



Monitor anti-national elements within administration: LG directs DCs, SSPs

Reviews Kashmir security scenario, calls for combating radicalisation

Stresses seamless synergy between district admin, security forces

Seeks monthly reviews on attachment of narco-terrorists' properties



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 30: Directing officials to carry out sustained and aggressive action against terror modules, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday asked Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) to closely monitor anti-national elements within the administration and prioritize efforts to combat radicalisation. Chairing a high-level meeting with DCs, SSPs and senior officials to review the security scenario in Kashmir Division, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO) emphasized on the need to tighten counter-infiltration grids and fostering seamless synergy between the district administration, J&K Police, Army, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in executing counter-terror operations. He directed the officials for sustained and aggressive action against terror modules. "Deputy Commissioners and SSPs need to closely monitor anti-national elements within the administration and prioritize efforts to combat radicalization," LG Sinha said. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo;

Chief Secretary Designate, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Special DG Coordination PHQ, S.J.M.Gillani; ADG CID, M.K. Sinha; Commissioner Secretary, GAD, M Raju; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Govind Jaiswal; IGP Kashmir, Sujit Singh; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; Range DCs, DCs, SSPs, and other senior officials.

The meeting focused on operational preparedness, security strategies, and future action plans | [More on P6](#)

RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS

LG Sinha calls for unity, peace, harmony in J&K

KT News Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tributes to Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on the eve of his birth anniversary. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, I extend my warm greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir. I hope the National Unity Day celebration will further strengthen the spirit of oneness and peace in the Union Territory." Sardar Patel remains a timeless symbol of selfless service, patriotism, and unyielding integrity, the LG said. As the Architect of National Unity, his vision forged a strong and united India, he added. | [More on P6](#)

Cabinet expansion triggers dissent in NC

18 MLAs hold closed-door meeting, demand removal of advisor, 4 ministers

Dissenting legislators flag 'Dachigam consensus' breach, allege corruption by ministers

Demand parliamentary board for future inductions

Umer Maqbool

Srinagar, Oct 30: The growing discontent within the ruling National Conference (NC) over Tuesday's cabinet expansion-cum-resuffle came to the fore on Friday as 18 legislators, including 17 NC MLAs and one Independent member supporting the government, held a marathon meeting here to deliberate on their future course of action.

As many as 18 legislators met at the residence of Lolab MLA Qaiser Jamsheed Lone at Friends Enclave, Humhama Heights, here and held discussions for nearly five hours.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the NC leadership became aware of the proposed meeting on Thursday evening and made attempts to persuade some legislators not to attend. However, several of those invited either did not respond to the calls or went ahead with their



participation.

Apart from the host, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, the meeting was attended by Nazir Ahmad Gurezi (Gurez), Mubarak Gul (Eidgah), Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi (Pampore), Hilal Akbar Lone (Sonawari), Aijaz Jan (Poonch Haveli), Javid Choudhary (Budhal), Muzaffar Khan (Thanamandi), Sajad Shafi (Uri), Javid Ahmad Mirchal (Karnah), Mohiuddin Mir (Rajpora), Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo (Chanapora), Er. Khurshied Ahmad (Gulabgarh), Arjun Singh Raju (Ramban), Abdul Majid Larmi (Anantnag West), Saifuddin Bhat (Khansahib), Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Bijbehara) and Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (Tangmarg).

According to sources privy to the meeting, several legislators voiced strong reservations over the recent cabinet expansion.

During the discussion, an MLA from the Pir Panjal region accused a serving minister of amassing enormous wealth through corrupt practices.

"The consensus reached at Dachigam has not been implemented. Those who were expected to be sacked from the Council of Ministers continue to hold their positions," a legislator said.

Another MLA from south Kashmir claimed to possess evidence linking a recently inducted minister to corrupt activities.

Sources further said the legislators demanded the removal of all four ministers who had taken oath when the government was formed in October 2024.

"They have completed two years in office | [More on P6](#)

J&K Cabinet approves two industrial estates

Projects to attract investment, create employment opportunities: CM

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 30: The Council of Ministers, recently chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the establishment of two new Industrial Estates in Jammu & Kashmir, involving a combined investment of Rs 162.72 crore.

