



Army must plan for next 20–30 years: Defence Minister

» Asks Commanders to remain prepared to tackle emerging challenges

» Says 'Op Sindoor' sent clear message India won't hesitate to safeguard national interests

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar/New Delhi, Oct 23: Asking Army commanders to plan for the next 20 to 30 years and remain prepared to respond to emerging challenges, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated innovative thinking, better coordination and advanced weaponry of Indian armed forces.

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stressed the need for a strategic vision spanning the next 20 to 30 years, while saying that military strategies must remain dynamic and flexible to adapt to changing geopolitical and regional circumstances.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated innovative thinking, enhanced synergy & superior coordination complemented by advanced weaponry," the



Defence Minister said.

He said the 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message that India would not hesitate to take necessary measures to safeguard its national interests.

Singh commended the armed forces for adapting to evolving operational circumstances and appreciated the Army's restructuring efforts, particularly the use of drones and modern technology.

He stressed the need to strengthen capabilities, assess

performance continuously and introduce improvements in line with changing requirements.

Stressing the changing character of warfare, Singh said an integrated approach was essential, with success depending on multi-domain capabilities and seamless coordination in joint operations.

He said that while challenges across the air, maritime, space and cyber domains were gaining significance, land warfare and ground forces would continue

to remain indispensable.

The Defence Minister called for accelerated efforts in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, data analytics, cyber security and secure communication networks to strengthen the military's preparedness for future conflicts.

Highlighting India's growing defence manufacturing capabilities, Singh said defence production reached a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, while defence exports touched an all-time high of around Rs 38,000 crore.

He said the government was prioritising self-reliance in defence amid a changing global landscape and urged Army commanders to ensure the effective implementation of reforms initiated under the 'Year of Reforms - 2025'.

Singh also stressed the importance of improved manpower management, greater participation of women and an integrated | [More on P6](#)

Power relief on horizon, crisis may not wait

MoP allocates 330 MW to J&K for Dec–Feb; officials say Nov could still bite

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 23: With the onset of winters, the Ministry of Power (MoP) has allocated 330 Megawatts (MWs) power for Jammu and Kashmir for a period of three months beginning from December 2026. But officials warn the power crisis may hit earlier in November.

Top officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that "329 MWs of power from Central share have been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday for the month of December-2026, January and February 2027."

"We may face the power deficit challenge for the months of November-2026 and March-2027," the official added.

The official further informed that during the peak winters Jammu and Kashmir usually face a power shortage of 800-1000 MWs. "We meet these shortage with the

centrally allocated share and power exchanges"

"As of now we have a power demand of nearly 2100-2200 MWs and during the peak winters the power demand touches nearly 2900 MWs," he said

It also said that MoP has allocated over 870 Megawatts (MWs) of power for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) of the northern region. "However, out of the total allocated power, we get only nearly 600 MWs in accordance with the Plant Load Factor (PLF)."

In the meantime, the official documents accessed by KNO reads that J&K and Ladakh may receive 655 MWs un-allocated power from the pool of northern region utilities from 01-11-2026 to 30-11-2026 or modified otherwise.

It also said that from 01-12-2026 to 31-12-2026, J&K and Ladakh | [More on P6](#)

Govt withdraws tag of subsidiary jails from 9 buildings

Notified between 2005 to 2021

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 23: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has de-notified nine buildings which had been declared as subsidiary jails at different points of time.

In a notification issued by the Home Department, a copy of which has been accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Government has withdrawn the designation of subsidiary jail from nine buildings along with their premises.

As per details, these buildings are in Budgam, Sopore, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, and Kupwara - mostly within police establishments.

These buildings had been declared as subsidiary jails in 2005, 2008, 2019, and 2021. Although they were not currently housing prisoners, the jail status continued to remain with them | [More on P6](#)

'Know Your Artisan' exhibition opens at Chrysanthemum Garden



CM welcomes initiative

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the autumn edition of 'Know Your Artisan' at the Chrysanthemum Garden in Srinagar, bringing Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage into the spotlight against the backdrop of the Valley's autumn blooms.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Shamim Firdous, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi) and Salman Sagar, Director Handloom & Handicrafts and other senior officers of the Department were present on the occasion.

During his visit to the exhibition, the Chief Minister evinced

keen interest in live demonstrations of Kashmir's traditional crafts, renowned for their intricate craftsmanship and presence in niche global markets. He visited various stalls and interacted with artisans, who shared their experiences and spoke about the skill, dedication and painstaking effort that go into creating these exquisite handicrafts.

The Chief Minister welcomed the Handicrafts and Handloom Department's initiative to showcase traditional crafts at prominent tourist destinations such as the Chrysanthemum Garden. He said the initiative offered visitors an opportunity to experience Kashmir's rich artistic heritage alongside its natural beauty, while encouraging them to explore and purchase authentic handicrafted products.

'Know Your Artisan' is a brand promotion campaign of the Handicrafts | [More on P6](#)



CM Omar invites locals, tourists to enjoy Chrysanthemum Garden's autumn colours

'3.5 lakh plants, 70-plus varieties, nearly 12 million blossoms on display at Srinagar's Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 23: Inviting locals and tourists to visit Chrysanthemum Garden, popularly known as Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that no one can afford to miss its vibrant autumn colours and grandeur.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) CM Omar inaugurated the Chrysanthemum Show-2026 at the Botanical Garden, Chashma Shahi, marking the second consecutive year of the floral attraction aimed at extending Kashmir's tourism season and promoting autumn

tourism. "I invite not only tourists from across the country but, more importantly, our own people from Srinagar and surrounding areas to come, enjoy the beauty of this garden, take photographs and carry home beautiful memories," CM Omar said.

Titled 'Enriching Autumn with New' | [More on P6](#)

IFS Officers discuss J&K's global outreach with LG



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday interacted with a group of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers of the 2011 batch at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

The officers are currently on a week-long official visit to Jammu Kashmir as part of their Mid-Career Training

Programme. During their interactions, the visiting officers shared professional insights and discussed ways to boost UT's global presence, focusing particularly on trade, tourism, and technology.

The deliberations also highlighted Jammu Kashmir's developmental initiatives, with a focused approach toward youth empowerment, sports advancement, | [More on P6](#)

LG designates special fast-track courts for paper leaks, cheating in exam

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has designated two Special Fast-Track Courts in Jammu and Srinagar to exclusively try offences such as paper leaks, cheating, and malpractices by

exam-conducting agencies under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

In a notification, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Department of | [More on P6](#)

South Kmr upper reaches receive fresh snowfall

MeT predicts light rain, snow from Nov 1 to 5

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 23: Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan Top and Ahrabal in South Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Friday.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that brief spells of light rain are possible at a few places in Kashmir on Saturday afternoon.

According to the forecast shared by the MeT Centre weather is likely to remain generally dry from October 25 to 31, with cloudy conditions expected towards October 31.

It stated that generally cloudy weather, accompanied by light rain and light snowfall in higher reaches, is likely at a few places from November 1 to 3. Similar conditions may prevail at a few to many places on November 4 and 5.

The MeT Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other

Nurses' federation flags delay in recruitment rules for five new GMCs in J&K

AIRNF seeks accountability for missed deadline

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 23: The All India Registered Nurses Federation (AIRNF), Jammu and Kashmir UT Committee, has raised serious concerns over the prolonged delay in finalising Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs) for non-gazetted employees of five new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), alleging that nearly seven years of uncertainty have left employees facing career stagnation and aspiring candidates waiting for permanent recruitment opportunities.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Vishav Sharma, State President of AIRNF, said the rules for non-gazetted employees of five new GMCs Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag have remained pending since 2019 despite repeated assurances from the government

and successive administrative heads of the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department.

He said the failure to finalise the rules had raised serious questions about administrative accountability, employee welfare and the functioning of the department.

Sharma said September 30, 2026, was publicly communicated as the deadline for finalising the rules. He said the deadline was reportedly conveyed through the government's Information and Public Relations Department, the then Commissioner Secretary of H&ME, the Health Minister and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had indicated that the process was at its final stage.

"Despite these assurances, the employees are still waiting for the rules. A publicly announced deadline has little meaning if it is not followed by a concrete | [More on P6](#)

Trying my best to bring progress in every area, says CM Omar

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Oct 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the National Conference (NC) government is making every effort to ensure development across Jammu and Kashmir.

"I am trying my best to bring progress in every area. This was my purpose of coming to Beerwah today," Omar told reporters during his visit to Budgam district, where he inaugurated a bridge over Nallah Sukhnag and laid foundation stones for key infrastructure projects worth around Rs 25 crore in Beerwah, Budgam. He said a new receiving station is expected to become operational within four to five months.

The CM, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), inaugurated a two-span truss girder bridge over Nallah Sukhnag, constructed at Rs 8 crore, describing it as a long-pending demand of the local population. The bridge, he said, had been completed and



opened to the public to improve connectivity and ease movement for residents.

Abdullah also laid the foundation stones for the beautification of Nallah Sukhnag, including the development of walkways, decks and lighting, and the beautification of Beerwah town. "The town beautification project has an estimated cost of around Rs 6.33 crore, while the riverfront works are aimed at improving public spaces and enhancing the area's appeal for visitors,"

he said.

He said development works are being pursued in coordination with local MLA Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani and reiterated that the government is committed to improving civic amenities and infrastructure in the constituency.

On electricity infrastructure, Omar said a 10 MVA receiving station at Sail, approved at Rs 4.50 crore under the UT Capex Budget, is expected to become operational within four to five months. "The facility is

expected to ease the load on neighbouring receiving stations, address winter overloading, improve voltage levels in Sail and adjoining villages and reduce unscheduled power cuts and technical losses," he said.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a transformer repairing workshop in Beerwah, approved at Rs 4.85 crore under the UT Capex Budget 2026-27. "The facility is envisaged as a dedicated centre for repairing and rebuilding damaged distribution transformers, with the capacity to reclaim around 1,000 transformers annually," he said.

Abdullah said the workshop would help reduce the time required to repair damaged transformers and address the difficulties faced by residents, particularly during winter, when electricity demand rises. "God willing, we will complete the workshop as soon as possible," he said.

The CM also laid the foundation stone for | [More on P6](#)

Div Com Jammu reviews developmental works, welfare schemes in Samba

KT News Desk

SAMBA, OCTOBER 23: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, Friday visited Samba to review the progress of ongoing developmental works and assess the implementation of various welfare schemes. The visit aimed to evaluate the progress of key development initiatives, ensure effective inter-departmental coordination and strengthen the delivery of public services to the people.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of major developmental projects being executed by various departments and took stock of the physical and financial progress achieved under different schemes. The review focused on the pace of execution, adherence to prescribed timelines, quality of work and resolution of issues affecting the timely completion of projects.

The Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, also assessed the implementation of various government-sponsored welfare schemes aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the people, particularly those belonging to economically weaker sections and other eligible beneficiary groups. Emphasis was laid



on ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner.

Special attention was given to strengthening inter-departmental coordination, addressing administrative bottlenecks and ensuring accountability at all levels. The concerned officers apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the progress of developmental works, utilisation of funds, implementation of welfare initiatives and challenges encountered during

execution.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the functioning of the concerned departments, emphasising the need for transparency, efficiency and responsiveness in public service delivery. He called upon the officers to adopt a result-oriented approach, regularly monitor ongoing works and take timely corrective measures wherever required.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Dr. Rupesh Kumar, highlighted the importance of such review meetings in

assessing the ground-level implementation of government initiatives, identifying areas requiring immediate attention and establishing clear priorities for accelerating the pace of development. He emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among departments to ensure the timely completion of projects and effective implementation of welfare schemes.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of regular monitoring, judicious utilisation of public funds and adherence to prescribed quality

standards in all developmental works. He also directed the officers to maintain close coordination with field functionaries and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances related to developmental activities and welfare benefits.

