



Winning not as imp as participating: CM Omar on Kashmir Marathon

Inaugurates expo as third edition set for Oct 25 | Urges people to participate enthusiastically

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated the three-day exposition of the Kashmir Marathon-2026 at Polo View, Srinagar, marking the final leg of preparations for the much-anticipated third edition of the event scheduled to be held on October 25 (Sunday).

The Chief Minister inspected various stalls and counters set up by government departments, private sports firms and event partners, showcasing a wide range of sports gear, equipment and accessories aimed at promoting fitness, outdoor activities and a vibrant sporting culture. The exposition also features dedicated bib collection centres and on-the-spot registration counters for participants of the upcoming marathon.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that the Kashmir Marathon would attract runners from across the country and abroad, further strengthening



its standing as a major sporting event in the region.

"For the third time, the Kashmir Marathon is being organised. On Sunday, people will come to participate not only from different parts of the country but also from abroad. Every race has its own beauty, but the Kashmir Marathon's surroundings are unmatched. The prize money offered is also significantly higher than that of many

other races," he said.

Highlighting a new initiative aimed at encouraging local talent, the Chief Minister said a separate prize category had been introduced for local runners in response to their demands.

"This year, keeping in view the demands of our local runners, prizes have been introduced for them as an incentive to participate in both the half marathon

and the full marathon," he said, adding that the initiative would encourage greater participation among local athletes.

Recalling his participation in the first two editions of the Kashmir Marathon, Omar Abdullah expressed hope that this year's event would witness enthusiastic participation from runners and sports enthusiasts.

Urging people who had not yet registered to take advantage of the opportunity available at the exposition, the Chief Minister said, "For those who have not registered yet, there is still an opportunity to do so here. Come, register and participate in the marathon. Winning is not as important as participating. Take part and enjoy the marathon."

The Chief Minister also interacted with stall owners, athletes and volunteers, appreciating their efforts in promoting sports, fitness and outdoor activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, he presented race bibs and merchandise to several runners | [More on P6](#)

CM announces special prizes for local runners

Rehan Qayoom Mir

The third edition of the Kashmir Marathon will feature special prizes for local runners, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced on Thursday, a move aimed at encouraging greater participation

from athletes in the Valley ahead of Sunday's event in Srinagar.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the decision was taken following requests from local runners to boost participation in

both the half-marathon and full-marathon categories.

"This year, on the demand of our local runners, we have introduced special prizes so that participation in both the half marathon and full marathon gets a further boost," he said. | [More on P6](#)

JKBOSE grants annual exam eligibility to pvt, bi-annual pass-outs

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 22: In a significant relief for students, The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has announced that the candidates who clear private or bi-annual examinations will be eligible to sit for the succeeding annual regular examination.

Director Academics of JKBOSE, Dr Parveen Singh said that the move is aimed to bridge the discontinuity of studies of students in their academic pursuits.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), JKBOSE in a notification said that the concerned schools shall facilitate their admission in the next class accordingly.

"Such students will be eligible to take annual examinations irrespective of any bar notified earlier," reads the notification.

JKBOSE said, "In amplification to the previous notification issued in 2017, it is notified for information of all the stakeholders that the students qualifying their Annual (Private, bi-annual examination in any calendar year shall be eligible | [More on P6](#)

NC afraid of defeat, avoiding panchayat polls: LoP Sharma

Says elections will test Omar govt's popularity

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 22: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Thursday accused the National Conference-led government of delaying Panchayat and municipal elections out of fear of defeat, saying the polls would be a litmus test for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's government.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a BJP programme, the LoP Sharma as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said NC is reluctant to allow alternative political representation to emerge in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Abdullah family's ego, arrogance and unwillingness to conduct Panchayati Raj elections are responsible for the delay. They do not want anyone else to represent the people because they know the National Conference will face a crushing defeat," he said.



Sharma said the government is failing to fulfil its promises on electricity, LPG cylinders, employment and ration supplies, adding that the elections would allow people to judge its performance.

The LoP also said terrorism had declined significantly over the past five years and that no local youth had joined terrorist organisations in the past two years. (KNO)



JAHANGIR SHAH (KNO/KT)

‘Chrysanthemum Garden’: Kashmir’s autumn tourism gets new attraction

» 3.5 lakh blooms planted; expected to last till Dec 5-6

» Garden aims to match Tulip Garden's popularity, says Dir Floriculture

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 22: Seeking to extend Kashmir's tourism appeal beyond the spring tulip season, the Floriculture Department has developed the Chrysanthemum Garden

as a major autumn attraction, with around 3.5 lakh plants planted this year and flowering expected to continue until December 5 or 6.

Director Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, Kashmir, Mathoora Masoom, while

talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the garden stands improved with expanded flower beds, a colourful plaza, water features, pergolas, selfie | [More on P6](#)

Anantnag's 250-bed maternity hospital awaits site finalisation despite Rs 86 crore allocation

CM Omar says Janglat Mandi site found unsuitable due to insufficient space; alternative location to be identified

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Oct 22: How long will the people of south Kashmir have to wait for a safe and adequately equipped maternity hospital? This question has once again come to the fore after the Jammu and Kashmir government said the proposed 250-bed Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) in Anantnag is awaiting finalisation of a suitable site, despite an earlier announcement of Rs 86 crore for the project.

The development has raised fresh concerns among residents, particularly pregnant women, newborns and their families, as the existing maternity hospital at Sher Bagh

continues to function from an ageing and congested building that was declared unsafe by the Fire and Emergency Services Department in 2014.

For thousands of patients from Anantnag and neighbouring districts, the proposed hospital was expected to provide a permanent solution to years of inadequate infrastructure, overcrowding and difficulties in accessing maternal and child healthcare services. However, with the initially identified site at Janglat Mandi now being reconsidered, the project faces another hurdle, prolonging uncertainty over when construction will actually begin.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the



proposed location at Janglat Mandi had been found unsuitable because of insufficient space, and the government was now exploring alternative sites.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a district review meeting in Anantnag, the CM, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

said funds for the project were available, and work could begin once a suitable location was finalised.

"As per the report submitted by the department, there is not enough space available at Janglat Mandi for the proposed hospital. We are, therefore, looking for another suitable location," he said, adding that elected representatives, the Health Minister, officials of the Health Department and civil society members would jointly deliberate on the issue and decide on an appropriate site.

While the Chief Minister's assurance has renewed hopes of the project moving forward, residents have questioned why the location was not

finalised earlier, particularly when the government had already announced a substantial allocation.

During the budget session in March this year, the government announced an allocation of Rs 86 crore for the construction of a 250-bed MCH hospital at Janglat Mandi. The proposal had already been under consideration before the announcement. In December last year, a proposal for a 200-bed maternity and childcare hospital on the premises of the GMC Anantnag-associated Janglat Mandi Hospital had been submitted, with the capacity subsequently increased to 250 beds. However, the project failed to move forward under

the proposed NABARD funding mechanism.

Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr Junaid Salam Wani, had earlier told KNO that a detailed project report had been prepared, vetted and submitted to the Administrative Department. "We submitted a detailed DPR, duly vetted, to the Administrative Department, but because of lack of funds it has not gone through this year under NABARD," he had said.

The latest statement by the Chief Minister, indicating that funds are available but the location needs to be changed, has added a new dimension to the issue. Residents now want the government to clarify the project's funding | [More on P6](#)

J&K to witness dry weather till Oct 31



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather till October 31, with brief spells of light rain expected in parts of Kashmir on October 23 and light rain or snowfall over higher reaches on October 24.

According to the latest forecast, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) weather is likely to remain generally dry until the afternoon of October 23.

The weather is expected to remain generally cloudy towards the late afternoon of October 24, with light rain or snowfall over higher reaches likely at isolated places, the forecast states.

The forecast stated that between November 1 and 3 generally cloudy conditions will prevail and there is a possibility of light rain or snowfall over higher reaches at a few places.

The MeT advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.7 degrees Celsius on Thursday, 1.8 degrees above the seasonal normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 5.2 degrees Celsius, marginally below the normal of 5.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 23.6 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal, while Kupwara registered 25.4 degrees Celsius, 3 degrees above normal.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 19.4 degrees Celsius, marginally above normal, while Gulmarg registered 16 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above the | [More on P6](#)

Man found dead at Pantha Chowk

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 22: A 48-year-old man was found unconscious in the Pantha Chowk area of central Kashmir's Srinagar district, officials said on Thursday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found unconscious near the Pantha Chowk bus stand and was spotted by locals, who informed the police.

He said police shifted the man to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The deceased has been identified as Tanveer Ahmed Wani (48), son of Abdul Rashid, a resident of Largam, Tral.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and medico-legal formalities are underway. (KNO)

JJM Water Supply schemes inspected in Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 22: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam (Chairman District Jal Jeevan Mission), Shahzad Alam Thursday conducted an extensive tour in Kulgam to inspect the progress of various water supply schemes (WSS) being implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The DDC, as per an official statement, conducted on-site reviews of civil, mechanical and groundwater works of WSS Lankar Pombay and Khalura, WSS Banimulla GB, WSS Banimulla, WSS Ashtal GB and WSS Laisoo GB.

Reiterating the core objective of the Jal Jeevan Mission, to ensure reliable, safe, and sustainable tap drinking water to every rural household, the DDC directed officers to expedite the pace of work and ensure strict monitoring to prevent any avoidable delays.

He further tasked the engineering staff with



maintaining close oversight of ongoing projects to guarantee that the newly created infrastructure effectively fulfills its target of delivering safe drinking water to all targeted habitations across Kulgam district.

Executive Engineer PHE

Division Kulgam, Project Manager DPMU Kulgam, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) of Damhal and Kulgam, AEE PHE Mechanical, and Junior Engineers of the concerned jurisdictions attended the inspection visits.

DC Shopian chairs CLU Meeting, reviews cases for timely disposal



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Thursday chaired a meeting regarding Change of Land Use (CLU) cases at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the cases pertaining to Change of Land Use and emphasised the need for their thorough scrutiny in accordance with the prescribed rules, regulations and established guidelines. He stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure transparency,

maintain proper documentation and adhere to the stipulated procedures while examining the cases.

The DC directed the officers concerned to expedite the processing of pending cases and ensure their timely disposal as per the applicable norms. He underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination and accountability to facilitate a smooth, transparent and efficient process. The meeting was attended by ACR Shakoor Ahmed Dar, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, Chief Agriculture officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Xens, Tehsildars and other line Deptts associated with the processing of CLU cases.

District Treasury Shopian organises Training on JKIFMS Digital Financial Modules



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22: District Treasury Shopian is conducting a capacity-building and training programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and concerned dealing assistants on the implementation of digital financial modules under the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Financial Management System (JKIFMS).

The training programme which commenced on October 19 and will continue up to October 27, 2026 was inaugurated by District Treasury Officer (DTO) Shopian, Omar Javaid at the office premises of District Treasury Shopian.

While speaking on the occasion, DTO Shopian, as per an official statement, highlighted the importance of effective adoption of digital financial systems for streamlining government financial transactions and improving efficiency, transparency and accountability in the delivery of financial services.

He stressed upon the participating officials to make full use of the training sessions and develop adequate familiarity with the new digital modules for their effective implementation. The

programme focuses on the implementation and operational aspects of e-Bill, e-Voucher, e-Receipt and e-Account modules, aimed at facilitating a smooth transition towards efficient and fully digitised financial management processes.

During the sessions, participating DDOs and dealing assistants are being familiarised with the workflow and procedures associated with the digital modules, besides being provided guidance on their effective utilisation in day-to-day financial transactions.

