The papers are also normal."

Sheikh said that the question papers are very normal

and in accordance with the benchmark of competencies set up in National Education Policy 2020.

Furthermore, the board chairman said, "Safeguarding the integrity of the exam is a priority for us. For that, we have requested the district magistrates to impose the BNSS."

He said, "JKBOSE have also requested the district SSPs to make some arrangements for the police so that there is no outer interference. The board has never | [More on P6](#)

Ladakh gets one more district

Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Oct 16: The Union Territory administration of Ladakh on Friday notified the creation of Sankoo as a new district, with its headquarters at Sankoo.

According to a notification issued by the Revenue Department, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the new district namely Sankoo has been created.

The notification states that the newly | [More on P6](#)

Man found dead inside shop

KNO Correspondent

Samba, Oct 16: A 34-year-old man was found dead inside a shop near Main Chowk at Samba Bus Stand on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found unconscious inside the shop.

He was later identified as Ravi Kumar (34), a resident of Nagrota village in Samba district. | [More on P6](#)

Obesity major risk factor for diabetes, heart disease, hypertension: Doctors

'Don't wait for diabetes, high BP to take weight seriously'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 16: Unhealthy dietary habits and a sedentary lifestyle are among the major factors contributing to the rising burden of obesity, which doctors warn can pave the way for several chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disorders and certain types of cancer.

Doctors called for early intervention, healthier eating habits and regular physical activity to prevent obesity and reduce the growing burden of lifestyle-related diseases. They said obesity should not be viewed merely as a weight-related problem, as excessive fat accumulation can interfere with normal metabolic functions, increase the risk of multiple health complications and significantly affect overall quality of life.

Dr Murtaza Dar from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said obesity generally develops when calorie



intake consistently exceeds the body's energy requirements, resulting in excessive fat accumulation.

"Obesity is not simply about gaining weight. It is a major risk factor for several serious health conditions. Excess body fat can affect the body's metabolism, increase blood pressure, disturb cholesterol levels and raise the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes," he said.

Dr Dar said obesity is closely associated with insulin resistance, making it difficult to regulate blood glucose levels

and eventually leading to type 2 diabetes. It can also contribute to fatty liver disease, which may progress to inflammation and liver scarring. Obesity is linked to increased risk of certain cancers, including breast, colorectal and pancreatic cancers, while excess weight places additional pressure on knees, hips and other joints.

"People should not wait until they develop diabetes, high blood pressure or heart problems before taking their weight seriously," he said, adding that maintaining a healthy weight through appropriate dietary choices and

physical activity can reduce these risks.

Dr Muzamil from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag said a sedentary lifestyle, characterised by prolonged sitting and insufficient physical activity, has become a major contributor to obesity. Changing work patterns, increased screen time, reduced outdoor activities and dependence on motorised transport have contributed to a decline in daily physical movement.

"Physical inactivity affects more than just body weight. It can adversely affect cardiovascular and metabolic health and is also associated with poorer mental well-being. Prolonged inactivity has been linked to an increased risk of anxiety and depression, while regular physical activity can help improve mood, sleep and overall health," he said.

He said obesity usually results from a combination of factors rather than a single cause, including genetic predisposition, hormonal disorders, inadequate sleep,

chronic stress and emotional eating. Conditions such as hypothyroidism and Cushing's syndrome may contribute to weight gain in some individuals and require medical evaluation. Obesity can also affect psychological well-being, contributing to low self-esteem, social anxiety and emotional distress.

Doctors said excess weight increases mechanical stress on joints and can contribute to osteoarthritis, particularly in weight-bearing joints. Obesity is also associated with sleep-related breathing disorders and a higher risk of complications from several chronic illnesses.

They said these risks can be reduced through sustained lifestyle changes, while cautioning against crash diets and unverified weight-loss remedies. They advised balanced meals containing vegetables, fruits, whole grains, adequate protein and healthy fats while limiting foods high in added sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, and reducing highly processed foods, sugary | [More on P6](#)

Scooty rider gets dizzy, suffers heart attack on road, dies

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 16: A 45-year-old man from Bemina died after suffering a heart attack while riding his scooty near Karan Nagar in Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man collapsed on the road near the cremation ground crossing in Karan Nagar.

Locals spotted him lying unconscious and shifted him to SMHS Hospital Srinagar, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Bilal Ahmad Aghar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Aghar and a resident of Gousia Colony, Bemina.

The official said the inquest proceedings suggested that the deceased had suffered a heart attack. The body would be handed over to his legal heirs after the completion of medico-legal formalities. (KNO)

Secretary PD&MD reviews developmental initiatives, departmental priorities



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Dr. Owais Ahmed held an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the Department to review its functioning, the progress of key developmental initiatives and the priorities for effective implementation of various programmes.

During the meeting, the status of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) was reviewed. The package

comprises 53 projects sanctioned at a total cost of Rs 70,244.55 crore, with an aggregate physical progress of 89%. The progress of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) was also discussed, with 123 out of 124 identified issues reported as resolved.

The meeting also reviewed various important initiatives, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Census 2027, Family ID, data harmonization, Vibrant Villages Programme-II and the Aspirational

Districts, Blocks and Panchayats Programme. The Department's role in strengthening project monitoring, statistical systems, evidence-based planning and evaluation of developmental schemes was also discussed.

Progress under public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives and capacity-building activities through the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) was reviewed. Preparations for the 6th National Conference of Chief

Secretaries and the forthcoming Northern Zonal Council meeting were also discussed.

In his closing remarks, the Secretary emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination, timely submission of requisite information, regular monitoring of projects, and prompt resolution of pending issues to ensure the effective implementation of developmental programmes and the achievement of the development priorities of Jammu and Kashmir.

Enhancing Public Safety DC Srinagar inspects fencing, upgradation work on Budshah Bridge

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday conducted a site inspection of the fencing and allied upgradation works along both sides of Budshah Bridge, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety, strengthening preventive measures to address negligent falls, suicide incidents and improving the overall aesthetic appearance of the bridge over River Jhelum.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the major components of the upgradation works, which include installation of new fencing on both sides of the bridge, strengthened protection railing system, lighting provisions.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that public safety remains a top priority of the District Administration and said that fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety measure in view of concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, besides addressing public demand for enhanced safety measures. He added that the initiative is expected to enhance the appearance of Budshah Bridge, an important urban landmark in Srinagar, while ensuring a safer and more durable facility for the public.

The DC said that the upgradation works were executed to strike a balance between improved public safety, structural durability and aesthetic enhancement, ensuring that the fencing complements the bridge's surroundings without compromising the scenic charm of the river.

The DC further stated that the District Administration Srinagar has already undertaken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the



River Jhelum, including New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safakadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District. These measures are aimed at creating a safer environment for pedestrians and commuters through the installation of appropriate safety safeguards and strengthening preventive infrastructure. He also stated that fencing work along Noor Jehan bridge at Qamarwari is also being taken up and will

be completed soon.

During the visit, the DC was informed that the major components of the work include installation of structural steel posts finished with stainless steel sheets to provide a durable and aesthetically pleasing fencing system, along with stainless steel railings at different levels to ensure proper edge protection and improved safety for pedestrians.

Director Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates Agricultural Products Sale Centre at Lal Mandi



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Friday inaugurated a Sale Centre for Agricultural Products at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, in the presence of Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) and other concerned officers of the department.

The establishment of the Sale Centre marks an important initiative towards promoting agricultural products and strengthening their marketing through an organised platform. The

centre is aimed at facilitating the availability of agricultural products to consumers while providing greater visibility and market opportunities for the produce of the agricultural sector.

On the occasion, the Director Agriculture underscored the importance of strengthening marketing infrastructure and promoting agricultural products through dedicated sale outlets. He emphasised that such initiatives can play a significant role in improving market access, encouraging agricultural entrepreneurship and fostering stronger linkages between producers and consumers.

Neighbourhood Youth Parliament at Govt Polytechnic College Baramulla calls for drug-free society

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 16: A Neighbourhood Youth Parliament was organised at Government Polytechnic College, Kanispora, Baramulla, under the theme "Nasha Mukht Yuva," to raise awareness about substance abuse and encourage youth participation in building a drug-free society.

The programme was presided over by Nitin Hangloo, State Director, MY Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Among others Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla, Nissar Ahmad, Principal Government Polytechnic College, Baramulla Javed Iqbal, Muzzafar Hussain Ganie, HOD, Government Polytechnic college, Youth Officer MY Bharat Srijan Singh Patel, Medical Officer Baramulla Dr Asif and other concerned besides students of the college were present in the program.

DC Kulgam inaugurates Digital Information Board at Mini-Secretariat



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Friday inaugurated a Digital Information Board at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, aimed at improving tourist information services and pro-

moting the tourism potential of the district.

The digital board will provide updated information about tourist destinations, distances, tourism infrastructure and other important locations across South Kashmir, helping visitors plan their journeys

conveniently. It will also serve as a central information point for tourists and the general public.

The board will further be used to display public awareness messages and other government initiatives.

The installation of the digital information board enhances the visibility of District Kulgam on the digital tourism map and promotes Aharbal as a peaceful, culturally rich, and tourist-friendly destination.

CEO, Aharbal Development Authority and other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

PM Package Employees DC Anantnag directs timely completion of Transit Accommodation Project

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Friday chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to take stock of the progress of the Transit Accommodation Project being developed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for PM Package em-

ployees in the district.

He directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work, resolve pending issues on priority and ensure timely completion of the project with all requisite infrastructure facilities. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed review of the progress achieved on various components of the project and assessed the status of ongoing construction works.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 6th.

Subject: Construction of Borewell at Nagbal (Vail Nagbal, K Pora in District Anantnag).
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 30/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/4631-42, Dated: 14-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_316831_2.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 10-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	22-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	23-10-2026 02:00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/14078-89.
Dated: 10-10-2026.

DIPK-6832/26
DATED: 16-10-2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 4th of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 1st.