The approved projects include a New Industrial Estate at Pehlipora, Lar, Ganderbal, at a cost of Rs 60.92 crore, and Industrial Estate Bhagthali

J&K Govt appoints five members to Haj Committee for three years

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday appointed five members to the Union Territory Haj Committee for a period of three years, with Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad among those nominated.

According to a notification issued by the Revenue Department, a copy of which is available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the appointments have been made by the Lieutenant Governor under Sections 17(1) | [More on P6](#)

DICs face of DIPR at grassroots: Dir Information

Calls for proactive media engagement, timely, verified public communication

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 30: Director Information, Mamta Yadav on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of District Information Centres (DICs) across Kashmir Division, with a focus on strengthening district-level information dissemination, improving media coordination and ensuring effective coverage of government activities and public welfare initiatives.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director (Hqrs), Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; Cultural Officer, Field Publicity Officer, District Information Officers of Kashmir division and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Director took a detailed assessment of the functioning of District Information Centres, reviewing their publicity activities, media outreach, field-level coverage, infrastructure,



manpower requirements and overall performance.

Stressing the importance of District Information Centres as the grassroots communication network of the DIPR, Mamta Yadav said that these centres have a significant role in ensuring that information about government policies, programmes, developmental initiatives and public welfare schemes reaches the people in a timely, accurate and accessible manner.

"DICs are the face of the DIPR at the grassroots level. Their role goes beyond disseminating information; they serve as an important link

between the administration, media and the public. It is imperative that every district unit functions with dedication, professionalism and a clear sense of responsibility," she said.

The Director underscored the need to make publicity and information dissemination more dynamic, result-oriented and responsive to the changing media landscape. She called upon the district officers to effectively utilise digital and social media platforms alongside conventional modes of publicity to ensure wider outreach and greater

Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia appointed as IAF Vice-Chief

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar/New Delhi, Oct 30: Ministry of Defence on Friday appointed Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia as the next Vice-Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS).

Walia, who is presently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command, will succeed Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who is scheduled to take over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on October 31.

According to the details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Walia, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on June 11, 1988.

His career spans nearly four decades, during which he has served in several important operational, command and staff appointments. Walia will assume charge on November 1.

A qualified fighter pilot, he has flown MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-27, Jaguar and Su-30 MKI aircraft, logging over 3,200 hours of accident- and incident-free flying.

During his career, he commanded a MiG-27 fighter



squadron, the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) and a frontline air base at Bareilly. He is also a Fighter Strike Leader and an Instrument Rating Instructor and Examiner.

Walia has held several senior appointments at Air Headquarters, including Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Training) and Air Commodore at the Directorate of Air Staff Inspection. He also served as Air Defence Commander at the headquarters of Western Air Command, an important operational command of the IAF.

His other assignments include serving as Defence Attache at the Indian embassies in | [More on P6](#)

MeT predicts dry weather till Nov 7

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 30: Day temperatures across most parts of Kashmir remained above the seasonal average on Friday, while the Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 7.

According to the daily weather bulletin accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Kupwara recorded the highest maximum temperature in the Kashmir Valley at 24.6 degrees Celsius, which was 3.4 degrees above the seasonal average.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.8 degrees Celsius against the normal of 20.8 degrees, while the minimum settled at 4.9 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above the seasonal average.

Qazigund also recorded a maximum of 23.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Pahalgam at 19.8 degrees, Kokernag at 21.4 degrees and Gulmarg at 15.2 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in the Valley at 2 degrees Celsius, followed by Kupwara at 2.2 degrees, Pahalgam at 3.3 degrees and Qazigund at 4 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded | [More on P6](#)

Over 5.20 lakh tourists visit J&K's LoC areas this year so far

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 30: More than 5.20 lakh tourists, including local and non-local visitors, have visited border areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir this year so far, with Gurez in Bandipora district emerging as the most popular destination, followed by Keran in Kupwara, according to provisional estimates.

The figures, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), indicate that Gurez recorded around 1.50 lakh tourist visits, followed by Keran with nearly 1.20 lakh visitors, while Uri registered around 90,000 tourist visits. Lolab recorded nearly

65,000 visitors, followed by Tangdhar with around 40,000, Machil with 30,000 and Teetwal with nearly 25,000 visitors.

The border destinations have witnessed growing tourist interest in recent years, with visitors attracted by their scenic landscapes, traditional culture and improved security situation.