Directions were also issued to the concerned officers to expedite pending works, remove bottlenecks and ensure that the intended benefits of government initiatives reach the people without unnecessary delay.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Additional Deputy Commissioner, other sectoral officers and HODs of departments.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner visited the historic Samba Fort and the newly constructed building of Ayush Hospital in the district. The visits provided an opportunity to take stock of these important sites and review the status of infrastructure related to heritage preservation and public healthcare.

The visit underscored the administration's commitment to accelerating developmental activities, strengthening public service delivery and ensuring effective implementation of government welfare schemes across Samba district.

DC Udhampur reviews functioning of Health Deptt

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi Friday chaired a meeting of the District Health Society, Udhampur, to review the physical and financial progress achieved under the National Health Mission for the financial year 2026-27.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the overall functioning of the Health Department, the status of healthcare infrastructure and staff positions across health institutions in the district.

Detailed deliberations, as per an official statement, were held on various key aspects of healthcare delivery including Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT cards, TB Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, district- and block-wise presumptive TB testing, the status of Kayakalp and NQAS, block-wise institutional deliveries, OPD services, distribution of Poshan Kits to patients and the utilisation of X-ray and NAAT facilities against prescribed targets.

The DC directed the BMOs to organise extensive awareness camps across the district to sensitise the public about the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT health insurance scheme and encourage eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of its benefits.

CMO was instructed to undertake a comprehensive review of the performance of all BMOs and submit weekly reports to the Deputy Commissioner on the progress achieved against assigned targets.

The DC further directed the BMOs to intensify their efforts, improve service delivery, ensure effective implementation of health schemes and achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines, with a special focus on measurable outcomes and improved healthcare services for the general public.

Agriculture Department Jammu organises Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Pangiri, Akhnoor



KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 23: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu, Friday organised an awareness programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan at village Pangiri, Zonal Bomal, Block and Sub-Division Akhnoor, to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance farmers' awareness about soil health and resource conservation. The campaign, being conducted from October 22 to November 30, 2026, will cover every village across the Jammu Division.

Regional Level Subject Matter Specialist Ashwani Kumar, while addressing the farmers, as per an official statement, highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices to safeguard soil fertility and improve farm productivity. He stressed the need for balanced fertiliser application based on soil requirements,

the promotion of natural farming and the effective utilisation of organic resources. He also urged farmers to adopt crop diversification, particularly pulses and oilseeds, conserve water through micro-irrigation and follow scientific farming practices to reduce cultivation costs and enhance their income.

Assistant Entomologist Harvinder Singh emphasised the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for effective and environmentally responsible crop protection. He sensitised farmers about the judicious use of pesticides, timely identification of pests and diseases and the adoption of preventive and biological control measures to minimise crop losses and protect beneficial organisms. He also encouraged farmers to follow scientific crop protection practices for safe and sustainable agricultural production.

NCORD Meeting

DC Rajouri directs coordinated efforts to combat drug abuse

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Devansh Yadav Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review anti-drug measures and strengthen Coordination among the concerned departments and enforcement agencies.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and intensify efforts to curb drug abuse and drug trafficking in the district. He stressed the need for a comprehensive approach focusing on awareness, prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation to effectively address the menace of drug abuse.

The DC directed the Police Department to identify drug-related hotspots and take stringent measures to stop any illegal activities related to drug trafficking. He also directed the department to intensify checking at the entry points of District Rajouri to prevent the movement of narcotic substances and take strict action against drug peddlers under the provisions of the NDPS Act and PIT NDPS Act.

Public Notice

Subject: Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel Unit under the name and style" MIST PATH TOUR AND TRAVEL " situated at Baghi Mehtab Srinagar. It is **hereby notified** to the general public that I Fahmeeda Akhter Wife of Wasim Hussain Raja Resident of Boule-ward1 Buchwara Dalgate srinagar intend to establish/register a Tour & Travel business under the name and style of "MIST PATH TOUR AND TRAVELS" at Baghi Mehtab srinagar, jammu and kashmir. The business shall deal with tour packages,travel arrangements, transportation and other allied travel related ser-vices subject to the applicable rules and regulations. Any person having any objection regarding the proposed establishment/ registration of the said business may submit their objection in writing to the concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication. No objection shall be entertained after 7 days.

Notice

I have changed my name from (OLD NAME) SHAHID JAVID To (NEW NAME) RAJA SHAHID JAVAD in future I will be known as NEW NAME RAJA SHAHID JAVAD if any body have any objection her or she may contact passport office Baramulla within 7 days after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

NOTICE

I want to correct my NAME AND PARENTAGE on my Aadhar card Under aadhar card no:-2285 0483 5215 From FARHAN SHEIKH TO FARHAN NAZIR SHEIKH. Now i am Applying for its correction if anybody have any objection In this regard He/She may file same to Manager Ranbir Press Club Jammu within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

FARHAN NAZIR SHEIKH
S/O NAZIR AHMAD SHEIKH
R/O IJARA
TEHSIL BONIYAR

NOTICE

I want to correct my NAME on my Aadhar card Under aadhar card no:-5582 8316 7162 From SOZAIN NAZIR TO SUZAIN NAZIR. Now i am Applying for its correction if anybody have any objection In this regard He/She may file same to Manager Ranbir Press Club Jammu within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

SUZAIN NAZIR
S/O NAZIR AHMAD SHEIKH
R/O IJARA
TEHSIL BONIYAR

NOTICE

I want to correct my NAME AND PARENTAGE on my Aadhar card Under aadhar card no:-5344 1238 9828 From MUDASIR AHMAD TO MUBASHIR ISHAQ. Now i am Applying for its correction if anybody have any objection In this regard He/She may file same to Manager Ranbir Press Club Jammu within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

MUBASHIR ISHAQ
S/O MOHAMMAD ISHAQ CHANEEZA
R/O SALASAN
TEHSIL BONIYAR

RANGE POLICE HEADQUARTERS BATOTE

Email:- digdodaoff@jkpolice.gov.in Contact: 01998 244363

NOTICE-4

Ct. Kuldeep Singh,
PID No. EXJ-005934 S/o Rimal Singh
Rio Vill. Chachwal Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua
(Now District Samba)

- Whereas, you were adjusted in the DKR Range vide ZPHQ Jammu Order No. 408 of 2021 dated 30.03.2021 and physi-cally relieved from DPL Jammu on 26.05.2021 with the directions to report at this Hqrs.
 - Whereas, you were repeatedly informed through SHO Police Station Hiranagar vide this Hqrs. Signals No. Estt/ ADJ/ 2021/ 2880-82 dated 12.06.2021, No. Estt/ ADJ/ 2021/ 6742-44 dated 29.11.2021, No. Estt/ ADJ/ 2022/ 1896-98 dated 12.03.2022, No. Estt/ADJ/2022/ 6556-58 dated 16.08.2022, No. Estt/ADJ/2023/3350-52 dated 24.03.2023, and No. Estt/ ADJ/2023/7979-81 dated 20.07.2023 to report at RPHQ Batote for further adjustment, de-spite repeated communications and directions, you failed to report at RPHQ Batote till date.
 - Whereas, you remained un-authorized absent from duty for a period exceeding five years since 2021, such prolonged unauthorized absence constitutes grave service-misconduct and tantamount to dereliction towards duty which warrants stern departmental action against you under rules.
 - Whereas, you were served Notice-1, 2 & 3 issued vide this Hqrs. endorsement No. Estt/Notice/ Adjust/2026/13443- 50 dated 13.08.2026, No. Estt/ Notice/Adjust/2026/14271-78 dated 01.09.2026 and No. Estt/Notice/Adjust /2026/16037-43 dated 26.09.2026 through SHO P/S Ghagwal District Samba with the directions to report/join this Hqrs. Despite hav-ing been duly served with Notice 1, 2 & 3, you have neither reported nor submitted any explanation in your defence, which reflects that you have lack of interest in serving the department in future.
 - Whereas, such act on your part is grave service misconduct/ disobedience/carelessness/negligence atti-tude towards lawful duties, which is against the norms of disciplined force and loss of appointment in terms of rules 128 CSR VOL-1st read with 208 (G) J&K Police manual VOL-2nd. Now I, Sargun Shukla, IPS, DIGP DKR Range call upon Constable Kuldeep Singh, PID No.EXJ-005934, Sio Rimal Singh Rio Vill. Chachwal Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua (now District Samba) through the medium of this notice to show cause for un-authorized absence and as to why you should not be discharged from service. You are at the liberty to explain the cause of failure to join/report at this Hqrs. within 07 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice through SHO P/S Ghagwal. In case you fail to explain your position within stipulated time, it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve in the department anymore and proceeding for your discharge from service shall be initiated under rules.
- Hence, "Notice-4" is served upon you through your concerned Police Station i.e. P/S Ghagwal to join/ resume duties immediately otherwise stern departmental action will be initiated against you under rules.

Sargun Shukla IPS
Dy Inspector General of Police,
DKR Range Hqrs Batote

DIPK-7004/26

DATED: 23-10-2026

No. Estt/ Notice/Adjust/2026/17486-43 Dated: 23.10.2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

HQ:-Kothibagh Srinagar
Phone No.: 0194-2477207, email:- xen-wwdsgr@jk.gov.in ;
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short Term E-NIT. No. 40/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2026-27 Dated 22.10.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, e-Tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firms registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the fol-lowing works on 'Percentage Basis':

Table-I							
S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (inRs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C in Days	Class of Contractor
	Installation of water supply pipeline from Zinda Shah Masjid Sharief to Hassanabad Chowk upto the House of Altaf Amad, Khanyar Constituency	12.00	24000/-	500/-	MPLADS	30	D/C/B
							1*

Position of AAA:- Accorred

Position of Funds:- Available with Competent Authority

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below

Table (II)		
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice (Online)	22.10.2026
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.10.2026 10:00AM To 29.10.2026 04:00 PM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	23.10.2026 10:00 AM
04	Bid submission End Date	29.10.2026 04:00 PM
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.10.2026 02:00 PM

No:- WW/Sgr/CC/5464-74
Dated 22.10.2026

DIPK-7005/26

DATED: 23-10-2026

Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar

‘Kidney stones can recur even after treatment’

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 23: Kidney stones can recur even after treatment, making regular medical follow-up and preventive care essential, senior urologist Dr Saleem Wani said here on Friday, urging people not to panic but to seek timely medical advice and avoid ignoring the condition.

Speaking about kidney stones, Dr Wani explained that the condition has been known for centuries, with evidence of kidney stones also found in ancient 'Egyptian mummies'.

He said several factors contribute to stone formation, including dietary habits, while calcium-based stones, particularly calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate stones, are among the most common types. "Uric acid stones may also develop in association with dietary and metabolic factors, including high animal-protein intake," he said.

The senior urologist said some stones are associated with urinary tract infections

and are known as struvite or infection stones. He also referred to staghorn calculi, large stones that can occupy a substantial part of the kidney and require careful medical evaluation.

Explaining the symptoms, Dr Wani said kidney stones may cause pain in the back, side or waist region, while some patients may experience urinary symptoms. However, stones can sometimes remain unnoticed and are detected during investigations, including ultrasound examinations.