Subject: Construction of Production Bore Well at Madina Sanzwatroo District Pulwama.
Reference: 1. This office Corrigendum Notice 1st issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/7835-47 Dated: 20-08-202 bearing Tender ID No: 2026_PHE_315512_2
2. This office Extension Notice 2nd issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/2377-93, dated: 11-05-2026.
3. This office e-NIT No. 29/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/4044-56, dated: 09-07-2026

Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_315512_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 14-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	27-10-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	28-10-2026 01:00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-6826/26

DATED: 16-10-2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 6TH

Subject: Construction of 200 mm dia Production well at by DTH/ODEX method of drilling at Wullarhama (Wullarhama, Dachnipora in District Anantnag). (Sl.no.2)
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 38/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/5167-78, Dated: 18-06-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_317802_2.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 12-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	23-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	24-10-2026 02:00 PM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-6830/26

DATED: 16-10-2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Dr Farooq slams IAS officer over misconduct



Says he felt ashamed

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 16: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday said he felt ashamed after watching a video of an IAS officer misbehaving with a woman officer, calling his conduct unbecoming of a senior administrative official.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said the language used by the officer was unacceptable and reflected a lack of the discipline and professionalism expected of an IAS officer. "The language he used with the woman officer was extremely inappropriate. He should be reprimanded. This shows that he lacks the manners and conduct expected of an officer," he said.

Dr Farooq said officers were appointed to serve the public, listen to their grievances and re-solve their problems rather than insult or humiliate them. "People want to express their grievances, and officers should hear them patiently. Instead, he directly said, 'Get out, get out.' This is completely wrong. He should be removed from Jammu and

Kashmir," he said.

Expressing dismay over the incident, Abdullah said, "When I saw the incident on social media today, I felt ashamed. His behaviour was completely unbecoming of an IAS officer. He has put the entire administrative community in an embarrassing position."

Asked whether such incidents occurred during his tenure as Chief Minister, Abdullah said no officer or minister had the right to insult people. "Whether someone is an officer or a minister, they are here to serve the people and resolve their difficulties, not to insult or abuse them," he said.

Backing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks that such an incident would not have occurred had Jammu and Kashmir retained its statehood, Farooq Abdullah said he would have taken stronger action against the officer.

"He would not merely have been attached. He would have been thrown out. If I had been in office, he would not have remained in Jammu and Kashmir for more than a few minutes. I would have put him back on a plane and sent him away," he said.

Continued on
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CM Omar led Govt has 'failed': MP Khatana

Says BJP emerging as alternative



Waris Fayaz

Kupwara, Oct 16: Alleging that government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has failed to deliver despite receiving people's mandate, Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana on Friday said that Bharatiya Janata Party is emerging as "strong alternative" for the masses in Kashmir. MP Khatana, while talking to reporters here in North Kashmir said, "People placed their trust in the NC, but the Omar led government failed to address their concerns. Water charges, electricity tariff hikes and opening a transfer industry are glaring examples of the government's shortcomings." He said the BJP is gradually expanding its political outreach in Kashmir despite facing challenges in the past. "There was a time when party workers faced social restrictions and dictats were issued against them. They (BJP workers) were not even allowed to sit in the community," he said.

Khatana said the BJP has strengthened its presence in several parts of the Valley and had lost by narrow margins in places such as Shopian and Gurez, indicating that the party was gaining ground in the region. He maintained that the BJP's political engagement is not limited to electoral victories. "Party continues to work among people irrespective of election results," he added.

"We never work only for winning elections; we keep working for the people, as Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of the country," he said—(KNO)

SKUAST-K's Khudwani Centre re-vives traditional rice

Develops high-yielding varieties

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Oct 16: The Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC) of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) at Khudwani in south Kashmir's Kulgam district is working to revive traditional rice varieties while developing high-yielding, disease-resistant cultivars and water-saving technologies aimed at improving farmers' incomes.

Scientists at the centre are focusing on conserving Kashmir's traditional aromatic rice varieties, including Mushkbudji, while promoting improved varieties from the Shalimar Rice series amid shrinking agricultural land, declining water resources and rising cultivation costs.

Dr Tasneem Mubarak, Professor of Agronomy at MRCFC Khudwani said that rice is deeply linked to Kashmir's food habits, culture and agricultural heritage, making its conservation and sustainable production important.

He said the centre was developing high-yielding varieties and improved crop-production technologies to help farmers increase yields while reducing dependence on water and labour.

"Shalimar Rice 4 is popularly known as the 10-tonne variety because of its yield potential of around 10 tonnes per hectare. The journey from traditional varieties yielding around one tonne per hectare to modern high-yielding cultivars reflects the contribution of agricultural re-search," he said.

Dr Mubarak said the centre had also developed and promoted dry direct-seeded rice technology, in which seeds are sown directly in the main field, eliminating the need for nursery preparation, puddling and transplanting.

He said the technology could save around 35 to 40 per cent of water and, when operations are mechanised, nearly 45 to 50 per cent of labour,



reducing cultivation costs.

Farooq Ahmad, Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at SKUAST-K, said MRCFC Khudwani was mandated to develop improved crop varieties suited to the Valley's diverse agro-climatic conditions.

He said the centre had developed varieties under the Shalimar Rice series for different growing conditions, including plain and mid-hill areas.

"Shalimar Rice 4 is among our high-yielding varieties, with a potential yield of around 10 tonnes per hectare under suitable conditions. Alongside yield, our focus is also on grain quality and other traits important for farmers," he said.

Ahmad said improved varieties

developed by the centre had seen good adoption among farmers. The centre is also developing varieties with greater resistance to diseases and other stresses to reduce crop losses and improve production reliability.

With agricultural land and water resources under increasing pressure, scientists say combining improved varieties with efficient cultivation practices is essential to sustain rice production in the Valley.

Through varietal development, seed production, field demonstrations and improved crop-management practices, MRCFC Khudwani is seeking to meet farmers' needs while preserving Kashmir's traditional rice heritage—(KNO)

SKUAST-K agriculture graduates' protest enters 26th day



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 16: The protest by unemployed agriculture graduates of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Wadurra, entered its 26th consecutive day on Friday, with demonstrators demanding regular recruitment, filling of vacant posts and reforms in the recruitment framework.

The graduates have been seeking government intervention over what they say are

long-pending recruitment concerns of agriculture professionals in Jammu and Kashmir.

Their demands include a clear recruitment calendar, regular recruitment drives and a review of SRO-443, which changed the recruitment structure for Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAE) posts by making them promotional.

The graduates had earlier held a candlelight protest to draw attention to their demands, saying qualified agriculture professionals had been

waiting years for recruitment opportunities.

"It has been 20 years since any recruitment advertisement was issued," a protesting graduate had said.

The protesters have urged the Jammu and Kashmir government and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene, hold talks with their representatives and take concrete steps to address their concerns. They have said their peaceful agitation will continue until their demands are addressed.

Meanwhile,

Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar has said the government is working to resolve the recruitment issue but an immediate solution is not possible because of litigation involving different categories of posts.

Dar said the matter had remained unresolved for years and the government had been working on it for several months. He added that groups involved in the litigation had also been taken on board in efforts to find a resolution.

"Litigation is the main reason. There are several categorised groups, be it gazetted or non-gazetted. We have been working on this for the last several months and are achieving success somehow," Dar had said.

The minister said the government could not make commitments on matters that were not immediately feasible and that resolving the recruitment issue required due process—(KNO)

Cycling event postponed, traffic restrictions called off in Srinagar



KNO

Srinagar, Oct 16: Traffic restrictions planned for October 18 in view of a cycling event in Srinagar have been called off after the event was postponed.

As per information available, the 'Paddle for Peace' event scheduled for October 18 has been postponed and the traffic restrictions have been withdrawn. "The traffic advisory issued in connection with the event stands withdrawn, and the notified traffic restrictions shall not be imposed," the advisory stated.

Notably, the 'Pedal Through Paradise' cycling event was scheduled for October 18, with cyclists set to ride from Lalit Ghat towards Nagbal Chowk via Foreshore Road and Harwan via Shalimar.—(KNO)

DHSK orders probe into pregnant woman's death in Gurez

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 16: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has constituted a four-member committee to investigate the death of a pregnant woman from Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, with the panel asked to determine whether medical negligence was involved.

Haseena Begum, wife of Showkat Ahmad Lone and a resident of Mazgun village in Tulai, died on October 14, according to an order issued by the Directorate on Thursday.

The committee, headed by Deputy Director Schemes Dr Saba Wani, has been directed to submit its report within five days of the issuance of the order and specifically examine whether the death was attributable to medical negligence.

The panel also includes Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Malla, consultant gynaecologist at Gousia Hospital Srinagar Dr Ro-hana Ali, and Medical Officer Dr Musadiq Ahmad Khan, who is also a nodal officer with the Directorate. As already reported by KNO on Wednesday, Begum was shifted to District Hospital Bandipora that morning after developing complications during pregnancy. Her baby was stillborn.

She was initially taken to a primary health centre in Sheikhpora late on Tuesday evening, but no medical staff was available there, the report said.

She was subsequently taken to Sub-District Hospital Gurez, where doctors advised that she be shifted to Bandipora for further treatment due to low blood levels, according to the report.

The inquiry is expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the woman's death and establish whether any lapse in medical care occurred. The Directorate will decide on further action after receiving the committee's findings—(KNO)

3 bail pleas dismissed by Jammu, Samba Courts

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 16: The Prosecution Department of the Union Territory of J&K announced that three bail pleas were dismissed by the Courts of Districts Samba and Jammu, a result of sustained and evidence-driven Prosecution.

On 15 October 2026, the Additional Sessions Judge Samba Arvind Sharma dismissed the bail applications of Jagpreet Singh and Neeraj Jaiswal @ Romi in FIR No. 31/2023 of Police Station Ramgarh.

The case involves cross-border, drone-dropped narcotics, the use of a Glock pistol and serious injuries to two local youths. The

Ld. Public Prosecutor, Kuldeep Bhat, argued that the accused acted as local guides, that the rigour of Section 37 of the NDPS Act is attracted due to the commercial quantity involved and that granting bail would send a wrong message to society.

The Court agreed, citing the heinous nature of the crime, the logistical support and harbouring attributed to the accused and the second applicant's past antecedents. The Hon'ble Court's orders also reflect the Prosecution's commitment to speedy justice.

In line with the Hon'ble High Court's direction to conclude the trial within three months,

the Prosecution examined 29 witnesses in just 2.5 months, with 46 judicial hearings held at the shortest possible intervals.

On 14 October 2026, the Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu Tahir Khurshed Raina, dismissed the anticipatory bail application of the applicant, Rajat Pal Singh, in FIR No. 268/2026 under Section 318(4) BNS, registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and cancelled his interim protection.

The Ld. Public Prosecutor Himanshu Parkash, relied on the Investigating Officer's status report, which cited bank statements, CCTV footage, the admission of one of the accused and the recovery of Rs. 47,200.

Further, the applicant was not present in court when the application was called for hearing and the counsel appearing on his behalf failed to apprise the court of his whereabouts. Given the serious nature of the allegations against the applicant, Rajat Pal Singh and the clear admission recorded in the status report, the Court finds no merit or justification in extending the privilege of this discretionary relief, particularly when the applicant is absent.