The programme also provides an opportunity for participants to seek clarification on operational and technical issues related to the new system. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of officials and ensuring effective adoption of JKIFMS-based digital financial processes, with emphasis on efficiency, transparency, accuracy and timely processing of government transactions.

The District Treasury Shopian has impressed upon all concerned DDOs and dealing assistants to attend the sessions as per the prescribed schedule and make optimum use of the capacity-building programme.

JKRLM to host Saras Mela from October 25 in Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22 : The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is set to organise SARAS AAJEEVIKA Kashmir 2026 from October 25 at Polo View Park, Srinagar, bringing together rural entrepreneurs, artisans and culinary traditions from across India.

The ten-day exhibition will offer

visitors an opportunity to experience the country's diverse crafts, handloom traditions and regional cuisines under one roof.

Building on the success of previous editions, the mela will feature around 70-80 stalls, with participation from several states and Union Territories, alongside line departments from Jammu and Kashmir. The exhibition will provide a platform for women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to display and sell their products, connect with consumers and explore opportunities to expand their enterprises.

Participants, as per an official statement, from states including Telangana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Tripura Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, among others, will showcase products reflecting their regions' traditional

skills and local resources. The exhibits will include Pochampally Ikat sarees, Banarasi textiles, Chikankari embroidery, traditional jewellery, handicrafts, home décor, jute products and other eco-friendly goods.

A major attraction of the exhibition will be the Umeed Ka Zaika Food Court, which will bring regional culinary traditions to Srinagar through food enterprises led by women associated with the SHG movement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This information is for the general public, that in my Son's J&K Bank Account Branch-Ganderbal bearing Account No. 0081041000000625, My name was wrongly mentioned as MEHRAN KHUROO M/TF while actual/correct name is MEHRAN AHMAD KHUROO S/O: MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH KHUROO R/O: DAGAPORA ANCHAR DUGA PORA SRINAGAR as per my Aadhaar Card and School Admission Record, Now it needs to be corrected as per said Documents in my account number, Anybody having objection may contact J&K Bank Branch Ganderbal within (7)seven days No, objection shall be accepted after said time period.

MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH KHUROO

F/O: MEHRAN AHMAD KHUROO

R/O: DAGAPORA ANCHAR DUGA PORA SRINAGAR

Contact: 9906881856

NOTICE

I have Changed my name from old name Humira Afzal Khan to new name Humria Afzal Khan in future I will be known as new name Humria Afzal Khan. If any body is having any objection her or she may contact passport office Srinagar within of days after 7 days no objection will be accepted

NOTICE

I want to correct my son's Name in Aadhar card Under Aadhar No: - 800874346374 From Amir Maqbool Dar to Aamir Maqbool dar Now i am Appling for its corqeoion if anybody have any Objection In this regard may file to the same General Manager Ranbir Government press Jammu within 7 days. From The Publication Of this Notice. After That No Objection Shall Be Entertained

MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR

F/O AAMIR MAQBOOL DAR

R/O BUDRALI LIMBER

Agriculture Department Kashmir launches Khet Bachao Abhiyan campaign

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Kashmir Thursday launched Khet Bachao Abhiyan and the campaign will run from October, 22 to November, 30 in every village of the valley.

The main event, as per an official statement, was organised in District Bandipora and Project Coordinator Mushroom, Kashmir was the chief guest on the occasion. Main objective of the Abhiyan is to generate awareness among farming community about the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. It also aims to promote crop diversification through oilseed, pulse and encourage the effective utilization of fallow fields after paddy harvesting and promote proper crop residue



management. The campaign will also focus on capacity building of farmers in the appropriate use of organic and bio-based agricultural products and promoting natural farming through awareness programmes, training sessions and field demonstrations.

One of the important objectives is to improve soil health, promote the balanced use of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, enhance water-use efficiency, and encourage the adoption of resource-efficient and climate-resilient farming practices. Special emphasis will be

placed on creating awareness about the appropriate use of fertilizers, including green ammonia, and biological products; water conservation; crop diversification and intercropping with suitable crops and varieties; efficient utilization of rice fallows; natural farming; and integrated farming systems. Capacity building, farm mechanization and field demonstrations of improved technologies, including regenerative agriculture practices, will also form key components of the campaign.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

IE BAMK, Mill Stop, Nowshera, Srinagar, Pincode-190011
(Development Section)

Email ID: gmdic-srinagarajk.gov.in Website: industrieskashmir.nic.in Phone: 0194-2427478

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Vibourg Industries, I/E Khunmoh, Phase II Srinagar, stands formally registered with this office under No:- 01/03/07394/PM/T/Tiny dated:- 27.07.2007 for the activity of "Manufacturing of PVC Cables" as proprietorship concern, of Mr. Rayees Bashir Sio Prop. B.A. Kuchai Rio Gulberg colony Hyderpora, Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for transfer of leasehold rights from Mr. Rayees Bashir Sio Prop. B.A. Kuchai Rio Gulberg colony Hyderpora, Srinagar to Miss Nasheman Zahoor D/o Zahoor Ahmad Durrani R/o Bag hat Barzulla, Srinagar and the incoming promoter intends to establish a new unit for the activity of "Embroidery Works on Fabric etc." under new name and style M/s Runash Industries, I/E Khunmof, Phase II, Srinagar as well as de-registration of existing unit.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned change shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

General Manager

District Industries Centre Srinagar

DIPK-6989/26

DATED: 22-10-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION (NORTH) SOPORE Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tenders.
Ref: 1. This office E-NIT No. 26 of 2026-27, S. No. 02 and 04.
2. This office E-NIT No. 28 of 2026-27, S. No. 01.
3. This office E-NIT No. 29 of 2026-27, S. No. 02.

Due to poor response the above referred e-NITs are hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1	Last date for online submission of bids	28-10-2026 (06:55 pm)
2	Date of online opening of bids	29-10-2026 (12:30 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/4654-57
Dated: 21-10-2026

DIPK-6982/26

DATED: 22-10-2026

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

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM KRALIPATHRI

Reference : Sanction No. DSHK/Tech/2026-27/10512-19, dated : 21/10/2026

"Animal Auction Notice"

Whereas the competent authority, Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir (DSHK), has accorded sanction for the auction/disposal of culled animals vide Order No. referred as above. Accordingly, the general public, interested buyers, and intending bidders are hereby informed that a public auction of the sanctioned culled animals shall be conducted at Government Sheep Breeding Farm Kralipathri on 27/10/2026 at 10 A.M. onwards. The auction shall continue until all the sanctioned culled animals are sold.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The auction shall be conducted on an open and competitive bidding basis.
- The animals shall be auctioned to the highest bidder, subject to the approval of the competent authority, wherever required.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the auction amount on spot and obtain a proper receipt from this office.
- The successful bidder shall arrange for lifting/transportation of the animals at their own cost after completion of the required formalities.
- The animals shall be sold on an "as is where is" basis.
- The successful bidder shall comply with all applicable departmental instructions and statutory requirements.

No: ADSBFK/TECH/2026-27-1213-17

DATED: 22/10/2026

DIPK-6973/26

DATED: 22-10-2026

Assistant Director
Sheep Breeding Farm Kralpathri

CM Omar reviews developmental progress of Anantnag

Inaugurates, lays foundation stones for several projects

KT News Desk

Anantnag, Oct 22: Continuing his district-level outreach, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting in Anantnag to review developmental progress, winter preparedness and public service delivery, directing departments to expedite ongoing projects, improve implementation of government schemes and ensure timely redressal of public grievances.

Emphasising the need for coordinated and effective winter preparedness, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to put in place robust arrangements to minimise public inconvenience during the winter months.

He stressed close coordination among the Roads and Buildings, Mechanical Engineering, Municipalities, Urban Local Bodies, PMGSY and other concerned agencies for timely snow clearance, directing the designation of nodal officers to ensure that no road remains unattended.

He also directed the administration to ensure adequate stocking of essential commodities, strengthen LPG buffer stocks and maintain uninterrupted emergency healthcare services in snow-bound areas. Reviewing power supply arrangements, he stressed strict adherence to notified power curtailment schedules and prior intimation to consumers about unscheduled



power cuts.

The review covered key sectors, including health, education, roads and infrastructure, youth empowerment, food and civil supplies, power and rural development. The Chief Minister issued directions to accelerate the development of industrial estates in the district and streamline the delivery of social welfare assistance to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive their entitlements without delay.

Emphasising the need to promote youth entrepreneurship, Omar Abdullah directed banking institutions to streamline and expedite disbursements under

Mission YUVA to enable young entrepreneurs to establish their enterprises.

Reviewing progress under the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister called for regular fortnightly monitoring to improve physical and financial progress. He directed the district administration to ensure timely utilisation of allocated funds and prevent any lapsing of funds.

As part of the visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated public projects and laid foundation stones

for new works worth 52 crore aimed at strengthening infrastructure and improving civic amenities in the district.

Major projects inaugurated include Jal Jeevan Mission Water Supply Schemes at Semthan (6.29 crore), Shoul Sarsuna (5.66 crore) and Chontipora Baghwanpora (5.08 crore). The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for the Ashajipora-Donipawa road upgradation (3.61 crore) and a steel girder bridge over Nallah Brengi at Her-Kandiwara (3.18 crore).

These initiatives will provide reliable access to safe drinking

water, strengthen road connectivity, particularly in remote areas, and bring tangible improvements to the everyday lives of people across the district.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Members of the Legislative Assembly Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, G.A. Mir, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Zaffar Ali Khatana and Reyaz A. Khan; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Bilal Mohiuddin; heads of departments and district officers.

Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohiuddin presented an overview of the district's developmental progress and the status of ongoing works. Public representatives highlighted constituency-specific developmental demands, while various local deputations also met the Chief Minister and raised issues concerning their respective areas.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to equitable development, efficient public service delivery and responsive governance, the Chief Minister assured that priority developmental works would be taken up systematically and directed the administration to ensure effective follow-up on public grievances.

Div Com sets one-month deadline for Greater Srinagar sewerage scheme



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 22: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Thursday reviewed the progress of the Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme of Greater Srinagar, being implemented under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM), and directed the completion of all pending works within one month. The review meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chief Engineer, Urban Environmental Engineering Department, General Manager, National Buildings Construction Corporation, and officers from KPDCL, PHE, Roads and Buildings, and Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took stock of the various components of the 60 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, Srinagar, and reviewed the status of the remaining works

required for its completion and commissioning.

He reviewed vital works included the installation of a hydraulic gate at the Noorbagh outfall near the damaged riverbank, remodelling of transformers at the Outfall Pumping Station and Infall Pumping Station, plugging of leakages in the 60 MLD STP, and refurbishment of all agitators and aerators at the treatment plant.

The Divisional Commissioner directed NBCC to ensure the completion of all pending works within one month and subsequently hand over the project to UEED.

He further directed the Executive Engineer, UEED, to conduct site visits twice a week to closely monitor progress, ensure effective coordination among the concerned agencies, and expedite the completion of the remaining works within the stipulated timeframe.

Sopore bypass bridge shut for repairs till Oct 31

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Oct 22: The Sopore bypass bridge, a key link connecting north Kashmir with Srinagar and facilitating the movement of fruit-laden trucks, has been closed for repair work until October 31, prompting traffic diversions and restrictions on daytime movement of fruit vehicles.

The closure came into effect at 8 pm on Thursday, affecting commuters, transporters and fruit traders, particularly during the peak apple transportation season.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore S.A. Raina said the bridge had been closed to facilitate urgent repairs and that a detailed traffic management plan had been put in place to minimise disruption.

"Traffic coming from Srinagar will be diverted via Amargarh, Chankhan Bridge, Court Road and Fruit Mandi Crossing towards Kupwara. Vehicles travelling from Kupwara to Srinagar will be routed through Noorbagh, Main Market, Shalpora and Degree College towards Chankhan Bridge," he said.