"The formation of a kidney stone does not necessarily mean it will be the last episode, as recurrence is possible whether a previous stone was removed surgically or passed with medical management," he said, adding that the risk of recurrence varies from patient to patient and depends on factors such as the type of stone, underlying causes and whether one or both kidneys are affected.

Patients should therefore remain under medical supervision even after treatment,

he added.

Dr Wani said treatment depends on the size, location and type of stone, as well as the patient's condition. "While some stones may pass without surgery under medical supervision, others may require a procedure or surgery," he said, advising patients against deciding on treatment without consulting an expert doctor.

The doctor further stressed the importance of identifying why stones form in the first place, saying appropriate investigations and preventive measures can help reduce the risk of recurrence.

Kidney stones, medically known as 'renal calculi' or nephrolithiasis, form when minerals and salts in urine crystallise and accumulate. The main types include calcium oxalate, calcium phosphate, uric acid, struvite and cystine stones. Diagnosis may involve medical assessment, urine and blood tests and imaging such as ultrasound or CT scans—(KNO)



The senior urologist said some stones are associated with urinary tract infections and are known as struvite or infection stones. He also referred to staghorn calculi, large stones that can occupy a substantial part of the kidney and require careful medical evaluation.

Dy CM slams media for targeting NC, sparing BJP

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Oct 23: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Friday criticised what he described as a section of the media targeting the National Conference (NC) government while failing to question the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on issues of public importance, saying journalists had a responsibility to fulfil their role and question those in power fairly.

"Some journalists were attacking the government but not raising questions on electoral integrity, unemployment and other concerns," he said, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme in Beerwah.

Describing the media as the fourth pillar of democracy and a builder of the nation, he said journalists must question those in power fairly.

Turning to the BJP, Chaudhary questioned the party over alleged vote theft and said the allegations of electoral irregularities raised serious concerns



about the country's democratic institutions and Constitution. He questioned Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the is-sue of electoral integrity, saying the alleged vote theft was not merely an electoral matter but an interference with the country's democracy.

"Vote theft is not just vote

theft; it is interference with the democracy of India, which was achieved through the sacrifices of millions. It is interference with the Constitution of India," he said.

The Deputy CM said the BJP should answer questions concerning electoral transparency and democracy instead of diverting attention from

issues affecting the public. He said unemployment remained a major concern, with young people across Jammu and Kashmir and the country demanding jobs and employment opportunities, and questioned why youth were repeatedly travelling to Delhi and asking for employment. The BJP, he said, needed to answer their concerns.

"Young people are seeking transparency in examinations, including NEET and recruitment tests," Chaudhary said, alleging that irregularities had affected their trust in the system. "The BJP should be questioned over employment and examination-related issues rather than diverting attention from the concerns of young people," he said.

On development, the Deputy CM said approximately Rs 100 crore worth of works were underway in the Beerwah constituency, crediting local MLA Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani for his efforts and dedication. "The people have

elected an honest leader, and that is why development is taking place," he said.

He said development takes time, adding that Jammu and Kashmir was presently a Union Territory and faced several challenges and difficulties. "Despite these challenges, the National Conference government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was making every effort to fulfil the promises made to the people," he said.

The Deputy CM said the government was working honestly and that people should assess its performance, adding that while the government did not claim to have achieved everything, it could not be given zero marks for doing nothing. He said the NC government would be judged by the people on the basis of its performance and fulfilment of manifesto commitments. "The people have voted for us, and we will fulfil our manifesto. Our test will be when people vote again," Chaudhary said—(KNO)

Govt reviewing rejection of FRA applications: Rana



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 23: The Jammu and Kashmir government is reviewing the rejection of a majority of applications filed under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), Minister for Tribal Affairs Javid Ahmad Rana said on Friday, acknowledging that implementation of the legislation in the Union Territory has been slow.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in Srinagar, Rana said around 42,000 to 47,000 applications had been received under the Act, but most were rejected.

"We have received around 42,000 to 47,000 applications under the Forest Rights Act, but a majority were rejected. We are now seeking details to ascertain the grounds on which these applications were rejected," he said.

Rana said the government was examining implementation challenges and shortcomings while drawing lessons from states that had made greater progress in extending FRA benefits to tribal communities.

The minister said dedicated FRA cells had been established and two representatives appointed in each district to coordinate with the government, Gram Sabhas and tribal communities in processing claims.

He said directions had been issued to prevent evictions and demolitions without due legal process.

"Earlier, tribal communities were facing demolitions and removal of their structures. The Tribal Affairs

Department subsequently issued circulars making it clear that no eviction or demolition should take place without following proper legal procedures," he said.

Rana said poor families would not face arbitrary demolition drives, while action against illegal constructions and encroachments would continue in accordance with the law.

Referring to last year's demolition drive at Raika-Ban in Jammu, he said the inquiry report had been forwarded to the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor.

"The inquiry has identified certain shortcomings, including failure to follow proper legal procedures. The report has been submitted to the Lieutenant Governor and further action will be taken," he said.

The minister said some issues fell beyond the direct authority of his department due to Jammu and Kashmir's dual administrative structure.

Stressing the importance of Gram Sabhas, Rana said they play a central role in implementing the Act and can function even in the absence of elected Panchayats with the participation of community members and officials.

On irregularities flagged by a Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly House Committee in the implementation of certain schemes, Rana said Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts would

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Surinder Choudhary Chairs 101st JKPCB BoD meeting

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 23: The 101st meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Limited (JKPCB) was convened on Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, who is also Chairman of the JKPCB.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated upon various important matters concerning the Corporation with emphasis on pending cases under compassionate appointment.

After due consideration, all pending compassionate

appointment cases placed before the Board were approved, providing much-needed relief to the concerned candidates and their families.

The Board directed that the financial implications arising from these approvals be examined and ascertained to ensure proper assessment and necessary follow-up action.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the approval of all pending compassionate appointment cases reflects the government's commitment to ensure timely support and addressing the concerns of affected families.

He reiterated that the welfare of employees and their families remains a priority and that pending matters

will continue to be addressed with due consideration and sensitivity.

The Board of Directors expressed appreciation for the decisions taken during the meeting and thanked the Deputy Chief Minister for his positive approach towards resolving the long-pending matters.

Managing Director, JKPCB, Ishaq Ahmad Wani, also appreciated the decisions taken by the Chairman and the Board of Directors.

He said that the Corporation's core purpose is to address the long-pending issues and safeguarding the legitimate interests of the concerned employees and their families.

Iodine deficiency poses serious health risks: Doctors

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 23: Warning that insufficient consumption of iodine can lead to serious health complications, including thyroid enlargement, pregnancy-related complications and impaired physical and mental development in children, health experts on Friday said that the intake of this essential micronutrient is must for human beings to remain healthy.

Health experts said, "Although the use of iodised salt has increased significantly in Jammu and Kashmir, sustained public awareness and proper dietary practices remain essential to prevent avoidable health problems."

Referring to the recent NHFS data, the doctors said, "Around 98% of households in Jammu and Kashmir use iodised salt, reflecting significant progress in preventing iodine deficiency disorders."

However, they cautioned that ensuring the availability of iodised

salt alone is not enough, as its proper storage and regular consumption are equally important.

Dr Momin Ahmad Dar from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said, "Iodine is an essential micronutrient required by the thyroid gland to produce hormones that regulate the body's metabolism, growth and development."

"Iodine plays a crucial role in maintaining normal thyroid function. When the body does not receive adequate amounts of iodine, the thyroid gland may enlarge in an attempt to obtain more of the nutrient, resulting in a condition known as goitre," he said.

He said iodine deficiency can have particularly serious consequences during pregnancy and early childhood, when adequate nutrition is essential for the healthy development of the brain and nervous system. "Iodine deficiency during

Continued on
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Kashmiri Umrah pilgrims stranded in Saudi amid flight suspensions

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 23: At least 34 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who travelled to Saudi Arabia for Umrah have been stranded following the suspension of flights, prompting appeals for urgent government intervention to facilitate their safe and early return home.

According to the affected pilgrims, they were scheduled to return to Kashmir on October 13 but were unable to travel after airlines suspended services amid security concerns in the region.

The stranded pilgrims have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and airlines to arrange their return.

Some passengers have

managed to return through alternative routes and connecting flights, but the high cost of such travel has made it unaffordable for many, they said.

With their stay in Saudi Arabia extending beyond schedule, several pilgrims said their financial resources were running low, making it increasingly difficult to meet expenses related to accommodation, food and medicines.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh said IndiGo has extended the suspension of its Saudi Arabia operations. Flights to and from Riyadh will remain suspended until October 31, while services connecting Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah have been cancelled until October 27.

Other Indian carriers have also temporarily suspended operations. Air India and Air India Express have cancelled flights on all Saudi routes until

October 24, while Akasa Air has extended its suspension until October 27.

The flight disruptions have affected Indian nationals travelling to and from Saudi Arabia, including Umrah pilgrims, prompting Indian diplomatic missions to coordinate with airlines and tour operators for their return.

The MEA said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah are working with airlines and tour operators to assist affected passengers. The missions are also providing welfare support through community volunteers and have set up round-the-clock control rooms for assistance.

The Indian mission has advised those requiring urgent travel to explore transit options through Bahrain, Kuwait or Qatar, subject to applicable visa requirements—(KNO)

Govt assures stipend hike order within a week: SKUAST-K Interns

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Oct 23: Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Dar has assured veterinary interns at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Shuhama campus, that an order on the stipend hike will be issued within a week.

The delegation members who met the minister said that they sought an increase in the interns' monthly stipend to Rs 20,000–23,000.

They said the minister informed them that the

matter had already been discussed with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and that the order would be issued within a week.

The delegation members added that the current stipend is insufficient to cover the interns' basic living expenses and internship-related costs. They urged the government to revise it at the earliest.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the minister for considering their demand and hoped the order would be issued within the promised timeframe—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

A Model Worth Following

The news that the Union Secretary of Social Justice and Empowerment has praised Jammu and Kashmir's fight against drugs is a moment of pride for all of us. He called it a model that other states can follow. This is not a small thing. For years, Kashmir has been at the receiving end of lectures. Now, someone from the Centre is saying that

our way of working is worth copying. That deserves attention. What is this "whole-of-government approach" that he praised? It simply means that the police, the health department, the social welfare department and the community are all working together, not in separate rooms. Under the Nasha Mukh J&K campaign, more than 7.21 million outreach events

were held. Over 66,000 people came to addiction treatment facilities. The police registered 1,187 FIRs and arrested 1,349 people. And importantly, they did not stop at arrests. They went after the money and property. 125 immovable properties worth about Rs 98 crore were seized or attached. 60 movable assets worth Rs 7 crore were also taken. This is how you hurt a drug

network — you hit its pocket. But we must be honest. The praise is welcome, but the problem is far from over. One drug peddler arrested does not mean the trade is finished. A drug-free society is not built by one campaign of 100 days. It needs years of patience, and it needs every family to be involved. Schools, mosques, mohallas, parents — all have a role. Recovery is also not

easy. The "Circle of Care" idea of continuing care after de-addiction is good, but it must actually reach the youth who need it. The Union Secretary also advised the administration to tell the success stories of ordinary people. That is a good idea, because hope travels faster than fear. Let people hear from the young man who came back, the mother whose son recovered. So

let us accept the compliment with humility. But let us not sit back. A model is only as good as the results it keeps producing. The real test is not a review meeting in Srinagar, but whether a young boy in a far-off village can say no to drugs because he has a better life waiting for him. That is the goal. And for that, the whole government — and the whole society — must stay awake.