The Department commends its Ld. Public Prosecutors for dedication and diligence and reiterates its resolve to oppose bail in serious offences and safeguard public safety.

CBI arrests SMC Ward officer in bribery case

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 16: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Ward Officer of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Safa Kadal, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of rupees 10,000, the agency said on Friday.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the CBI said it registered a case on October 15, 2026, based on a complaint alleging that the accused had demanded rupees 10,000 to allow the continuation of minor renovation work at the complainant's residence. The agency said

it laid a trap on October 15 and caught the accused red-handed while allegedly demanding and accepting the bribe amount from the complainant.

The accused has been arrested, while further investigation into the case is in progress, the statement added.

The CBI urged citizens in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to report instances of corruption or demands for bribes by public officials. It said complaints can be lodged at the CBI Anti-Corruption Branch office at Guest House No. 6, near MLA Hostel, MA Road, Srinagar, or by calling 9419900977 or email-ing: hobacsgr@cbi.gov.in—(KNO)

A Home Still Out Of Reach

Winter is at the doorstep in the Valley. And for hundreds of families in Jammu and Kashmir who are still waiting for assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, the season brings not just cold but a familiar sense of helplessness. They have been living in makeshift sheds, temporary

structures, and dilapidated shelters for years. Officials have come, seen, verified, gone. And come again. Yet the houses remain a dream. This is not a new story. The scheme itself is not new. It has been extended now till 2028-29, with Rs 1.30 lakh per house for hilly areas like J&K. On paper, that sounds like help. But on the ground,

some families are still waiting. They say they have been verified repeatedly. They say they have given their details, waited, hoped. Nothing moved. One has to ask – what is the point of verification after verification if no decision follows? If a family's condition has been checked and found genuine, then why the delay? If they are not eligible,

then why not say so clearly and close the case? This endless wait, without any explanation, is cruel. Especially when children and the elderly are involved. Especially when winter is coming. The government itself admitted in the Assembly in September that some deserving households are missing from the Permanent Wait

List due to automated scrutiny and validation. That is a quiet admission that the system is not perfect. Then it becomes the duty of the Rural Development Department and district administrations to fix it. Review the pending cases. Do fresh assessments where needed. And most importantly, tell people where they stand.

Transparency is not a favour. It is their right. People are not asking for luxury. They are asking for a roof that does not leak. A wall that holds. A home where they can live with some dignity. That is not too much to ask. And after years of waiting, it is the least they deserve. Winter will not wait. Neither should the authorities.

Women, Work And Enterprise: India's Push For Better Livelihoods

Press Information Bureau

India's women employment story is moving from participation to better-quality work. PLFS shows female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rising from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40% in 2025, while Worker Population Rate (WPR) increased from 22% to 38.8%. Building on this improvement, policy support is strengthening women's work through formal enterprise recognition, credit, market access, safer workplaces, skilling and new livelihood avenues. Now, the focus is on turning higher participation into stronger income, security and economic development.

Rising Women's Employment and Expanding Economic Opportunities

Women's employment in India is moving beyond presence alone. The rise in labour force participation marks an important shift, alongside greater focus on the nature and quality of employment. As more women enter the labour force, the next dimension of progress lies in the opportunities that work creates. Economic empowerment is strengthened when employment provides income, security, recognition and greater control over economic choices.

This broader transition is being supported through policies that expand women's access to safer workplaces, social protection, entrepreneurship, formalisation and financial opportunities. These measures help strengthen the quality of women's participation in the economy, translating into secure and empowering opportunities.

Quantify Shift: Rise in Workforce Participation

Women's engagement with India's labour market has strengthened considerably in recent years. For women aged 15 years and above, LFPR increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40.0% in 2025.

This increase has also translated into a larger share of women actually working. WPR increased from 22.0% for women in 2017-18 to 38.8% in 2025. In absolute terms, an estimated 20 crore women aged 15 years and above were employed in India during 2025.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) measures the share of the population that is either working or seeking or available for work.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) measures the proportion of employed persons in the population.

Women as Workers, Entrepreneurs and Economic Contributors

As participation expands, the nature of women's engagement with the economy is also changing.

Women's Growing Presence in Enterprise

An increasing number of women are taking up entrepreneurship and establishing their own businesses. Women's entrepreneurship broadens economic participation by creating opportunities to earn, build assets and grow businesses. It strengthens financial independence while expanding skills and access to resources.

Women-owned MSMEs: As of October 2026, approximately 3.69 crore registered MSMEs were women-owned, representing around 38% of all registrations.

Women in startups: By March 2026, over 1.07 lakh recognised startups had at least one woman director or partner. These accounted for approximately 48% of all recognised startups.

Women in Technology and High-Skill Sectors

Alongside entrepreneurship, women's participation is also expanding across manufacturing and high-skill sectors.

As on July 2026, women constitute nearly 70% of the direct workforce in mobile phone manufacturing. Across the wider electronics manufacturing sector, women account for nearly 30% of the workforce created over the last decade.

Women are also building a significant presence in the semiconductor industry. They constitute around 25% of the workforce and nearly a fourth of India's chip design and engineering workforce (as on March 2025).

The civil aviation sector similarly reflects growing women's participation in specialised roles. Women account for 15% of pilots



in India, among the highest shares globally. Additionally, women account for 15% of air traffic controllers, 11% of flight dispatchers and 33% of Flight Operations Inspectors in DGCA (as on June 2025).

The expansion is also visible in India's research ecosystem. The Research & Development Statistics 2025-26 report shows that women's participation in STEM research careers increased from 13% in 2000-01 to 18.6% in 2020-21 and 29% in 2023-24.

Building Women-Led Enterprises from Recognition to Growth

As women build businesses across different segments, support for their long-term growth becomes increasingly important. Formal recognition, finance and market access provide key areas for strengthening women-led enterprises.

Formalisation: Giving Women's Work an Economic Identity

Many women-led economic activities begin at a small scale, making formal recognition important. Formalisation provides an official identity and improves access to credit, government schemes, skills and business development services.

Swavalambini Scheme (2025): The scheme supports young women from business ideation to enterprise creation through entrepreneurship training, finance and market guidance, and legal support. Selected participants also receive 21 weeks of mentorship and handholding to help develop sustainable enterprises. It was launched in February 2025 as a pilot across six higher education institutions in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.

The targets under the Swavalambini pilot have been achieved. A total of 82 faculty members had been trained under Faculty Development Programme; 1276 participants have been trained out of 1200 participants under Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme; and a total of 602 participants have been trained out of 600 participants under Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

Yashasvini Campaign (2024): The campaign aims to promote greater participation of women in entrepreneurship by achieving gender parity on the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform by 2029. It also seeks to promote the mandated 3% public procurement target for women-owned micro and small enterprises (MSEs). It also supports existing and prospective women entrepreneurs through awareness, handholding and capacity-building initiatives. As on July 2026, the Yashasvini Campaign had facilitated over 22 lakh women-owned MSME registrations. Furthermore, in FY 2025-26, total procurement from women-owned MSEs was 3.8%, exceeding the 3% public procurement target.

Credit: Financing Enterprise Growth Formalisation brings enterprises into the recognised business ecosystem, while access to finance enables them to invest, innovate and expand.

Financial Support for Women-led MSMEs

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY): Launched in 2015, PMMY seeks to expand access to collateral-free credit up to Rs 20 lakh for micro and small enterprises engaged in non-corporate and non-farm income generating activities. Since inception, PMMY had sanctioned more than 57.79 crore loans by April 2026, with women entrepreneurs accounting for two-thirds of all loans sanctioned.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises: The Scheme was launched to strengthen credit delivery to MSEs and improve access to finance for unserved and underserved entrepreneurs. Under the Scheme, women-led MSEs receive enhanced guarantee coverage of 90%, along with a 10% concession on the guarantee fee. As on February 2026 (FY 2000-01 to FY 2025-26), it approved approximately 30.75 lakh guarantees worth around Rs 2.07 lakh crore for women-owned MSEs.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP): The PMEGP is a credit-linked subsidy scheme that supports new micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector. Beneficiaries receive margin-money (subsidy) assistance against bank loans. Under the Scheme, women are eligible for a 25% subsidy in urban areas and 35% in rural areas. By May 2026, women accounted for nearly 40% of all micro-enterprises assisted under PMEGP. They also received around 45% of the total margin-money subsidy disbursed.

Financial Support for Women-led Startups

Launched in 2016, Startup India is the flagship Government of India initiative to promote innovation and build a strong startup ecosystem. Under this, the Government supports startups across sectors and at different stages of their business cycle through multiple funding initiatives.

Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS): Established in 2016, FFS supports startup funding by providing capital to SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). In turn, AIFs invest in startups through equity and equity-linked instruments. As of January 2026, supported AIFs have invested around Rs 2,995 crore in women-led startups from 2025 onwards.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS): Launched in 2021, it provides seed funding to startups across sectors through approved incubators. As of January 2026, incubators supported under the Scheme had approved around Rs 294 crore in funding for women-led startups.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS): Operationalised from April 2023, CGSS supports collateral-free debt funding for eligible startups. It provides credit guarantees on loans extended by banks, financial institutions, NBFCs and SEBI-registered AIFs. As on January 2026, loans amounting to around Rs 39 crore have been guaranteed to women-led startups.

Market Access: Connecting Women's Work to Buyers

Market access helps women entrepreneurs reach more buyers and better understand demand, quality standards, branding and pricing.

Womaniya Initiative: Womaniya is an inclusion-focused initiative on the Government e-Marketplace that connects women-owned MSEs and SHGs with formal government buyers. Through a dedicated digital interface, they can register and list products such as handloom, jute, coir and home décor items. By July 2026, over 2.17 lakh women-owned MSEs were registered on GeM (a dedicated e-market for different goods and services procured by Government Organisations, Departments and PSUs). In FY 2025-26, total contract value exceeded Rs 28,000 crore to women MSEs, marking 27.6% growth over the previous year. Women received 5.6% of the total order value awarded through GeM, exceeding the mandated procurement target of 3%.

For detailed information, may refer to: Womaniya: Building Inclusive Market Access for Women Entrepreneurs

Procurement & Marketing Support Scheme (PMS): The Scheme helps registered MSEs access markets through trade fairs, exhibitions, vendor-development programmes, e-commerce and packaging support. Women-owned MSEs are eligible for a 100% subsidy on built-up space rent for trade fairs.

