



Kashmir faces nearly 300 MW power shortfall

Demand 1,300-1,350 MW during peak hours

Availability fluctuates between 1,000-1,150 MW

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 17: With the onset of pre-winters, Kashmir is reeling under power deficiency of nearly 300 MWs—thus raising a question on the region's preparedness for upcoming peak winters.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), "In Kashmir, the power demand nowadays remains around 1350 Megawatts (MW)."

He said, "During the peak hours, we generally nowadays have a power demand of 1300-1350 MWs in Kashmir division. However, the power availability is fluctuating between 1000-1150 MWs."

The official further said that the power supply keeps on fluctuating. "Thus, the power demand and availability also varies from time to time. During that period we enforce grid curtailment."

Pertinently, earlier this week KNO reported that Jammu and



Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

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

Top officials have informed that out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir

owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.

The official had informed that the region was generating 298 MWs of power from the Baghailhar-1 hydroelectric power project, 49 MWs from other projects of Kashmir division and 20 MWs through the Independent Power Producers in Jammu division.

According to the official figures, The State | [More on P6](#)

Adopt 'SMART Policing,' 'Digital Beat Policing': IGP Kashmir directs police stations

Says initiative aims to transform PSs into modern, efficient, accountable, citizen-friendly institutions

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 17: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Sujit Kumar Singh, on Saturday directed all police stations across the Valley to adopt 'SMART Policing' and 'Digital Beat Policing' as an integral part of their day-to-day functioning.

While chairing a conference on 'SMART Policing and Digital Beat Policing,' attended by Range DIGs, District SSSP, Additional SsP, Zonal SsP, DySsP and SHOs from across Kashmir Zone, IGP Sujeet Kumar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) in line with the directions and vision of the Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat, highlighted the five fundamental principles of SMART Policing: "Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive and Techno-savvy and Trained."

He stressed that the SMART Policing concept should not remain confined to policy documents but must be reflected in



the conduct, working culture and public service delivery of every Police Station.

The IGP Kashmir said the initiative aims to transform Police Stations into modern, efficient, accountable and citizen-friendly institutions, ensuring better and faster delivery of services to the public.

The IGP Kashmir directed all SHOs to institutionalize Digital Beat Policing in their jurisdictions. "Beat Officers shall undertake regular field visits,

maintain meaningful interaction with local residents and ensure that policing services reach the last person in the last mile of every beat," he said, adding, "The digital beat policing should facilitate, Public Outreach: Regular interaction with citizens to address their grievances. Digital Beat Records: Regular updating of beat-level information on digital platforms. Quick Public Service Delivery: Prompt, transparent and accessible

police services through technology. Accountability: Clear responsibilities for Beat Officers, with monitoring by SHOs and supervisory officers. Community Participation: Strengthening public confidence through continuous engagement. Future-Ready Policing: Equipping Police Stations with modern tools, digital capabilities and professional skills."

The IGP Kashmir observed that the Police Station is the key point of contact between police and public, and must be accessible, responsive and tech-empowered. Supervisory officers were directed to personally monitor implementation and ensure visible results on the ground.

"Our objective is to make every Police Station in Kashmir Zone SMART and citizen-centric, where technology strengthens accountability and police services reach every citizen with dignity," the IGP Kashmir said.

All District Police Heads were directed to ensure effective | [More on P6](#)

PDD announces new curtailment schedule for Kashmir

Feeders having above 65% AT&C losses to face 8 hours curtailment

85 new feeders added for 24x7 electricity

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 17: The Power Development Department (PDD) Saturday announced a new Load Curtailment Plan (LCP) for consumers in the Kashmir division, which will include extra hours of load shedding in the high AT&C losses.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the local DISCOM, Kashmir Power Development Corporation

Limited (KPDCL) has announced a revised LCP for the Kashmir division.

The official said that the consumers will face a daily power curtailment of 8 hours in the areas having Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) above 65 percent.

It also said that the areas having AT&C losses between 40.5-65 percent will face power curtailment of 6 hours daily.

Furthermore, the official also said that the areas having AT&C losses in between 15 to 40.5 percent will face curtailment of 3 hours daily. "However, there will only be 0.5 hours of curtailment in the areas having AT&C losses from 0-15 percent."

The official also said that there are 1335 KV | [More on P6](#)

CIPET centre in J&K stuck over land allotment

Proposal to set up centre at cost of Rs 51 crore cleared in 2016

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Oct 17: The proposal to establish a Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) learning centre in Jammu & Kashmir continues to remain in limbo despite its approval way back in 2016 by the Union Government.

Documents in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that the proposal to establish the learning centre in Jammu & Kashmir was approved at a cost of Rs 51.32 crore in 2016.

"The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals approved the setting up of a learning centre at J&K in the Expenditure Finance



Committee meeting with a total project cost of Rs 51.32 crore on a 50:50 sharing basis with the J&K State Government in 2016," the documents state.

According to the records, the Government of J&K decided to accord in-principle approval for setting up the CIPET Centre

at ITI Zainakote, Srinagar, including land provision, but did not convey formal approval.

With no actual land allotment made for setting up the centre, the Government of India wrote several letters to the J&K administration seeking suitable instructions | [More on P6](#)

671 kanals transferred for ready-to-use industrial infra in Samba

CM says initiative will attract fresh investment

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 17: In a major push to strengthen industrial infrastructure and accelerate investment in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has approved the transfer of 671 kanals of land in Samba to the Industries and Commerce Department for the development of a state-of-the-art Plug and Play Industrial Park under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA).

The initiative aims to provide ready-to-use industrial infrastructure, reliable services and streamlined approvals, enabling enterprises to establish operations faster and with greater ease.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the initiative would give a significant boost to industrial growth in Jammu and Kashmir by attracting fresh investment, strengthening local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and promoting entrepreneurship.

He said the development would support balanced regional growth and create new employment | [More on P6](#)

No school can compel parents to buy items from specific shop: Edu Minister

Warns of action against violators; committee to monitor complaints, involve CEOs, ZEOs

Jahangeer Ganaie

Banihal, Oct 17: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday warned private schools against compelling parents to purchase books, uniforms and other educational materials from specific vendors or shops, asserting that strict action would be taken against institutions found violating the rules.

Speaking to reporters during her visit to Banihal, the minister said that no private school has the authority to force parents to buy books or other



school-related items from a particular shop or vendor.

The practice, she said, places an unnecessary financial burden on parents, and any school found engaging in such activities would face action under

the applicable rules.

"If any private school is forcing parents to purchase books or other items from a particular vendor or shop, it will not be tolerated. No school can compel parents to buy these items from a specific shop, and action will be taken against those found doing so," Itoo said.

The minister urged parents to come forward and report any instances of schools allegedly pressuring them to purchase educational materials from designated vendors. She said complaints should be brought to the notice of | [More on P6](#)

AIIMS Awantipora likely to begin OPD services in Nov

DDC says hospital blocks nearly complete; directs agencies to clear pending works, ensure manpower, facilities

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Oct 17: After missing several deadlines for its operationalisation, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district is likely to begin Outpatient Department (OPD) services in November 2026, an official said.

The development comes amid renewed efforts by the district administration to expedite pending works and ensure that essential facilities, medical equipment, statutory clearances



and human resources are in place to make the much-awaited institution functional.

An official told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that although the administration had directed the concerned agencies

to make the OPD functional by the end of October, the services are now likely to commence in November, subject to completion of pending works and necessary operational arrangements.

The proposed start of OPD services has raised hopes among people across south Kashmir, who have been waiting for the institution to become functional and provide advanced healthcare facilities closer to their homes. The project has remained a major public expectation for | [More on P6](#)

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Keran sector

KNO Correspondent

Kupwara, Oct 17: Security forces on Saturday foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jungund area of Keran sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, sources said.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that suspicious movement was detected along the LoC in the area in the morning, following which security forces launched an operation to thwart the infiltration attempt.

The operation was underway when this report was filed, while further details were awaited. (KNO)

PM-SETU to upgrade 10 J&K ITIs, strengthen industry-linked training

J&K secures ₹475.41 crore to boost skill development

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 17: In a major boost to skill development and youth employability in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)

scheme has approved investment plans worth 475.41 crore for the modernisation and upgradation of 10 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the Union Territory.

The approval was accorded during the sixth meeting of the National Steering Committee held in New Delhi on October 16, 2026, under the chairpersonship of Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. The significant



achievement reflects the strategic direction and continued emphasis on institutional

strengthening under the guidance of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and the dedicated

efforts of Secretary, Skill Development, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, in advancing the proposal and coordinating efforts to secure this major investment for the Union Territory. The initiative underscores the administration's commitment to modernising technical education, strengthening vocational training infrastructure and creating enhanced employment opportunities for the youth.

The Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, has also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for the initiative, recognising the importance

of the Union Government's support in strengthening the skill development ecosystem and expanding opportunities for young people across the Union Territory.

The approved investment comprises 240 crore for the Jammu ITI cluster and 235.41 crore for the Srinagar ITI cluster. Each cluster will comprise five Government ITIs, with one institution functioning as the hub and four others as associated institutes. The cluster-based model is aimed at modernising training infrastructure, | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar thanks PM Modi, Union Minister

Says investment to create modern skill development hubs

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary for approving Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) worth Rs 475.41 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through | [More on P6](#)

CS lays foundation stone for restoration of Vittal Bhairav Temple in Rainawari

Restoration project undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 2.84 crore

KT News Desk

Srinagar, October 17: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the revival and restoration of the historic Vittal Bhairav Temple at Motiyar, Rainawari, in Srinagar district, marking a significant step towards preserving Kashmir's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

The restoration project is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 2.84 crore under the Government's heritage conservation initiative. The project aims to preserving the temple's historical, religious and cultural significance.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Dr Basharat Qayoom, Director Archives, representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, reviewed various components of the proposed restoration project and directed the concerned officers to expedite the work while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed timelines and quality standards. Emphasising the importance of the



project, Atal Dulloo said the restoration and conservation efforts were aimed at reviving the temple's decades old glory and preserving its architectural and cultural heritage.

He said the initiative reflected the Government's commitment to conserving the region's heritage while recognising the cultural contributions of different communities of Kashmir's

diverse social fabric.

The Chief Secretary observed that the temple holds considerable historical, cultural and religious significance and represents an important part of Kashmir's shared heritage. He expressed hope that the restoration work would help preserve its aesthetic appeal, heritage value and social significance for future generations.

DC Shopian reviews functioning of Health Department

Directs improved patient care, optimum utilization of Staff

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health and Medical Education Department to assess and streamline healthcare delivery across the district, with a focus on infrastructure, manpower and patient-centric services.

Emphasizing a proactive, compassionate and gap-free approach to public healthcare, the DC, as per an official statement, called for strengthening infrastructure, optimizing manpower and ensuring seamless service delivery to meet the medical needs of every citizen without unnecessary delays.

The DC directed officials to expedite all ongoing developmental works and accelerate projects aimed at addressing infrastructure gaps across the district.

He stressed that essential diagnostic facilities, including X-ray, CT scan, MRI and ultrasound services at the District Hospital, must remain fully functional at all times, without any bottlenecks.