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

Five More Years Of Social Assistance, And A Wider Divyangjan Coverage

Press Information Bureau

On 14 October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme for five years, 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of Rs 53,428 crore. The programme becomes the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, and its four sub-schemes are renamed with it. While the pension schemes for the old aged, widows and family benefit will continue in their existing forms, the Disability Pension has been revised. It will now use the 40 per cent benchmark disability of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, in place of 80 per cent. Its minimum eligibility age of 18 years is removed, so eligibility now runs from birth. Central assistance rises to Rs 375 a month for age 0-79 years, and Rs 625 at 80 years and above. Further, number of beneficiaries under the disability scheme has increased from 8.33 Lakhs to 27.48 Lakhs.

A Renewed Programme For Social Assistance

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved on 14 October 2026 the proposal of the Department of Rural Development to continue the National Social Assistance Programme for five years. The approval runs from 2026-27 to 2030-31 and carries an outlay of Rs 53,428 crore. The approval covers three matters. It re-names the programme and each of its sub-schemes. It revises the disability pension. It continues the other sub-schemes in their existing form. The programme is now the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana. Its four pension sub-schemes carry new names with it. The old age pension becomes the Pradhan Mantri Vridhavaस्था Pension Yojana. The widow pension becomes the Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana. The disability pension becomes the Pradhan Mantri



Divyangjan Pension Yojana. The family benefit scheme becomes the Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana. The old age pension, the widow pension and the family benefit scheme continue in their existing form. What changes is the disability pension, in its eligibility, its coverage and its rate of assistance.

What The National Social Assistance Programme Is

The programme was launched on 15 August 1995. It gives effect to Article 41 of the Constitution, which directs the State to provide public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement. It is a fully funded centrally sponsored scheme and carries 100 per cent central assistance. This ensures that a person below the poverty line receives at least the minimum support anywhere in the country. It covers both rural and urban areas, and the basic condition across its components is that the household is below the poverty line. The programme has following

components. Three are monthly pensions, for the old aged, for widows and for persons with disabilities. The fourth is a one-time family benefit on the death of a household's primary breadwinner. States and Union Territories implement the schemes mainly through their social welfare departments, and in several States through the rural development, women and child development, revenue or labour departments. Gram Panchayats and municipalities take an active part in identifying beneficiaries, and payment is largely by direct benefit transfer. The States and Union Territories also add their own top-up above the central rate. As on September 2026, those top-ups ranged from Rs 50 to Rs 5700 per month per beneficiary, giving an average monthly pension of around Rs 1100 in most States and Union Territories. The central rate is therefore the floor on which each State builds. The programme covered about 3.09 crore beneficiaries, against scheme-wise ceilings for each State and Union Territory. It was allocated Rs 9,652 crore for 2025-26, of which the disability pension accounted for Rs 290

crore. The approval of 14 October 2026 puts the programme's coverage at 3.20 crore beneficiaries across all 36 States and Union Territories.

The Divyangjan Pension In Detail

The disability pension was introduced in February 2009, as the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme. Section 2(o) of the National Trust Act 1999 defines severe disability as disability with 80 per cent or more of one or more multiple disabilities. A person therefore had to be assessed at 80 per cent or above, and to be at least 18 years old, to receive the pension. Central assistance was Rs 300 a month for beneficiaries upto the age of 79, and Rs 500 a month for beneficiaries at age 80 and above. Parliament then enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. That Act sets a single working measure across its own entitlements. Section 2(r) defines a person with benchmark disability as a person with not less than 40 per cent of a specified disability, as certified by the certifying authority. The 2016 Act has necessitated changes in the eligibility criteria for the disability pension, linking it to benchmark disability of 40 per cent. By its decision of 14 October 2026, the Government has brought the pension, now the Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, onto that benchmark. It has removed the minimum age requirement, so that eligibility runs from birth. It has also raised central assistance to Rs 375 a month up to 79 years and Rs 625 a month at 80 years and above. The number of beneficiaries under this sub-scheme scheme has increased from 8.33 Lakhs to 27.48 Lakhs. Revised guidelines carrying the eligibility criteria, the number of beneficiaries and the rates of assistance will be issued and implemented within three months.

Who The Decision Will Benefit

Three groups gain from the decision, and they are worth keeping distinct.

- Persons certified between 40 and 79 per cent, in households below the poverty line. The benchmark disability criterion approved on 14 October 2026 brings them within the pension.
- Children, from birth. A child with a certificate of benchmark disability in a household below the poverty line will benefit under the approved criteria, where the family earlier waited until the child turned 18.
- Persons already receiving the pension. They will receive the enhanced rates of Rs 375 and Rs 625 approved by the Government.

Three conditions are unchanged for all of them. A certificate of disability is still required, since benchmark disability under the 2016 Act is a percentage certified by the certifying authority. The household must still be below the poverty line, and the application route remains the State welfare department.

A Common Measure Across The Welfare System

Census 2011 recorded 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India, 2.21 per cent of the population. The Schedule to the 2016 Act specifies 21 types of disabilities. Since the 2016 Act came into force on 19 April 2017, its 40 per cent benchmark has governed disability entitlements in higher education, government employment, and land and housing. By the decision of 14 October 2026, the Government has brought its oldest social assistance programme, i.e., disability pension, in alignment with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. The revised guidelines will complete the picture, carrying the eligibility criteria, the number of beneficiaries and the rates of assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana in one official document.

Science Without Scientists?

Now that autonomous systems are capable of generating their own hypotheses, designing experiments, and writing up the results, the scientific community must adapt. For scientific knowledge to retain its standing, its sources must be trusted and answerable to the public.

Sami Mahroum

Given current AI capabilities, does it matter who conducts scientific research? The intuitive response is that a fact is a fact, regardless of who finds it. But knowledge is never disseminated that way. We receive most scientific claims without any means of checking them ourselves, so we tend to judge not the claim but the credibility of whoever stands behind it. As the Harvard historian of science Steven Shapin shows, the production of scientific truth has long been inseparable from the social work of persuading one's peers. My own research on scientific mobility, conducted a quarter-century ago, pointed in the same direction from a different angle. Reputation in science does not reside in ideas alone; it concentrates in a small number of institutional hubs: departments and laboratories whose standing lends weight to whatever emerges from them. A scientist leaving a leading center carries part of its credibility along and can, under the right conditions, turn the receiving institution into a center of gravity in its own right. Credibility has always needed a carrier, and the identity of that carrier has changed over time, often in the face of fierce resistance. When the authorship of the natural order passed from God to a realm open to human inquiry, the resistance was violent. When the individual scholar gave way to credentialed institutions, peer review, and research assessments, some critics objected that science had become overly bureaucratic and impersonal. And now, with authorship poised to pass from humans to machines, the objection is framed in terms of attribution, originality, and merit. In all these cases, what we are being



asked to trust has changed. And now the system that governs research, from mission-oriented funding to impact assessments, has gradually shifted its attention from whether a result is understood to whether it works, and machine-generated findings suit an enterprise that already values output over understanding. The irony is that two decades of effort to make data open, searchable, and machine-readable was supposed to ease collaboration among human researchers; but it also created the very substrate on which autonomous research now runs. AlphaFold, which earned Demis Hassabis and John Jumper a share of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, was trained on the Protein Data Bank, the accumulated work of an entire community of structural biologists. Systems that generate and test their own hypotheses, and then write up the results, are no longer a thought experiment. Last year, a paper written entirely by Zochi, an AI system built by the US startup Intology,

passed peer review in the main track of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, a top-tier AI conference. And Robin, an AI system built by the San Francisco nonprofit FutureHouse, proposed the hypotheses, designed the experiments, and analyzed the results that identified an already-approved drug as a candidate for treating a leading cause of blindness; its work has since appeared in Nature. Suppose that such a system delivers a new vaccine, catalyst, or battery chemistry with no identifiable human author. The public is unlikely to care who did it, any more than patients ask which technician ran their blood test. What they will care about is whom to hold responsible if something goes wrong. A named author can be questioned, corrected, made to retract a claim, or discredited; a model cannot be. Human authorship was never a guarantee of reliability, as failed replications and retractions attest. But it did

always give us someone to hold responsible for a result. With a few exceptions, leading journals have refused to list AI systems as authors, on the grounds that authorship entails attribution and accountability. But this merely preserves the old arrangement, rather than solving the new problem. A recent survey found that nearly half of scientists (47%) use AI daily, and another 31% use it weekly. The more capable these systems become, the more widely they will be used. Because most people won't be able to tell good science from bad science, the human scientist will increasingly become the validator, the source of trust that shared knowledge requires. But the process of validation is already struggling to keep up. Nearly half of scientists who report saving time with AI then spend more than one-quarter of that time checking its output, while their backlog of untested hypotheses grows. Moreover, peer review itself is being automated, with an analysis of submissions to this year's International Conference on Learning Representations suggesting that about one in five reviews was fully AI-generated. Such findings cast doubt on whether humans will be able to speak for science produced solely by AI. But who, then, will become the trusted party? One possibility is that trust attaches to where the technology was built, with the frontier AI companies becoming the de facto arbiters of what counts as sound science—much as pharmaceutical firms were before independent regulators existed to check their claims. But another possibility is that the institutions that spent generations accumulating credibility—universities, academies, national laboratories, scholarly journals—will develop or certify scientific AI agents of

their own, so that trust continues to flow through channels the public already has reason to regard as accountable. Robin's findings acquired their standing not from FutureHouse's own announcement, but from peer review at Nature. Nonetheless, this role will have to be earned, and quickly. Academic journals are already struggling with paper mills, machine-generated submissions, and an overstretched system of peer review. The US National Institutes of Health now accepts no more than six applications per year from any principal investigator and will not consider applications substantially developed by AI to be applicants' original ideas. The outcome will be decided by who moves first to build the infrastructure of accountability: tamper-proof records of every dataset, model version, and inferential step behind each result; independent systems tasked with reproducing results without reference to the one that produced it; and, at the end of the chain, a named guarantor, be it a person or an institution, that is liable if the result fails. The courts have already drawn this line elsewhere. Britain's Supreme Court has ruled that only a natural person can be named as an inventor on a patent, and a US appeals court has held that copyright requires a human author. Such an arrangement would resemble the way we certify aircraft or approve medicines far more than the way universities award tenure. Every generation has had to decide who carries scientific credibility, and ours must now weigh this question again.

Sami Mahroum, Founder of Spark X, previously held posts at INSEAD, the OECD, and Nesta. Courtesy: Project Syndicate

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CS sensitizes departments on SDG-aligned budgeting ahead of next financial year

High-Level Committee to oversee SDG tagging across departments

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired an interdepartmental coordination meeting to sensitise administrative departments about integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their budgetary proposals for the forthcoming financial year, while addressing issues and concerns relating to the implementation of the proposed SDG-aligned budgeting framework.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring; and other concerned administrative heads; SIO, NIC; and officers from various departments.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to expedite the requisite formalities for operationalising the SDG-aligned budgeting framework ahead of the forthcoming budget exercise.

Emphasising the importance of technology-enabled financial monitoring, the Chief Secretary stressed the need

for seamless integration of the proposed SDG Monitoring Dashboard with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS). He observed that such integration would facilitate automated, real-time tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditure, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability in public spending.

The Chief Secretary also directed that the pilot exercise being undertaken by the Higher Education Department be pursued in a systematic manner, with the lessons learnt and operational challenges addressed before extending the framework to other Administrative Departments.

He underscored the importance of ensuring that departments are adequately sensitised to the methodology and that their capacity is enhanced for enabling wider adoption of SDG-aligned budgeting in the forthcoming financial year.