MSME Trade Enablement & Marketing (TEAM) initiative: To provide MSE with access to digital marketing, the TEAM initiative was launched for three years (2024-27) under the RAMP Programme. It aims to empower MSEs to access new markets, expand their customer base and boost income via Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Up till 2025-26, 1,700 women-owned MSEs were registered under the initiative.

Market access completes the enterprise value chain. Formalisation gives enterprises an identity, credit enables production, and market support turns production into income and sustainable growth.

Building the Skills Pipeline for Emerging Sectors

As women's opportunities expand across technology and specialised sectors, future-ready skilling becomes important for widening access to these roles.

Women Candidates Trained Across Emerging Sectors under Major Skill Development Schemes (2021-22 to 2025-26)

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), which emphasises training in futuristic and new-age technologies including artificial intelligence, 20,393 women were trained in Artificial Intelligence, 5,927 in Semiconductor, and 76,671 in Renewable Energy.

Under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), which promotes apprenticeship training through paid on-the-job experience across traditional and emerging sectors, supported by direct stipend assistance for trainees, 1,534 women were trained in Artificial Intelligence and 19,899 in Renewable Energy.

Under the Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), which provides vocational and technical training through ITIs, building job-ready skills across traditional and emerging trades, 512 women were trained in Artificial Intelligence, 31 in Semiconductor, and 5,753 in Renewable Energy.

Targeted Initiatives for Women

Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls (NAVYA): Launched in 2025, NAVYA aims to provide targeted skilling of 3,850 adolescent girls under PMKVY 4.0 in non-traditional and future-oriented job roles. As of 31 August 2026, 1,105 girls have been trained under the Scheme.

AI Careers for Women: Launched in 2025, the programme is establishing 30 Centres of Excellence in women's colleges across six states. These centres will support 150 spoke centres across Tier-II and Tier-III towns. It aims to provide 20,000 learners with practical, industry-relevant AI training and project-based experience. Participants will receive certifications, internships, apprenticeships, fellowships, career guidance and access to AI-enabled job opportunities. Women in Science and

Engineering-Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (WISE-KIRAN): The Scheme promotes women's participation in science and technology R&D through fellowship and institutional programmes. Fellowships include WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD), WISE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF), WISE-Societal Challenges with Opportunities (WISE-SCOPE), WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR) and Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights and Innovations (WIDUSHI). These support doctoral and post-doctoral research, career re-entry, translational research, IPR training and continued research engagement. Institutional programmes include Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE), Vigyan Jyoti, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) and the Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP). In 2025-26, 180 women pursued PhDs, 606 women scientists received post-doctoral or translational research support, 26 senior scientists received R&D support, and 29,443 schoolgirls were supported in STEM. More than 110 women scientists gained employment, and over 450 saw research participation, skill upgradation or career re-entry. These initiatives are strengthening women's pathways into emerging and specialised fields through skilling and research support.

Labour Reforms Ensuring Safer Work Opportunities

For women, wider participation in the workforce depends not only on the availability of jobs, but also on whether those jobs can be accessed and sustained. Labour regulation plays an important role in shaping these conditions.

In November 2025, the Government consolidated 29 existing labour laws into four Labour Codes: the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

Within this consolidated framework, several provisions strengthen women's workplace rights, safety, representation and access to employment.

Grievance representation: Women must be represented in Grievance Redressal Committees in proportion to their workforce share.

Maternity benefits: Eligible women receive up to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave. Adoptive and commissioning mothers (a biological mother who uses surrogacy) are entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave. Other key provisions include: Women are entitled to Rs 3,500 as medical bonus where free prenatal and postnatal care is not provided. Women are entitled to two nursing breaks during the working day until the child is 15 months old. Establishments with at least 50 workers must provide crèche facilities. The employer must allow four visits a day by the woman to the crèche which includes the rest intervals.

Wider work opportunities: Women may work in all establishments, including night shifts with consent and prescribed safeguards.

Prohibition of Gender Discrimination: Gender discrimination in recruitment, wages and employment conditions is prohibited.

Policy representation: Women must constitute one-third of Central/State Advisory Boards. The Board shall advise on minimum wages and measures to expand women's employment.

Stronger Pathways for Women's Work

India's approach to women's work is increasingly focused on strengthening the conditions in which women can work and progress economically. As opportunities widen, women's contribution is becoming more visible across employment, entrepreneurship and newer areas of the economy.

Greater access to skills, finance, markets and enabling workplaces further supports these pathways. This will deepen women's role in India's growth and advance women-led development on the journey towards Viksit Bharat.

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

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

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Ensure road safety, improve public transport, strengthen emergency response for accident victims: CS Atal Dulloo

Reviews multi-pronged traffic management plan for Jammu, Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at easing traffic congestion, improving urban mobility and strengthening road safety in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, reviewed the Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS), besides assessing the progress of various inter-departmental interventions relating to traffic regulation, parking management, public transport, road infrastructure, enforcement and assistance to road accident victims here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Transport; Secretary, Tourism; Inspector General of Police, Traffic; Deputy Inspector General, Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Vice-Chairman, SDA/JDA; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir; Vice-Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, besides other officers of the concerned departments.

Emphasising the need for

coordinated and outcome-oriented efforts, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned Municipal Corporations to undertake regular inspections to assess the installation and adequacy of traffic signages at different locations across both cities. He asked the respective Divisional Commissioners to closely monitor the progress and ensure timely resolution of deficiencies.

He enjoined upon the Traffic Department to analyse the data available on the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal to identify accident-prone locations and time-specific traffic risks. The deployment of traffic personnel, he stressed, should be aligned with the identified hotspots and blackspots to improve enforcement and substantially reduce road accidents.

The Chief Secretary also called for working out a proposal to augment the capacity of the Transport Department to conduct comprehensive safety audits of heavy passenger vehicles operating across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on school buses.

On parking management, he underscored the need to designate additional on-street parking spaces at suitable locations to facilitate the general public. He further stressed the implementation of the parking policy through the creation of additional parking lots across urban centres of the Union Territory to address congestion arising from unregulated parking.

Taking note of the functioning of the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS),



the Chief Secretary called for upgrading the system to incorporate Facial Recognition System (FRS) capabilities in both cities to strengthen enforcement and enhance the sense of safety among commuters and drivers.

He also stressed the establishment of an effective grievance redressal mechanism for the implementation of the PM-RAHAT scheme, ensuring that no road accident victim is denied timely treatment at health facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting also reviewed the status of vending zones, the Integrated Road Accident Database (i-RAD), e-Courts, enforcement measures undertaken by the Traffic and Transport Departments, and ongoing/proposed road-widening and road-protection works aimed at improving traffic flow and ensuring the safety of road users.

On this occasion the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, presented video walkthroughs of various elevated corridors proposed for Jammu and Srinagar. He

also apprised the meeting of the progress of ongoing road-widening works and the projects proposed for execution to improve connectivity and ease traffic congestion.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, take this occasion to gave a detailed presentation on measures undertaken in and around Srinagar, including identification of parking spaces, decongestion initiatives, ITMS-enabled junctions, e-charging stations, remodelling of bus stops and rectification of identified blackspots.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, presented the status of various interventions being implemented by the department and urban local bodies to streamline public transport, regulate parking, develop vending zones and strengthen technology-enabled traffic management.

On the development of organised parking facilities, the Commissioner Secretary revealed that 17 roadside parking

sites have been identified in Jammu, of which three are functional and seven have been allotted to vendors. In Srinagar, an IT-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (AMPR) system is monitoring 300 parking spaces across key commercial areas, including M.A. Road, Lal Chowk, Residency Road, Jhelum Riverfront and Karan Nagar, the meeting was apprised.

She also made out that IT-based parking management is also being pursued through Srinagar Smart City Limited, while Jammu Municipal Corporation has constituted a Parking Cell and will incorporate IT-based parking provisions in future tenders. Srinagar Municipal Corporation is preparing a GIS-based Parking Management Area Plan for systematic identification and regulation of parking zones, she added.

The meeting also reviewed the development of electric-vehicle charging infrastructure. Regarding the same it was given out that in Jammu, sites have been identified and handed over to the Transport Department under the PM E-Drive scheme, with

15 crore allocated and civil works for the e-bus depot underway. In Srinagar, the Pantha Chowk charging station, with a capacity of 100 buses, has been developed, while the Zoonimar station is functional for 15 vehicles. Charging stations at Batamaloo, Harwan and Bemina are under execution, against an allocation of 13.99 crore.

The meeting was further apprised that four vending-zone sites are operational in Jammu at Roop Nagar, Talab Tillo, Shakti Nagar and Narwal behind Wave Mall. In Srinagar, vending spaces at Magarmal Bagh, Batamaloo and Nishat are functional, with vending zones are being developed in other districts. For improving traffic discipline, it was added that No-honking zones have been mapped at 29 major institutional locations in Jammu and 12 locations in Srinagar.

The presentation highlighted the enforcement performance of ITMS during January-July 2026. In Jammu, the system generated 1,75,384 e-challans involving 20.20 crore, of which 11,467 challans were disposed of, 1.04 crore realised. In Srinagar, 1,04,311 e-challans involving 10.50 crore were generated, with 3,210 challans disposed of and 0.19 crore realised.

The Transport Department also apprised the meeting of its enforcement initiatives, including the cancellation of 68,000 vehicle registration certificates for repeated violations, utilisation of the Road Accident Victim Fund and implementation of PM-RAHAT for accident victims requiring medical treatment.

Against 18.14 crore

allocated under Road Safety Funds since 2021, 13.83 crore has been utilised for procuring traffic-monitoring and enforcement equipment. These include 560 iron traffic barricades, 685 body-worn cameras, 1,000 traffic safety night belts, 19 interceptor vehicles, 16 high-patrol vehicles, 23 cranes, 36 breath-alcohol analysers and 100 first-responder kits, besides ambulances. A GeM contract and supply order have also been issued for 30 containerised traffic booths at a cost of 103.50 lakh, with prototype preparation underway.

The Public Works Department further reported the completion of metal beam crash barriers along a 13-km stretch of NH-44 in Jammu on May 7, 2025, and along a 31-km stretch in Kashmir to improve road safety and lane management.

The committee reviewed the inter-departmental action points under the SCCoRS framework, including strengthening District Level Road Safety Committees, operationalising the Road Accident Victim Fund, implementing PM-RAHAT, integrating ITMS, e-DAR, e-Courts and i-RAD, auditing blackspots and dark hotspots, conducting school-bus safety audits and assessing the status of trauma-care facilities.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that systematic parking management, effective enforcement, safer road infrastructure and timely emergency response must remain central to the administration's efforts to make urban travel safer, smoother and more convenient for the people.