The administration has directed fruit mandi stakeholders to ensure that fruit-laden trucks do not ply during the day. Such vehicles will be allowed to move in the evening as per

the diversion plan to ease congestion on alternative routes.

Street vendors operating along diversion routes will also be relocated, while authorities have been directed to keep footpaths clear for pedestrians.

Personnel from the Traffic Police, civil police and Municipal Council will be deployed across affected stretches to regulate traffic and prevent bottlenecks.

Mr Raina appealed to the public to cooperate with the arrangements, saying the measures were necessary to complete the repairs and restore normal traffic movement.

The closure has revived concerns over recurring disruptions on the bridge, a crucial route linking Kupwara and Srinagar and providing access to Sopore's fruit mandi, regarded as Asia's second-largest fruit market.

The bridge assumes added significance during the apple season, when thousands of fruit-laden trucks use the route to transport produce from Kashmir to markets across the country.

A two-day traffic diversion was also implemented in May as part of repair-related arrangements, highlighting concerns over the bridge's condition and the need for long-term infrastructure solutions—(KNO)

'73 foreign runners to participate in Kashmir Marathon'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 22: Seventy-three foreign athletes from 12 countries are set to participate in the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon on October 25, as Jammu and Kashmir seeks to strengthen its international profile as a sports tourism destination, with the Tourism Department expecting the total participation to cross 2,000.

Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said 1,807 runners had registered online so far, with preparations for the event entering the final stage and on-the-spot registration opened for those who had missed the online registration deadline.

"So far, we have received around 1,807 online registrations, including 73 foreign athletes from 12 countries. We expect the total number of participants to cross 2,000 this year," Sajjad told reporters on the sidelines of the Marathon Expo.

Highlighting the international significance of the event, he said the participation of athletes from different countries would help showcase Kashmir to a wider global audience and strengthen its image as a tourist destination.

"Such events send a message to the outside world that Kashmir is peaceful and safe for visitors. When athletes from different countries come here and participate, it



creates a positive impression internationally," Sajjad said.

The Director said the government had decided to make the Kashmir Marathon an annual event to ensure continuity and promote the Valley internationally through sporting activities. "These events should take place regularly. That is why the government has included the Kashmir Marathon in its annual calendar so that Kashmir can be promoted internationally," Sajjad said.

He said the Marathon Expo, inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, featured 20 stalls, while on-the-spot registration began after 4 pm on Thursday to provide an opportunity to runners who had not registered online.

Sajjad said the Tourism Department is coordinating with different government departments to ensure

the smooth conduct of the marathon, with preparations and logistical arrangements being finalised ahead of Sunday's event.

As already reported by KNO, 1,221 local participants and 513 domestic runners had registered for the event, while 73 foreign athletes were among the participants. Of the total registrations, 1,416 runners had opted for the 21-kilometre half marathon and 391 for the 42-kilometre full marathon. The registrations included 1,614 male and 193 female participants.

The marathon will feature two race categories—a 21-kilometre half marathon and a 42-kilometre full marathon—with routes designed to showcase Kashmir's natural beauty and cultural heritage, including stretches featuring Dal Lake, chinar trees and Mughal gardens—(KNO)

Traffic Police announce restrictions, diversions

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 22: In view of the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon-2026, traffic restrictions and diversions will be put in place on October 25.

According to an advisory issued by Srinagar Traffic Police, several roads will remain closed to traffic during specified hours to ensure the smooth conduct of the marathon.

The advisory states that traffic on Residency Road, from Radio Kashmir Crossing to Polo View, will remain suspended from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Restrictions will also remain in place on M.A. Road, from Budshah Chowk towards Dalgate and Badyari up to Nehru Park, from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM.

Residency Road, from Court Road-Clock Tower to Biscoe School Crossing, will remain closed from 5:00 AM to 8:30 AM.

"Traffic towards Police Station

Rajbagh and Presentation Convent School from Jawahar Nagar/ Lal Mandi, as well as from Hattrick towards Abdullah Bridge-Zero Bridge, Rajbagh and Aramwari, will remain restricted from 5:00 AM to 8:30 AM," the advisory reads.

No traffic will be allowed from Nehru Park towards Kralsangri, Nishat Foreshore Road, Habbak Crossing and Kashmir University up to Sir Syed Gate from 5:00 AM until the marathon concludes.

Traffic from Hotel Lalit towards Gupkar Road and Ram Munshi Bagh, as well as from Sonwar towards Ram Munshi Bagh, will also remain suspended during the same period.

Regarding alternate routes, the advisory states that motorists travelling from Harwan, Shalimar, Nishat and Brein should use the Burzahama-Chandpora-Tailbal-Zakura-Habbak-Naseembagh route and vice versa.

Vehicles travelling from

Ganderbal and Nagbal towards Lal Chowk should use the 90 Feet Soura Road, while those travelling from Rambagh towards Rajbagh should use Jawahar Nagar Bund Road.

"Motorists travelling from Rainawari and Saidakadal towards Hazratbal should use Lal Bazar Road via Grills Cut towards Kanitar," the advisory reads.

The advisory also lists designated parking facilities for marathon participants, including SP College Ground, SDA Parking opposite Pick 'N' Choose, Multilevel Parking Press Colony, Presentation Convent School, Gindun Park Rajbagh, Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh, Directorate of Horticulture Rajbagh, Football Ground TRC, Rajculture Park R.R. Road and Cricket Ground TRC opposite J&K Bank Headquarters.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.

Saugat Biswas directs officials to intensify J&K's TB-free mission



Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Oct 22: Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department, Saugat Biswas, on Wednesday directed officials to intensify efforts towards making Jammu and Kashmir tuberculosis-free.

Chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), Biswas directed the officials to focus on complete screening targets, strengthen early diagnosis and ensure comprehensive care for patients across the Union Territory.

The Commissioner Secretary called for coordinated efforts at all levels to address operational bottlenecks, improve service delivery and ensure that the benefits of the programme reach every eligible beneficiary.

While reviewing the Union Territory's performance, Biswas underscored the government's commitment to achieving the national goal of a TB-free India through a coordinated and multi-sectoral

approach involving healthcare institutions, district administrations and local communities.

He noted that sustained efforts in grassroots screening, patient tracking, community participation and administrative monitoring had helped Jammu and Kashmir emerge among the leading regions in the country in terms of population screening coverage and X-ray utilisation.

Emphasising the need to sustain this progress, the Commissioner Secretary directed officials to ensure the timely completion of active case-finding exercises and population screening targets, particularly in vulnerable areas, high-risk villages and other locations where the possibility of undetected TB cases remains a concern.

He stressed that early identification of cases was crucial to interrupting transmission, ensuring timely treatment and preventing further spread of the disease within communities.

Biswas also directed health authorities to make optimum use of available diagnostic infrastructure, including

Continued on
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2 OGWs held with Turkish pistol, IEDs

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Oct 22: Security forces on Thursday apprehended two Overground Workers (OGWs) of terrorists and recovered a Turkish-made pistol, ammunition and two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) from them in North Kashmir's Baramulla District.

An official said that the Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), in coordination with Baramulla Police, apprehended the duo from the Darpura Nursery area near Delina Ghat following a credible intelligence input. "One Turkish-made KANIK pistol, a magazine containing 10 rounds and two IEDs were recovered from the duo" the official said, adding that both individuals hail from the Chinkipora area of Sopore.

"Preliminary assessment suggests that the accused were working as overground workers (OGWs) and were involved in trafficking weapons and explosives for terrorists," the official added—(KNO)

Friday Brief: Patience In The Storm

Trials are not an interruption of life; they are part of its design. The Quran is candid about this: “And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient”. The verse does not ask why hardship comes. It asks who will remain

standing when it does. The answer, again and again, is the one who practices sabr. But sabr is not passive resignation. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), said, “Whoever remains patient, Allah will make him patient”. It is an acquired strength, trained through repeated choice, not a mood that descends upon the

fortunate. The Quran promises that those who endure will receive “their reward without account” —a measure of recompense that exceeds any ledger of human suffering. The Hadith literature is even more intimate. The Prophet (PBUH) said that no fatigue, illness, anxiety, sorrow, harm, or sadness afflicts a Muslim, “even to the

extent of a thorn pricking him, without Allah wiping out his mistakes by it”. Even a thorn. The smallest wound is not wasted. This is a God who does not overlook the minor griefs that accumulate in a life. There is also a hard teaching about timing. Patience is measured at the moment of impact, not after the wound has begun

to heal. That is a high standard, and an honest one. It admits that patience is hardest precisely when it is most needed. For the believer, then, trials are neither punishment nor abandonment. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “When Allah desires good for someone, He afflicts him”. And in another narration, “How wonderful is the case

of a believer; there is good for him in everything... if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is better for him”. The lesson is not to seek hardship, nor to romanticise it. It is to meet it with a steadiness that neither panics nor despairs. Patience does not deny pain. It simply refuses to let pain have the final word.

Islam’s Approach To Science

"Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the Earth, In the disparity of night and day, In the ship which runs upon the sea for the profit of mankind, In the water which God sent down from the sky thereby reviving the Earth after its death, In the beasts of all kinds He scatters therein, In the change of the winds and the subjected clouds between the sky and Earth, Here are Signs for people who are wise." (Quran 2:164)

Zin Eddine Dadach

The Latin word "scientia", meaning "to know" or "to be skilful", is the origin of the English word science. The disciplines we now call science were once part of philosophy, an umbrella term for the pursuit of knowledge. In the early 19th century, physicists and chemists were still called philosophers. The word "scientist" was coined in 1840 by an English writer, William Whewell. It gradually came to designate the practitioners of a specialized field of knowledge.

On the other hand, science in Islam is fundamentally rooted in the Holy Quran and the prophetic tradition (Sunnah) which have been in existence for over fourteen centuries. Indeed, the scientific, economic, and cultural developments that flourished during the Golden Age of the Islamic civilization (from the 8th Century to the 13th Century) could be easily explained by the fact that for Muslim scholars of the past it was obligatory to ponder over the Holy Quran.

"Those are Allah's Signs which We recite to you for the Truth, so in what report will you believe if not in Allah and His Signs?" (Quran 45:6)

Even though it was revealed in the year of 610 in the desert of Saudi Arabia, the Holy Quran also contains several scientific facts that were discovered only during the last century. These facts were of course not known to the people of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)'s era. Even the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was illiterate when he received his revelation. One of the most important facts of convergence between the Quran and science is the description and the creation of the universe in the Holy Quran:

"Among His signs are the day and the night, the sun and the moon. Do not prostrate to the sun or the moon, but prostrate to Allah, Who created them ´ all´ , if you ´ truly´ worship Him ´ alone´ " (Quran 41:37)

The greatest and most manifest of the signs (Ayat) of Allah (SWT) in the universe are the sun, the moon and the alternation of the night and day, for these are ever present before each human being. Those who understand and live with the idea of Tawhidic



Paradigm have strong faith that there are no coincidences or accidents in the universe. Indeed, Allah (SWT), who created the universe, controls everything by imposing His Divine Forces and Laws.

Moreover, the interconnection between the universe and the Holy Quran could also be understood by the fact that some Ayat of Allah (SWT) in nature are names of some Surahs in the Holy Quran such as: Al-An´ m [The cattle], An-Nahl [The bee], An-Naml [The ants], Al-Fajr [The dawn], Ash-Shams [The sun], Al-Layl [The night], Al-Insane [The Man] and Az-Zalzala [The Shaking].