The meeting focused on familiarising departments with the methodology for mapping



their schemes against relevant SDG goals, targets and indicators, clarifying the process of budget tagging and facilitating coordinated action ahead of the preparation of departmental budgets. The interaction also provided an opportunity for departments to raise implementation-related concerns and seek necessary clarifications to ensure a common understanding of the proposed framework.

The initiative, being pursued by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP), aims to establish linkage between budgetary allocations and measurable development outcomes. It is intended to help departments assess how their schemes and expenditure contribute towards specific SDG targets and identify areas requiring focused interventions.

As part of the preparatory exercise, the Secretary PD&MD, Owais Ahmad, shared the National Indicator Framework (NIF)-aligned SDG goals, targets and indicators with all administrative departments and district administrations. Explaining that these will serve as the basis

for mapping departmental schemes and aligning their budgetary provisions with the relevant development priorities.

Moreover the Secretary, PD&MD added that following the completion of Phase-I workshops for master trainers, regional-level Phase-II training sessions are also planned for departmental heads and district officers to familiarise them with the SDG mapping and budget-tagging methodology and facilitate its uniform adoption across the Union Territory.

Additionally the proposed institutional arrangements

provide for a High-Level SDG Steering Committee to oversee the exercise, with the Finance and Planning Departments co-ordinating the reconciliation of departmental frameworks. Individual line departments will be responsible for identifying the SDG contributions of their ongoing and newly proposed schemes, while the dedicated SDG Cell will facilitate cross-referencing against the State Indicator Framework (SIF).

The framework distinguishes between Scheme-SDG Mapping, which assesses the alignment of scheme objectives and guidelines with specific SDG targets, and SDG Budget Tagging, which identifies the corresponding financial allocations. The exercise is envisaged to cover all five phases of the budget cycle including its preparation, approval, execution, accounting and oversight in order to strengthen transparency, accountability and outcome-based monitoring of public expenditure.

To support implementation, technical teams from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and UNDP are working towards integrating the SDG

Monitoring Dashboard with the relevant financial management and budget monitoring systems, including the Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS). The proposed integration is intended to improve the tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditure alongside physical outputs and relevant socio-economic indicators.

During this meeting it was revealed that the Higher Education Department has been selected to pilot the initiative during the Revised Estimates (RE) exercise for 2026-27. The pilot will involve mapping its ongoing schemes against the relevant SDG targets and indicators, providing an operational model for extending the exercise to other departments.

The ongoing interdepartmental consultations are expected to facilitate smoother adoption of the framework in the forthcoming budget exercise, ensuring that departments are adequately sensitised, their concerns are addressed and budgetary proposals are increasingly aligned with clearly defined development priorities and measurable outcomes.

DC Ganderbal reviews winter preparedness

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Friday chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, to review winter preparedness across the district and assess the status of winter-related works and arrangements being undertaken by various departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Winter Preparedness Plan 2026 and stressed the need for advance planning, timely execution of essential works and coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted public services during the winter season.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure that all requisite arrangements are put in place well in advance, with particular focus on maintaining essential services, ensuring public safety and addressing the difficulties that may arise due to snowfall, freezing temperatures and adverse weather conditions.

The Public Works Department (R&B), PMGSY and 122 RCC were directed to review the preparedness of road networks, identify vulnerable and snow bound stretches, ensure the availability of men and machinery, and establish effective snow clearance arrangements. The officers were asked to ensure timely restoration of road connectivity and prioritise routes providing access to essential services, healthcare facilities and habitations likely to face disruption during heavy snowfall.

The Power Development Department (KPDCL) was directed to ensure the availability of adequate manpower, machinery and essential materials for prompt restoration of electricity supply in case of disruptions. The department was also asked to inspect vulnerable power infrastructure and ensure preparedness for addressing power related complaints during the winter months.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to take advance measures to safeguard drinking water supply schemes against freezing temperatures, ensure the availability of essential materials and maintain adequate arrangements for prompt restoration of water supply wherever disruptions occur.

The Health Department was asked to ensure the availability of essential medicines, medical staff, emergency services and adequate arrangements at health institutions, particularly in areas that may become difficult to access during severe weather conditions.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department was directed to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities and ensure adequate stocking to meet public requirements during winter. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was asked to maintain operational readiness, ensure the availability of emergency response teams and equipment, and remain prepared to respond promptly to emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the concerned authorities, including the Sonamarg Development Authority and Wular Manasbal Development Authority, to review winter related requirements within their respective jurisdictions and ensure necessary arrangements for public safety, essential services and maintenance of infrastructure.

The Forest Department and other concerned agencies were asked to extend necessary coordination wherever required, while the Transport Department was directed to review arrangements for safe movement of vehicles during adverse weather conditions. The Education Department and district administration were also asked to ensure appropriate preparedness measures for educational institutions in view of prevailing weather conditions and accessibility concerns.

Emphasising accountability and time-bound action, the DC directed all departments to submit updated winter preparedness plans, clearly indicating the status of works, available resources, identified gaps and measures proposed to address them. She stressed that pending works and deficiencies must be addressed on priority and that departmental readiness should be reviewed regularly to ensure a prompt and effective response to any eventuality.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored that close interdepartmental coordination, advance mobilisation of resources and continuous monitoring are essential to minimise public inconvenience and ensure the safety and well-being of residents throughout the winter season.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Chief Executive Officers of Sonamarg Development Authority and Wular Manasbal Development Authority, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, R&B and PHE Hydraulics, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officers.

Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for J&K UT Foundation Day, Run for Unity on October 31

Directs departments to ensure coordinated arrangements for celebrations at SKICC

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Friday chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements for the celebration of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day and the conduct of the Run for Unity on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, scheduled to be held on October 31 at SKICC.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Information, SSP Traffic, Director School Education, Secretary JKAACL, and representatives of Police, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), colleges, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads and Buildings (R&B), and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the mobilisation plan for participants for the Run for Unity. Various departments and institutions, including Colleges, School Education, YSS, Sports Council, University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K, Skill Development Department, J&K Bank, NIT, R&B, Agriculture, Zila Sainik Welfare and ICDS, were assigned responsibilities for a smooth conduct of the event.

The Divisional Commissioner



directed all stakeholder departments to assess and communicate their transportation requirements at the earliest. Deputy Director Planning was tasked with coordinating the transport plan, while SSCL and RTC were directed to ensure the availability of an adequate number of buses for ferrying participants to the venue.

Emphasising the need for effective interdepartmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to nominate Nodal Officers for the event. ADC Srinagar and Joint Commissioner, SMC, were designated as Nodal Officers for overall coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar was directed to oversee arrangements relating to invitation cards, VVIP seating as per warrant of precedence, nameplates, deployment of duty magistrates, and sound and audio-visual facilities.

The Director Information was directed to ensure the

installation of public address systems at the back lawns and auditorium, besides making arrangements for hoardings, standees, video display screens, backdrop design and documentary screening. The department was also tasked with nominating anchors for the respective programmes.

SMC was directed to install hoardings in the back lawns, from where the Run for Unity will be flagged off, and facilitate the advance distribution of theme-based T-shirts among participants. J&K Bank was assigned the responsibility of distributing caps among the participants.

JKAACL was entrusted with organising two cultural programmes aligned with the theme and spirit of the occasion.

The Hospitality and Protocol Department was asked to make adequate refreshment arrangements for participants attending the Run for Unity and the UT Foundation Day celebrations.

Committee on Petitions reviews food adulteration

Calls for state-of-the-art labs

KT News desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: The Committee on Petitions of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday convened its meeting in the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, under the Chairmanship of Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, to deliberate upon adulteration of essential food commodities within Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by legislators Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Dr. Sajjad Shafi.

Chairman Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah said that adulteration of essential food commodities is a grave public health concern linked to daily lives of citizens. He directed the department to maintain zero tolerance, scale up inspections, ensure timely testing, fill up vacant posts, strengthen laboratories, expedite disposal of cases through Adjudicating Authorities and intensify IEC activities under Mission Safe Food. He called for establishment of a state of the art laboratory both in Jammu and Kashmir regions for effective enforcement and timely testing of food samples

The Commissioner, Food and Drugs Authority J&K, Khalid Jahangir presented a comprehensive Status Report comprising overview of organization, staff strength, updated ATR on recommendations

of the Committee, ATR on directions issued on 03.08.2026, IEC activities and key highlights of enforcement as per FSSAI mandate.

On enforcement, it was informed that 11,720 inspections have been conducted with 6,259 enforcement and 2,508 surveillance samples lifted and 5,179 samples tested through MFTVs during 2026-27 till October. Besides, special enforcement drives from April to October 2026 were conducted on fresh vegetables, packaged drinking water, nutraceuticals, edible oils and fats, ghee, honey, milk and milk products, spices, caffeinated drinks, meat products, bakery products and prepared food.

Regarding Petition number 2 about alleged encroachment of land at Khimber, Tehsil Hazratbal, Srinagar, the Commissioner directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar to verify the revenue records, examine the ground situation and furnish a comprehensive report on the alleged encroachments. It stressed the need to protect government and private land and take appropriate action as per law after due verification.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner Food Safety, ADC Srinagar, SDM Chadoora, Food Safety Officers, State Nodal Officer FDA and officers of the Assembly Secretariat.

DC Budgam tours Beerwah, reviews functioning of revenue offices

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Friday conducted an extensive tour of Beerwah to review the functioning of key offices and assess the delivery of public services.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the SDM Office Complex, Sub-Registrar and Tehsil Office Beerwah, taking stock of administrative functioning, infrastructure, public amenities and the status of services being provided to the general public.

At the Tehsil Office, he inspected various sections, including the SQ Section, MM Section and Establishment Section, and reviewed the disposal of public cases, maintenance of official records and progress in revenue-related matters.

The DC, as per an



official statement, reviewed key revenue services, including

the issuance of revenue extracts and certificates, mutation cases,

land record verification and demarcation-related matters. He stressed the timely disposal of applications, expeditious processing of pending cases and proper maintenance and digitisation of revenue records.

At the SDM Office Complex, he assessed public facilities and reviewed the functioning of the concerned offices, including arrangements for the smooth processing of registration-related matters.

Emphasising transparency, accountability and efficiency, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to strengthen monitoring, ensure effective grievance redressal and provide prompt assistance to the public. He stressed that unnecessary delays in the disposal of cases must be avoided and all services should be delivered within the prescribed

timelines.

The DC also inspected the Sub-Registrar Office, Beerwah, and took stock of the registration services being provided to the public. He stressed the timely processing of registration cases, transparency in procedures and efficient delivery of services. He directed the concerned officials to ensure hassle-free public access and prompt redressal of issues related to registration services.

He also interacted with applicants to obtain feedback on the services being provided and directed the officers to address public grievances promptly.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad; SDM Beerwah, Taufeeq Ahmad Gazi; Sub-Registrar Beerwah; Tehsildar Beerwah; Tehsildar Khag and other senior officers.

Minister Rana calls for effective implementation of Forest Rights Act

Tribal Affairs
Dept named
nodal agency

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 23: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Friday inaugurated the 3rd Regional Review Conference on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in Srinagar.

Addressing the conference, Rana emphasised the need for effective and meaningful implementation of the Forest Rights Act to ensure that the rights and entitlements of tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers are protected.

He said the Act is an important legislation aimed at recognising the legitimate rights of forest-dependent communities, safeguarding their livelihoods and ensuring their dignity and socio-economic empowerment.

The Minister observed that strenuous efforts are required to strengthen the implementation mechanism and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the rights guaranteed under the legislation.