DC Kathua calls for expeditious implementation of ABHIM



KT News Desk

KATHUA, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Friday chaired a meeting with the Health Department functionaries to assess the progress of the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM) in the district, with a special focus on the establishment of Block level Public Health Laboratories.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Vijay Raina briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the project, outlining its key components, objectives and proposed implementation, with emphasis on strengthening public health laboratory infrastructure at the block level.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, stressed the need for close

coordination among the concerned officials to resolve bottlenecks, wherever encountered and ensure timely implementation of the project as per prescribed guidelines. He directed the concerned officers to visit the sites identified for Block Public Health Laboratories and assess their suitability.

The representatives from HSCC India Ltd. were directed to personally visit Sub Division Bani along with a team from Health department and local administration to finalise the site and put up the fresh report by Friday next week.

The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjeet Thakur; Medical Superintendent AH GMC Dr Neeraj Nagpal, BMOs and other concerned officers of the Health Department.

MP Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana chairs Public Darbar at Town Hall Kupwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 16: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, Friday visited Kupwara district and chaired a public darbar at Town Hall Kupwara to review developmental activities, assess the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and address public grievances.

The darbar was attended by Ex-MLC Syed Rafiq Shah, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara Ghulam Rasool, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Superintending Engineer (SE), Roads and Buildings (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), other concerned district officers, and prominent citizens of Kupwara district.

During the interaction, the MP conducted a sector-wise review of various departments, focusing on the progress of developmental works, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other issues concerning public welfare.

Representatives and members of the public from different constituencies raised several issues related to electricity,



drinking water, road connectivity, transport, ration distribution, telecommunications, forest-related matters and other essential services. He gave a patient hearing to the grievances and took up several issues on the spot, directing the concerned officers to take prompt and necessary action for their early redressal.

Emphasising the importance of responsive and accountable governance, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana directed the officers to maintain close coordination with the public, conduct regular field visits and ensure that the genuine grievances of the people are addressed in a time-bound manner. He stressed that the benefits of government schemes must reach the intended beneficiaries and that developmental works should

be executed efficiently and transparently.

The MP further directed the Additional District Development Commissioner, Kupwara, to obtain progress reports from the concerned officers on the issues raised during the public darbar and submit a consolidated report to his office within two weeks. He underscored the need for regular monitoring and follow-up to ensure tangible outcomes and effective resolution of public grievances.

The public darbar provided an important platform for direct interaction between the public and the administration, facilitating the identification of local issues and strengthening efforts towards responsive governance and inclusive development in Kupwara district.

DC Udhampur inspects sewerage treatment plant-III at Sui

Reviews progress of protection wall construction at Devika cremation Ghat

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, Friday visited Sewerage Treatment Plant-III at Sui to assess its operational status and the functioning of the sewerage treatment infrastructure.

During the visit, the Executive Engineer UEED briefed the DC on the operational status and functioning of all three Sewerage Treatment Plants in Udhampur.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh

and other district officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, also visited Devika Ghat and inspected the ongoing construction of the protection wall at Devika Cremation Ghat. He directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work by deploying adequate manpower and machinery and ensure its completion within the stipulated time-frame, while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

DC Udhampur reviews progress of TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, Friday chaired a meeting with officers of the Health Department to assess the progress of the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and review the measures being undertaken to achieve a TB-free Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other concerned officers. At the outset, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Anil Saloch gave a detailed presentation on the district's performance under the campaign, highlighting the status of tuberculosis detection, screening coverage, treatment outcomes.

While reviewing block-wise

progress, the DC, as per an official statement, assessed the status of TB testing, screening and treatment success rates. He directed the DTO and the concerned BMOs to intensify screening activities, strengthen follow-up mechanisms, mobilize field teams effectively and ensure the achievement of assigned targets within the stipulated timelines.

The DC further instructed the Health Department to expand TB testing, strengthen diagnostic facilities and ensure the early identification of suspected cases, followed by timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment. He urged all stakeholders to work with renewed commitment and dedication to achieve 100% screening coverage and realize the vision of a TB-free Udhampur under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

ICS&C signs MoU with EMLY LABS AI Academy to promote AI Education, skill development

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Islamia College of Science and Commerce (ICS&C), Hawal, Srinagar, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EMLY LABS AI ACADEMY, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar Friday, to promote academic collaboration, skill development, and industry-oriented learning opportunities for students.

The MoU, as per an official statement, was signed by Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, and Monis Khan, CEO, EMLY LABS AI ACADEMY. The collaboration aims to strengthen the relationship between academia and the technology sector, with a particular focus on emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and practical skill development aligned with the evolving

needs of the job market.

The partnership is expected to facilitate opportunities for student internships, hands-on training, exposure to industry practices, and capacity-building initiatives. It also reflects the College's commitment to implementing the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by promoting experiential learning, multidisciplinary education, employability, and the development of industry-relevant competencies among students.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, emphasized the importance of building meaningful partnerships between educational institutions and technology-driven organizations. He stated that such collaborations can help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications,

enabling students to develop the skills, confidence, and adaptability required in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

Dr. Abid Hussain Banday, Convener, Internship Programme, emphasized that the initiative would support the College's efforts to expand internship opportunities, foster innovation, and equip students with relevant skills for future careers. He noted that such partnerships are an important step towards making internships more meaningful, structured, and aligned with the objectives of NEP 2020.

The collaboration marks another step in Islamia College of Science and Commerce's ongoing efforts to establish institutional partnerships that enhance experiential learning, encourage innovation, and strengthen students' connections with industry.

BOSE constitutes grievance-redressal cell ahead of annual exams

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has constituted a grievance-cum-monitoring cell to address examination related grievances, complaints and queries from stakeholders during the forthcoming annual examinations.

The cell, as per an official statement, has been established to ensure timely redressal of the grievances and mitigate problems of the stakeholders cropping up during the course of examinations.

The cell will register grievances for timely disposal and making prompt corrective interventions. It will register complaints, ensure their timely disposal, and take corrective action wherever necessary. The cell will function under



the direct supervision of the Secretary, JKBOSE.

Meanwhile, BOSE has exhorted upon the centre superintendents and their supervisory staff to safeguard the integrity of the examinations and make sure these are conducted in a fair, transparent and orderly manner.

The integrity and sanctity of the examinations will be safeguarded at any cost, it added.

The board has urged the stakeholders to lodge the grievances on jsxamsjd.jkbose@jk.gov.in, 0191-2585732 (Jammu), jsxamskd.jkbose@jk.gov.in, 0194-3186762 (Kashmir).

DDC Pulwama sets Oct deadline to make AIIMS Awantipora OPD functional

KT News Desk

Pulwama, Oct 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha on Friday chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of AIIMS Awantipora, including the status of construction, pending works, statutory approvals and preparedness for operationalisation of various facilities.

A detailed presentation on the project was made before the Chair, covering the overall progress, revised master plan, phase-wise completion schedule, statutory approvals, infrastructure and other critical components of the campus.

It was informed that the revised master plan and associated changes have been approved. The project has achieved around 81 per cent overall physical progress, while financial progress stands at approximately over 72 per cent.

During the meeting, the DDC undertook a detailed review of the physical infrastructure under different phases and emphasised that the focus should be on execution and functionalisation on the ground, rather than merely recording completion on paper. He called for a proactive approach by all concerned agencies to address bottlenecks and expedite pending works.

Reviewing the Phase-I works, the Chair was informed that Hospital Block-1 has reached 100 per cent progress, while Hospital Block-2 is around 99 per cent complete. The DDC took note of the remaining pendencies and directed the concerned executing agency to address all outstanding issues on priority and make the OPD functional by the end of October, wherever feasible.

The status of electrical substations and allied works, which are around 99 per cent complete, was also reviewed. The Chair was informed that testing and commissioning are presently in progress. The DDC directed the concerned officers to complete the remaining works, testing and commissioning within the next two weeks.

He stressed that the works should be completed well before the onset of winter and that no avoidable delay should be allowed.

With regard to Phase-II, covering academic, administrative and hostel buildings, it was informed that the civil works of the identified buildings are at an advanced stage. The DDC



directed the executing agency to complete the remaining civil works within the next 20 days, wherever technically feasible, and ensure that the buildings are made functional by the end of November.

Reviewing Phase-III, the Chair directed that works presently progressing in the range of approximately 75-80 per cent be substantially accelerated. The concerned officers were asked to push the remaining works of the balance hospital blocks, academic blocks, residential blocks, hostels and external development works and adhere strictly to the approved timelines.

The DDC also specifically directed the concerned agencies to complete the Shopping Complex and Guest House at the earliest, keeping in view their importance for the functioning of the campus.

The DDC directed all concerned departments to provide the pending NOCs before the end of October and prepare a clear action plan for the same.

The Chair laid particular emphasis on the early operationalisation of the OPD in view of the public requirement and expected footfall. He stressed that public health should remain the foremost priority and directed the concerned authorities to initiate OPD services at the earliest, with the necessary Senior Residents and other required human resources in place.

The DDC directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely reporting and submit

the human-resource position and details of facilities ready for operationalisation.

The Chair further directed that a comprehensive AIIMS operational-readiness action plan be prepared, clearly identifying whether the required infrastructure, manpower, equipment, utilities, transport and statutory requirements are in place. All necessary arrangements are to be put in place before operationalisation.

The meeting also reviewed the status of essential services, including water supply, fire-safety arrangements and electricity infrastructure. It was informed that these components are at an advanced stage, with substantial work already completed and the remaining activities being taken up on priority. The DDC directed that all such essential services be completed, tested and made fully functional without delay.

The DDC also directed the concerned authorities to make arrangements for purchase/provision of buses for transportation, particularly keeping in view the requirements of patients, students and staff of the campus.

The DDC directed the ADC Awantipora to facilitate resolution of the issues in coordination with the concerned stakeholders and assured that the district administration would extend full support for resolving all matters affecting the project.

Emphasising the need for coordinated action, the DDC

directed every concerned department and executing agency to thoroughly review its respective component, identify pending activities, fix clear timelines and ensure timely completion and functionalisation of all assets.