The progress of New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) buildings was also reviewed to ensure their timely completion, structural readiness

and provision of modern amenities. Emphasizing round-the-clock availability of healthcare services, the DC underscored the need for establishing doctors' quarters across the district.

He further directed the department to ensure the availability of surgeons, cardiologists and emergency specialists to facilitate life-saving procedures locally and minimize referrals to hospitals outside the district.

The DC called upon health officials to discharge their duties with utmost dedication and ensure accessibility, responsiveness and effective coordination between healthcare providers and the public.

The performance and role of ASHA workers, healthcare staff and ground-level functionaries were also reviewed to strengthen grassroots outreach and ensure continuous support to patients.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to quality healthcare, the DC stressed that the approach must remain proactive, empathetic and accessible. He directed officials to eliminate communication gaps between healthcare providers and the public and ensure that every citizen receives quality medical care without unnecessary delays or referrals.

Director Colleges holds interactive meeting with Principals of GDCs of Kashmir Division

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17: Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir, held an interactive meeting with the Principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDC) of the Kashmir Division at Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, to discuss institutional challenges and explore measures to strengthen the overall functioning of colleges. Prof. Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, as per an official statement, welcomed the Director Colleges and Principals and assured her commitment to collective efforts towards strengthening the Department of Higher Education.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri emphasized the need to understand institutional challenges and practical realities at the grassroots level to develop effective and responsive policy perspectives.

DC Budgam visits Chrar-i-Sharief, holds Public Outreach Programme

Pays obeisance at revered Sheikh-ul-Alam Shrine (RA), inspects ongoing developmental works

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Saturday visited Chrar-i-Sharief and chaired a public outreach program at Town Hall, Chrar-i-Sharief, to listen to the demands and grievances of local residents.

During the public darbar, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, interacted with the locals and different stakeholders and took stock of issues concerning various departments. He directed the concerned officers to address public issues and demands promptly and ensure time-bound



resolution of genuine issues.

He said that all genuine demands and issues raised by locals and different stakeholders were noted and the concerned officers were instructed to address the demands on priority.

He added that the District

Administration would continue to review the measures taken to address public demands and conduct follow-up visits to assess progress.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner paid obeisance at the revered shrine of

Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (Sheikh-ul-Alam) (RA) at Chrar-i-Sharief and inspected ongoing developmental works in the area.

He reviewed the progress of the guest house and under-construction shopping complex, inspected parking facilities and the functioning of the wuzu khana, and listened to the demands of local Auqaf members. He stressed the timely completion of ongoing works while maintaining quality standards.

He was accompanied by General Manager, 'IC; Joint 'irector Planning; SDM Chadoora; Superintending Engineers; and heads of various line departments.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat CEO Shopian flag-off ceremony to promote national unity, cultural harmony

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 17: Chief Education Officer (CEO), Shopian, organised a flag-off ceremony under the national initiative "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" in the presence of the Deputy Chief Education Officer (Dy. CEO), Shopian, along with other officials and staff members.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to promote national unity, communal harmony, mutual respect and cultural diversity, while strengthening

the spirit of togetherness among people belonging to different regions, languages, cultures and traditions of the country.

Addressing the gathering, the officers underscored the importance of peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and respect for diverse traditions. They emphasised that India's strength lies in its unity amidst diversity and highlighted the vital role of education in nurturing responsible citizens committed to national integration and collective progress.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change FATHER name in my driving license bearing No: JK1620110006953 M YOUSUF MIR TO MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR (as per aadhar card).

If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME. ADIL YOUSUF MIR S/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR R/O KIGPORA KANGAN GANDERBAL

NOTICE

I Abdul Hameed Isoo F/O Zainab Hameed R/O Mahrajpora Sopore Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that i have changed my name from Zeenat Hameed to Zainab Hameed for all purpose, including Aadhaar card bearing Aadhaar number 306339645260Henceforth, I shall be known as Zainab Hameed

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

e-NIT No: 30 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

Pin: 191201, Phone: 0194-2416246, Email: exnifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 30 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the L.T. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Core System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S/O	Name of Work	AAA	Advertise ment Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Sindh Nallah- Flood Protection work on R/S at Duderhama near bus adda at RD 81.5 to RD 81.76km (Fresh for eNIT NO: 23 of 2026-27 S No: 02)	SE Hyd/Orde Sp/FCB, Order No: 40 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.09.2026	48.630	2500	L46,000/-	150 Days	AA/ 'BEE	MH 4711 UT CAPER

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded
The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	17-10-2026	06:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	17-10-2026	06:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	17-10-2026	06:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	24-10-2026	04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	27-10-2026	11:00 A.M

2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3. The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 27.10.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal from any scheduled or nationalized bank, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. However, the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money of those bidders who had participated in the previous eNIT NO 23 of 2026-27 shall also remain valid for this eNIT Only. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bid-der which shall include but not limited to:

- Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
 - encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
 - criminal proceedings.
 - Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
- 7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
- Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance se-curity and additional performance security within the prescribed time
- 8) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.
- 8) Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in in acquaints bid submission pro-cess.
- b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- c) The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at Serial No. 1.
- e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all neces-sary Documents. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- 9) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of tender due to any reason/ reasons.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 7644-93 Dated: 17.10.2026

DIPK-6874/26
DATED: 17-10-2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani) Executive Engineer Irrigation and
Flood Control Division Ganderbal

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 1st

Subject: 1. Installation of Bore well and allied items for irrigation purpose at Kharchak Yarikhah Khansahib near the land of Gul Mir, Block Khansahib, Yarikhah in District Budgam).(Part-A) ----(Sl. No 01)
2. Installation of Bore well Tube well near House of Gh Hassan Sheikh at Golpora KKA, Block Narbal, Kawoosa Khalisa in District Budgam) (Sl. No 02)
3. Construction of Borewell near House of Tariq Khan at Bunmalpora in District Budgam). (Sl. No 03)
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 67JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/11307-318, dated: 19-09-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_326319_1_ _2_ & _3_.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 13-10-2026 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	27-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 APM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	28-10-2026 02:00 PM

NOTE:

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

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/14389-400.

Dated: 13-10-2026.

DIPK-6854/26

DATED: 17-10-2026

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

Article 371 can provide constitutional safeguards for Ladakh: CS Kundra

Raja Syed Rather

Ladakh, Oct 17: Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra on Saturday said Article 371 of the Constitution offers sufficient flexibility to provide constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, with a separate provision, proposed as Article 371K.

Addressing a press conference here, Chief Secretary Kundra said, "These provisions were discussed during negotiations to address the region's demands and are under active consideration."

He said, "Several models had been considered, including the Sixth Schedule, statehood and a Union Territory with a legislature, before Article 371 was proposed as a possible alternative."

"Fundamentally, as I said, it is about constitutional safeguards. It has many models," he added.

Kundra said the Sixth Schedule was designed for a different geographical, historical and cultural context, particularly in Northeastern states where minority tribes require protection against possible discrimination by majority tribes.

"They need protection against any discriminatory action from the majority. So, the Sixth Schedule has a different geographical, historical, cultural context and it doesn't make much sense to talk about it here," he said.

On the demand for statehood or a Union Territory with a legislature, he said Ladakh currently receives 100 per cent funding from the Centre, including for employees' salaries and pensions.

He said that in Union Territories with legislatures, such as Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, public accounts



are separate and the administrations have to meet salary and pension obligations through their own income. "So, it was suggested that we will fulfil the fundamental demand of the central government. But we will find another creative solution for that," he said.

Kundra further said Article 371, under which special provisions from Article 371A to Article 371J already exist, could provide the flexibility required to frame constitutional protections suited to Ladakh. "Article 371A to J is still there. So, Article 371K was suggested that it will be written especially for Ladakh. Now, in the last meeting, you agreed to this," he said.

He said the minutes of the previous meeting had been signed by the participants, describing the atmosphere as positive. "And in general, we can say that it was a happy atmosphere that good progress has been made," Kundra said. Referring to subsequent

discussions, he said Ladakh's representatives had sought documents explaining the proposed structure and the framework for moving forward. "What kind of structure will it be? Will it have a framework? How will we move forward?" he said, recounting the questions raised by the representatives.

Kundra said the Ministry of Home Affairs provided a detailed 32-page document to the leaders on February 16, outlining various aspects of the proposed framework.

He said the constitutional amendment, the demands of Ladakh's people and the nature of the future democratic structure would be shaped through further deliberations. "The constitutional amendment and the demands of the people here. What kind of democratic structure will it be? It will come out through a discussion, through reflection," he said—(KNO)

Speaker Rather urges GoI to honour J&K statehood resolution

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Oct 17: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir remains a crucial issue, asserting that the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly reflects the collective will of the elected representatives of the people.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of a workers' convention held at his residence in Badipora, Chadoora, Rather said the resolution was significant as it was passed unanimously by the elected representatives of Jammu and Kashmir, urging the Government of India to restore statehood at the earliest.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had repeatedly raised the demand for restoration of statehood before and after the Assembly elections. However, the



latest resolution carries particular significance as it represents the collective voice of the elected House, he added.

The Speaker also referred to earlier resolutions passed by the Assembly, including the resolution adopted in 2024 seeking restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's "special status" and the resolution passed in June 2000 concerning the restoration of constitutional and legal safeguards previously

available to the people of the erstwhile state.

"The Government of India should respect the Assembly's resolution," he said, adding that doing so would amount to respecting democratic institutions and the mandate of the people.

On the National Conference-led government completing two years in office, Rather said developmental works were underway and that people were largely satisfied

with the government's performance in areas he had visited.

"I am not part of the Cabinet. However, developmental works are taking place, including in my constituency and district," he said.

Rather added that three years remained in the government's tenure and expressed hope that the promises made in the election manifesto would be fulfilled before the next Assembly elections.

Reacting to the viral video showing an IAS officer allegedly using objectionable language against a woman JKAS officer during an official meeting, the Speaker said an inquiry had been ordered by the Chief Minister. "The matter should be investigated, and appropriate action taken against anyone found responsible, irrespective of their position," he said—(KNO)

Youth should be in libraries, not in drugs: SSP Sgr



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 17: SSP Srinagar Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarty on Saturday called for greater youth participation in constructive activities, saying young people should spend more time in libraries and playgrounds and stay away from drugs and other harmful influences.

"Youth should be busy in libraries and playgrounds rather than in negative energies," Dr Chakravarty said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Police would organise cricket tournaments across all districts in October under its civic action programme to engage youth in constructive activities and keep them away from drugs.

"The main aim of this project is to

keep our youth, who are the future of our country and the strength of our society, busy in constructive activities and to keep them away from negative energies like social media and drugs," he said.

The SSP said the programme would also include volleyball, indoor games and debates to provide youth with opportunities for positive engagement.

He said J&K Police was conducting civic action programmes across districts and would organise more such activities to strengthen its engagement with youth.