Rana said the Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has taken important steps towards strengthening implementation of the Act, including designating the Tribal Affairs Department as



the nodal department for its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He stressed that the Forest Rights Act must be understood as a legal entitlement of eligible forest-dwelling communities and that its benefits should reach every deserving family through a transparent and accessible process.

He said that while conferences at the national and regional levels provide valuable opportunities for reviewing progress and sharing experiences, their real purpose can only be achieved when the knowledge, decisions and recommendations emerging from such deliberations reach the communities at the grassroots level.

The Minister also called for greater coordination among the Tribal Affairs, Revenue, Forest and Rural Development Departments, along with

district administrations, to ensure smooth implementation and timely resolution of pending matters.

He underlined that the disposal of claims must be fair and transparent and that no eligible beneficiary should be deprived of legitimate rights due to procedural difficulties or lack of awareness.

Highlighting the contribution of tribal communities, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, Rana said that these communities have shared a close relationship with forests for generations and have contributed significantly to the preservation of traditional knowledge, natural resources and ecological balance.

He said that recognising forest rights and protecting the environment are complementary responsibilities and must be pursued together through a

balanced and people-oriented approach.

The Minister further emphasised that the recommendations and experiences shared during the conference should be properly documented and made available to field-level officers so that they can be translated into practical improvements in implementation.

The conference was attended by Anant Prakash Pandey, Union Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, senior officers of the Ministry, representatives from participating States and senior officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

During the technical sessions, detailed discussions were held on the status of pending forest rights claims, recognition of individual and community forest rights, habitat rights, incorporation of recognised forest rights in revenue and forest records, digitisation of FRA records and the proposed National FRA Portal.

Representatives from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir shared their experiences, progress and practices relating to the implementation of the Act.

The conference concluded with deliberations on improving implementation mechanisms, strengthening institutional coordination and taking forward the recommendations for ensuring that the objectives of the Forest Rights Act are achieved in letter and spirit.

Asking shopkeepers to evict without providing rehabilitation highly condemnable: Allahabad HC

PTI

Lucknow, Oct 23: The Allahabad High Court on Friday termed it highly condemnable to evict shopkeepers in Ayodhya for the construction of a 300-bed super-speciality hospital without providing any rehabilitation or compensation.

The court observed that despite the shops having been allotted on lease and the occupants having acquired the status of lessees, asking them to vacate the premises without terminating their leases was unjustified. Such action affects their right to livelihood and violates Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

The Lucknow bench of Justice Shekhar B Saraf and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai observed that though the construction of a 300-bed super-speciality hospital is in the public interest, shopkeepers earning their livelihood through their businesses could not be evicted without making alternative arrangements.

The court also stressed the need for their rehabilitation or compensation for the losses suffered.

The court directed the state's medical and health department to file a counter-affidavit within three weeks, explaining the steps proposed for the rehabilitation of the affected shopkeepers or payment of compensation.

The affidavit must be filed by an officer not below the rank of secretary.

The order was passed while



hearing a petition filed by Mohammad Naem and five others.

The petitioners submitted that the Sitapur Eye Hospital Society, Faizabad, had allotted shops to them on 30-year leases in 2000. After completing the prescribed formalities, possession of the shops was handed over to them on February 28, 2000. Under the applicable rules, the leases were to be renewed after every 30 years.

However, the Ayodhya district magistrate issued a notice on June 26, 2025, directing the shopkeepers to vacate the premises within 15 days. The notice stated that the land and shops had been transferred to the Medical and Family Welfare Department.

The petitioners had earlier approached the High Court, which directed the authorities to maintain status quo until their representation was decided. Subsequently, through an order dated July 31, 2026, the district magistrate stated that the land was required for the construction of the 300-bed super-speciality hospital and the shopkeepers had no right to continue occupying the premises.

The High Court has fixed November 16, 2026, for the next hearing.

MHA seeks public opinion on developing broadband network for security, disaster response personnel

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday said it has sought public opinion and stakeholders' input on developing a dedicated nationwide broadband network that would give roughly 30 lakh police, paramilitary and disaster response personnel push-to-talk,

video and data link services.

In a statement, the MHA said it proposes to implement a pan-India dedicated Broadband Public Protection and Disaster Relief (BB-PPDR) Network to provide Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT), Mission Critical Data and Mission Critical Video capabilities to police in states and Union territories, Central Armed

Police Forces (CAPF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire service, medical service and other public safety agencies across the country.

"For designing the reference architecture, MHA is soliciting public opinion and stakeholders' input on Design of Network Architecture for the proposed Broadband Public Protection

and Disaster Relief (BB-PPDR) Communication System," it said.

It sought ideas for design options, technology to be adopted, its comparative merits and demerits, cost efficiency and suitability to Indian conditions.

The ministry has chosen 10 pilot locations for the project -- the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Amritsar, Bastar, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Mumbai, Rudraprayag and Visakhapatnam.

The MHA has an in-principle allocation of spectrum in the 814-824 and 859-869 MHz bands, outside the standard mobile broadband range, for which it has sought to know the availability of

radio equipment and commercial devices for those frequencies.

According to the statement, the ministry is looking at around 30 lakh handsets. Of these, a bulk of around 21 lakh rugged field handsets will be for field units, 6 lakh smartphone-grade devices will be for senior officers and 3 lakh fixed or vehicle-mounted units.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Army must

approach to national security.

He credited the armed forces' valour, discipline, preparedness and restraint, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and diplomatic efforts, for strengthening India's global standing.

On the occasion, Singh released the Land Warfare Doctrine, which provides an overarching framework to prepare the Indian Army for the evolving nature of warfare and future conflicts.

He also unveiled the annual United Nations Journal and felicitated Army personnel for their notable contributions as UN peacekeepers, recognising their professionalism and service towards international peace and security.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani, Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officials attended the conference. (KNO)

Power relief on

may receive 845 MWs un-allocated power from the pool of northern region utilities followed by 845 MWs from 01-01-2027 to 31-01-2027 or modified otherwise and 655 MWs from 01-02-2027 to 28-02-2027 respectively.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a repeat of last winter's 'power crisis', with demand expected to match or exceed last year's peak while hydro generation stays lean. Officials warn that unless action is taken now, the same conditions will return.

The official documents in this regard said "Last winter, demand in the J&K control area rose to around 3,200 MW as heating load picked up in the early morning and night hours."

"Demand is expected to be similar or higher this winter, and hydro generation is likely to be lean again, so the same conditions are likely to return unless action is taken in advance," it reads. (KNO)

Govt withdraws

due to their notification as subsidiary jails.

The de-notification has been carried out under clause (b) of Section 2 of the Prisoners Act, 1900, read with Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897.

Subsidiary jails are usually created in police complexes, administrative buildings, or other government premises to meet temporary requirements for housing prisoners, particularly during law-and-order situations, overcrowding.

Once notified, these buildings acquire the

status of a jail, allowing prisoners to be kept there.

When the Government withdraws such notifications, the buildings cease to function as jails. (KNO)

IFS Officers discuss

and the facilitation of international events. The delegation consisted of Sarvjeet Soodan, Vimarsh Aryan, and Ovessa Iqbal.

LG designates special

Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs stated that the Lieutenant Governor, in consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, has designated the Court of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, and the Court of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, as Special Fast-Track Courts for the trial of offences under the Act.

As per the law, trials in such cases must be conducted on a day-to-day basis until all witnesses are examined. The Act further provides that trials must be completed within three months from the date the chargesheet is filed. (KNO)

CM Omar invites

Colours', the show features 3.5 lakh locally produced plants representing more than 70 varieties and nearly 12 million blossoms across the 100-kanal theme garden.

Developed and curated by the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, the garden has been upgraded this year with expanded flower beds, colourful floral displays, water features, selfie points and modern visitor amenities, set against the backdrop of the surrounding mountains.

The Chief Minister said the garden was introduced last year to create a distinctive floral attraction during autumn, when Kashmir previously lacked a major tourism draw comparable to the Tulip Garden at the beginning of the tourism season.

"We have been trying to increase our tourism season. You must have seen that many people visit the Tulip Garden at the beginning of the year. But during autumn season, we have tried to add something special to show to people. That is why this Chrysanthemum Garden has been developed by the Department of Floriculture," he said.

Expressing satisfaction over the improvements, the Chief Minister said he had witnessed significant progress since last year and assured that the garden would continue to be developed with new features and attractions.

Highlighting the importance of local production, he said much of the plant material used

in the chrysanthemum garden was locally produced and could be propagated and multiplied within Jammu and Kashmir, unlike the Tulip Garden, which relies on bulbs sourced from outside the country.

"One big advantage of this garden is that the bulk of the plant material is indigenous and some quantity of bulbs is procured from outside the country to keep it running. Much of the plant material of this garden is our own. We propagate it and multiply it. We will try to do something new in this garden every year," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government would continue introducing new attractions to sustain public interest and strengthen Kashmir's autumn tourism offerings.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Agriculture Production Minister Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Shamim Firdous, Salman Sagar and Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Zubair Ahmad, Director Floriculture Kashmir Mathooraa Masoom and other officers. (KNO)

'Know Your Artisan'

and Handloom Department under the aegis of 'Soulful Kashmir'. The initiative seeks to bring Kashmir's skilled artisans to the forefront by providing them a platform to showcase their work and share the stories behind their craft.

The department has set up 20 stalls showcasing Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged and languishing crafts. The exhibition will continue for 15 days alongside the Chrysanthemum Show.

A special 'Try Your Hands' corner has also been established to offer visitors a first-hand experience of traditional craft-making techniques.

Visitors can witness the intricate processes involved in creating some of Kashmir's most celebrated handicrafts and handloom products, including Sozni-embroidered Pashmina shawls, Kani shawls woven using the traditional taleem technique, papier-mâché products, willow wickerwork and walnut wood carvings.

South Kmr upper

agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.9 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 14.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 19.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2 degrees Celsius, according to the IMD—(KNO)

Speaker JKLA inaugurates ₹9 cr dev projects at Dreygam, Palpora

KT News Desk

Budgam, Oct 23: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday inaugurated major development projects worth around 9 crore in Dreygam, Palpora.

The ambitious projects included a bridge at Shali Ganga Nallah in Dreygam and a road project at Palpora, marking a significant step towards strengthening the road connectivity and improving transportation facilities for people.

The newly inaugurated bridge is expected to provide a major relief to the residents of dozens of villages, as it will establish an important connectivity link and reduce the difficulties faced by the people while travelling between different areas. The project is also expected to facilitate the movement of students, patients, farmers, traders and daily commuters.

Similarly, the road project at Palpora is aimed at improving the accessibility and providing safer and smoother transportation facilities to the local population. The development of these vital infrastructure projects would immensely boost the economic activity and strengthen connectivity between rural and semi-urban areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasised the importance of developing basic infrastructure and ensuring that people in rural areas receive better road and communication facilities. He said that connectivity plays a crucial role in overall development of an area.

The local residents and representatives of various villages expressed their gratitude to the Speaker and the concerned authorities for completing the projects. They said the bridge and road had been a long-standing demand of the people and their completion would benefit a large population across several villages.

The people also appreciated the efforts of the administration and engineering agencies involved in executing the projects and hoped that other pending development works in the area would also be taken up on priority.

Nurses' federation

decision," he said, seeking an explanation for the failure to meet the deadline and clarification about the administrative hurdles delaying the process.

Sharma said six IAS officers had reportedly held charge as Secretary or the corresponding senior administrative head of the H&ME Department since 2019, yet the issue remained unresolved.