He stressed that the project should now move decisively from construction and documentation to execution and functionality on the ground, stating that there should be no reason for avoidable delay in making AIIMS Awantipora operational. He assured that the district administration would provide all possible facilitation and support and directed that the operationalisation of the institution be treated as a priority.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; representative of the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora; Superintending Engineers of CPWD, Bemina Srinagar, PHE Pulwama/Shopian, PWD (R&B) Pulwama/Shopian and KPDC Pulwama; Executive Engineers of CPWD Awantipora, PHE Awantipora, R&B Awantipora, KPDC Awantipora, PHE Mechanical Awantipora and Ground Water Division Srinagar; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Tehsildar Awantipora; and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Awantipora, besides other concerned officers.

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Jhiri Mela at Baba Jitto Shrine



KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 16: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa on Friday visited Baba Jitto Shrine at Jhiri to review the preparations for the upcoming annual Jhiri Mela.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the arrangements at the shrine and inspected the surrounding open spaces to assess their utilisation during the Mela.

He gave important directions to the concerned officers for clearing of bushes, installation of temporary toilets,

installation of CCTV cameras for public safety, proper lighting and barricading of designated areas and identification of adequate parking spaces.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting attended by MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar, SDM Marh, Mukhter Ahmed and officers of the line departments. Local representatives also offered feedback and suggestions on the arrangements.

The meeting reviewed the role of various departments, including Jal Shakti, PDD

and Irrigation, in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Mela.

Underlining the importance of waste disposal and cleanliness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to put robust sanitation mechanisms in place. He also directed that awareness stalls on government initiatives be set up at the Mela for the benefit of visitors.

CMO Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, SP Rural Ravinder Singh, BDO Kirandeep Kaur and other officers were also present in the meeting.

FCS&CA Dept reviews food quality, adulteration prevention measures



KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 16: On the directions of Director-General FCS&CA Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan, a meeting was held on Friday under the supervision of Joint Director Meenakshi Vaid, with representatives from the Mill Products Association to review adherence to food quality standards and measures to prevent adulteration during the ongoing festive season.

During the meeting, the representatives from the Mill Products Association were sensitized to the importance of maintaining the quality and purity of food products, particularly during the festive season when consumer

demand increases. They were advised to strictly adhere to the prescribed quality standards and ensure that no adulterated or substandard food products are supplied to consumers.

The Joint Director stressed that public health and consumer safety must remain the top priority and urged the association members to maintain transparency in their operations and ensure that food products supplied to the market meet the prescribed standards. The members were further advised to exercise due diligence in procurement, processing and distribution to prevent any instance of adulteration.

The Department reiterated

its commitment to safeguarding consumer interests and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products in the market. It was also emphasized that strict action shall be taken against any violation detected during inspections in accordance with the applicable laws and rules.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director F&R Sham Lal Abrol, Deputy Director Planning Jyoti along with other senior officers and officials of the Department.

The FCS&CA Department appealed to all stakeholders to cooperate with the department in ensuring the supply of safe, hygienic and quality food products to the public, especially during the festive season.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre approves

ITI Jammu as the hub, with ITIs in RSPura, Nowshera, Samba and Kathua as associated institutes.

The approved plans envisage modernisation of infrastructure, introduction of industry-aligned courses, improved training facilities and capacity-building for instructors, with the stated objective of improving employment opportunities for trainees.

Approvals are part of five ITI cluster projects worth Rs 1,194.92 crore cleared at the meeting. The other three clusters are in Maharashtra and Odisha.

With the latest approvals, the total investment sanctioned under PM-SETU has reached Rs 3,687 crore, the statement said.

The committee also reviewed the scheme's instructor-training component. According to the statement, 3,744 trainers had been trained through National Skill Training Institutes as of October 2026.

The PM-SETU scheme aims to upgrade ITIs through partnerships involving governments and industry. The impact of the newly approved projects will depend on their implementation, the quality of training and the extent to which the courses meet employers' requirements. (KNO)

2.7 lakh students

compromised on the integrity of the exam."

He said, "As far as grievances are concerned, sometimes for some children or the teaching staff, or for their parents who have grievances, we have created a grievance monitoring cell this year."

Sheikh said JKBOSE has issued two landline numbers and email addresses so that if there is any kind of grievance, it will be addressed on the email address or on the phone.

"For the smooth conduct of exams, we have authorised the chief education officers and the general education officers. There will be about 40 teams of the JKBOSE. They will be posted out in every district, in every area, in every place," he said.

The board chairman also said that the BOSE mainly depend on the school education department because the superintendents, deputy superintendents, supervisors or individual leaders are all the staff of the school education department.

"Our request to them will be that they behave politely with the children. If the children are a little upset, they will behave well with them, considering them as their own children," he said.

The JKBOSE chairman in this regard requested the staff to treat the 10th grade students very fairly because they are coming for the board exam for the first time. (KNO)

Weather to remain

of 7.4 degrees Celsius. Jammu

recorded a maximum of 29.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature among the listed stations at 0.5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 4.8 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department has advised people to follow weather updates for further information. (KNO)

Ladakh gets one

created Sankoo district will comprise four tehsils—Sankoo, GM Pore, TSG and Taisuru—along with their respective revenue villages.

It further states that the jurisdiction of Kargil district has been modified by excluding the tehsils and revenue villages now included in Sankoo district. (KNO)

Man found dead

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and further investigation into the matter is underway. (KNO)

Obesity major risk

beverages and frequent calorie-dense snacks.

"People should make physical activity part of their daily routine. Walking, cycling, swimming and other forms of exercise can help maintain a healthy weight and improve blood pressure, blood sugar control and cardiovascular fitness," doctors said.

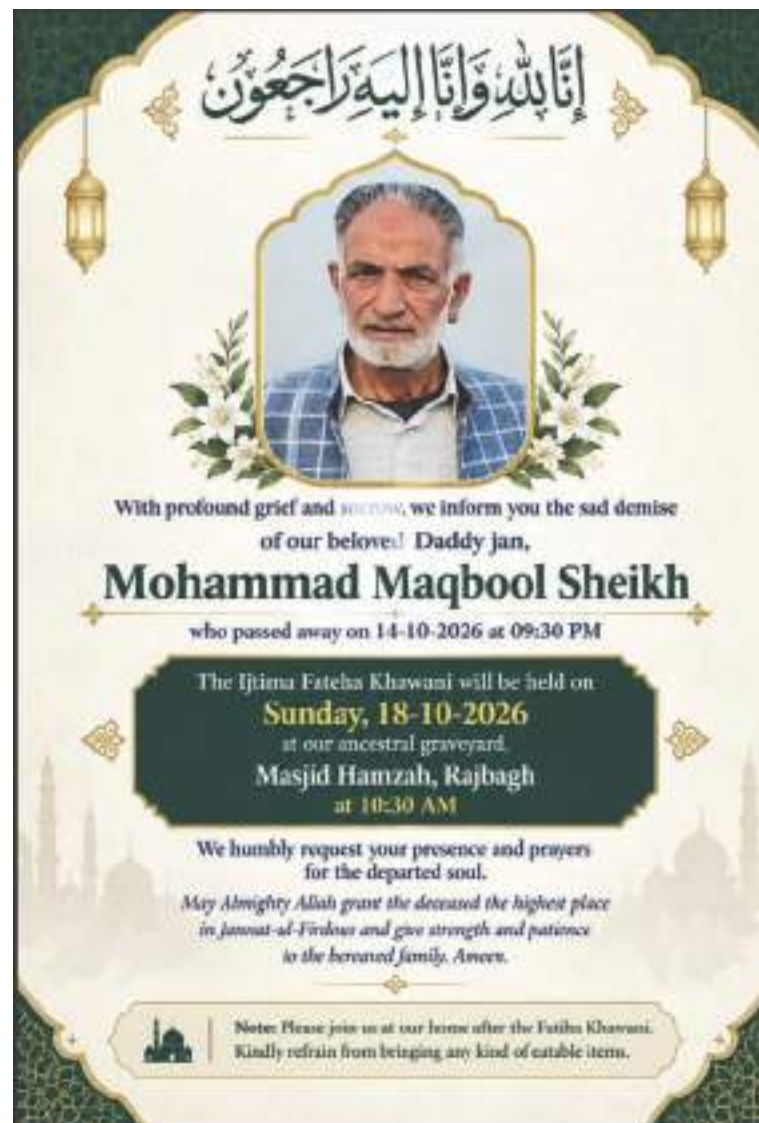
They recommended adults

aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity every week, alongside muscle-strengthening activities on two or more days. They also emphasised adequate sleep, stress management and regular health check-ups, particularly for people with a family history of diabetes, hypertension or cardiovascular disease.

According to NFHS data cited in available figures, 20.5 per cent of men and 29.4 per cent of women in Jammu and Kashmir are overweight or obese. A separate study in Kashmir found 15.01 per cent of the population was obese, with prevalence at 7.01 per cent among men and 23.69 per cent among women.

Doctors said tackling obesity requires sustained effort involving individuals, families, educational institutions and healthcare authorities, with greater emphasis on preventive healthcare. Promoting healthy eating habits among children and adolescents is particularly important, as early-life patterns influence adult health outcomes.

"Obesity is preventable and manageable in many cases, but it requires consistent efforts. Small, sustainable changes in diet and physical activity can make a significant difference in reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses," doctors said. (KNO)



Private citizens can complain against can-didates for false election affidavits: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Supreme Court on Friday held that private citizens can file criminal complaints against elected candidates for furnishing false information or concealing material facts in election affidavits under the Representation of the People (RoP) Act.

The top court said the restriction under Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) will not come in the way of filing a complaint in such cases.

Section 195 of the CrPC restricts criminal courts from taking direct cognisance of certain specific offences unless a written complaint is formally filed by the authorised public servant or the concerned court.

"We hold that a private complaint alleging offence committed under Section 125A, RoP Act need not pass muster of the rigours of Section 195 CrPC as held by the High Court.

If at all a complaint is lodged to harass an elected candidate or frivolous allegations are levelled therein, the laws of the country duly equip and empower the



competent magistrates to pass such order(s) as they deem fit and proper commensurate with the facts and circum-stances of each case," a bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu said.

Section 125A of the RoP Act penalises candidates who provide false information, conceal de-tails, or fail to submit mandatory disclosures in their election nomination papers or affidavits.

The judgment was delivered while disposing of an appeal filed by Rajkumar Madki against

a Karnataka High Court judgment dated March 7, 2025, which quashed his criminal complaint against Shailendra Beldale, an elected member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the Bidar constituency.

Madki had alleged that Beldale furnished a false declaration regarding his residential address in an affidavit accompanying his nomination papers for the 2023 assembly election.

He had lodged a private complaint under Section 200 of the CrPC before the Additional Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate in Bengaluru, alleging an offence punishable under Section 125A of the RoP Act.