"(God) is the One who spread out the Earth and set therein mountains standing firm and rivers. For every fruit He placed two of a pair. He covers the day with the night. Verily in this there are Signs for people who reflect." (Quran 13:3)

Modern scientific discoveries, such as those in genetics, cell life, and quantum physics, were hardly imaginable in the era of the Prophet (SAW). Yet, the Holy Quran amazingly refers to these discoveries. For example, the Holy Quran contains information on the Theory of Relativity, Big Bang Theory, Genetics, Black Holes, and more. Evidently, the Words (Quran) of The Creator (SWT) and science are not isolated from each other. Indeed, the so-called "universal" or "natural" laws are in fact The Divine Laws that Allah

(SWT) imposed on the whole universe.

"This is because Allah is the Truth, and that which they call upon besides Him is the falsehood, and that Allah is the High, the Great." (Quran 31:30)

In this regard, many Quranic verses refer to creations as divine signs, such as:

"Do they not look at the Camels, how they are made? And in the Sky, how is it raised high? And at Mountains, how are they fixed? And on the Earth, how is it spread out?" (Quran 88:17-20)

"The Sun and the Moon follow courses (exactly) computed." (Quran 55:5)

"He it is Who gave the sun radiance and the moon light and determined the stages that you may learn the calculation of years and the reckoning of time. Allah has created all this with a rightful purpose. He explains His signs for the people who know." (Quran 10:5)

According to these Quranic verses, Muslim scientists are expected to observe natural phenomena and study their Divine Laws and organizations within the framework of The Holy Quran and The Prophet (SAW)'s sayings. This spiritual part of the quest for knowledge is what makes science Islamic. In addition, the moral context of Islam guides the type of research as a distinctive Islamic element in the study of nature and life. Indeed, the search for knowledge in Islam is not an end

but a means to finding the truth that draws us closer to Allah (SWT).

In fact, just as Muslim scientists read the Holy Quran as the "revealed book" of signs (Ayat) from Allah (SWT), they are also supposed to consider the universe as a "divine open book" containing His signs (Ayat). Therefore, scientific discoveries in nature complement Quranic teachings and enhance faith.

Consequently, the scientific observer of nature is a kind of wise seeker of truth in the act of worship, as Allah (SWT) says "Those who remember Allah while standing, sitting or (reclining) on their backs, and reflect in the creation of the heavens and the Earth, (saying) 'Our Lord! You have not created this in vain. Glory to You! Save us, then, from the chastisement of the Fire.'" (Quran 3:191).

Muslim scholars of the Golden Age of the Islamic civilization were deeply conscious about seeking the truth in their scientific activities. For example, Ibn Al-Haytham was a medieval mathematician, astronomer, and physicist [3]. As seeker fort the truth, he said "The duty of the man who investigates the writings of scientists, if learning the truth is his goal, is to make himself an enemy of all that he reads and attack it from every side. He should also suspect himself as he performs his critical examination of it, so that he may avoid falling into either prejudice or leniency.

Indeed, considered the "father of modern optics", he made significant contributions to the principles of optics and visual perception in particular. His most influential work is the "Book of Optics", written between 1011 and 1021, of which the Latin edition has survived. Al-Haytham's work was frequently cited during the scientific revolution by Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, Christiaan Huygens and Galileo Galilei.

Ibn Al-Haytham was also the first to explain the theory of vision correctly and to argue that vision occurs in the brain, highlighting observations that it is subjective and affected by personal experience. He also demonstrated through experiments that light travels in a straight line, and carried out various experiments with lenses, mirrors, refraction and reflection.

His analyses of reflection and refraction take separate account of the vertical and horizontal components of light rays. He was the first physicist to give a complete statement of the law of reflection . He was also the first to assert that the incident ray, the reflected ray and the surface normal all lie in the same plane perpendicular to the plane of reflection.

Occasional references to theology or religious sentiment can also be found in his technical works, for example in Doubts Concerning Ptolemy: Truth is sought for its own sake. Truth is hard to find, and the road to it is full of pitfalls. Allah (SWT), however, has not preserved the scientist from error and has not preserved science from defects and faults. Had this been the case, scientists would not have disagreed on any point of science.

According to medieval biographers, Al-Haytham wrote over 200 works on a wide range of subjects, of which at least 96 of his scientific works are known. Most of his works are now lost, but more than 50 have survived to some extent. Nearly half of the surviving works are on mathematics, 23 on astronomy, 14 on optics and a few on other subjects.

In 2014, the episode "Hiding in the Light" of Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey, presented by Neil deGrasse Tyson, focused on the achievements of Ibn Al-Haytham. UNESCO declared 2015 the International Year of Light, and its Director-General Irina Bokova called Ibn Al-Haytham the "father of optics"[15]. The aim was to celebrate Ibn Al-Haytham's achievements in optics, mathematics and astronomy.

An international campaign, created by the 1001 Inventions organization, entitled 1001 Inventions and the World of Ibn Al-Haytham, featured a series of interactive exhibitions, workshops and live performances about his work, in partnership with science centres, science festivals, museums and educational institutions, as well as digital and social media platforms. The campaign also produced and broadcast the short educational film 1001 inventions and the world of Ibn Al-Haytham.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

Prophet Yunus (AS): A Story That Can Change How You Deal With Hard Times

The story of Prophet Yunus (Jonah in the Bible) is a powerful narrative found in religious texts. It offers profound lessons applicable to our lives today

The Story of Prophet Yunus (AS)

Prophet Yunus (AS) was sent by Allah (SWT) to the people of Nineveh, a large city known for its wickedness. He was tasked with calling them to worship the one true God - Allah (SWT) and to abandon their sinful ways, warning them of impending punishment if they did not repent.

However, the people of Nineveh rejected his message. Prophet Yunus, feeling frustrated, disheartened, and perhaps even a sense of failure after years (as per sources, he preached for 33-37 years) of preaching with little success, left the city in anger without waiting for Allah (SWT)'s explicit command to do so. He thought they were beyond redemption and that the punishment was inevitable.

As he left, he boarded a ship. During the voyage, a violent storm arose, and the sailors, believing it was a sign of divine displeasure due to the presence of a disobedient person on board, cast lots. The lot fell on Yunus (AS) multiple times. Recognizing his situation, he asked to be thrown overboard to save the others.

Yunus (AS) was swallowed by a giant fish (often described as a whale). Inside the belly of the fish, in darkness and confinement, he realized his mistake – he had abandoned his mission and lost hope in Allah (SWT)'s mercy and the potential for his people to change.

In his despair, Prophet Yunus (AS) turned to Allah (SWT) in sincere repentance, acknowledging his wrongdoing. His famous

supplication in the belly of the fish is: "There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers." (Surah Al Anbya - 21:87)

Allah (SWT), in His infinite mercy, heard the Prophet's prayer. He commanded the fish to release Yunus (AS) onto dry land. Yunus (AS) was weak and ill, but Allah (SWT) caused a plant to grow to provide him shade and nourishment.

After recovering, Yunus (AS), humbled and obedient, returned to Nineveh as Allah (SWT) had originally commanded. To his surprise, he found that the people, having witnessed the signs of the impending punishment after his departure and heeded the advice of a righteous individual who remained among them, had repented sincerely. Allah (SWT) then lifted the punishment from them.

Lessons We Can Learn and Apply Today

The story of Prophet Yunus (AS) is rich with lessons that remain incredibly relevant in our modern lives:

Patience and Perseverance in Our Calling: Yunus (AS) became discouraged by the initial rejection of his message. In our own lives, whether in our work, personal relationships, or efforts to do good, we may face setbacks and feel like our efforts are futile. The story reminds us of the importance of patience, perseverance, and continuing to strive for what is right, even when the results are not immediately apparent. We should trust in the process and in Allah (SWT)'s timing.



The Danger of Despair and Losing Hope: Despair can lead us to make rash decisions and abandon our responsibilities. We must remember that with Allah (SWT), there is always hope, and situations can change in unexpected ways.

The Power of Sincere Repentance: Yunus (AS)'s heartfelt repentance in his darkest hour led to his forgiveness and salvation. This highlights the immense power of turning back to Allah (SWT) with sincerity, acknowledging our mistakes, and seeking His mercy. No matter how far we may stray, the door to repentance is always open.

Trust in Allah (SWT)'s Plan and Wisdom:

Prophet Yunus (AS) thought he knew what was best for his people and became angry when they didn't listen. However, Allah (SWT)'s plan was different. The story teaches us to trust in Allah (SWT)'s wisdom, even when we don't understand the circumstances. What may seem like a failure or a delay can be part of a larger divine plan.

Humility and Self-Reflection: Yunus (AS)'s experience in the belly of the fish forced him into deep self-reflection, leading him to recognize his error. We too should take time for introspection, examine our actions and intentions, and be humble enough to admit when we are wrong.

Allah (SWT)'s Boundless Mercy and Forgiveness: Despite the Prophet's initial disobedience, Allah (SWT) showed him immense mercy by rescuing him and giving him a second chance. He also extended His forgiveness to the people of Nineveh when they sincerely repented. This underscores Allah (SWT)'s attribute of being Ar-Rahman (the Most Merciful) and Al-Ghaffar (the Most Forgiving).

The Importance of Staying True to Our Responsibilities: Yunus (AS) left his mission without Allah (SWT)'s permission. This reminds us of the importance of fulfilling our duties and responsibilities, even when they are challenging or when we don't see immediate results.

Judging Others: Yunus (AS) might have judged his people too harshly, believing they were beyond redemption. This serves as a caution against making definitive judgments about others and their capacity for change.

In today's complex world, we often face challenges that test our patience, faith, and resilience. The story of Prophet Yunus (AS) provides a timeless reminder that even in moments of despair and difficulty, turning to Allah (SWT) with sincerity, maintaining hope, and persevering in our responsibilities can lead to redemption and unexpected positive outcomes. It emphasizes the transformative power of repentance and the boundless mercy of the Divine.

Courtesy: dukhni.com

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

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Ministry of Tribal Affairs organises one-day interaction programme with ST beneficiaries, FRA title holders in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 22: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, organised a interaction programme with Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries and Forest Rights Act title holders of Sub-Division Khansahib in district Budgam to raise awareness about the Forest Rights Act (FRA), facilitate awareness regarding the process of filing and obtaining forest rights claims, and highlight various welfare initiatives aimed at the socio-economic development of tribal communities.

Under Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Shambhu Nath Pal, as per an official statement, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Upon his arrival at the venue, he inspected stalls showcasing locally cultivated products and other items produced by members of the Scheduled Tribe community. The exhibition highlighted the local livelihood activities, traditional skills and economic potential of the tribal population.

During the programme, Shambhu Nath Pal held detailed deliberations on the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, with particular emphasis on Community Forest Rights (CFR) and Individual Forest Rights (IFR). He sensitised the participants about the objectives and scope of the Act and explained



the procedure for filing claims, documentation required, and the process involved in securing eligible forest rights under the prescribed framework.

He also interacted with the beneficiaries and emphasised the importance of awareness, proper guidance and coordination among the concerned departments to ensure that eligible members of the Scheduled Tribe community are able to understand and access the benefits available to them under the Act.

Dr. Basharat Hussain, Secretary Tribal Affairs Advisory Board, also addressed the gathering and spoke about the significance of the Forest Rights

Act and its potential to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of tribal communities. He highlighted the benefits of the Act and stressed the need to enhance awareness among eligible beneficiaries so that they could avail themselves of their entitlements in accordance with the prescribed provisions.

Earlier, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri briefed the visiting officer about the demographic profile of the Scheduled Tribe population in the region, their socio-economic conditions and the developmental initiatives being undertaken for their welfare. He also outlined various

government welfare schemes and departmental interventions aimed at promoting community development, improving livelihood opportunities and ensuring the overall upliftment of tribal households in the subdivision.