The areas, which were once frequently affected by cross-LoC shelling and clashes, have witnessed a significant transformation following the reaffirmation of the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement in February 2021.

Residents who earlier had to leave their homes during



periods of shelling are now opening them to tourists and running homestays and other

tourism-related businesses. Speaking to the news agency Kashmir News Observer

(KNO), residents said the decline in cross-border firing had allowed tourism and other economic activities to grow in the border areas.

Abdul Majeed, a resident of Gurez, said tourism-related activity had increased in the area throughout the year and credited the administration, Army and local residents for promoting the region.

He also called for a separate development authority for Gurez to improve infrastructure and support the growing tourism sector.

Abdul Hameed Lone, another resident of Gurez, said the region had witnessed a significant increase in tourist activity in recent years.

"Earlier, people were hesitant to visit because of the situation along the border. The situation has changed, and tourism has increased," he said.

Suhail Ahmad, a homestay owner from Keran, said more government support was needed to develop the border areas as tourism destinations.

"Our culture, simple way of life and traditional practices are among the things that visitors want to experience. More support is needed so that tourism can benefit local families," he said.

Residents of Karnah and Uri also expressed hope that peace along the LoC would continue, saying the absence of shelling

had helped improve life and economic activity in border villages.

The ceasefire has also changed social life in several border areas. Residents said they can now organise weddings and other functions in their homes instead of moving to safer locations.

"There was a time when we had to spend days inside underground bunkers to protect ourselves from shelling. It was difficult to survive, and organising a marriage function was almost impossible," said Saleem Ahmad, a resident of Tangdhar.

In another development, Gurez was connected to the electricity | [More on P6](#)

PMAY-U 2.0 Implementation

Commissioner SMC calls for faster verification, disposal of pending applications

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr Basharat Qayoom, Friday reviewed the progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0), taking stock of the application process, beneficiary verification and measures being undertaken to ensure that eligible families can avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme without unnecessary delays.

During the meeting, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, stressed the need to expedite the verification and scrutiny of applications, particularly those pending at various levels. He directed the concerned officers to work in close coordination, resolve procedural issues promptly and ensure that all eligible applications are processed within the stipulated timeframe.

Dr. Basharat emphasised that the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 must remain focused on reaching deserving households, particularly those belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low-Income Groups (LIG). He stressed that the verification process must be conducted carefully and transparently, ensuring that genuine beneficiaries do not face unnecessary difficulties.

The Commissioner also called for intensified awareness activities at the ward level, directing the concerned officers to organise awareness camps, facilitate online registrations and provide the necessary assistance through ward offices. He stressed the importance of ensuring that people are adequately informed about the eligibility criteria, documentation requirements and application



procedures under the scheme. Highlighting the role of Ward Officers and CLTC Experts, he called for their greater involvement at the grassroots level to guide applicants, address their concerns and assist families who may face difficulties with the online registration process. He underscored that wider public awareness and effective facilitation are essential to ensure that no eligible household is left out due to a lack of information or procedural hurdles.

The Commissioner directed all concerned departments and field functionaries to maintain close

coordination and pursue the implementation process with urgency, ensuring transparent verification and time-bound disposal of applications.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, SMC; Joint Commissioner, R&E, SMC; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ACR); FA/ CAO, SMC; Secretary, SMC; concerned Deputy General Manager, J&K Housing Board; Tehsildars of North, South, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Khanyar, Panthachowk and Chanapora; representatives of District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; besides Ward Officers and CLTC Experts.

MD NHM reviews NQAS implementation, PM-TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

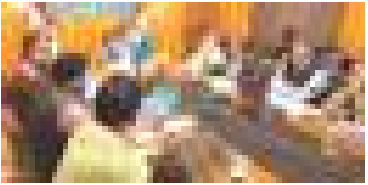
Calls for 100% assessment of public health institutions, intensified TB screening

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: In a strong push to enhance public healthcare delivery and accelerate TB elimination, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Athar Aamir Shafi-ul-Khan, Friday chaired back-to-back review meetings regarding National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) and Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan Friday at State Health Society Office Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

Reviewing the National Quality Assurance Standards, the Mission Director, as per an official statement, underscored that quality infrastructure and patient-centric care remain core pillars of public health in Jammu and Kashmir. Athar Aamir Shafi-ul-Khan directed all Chief Medical Officers to ensure thorough baseline assessments of every public health institution within their respective jurisdictions.