The Karnataka High Court quashed the complaint, saying that proceedings for the alleged offence could be initiated only through a complaint by the Election Commission, and that a voter could pursue an election petition rather than institute such a private criminal com-plaint.

"The legislature is presumed to be conscious of its insertion of Section 125A in the RoP Act four years back," the judgment said, adding that the non-inclusion of Section 125A within Section 195 must be treated as deliberate.

The verdict further held that the absence of any other statutory provision restricting the filing of such complaints to public servants, coupled with the language of Section 125A of the RoP Act, supported the conclusion that a private complaint was legally maintainable.

Despite settling the legal question in favour of the maintainability of private complaints, the verdict declined to revive the proceedings against Beldale.

Ambedkar's Constitution kept India united despite challenges: Former CJI Gavai



PTI

Mumbai, Oct 16: In spite of external and internal challenges, the Constitution drafted by Dr B R Ambedkar kept the country united over the last seven decades, former Chief Justice of India B R Gavai said here on Friday.

The Constitution is built on the pillars of liberty, equality and fraternity, he said, but also cau-tioned that "while every individual has the right to freedom, it must not infringe upon the freedom of others".

Gavai was speaking at the launch of Marathi books "Smart Nagarik" and "Vid-yarthi Prerana", aimed at instilling awareness about constitutional values,

fundamental duties and democracy among students of the schools run by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) here.

Speaking about the resilience of Indian democracy, the former CJI said that the Constitution was framed in 1950, and several changes and developments took place in the country in the subsequent 76 years.

"There were external attacks....there were internal challenges like insurgency, militan-cy....against this backdrop, there is something that we should be proud of -- our country did not just remain united but moved towards development," Gavai said.

"We have seen the situa-tion in countries like Nepal,

Bangladesh and Pakistan.... We saw what happened in Sri Lanka. Against this backdrop, the credit for keeping the citizens of our coun-try united goes to our Constitution," he added.

The credit also goes to Ambedkar and his colleagues (who drafted the Constitu-tion), the for-mer CJI said.

Invoking warrior king Shivaji Maharaj as an inspiration for upholding the principle of equali-ty, he said, "Equal treatment is important, whether a person is from a slum or whether he is a rich man. A billionaire's son can go to London for edu-cation, but a poor man's son cannot."

Hence, the Mumbai civic body's scheme under which 50 bright students are sent to Singapore for a special course was a good initiative, he said.

"We used to have civics as a mere subject. However, conceptualizing how to actively mould students into sensitive citizens is a highly commendable idea that should be emulated," Gavai said, appreciating the launch of the two books for BMC school students.

Dates of PM Modi's Canada visit currently under discussion between two sides: MEA

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 16: The dates of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada are current-ly "under discussion" between the two sides, the Ministry of Ex-ternal Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, during his bi-weekly media briefing, was asked to con-firm reports suggest-ing the dates of the forthcoming visit in December.

The dates are "currently under discus-sion" between the two sides, he said.

Prime Minister Modi had a "warm and productive" conversation with his Canadi-an counter-part Mark Carney on Tuesday, with both leaders agreeing to build on the "positive momen-tum" in bilateral ties.

In a post on X on October 13, PM Modi had said that together, India and Canada are con-tributing towards a "more stable and prosperous world."

"Had a warm and productive conversation with Prime Minister Mark Carney. We agreed to build on the positive momentum in India-Canada ties and work towards concrete outcomes across key areas of our Strategic Partnership, including trade, energy, technology, secu-rity and people-to-people ties," he said.

A statement from Carney's office earlier said that the two leaders reaffirmed their commit-ment to conclude negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partner-ship Agreement (CE-PA) at the earliest opportunity, supporting efforts to double two-way trade by 2030.

Govt hikes windfall tax on petrol, cuts levy on diesel exports

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 16: The government on Friday cut the windfall tax on diesel exports and raised the levy on petrol exports for the fortnight beginning October 16.

The duty on ATF exports has been retained at Rs 10.5 per litre for the fortnight.

The Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), along with the road and infra-structure cess, on diesel exports will now be Rs 8.5 per litre, down from Rs 16 per litre.

The duty on petrol exports has been hiked to Rs 2.5 per litre, from Rs 0.5 per litre, for the next fortnight.

The Finance ministry in a notification said the duty hikes will be effective from October 16.

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, the government imposed an export duty on diesel and ATF on March 27 and revised the rate every fortnight.

Beginning May 16, the levy was imposed on petrol exports.

The ministry also said that there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption.

The windfall tax was levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid the war in West Asia.

Drug trade flourishing, organised crime growing in Punjab: Amit Shah

PTI

New Delhi/Chandigarh, Oct 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Centre will seek Punjab government's response over two incidents in the state: a father consuming poison under pressure in Dirba and the broad daylight killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa.

In a post on microblogging site X, Shah said Punjab is today grappling with a rising threat of drugs, gangsterism and organised crime, and asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who will ultimately bear the responsibility for the safety of Punjab's people.

"In Dirba, a father succumbing to pressure and consuming poison, and in Mansa, the broad-daylight murder of Parvinder Singh Jhota -- who had raised his voice against drugs -- have raised serious questions about the law and order situation in Punjab," Shah wrote.

Jhota's father has levelled grave allegations against the ruling Aam Aadmi



Party government and their MLA, Shah said.

The Home Ministry will seek responses from the Punjab gov-ernment on both the incidents, he said.

Jhota, an anti-drug activist, was shot dead by a medical store owner at a busy market in Mansa on Tuesday. Ashwani Kumar, the store owner who fired at Jhota when he was being questioned for selling

addictive drugs to an elderly man, was subsequently arrest-ed. The first incident Shah

referred to was the death by suicide of Gulzar Singh, who hailed from Dirba in Sangrur, on September 7. Gulzar's fam-ily had alleged that he consumed poison after being harassed and subjected to casteist slurs for questioning Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema at an event about the supply of drugs in his locality.

Political parties, including the BJP, have increasingly high-lighted the drug issue in poll-bound Punjab, where assembly elec-tions are due early next year.

In his X post, Shah said, "In Punjab, the drug trade is flour-ishing, the threat of organised crime is growing, and ques-tions are being raised about the safety of those who speak out against drugs."

Addressing Chief Minister Mann, Shah said the people of Punjab want results, not publicity.

"Bhagwant Mann ji, the people of Punjab do not want promises, they want answers; not an-nouncements, but results; decisive strikes against drug networks; and an impar-tial investiga-tion into any political patronage received by criminals.

"Today, I reiterate my pledge before the people of Punjab that when our government comes to power in Punjab, we will work with full force to create a drug-free, gangster-free, and se-cure Punjab. Our goal is clear: strikes against the drug trade, protec-tion of our youth's future, strict action against criminals, and the rule of law in such a way that no citizen is forced to live under the shadow of fear," the home minister said.

Stock markets end higher for 2nd day, led by strong buying in IT firms



PTI

Mumbai, Oct 16: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for the second straight day on Friday, driven by strong buying in IT stocks amid firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 413.66 points, or 0.56 per cent, to close at 74,729.27, with 17 constituents up, 13 down, and one unchanged. During the day, it surged 463.17 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 74,778.78.

The 50-share NSE Nifty was up 148.80 points, or 0.65 per cent, to end at 23,146.15.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tech

Mahindra surged the most, up by 8.45 per cent after the IT services firm reported a 32.74 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,585.6 crore for the July-September quarter of FY27, as strong volume growth, cost savings, and rupee depre-ciation lifted operating profit.

Tata Consultancy Services jumped 4.61 per cent and Infosys rallied 4.55 per cent. HCL Tech rose 1.08 per cent. Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Bajaj Finance were also among the major winners..

InterGlobe Aviation, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints and Bharat Electronics were among the biggest laggards.

Court sentences Tahir Hussain to 2 years in jail for abetting 2020 Delhi riots



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 16: A court here on Friday sentenced former AAP coun-cillor Tahir Hussain to two years' rigorous imprisonment for abetting rioting during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying he had used his position as an elected representa-tive to facilitate violence instead of maintaining peace and harmony.

Hussain was convicted on October 10 under IPC Section 147 (rioting) read with Section 109 (abetment).

In the Friday verdict, Addition-al Sessions Judge Parveen Singh held that "the aggravating cir-cumstances substantially outweigh the

mitigating circumstances urged on behalf of the con-vict. No mitigating circumstance of sufficient weight has been established which would justi-fy a lesser sentence".

Special Public Prosecutor Mad-hukar Pandey sought the maximum sentence for Hussain, ar-guing this was his second conviction in a riot-related case.

He submitted that Hussain, an elected representative at the time, had a responsibility to main-tain peace but instead facilitated the riots by allowing rioters to use his house to attack the public.

The court noted the submission and said Hussain was expected to

act as a restraining influ-ence on people in a communally charged environment.

"Instead of discharging this responsibility, the convict has been found to have abetted the ri-ots by providing his house, which was the highest point in the locality, as a place from where the rioters could attack people and damage property," the judge said.

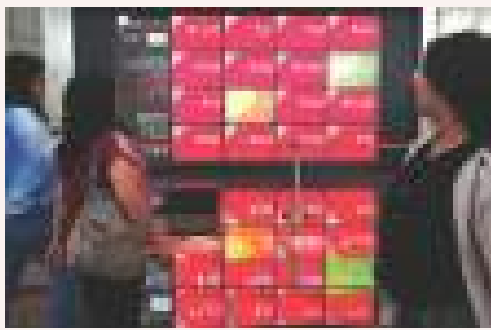
The court said Hussain's position, which ought to have been used to prevent violence, was instead used to facilitate it, warranting a sentence that reflected the gravity of the offence, and served as a deterrent.

Rejecting the defence's plea for leniency, the court said the absence of Hussain's physical par-ticipation in the rioting mob could not substan-tially reduce his culpability. "The mere fact that the prosecution did not prove active participation of the convict in the riot, does not dilute the gravity of his conduct, for the hand that guides is as guilty, if not more, as the hand that acts."

The court also rejected Hussain's claim that he was helpless when a mob allegedly forcibly occupied his house and that he had made several calls to the police control room. It noted that he had failed to prove the alleged calls or produce other evi-dence in support of his de-fence.

Quick Read

Stocks rebound after tech sell-off as Indonesia shares sink on downgrade warning



AP

Hong Kong, Oct 16 : Asian shares mostly advanced on Friday, a day after a tech sell-off dragged stocks lower, while Indonesia's stock market plunged following a downgrade warning.