Dr Chakravarty congratulated the participants and said police would continue to support initiatives aimed at preventing drug abuse and engaging youth in constructive activities—(KNO)

Northern Railway revises Jammu Division train timings

YOGESH

Jammu, Oct 17: Northern Railway's Jammu Division on Saturday revised the timings of several trains operating through Jammu and Katra following the extension of Train No. 19223/19224 Sabarmati-Jammu Tawi Express up to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

According to a statement, the revised schedules will come into effect on different dates from October 17 onwards. Passengers have been advised to check the updated timings before commencing their journeys.

Under the revised schedule, Train No. 22478 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express will depart from Katra at 5:40 am, Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan station at 6:08 am, Jammu Tawi at 7:08 am and Martyr Captain Sunil Kumar Choudhary Kathua at 8:01 am from October 20.

Train No. 14503 Kalka-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express will depart from Jammu Tawi at 3:20 am and Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan station at 4:12 am, reaching Katra at 4:47 am from October 20. Train No. 15656 Katra-Kamakhya will depart from Katra at 3:40 am and Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan station at 4:06 am from October 21. Train No. 14612 Katra-Ghaziपुर City will depart from Katra at 3:40 am from October 22.

Train No. 19415 Sabarmati-Katra will depart from Jammu Tawi at 4:15 am and

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Beerwah bridge ready for inauguration

Set to ease traffic woes

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Oct 17: The long-awaited Beerwah Main Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag on the Magam-Beerwah Road is ready for inauguration, offering hope of relief to commuters affected by recurring traffic disruptions following the closure of the existing bridge.

The new bridge is expected to improve connectivity through Beerwah town, ease congestion and facilitate smoother movement of traffic, including emergency services.

According to project details, the bridge has been constructed by the Public Works Department (R&B), Beerwah Division, under NABARD at an estimated cost of ₹79,965 crore.

Sources said that after final testing, the bridge is likely to be inaugurated next week by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Meanwhile, reconstruction of the footbridge in Chadoora, damaged in the devastating 2014 floods, is underway. Officials said the work is expected to be completed within the next two months, with the bridge



likely to be opened to the public in December.

Work on the Chadoora Main Bridge over Nallah Doodganga is also progressing. MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar recently inspected both bridges during a day-long tour of the constituency and reviewed the progress with officials.

The completion of the Beerwah bridge and
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

GMCH Jammu operationalises flow cytometry, IHC services

Jahangeer Ganaiee

Jammu, Oct 17: Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu has introduced and operationalised specialised diagnostic services in Flow Cytometry and Immunohistochemistry (IHC), aimed at improving the accuracy of cancer diagnosis and supporting timely, targeted treatment for patients across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative is expected to enhance the institution's diagnostic capabilities by enabling precise classification of different types of malignancies, identifying specific tumour markers and supporting clinicians in determining appropriate treatment strategies. The availability of these specialised investigations will also strengthen the region's capacity to provide advanced diagnostic services and reduce dependence on facilities outside Jammu and Kashmir for such tests.

The initiative has been undertaken through collaborative efforts involving Government Medical College Jammu, the State Cancer Institute (SCI), Jammu, and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBCHRC), New Chandigarh, under the aegis of the Association of Academic and Clinical Pathologists (AAPC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists (IAPM).

To mark the advancement and strengthen professional expertise in these specialised diagnostic techniques, GMC Jammu organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme-cum-workshop titled "Transforming Diagnosis with Immunohistochemistry and Flow Cytometry" on October 17.

The scientific programme focused on the theme "Diagnostic Pathology in the Era of



Precision Medicine: The Evolving Role of Immunohistochemistry and Flow Cytometry," bringing together experts, pathologists, clinicians and laboratory professionals to discuss recent developments in diagnostic pathology and their role in improving cancer care.

The initiative was undertaken under the guidance of Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dean and Principal, GMC Jammu, and Dr Ashish Gulia, Director-Principal, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, New Chandigarh.

The programme aimed to strengthen institutional capacity, facilitate exchange of

scientific knowledge and equip healthcare professionals with the technical expertise required to establish and maintain reliable advanced diagnostic services.

Flow Cytometry and Immunohistochemistry have emerged as important tools in modern cancer diagnosis. IHC uses specific antibodies to detect proteins and other markers in tissue samples, helping pathologists distinguish between tumours that may appear similar under a microscope, establish the likely origin of cancer and assess biomarkers that can influence treatment decisions.

It is particularly important in the diagnosis and classification of several solid tumours and lymphomas and can help identify biomarkers that guide the use of targeted therapies and certain forms of immunotherapy.

Flow Cytometry analyses the characteristics of individual cells by detecting specific markers on or within them. It plays a crucial role in diagnosing and classifying blood cancers and other haematolymphoid malignancies, particularly leukaemias and certain lymphomas.

By examining the immunophenotypic characteristics of cells, the technique helps clinicians and pathologists distinguish between different disease types and obtain information essential for diagnosis and treatment planning. The integration of these technologies with conventional histopathological examination and, where indicated, molecular testing can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the disease.

Medical experts said that accurate classification is essential because different cancers, including malignancies affecting the blood and lymphatic system, may require substantially different treatment approaches. The operationalisation of these services at GMC Jammu is therefore expected to strengthen the diagnostic infrastructure available to patients and support the gradual expansion of precision medicine in the region.

The CME-cum-workshop featured expert lectures, interactive discussions and case-based learning sessions delivered by specialists from HBCHRC, New Chandigarh, and GMC Jammu.

An interactive panel discussion on

integrated oncology highlighted the importance of collaboration between pathologists, medical oncologists, surgeons and other specialists in delivering comprehensive cancer care, and the need to integrate findings from histopathology, immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry and molecular diagnostics to arrive at an accurate diagnosis and develop appropriate treatment plans.

A major component of the programme was parallel hands-on workshops aimed at improving the technical skills of laboratory personnel and healthcare professionals involved in advanced cancer diagnostics. The immunohistochemistry workshop was conducted in the Department of Pathology at GMC Jammu, while the flow cytometry workshop was organised at the State Cancer Institute, Jammu. The sessions familiarised participants with essential laboratory workflows, technical requirements, operational procedures and quality assurance practices.

Dr Jyotsna Suri, Organising Secretary and Professor in the Department of Pathology at GMC Jammu, highlighted the significance of strengthening IHC and flow cytometry services as part of the institution's efforts to modernise diagnostic pathology. She emphasised that advanced diagnostic technologies, supported by trained personnel and multidisciplinary collaboration, are essential for improving the accuracy of cancer diagnosis and facilitating individualised treatment decisions.

The programme witnessed participation from senior faculty members, clinicians, medical administrators, residents and students from GMC Jammu and its associated hospitals—(KNO)

Festival Dairy Products Demand Peaks; Calls Grow For Adulteration Crackdown

With the onset of Navratris, the demand for milk, paneer, desi ghee and sweets increases manifold for two months. Taking advantage of this demand, unscrupulous elements get lured into milk adulteration with an intention to earn easy bucks—and the probability of adulterated milk and milk products reaching Jammu from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh increases manifold. Here comes the job of J&KFDA and the JMC.

Anuj Kumar Verma

With the onset of Navratris, the festival season starts in Jammu, and the demand for milk, paneer, desi ghee, and sweets increases manifold for the next two months. A major chunk of the Kashmiri population also shifts to Jammu during the four months of the winter season starting from November. Taking advantage of the increased demand for milk, paneer, desi ghee, khoya, and sweets during these months, unscrupulous elements get lured into indulging in milk adulteration with the intention of earning easy money. Even the probability of adulterated milk and milk products reaching Jammu from states like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh in heavy milk supplies increases manifold. Here comes the job of J&KFDA and the JMC to launch a massive crackdown on such dairies and milk suppliers selling adulterated milk and milk products, as well as checking each consignment of milk and milk products crossing Lakhanpur borders, with full record of traceability and destination.

J&K produced about 29.73 lakh metric tonnes of milk in 2024–25, up from 28.74 lakh MT in 2023–24 and 28.17 lakh MT in 2022–23. Yet the government has acknowledged a demand–supply gap, setting a target of raising production to 43 lakh tonnes by 2030. Until then, the Union Territory has no other option but to continue to depend on milk, paneer, cheese, khoya, ghee, and milk powder sourced largely from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and other states.

That dependence is not inherently unsafe. The concern is whether every consignment entering J&K—particularly during the festival rush—can be traced from source to retail counter, sampled where necessary, and tested quickly enough to keep unsafe stock out of the market. The milk adulteration in North Indian states is an organised crime syndicate. There have been instances when authorities found small factories manufacturing adulterated milk using harmful ingredients like urea, detergent powder, starch, animal fats, glucose, neutralisers, and other non-milk substances. To much surprise, these organised syndicates make huge supplies of such fake milk and adulterated cheese in the markets, under the nose of enforcement agencies. Reports come from these states where adulterated or fake cheese is supplied in the market at around 200 per kg, and local authorities have failed to check such supplies. Only in a few instances have authorities been able to seal such factories and arrest the



culprits. In the absence of strict penalties in the FSSAI framework—such as rigorous imprisonment for two to ten years, imposition of huge fines, and sealing of property in the name of the culprits—milk adulteration with harmful ingredients becomes a very alluring business for criminal-minded persons.

In October 2026, Maharashtra's FDA identified 37 accused in an alleged milk-adulteration network and arrested and charge-sheeted 25; laboratory tests reportedly found detergent and industrial chemicals in milk samples. In the same month, food-safety officials in Etah, Uttar Pradesh, raided a dairy and seized about 10 quintals of suspected adulterated paneer, one quintal of ghee, cream, soybean, skimmed-milk powder, and edible oils.

For J&K, Lakhanpur is a critical surveillance point. There are apprehensions that dairy consignments linked to adulteration networks elsewhere may enter the Union Territory during the festival season. That concern demands a factual response:

consignment-level records, sampling at entry points, and rapid laboratory testing.

The FDA and the JMC Health Officer must maintain strict, year-round vigil over all milk dairies, collection centres, chilling units, processed milk plants, paneer and khoya units, sweet manufacturers, and ghee processors operating within J&K. During the festival season, inspections should be frequent, unannounced, and risk-based. Food Safety Officers should conduct surprise checks at dairy premises, verify procurement and sales records, inspect hygiene and cold-chain conditions, and lift samples of raw milk, processed milk, paneer, cheese, khoya, ghee, and sweets without prior notice. The objective must be deterrent enforcement. Dairy owners and processed milk unit operators should know that adulteration, dilution, use of non-milk fats or solids, poor hygiene, and false labelling will invite immediate sampling, laboratory testing, seizure, prosecution, and public disclosure.

In August 2025, enforcement teams in the Jammu division seized 440 quintals of

substandard rasgulla and 8.2 quintals of paneer found unfit for human consumption. In September 2026, police in Jammu seized 20 bags of suspected adulterated paneer from a bus.