Chief Medical Officers were instructed to categorize facilities based on assessment findings,



systematically bridge infrastructural gaps, and prioritize resource allocation to ensure that 100 percent of targeted healthcare facilities achieve NQAS quality certification by March 2027. Reiterating the administration's commitment, he assured complete technical and administrative backing from the State Health Society to help every facility meet national benchmarks.

In a separate meeting, the Mission Director evaluated the ground-level progress of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Deliberations centered on population screening coverage, Differentiated TB Care, and TB Preventive Treatment (TPT).

Emphasizing aggressive case-finding and optimal technology deployment, the Mission Director called for 100 percent utilization of available diagnostic machines including TruNAAT, CBNAAT, and both handheld and fixed X-ray machines across all districts.

Furthermore, review discussions highlighted grassroots momentum, noting that JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams have been fully constituted across all 110 medical blocks in the Union Territory. Comprising designated Class-I officers, NCC cadets, and MY Bharat volunteers, these youth-led community squads are actively working alongside block medical officers to drive public awareness, eliminate social stigma, and support treatment adherence.

The meetings saw active participation both in person and virtually from the Directors of Health Services Jammu/ Kashmir, State Tuberculosis Officers, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), District Tuberculosis Officers (DTOs), NHM Programme Managers, and other senior officers.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

Youth Festival held at Kashmir Government Polytechnic Gogji Bagh
KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: A Youth Festival under the banner of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 was organised Friday at Kashmir Government Polytechnic, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, with enthusiastic participation of boys and girls.

The festival, as per an official statement, provided a platform for young participants to showcase their creativity, artistic abilities and cultural talent through various competitions and activities, including folk performances, dance, music, Nukkad Natak (street play), painting and poetry.

The event aimed to encourage youth participation, promote India's rich cultural heritage and provide opportunities for young people to express their ideas, creativity and perspectives through art and cultural activities.

Director Colleges reviews facilities at various City Colleges

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Director Colleges, Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, accompanied by Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, visited three colleges in Srinagar to review the facilities available and assess their overall functioning.

Professor (Dr.) Suri began her visit at Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar. She subsequently visited Sri Pratap College (SP College), Srinagar, followed by Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

At Government College of Education (IASE), Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz briefed Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri about the institution, its academic activities, administrative functioning, various initiatives, notable achievements and future goals.

In her address, Professor (Dr.) Suri, as per an official statement, congratulated Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz on her achievements and appreciated her dedicated efforts towards the development of the institution, particularly in strengthening its academic environment and institutional infrastructure.

Reassuring the faculty and staff of her full support, Professor (Dr.) Suri stated that she would make every possible effort to address their genuine demands and requirements, whether related to teaching or non-teaching staff. She further assured them that the doors of her office would always remain open to listen to their concerns and extend all possible assistance.

Later, she visited various facilities of the college, including the laboratories, library, research lab, multi-purpose sports hall, classrooms, browsing centre and other important facilities.

At Sri Pratap College (SP College), Srinagar, Dr. Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal of the college, apprised Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri of the institution's notable achievements, ongoing initiatives, academic accomplishments and future goals and vision.

Similarly, at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Dr. Tahmeena Yousuf, Principal of the college, briefed Professor (Dr.) Suri about the institution's notable achievements, academic accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, research activities and future vision.

During the visits, Professor (Dr.) Suri interacted with faculty members, students and non-teaching staff to gain first-hand insight into the functioning of the institutions, their academic environment and the facilities available on their respective campuses.

The interactions provided an opportunity to review the existing infrastructure, assess institutional requirements and listen to the concerns, suggestions and expectations of various stakeholders. She also sought feedback from students and faculty members regarding academic activities, teaching-learning practices and student support facilities.

The visits aimed at assessing the facilities available in the colleges, identifying areas requiring further attention and improvement, and ensuring a conducive academic environment for enhancing the overall quality of higher education.



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Public Notice

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style

M/s TRIPILOGY Prop Abdul Hamid Sheikh R/o Khanpora District Ganderbal J&K.