Index provider MSCI warned it would downgrade Indonesia from its "emerging market" status, triggering growing concerns of a capital flight.

US futures edged higher after Federal Reserve chair Kevin Warsh said the artificial intelligence shock could bring huge benefits to the global and US economies.

South Korea's benchmark Kospi index jumped 3.6 per cent, after tumbling 7.6 per cent the day before on a sell-off of shares related to artificial intelligence. Samsung Electronics was up 4.2 per cent, while memory chipmaker SK Hynix added 3.5 per cent.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1.9 per cent to 65,658.59, after falling 4.9 per cent a day earlier. OpenAI investor SoftBank Group climbed 1.7 per cent. Chip equipment maker Tokyo Electron was 2.8 per cent higher and memory chipmaker Kioxia Holdings advanced 3.2 per cent.

Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia remains on track despite rising safety concerns amid Middle East conflict

AP

Seoul, Oct 16 : Asian Cup organizers have responded to increasing concerns over the safety of players and fans if the tournament goes ahead in Saudi Arabia by confirming plans for the Jan. 7-Feb. 5 continental championship remain on track despite ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The Saudi organizing committee issued a statement Friday saying it is continuing to coordinate closely with the Asian Football Confederation.

"Preparations across all organizational and operational areas are progressing according to the approved schedule, including work on venues, facilities and supporting services," Saudi organizers said. "The focus remains on delivering a world-class tournament experience for participating teams, fans and media from across Asia, while bringing the continent together through football."

South Korea's Professional Footballers' Association had earlier expressed concerns following a series of attacks on the Asian Cup host country by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

"The continued military tensions and security instability in the Middle East are issues that can never be taken lightly," Lee Keun-ho, head of the South Korean player union, said in a statement. "The safety of our national team, as well as all players participating in the Asian Cup, is a serious concern."

At least 19 people, including foreigners, have been killed in more than a week of Houthi attacks targeting the Riyadh international airport, the headquarters of Saudi oil giant Aramco and other aviation, oil and military facilities across the kingdom.

Russia strikes nine Ukrainian regions as tensions grow between Zelenskyy and Trump

AP

Kyiv, Oct 16 : Russian attacks on nine regions of Ukraine caused emergency power outages for hundreds of thousands of households and damaged numerous homes, wounding at least 15 people, officials said Friday, as civilian casualties from Moscow's invasion climb steeply.

The latest aerial strikes on civilian targets came as fears mount that a sharp deterioration in relations between Kyiv and Washington this week could leave Ukraine further exposed to Russia's escalating aerial assaults as the bitter winter approaches.

Russia's heavy bombardment of the power grid before winter sets in has been an annual feature of the war, aiming to wear down Ukraine's appetite for the fight by denying civilians heating and running water. Ukrainian officials have warned Russia is stockpiling ballistic missiles for more attacks in coming months.

Ukraine on Thursday abandoned a brief truce on energy-related targets that it said Moscow did not heed despite US President Donald Trump's demand for a ceasefire.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday attended a summit of European leaders who share his concerns about Russian aggression and Moscow's wider plans on the continent.

The officials in Brussels vowed to maintain support for Ukraine and urged the US to put pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump and Zelenskyy barbs raise questions about US support. Tension and uncertainty



are gripping Ukraine and Europe after Zelenskyy and Trump publicly made cutting remarks about each other.

On Thursday, Zelenskyy said he felt betrayed by the American president and Trump openly declared his dislike of the Ukrainian leader.

Arriving at the EU summit in Belgium, Zelenskyy thanked the 27-nation bloc for its support from what he said were "real leaders."

"We want to end this war as (quickly) as possible," Zelenskyy told reporters. "We don't see now signals from (the) Russian side that they are ready for this, to end this war. That's why we have to prepare for the winter."

The public spat between Trump and Zelenskyy raised the spectre of further reductions in US support for Ukraine's war effort.

Ukraine is desperately short of the US-made Patriot missiles it needs to protect against Russia's devastating ballistic missile attacks, despite Zelenskyy's pleading for Washington to send more.

Zelenskyy complained about a breakdown in Western intelligence sharing and sudden restrictions on the

use of Starshield, US company SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink satellite internet service that is the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations and military communications.

He also slammed Trump's diesel deal with Russia, which came despite an international effort to sanction Russia and diplomatically isolate Putin over his invasion.

Trump promised to swiftly end the war, but Ukrainian officials have complained he is trying to bulldoze Zelenskyy into surrendering land to Russia.

The EU is working to persuade Washington to stick with Ukraine, the bloc's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said.

"We are trying to convince also our American partners that if we want to end this war then we have to squeeze the aggressor," Kallas said. "With our American allies it's very difficult at the moment."

Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin, whose country currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, said there is "a lot of concern around Europe in terms of what's happening in Ukraine right now."

September civilian casualties jump 85 per

cent higher than last year

Russia is blitzing not just Ukraine's power grid but also apartment buildings, public transport, cargo ships, data centres and food stores.

Ukrainian civilians are paying a high price for the escalating Russian attacks, the United Nations human rights office in Kyiv said in a monthly report published Friday.

At least 328 civilians were killed and 2,105 wounded last month, a total that is 85 per cent higher than in September last year, the report said, noting that intensifying Russian attacks in October already have killed dozens of civilians, including children.

"The first two weeks of October were among the deadliest periods for civilians in years," said Danielle Bell, the head of the UN office.

Ukrainian drones force Russian airport flight cancellations. Ukraine is using domestically developed long-range drones to hit back at Russia.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Friday its air defenses overnight intercepted 644 Ukrainian drones over multiple Russian regions, illegally annexed Crimea and the Black Sea.

Nearly 160 flights were delayed or cancelled at Moscow's four airports, according to the state-backed Moskva news agency. Data from Rosaviatsia, Russia's civil aviation authority, showed restrictions on the four airports were in place from late Thursday night through early Friday.

Another 46 flights were delayed or cancelled at St Petersburg airport, which also faced overnight restrictions, local media reported.

Bangladesh to discuss new partnership framework with World Bank: Report

PTI

Dhaka, Oct 16 : A Bangladesh government delegation will hold talks with the World Bank in the next two to three weeks to finalise the terms of a new country partnership framework, the country's Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said on Friday, according to a local media report.

He said there were no major disagreements on fundamental policy issues, but the two sides would need to discuss the remaining details under a joint action plan, the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha news agency reported.

Khosru made the remarks while briefing journalists on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group in Bangkok.

Earlier in the day, the finance minister held meetings with representatives of Bank of America, Google, the IMF, Standard Chartered Bank and Moody's at the Sirikit International Convention Centre.

The discussions covered Bangladesh's overall economic situation, debt-related issues, financial sector reforms and other matters, the report said.

Khosru said the current year was particularly important for Bangladesh and that international organisations had also recognised its significance.

The World Bank, the IMF and other development partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), were working closely with Bangladesh to support its economic development and help it address global challenges, he said.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to implementing its election manifesto and programmes, the minister said the government was preparing a specific development framework for the next five years.

The framework is expected to guide the World Bank's development partnership with Bangladesh over the coming years.

Bhuvneshwar added to India T20I squad as cover for injured Arshdeep



PTI

Bengaluru, Oct 16 : Veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was on Friday added to India's squad for the series-deciding fifth and final T20I against the West Indies as cover for Arshdeep Singh, who has sustained a shoulder injury.

The final match of the

series, which is currently locked at 2-2, will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar was added to the squad after Arshdeep Singh sustained a blow to his bowling shoulder during the fourth T20I of the series against West Indies on Wednesday in Hyderabad," the BCCI said in a release.

The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar was earlier picked for the T20 series against New Zealand, starting October 22 in Christchurch.

"A decision on his (Arshdeep) participation in the final T20I will be taken prior to the game based on his recovery," it added.

But it is tough to see the left-arm pacer playing here as shoulder injury generally takes a minimum of three weeks to settle down.

IMF-World Bank meetings focus on global risks, potential benefits of AI



AP

Bangkok, Oct 16 : Guardrails are urgently needed to contain potential risks from the boom in artificial intelligence, the head of the International Monetary Fund said Friday, likening the technology to a Formula 1 race car that might go off

the track and run people over.

"We are racing, and the question is how do we put barriers? So if a car was to fly out it doesn't kill people," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

"I have high respect for the industry. I think what you're doing is incredibly important for humanity.

You may give us the biggest gift, but if the car runs over people, that gift may not be so worthwhile," she said while speaking on a panel on the impact of AI on the world economy along with experts including Anthropic co-founder and head of policy Jack Clark.

Clark is among technology industry leaders pushing for faster action on regulating AI. In a blog post last month, the rival to OpenAI proposed that the world's top artificial intelligence companies come up with a coordinated way to pause development of advanced AI systems, warning the technology is improving so quickly there's a risk humans would lose control.

"I think it's worse than you describe. I think it's Formula 1 at night without maybe brakes in the cars," Clark said. "And it's remarkable to me that the toys I buy for my children are regulated more than the literal superintelligence I work on at my day job."

UT-level U14 girls volleyball tournament begins in Rajouri, DC inaugurates mega sports event

KT News Desk

Rajouri Oct 16: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Dr. Devansh Yadav today inaugurated the Inter-District UT-Level Under-14 Girls Volleyball Tournament organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports here at the Mini Sports Stadium. Girl teams representing different districts of the Union Territory are participating in the tournament.

A pledge for a Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir was also administered to the participants, spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging young people to adopt a healthy, disciplined and active lifestyle.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Deputy Commissioner congratulated the Department of Youth Services and Sports for organising the tournament and providing young athletes with a valuable platform to showcase their sports talent and compete at the UT level. He appreciated the department's efforts in promoting sports among children and encouraging greater participation of girls in various sporting disciplines.

He motivated the participating teams to play with dedication, discipline, teamwork and a positive spirit, emphasising that winning and losing are part of every sports competition. He urged the players to give their best, respect their opponents and uphold the true values of sportsmanship throughout the tournament.



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17 OCTOBER 2026 SATURDAY

DRISHYAM THE CONCLUSION (HINDI) (UA 16+) 10:20 AM 12:50 PM 06:20 PM	PRAHAAR THE UNTOLD STORY OF UJJWAL NIKAM (HINDI) (UA 16+) 12:10 PM 03:05 PM 06:00 PM	STREET FIGHTER (HINDI) (UA 16+) 09:40 AM 03:50 PM
NAYYI NAVELLI (HINDI) (UA 16+) 10:00 AM 01:20 PM 04:10 PM 07:00 PM		

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