The ghee record is particularly troubling. In August 2026, the J&K FDA prohibited the sale, storage, distribution, and display of 10 specified batches of ghee after laboratory testing found quality violations, including indicators of foreign vegetable fat. The affected batches were sold under names including Dairy Mohan, Apna Dairy Milk, Milk Bite, Nandni, Shahi Taj, Daawat Fresh, Nand Krishna, Vandu, Dairy Milk, and Mohan Dairy. Weeks later, the FDA prohibited four more affected ghee batches—Milk Bite, Pehalwan, Swift, and Sangath—after tests indicated vegetable or foreign fat. Repeated detection of foreign fat in ghee marketed as pure desi ghee is a serious warning about weaknesses in the dairy chain.

The FDA's 2025 record shows activity but also a transparency gap. During a dedicated ghee drive in late 2025, officials seized

80.78 kg of stock; of 41 samples tested, 12 failed quality standards, leading to prohibition orders against manufacturers. The FDA also reported more than 13,000 inspections during 2025. Yet the public still lacks a consolidated, district-wise account of milk, paneer, cheese, khoya, ghee, and sweet samples lifted during October, November, and December 2025—the core festival months. Consumers do not know how many samples were tested, how many failed, how many cases were filed, which firms or shop owners were prosecuted, or what penalties and convictions followed.

The FDA should publicise this information for October to December 2025 and the current festival period, through newspapers and other media, regularly: total samples lifted, failed samples, cases registered, names of major violators, and the status of prosecutions, seizures, fines, and convictions. Enforcement that disappears from public view allows unsafe supply chains to return quietly in the next season.

Repeated exposure to urea, detergents, unsafe dyes, and chemical preservatives can burden the kidneys and liver, disturb digestion, and contribute to long-term organ stress. Adulterated ghee, often based on vegetable or animal fats, can worsen lipid profiles and increase stress on the liver and kidneys.

The FDA should treat dairy safety as a continuous public-health system rather than a seasonal drive. It must maintain a register of every milk and milk-product consignment entering J&K, recording the supplier, transporter, vehicle number, origin, invoice, batch number, quantity, destination, sample lifted, and laboratory result. At Lakhanpur and other transit points, samples of high-risk products—loose milk, paneer, cheese, khoya, ghee, and sweets—should be lifted routinely, with rapid testing so suspect stock does not remain in circulation while reports are awaited. Milk-powder consignments require equal scrutiny: importer, brand, batch, FSSAI licence, invoice, intended use, and laboratory result should be verifiable.

During a festival season built around milk, sweets, and ghee, J&K's food-safety machinery must demonstrate that traceability, surprise enforcement, and accountability are stronger than the profit motive of those who adulterate.

The writer is an Environmental Advocate, Policy Writer, and Convenor of 'We The Humans Forum for Nature and Mankind', a public charitable trust. He can be reached at verma.anujik@gmail.com

‘The Forces’ Is The Most Important Psychology Book Of 2027

This book lets an entire generation know that they are not alone

Ira Israel

“The Forces” by Laura Vazquez is a French novel that will be published in English next year. But it's not really a novel or even a book: it's a combination of a musical score and script for a five-part opera about existential psychology. Like “Finnegans Wake,” it is meant to be heard. And watching Ms. Vazquez's readings of “Les Forces” on YouTube is like watching Gustavo Dudamel conduct Mahler: both Dudamel and Vazquez hear, see, and feel the world differently from you and me.

Ms. Vazquez is a fragile soul who sees through the veil of “normal” to reveal the organized madness of mundane existence more vividly than any Western philosopher. There are parts influenced by Wittgenstein's aphorisms, and yet, they are sung. Imagine Charli XCX singing “The Tractatus.” This book is going to flabbergast a generation of readers the way “Generation X” and “Infinite Jest” rocked my generation. The diction and descriptions made me laugh and cry alternately throughout.

For example, on page 2, the young narrator says, “I live in an apartment that is in a building that is in a city that is in a country, and I am not looking for trouble. If you saw me, you wouldn't notice me, because I'm not deformed or smelly and I don't raise my fists in the air while screaming in the streets, I haven't stabbed anyone, I am polite, I stand up straight. My parents are normal people and they brought me up properly.” (my translation)

“Neti neti” in Sanskrit translates to “Not this, not that.” Artificial Intelligence calls it “contrast,” often first describing something in the negative, by what it is not. The narrator spends much of the book bathing the reader's mind in the incomprehensibility of every convention in florid language that's akin to a monkey wrench in our cognitive engine.

In my psychotherapy practice, Gen Z patients arrive overwhelmed by the world that Ms. Vazquez animates. They are intelligent, terrified, lonely, curious, furious, and suspicious that they have gotten the short end of humanity's stick. They were told to create a verisimilitude of their true selves that is marketable, collect credentials, demonstrate financial viability, work 24 hours per day in order to remain competitive, and then... maybe with a sprinkling of good luck and having chosen the right parents... the elusive goal of “happiness” will befall them.

Alas, they have done everything right, but who has time to be happy when reality is disintegrating all around them and their days as apex predators are numbered? They feel alienated, physically at risk by man-made (previously named “natural”) disasters, financially endangered, and unable to tell whether their anxiety and depression are a chemical imbalance, personal pathology, massive failure, unaligned chakras, childhood trauma, mood disorder, blistering disease, result of a borderline mother or narcissistic father, or a rational response to the society they were thrown into through no fault of their own.

“The Forces” will let them know that they are not alone.

Gen Z asks questions such as “What is a self when so much of it has been downloaded from family, social media, status anxiety, advertising, and trauma? What is real desire when every platform profits from manufacturing lack? What is a meaningful life when adulthood means joining a belief system that is bankrupt in every way?”

Previous generations relied on philosophers from Hegel to Heidegger to answer these questions, but many of these thinkers now seem both confused and confusing. Ms. Vazquez's narrator shares the perspective of an alien anthropologist sent to Earth to report on human customs and rituals. Her primary insight is radical yet easily digested: reality is what we have narrated into normality.

“The Forces” proceeds in five “chants”: “Everyone Lies,” “Mystery and Truth,” “The House of the Dead,” “The Various United Sects,” and “The Earth Is Good.” The structure resembles a Bildungsroman, but for me, I see the perfect arc of the construction of a self, then its deconstruction, culminating in a rebirth.

In the first chant, the narrator perceives the discrepancy between authenticity and facades. She sees adults agreeing with consensus, reciting judgments about taste, and treating social compliance as reality itself. Pierre Bourdieu called this habitus; Jacques Lacan called it the Big Other. Vazquez allows us to experience it through the eyes of a child—a child who decries inauthenticity.

The second chant is set in a bar and introduces Claudie, who compels the narrator to confront the danger faced by every critic of conformity: the fantasy that these forces are escapable. The narrator sees other people as possessed by collective language, but as Jacques Derrida said: when you look up a word in a dictionary, all you find is other words.

The third chant is “The House of the Dead,” where the narrator encounters people addicted to substances, patterns, and—most memorably—sentences. This is a brilliant image for the ways people become addicted to their own rationalizations. As I tell my patients who accuse partners of acting irrationally, “Everything Adolf Hitler did was perfectly rational. To Adolf Hitler.” Addiction offers relief from the unbearable weight of reality, but that relief turns into a prison itself.

The fourth chant is called “The Various United Sects,” and the narrator enters a building filled with sects, each floor representing a more absurd dictum. Vazquez understands that secular people worship the gods of productivity, the therapeutic industrial complex, money, romance, politics, or the promise of technological salvation. We all live inside stories so pervasive that we mistake them for the world—that there is no alternative to capitalism, that adulthood means constant optimization, that desire is fulfilled through constant consumption, that social media is connection, and that self-worth depends on attaining someone else's definition of “success.” The narrator's

journey through the building of sects is a tour through the absurd beliefs that organize ordinary life.

The final chant, “The Earth Is Good,” gives the book its hard-won affirmative power. After the mall, bar, addicts, and sects, and the narrator enters nature. She finds meaning in mud, birds, and the strange grace of an environment before it is processed into words, brands, résumés, slogans, and propaganda. The narrator does not solve the world's cruelty, abolish capitalism, cure loneliness, or transcend death. She discovers something more modest and perhaps more psychologically credible: creative expression, intimate attention, and reintegration with Gaia.

Gen Z does not find much solace in traditional existential psychology. They need a scintillating, vivacious, and enthralling opera that unveils the “forces” that have caused them to try to be well-adjusted to a sick society. “The Forces” performs that exegesis, exposing normality as insanity, and offering a poetically beautiful and peaceful path out of the Matrix. That is why this extraordinary novel/script/score/performance/poem will be the most important psychology book of 2027.

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Ira Israel, LMFT, is a therapist and author. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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

Share technical inputs for evidence-based groundwater planning: ACS Shaleen Kabra Pushes for data-driven groundwater management in J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17: Underscoring the importance of scientific assessment and coordinated action for safeguarding Jammu & Kashmir's groundwater resources, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, Saturday chaired a Union Territory-level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting to review the assessment of groundwater resources across J&K under the Groundwater Resource Assessment (GWRA-2026).

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination, streamlining data sharing and leveraging scientific expertise to ensure reliable assessment, informed planning and sustainable management of this vital natural resource.

Emphasising the need to translate scientific knowledge into actionable interventions, the Additional Chief Secretary, JSD, Shaleen Kabra directed CGWB to share its technical reports, scientific publications and relevant resource documents with the concerned UT departments.

This, he termed, will facilitate informed planning and decision-making, strengthen groundwater conservation measures and enable departments to formulate interventions based on reliable scientific evidence.

The ACS while highlighting the significance of the exercise also called for close collaboration among all stakeholder departments and agencies to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources and strengthen water security



across Jammu & Kashmir.

He underscored the need for a well-coordinated, data-driven and science-based approach to groundwater management, with due emphasis on conservation, efficient utilisation and the long-term protection of available resources.

Earlier, Dr. M. Sivakumar, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) outlined the agenda, highlighting the importance of scientific groundwater assessment, coordinated data sharing and institutional collaboration for effective groundwater resource management.

On this occasion Dr. Owais Ahmad, Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, emphasised the need for harmonisation of data between CGWB and the concerned UT departments to ensure consistency, reliability and accuracy in the assessment process.

During the meeting, Pir Rayees Ahmad, Senior Scientist, CGWB, made a detailed presentation on the Board's ongoing activities in Jammu & Kashmir, covering groundwater resource assessment, aquifer mapping, groundwater management studies and other related technical interventions.

The presentation highlighted CGWB's role in providing scientific inputs, technical guidance and expert recommendations to support the UT Government in assessing groundwater resources, characterising aquifers and formulating sustainable groundwater management strategies for the times to come.

Various issues concerning groundwater management were discussed during the meeting, with CGWB officers offering technical recommendations and suitable management measures for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of groundwater.

Detailed deliberations were held on the methodology and analytical framework for GWRA-2026, inter-departmental data sharing and the implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM).

The committee reviewed the proposed assessment of dynamic groundwater resources across 149 assessment units in Jammu & Kashmir, emphasising the need for timely, accurate and reliable data on groundwater recharge, extraction and associated water conservation structures.

The members stressed the importance of coordinated

efforts among all concerned departments, backed by CGWB's scientific expertise, to ensure a robust and credible assessment of groundwater availability and utilisation across the Union Territory.