Whereas I Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o Farooq Ahmad Sheikh R/o Khanpora Ganderbal intends to apply to the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and Style M/s Tripilology Situated at Khanpora District Ganderbal J&K under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject /Domicile Certificate , Qualification Certificate ,Pan Card Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years) , character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000) , Site Plan, Affidavit , Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head / Visiting Card) Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and outdoor)and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed Checklist prior to Registration of my Unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12 before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified to information of general public/ Financial Institution Bank/ Organization of objection if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration TRC Srinagar (Email id:- ddtrg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers/ newspapers Of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules.

M/s Tripilology
Khanpora Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 02050100061470. from MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH TO WASIM NIZAR If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision GANDERBAL PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name . WASIM NIZAR S/O NAZIR AHMAD SHEIKH R/O WAKURA GANDERBAL.SHOP FIRST FLY TOUR AND TRAVELS

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE
Phone:-01933-295302

E-NIT No: 163/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/ 8473-83 Dated 30 /10/2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Construction of tribal guest house at Sangernwani Rajpora Pulwama	15.96	800/-	2% of ADV. cost	120 working days	CEE BEE	UT Capex Scheme "1814-Tribal Sub Plan"	210-DDCP of 2026 Dt.27-10-2026	1st call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of

terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30 - 10-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	30 - 10-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30 - 10-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	16 - 11-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.MW
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17 - 11-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	. Upload a Copy of Performance Security(PS)/ Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No:0470010200000099 IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) Account Name: Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank PW(R&B) Zone South

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

1.Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG).
2.All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG).
3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Pulwama MC Holding Account Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama Bearing Account no. 0054010200003470 ,IFSC: JAKA0GOLDEN), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP/ maintenance period.
The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Head Draftsman

DIPK-7215/26
DATED: 30-10-2026

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division
Pulwama

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | website: www.medkashmir.org |

Corrigendum 01 for Date Extension

Name of work: Rate contract for Refilling of oxygen cylinders for fabrication/repair works of various machines/vehicles of Machinery Division Kashmir for FY 2026-27.

Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2026-27/25 Date:22-10-2026 (Tender ID: 2026_PWDJK_328944 _1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	30-10-2026 upto 09:30AM	05-11-2026 upto 06:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	30-10-2026 at 02:00 PM	06-11-2026 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-7235/26
DATED: 30-10-2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

No. MDSK/TS/3097-3100

Date: 30-10-2026.

Saffron growers fear another poor season

Challenges

- Inadequate irrigation
- Quality corms shortage
- Land conversion
- Porcupine attacks

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 30: Saffron growers in Kashmir fear another disappointing harvest as flowering remains significantly below normal levels across most saffron fields despite the peak flowering period, raising concerns over the future of the region's traditional crop.

Growers said flowering, which usually peaks after mid-October, has remained scanty this season, with comparatively better results reported in a few fields having access to irrigation. They said most growers continue to depend on rainfall, leaving their crops vulnerable to dry spells and changing weather conditions.

Abdul Majeed Wani, president of the Saffron Growers Association Kashmir said the situation was worrying but expressed hope that flowering could improve in the coming week.

"Usually, saffron fields turn purple after



mid-October, but this year flowers are appearing in very small numbers across most areas. Fields with better irrigation have shown comparatively encouraging results, and we hope flowering improves in the coming days," he said.

Wani said the difference between irrigated and rain-dependent fields highlighted the

need to restore irrigation infrastructure and ensure adequate water supply across the saffron-growing belt.

Growers seek immediate intervention
Ashiq Hussain, a saffron grower from Chandhara in Pampore, said inadequate irrigation, shortage of quality corms, conversion of saffron land for other purposes

and porcupine attacks were compounding the sector's difficulties.

He said porcupines damage underground corms, affecting the crop's ability to regenerate, while the loss of saffron land and inadequate availability of quality planting material were hampering efforts to revive unproductive fields.

"The government needs to act now. We have been raising these issues for years, but growers continue to face the same problems. Irrigation, quality corms, protection of saffron land and measures to control porcupine attacks require immediate attention," he said.

Growers said the majority of saffron fields remained dependent on rainfall and called for the restoration of defunct irrigation systems, improved water distribution and effective implementation of existing projects.

They also urged the authorities to prevent the conversion of traditional saffron land and ensure adequate availability of quality corms to rejuvenate old and less productive fields.

Production decline raises concern

Government data shows that saffron production declined from 17.33 metric tonnes in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022, before marginally improving to 14.94 MT in 2023.