The programme also provided an opportunity for beneficiaries to share their experiences and express their views regarding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. Several FRA beneficiaries spoke about the benefits they had received after obtaining their forest rights and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the District Administration Budgam and the Sub-Divisional Administration Khansahib for their support and facilitation.

The beneficiaries highlighted the importance of such interaction programmes in bridging the gap between the administration and the community, addressing concerns at the grassroots level and ensuring that information about government initiatives reaches the intended beneficiaries.

The interaction programme witnessed the participation of officers from departments, including the Deputy Director, Employment, Budgam; Tehsildar, Khansahib; District Coordinator, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM); and other district and sub-divisional officers.

Empowered democratic governance in J&K an urgent necessity: Dr Farooq Abdullah

KT News Desk

Srinagar, October 22: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah has said that the National Conference has, since its inception, remained the voice of the rights, demands, aspirations and sentiments of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

He said the party has consistently played a pivotal role in promoting equitable development, prosperity and public welfare across all three regions while preserving their cultural heritage, traditions, brotherhood and unity.

Dr Farooq Abdullah, as per a statement, made these remarks during his two-day visit to Jammu, where he interacted with people from various walks of life, as well as party leaders, office-bearers and workers.

He said National Conference governments have always worked to ensure equal rights for people belonging to all religions, regions and sections of society, while striving to bring positive change to the lives of disadvantaged communities.

He noted that the historic land reforms introduced by the first popular government led by the National Conference granted ownership rights to tillers, bringing a transformative change to the lives of poor and hardworking people, particularly in the Jammu region.

However, he said, the absence of statehood and the existing administrative structure



of the Union Territory have created several obstacles for the elected government in exercising its powers, conducting administrative affairs effectively and meeting public expectations.

Dr Farooq Abdullah said that in a democratic system, an elected government must not only remain accountable to the people but must also possess the necessary powers to implement decisions taken in the public interest.

Reminding the Union Government of its commitments, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had been promised the restoration of statehood, and the time had come to translate that assurance into reality.

Highlighting Jammu's economic significance, Dr Farooq said the Darbar Move tradition had long symbolised the administrative, economic and social ties between Jammu and Kashmir. "However the BJP's decision to discontinue the

practice had adversely affected Jammu's commercial and business communities."

Dr Farooq said that the people of Jammu had voted for the BJP but the party had left no stone unturned in damaging the region's interests. He said decisions such as discontinuing the Darbar Move had further weakened Jammu's economy and increased the economic vulnerability of its people.

He said that immediately after assuming office, the National Conference government restored the centuries-old Darbar Move tradition, fulfilling its electoral commitment and giving fresh impetus to Jammu's economy.

Cautioning the people of Jammu against the BJP's deceptive and communal politics, Dr Farooq Abdullah said the party was exploiting religious sentiments for political gains. He urged people to recognise this approach and reject the BJP.

The National Conference President reiterated that his party would continue its struggle for the rights of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the protection of the region's identity, regional equality and the restoration of statehood.

Meanwhile, National Conference Provincial President Jammu, Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta briefed Dr Farooq Abdullah in detail about party activities, organisational programmes, development projects and the relief being provided to people across the Jammu region.

PD&SJ Srinagar convenes 4th UTRC meeting



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: The 4th and the last meeting of calendar year of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) was convened Thursday under the chairmanship of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Srinagar, in the conference hall of the Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by PD&SJ Srinagar, and was attended by, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar along with Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, ADC Srinagar, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar, and Public Prosecutor PD&SJ Court Srinagar.

The Secretary DLSA Srinagar convened the meeting who deliberated upon the cases of eligible undertrial prisoners in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme Court of India and the Under Trial Review Committee framework. The Committee reviewed the status of undertrial inmates lodged in the Central Jail Srinagar

pertaining to District Srinagar and examined cases for consideration of appropriate legal relief, including release on bail or other measures as permissible under law.

The Chairman emphasized the need for timely review of undertrial cases to ensure that no eligible prisoner remains incarcerated unnecessarily and reiterated the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar, towards safeguarding the constitutional and legal rights of undertrial prisoners. The Committee also stressed the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholder departments for expeditious disposal of eligible cases.

In the meeting, four Cases of under trial prisoners furnished by the concerned authorities were taken up for consideration, out of which two cases were recommended for consideration by the committee as per the guidelines.

The meeting concluded with necessary directions and recommendations for prompt follow-up action by the concerned authorities in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee.

Information Deptt Kulgam organises awareness programme on conservation of Biodiversity, Wildlife at GDC D.H. Pora

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 22: Information Department Kulgam, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) D.H. Pora, Thursday organised an awareness programme on forests, biodiversity and wildlife conservation at Degree College, DH Pora.

DIO Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganie, in his inaugural address, highlighted the vital role of forests in maintaining ecological balance, regulating climate, conserving soil and water resources, and sustaining diverse forms of life. He stressed the importance of protecting the region's rich biodiversity and wildlife habitats from deforestation, forest fires, pollution and human interference. He also emphasised the need to promote environmental awareness among youth and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of conservation by adopting eco-friendly practices and spreading awareness in their communities.

During the programme, as per an official statement, five students delivered speeches on various aspects of forest conservation, biodiversity protection and wildlife preservation. They highlighted the importance of protecting endangered species, conserving natural habitats, preventing illegal hunting, reducing plastic



pollution and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. The students also underlined the role of community participation and individual responsibility in addressing environmental challenges and safeguarding the natural heritage for future generations.

Pamphlets highlighting the importance of forest conservation, biodiversity protection and wildlife preservation were also distributed among the students to further spread awareness about environmental protection and encourage responsible practices.

Principal GDC D.H. Pora, Professor Abdul Salam Dar, in his address, underscored the importance of environmental education in developing responsible and environmentally conscious citizens. He stressed that educational institutions have a significant role in nurturing a conservation-oriented mindset among students and

encouraging them to contribute towards protecting forests, wildlife and biodiversity. He appreciated the initiative of the Information Department Kulgam for organising the programme in collaboration with the college.

Dr. Aftab, Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences, highlighted the importance of preserving forests, biodiversity and wildlife, emphasising the need for environmental awareness and collective efforts towards conservation.

At the conclusion, the participating students were felicitated with mementoes in recognition of their participation, while Dr. Aftab was also felicitated by the DIO Kulgam and the Principal with a memento in appreciation of his contribution to the successful conduct of the programme.

Other faculty members, staff and students in large numbers attended the programme.

PAC reviews CAG audit observations of H&UDD Deptt

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday convened a meeting at the Legislative Assembly here, under the Chairmanship of Surjeet Singh Slathia, to examine the CAG Audit Paras pertaining to the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Legislators Mubarik Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qasir Jamshaid Lone, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch. Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa and Tanvir Sadiq

The Chairman observed that deficiencies flagged by the CAG including gaps in planning for ULBs, lack of stakeholder consultation in preparation of SWM Action Plans, non-assessment of quantity and composition of waste and inadequate segregation at source need to be addressed on priority. He further noted that issues related to collection, transportation, processing, scientific disposal, adherence to SWM Rules 2016 and deficient manpower and capacity building of sanitation staff require concerted efforts at the ULB level.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on Audit Paras concerning the Solid Waste Management in Urban Local Bodies, including collection, segregation at source,

transportation, processing and scientific disposal of waste. The Committee also reviewed issues relating the financial management, capacity building and implementation of waste management rules.

During the meeting, Surjeet Singh Slathia, emphasized that proper utilization of public funds is essential for strengthening the democratic institutions and ensuring clean environment for citizens. He underlined the need for strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and for time-bound implementation of Solid Waste Management projects.

The Chairman stressed on achieving 100 percent door-to-door collection and segregation of waste at source, improvement of approach roads to dumping sites and scientific management of legacy waste, particularly along highway corridors. He emphasized on conducting Compliance Audit and Performance Audit to ensure transparency, accountability and effective outcome of urban development schemes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Commissioner, SMC; Ayushi Sudan, Commissioner, JMC, Chief Engineer, UEED Director, ULB Jammu Deputy Accountant General, besides other senior officers of the Department and officers of the Assembly Secretariat.

SKUAST-Kashmir kicks off 2-day training programme on 'Revival and Promotion of Millets' at KVK Gurez

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 22: The Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), Wadura, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)/Mountain Agriculture Research and Extension Station (MAR&ES), Gurez, on Wednesday commenced a two-day training programme on the revival and promotion of millets (nutri-cereals) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme witnessed active participation from post-graduate students, Ph.D. scholars, project staff, progressive farm-women, innovative farmers, and scientific and technical personnel from various subject matter divisions of FoA, Wadura, and KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

Prof. Lal Singh, Chief Scientist-cum-Principal Investigator,

HADP-08, highlighted the importance of millets in the context of changing climatic conditions. Through a detailed presentation, he underlined the potential of these resilient and nutritious crops under the agro-climatic conditions of Gurez, emphasising their adaptability, health benefits, market prospects and industrial potential. He also stressed the role of value addition, product development, proper labelling and branding in enhancing the commercial viability of millets and strengthening farmers' livelihoods.

Senior Scientist and Head, KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, underscored the importance of introducing innovative agricultural technologies developed by SKUAST-Kashmir to expand livelihood opportunities for the tribal community. He said the Kendra, under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir

Ahmad Ganai and with the support of Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Research Prof. Syed Zameer and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Najeeb Ul Rehman Sofi, remains committed to the revival and promotion of heritage crops across Gurez Valley.

Dr. Malik emphasised the need to strengthen collaborative research and extension efforts under HADP-08, focusing on scientific millet cultivation, value addition and product development to realise the crop's full potential.

Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq, Scientist, Agro-forestry, informed that the Action Plan for 2027-28 would incorporate various interventions for the revival and promotion of heritage crops, with particular emphasis on millets.

Prof. Lal Singh assured continued support for agricultural development in Gurez and

proposed organising an exposure visit for progressive farmers from the valley to the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, during the forthcoming season. The visit would familiarise farmers with the latest technological advancements developed by the University, particularly in millet cultivation and related practices.

The participating farmers and beneficiaries expressed gratitude to SKUAST-Kashmir for organising the informative, need-based and market-oriented training programme, describing such initiatives as valuable opportunities to enhance agricultural knowledge, explore new income-generating avenues and promote sustainable farming practices in the region.

Certificates were distributed among participants in recognition of their participation in the programme.

SWD Srinagar organises awareness programme on financial assistance schemes

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Srinagar, SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti organised an awareness programme at Malla Bagh Srinagar at Community Level and in Collaboration with Mission POSHAN to sensitise the local community about financial literacy, various financial assistance initiatives and social security schemes aimed at promoting financial inclusion and ensuring the welfare of eligible beneficiaries.

During the programme, participants were informed about the significance of financial literacy in everyday life, including the importance of savings, budgeting, maintaining bank accounts, using banking services responsibly and adopting safe digital

financial practices. Emphasis was laid on making individuals aware of their financial rights and encouraging them to make informed decisions to improve their economic security.

The participants were also sensitised about various financial assistance schemes and social security initiatives implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and other line Departments. Information was shared regarding the benefits available to eligible individuals and families, including marriage assistance, assistance for persons with disabilities, and other welfare measures designed to provide support to deserving beneficiaries. The importance of understanding eligibility conditions, completing the required documentation and following the

prescribed application procedures was also highlighted.

The programme further emphasised the need to ensure that government welfare benefits reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly vulnerable households, women, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged sections of society. Community members were encouraged to approach the concerned departmental offices for accurate information, guidance and assistance in accessing the benefits of relevant schemes.

The Department of Social Welfare Srinagar reiterated its commitment to inclusive development and the effective implementation of welfare initiatives, with a focus on empowering individuals and families through awareness, financial inclusion and access to government assistance.