The exercise is expected to provide an important scientific basis for identifying groundwater management priorities and supporting evidence-based interventions for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of this precious resource.

The meeting also reviewed the findings of aquifer management studies undertaken by CGWB in Anantnag, Rajouri and the Jammu Urban Agglomeration. These studies offer valuable scientific insights for identifying area-specific groundwater management challenges, strengthening conservation measures and developing targeted strategies for sustainable groundwater utilisation.

Concluding the Regional Director, CGWB also responded to queries raised by the committee members and assured the concerned departments of continued technical support and scientific assistance from the Board throughout the assessment and management process to culminate it successfully across the length and breadth of J&K.

Civil Defence Volunteers training programme begins in Pulwama

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 17: A three-day Civil Defence Volunteers Training Programme commenced Saturday at Circuit House, Pulwama, with the objective of enhancing the preparedness, skills and response capabilities of Civil Defence volunteers for effective assistance during disasters and other emergencies.

The programme, as per an official statement, is being organised by Headquarters 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Pulwama, and is being conducted from October 17 to 19, 2026. ADC/CEO, DDMA Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Mohd Ashraf inaugurated the programme and appreciated the initiative aimed at strengthening community-level emergency preparedness.

He stressed that effective disaster response depends on trained personnel, timely action and close coordination among the administration, emergency services and community volunteers. He also highlighted the important role Civil Defence volunteers can play in assisting authorities, supporting evacuation and extending immediate assistance to affected communities during emergencies.

Under the programme, Headquarters 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles is facilitating and conducting the training and practical demonstrations, while DDMA Pulwama is coordinating the participation of Civil Defence volunteers and contributing through its disaster-management expertise and resource persons.

The training covers key aspects of Civil Defence, emergency response, search and rescue, evacuation procedures, safety measures, and the roles



and responsibilities of volunteers during disaster situations.

As part of the practical component, personnel of 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles conducted demonstrations and hands-on training for the participants. Volunteers were familiarised with emergency-response equipment, rescue techniques and procedures relevant to different emergency scenarios.

Specialised sessions are also being conducted by trainers and personnel from SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, Police Department and DDMA Pulwama, providing participants with practical and operational knowledge relating to disaster management and emergency response.

The sessions also focused on how Civil Defence volunteers can effectively support the administration and specialised agencies at the community level.

A specialised awareness session by a representative of 44 Rashtriya Rifles focused on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) hazards and hazardous environments. The session covered the classification of chemical agents, associated symptoms and indicators, preventive and protective measures, and immediate protective actions in the event of exposure.

The session also covered biological warfare awareness and

protective measures, with emphasis on recognising potential hazards, adopting immediate protective action and following established safety protocols.

A search-and-rescue training video was also screened to familiarise participants with rescue operations, evacuation procedures and coordinated action during emergencies and high-risk situations.

The three-day programme is aimed at developing a pool of trained, disciplined and responsive Civil Defence volunteers capable of providing timely assistance to the administration and specialised emergency-response agencies when required. The volunteers will be provided participation certificates after the culmination of the training programme. The programme carries the message of "Preparedness Saturday, Resilience Tomorrow," underlining the importance of building practical response capabilities before an emergency occurs.

The programme was attended by Colonel Rohit Kumar Singh of 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Major D.S. Rana of 55 Rashtriya Rifles, Malangpora, besides officers and personnel from the Police Department, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, DDMA Pulwama and other participating agencies.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Special Lok Adalat on NI Act Cases



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 17: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act) cases Saturday across District Ganderbal.

The Special Lok Adalat was held under the guidance and supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal.

Two benches, as per an official statement, were constituted for the amicable settlement of cases. The first bench was presided over by Mahoor, Munsiff/JMIC, Ganderbal, with Adv. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, as a member. The second bench was presided over by Moonis Wahid, Munsiff/JMIC, Kangan,

with Advocate Tariq Ahmed Raina, Panel Lawyer, Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Kangan, as a member.

The first bench heard cases at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, while the second bench conducted proceedings at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan.

Several NI Act cases were taken up during the Special Lok Adalat, and cases were amicably settled through the process of mutual agreement between the parties, resulting in the settlement of disputes and facilitating speedy justice.

The Special Lok Adalat aimed to provide an effective platform for the amicable resolution of disputes, reduce the pendency of cases, and promote accessible and expeditious justice. The initiative reflects the continued commitment of DLSA Ganderbal towards strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and ensuring the delivery of justice to all.

KVK Bandipora-1 organises technology demonstration on Brown Sarson at Kootasatrie NICRA village

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 17: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), organised a Technology Demonstration on Brown Sarson at Kootasatrie, a NICRA village, to promote improved agricultural practices and strengthen climate-resilient farming among local farmers.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to sensitise farmers, particularly women farmers, about improved brown sarson production practices and the importance of adopting suitable agricultural technologies to enhance crop productivity and farm income. During the programme, quality brown sarson seed was distributed among farmers to encourage the adoption of improved varieties and strengthen local oilseed cultivation.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan highlighted the importance of technology demonstrations, improved crop management practices and the



adoption of climate-resilient agricultural technologies under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) initiative.

On the occasion, Scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, shared technical guidance on brown sarson cultivation

and improved crop production practices to help farmers achieve better productivity.

The programme witnessed the participation of local farmers and farm women, who received technical guidance and quality brown sarson seed.

DLSA Srinagar settles 46 Cases at Special Lok Adalat

Awards Rs 1.07 Crore in compensation



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 17: In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for NI Act Cases (U/S 138) and MACT Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches, as per an official statement, were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was

presided over by Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, Presiding Officer MACT Court Srinagar, and Kamiya Singh Andotra, Special Mobile Magistrate/Railway Magistrate, Srinagar as member. The 2nd bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, and Vikas Bhardwaj, 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member.

A total of 82 Cases were taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 46 Cases were settled.

An amount of Rs 1,07,77,500 was awarded as settlement amount in all these cases including award of Rs 78,20,000 in 27 MACT Cases.

DC Samba convenes Block Diwas in Ramgarh

KT News Desk

SAMBA, OCTOBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Samba Dr. Rupesh Kumar Saturday convened a Block Diwas meeting at Community Hall, Chani Fatwal in Block Ramgarh to review development issues and address public grievances.

A large number of locals, public representatives and officers from line departments participated in the programme. During the interaction, residents raised several issues and demands pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power, healthcare, education and civic amenities.

The public representatives and residents of Ramgarh demanded installation of solar street lights, strengthening of healthcare facilities at the

Primary Health Centre (PHC), construction of a volleyball court, installation of CCTV cameras, opening of a library, provision of community banking facilities and introduction of an e-bus transport service.

The residents also demanded regular drinking water supply, rationalisation of power supply and early completion of projects being executed by the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Public Works Department (PWD).

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the grievances and demands raised by the public and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for the prompt redressal of the same. He directed the PMGSY authorities to put in extra efforts for proper

maintenance and renovation of roads and install night reflectors at vulnerable and accident-prone locations to enhance road safety.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of ongoing development works being executed by the PWD and PMGSY. He instructed the concerned officers to obtain all requisite approvals and expedite the execution of pending works. Emphasising the need for timely completion, he directed the executing agencies to ensure that the roads are made motorable at the earliest for the convenience of the public.

He further directed the officials of the Medical Department to ensure the availability of basic facilities at the Primary Health Centre to strengthen healthcare

services and improve access to medical care for residents of the area.

Emphasising responsive governance and efficient public service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the timely resolution of public grievances and effective implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Executive Engineers of PMGSY, PWD and JPDCL, besides other district and sectoral officers, were present on the occasion.

DC reviews traffic management system in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, Saturday convened a meeting with officers of the concerned departments to review traffic management issues in Udhampur town and discuss measures to ensure smooth traffic flow and ease congestion.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, ARTO Mudassar Iqbal and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on key traffic-related issues, including the proposed one-way traffic movement from Slatia Chowk to Gole Market, relocation of vehicle halting time, entry of goods vehicles, streamlining of bus operations for

Ramnagar and adjoining areas, identification of suitable land for parking accidental and abandoned vehicles, creation of temporary parking spaces and improvement of overall traffic management.

The DC directed the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council to ensure proper marking of designated parking spaces across the town and arrange for garbage lifting early in the morning to prevent inconvenience to commuters and the general public. He stressed the need for effective enforcement measures to decongest roads, prevent traffic violations and ensure the smooth movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The ARTO and traffic police were directed to identify designated stopping points for vehicles to ensure orderly movement and prevent unnecessary halting on busy roads.

DCPO Bandipora reviews functioning of Child Protection Services

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, October 17: District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad Malik, Saturday reviewed the functioning of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Helpline and Child Help Desk in the district. The review, as per an official statement, focused on assessing the functioning of these units and strengthening mechanisms for ensuring the safety, protection and welfare of children. Emphasis was laid on the effective implementation of child protection initiatives, timely assistance to children in need of care and protection, and improved coordination among the concerned institutions.

The DCPO stressed the need for ensuring efficient delivery of child protection services and providing appropriate support to vulnerable children in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. He also underscored the importance of strengthening institutional mechanisms and adopting a coordinated approach to address issues related to child welfare and protection.

Sakeen Itoo lays foundation for Rs 10.44 cr Banihal school building, announces 10 smart classrooms

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Masood Itoo on Saturday laid the foundation stone forGovernment Model Higher Secondary School (Boys), Banihal building, to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10.44 crore. The project is being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department, Banihal Division.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, Director School Education Jammu Dr Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director Health Services Jammu Dr Poonam Sethi, Joint Director Education Doda Mohammad Ashfaq, SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, Executive Engineers and other senior officers.

Addressing a public gathering on the occasion, the Minister said the Government is committed to strengthen the educational infrastructure, expanding access to higher education and improving healthcare services, particularly in remote and rural areas.

Responding to developmental issues raised by the MLA, Sakeena Itoo assured that several initiatives will be taken



in the education and health sectors in Banihal. She said the Government is taking necessary measures to fulfil the long-pending demand for a University Campus at Banihal to facilitate students of the hilly district, especially girls, in pursuing higher education closer to home.

The Minister announced 10 additional Smart Classrooms for the Banihal constituency, supplementing the existing network of 76 Smart Classrooms and 104 ICT Labs. Highlighting the scale of educational infrastructure development, she informed that 543 developmental works have been executed or taken up in

the district, including 113 additional classrooms, 34 computer labs, 112 girls toilet units, 33 libraries, 18 science laboratories, 18 resource rooms and 58 solar power units.

On demands for Degree Colleges and a Nursing College in Banihal, the Minister assured that the request for development of Degree Colleges would be considered while establishment of a Nursing College would be pursued subject to availability and finalisation of suitable land.

Emphasising the importance of adequate teaching staff, she said 526 lecturers have been recruited and posted against 727 referred posts. She added

that measures are also being taken to fill vacancies of Principals, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and Chief Education Officers (CEOs).

In a major boost to healthcare services, the Minister announced that administrative approval has been accorded for installation of a high-end CT Scan machine at Community Health Centre (CHC) Banihal and tendering proceedings are being expedited.