Growers have reported a further deterioration in subsequent seasons, estimating production at around 30 per cent of normal levels in 2024 and nearly 10 per cent in 2025.

The scanty flowering reported this season has heightened fears of another poor harvest, threatening farmers' incomes and livelihoods associated with saffron cultivation.

Growers said repeated losses had made cultivation increasingly difficult to sustain, underscoring the need for long-term measures to address the underlying causes of declining productivity.

Demand revival of National Mission on Saffron

Growers called for renewed focus on the National Mission on Saffron, saying irrigation facilities, quality planting material and protection of saffron-growing land were essential to revive the sector.

They urged the government to assess the condition of saffron fields, restore irrigation infrastructure, promote scientific cultivation practices and introduce effective measures to protect corms from damage.

"The situation is alarming, and we cannot afford to lose another season. Functional irrigation, quality corms and protection of saffron fields can help improve productivity, but concrete measures are needed without delay," growers said.

They said saffron was not only a source of livelihood for farming families but also an integral part of Kashmir's agricultural heritage, urging the government to prioritise its revival—(KNO)

Sagar for reliable winter power, extra stocks in snowbound areas

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 30: Calling reliable electricity supply an essential public service, Minister for Power Development Ali Mohammad Sagar on Friday directed officials to put in place comprehensive winter arrangements, particularly for snow-bound, remote and far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The ultimate objective of every departmental initiative must be to ensure improved power supply and better consumer satisfaction," Sagar said while chairing a review meeting of the Power Development Department at the Civil Secretariat.

The minister directed officials to maintain adequate stocks of transformers, cables, conductors and other essential equipment at strategically identified locations to ensure immediate restoration of electricity during breakdowns and emergencies, especially amid heavy snowfall.

"Winter preparedness must be reflected in tangible arrangements on the ground," he stressed, calling for regular inspection of vulnerable infrastructure, deployment of adequate



technical manpower and stronger field-level response mechanisms.

The minister directed officials to accord priority to uninterrupted power supply to hospitals, healthcare centres, drinking water installations and other essential services during adverse weather conditions.

During the meeting, the demand-supply position was reviewed, with a proposal to procure around 200 MW of additional power from Uttar Pradesh through power exchange arrangements discussed to bridge the gap during peak winter demand.

Sagar called for expediting works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), strengthening the distribution network,

replacing overloaded transformers and reducing technical and commercial losses.

Reviewing smart meter installation, he said technological interventions should promote transparency, accurate billing and improved consumer services. He also directed officials to ensure prompt redressal of complaints related to unscheduled power cuts, faulty transformers, low voltage and delayed restoration.

The minister reviewed the progress of major power projects, transmission lines, grid stations and generation capacity, directing officers to remove bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of ongoing works. He took

up the long-pending issues of PDL and CLW workers, calling for a fair and time-bound examination of their cases under applicable government rules and policies.

Reiterating the government's commitment to quality public services, Sagar said the department must adopt a proactive, accountable and result-oriented approach, with the actual improvement in consumer services serving as the key measure of its performance.

The meeting was attended by managing directors of power corporations, senior departmental officers, chief engineers and other field functionaries. Officers based in Jammu participated through virtual mode—(KNO)

Run for Unity

Traffic curbs on Boulevard Road today

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 30: Traffic movement on Boulevard Road from Lalit Ghat to Kral-sangri will remain restricted on Saturday from 8:30 am until the conclusion of the Run for Unity event, Traffic Police said. According to an advisory, the event, being organised to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, will start from SKICC and conclude at the Botanical Garden, with VIPs and participants expected to attend.

Motorists travelling towards Nishat, Shalimar and Harwan have been advised to use the Dalgate-Rainawari-Hazratbal route, while those heading towards Lal Chowk from these areas should take the Fore-shore-Hazratbal route. Commuters from Gulab Bagh, Zakoora, Naseembagh, Habbak and adjoining areas have been advised to use the Habbak-Dargah-Khanayar route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.

Participants can park their vehicles at designated locations, including Police Golf Course, Royal Spring Golf Course, Jet Ski Point, Botanical Garden and Barista near Lalit Ghat. Vehicles parked along roadsides will be towed, the advisory said.

Students appearing in examinations have been advised to plan their journeys in advance, while ambulances and fire tenders will be allowed to take the shortest possible routes.