World order is changing; some people dreaming of disorder in India: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hit out at the opposition Congress, saying that while the world is searching for a "new order", some people are dreaming of "disorder" in India. In a direct attack on the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, PM Modi said the country does not have as many rocket launches from Sriharikota in one year as the Congress makes failed attempts to launch its leader.

"To save its family from the blot of failure, the Congress is questioning India's achievements. The grapes are sour, and the Congress is now trying to axe the vine itself. The family is now a burden on the Congress," the PM said while addressing the NDTV World Summit here.

Without taking any name, Modi said genuine civil movements meant to improve the system are ruined by the Congress, which has become a political parasite influenced by "brain naxalites" who have paralysed its capacity for independent thought.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and the opposition INDIA bloc have staged separate protests in the national capital and other parts of the country over the last fortnight seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Though Gandhi made statements condemning the arrest of CJP leaders, there is no direct connection between the two groups and their protests.

Modi alleged that due to the Congress' attitude, the voices of the government's honest critics, who want the welfare of the country and democracy, are drowned out.

He said the world order is



changing and hence reform in multilateral institutions is essential to give due place to the voice of the Global South.

"We have to understand why the world order is changing. Why the old order has not been able to resolve the emerging challenges," he said.

"Reform in multilateral institutions is essential. Giving rightful place to the voice of the Global South is essential," the prime minister said.

He said when the global realities change, but the methods of decision-making do not, the gap between the system and reality begins to widen.

For decades, Modi said, trade connected nations, technology bridged distances, sea routes linked economies, and culture and mobility brought diverse societies closer.

"But today, these very links are facing new tensions. Trade is becoming a medium of weaponisation. Technology is turning into a new arena of competition and conflict. Sea routes are becoming hubs of geopolitical tensions," he said.

Therefore, today's challenge is not merely the emergence of a new global order; the

challenge is how to forge an order in a changing world that accommodates new realities, makes global institutions more effective, and strengthens the spirit of cooperation among nations, he said.

"And this is where the question of India's role comes to the fore," he added.

Modi also said international cooperation should not be just for good times; it should remain effective even in times of crisis, and for that, effective consensus among all stakeholders is essential.

He said that while the world is searching for a "new order", some people are dreaming of "disorder" in India.

"Today, when there is so much global chaos, the image of a strong India should shine worldwide. But some are hell-bent on dragging India's reputation in the mud, going abroad to defame the country and pleading for foreign intervention," he said.

The PM said no one knows how long the Congress will keep the country at stake to launch its "failed product".

"In fact, this family of the Congress has become a burden

on its own party," he said, adding that the senior leaders of the opposition party admit this in private.

He said it is seen in Parliament how talented young opposition MPs want to debate and criticise the government.

"But the Congress disrupts proceedings because it wants to keep only one person in the limelight, doing grave injustice to young opposition lawmakers," he claimed.

Modi said the world realised that the global order cannot be run solely on the basis of power and interests.

"Dialogue is essential, cooperation is necessary, and the resolution of disputes is imperative. This very sentiment laid the foundation of the United Nations (UN)," he said.

For decades, the UN played its part in promoting global co-operation and peace. However, over time, the world kept changing, new aspirations emerged, new economies and new powers arose, he said.

"The United Nations and other global institutions have had their historical roles, but in the face of today's challenges, their limitations are clearly visible," he said.

Highlighting India's achievements in various sectors, Modi said there was a time when the world called India the 'World's Back Office', but today's India is not just a service provider; it is innovating, designing and building new solutions and technologies for the world.

"We will dream big, transform every challenge into an opportunity, and carry every resolve to its fruition. Our strength is our self-confidence, and our inspiration is the dreams of 140 crore countrymen.

"We will innovate, forge new paths, touch new heights, and connect India's success with the world's success," the PM said.

Amit Shah launches 43 Yamuna cleaning projects, vows clean river by May 2029

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday laid the foundation for 43 projects worth Rs 8,941 crore, including the city's biggest STP at Okhla aimed at cleaning the Yamuna river.

Shah said the Delhi government has successfully reduced sewer discharge into the Yamuna, and he pledged that the BJP government would ensure the river is cleaned in Delhi by May 2029.

The launched projects include a new sewage treatment plant (STP) at Okhla, 29 decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs), and new sewer lines. The inauguration took place in Najafgarh.

"These projects are like the backbone of cleaning the Yamuna river. The Centre, Delhi government, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, these 'four engines' are working together to provide a clean Yamuna and drinking water to the public," Shah said while addressing the public.

Touted to be the biggest STP in the country and Delhi, DJB officials said that the new 124 million gallons per day (MGD) plant has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,161 crore.

The plant is a joint venture between the National Mission for Clean Ganga and Delhi Jal

Board, originally sanctioned in 2017.

"Built under the Yamuna Action Plan-III, the plant will treat wastewater. Arrangements have also been made to ensure that the treated water meets prescribed standards and to generate energy. The project is expected to benefit around 70 lakh people in the Okhla area," a DJB official said.

Previous governments only used to make excuses, but now the current BJP government will clean the Yamuna before May 2029. The plan is to provide sewer connection and clean drinking water to every household in three years, Shah added.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Water Minister Parvesh Verma were also present at the inauguration.

"Under these projects, new sewage treatment plants will be built, the capacity of old plants will be increased, the sewer network will be expanded, and drainage arrangements will be improved. This will greatly help in preventing dirty water from entering the Yamuna," Gupta said.

Twenty-nine new DSTPs and sewage pumping stations in outer Delhi will cover 358 unauthorised colonies and 113 villages, benefiting 36.29 lakh residents in Narela, Bawana, Kanjhawala, Bijwasan, Tikri

Kalan and nearby areas.

"The decentralised STPs and sewage pumping stations will be constructed at the cost of Rs 3,113.67 crore," Gupta added.

Another project involving the laying of 1,034 kilometre of new sewer network was launched, costing around Rs 1,691 crore benefitting around 25.82 lakh people.

The Delhi government is also replacing the old water treatment plant at Chandrawal with a new facility that will have a capacity of 477 million litres per day (MLD), for which a foundation-laying ceremony was held.

The new plant, which will benefit around 22 lakh residents, will be constructed at the cost of Rs 298.3 crore, replacing two old WTPs set up in 1935 and 1955.

Water Minister Verma stated that these projects will bolster the Delhi government's efforts to clean the Yamuna.

"Through these projects, key initiatives such as the development of water treatment plants, expansion of the sewer network, enhancement of wastewater treatment capacity, and improvement of the drainage system will gain momentum," Verma said.

He said the aim behind these projects will be to intercept sewage that reaches the Yamuna, treat it and reuse it instead.

Democracy embedded in India's living ethos: LS Speaker Birla

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said democracy is embedded in India's living ethos and that it remains committed to safeguarding free speech and open debate. Addressing the media

at a press conference here, Birla said that every MP has a right to raise any issue in Parliament, but placards and sloganeering have no place in any democracy.

Asked about the youth protests in France and some other countries, the speaker

emphasised that global events naturally affect any nation, including India.

"Democracy is part of India's living organisms. India always makes efforts to ensure debate and discussions and promote free speech so that the world benefits from it," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Winning not as

participating in Sunday's event, encouraging them to take part with enthusiasm and sporting spirit.

The three-day exposition provides a platform for participants to complete registration formalities, collect their race bibs and explore sports equipment and related products ahead of the marathon.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Tourism Avny Lavasa, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad, event organisers and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

CM announces special

The Chief Minister said participants from across India and several foreign countries were expected to take part in the marathon, adding that Kashmir's scenic landscape made the event unique.

"If you look at the beauty and surroundings of the Kashmir Marathon, there is hardly any competition. The prize money is also much higher than that offered in many other races," he said.

Recalling his participation in the first two editions, Abdullah said he would not run this year but would attend the event to flag off the race.

"I had the opportunity to participate in the first two marathons. Unfortunately, I will not be participating this year, but I will certainly come to flag it off," he said.

He also urged people who have not yet registered to take part in the event, stressing that participation is more important than winning.

"Those who have not registered still have an opportunity. Come forward, register and participate. Winning is not as important as taking part and enjoying the marathon," he said. (KNO)

'J&K's whole-of-govt

persons engaged in begging, Pant encouraged the UT administration to work towards achieving the 'Begging-Free City' status for its urban centres. He observed that the relatively small number of such persons could be addressed through focused rehabilitation, sustained support and collaboration with dedicated non-governmental organisations.

The Union Secretary also outlined key priorities and focus areas for the UT to facilitate the achievement of the Ministry's objectives. He appreciated Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo for his continued guidance and mentoring of the J&K's Social Welfare Department, observing that its diverse mandate required close coordination across multiple departments for effective implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, social justice and community empowerment. He emphasised that the UT administration was committed to saturating the benefits of welfare

schemes among all eligible and deserving beneficiaries, particularly those belonging to disadvantaged and underprivileged sections of society.

Further the Chief Secretary threw light on the population profile of various beneficiary groups in J&K, the welfare measures available for their upliftment and the legal, institutional and regulatory safeguards established to protect their rights and prevent atrocities, discrimination and harassment. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure that the benefits of these interventions reach every eligible beneficiary.

On this occasion the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Doifode Sagar Dattatray, presented a detailed appraisal of the progress achieved under various centrally sponsored and UT-level schemes, covering drug demand reduction, educational scholarships, senior citizen welfare, rehabilitation, sanitation-worker safety, community development and legal protection for vulnerable groups.

Under the Nasha Mukta J&K 100 Days Abhiyan, the Department reported extensive public outreach through coordinated efforts involving multiple departments. It was revealed that more than 7.21 million outreach events had been conducted across the UT with Addiction Treatment Facilities handling 66,594 outpatients, while the Department's Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres providing care to 1,053 individuals.

On the enforcement front, it was given out that the Police had registered 1,187 FIRs and arrested 1,349 persons. With respect to financial investigations the meeting was apprised that the same resulted in the seizure or attachment of 125 immovable properties valued at 9,828.17 lakh and 60 movable assets worth 703.83 lakh belonging to drug traffickers.

The meeting was informed that the proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026, envisaging a structured three-year recovery framework.

On this occasion, Dr Arshad Hussain, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar, elaborated on J&K's 'Circle of Care' approach to addressing substance use disorders. The three-dimensional strategy provides continuity of care from admission to de-addiction facilities through treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and long-term monitoring to support sustained recovery.

Moreover it was divulged that under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, it was informed that 419 villages had been selected for development as model villages, of which 28 had been declared Adarsh Grams. A total of 81 development works had been completed during 2026-27 so far. The meeting also reviewed the funding requirement for completing subsequent phases of the programme.

The Department informed that 496.59 lakh had been utilised under the Grants-in-Aid component of PM-AJAY towards basic infrastructure, skill development and income-generating

assets. Similarly under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, 17 Senior Citizen Homes were operational across the UT, including eight in Jammu division, accommodating around 450 senior citizens, and nine in Kashmir division.

The review also covered educational scholarships under PM-YASASVI for OBC, EBC and DNT communities and scholarship schemes for Scheduled Caste students. As of October 15, 2026, a total of 20,611 applications had been received against a target of 24,817 under PM-YASASVI for the academic year 2026-27.

Under the Scheduled Caste scholarship schemes, 5,613 post-matric and 2,866 pre-matric applications had been submitted through the National Scholarship Portal. Special drives and individual follow-ups were underway to clear pending cases and expedite Aadhaar seeding.