She said establishment and upgradation of hospitals at Ramsoo and other areas along NH-44, including the Trauma Hospital, is on top priority of the Omar Abdullah-led Government to ensure a fully functional emergency healthcare centre equipped with adequate medical and surgical staff. The upgradation aims to strengthen emergency response along National Highway-44 and ensure timely treatment of accident victims during the crucial golden hour.

On shortage of medical personnel in far-flung areas, she assured that priority will be given to remote health institutions and dispensaries while making postings from the newly cleared panel of 400 Medical Officers.

On the occasion, the Minister handed over appointment

orders to 10 newly appointed Anganwadi Workers of Block Banihal.

Later, the Minister visited Community Health Centre Banihal and inspected the emergency unit, inpatient wards, dialysis centre and diagnostic facilities. She interacted with admitted patients, enquired about their treatment and availability of free medicines and reviewed functioning of various healthcare services. She directed the hospital management to ensure round-the-clock medical response, adequate availability of essential medicines and patient-friendly delivery.

Interacting with the media persons, the Minister highlighted achievements of the Government in the last two years with focus on strengthening public education and healthcare institutions while addressing key developmental priorities.

Earlier, MLA Banihal thanked the Minister for liberal funding to Banihal constituency in all sectors, including Rs 30.60 crore under UT Capex budget, of which, Rs 10.44 crore are for the Government Model Higher Secondary School (Boys) Banihal and other key works in education, health and road connectivity.

17 dead, 25 others injured in Kolkata puja pandal stampede



PTI

Kolkata, Oct 17: At least 17 people died and 25 others were injured in a stampede-like situation at a Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata on Saturday evening, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said.

One of the injured was in a critical condition, he said.

"Seventeen people were brought dead to a hospital, while 25 others were injured," said Adhikari, who rushed to the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital after the incident.

He said an announcement by the organisers of the community Durga Puja at Chorbagan off Chittaranjan Avenue in north Kolkata led to a rush among the revellers, causing the "painful incident".

As it started raining, the crowd waiting outside the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal

rushed forward, and some of them fell on the road, leading to the stampede, a police officer said.

Adhikari and Chief Secretary Manoj Agarwal visited the state-run hospital where the injured were taken, he said.

Health Minister Saradwat Mukherjee and senior officials also rushed to the hospital.

Disaster management personnel have been deployed at the site, the officer said.

Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said she was deeply shocked about the stampede-like situation at Chorbagan puja pandal.

"Deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the stampede at the Chorbagan puja pandal. I pray to Maa Durga for the speedy recovery of all those injured and for strength and courage for their families during this difficult time," she said.

Div Com Jammu reviews progress on conferment of ownership rights to DPs, WPRs

Directs DCs to review rejections, intensify outreach to eligible beneficiaries

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 17: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the progress on the conferment of ownership rights to Displaced Persons (DPs) and West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) under the relevant Government Orders, including Government Orders No. 100, 101 and 105.

During detailed deliberations, the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division apprised the chair of the district-wise progress in the receipt, scrutiny, approval and disposal of claims, besides highlighting issues requiring intervention for expeditious processing of cases.

Emphasising time-bound disposal of claims, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to expedite verification of pending cases and strengthen coordination among district administrations, SDMs, tehsil offices and the Custodian Department. He stressed that eligible beneficiaries should not face unnecessary



delays in securing their rightful ownership claims.

The Divisional Commissioner called for a thorough review of rejected cases and directed officers to examine the grounds of rejection on merit, ensuring that every decision is supported

by proper justification. He emphasised that eligible claims must be dealt with fairly and transparently and called for the involvement of senior revenue officers wherever required to review such cases.

He also underscored the need

to intensify outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are informed about the scheme and encouraged to submit their claims. Deputy Commissioners were directed to organise awareness camps, undertake field visits, contact beneficiaries individually

and coordinate with relevant organisations to facilitate the submission of applications and requisite documents.

Reviewing cases referred to the Custodian Department, the Divisional Commissioner directed the officers concerned to promptly address observations and deficiencies and resubmit the cases without delay. He also stressed the need to deploy additional staff, including Patwaris and other revenue functionaries, wherever necessary to accelerate verification and processing.

The meeting also deliberated on procedural issues concerning documentation required to establish land allotment

and possession under the relevant Government Orders. The Divisional Commissioner said that the matter would be taken up with the competent authorities for necessary clarification.

Directing all districts to adhere to prescribed timelines, the Div Com called for accelerated progress during October and measurable improvement before the next review meeting.

Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch, along with Additional Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers, attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir faces

Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) had recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and 1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

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

Previously, this news agency reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of 14 percent during the solar peak hours in the month of October.

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

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

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

Adopt ‘SMART

implementation across Kashmir Zone, with emphasis on tech-driven service delivery, beat-level engagement and accountability.

The IGP said that Kashmir Zone Police remains committed to a modern, responsive and future-ready policing system. (KNO)

671 kanals transferred

opportunities for the youth, while further strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem.

CIPET centre

for the formal allotment of the ITI Zainakote premises to CIPET. However, there was no response from the J&K Government.

On January 12, 2021, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals requested an alternate site in Jammu based on industry feedback. It sought 10 acres of land near IIT Jammu since no progress was being made with respect to the proposed site at Srinagar.

Subsequently, the J&K administration proposed land at the Jagti site, but no further communication was received by the Department regarding it.

The purpose of establishing CIPET learning centre is to train local youth in petrochemicals, plastics, and polymer science, helping them gain skills for jobs in related industries. (KNO)

PDD announces

feeders under the jurisdiction of KPDCL. "In previous LCP there were only 129 feeders

with round the clock power facility but under the new LCP, 85 new feeders have been added for 24x7 electricity supply because they have AT&C losses of less than 20 percent."

Pertinently, PDD in the month of January this year has directed the JPDCL and KPDCL to initiate strict actions including deducting up to 50 percent of salary against the officials of divisions and feeders where Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses exceed 40 percent.

Besides, the department had issued the revised Load Curtailment Plan (LCP) with extra hours of power shedding to the areas having AT&C losses of more than 40 percent and between 15 percent and 40 percent respectively.

PDD in an official communique had said that the measures are been taken in order to improve billing efficiency, collection efficiency and to reduce AT&C losses. (KNO)

AIIMS Awantipora

years, with its early operationalisation considered crucial for reducing the burden on existing government hospitals and easing difficulties faced by patients who travel to Srinagar and other places for specialised treatment.

The latest review was conducted by District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, who chaired a meeting to assess construction status, pending works, statutory approvals and preparedness for operationalising different facilities at the campus.

According to details shared during the meeting, AIIMS Awantipora has achieved around 81 per cent overall physical progress, while financial progress stands at approximately 72.59 per cent. The meeting was informed that the revised master plan and associated changes had been approved, while a detailed presentation was made on the phase-wise construction schedule, infrastructure, statutory clearances and other essential components required for the institution's functioning.

The DDC said that operationalisation should be treated as a priority, particularly in view of the healthcare needs of the people and the approaching winter season.

Reviewing Phase-I works, officials informed the meeting that Hospital Block-1 had achieved 100 per cent progress, while Hospital Block-2 was around 99 per cent complete. The DDC directed the executing agency to address all outstanding issues on priority, with instructions to make the OPD functional by the end of October wherever feasible.

The meeting also reviewed Phase-II, which includes academic, administrative and hostel buildings. Officials said civil works had reached an advanced stage. The executing agency was directed to complete remaining civil works within 20 days wherever technically feasible and ensure the buildings are made functional

by the end of November.

Reviewing Phase-III, the DDC directed agencies to accelerate works on components reporting 75 to 80 per cent progress, including remaining hospital blocks, academic buildings, residential quarters, hostels and external development works. The DDC also directed completion of the shopping complex and guest house at the earliest.

On statutory clearances, the DDC directed all concerned departments to provide pending No Objection Certificates before the end of October and prepare a clear action plan to secure necessary approvals without further delay.

The DDC further directed authorities to ensure that required Senior Residents and other necessary human resources are available before the OPD begins functioning, and to submit details regarding manpower availability and identify facilities ready for operationalisation.

Once fully operational, the institute is expected to strengthen access to specialised medical services and reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for consultations and treatment.

For residents of Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and other parts of south Kashmir, the institution is expected to provide a major boost to the region's healthcare infrastructure. However, its benefits will depend not only on the commencement of OPD services but also on the availability of specialists, diagnostic facilities, medical equipment and supporting infrastructure. (KNO)

No school can

the concerned Directors, the Secretary of the Education Department and the minister herself to ensure that appropriate action is initiated.

Itoo further said that a committee had been constituted to monitor such practices and keep a close watch on complaints concerning private schools. The committee would work to ensure that schools adhere to the prescribed norms and that parents are not subjected to unnecessary pressure or financial hardship.

She added that Chief Education Officers (CEOs) and Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) would be made members of the committee and entrusted with monitoring the situation at their respective levels.

The involvement of district- and zonal-level education officers, she said, would help strengthen oversight and facilitate the timely identification of violations.

The minister's remarks come amid recurring concerns among parents over the alleged practice of private schools directing them to purchase textbooks, stationery, uniforms and other educational items from selected shops, often limiting their freedom to choose vendors and compare prices.

engagement, effective coordination with the Government of India and collaboration with industry partners in translating policy priorities into tangible outcomes.

The guidance and support of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo have further reinforced the broader administrative focus on strengthening public institutions, improving service delivery and promoting initiatives that contribute to the economic empowerment of the youth. The approval represents a noteworthy outcome of co-ordinated efforts towards advancing the technical and vocational education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

With an investment of 475.41 crore, the PM-SETU initiative is expected to provide fresh momentum to the modernisation of Government ITIs, strengthen industry linkages and improve the employability of trainees across the participating districts. The initiative also represents an important step towards building a skilled workforce capable of responding to the changing demands of industry and supporting the Union Territory's economic growth.

The approval marks a major milestone for Jammu and Kashmir's skill development sector and reflects the shared commitment of the Union Territory administration and the Government of India to building a modern, industry-oriented and employment-focused vocational training ecosystem for the youth.

CM Omar thanks

Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme for upgrading key Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the initiative, the Jammu ITI Cluster, with ITI Jammu as the hub and ITIs at R.S. Pura, Nowshera, Samba and Kathua as spokes, will be upgraded with an approved investment of Rs 240 crore.

Similarly, the Srinagar ITI Cluster, with ITI Srinagar as the hub and ITIs at Ganderbal, Kangan, Budgam and Charar-i-Sharief as spokes, will be modernised with an investment of Rs 235.41 crore.

The initiative will follow a hub-and-spoke model to modernise training infrastructure, introduce contemporary courses and align curricula with evolving industry requirements and domestic and global skill demands.

The Chief Minister said the initiative would strengthen industry linkages, promote outcome-based training and equip the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with industry-ready skills, enhancing their employability and access to better livelihood opportunities.

He said the investment would help transform ITIs into modern skill development hubs, ensuring that vocational training remains responsive to changing economic needs and emerging employment opportunities.