He said successive changes in leadership could not be allowed to become an excuse for prolonged administrative inaction, adding that the government should review the official record to identify the stages at which the process was delayed and fix responsibility wherever warranted.

The federation also highlighted the disparity in career progression between gazetted and non-gazetted employees, claiming that the former had received three rounds of promotions or promotional advancements since 2019, while the latter continued to face uncertainty in the absence of a clearly defined service structure.

Sharma said the delay had affected employees' career progression, promotional prospects and potential financial benefits, urging the government to initiate pending Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings and examine claims for consequential benefits under the applicable service rules.

He further claimed that the first recruitment through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the five medical colleges was undertaken in 2019, with no subsequent recruitment advertisement issued for non-gazetted posts in these institutions.

The federation said the absence of finalised recruitment rules could also be affecting permanent recruitment in GMC Handwara and GMC Udhampur, and called upon the department to clarify the status of the rules for these institutions.

Sharma said delays in framing recruitment rules could obstruct workforce planning, prevent the timely filling of sanctioned vacancies and deprive eligible candidates of opportunities to compete for government jobs.

"The issue is not limited to the publication of a government document. It concerns the professional future of serving employees, the employment prospects of aspiring candidates and the efficient functioning of public healthcare institutions," he said.

AIRNF has demanded immediate finalisation and publication of the rules, a transparent review of the delay since 2019, initiation of due promotional proceedings and a definite timeline for permanent recruitment in the affected medical colleges.

The federation has also sought an explanation for missing the September 30 deadline and called for an examination of the administrative process, including drafting, departmental processing and legal and administrative vetting, to establish where the delays occurred.

Sharma said the government must move beyond repeated assurances and take concrete steps to resolve the issue, adding that nearly seven years of uncertainty could not be dismissed as a routine administrative delay.

"Employees deserve clarity on their service conditions and career progression. The government must explain why the promised deadline was not met, disclose the present status of the rules and ensure that the matter is resolved without further avoidable delay," he said. (KNO)

Trying my best

a Sub-Divisional Office building at Sonpah, Beerwah, approved at Rs 82.29 lakh under the UT Capex Budget 2026-27. The proposed building is expected to provide dedicated administrative space, streamline office functioning and improve access to public services. Work on the project has recently commenced.

Recalling his association with Beerwah, Omar Abdullah said the constituency's voters had supported him in the 2014 Assembly elections and that he would remain indebted to them throughout his life.

On pending road works, he said several projects had been delayed due to difficulties in procuring construction material amid the prevailing war-like situation. "The government will continue its efforts to complete pending works this year and take up additional road projects, including the main road in Beerwah," he said.

Regarding the demand for a stadium, Omar said a suitable site would first be identified in consultation with the local MLA and Deputy Commissioner Budgam, following which the Sports Department would take up its development.

On the proposed highway route and concerns over its possible impact on local businesses, he said the government had taken up the matter with the highway authorities and would try to address the demands of residents.

The Chief Minister reiterated his commitment to completing pending development works and ensuring progress across Jammu and Kashmir. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Beerwah Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwini Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Jatini Kishore and other senior officers. (KNO)

PM Modi calls for collective efforts to tackle societal ills, unite against divisive forces

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: Highlighting emerging challenges and societal ills over the decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for collective efforts to address them, unite society against divisive forces and inspire citizens towards self-reliance.

Inaugurating the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan here, Modi said he had spent the last 25 years serving the nation as head of government to the best of his ability, while carrying forward the vision of Swami Chinmayananda, founder of the Chinmaya Mission, a global spiritual movement dedicated to making the wisdom of Vedanta and the Bhagavad Gita accessible to all.

He said the Chinmaya Mission was not merely an institution but a thought, with 'Chinmaya' meaning pure consciousness, and noted that its founder's journey over the decades had been marked by divine resolve.

"Over the decades, times have changed, new challenges have emerged, and new



societal ills have surfaced. Today, the responsibility to solve them rests upon all of us," Modi said.

"We must unite society against divisive forces. We must inspire citizens toward self-reliance, and we must connect every individual to the vision of a Developed India by 2047. For these objectives, we must become even more proactive," he added.

The prime minister said the vision of far-sighted luminaries such as Swami Chinmayananda around the time of Independence reflected the direction in which the country was fulfilling its responsibilities today.

"To ensure that our

education system meets the needs of a 'New India', we introduced the National Education Policy (NEP). This new policy accords high importance to Indian Knowledge Systems, instruction in mother tongues, modern science, and cutting-edge technology," he said. Modi said the youth had remained at the core of his efforts and policies, over the last 25 years as head of government, first as Gujarat chief minister and later as prime minister.

Expressing delight over the role played by young people in the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav, he said several of them had travelled nearly 40,000 kilometres over

approximately 300 days, reaching out to more than one lakh youth.

"I congratulate the entire team for this phenomenal effort," he said.

He credited the Chinmaya Mission with nurturing hundreds of thousands of young people who were acting as cultural ambassadors of India and passing on Indian values to the next generation.

"This contribution of the most revered Gurudev (Swami Chinmayananda) forms an important chapter in the cultural and spiritual renaissance of India," he said.

Modi also highlighted the efforts to bring back India's stolen cultural artefacts, saying countless priceless statues had been taken abroad and sold in the past without anyone questioning their disappearance. "There was no one to inquire about them (statues), let alone worship them. No one even asked about them. Over the past 12 years, we have brought back more than 650 stolen ancient idols. Furthermore, our cultural heritage sites are becoming part of UNESCO World Heritage listings," he said.

Email warns of attacks on Mumbai mayor's office, Bachchan home, Dosanjh's concert

PTI

Mumbai: Security agencies and the Mumbai police have been placed on high alert after an email sent to Mayor Ritu Tawde on Friday threatened bomb blasts at her office, actor Amitabh Bachchan's home and the venue of singer Diljit Dosanjh's concert, an official said.

The email claimed that a blast would take place in the mayor's office at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters at 3.11 pm. The premises were searched, but nothing suspicious was found, an official said.

According to police, the mail, also marked to Deputy Mayor Sanjay Ghadi, warned of a grenade attack on a school on October 31 and threatened to target Bachchan's Juhu home 'Jalsa' between October 31 and November 27.

The email, which made references to 'Khalistan', also claimed that there would be an attack during the November 27 concert of singer Diljit Dosanjh in the Mahalaxmi Racecourse area.

Prompted by the threat, law enforcement authorities have launched a comprehensive investigation to verify the authenticity of the message, trace its origin, and identify the sender, the official said.

As a precautionary measure, instructions have been issued to significantly step up security and surveillance at the mayor's office, the Mahalaxmi Racecourse, prominent educational institutions across the city and all those places mentioned in the email, the official added.

Navy to host Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue

To explore science, tech, academic cooperation



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Indian Navy will host its annual apex-level international strategic dialogue in Delhi from November 3-5, during which experts from several countries will deliberate on maritime science, ocean governance, climate resilience and emerging technologies, officials said on Friday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to deliver the commemorative address on day one of the event, they said.

The three-day programme will also feature ministerial and other special addresses, and contributions from maritime practitioners, scientists, academicians, policymakers and experts from 18 countries across the Indo-Pacific, the defence ministry said.

In keeping with the IPRD's emphasis upon solution-oriented dialogue, deliberations of this international conference will concentrate upon the identification of specific, actionable measures at national, sub-regional, and pan-regional levels, which could be thereafter addressed through extant mechanisms for bilateral, trilateral, and plurilateral structures designed to promote comity, cooperation, and collaboration across the Indo-Pacific, it said.

These deliberations will consider "practical pathways" for joint research, collaborative technology development, responsible governance, appropriate access to scientific data and stronger institutional partnerships.

The 2026 edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) will be centred on the theme, 'Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific'.

The conference will bring together experts from 18 countries, and deliberations will focus on academic networks, maritime science, ocean governance, climate resilience, and emerging technologies, they said.

Organised in association with the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), the Navy's knowledge partner and principal organiser of the event, the IPRD is the manifestation of the Indian Navy's annual international outreach at the strategic level.

Successive editions of this dialogue have examined selected dimensions of the seven interconnected maritime lines of thrust of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok in November 2019, it said in a statement.

In the context of India's maritime vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), the IPRD seeks to translate the IPOI's broad framework for cooperation into specific, actionable proposals, it said.

"The choice of this year's theme reflects a fundamental feature of the contemporary maritime domain: the oceans are interconnected, but the scientific knowledge, technological capabilities and institutions required to understand and manage them remain unevenly distributed," the statement said.

Climate change, maritime trade and supply-chain vulnerabilities, pressure upon marine resources, and threats to critical maritime infrastructure increasingly transcend national boundaries, it said.

Markets extend losses for 4th day amid selling pressure, oil price surge

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 23: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the fourth consecutive session on Friday as crude oil prices breached the USD 114 level amid escalating tensions in West Asia, keeping investors on edge.

A broad-based selling across sectors and FII outflows amid weak global trends also dampened investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher but later plunged 797.02 points, or 1.08 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 72,452.37. It later recouped some losses to settle at 73,123.83, down 125.56 points, or 0.17 per cent.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 87.65 points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 22,600 after tumbling 315.65 points, or 1.39 per cent, to a low of 22,372.

Tata Steel and Adani Ports fell over 3 per cent, emerging as the biggest laggards among the Sensex firms.

Trent, Tech Mahindra, Bharat Electronics Ltd, IndiGo, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, State Bank of India and Hindustan Unilever also traded lower.

In contrast, Eternal, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki India, Infosys, and ICICI Bank were among the gainers.

Despite global tensions, business sentiment looks up again in Q2 FY27: NCAER

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: After moderating for four consecutive quarters amid prolonged geopolitical tensions, India's business sentiment rose to 107.8 in the second quarter from 99.8 in April-June this fiscal, according to the latest NCAER Business Expectations Survey.

The latest survey was conducted in September and covered 502 firms of various sizes across six cities. Delhi NCR represented



the north, Bengaluru and Chennai the south, Kolkata the east and Mumbai and Pune the west, the National Council of Applied

Economic Research (NCAER) said.

"Though BCI improved, it was lower than the corresponding quarter of the previous

fiscal year (142.6 in 2025-26: Q2)," it said.

BCI comprises four components -- overall economic conditions will improve in the next six months; financial position of the firms will improve in the next six months; present investment climate is positive; and present capacity utilisation was close to or above the optimal level.

The survey said the BCI rose in the second quarter, driven by higher sentiments across all four components.

IMA, AIIMS body condemn Sunny Deol-starrer film's portrayal of violence against doctors

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and resident doctors of AIIMS Delhi have strongly condemned the teaser of Sunny Deol-starrer film "Suryaa: Ant Se Aarambh Tak", alleging it generalises corruption in the medical profession and risks justifying violence against doctors and healthcare workers.

They demanded an impartial review of the content and appropriate corrective action under applicable law immediately.

The film, also starring Ravi Kishan among others, is set to release on November 20. The teaser was out on Monday. "Doctors are

healers, not targets of hatred or violence," the IMA said in a statement.

"Every day, thousands of dedicated doctors serve humanity with compassion, commitment and sacrifice, often under extremely challenging circumstances," IMA Finance Secretary Dr Piyush Jain said.

The misconduct of a few individuals, wherever established, must be investigated and punished in accordance with the law, but an entire profession must not be defamed for the actions of a few, he said.

Dr Jain said freedom of creative expression was fundamental but had to be exercised responsibly.

Special Campaign 6.0

Jal Shakti ministry reviews over 6,200 files



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Department of Water Resources under the River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has reviewed over 6,200 physical files and resolved 161 public grievances as part of Special Campaign 6.0, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said on Friday.