Under the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE), 741 sewer and septic tank workers had been profiled across 74 Urban Local Bodies, of whom 734 had been validated. In addition, 5,862 urban waste pickers had been profiled, with 4,508 validated. The Department had distributed 721 personal protective equipment kits to sewer and septic tank workers and 3,854 kits to waste pickers.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of safeguards under the Protection of Civil Rights framework and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. In this direction the SAMBAL 2.0 portal had resolved 63 of the 66 online grievances registered. Relief amounting to 58.60 lakh had been disbursed through direct benefit transfers to 50 victims of atrocities between 2022 and 2026.

During the deliberations, J&K highlighted the pending central financial share for certain OBC hostel projects had affected their completion. The UT administration sought the Ministry's intervention for the release of the requisite funds to facilitate early completion of these facilities.

The review emphasised the need for sustained interdepartmental coordination, effective beneficiary outreach, timely resolution of implementation bottlenecks and a stronger focus on documenting and publicising success stories to ensure that welfare interventions translate into tangible improvements in the lives of people across Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K to witness

seasonal average.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 30 degrees Celsius, 0.6 degrees below normal, while Katra registered 27.8 degrees Celsius. Baderwah recorded a maximum of 23.3 degrees Celsius, 0.3 degrees below normal. (KNO)

'Chrysanthemum Garden'

points and better visitor amenities to enhance the overall experience.

Masoom described the garden as a dream project saying, "We want the importance and

popularity of our Chrysanthemum Garden to be exactly the same as our Tulip Garden. We don't want any season of our Kashmir to be bad. So your Spring is with Tulip and your Autumn will be with Chrysanthemum," she said.

The Director said the department has increased the flower-bed area and planted around 3.5 lakh Chrysanthemums this year, while also improving the garden's layout and facilities.

Masoom said a beautifully decorated plaza and water features have been added to make the garden more attractive, besides pergolas, selfie points and improved pathways. "We have tried to make this garden a very wonderful experience," she said.

She said the Chrysanthemum Garden was distinct because it was a theme-based garden dedicated to autumn flowering, with Chrysanthemums forming its central attraction. The surrounding plantation, including chinara, maple and ginkgo trees, have been planned to complement the flowers and enhance the autumn colours.

"It is a theme garden. You will see only autumn flowers. And in autumn flowers, you see only one flower, Chrysanthemum," she said.

The Director said the garden was expected to fill a seasonal gap in Kashmir's tourism calendar, particularly for visitors who traditionally travel to the Valley in autumn to witness the changing colours of chinara trees.

She said the department has already been receiving queries from visitors and people outside the country about the garden's opening, while the Botanical Garden has witnessed increased footfall from people keen to experience the autumn colours.

"Now they will come because they want to see the Chrysanthemum," Masoom said, expressing hope that the new attraction would give a further boost to tourism in Kashmir.

Acknowledging the challenges posed by changing weather conditions during preparations, she credited the department's officers, gardeners and other staff for working together to complete the arrangements. "There were a lot of difficulties because of the weather, but our people worked very hard. And by staying together, we made that difficulty easier," she said.

Masoom said the flowers could remain in bloom for at least one-and-a-half months after the garden's opening, with the display expected to last until December 5 or 6, depending on weather conditions.

She added that Chrysanthemums were harder than tulips and could withstand a slight snowfall, potentially allowing visitors to enjoy the garden for a longer period. (KNO)

JKBOSE grants

to appear in the succeeding annual regular examination to bridge discontinuity in their academic pursuits." (KNO)

Anantnag's 250-bed maternity

arrangements, finalise an alternative site without delay and establish a definite timeline

PM Modi receives call from Israel PM Netanyahu; discusses West Asia

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday received a telephone call from his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, during which the two leaders exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia and underscored the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region.

Modi and Netanyahu also welcomed the sustained momentum in India-Israel relations and reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

"The leaders also exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia and



underscored the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region.

Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's call for dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

In a post on X, Modi said he received a phone call from the Israeli prime minister.

"We reviewed the sustained momentum in our bilateral ties and reaffirmed our commitment

to further strengthening our partnership. We also exchanged views on recent developments in West Asia and underscored the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region," he said.

Prime Minister Modi had made a state visit to Israel from February 25 to 26. The two leaders had then agreed and decided to elevate the Strategic Partnership to a new level -- 'A Special Strategic Partnership for

Peace, Innovation and Prosperity'.

Modi had then said that India's security interest was linked to peace and stability in the Middle East, adding that New Delhi fully supported the Gaza Peace Initiative.

They also had telephonic talks during the US-Iran and Iran conflict.

Earlier this month, Netanyahu had called Indian pilot Smit Machchhar a "hero of the entire world" for foiling an alleged attempt by his co-pilot to crash an Israel-bound flight, as he spoke with him over the phone.

Captain Machchhar was attacked and seriously injured by his co-pilot in the cockpit of flydubai flight FZ1073 while the aircraft was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv last month.

India rejects 'imprecise and unsupported' references in UN migrants' rights report



PTI

United Nations, Oct 22: India has strongly rejected "imprecise and unsupported" references to it in a report by a UN expert on the rights of migrants, saying a country-specific allegation cannot be made through typographical errors and unidentified geographical expression.

Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Barkha Tamrakar delivered India's statement at the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants.

Tamrakar called out glaring inaccuracies in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants Gehad Madi related to India.

"India must place on record a serious concern about the report's treatment of law, evidence, and state responsibility. A thematic

report must not convert broad policy preferences, unverified allegations, or advocacy submissions into settled findings of the UN," she said.

Highlighting the report's apparent reference to India, Tamrakar pointed out that in paragraph 27, footnote 32, the report states, "For instance, in Assan and Northern India."

Tamrakar said that this is the complete reference and does not identify a case, a proceeding, an authority, a date, a law, or a source.

"Assan is not the name of an Indian state or a recognised jurisdiction. If the intended reference is Assam, the report should say so accurately. Northern India is not a legal or administrative jurisdiction. A country-specific allegation cannot be made through a typographical error and an unidentified geographical expression," she said.

India developing comprehensive tunnel boring machine ecosystem: Vaishnaw

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that India is building indigenous capabilities in Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) technology to meet the growing demands of its infrastructure sector.

Vaishnaw, while highlighting in a social media post India's progress in developing TBM ecosystem, said that TBMs play a crucial role in constructing tunnels for railway, highway and power infrastructure projects.

He said that while India earlier relied on imports, it is now manufacturing TBMs with diameters of 8 metres and 15 metres.

"The country is also preparing to manufacture TBMs with diameters exceeding 16 metres," he stated.

He added that with manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu and growing technical expertise, India is steadily developing a comprehensive TBM ecosystem, covering every stage from design and manufacturing to maintenance.

"This progress reflects the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, strengthening India's domestic capabilities in critical infrastructure technology," Vaishnaw said.

Centre strengthened law governing waste management: Env Minister



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Centre has strengthened the legal framework for waste management by introducing sector-specific rules for different waste streams, including plastic waste, battery waste, e-waste, and waste tyres, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Thursday.

These rules focused on waste prevention, recycling, reuse, remanufacturing and resource recovery across the product life cycle, he said during an address at the Circular Economy Conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi.

Yadav said nearly 499.60 lakh metric tonnes of waste have been processed across regulated waste streams so far, with more than 86,043 producers and 4,880 recyclers registered under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks.

The framework requires producers, importers and brand owners to ensure environmentally sound management of products at the end of their life, he said.

"The transfer of EPR certificates provided financial incentives to recyclers, encouraging capacity expansion, technological advancement and increased recycling, while contributing to job creation and livelihoods across the recycling value chain," he added.

On plastic waste management, the minister called for greater coordination between producers and recyclers to address concerns over the availability of recyclable material and recycling capacity.

"The objective goes beyond issuing certificates to creating jobs, strengthening local industry capacity, promoting knowledge-sharing and advancing technology," he said.

Gold hits 3-month low, silver crashes nearly 50 pc from record high



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Precious metal prices extended their decline on Thursday, with gold slipping to a three-month low and silver plunging nearly 50 per cent from its record high levels at the beginning of this year, as rising crude oil prices kept bullion markets under pressure.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity fell Rs 1,000 to Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 1.49 lakh per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold last traded around this level on July 30.

Silver also bore the brunt of the sell-off, tumbling Rs 5,900 to Rs 2,07,500 per kilogram, inclusive of all taxes, from the previous close of Rs 2,13,400 per kg.

The white metal was last seen around this level on December 18, 2025.

Silver has hit a 10-month low by declining Rs 31,500, or 13.18 per cent, from its December 31 level of Rs 2.39 lakh per kg. Silver has tumbled Rs 1.97 lakh per kg, or 48.70 per cent, from its all-time high of Rs 4,04,500 per kg on January 29 this year.

"Gold continued its weak trend in the domestic markets on Thursday as sentiment remains under pressure amid concerns over the West Asia conflict," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

In global markets, spot gold slipped below the USD 4,100 per ounce level, declining by USD 68.98, or nearly 1.7 per cent, to USD 4,072.30 per ounce. Silver also dropped nearly 4 per cent to USD 55.72 per ounce in global markets.

Bullion prices in overseas markets traded lower on Thursday, with spot gold slipping below USD 4,100 an ounce, as a surge in Brent crude oil towards USD 112 per barrel had revived inflation concerns and strengthened expectations of interest rates remaining elevated for longer by central banks, according to Ashish Rajodiya, Head of Commodities, PL Capital.

He added that silver had witnessed a steeper correction because of its higher volatility, while hawkish signals from the US Federal Reserve continue to weigh on both metals, while easing in crude and US-Iran tensions would give bullion room to recover.

Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at brokerage platform Lemonn, said investors are watching the Fed's October 27-28 monetary policy decision and upcoming US inflation data for fresh direction.

Meanwhile, the rupee was trading around 94.56 against the US dollar, supported by foreign inflows and RBI measures. However, elevated crude oil prices are crucial for India's import bill and inflation outlook, Garg added.

Jal Shakti Ministry calls for panchayat-led planning, sustainable financing of rural water supply

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Jal Shakti Ministry on Thursday stressed the need for sustainable financing, regular operation and maintenance, and gram panchayat-led planning to ensure long-term functionality of rural drinking water infrastructure under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0. Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Ashok K K Meena said that with the extension of JJM, the focus has shifted from infrastructure creation to functionality, source sustainability, water quality and reliable service delivery.

Meena was addressing a virtual conference organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) on convergence between JJM 2.0 and the 16th Finance Commission.

He highlighted the role of gram panchayats in preparing annual operation and maintenance plans, mobilising local resources, managing service delivery and ensuring accountability.

Tied grants under the 16th Finance Commission provide an opportunity to strengthen drinking water and sanitation services at the grassroots level, he said.

The grants should be prioritised for operation and maintenance, source sustainability, water quality management, service delivery improvements and strengthening local institutions, rather than creating new infrastructure where existing assets require maintenance, Meena said. The conference highlighted that

the total allocation for rural local bodies under the 16th Finance Commission exceeds Rs 4.35 lakh crore, with nearly Rs 1.74 lakh crore earmarked for water management and sanitation during the award period.

Vipul Ujwal, director in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, stressed the need to integrate requirements, resources and responsibilities into Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), besides strengthening own-source revenue, user charges and performance-based grants. The National Informatics Centre presented the eGramSwaraj portal's reporting modules, covering planning, implementation, asset management, expenditure reporting and monitoring through integration with the Public Financial Management System.

Karnataka, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh shared their experiences in strengthening rural water supply through improved operation and maintenance, digital monitoring, community participation and convergence of financial resources.

Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the National Jal Jeevan Mission, Kamal Kishore Soan, urged states to complete pending compliance requirements, strengthen GPD-based planning and improve user-charge collection.

He also called for training panchayat representatives, secretaries, sarpanches and technical personnel, and resolving eGramSwaraj login and reporting issues.