Children have fundamental right to access internet, can't impose blanket ban on its use: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Supreme Court has declared the right to access and use the internet as a fundamental right of children and directed the Centre to create a national database for detection of sexually explicit visual content depicting minors on digital platforms and their removal.

The top court passed the order on a plea of NGO Just Rights for Children Alliance, in which it had taken note of an alarming increase in child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM) that was being circulated on social media platforms.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran, while referring to earlier decisions of the court, said that the internet is, without a doubt, the marketplace of ideas, creative expression and information, and its value is priceless, not merely in the information it holds, but in the access it affords to adults and children alike.

"In view of the foregoing, we have no hesitation in saying that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right of every individual under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Our children, irrespective of their age, enjoy the same rights, and to deny the same altogether would be as absurd as saying children below a certain age do not have a conscience worth protecting or a freedom of speech worth expressing," it said in its 137-page order passed on October 15. Senior advocate HS Phoolka represented the NGO, which



works in the field of child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and child marriage.

The court said that its observation does not mean that there should be no age-based restrictions.

"We acknowledge that some form of safeguards are necessary for the safety of our children online and the moderation of the content accessible at their fingertips," it said, adding that there could be a system that places greater emphasis on parental consent, guidance and oversight on the access to social media platforms by children along with a dedicated "child mode" for such accounts with measures proportionate to the object of ensuring their safety.

It clarified that nothing stated hereinabove would preclude the Union of India from restricting the access of children to specific categories of content or services that are inherently harmful to them, such as adult content websites, etc. The court further

said that the safety of our children and their freedom are not at odds with each other, and they were entitled to both.

"For many children, particularly in remote areas, it is often the only source of learning and information. Likewise for children with special needs, the internet is often the only place where they are able to find company in others like them," it said.

The top court said the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution has never been understood as being confined to the right to speak alone and has always been construed to include the right to know and to receive and impart information and ideas.

"The means by which measures relating to age-based restrictions are achieved are themselves an overreach. Such processes, inevitably, always require identifying and ascertaining the age of each and every user, continuous collection and

monitoring of sensitive data and an overall disproportionate risk of misuse and surveillance, the kind which finds no place within the right to privacy of our people," it said.

The bench said the experience of other jurisdictions which have deployed such restrictions is equally instructive in discerning that the efficacy of these measures remains far from established.

It said restrictions reveal that children do not cease to use the internet merely because the law prohibits them from doing so, and they continue to use the same, albeit without the knowledge of their parents or the authorities, and move to other platforms and websites that are unregulated and even more unsafe.

"Such restrictions also make children who are being enticed or threatened on the internet reluctant to report the same to parents, guardians and trusted adults out of fear of reprisal for

using the internet. This would significantly undermine the safety of our children, who are already apprehensive about confiding such incidents, even without such restrictions, and defeat the avowed object of the POCSO Act," it said.

The top court said keeping children away from social media platforms would, by no stretch of imagination, reduce incidents such as those revealed in the news report placed before the court.

"Without proper safeguards and earnest efforts by all stakeholders in the detection and removal of CSEAM, such material will continue to circulate and embolden those who seek out the same," it underscored.

Ruling out a complete ban on the internet for children, the bench said, "All that we are trying to say is that any blanket restriction on the access to the internet by children is nothing more than unproven measures of proven disproportionality. No jurisdiction has, so far, been able to demonstrate that children are any safer on account of such measures."

The bench said its efficacy is at best contested, and without question, not a substitute for the initiative and efforts required from all the stakeholders, be they the intermediaries, the law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology or the courts.

The top court issued a slew of directions to curb the "alarming rise" in sexual abuse content on social media platforms and intermediaries.

Govt caps trade margins on 137 anti-cancer drugs at 30 pc; retail prices likely to fall 70 pc



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 17: Drug pricing regulator NPPA on Saturday capped trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer formulations at 30 per cent, according to an official statement.

The move, effective November 9, is expected to slash retail prices of these critical life-saving medicines by up to 70 per cent depending on their current price structures, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers statement said.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), functioning under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, implemented the Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) mechanism under Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013, following a gazette notification issued on Saturday.

The intervention stems from recommendations by an expert committee constituted under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), comprising leading oncologists, medical specialists, hospital experts from across the country, and government officials. The committee recommended 137 drugs for margin rationalisation, and the list will be updated periodically.

The exercise builds on the

success of NPPA's 2019 pilot TMR initiative, in which trade margins on 42 anti-cancer medicines were capped at 30 per cent, leading to an MRP reduction of up to 90 per cent across 526 brands.

The measure broadens that framework to cover a significantly larger basket of cancer medicines, the statement said.

Drugmakers are mandated to publish revised price lists on their official websites and disseminate widely among retailers and hospitals.

Furthermore, retailers and hospitals must charge reduced rates from November 9 and display the revised prices in their pharmacies. Hospitals, which directly procure a substantial share of oncology medicines, are also required to prominently exhibit the new rates on their websites and will bear direct responsibility for ensuring the revised prices are implemented on the ground, it said.

Consumers can verify and check the updated drug rates through the NPPA website and the 'Pharma Sahi Daam' mobile app.

To ensure strict adherence, state drug controllers have been directed to enforce compliance across manufacturers, dealers, retailers, hospitals, and medical institutions.

Amit Shah congratulates NCB



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said a major milestone has been achieved with the busting of two clandestine drug laboratories in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida.

Congratulating the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), he said the operation led to the seizure of huge quantities of synthetic drugs, drug precursors and

equipment, and the arrest of two individuals, including a foreign national.

"It is a remarkable example of intelligence-led enforcement and a testament to our unwavering commitment to dismantling drug cartels before December 2029, in line with the Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026-2029, adopted under Modi ji's Mission for Nashamukt Bharat," Shah said in a post on X.

Prashant Kishor praises Nitish, calls him one of 10 all-time best pol leaders of Bihar

PTI

Hajipur (Bihar), Oct 17: Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Saturday showered praise on JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, stating that he considered the former chief minister one of the 10 all-time best political leaders of Bihar.

The Bankipur MLA, who has of late become a sharp critic of Kumar, also said that he was opposed to the septuagenarian occupying the seat of power "despite worsening mental health, leaving the government to be run by proxies".

Kishor, who was in Vaishali district to canvass for upcoming Legislative Council polls, was responding to a pointed query from journalists as to whether, having known the former CM for many years, he thought that Kumar could have "ordered killings" of adversaries. The query was posed in the backdrop of a remark from Mokama MLA Anant Kumar Singh, who has since retracted his statement and claimed that the "nine



murders" he spoke of re-ferred to his own family members who got killed because he was close to the JD(U) supremo, even when the state was ruled by RJD.

Kishor, who is a former national vice president of the JD(U), said, "Anant Singh belongs to the JD(U) which is a part of the government. The RJD is the main party in opposition. The matter is for the two parties to thrash out."

The two parties can get an investigation done if they think it proper, and the Jan Suraj Party has nothing to say in the matter, he said. "As far as Nitish

Kumar is concerned, I consider him as one of the most sensible politicians of Bihar. He will be counted among the 10 all-time best political leaders of the state. When I op-posed him, it was because he was being made to occupy the seat of power despite unsound mental health while the government was being run through proxies," Kishor said.

"Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that Nitish Kumar shall be remembered as a leader who tried to improve things in Bihar," said the 49 years old, who had also handled the

JD(U) su-premo's assembly poll campaign in 2015, when he was heading the consultancy firm IPAC.

Kishor was also asked about last week's boat tragedy in a village in Vaishali, about 70 kms from the district headquarters of Hajipur, which left 13 children dead.

He replied, "It was a big tragedy and in a developed country, a mishap of this magnitude would have caused the government to fall. It is a shame that Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has not bothered to visit the village, just because it happens to fall in the assembly constituency of Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the opposition."

The bereaved family members deserve both help and sympathy, the Jan Suraj Party founder said.

"I have decided to visit the village on October 20, when the festival of Dussehra falls. I will try to spend the entire day offering succour to the grief-stricken people", said Kishor.

FDA suspends licences of warehouses of Reliance Consumer, Reliance Retail, Blinkit, Zomato Hyperpure

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 17: The Maharashtra FDA has suspended the licences of five warehouses of Reliance Consumer Products, Reliance Retail, Zomato Hyperpure and Blinkit after detecting that expired, damaged and rejected food products of over Rs 48 lakh were allegedly being routed back into the market, officials said.

In its official statement issued on Saturday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it had seized 8,392 kilograms of stock valued at Rs 48,08,924 during a special operation conducted in Thane and Pune districts on October 14 and 15.

The action followed suspicions that expired, damaged, rejected and packaging-damaged food products, instead of being destroyed through authorised channels, were being resold through intermediaries, local vendors and disposal agencies, it said.

The licences of the warehouses of Reliance Consumer Products Ltd and Reliance Retail Ltd at Wadpe in Bhivandi, Zomato Hyperpure Pvt Ltd at Usatane in Ambernath, Reliance Retail at Chakan in Pune district and Blinkit Commerce Pvt Ltd at Nighoje in Pune district.

Modi govt will win in 2029: Athawale

Invites 'Ambedkarite' Dipke to RPI (A)



PTI

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Oct 17 (PTI) Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Saturday said the NDA will retain power in the 2029 Lok Sabha polls under the "captainship" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment also invited Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke to join his Republican Party of India (A) if the latter believes he is an "Ambedkarite".

Athawale was talking to reporters during his tour of Dharashiv to assess the drought situation in the region.

"The fleet of PM Modi is strong and no change (of government) is going to take place in 2029 (Lok Sabha polls). Modi is our captain and I am his player," Athawale said, adding that he would "take Rahul Gandhi's wicket".

"If Abhijeet Dipke is an Ambedkarite, then he should join RPI (A) to get the youth to stand with the party. He can strengthen the party with Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts. Dipke should think about joining RPI (A)," the Union minister said.

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 17: Supreme Court-appointed High Powered Enquiry Committee has launched a portal to receive complaints and representations from people affected by violence at Jantar Mantar and other places outside Delhi in July 2026, officials said Saturday.

The portal, <http://hpec.nic.in>, has been launched for the convenience of affected people, including police personnel, they said. The committee will examine issues outlined in the Supreme Court's order.

Priority will be given to matters involving the use of pellet guns, targeted violence and harassment of female protesters, and excessive violence and



destruction of property by either side, the officials said.

The portal has been designed to protect vulnerable witnesses and allow affected people to

keep their identities confidential, if they wish to do so, they said.

Affected people and other stakeholders have been encouraged to submit complaints and

representations through the portal using the applicable formats, they said.

Anyone wishing to provide information or suggestions on issues referred to the committee under the two court orders can also use the portal.

Complaints, representations and other relevant material can also be submitted in person at the committee's office at Shiksha Sadan, 17 Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi, between 2 pm and 4 pm on working days, the officials added.

Submissions can also be sent by post to the same address or by email to hpec2026.enquiry@nic.in, they said.

Supreme Court had constituted a five-member HPEC to enquire into all aspects of the incidents

of violence at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and at places outside the national capital during July 2026, including the broader issues surrounding the incidents.