The department has also weeded out 1,456 physical files, closed 835 e-files and freed up 901 square feet of space as part of the campaign aimed at clearing pending matters and promoting cleanliness in government offices.

The campaign is being conducted from October 2 to 31 under the aegis of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, the ministry said in a statement.

As of October 19, the department had reviewed 6,200 of the 7,724 physical files identified for review,

achieving 80.2 per cent of its target. It had also reviewed 3,460 of the 6,443 e-files identified, achieving 53.7 per cent of the target.

The department had resolved 161 of the 190 public grievances identified for disposal, while 25 of the 29 references from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had been addressed, according to the statement.

It had also completed 278 of the 371 cleanliness drives at identified sites, achieving 74.9 per cent of the target. Of the 32 parliamentary assurances identified, 22 had been addressed. The department has generated revenue of Rs 13.1 lakh through the disposal of scrap, the ministry said.

Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Archana Varma, reviewed the campaign's progress with heads and senior officers of the department's organisations on October 19.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return."
(Qur'an 2:156)

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts,
we inform the passing away of our beloved

Muhammad Latief Bhat

who returned to his Creator on

22 October 2026

FATEH KHAWANI
will be held on
Monday, 26th of October 2026
at 10:30 AM

**At: Shivpura Graveyard,
Srinagar (near Bus Stop)**

May Allah (SWT) forgive his sins, shower His infinite mercy
upon him, grant him the highest ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous,
and bless the bereaved family with Sabr-e-Jameel.
Ameen.

Contact: +91 9796780814

Quick Read

Israel orders West Bank closure after killing of two Palestinians accused of attack

AP

Hebron (West Bank), Oct 23 : Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians who the military said had launched an attack near Hebron in the occupied West Bank on Friday morning. At least five other people were injured, some critically.

The violence is likely to heighten political tensions and security concerns ahead of Israel's parliamentary election next week.

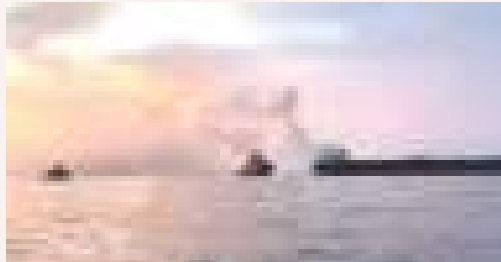
The army said it had prevented a "terror attack against Israeli civilians" and that the two men, both Palestinians from Hebron, were armed with an M16 rifle and a handgun. It did not elaborate on the target of the attack.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office later said it had instructed security forces to immediately cordon off Hebron and prepare for a full closure of the West Bank starting Friday.

Voters go to the polls Tuesday in an election that will help determine whether Netanyahu secures another term as prime minister. The vote comes three years after the Hamas-led attacks on Israel that triggered the war in Gaza.

Israel's government has warned of potential attacks by the country's "enemies" in the lead-up to the election.

Romania launches rescue operation after Black Sea ship fire leaves one dead, three missing



AP

Bucharest(Romania), Oct 23 : Romanian authorities said Friday that a search and rescue mission is underway in the Black Sea after a cargo ship caught fire, leaving one dead and three missing.

The incident occurred about 13 nautical miles (15 miles) east of the port city of Constanta, according to the Romanian Naval Authority, and was reported around 10 am local time. The ship's crew consisted of 10 Ukrainian citizens and 3 Azerbaijanis.

The Ministry of Interior said border police were informed by the Maritime Coordination Centre about a fire on board a commercial vessel, which "suffered major damage and capsized, with an imminent risk of sinking."

"Of the 13 people on board, ten were

recovered by another commercial vessel in the area, nine alive and one deceased," the ministry said. "Three others are still missing."

The authorities did not say what caused the vessel fire, but multiple local media platforms reported it had been struck by a drone.

The naval authority identified the ship as a Comoros-flagged cargo vessel named Khoryv, which the shipping data website MarineTraffic shows departed Turkey on October 21 and was headed for Romania's Sulina port.

"Rescue teams continue search operations to identify and rescue the other three crew members," the naval authority said, adding that it wasn't possible to deploy a helicopter due to unfavourable weather conditions and low visibility.

Kremlin says first Russian diesel tanker sails for US despite Ukraine's protests



AP

Moscow, Oct 23 : A first tanker carrying Russian diesel to the United States under a new import agreement has set sail, the Kremlin said Friday, two weeks after President Donald Trump said he struck a deal with President Vladimir Putin despite Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"The first oil tanker has sailed off to customers, and regular supplies will continue," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said without elaborating.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said earlier this week that the first shipment would amount to 40,000 tons of diesel, according to Russia's Interfax news agency.

Marine intelligence firm Kpler said the vessel was

signalling it was headed to New York to arrive November 7 and would be the first Russian diesel delivery to the United States since July 2023.

The abrupt reversal of US sanctions policy on Russia over its invasion of its neighbour was seen as an attempt by Trump to address high fuel prices ahead of the midterm elections.

The diesel shipment of 40,000 tons amounts to around 300,000 barrels, or about 7 per cent of the roughly 4 million barrels of diesel the US economy consumes in a single day.

The import agreement, which Trump says foresees millions more tons of Russian diesel reaching the US in coming months, is unlikely to make a dent in painfully high prices at the pump or elsewhere,

energy policy experts say.

Russia's diesel production has come under strain from repeated Ukrainian long-range drone strikes on its oil refineries. The attacks caused fuel shortages, which now have eased. Trump last month asked Kyiv to stop the attacks.

The US diesel decision caused alarm and dismay in Ukraine, which has pleaded with foreign countries to tighten sanctions on Moscow and deny it revenue for its invasion launched in February 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Trump's decision "a weak decision by strong partners."

The diesel agreement was a sudden policy reversal, coming just weeks after Trump signed into law a sweeping sanctions package that directed him to impose up to 100 per cent tariffs on the top five importers of Russian oil or natural gas. He later put the measures on hold.

The development is the latest twist in the at times volatile relationship between Trump and Zelenskyy, which in recent weeks has reached a new low.

Aekita Kapoor clinches gold as 209 bouts held on Day 2 of National School Games Taekwondo Championship in Ganderbal



KT News Desk

Ganderbal, Oct 23: The 70th National School Games (NSG) Taekwondo Championship 2026 continued with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit on its second day at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal, witnessing a total of 209 fights involving 199 players across different boys' and girls' weight categories.

The second day featured intense competition in several weight categories. In the boys' section, 30 fights were held in the -35 kg category and 35 fights in the -51 kg category. In the girls' section, 30 fights took place in the -35 kg category, 36 in the -46 kg category, 32 in the -59 kg category, and 30 in the -68 kg category.

The highlight of the day was the remarkable

performance of Jammu and Kashmir's Aekita Kapoor, who clinched the gold medal in the girls' -68 kg category by defeating Chandigarh's Genesis James in the final bout. Her victory brought another gold medal to Jammu and Kashmir, further strengthening the Union Territory's medal tally.

In another notable achievement for Jammu and Kashmir, Mantha Mohiuddin secured a silver medal in the -44 kg category, adding to the host UT's medal count.

In the boys' -51 kg category, Gujarat's Manesh Bhai emerged victorious, defeating Jharkhand's Sangram Raj in the final to claim the gold medal, while Sangram Raj secured the silver medal.

The 70th National School Games Taekwondo Championship is being hosted by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI). The championship continues to provide young athletes from across the country with a platform to showcase their talent, determination and sportsmanship at the national level.

Chinar FC Andergam win inaugural SKB Champions Cup at Naidkhai; Surinder Choudhary attends finale, exhorts youth to strive for excellence in sport



KT News Desk

Bandipora, Oct 23: Chinar FC, Andergam, emerged victorious in the inaugural edition of the SKB Champions Cup, defeating Royal FC, Naidkhai, by 2-0 goals in a thrilling grand finale held at SKB Stadium, Naidkhai, on Friday.

The tournament was organised by Thunder FC and Kashmir Hunks, witnessing enthusiastic participation of football enthusiasts and a large gathering of spectators.

The grand finale was graced by the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, as the Chief Guest. Minister for Agriculture, Javid Ahmad Dar; Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat; MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone; and MLA Sopore Shri Irshad Rasool Kar attended the event as Guests of Honour.

The final match between Chinar FC, Andergam and Royal FC, Naidkhai, was marked by thrilling moments,

competitive play and tremendous sporting spirit. The stadium was filled with enthusiasm as spectators cheered for their respective teams while the crowd maintained commendable discipline throughout the event.

The Deputy Chief Minister congratulated Chinar FC, Andergam, on winning the inaugural championship and appreciated both the teams for their performance and sportsmanship. He urged the players and youth to continue working hard and strive for excellence in sports as well as in other fields of life.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, extended his best wishes to the organisers and participating teams. He lauded the organisers for the smooth management and successful conduct of the tournament.

Emphasising the importance of youth empowerment, Nasir Aslam Wani said that prioritising young people and providing them with adequate opportunities in sports must remain a key focus.

During the prize distribution ceremony, the winning team, Chinar FC, Andergam, was presented with the championship trophy and a Cheque of ₹70,000 by the Deputy Chief Minister.

Continued on
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Parvinder Awana to head BCCI junior selection committee

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 23 :Former India pacer Parvinder Awana was on Friday appointed chairman of the newly-formed BCCI junior selection committee.

Awana played two T20Is for India and featured in 62 First-Class matches, taking 191 wickets.

He also represented Delhi, India A and Rest of India, besides playing in the IPL for Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings). After retirement, he moved into coaching, working with Delhi's U16, U19 and U23 teams, as well as India U19 and various BCCI/COE high-performance programmes.

The other members of the committee are Krishna Das, Rakesh Patel and N.



Arjun Yadav. "The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) conducted a selection process for the appointment of members to the Junior Cricket Committee.

"The CAC screened and interviewed applicants and, following the process, recommended the appointment of Parvinder Awana as Chairman, along with Krishna Das, Rakesh Patel

and N. Arjun Yadav as members of the Committee," said the BCCI in a statement.

Das, a former Assam and Goa fast bowler, played 49 First-Class matches and took 166 wickets. He represented India U19 and India A and later worked as India U19 bowling coach and bowling coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji Trophy team.

Asian TT: India assured of first mixed doubles medal in 72 years

PTI

Tashkent, Oct 23 : Harmeet Desai and Yas-haswini Ghorpade ensured India's first mixed doubles medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in 72 years by reaching the semifinals here on Friday.

The Indian pair battled past South Korea's Park Ganghyeon and Lee Daeun 3-2 (11-6, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9) in a gripping quarterfinal to secure at least bronze.

After taking the opening game 11-6, the Indians lost the next two, leaving themselves under enormous pressure. However, the duo responded impressively, winning the fourth game 11-9 before holding their nerve to clinch the decider by the same margin.

The Indians next face Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Sora Matsushima in the semifinals.

The five-game victory underlined the pair's resilience and ability to recover when the match threatened to slip away. Harmeet and Yashaswini had progressed to the quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Chinese Taipei and Indonesia (3-0) in the preceding round, after enjoying a first-round bye.

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SCHEDULE

24 OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY

DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION

CHINDI (UA 16+)

12:35 PM

06:15 PM

PEHLA PYAAR DOOSRI BAAR

CHINDI (CA)

11:05 AM

04:30 PM

UDTA TEER

CHINDI (UA 13+)

10:45 AM

01:35 PM

02:15 PM

04:20 PM

07:15 PM

CLAYFACE

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07:30 PM

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