Jio IPO draws Rs 3.73 lakh cr in total demand as subscription crosses 5.57x



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Jio Platforms Ltd's Rs 30,213-crore initial public offering attracted bids worth Rs 3.73 lakh crore, with strong institutional demand driving subscription to 5.57 times the shares on offer, alongside solid anchor demand.

At the end of day one, Jio Platforms Ltd's initial public offering (IPO) was subscribed 5.57 times, with investors bidding for 110.03 crore shares against 19.75 crore shares on offer, according to stock exchange data.

Qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) led the demand, with their portion subscribed 13.29 times. They bid for 651.46 crore shares against 49.01 crore shares reserved for

the category.

Non-institutional investors (NIIs) subscribed their portion 5.97 times, bidding for 217.58 crore shares against 36.44 crore shares on offer. Within the category, bids above Rs 10 lakh were 6.76 times subscribed, while the Rs 2 lakh-to-Rs 10 lakh segment was subscribed 4.38 times.

The retail individual investor portion was subscribed 1.54 times, with bids for 131.06 crore shares against 85.04 crore shares reserved. Total retail demand crossed Rs 14,650 crore. The demand ex-anchor book came to Rs 1.23 lakh crore.

Jio Platforms had already raised about Rs 8,110 crore from 212 anchor investors on October 19, allotting shares at

Rs 1,119 apiece, the upper end of the price band.

The anchor book reportedly attracted bids exceeding Rs 2.5 lakh crore, more than 30 times the allocation available. Investors included global asset managers and sovereign wealth funds such as BlackRock, Fidelity Investments, GIC and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Jio Platforms, in which Reliance owns a 66.4 per cent stake, launched its IPO on Wednesday, seeking to raise about Rs 30,213 crore at the upper end of its price band of Rs 1,065-1,119 per share. The offering, comprising entirely fresh shares, will close on October 23.

Jio Platforms will use up to Rs 27,500 crore of the proceeds to repay borrowings at its wholly owned telecom subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, with the remaining funds available for growth capital expenditure and working capital needs. Investors bid for more than 5.5 times the shares on offer, making Jio Platforms Ltd's Rs 30,213-crore IPO the highest-value bid among Indian IPOs that raised more than Rs 15,000 crore, based on available figures.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

With deep sorrow, we inform you that

Mohammad Shafi Shah
S/o Late Haji Ghulam Nabi Shah,



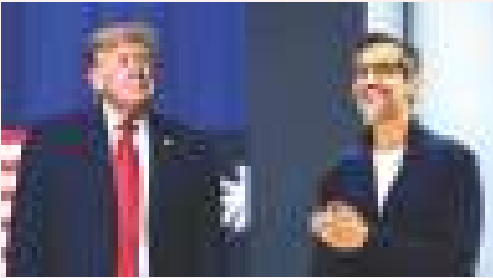
passed away on
21 October 2026.

May Allah grant the departed soul the highest place
in Jannat-ul-Firdous and grant patience and strength
to the bereaved family.

Fateh Khani will be held on
Sunday, 25 October 2026 at 10:30 AM
at our ancestral graveyard,
near Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School,
Makhdoom Sahab.

Quick Read

Shelved plans to rename Atlantic after 'no' from Sundar Pichai: Trump



PTI

Washington, Oct 22 : US President Donald Trump said he had considered renaming the Atlantic Ocean but dropped the idea after Google CEO Sundar Pichai, according to Trump, warned that the move could upset many countries.

Addressing a rally in South Carolina on Wednesday, Trump appeared to suggest that his move to rename Lake Ontario as Lake America had encouraged him to consider renaming the Pacific or Atlantic Ocean.

"Recently, I changed the name of a lake ... you know the lake. But I did it very lightly. And the damn thing got changed, actually. That's power, right? When you sort of do it half-heartedly, and it gets changed, it's changed. It's called the Lake of America," he said.

Trump said he shared his idea of changing the name of the Atlantic

Ocean with Pichai, the Indian-American CEO of Google.

"I spoke to a brilliant guy, Sundar. He heads all of Google. He's a brilliant guy. Sergei and Sundar. Totally brilliant guys," he said in an apparent reference to Sergey Brin, the co-founder of Google.

"And, you know, they're still rattled from the Gulf. And I said, 'Sundar, I'm thinking of the Atlantic Ocean. Can you handle it?'" Trump told the gathering, referring to his decision to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

Recounting Pichai's response, Trump said the Google CEO had told him that oceans were different because they covered many countries and asked him not to pursue the idea.

"So, I'll probably pass it," Trump said.

During his address, he also toyed with the idea of changing the names of rivers such as the Hudson or Mississippi to America.

China backs reopening of Bab al-Mandeb amid global oil supply disruptions

PTI

Beijing, Oct 22 :China on Thursday backed calls for reopening the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, a key international shipping route disrupted by Houthi attacks amid their conflict with Saudi Arabia, as global oil supplies face mounting pressure due to restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz triggered by the Iran-US war. China backs "constructive efforts" to ensure international shipping lanes are safe and open, according to a communique jointly issued with Djibouti, where China has its first overseas naval base.

Djibouti occupies a critical strategic position just across the narrow Bab al-Mandeb Strait from Yemen. The strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and is a chokepoint in trade between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

The joint statement was issued after talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Djiboutian counterpart Abdoukader Houssein Omar, who is currently visiting Beijing.

The statement comes amid concerns that the US-Iran war could further disrupt shipping through the Red Sea.

LG Sinha, CM Omar congratulate Sheetal Devi on Asian Para Games double gold



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 22 :Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday congratulated para-archer Sheetal Devi on winning two Gold Medals at the Asian Para Games 2026, bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

In a post on X,Office of LG wrote "Heartiest congratulations to J&K's daughter, Sheetal Devi, on her extraordinary double gold triumph at Asian Para Games 2026. Defending her individual title & clinching gold in mixed team event showcases grit & resilience. Sheetal, you have made J&K

and the entire nation proud!" Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Sheetal Devi on winning two Gold Medals at the Asian Para Games 2026.

The Chief Minister hailed her achievement in clinching Gold in both the Women's Compound Individual Event and the Compound Mixed

Team Event, describing her performance as a moment of pride for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation.

He wished Sheetal Devi continued success in her future endeavours and expressed hope that she would continue to inspire aspiring sportspersons through her achievements.



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French authorities ban some student protests after weekend looting and clashes

AP

Paris, Oct 22 : Dozens of protesters took to the Paris streets on Thursday despite bans on demonstrations ordered in multiple French cities following a weekend of clashes and widespread looting that marked France's most violent unrest in years.

Organisers of the Paris protest said an administrative court in the city overturned a ban issued by police. The Paris police prefecture previously said the ban was necessary, given the risk of street violence after groups of masked youth clashed with police forces, looted shops and torched cars over the weekend.

The Paris court ruling was not immediately made public. More bans were expected in the coming days, French President Emmanuel Macron said such measures aim to protect city centres, businesses and public buildings.

The right to demonstrate in France is protected by the French Constitution, and the ban on demonstrations planned for Thursday in Paris, Lyon, Lille and Grenoble was seen by some as an infringement on French people's right to protest.

High school and university student groups said they will continue to mobilize, even though the autumn school break started this week.

Macron said the strategy adopted for the coming days is to ban protests requested by "individuals or groups with no legitimate authority." His remarks came after a special security meeting at the Elysée Palace.

"Where trade unions submit requests to hold demonstrations, prefects will examine them in accordance with the law, but alternative routes will be proposed" to protect city centres, businesses and public buildings, Macron said.

"The rules are simple, and I think they're just common sense. The general recommendation is that there should be no demonstrations in the coming days," he said. "For those who still want to protest, if they are trade unions, prefects will propose alternative routes."

India defeat New Zealand by 1 wicket in 1st T20I

PTI

Christchurch, Oct 22 : Sanju Samson anchored the chase with a fine 67 as India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the first T20 International here on Thursday, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing 225, India responded with 230 for six in 19.4 overs.

Samson smashed eight fours and four sixes to



make his runs off 33 balls at the top, while Shreyas Iyer (42), Axar Patel (24) and Naman Dhir (42 not

out) played important knocks towards the end. Earlier, Glenn Phillips top-scored with an

unbeaten 82 and Finn Allen made 45 as New Zealand posted 225/4.

Phillips hit three sixes and eight fours to make his runs off 40 balls.

Brief scores: New Zealand 225/4 in 20 overs (Finn Allen 45, Glenn Phillips 82 not out; Mayank Yadav 1/40) lost to India 230/6 in 19.4 overs (Sanju Samson 67, Shreyas Iyer 42, Naman Dhir 42 not out; Michael Bracewell 2/37) by 5 wickets.

Sanju Samson stresses need to finish games in powerplay

PTI

Christchurch, Oct 22 : India opener Sanju Samson said his team makes a conscious effort of "killing games in the powerplay" after the visitors pulled off their highest chase in T20 cricket here on Thursday night. Samson hammered a 33-ball 67, with eight fours and four sixes, to pave the way for India's four-wicket win over New Zealand in the opening match of the five-T20I series here.

"I don't think we would have played a bit differently, but I think it's (in) different phases of the game you have different approaches,"

Samson told reporters when asked if India's approach with the bat in the chase would have been different had they been chasing a smaller target.

"When you have had a really good start in the powerplay... we actually phrase it very differently, like powerplays is different, middle-overs is different, and the death (overs stage) is different."

"So even if you're chasing 170 and if you've got (off) to a flyer, we make sure that we kill the game in the powerplay itself. That's what we have been doing really well in the last couple of years."



70th National School Games in Taekwondo begins at GCOPE

KT News Desk

Ganderbal Oct 22: The picturesque campus of the Government College of Physical Education (GCOPE) in Ganderbal witnessed a momentous celebration of athletic prowess, unity, and youthful energy today as the 70th National School Games Taekwondo officially began. Set against the majestic backdrop of Kashmir, the prestigious championship was declared open by the Chief Guest, Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Harshal Rajesh Mahajan. Addressing the gathering of talented young athletes, coaches, and sports officials who have converged from every corner of the nation, the Chief Guest encouraged the participants to embrace the true spirit of competition, emphasizing that sports play an essential role in character building, cultural exchange,



and overall personality development.

The inaugural ceremony opened with a warm and inspiring welcome address delivered by Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Youth Services and Sports, Tinna Mahajan. In her address, she highlighted the stellar role played by

the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports in grooming sports talent among the youth and school children of Jammu and Kashmir. She further underscored the visionary leadership and tireless commitment of Director General Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta, whose earnest vision is for every participant

to take back lifetime memories, serving as cultural ambassadors of Kashmir's unmatched beauty, rich heritage, and legendary hospitality.

Adding perspective to the national scale of the event, School Games Federation of India Observer and Senior Field Officer Ajay Singh Chandel took the stage to express his profound admiration for the flawless organization by the Directorate. Drawing comparisons from his officiating experience during the 69th National School Games, he lauded the meticulous planning and exceptional execution of the tournament. He also made special mention of the media and publicity committee, recalling how he closely followed the live broadcasts of the preceding Wushu championships from his home in Uttar Pradesh, praising the dedicated team for bringing the action to audiences nationwide.

INOX LIVE & MOVIE SRINAGAR

MOVIES Schedule

23 OCTOBER 2026 FRIDAY

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION (HINDI) (UA 16+) 06:15 PM	LIDTA TEER (HINDI) (UA 13+) 03:15 PM 04:25 PM 07:15 PM
PEHLA PYAAR DOOSRI BAAR (HINDI) (CA) 04:30 PM	CLAYFACE (RATED WITH ENG SUBTITLES) (CA) 02:05 PM 07:30 PM

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