Besides former Supreme Court Judge Justice (Retd) R. Subhash Reddy, the committee comprises former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi High Court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Meghalaya DGPL R Bishnoi.

The Supreme Court ordered the constitution of the committee while hearing a batch of pleas alleging police excesses against student protesters during the agitation spearheaded by the BJP, alongside allegations of violence against police personnel.

Quick Read

Pathan Panthers Lolab reach Kilo North Kashmir T20 Premier League final



KT News Desk

Lolab Oct 17: Pathan Panthers Lolab stormed into the final of the Kilo North Kashmir T20 Premier League after registering a convincing 37-run victory over NCC Narbal in the first semi-final at Chandigam Cricket Ground, Lolab, on Friday.

With an impressive performance in the knockout encounter, Pathan Panthers Lolab became the first team to secure a place in the tournament's grand finale, taking another significant step towards the coveted championship title.

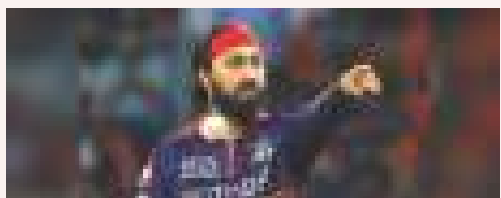
The victory marks a major milestone in the Panthers' campaign, as the team continues its strong run in the competition and strengthens its bid for the title.

Meanwhile, the battle for the second spot in the final will be decided in the upcoming semi-final, where Friends XI Lolab will take on Sopore XI in what promises to be a keenly contested encounter.

With the tournament entering its decisive stage, cricket fever is gripping North Kashmir, as fans eagerly await the final showdown. The league has provided a platform for local cricketers to showcase their talent while promoting sportsmanship, competitive spirit and community participation across the region.

All eyes are now on the second semi-final, with the winner set to join Pathan Panthers Lolab in the much-anticipated title clash.

Krunal replaces Bhuvneshwar as captain of India's Hong Kong sixes squad



PTI

Hong Kong, Oct 17 : India all-rounder Krunal Pandya on Saturday replaced Bhuvneshwar Kumar as captain of the seven-member India squad for the Hong Kong Sixes after the veteran pacer received a recall to the national team for the tour of New Zealand. Gujarat Titans pacer Kulwant Khejroliya will replace Bhuvneshwar in the squad for the tournament scheduled to take place from October 30 to November 1. Krunal was already part of the squad.

The other squad members are Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi and T. Natarajan.

Updated India Squad – Hong Kong Sixes 2026: Krunal Pandya (Captain) – Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Shashank Singh – Punjab Kings
Rahul Tewatia – Gujarat Titans
Nitish Rana – Delhi Capitals
Rahul Tripathi – Kolkata Knight Riders
T. Natarajan – Sunrisers Hyderabad
Kulwant Khejroliya – Gujarat Titans.

Zelenskyy calls for US sanctions on Russia as Trump delays decision

AP

Kyiv, Oct 17 : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged supporters Saturday to speak out in defence of new US sanctions against Russia, hours after President Donald Trump signed an executive order pausing a sweeping package of restrictions targeting the Russian economy.

The White House decision has further raised fears that Ukraine could be left exposed to Moscow's escalating assaults with winter approaching.

Russian attacks overnight killed at least four people, including an ambulance driver, and injured dozens, officials said. Ukrainian drones killed a woman in a Russian border region and disrupted flights at Moscow's airports, according to Russian authorities.

Zelenskyy described Trump's move to put sanctions on hold as unfortunate, but did not directly criticise the US leader despite deepening tensions between Ukraine and Washington in recent days.

"A decision was unfortunately made in America to completely disregard the Lindsey Graham Act, which was supposed to impose truly effective pressure on Russia to bring this war to an end," Zelenskyy wrote.

He also expressed hope that the new sanctions could be revived. "This Act could have helped enormously



-- and still can! But it needs to actually work, and every voice in support of it matters," he said.

Critics say Trump's decision helps Putin

Named after late South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, the legislation had sought to clamp down more quickly on the flow of financial resources fueling Russia's 4 1/2-year-old war against Ukraine. The bill had sought to sanction Russian officials, banks and a shadow fleet of tankers that keeps Russian energy moving.

Trump personally signed the legislation just last month, and his move came just two days before a deadline set in the law itself for its implementation. The President told Congress that the pause was in the national interest but gave no further details.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who co-drafted the bill, said in a statement that Trump was turning his back on

"the majority of Americans, their representatives in both houses of Congress, and our

European allies."

"These waivers have nothing to do with our national security, and everything to do with sucking up to Vladimir Putin," Blumenthal said.

Trump's unexpected decision comes a week after he stunningly said the US had agreed to purchase diesel from Russia to try to bring down global energy prices, despite that potentially hurting Ukraine in its war with Russia.

Trump said Russia would immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons "immediately thereafter."

The decision has been pilloried by Republicans and Democrats alike who say it will help Russia execute its war against Ukraine -- without making a difference to global fuel prices, which are elevated mostly due to Trump's war on Iran.

Kyiv says Moscow carried out a massive energy strike Zelenskyy also said Saturday that Moscow had

carried out a massive strike on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, targeting more than 15 sites across the country.

"The sheer scale and unrelenting pace of Russia's strikes, specifically against our energy sector, are unfortunately having severe consequences," he said.

Ukraine's air force said that Russian forces launched four cruise missiles and 332 attack drones overnight. All of the missiles and 289 of the drones had been suppressed or destroyed, it said.

Russia's heavy bombardment of the power grid ahead of winter has been an annual feature of the war, aimed at wearing down Ukraine's appetite for the fight by denying civilians heat and running water. Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia is stockpiling ballistic missiles for more attacks in the coming months.

Russian attacks killed three people in the Ukrainian city of Sloviansk, Vadym Liakh, head of the city military administration, said Saturday. Writing on social media, Liakh said that two apartment blocks were partially destroyed and other homes damaged.

A Russian strike also killed an ambulance driver in Ukraine's Kherson region, head of the local military administration Yaroslav Shanko said. The strike, which used guided bombs, injured at least 33 others, he said.

Trump waives tariffs on Russian oil buyers, specified sanctions under new law



PTI

Washington, Oct 17 : US President Donald Trump has waived tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported from the five largest purchasers of Russian oil or gas, along with specified sanctions provisions under a new law targeting Moscow, citing the national interest of the United States.

In an executive order signed on Friday night, Trump waived the application of specified sanctions, restrictions and duties under the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, days after striking a deal with Russia for the supply of diesel to the US and global markets.

"I am hereby waiving the application of such sanctions, restrictions, and duties provided for in the Graham Act," Trump said.

Trump said he had submitted a certification to Congress stating that issuing the waiver at this time was in the national interest of the United States.

US Senator Richard Blumenthal criticised the move in a post on X. "These waivers have nothing to do with our national security, & everything to do with sucking up to Vladimir Putin. I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in condemning this craven, cowardly action," he said.

The Graham Act empowered Trump to impose sweeping sanctions on Moscow and tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported into the US from the five largest purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas, including China and India.

The law was passed by the US Congress on September 16 and signed into law by Trump two days later. It authorised Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or gas. The executive order waives the duties provided for in Sections 112 and 113 of the Act or the order.

The waiver covers the new tariffs targeting the five largest purchasers of Russian-origin crude oil and natural gas, as well as the corresponding tariffs on countries facilitating Russian sanctions evasion.

Sri Lanka hit by islandwide power outage

PTI

Colombo, Oct 17 : Sri Lanka suffered an island-wide power outage from around noon on Saturday, with the blackout continuing for more than three hours, power officials said. Water supplies, internet services and mobile connectivity were affected as authorities worked to restore electricity across the island in stages. The outage disrupted essential services, with the water supply agency warning people against wasting water as the power cuts could affect supplies.

The cause of the islandwide outage was not immediately clear, although the government said a failure at a hydropower station in the central hill country, detected a day earlier, could have contributed to it.

"Due to a sudden system failure, the whole island suffered an electricity breakdown," Sri Lanka's Energy Minister Anura Karunatilaka said. He urged owners of rooftop solar panels to remain disconnected from the grid until the power system was balanced and restored, according to the state power entity. The minister said the failure at one of the hydropower stations in the central hill country, which was detected on Friday, could be a reason for the outage.

J&K to face Vidarbha in second Ranji Trophy clash at SK Stadium

After draw against Madhya Pradesh, J&K look to strengthen campaign

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 17 : Jammu and Kashmir will face Vidarbha in their second Ranji Trophy Elite Group A fixture at the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar from October 18 to 21.

The four-day match is scheduled to begin at 9:30 am on Sunday.

The fixture comes after J&K's drawn opening match against Madhya Pradesh at the same venue from October 11 to 14, in which the visitors secured a first-innings lead.

Madhya Pradesh scored 196 in their first innings before dismissing J&K for 120. The visitors then declared their second innings at 249 for six, setting J&K a target of 326.

The hosts were 88 for seven when the match ended



in a draw, with Madhya Pradesh taking the first-innings lead.

J&K will now look to put in a

stronger performance against Vidarbha and gain momentum in their Ranji Trophy campaign.

Meanwhile, spectator entry

to the match will be free. Cricket fans can turn up at the stadium to support the home side--(KNO)

India eye strong Para Asian Games campaign despite reduced contingent

PTI

Nagoya, Oct 17 : India will look to build on its record-breaking performance at the last Asian Para Games, but a much smaller contingent and selection disputes in two disciplines could make matching its 111-medal haul a challenge when the competition begins here on Sunday.

India finished fifth in Hangzhou in 2023 with 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze medals, its best-ever haul at the continental multi-sport event.

The challenge in Aichi-Nagoya will be different, with the country fielding around 168

athletes across 11 disciplines, compared to 303 in China.

Tighter participation quotas and changes to the events on offer have contributed to the reduction.

With fewer athletes competing, matching the previous overall tally will be difficult and much will depend on how India's established medal-winners perform and whether its emerging athletes can make their mark on the continental stage.

India's campaign at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games has already got underway on Saturday, with action beginning in

para-badminton, para-table tennis, boccia and blind football ahead of Sunday's official opening ceremony.

India missed out on fourth place to South Korea by just one gold medal.

Improving on that position will be a challenge, and a strong gold-medal tally, backed by podium finishes across disciplines, would make for a successful campaign even if India fall short of its record 111-medal haul.

Para-athletics, India's biggest contributor in Hangzhou with 55 medals (18 gold, 17 silver and 20 bronze), will again be central to the campaign.



INOX

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Srinagar

MOVIES

Schedule

18 OCTOBER 2026 | SUNDAY

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

10:20 AM 12:50 PM

03:05 PM 06:20 PM

PRAHAAR: THE UNTOLD STORY OF UJJWAL NIKAM

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

12:10 PM 06:00 PM

NAYYI NAVELLI

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

10:00 AM 01:20 PM

04:10 PM 07:00 PM

STREET FIGHTER

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

09:40 AM 03:50 PM

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