For assistance, commuters can contact the Traffic Police Control Room at 103—(KNO)

Flood-damaged siphon unrepaired after 12 years

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Oct 30: More than 12 years after the 2014 floods, farmers in Pulwama and Shopian are still awaiting restoration of a key irrigation siphon damaged during the deluge, forcing them to rely on an inadequate pumping system.

Located in Rakh village of Pulwama, the siphon carried water across the Ranbiara rivulet to agricultural fields in villages including Rakh, Zahid Bagh, Darbagh, Naina, Batpora and Watchi. Its destruction disrupted irrigation supplies, affecting farm productivity for years.

Farmers said repeated appeals for reconstruction have gone unheeded. With the next agricultural season five to six months away, they have renewed their demand for immediate restoration.

"The siphon has remained damaged since the 2014 floods. Our fields continue to suffer due to inadequate water supply," farmers said.

They said parts of the canal network have fallen into disuse, while the temporary pumping

arrangement has proved unreliable.

Abdul Rashid, a farmer from Batpora, said the system depends on erratic electricity and often fails to supply enough water to distant fields.

"We need a permanent solution, not temporary arrangements," he said.

Another farmer, Shabir Ahmad of Zahid Bagh, said authorities have offered assurances for years without visible progress.

Farmers said restoring the siphon would revive the original irrigation network, ensure a dependable water supply and reduce dependence on electricity-driven pumps.

An Irrigation and Flood Control Department official acknowledged the delay, saying a project for reconstruction of the siphon and restoration of the canal network had been prepared but could not be executed due to certain issues.

"The matter is being pursued and work is expected to commence soon," the official said, adding that pumping stations are being used as an interim measure—(KNO)

J&K Tourism promotes destinations at IITM Mumbai B2B meet



KT News Desk

Mumbai, Oct 29: Jammu & Kashmir Tourism showcased its diverse tourism offerings, emerging destinations and business opportunities at the B2B Networking Evening organised as part of IITM Mumbai-2026 at Club Mumbai.

The impactful presentation was delivered by Waseem Raja, Joint Director Tourism, Kashmir and Vivek Puri, CEO, Surinsar Mansar Development Authority. They highlighted the immense tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir and its growing appeal as a preferred destination for the travellers.

The networking evening provided a vibrant platform for meaningful B2B interactions, with officers from J&K Tourism and tourism stakeholders showcasing a wide range of tourism products, destinations and experiences across the Union

Territory. The presentation elucidated both the established and offbeat destinations of Jammu and Kashmir besides highlighting the recently organised major tourism events, including successful conduct of Kashmir Marathon. The event was projected as an important addition to J&K's tourism calendar, further enhancing the destination's visibility among the travel trade and visitors. The presentation generated considerable interest among the travel trade professionals, who raised queries, shared suggestions and offered valuable inputs.

The visiting J&K Tourism officials actively responded to the queries and apprised the participants of the diverse tourism experiences, destinations and investment and business opportunities available across Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Teacher killed, son injured in Rajouri road accident



KNO Correspondent

Rajouri, Oct 30: A teacher was killed while his son sustained injuries after a Tata carrier vehicle went out of control and skidded off the road in the Jaglanoo area of Kotranka in Rajouri district on Friday, officials said.

An official said that the vehicle, bearing registration number JK06B-2633 and carrying grass, went out of control before skidding off the road. He said two persons were injured in the incident and were shifted to a nearby hospital, where one of them was declared dead. The deceased was identified as Mohd Amin, a teacher and Head of Institution at Middle School Madhar, while the injured was identified as his son, Mohd Ashaiq.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated further proceedings—(KNO)

Security and compassion must go hand in hand: Sakina Itoo

Urges easing of hardships on Srinagar -Qazigund highway



KNO

Srinagar, Oct 30: Minister for Health & Medical Education & Social Welfare Sakina Masood Itoo on Thursday raised concern over the "hardships" faced by people travelling frequently on the Srinagar-Anantnag-Kulgam-Qazigund National Highway due to convoy movements.

In a post on X, Itoo said, "While travelling frequently on the Srinagar-Anantnag-Kulgam - Q a z i g u n d National Highway, it is deeply distressing to see ambulances stranded, students missing classes and ordinary citizens

waiting 15-30 minutes, sometimes even hours, for convoy movement. What fault have our people committed to endure such hardships?"

She appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's office and the concerned authorities to explore practical traffic management measures.

"I earnestly appeal to @OfficeOfLGJandK @manoj_sinha_Sb and the concerned authorities to explore practical traffic management measures that uphold essential security protocols while ensuring uninterrupted passage for

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Police bust jail-linked terror financing module, 10 arrested

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 30: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said they have busted an intra-UT terror financing module allegedly linked to terrorists lodged in different jails, arresting 10 persons in connection with the case.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that Shopian Police had busted the module following a focused investigation into suspected financial networks linked to terrorist activities.

He said that during the investigation, suspicious online financial transactions carried out through various payment platforms were analysed, leading to the tracing of money trails across multiple layers. The investigation revealed a wider network of individuals allegedly involved in terror financing and having links with terrorists and their associates lodged in different jails.

"So far, 10 terrorist associates have been arrested in connection with the case. Accordingly, FIR No. 231/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Shopian," he said.

The spokesperson said the arrested persons have been identified as Owais Shafi Naikoo S/o Mohammad Shafi Naikoo R/o Saidpora Bala, Shopian; Tajamul Ahmad Shah S/o Ab. Rashid Shah R/o Rawalpura, Shopian; Moiz Iqbal S/o Mohammad Iqbal Hajam R/o Chitragam Kalan; Imdad Yousuf Ganie S/o Mohd Yousuf Ganie R/o Chitragam Kalan; Saqib Zahoor Wani S/o Zahoor Ahmad Wani R/o Murrin, Pulwama; Aamir Ahmad Ganie S/o Gh Nabi Ganie R/o Armolah, Pulwama; Firdous Thokar S/o Gh Qadir Thokar R/o Nadigund, Trenz; Liyaqat Nazir Lone S/o Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Murrin, Pulwama; Mohd Hanief S/o Kaju Sheru R/o Check Haria, Kathua; and Kaju S/o Haji Sheeru R/o Check Haria, Kathua.

Continued on
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EDITORIAL

A Policy Long Overdue

The news that Jammu and Kashmir's new media policy will cover Facebook and Instagram is welcome. It is also long overdue. For years, the official rules dealt only with newspapers, television and registered publications. But most people today get their news from the phone in their

hand. That space has stayed outside any system. A policy that accepts this reality is not a restriction on the press. It is simply an attempt to catch up. The need is real. In Kashmir, as anywhere else, news pages have multiplied. Some are run by trained journalists. Many are not. A rumour spreads in minutes. Photos are

lifted without credit. Videos are shared without checking. Ordinary people, and sometimes public representatives, are abused online. A person's name can be damaged before he even knows what was written about him. This is not journalism. It is noise. And it hurts everyone – the reader, the person being written

about, and the honest reporter whose work gets lost in the crowd. But the policy must be made with care. Rules for social media can easily turn into rules on opinion. The line between accountability and censorship is thin. It must be drawn by people who understand both the law and the newsroom. The policy

should ask for openness, identification, correction and a way to complain. It should not ask for approval before publishing. Above all, this is a moment for those who run online pages to look at themselves. Register your page. Name your editor. Check before you publish. Correct your mistakes openly. Give

credit to your sources. Do not confuse speed with accuracy. A policy can make rules. But professionalism has to come from inside. The government should act sensibly. The platforms should act responsibly. And the reader, in the end, should be able to trust what he reads – whichever screen it appears on.

Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme – Building A Globally Competitive Sports Manufacturing Ecosystem

The Union Cabinet approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme on 28 October 2026 with an outlay of 1,856.67 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2033-34. Dedicated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones will bring manufacturers, suppliers, testing facilities and design centres together in one place. Support for anchor investment and turnover-linked production, with a combined outlay of 1,130 crore, will draw new investment and raise production. A further 105 crore will help manufacturers obtain and renew certification from International Sports Federations. Centres of Excellence, start-up support, skilling and export promotion complete a scheme that aims to make India a global hub for high-quality sports goods.

Press Information Bureau

India's sporting ambitions are creating opportunities that extend from playgrounds and training centres to manufacturing and enterprise. Initiatives such as Khelo India and Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 are strengthening participation, talent development and sports infrastructure. A strong sports goods industry can support this vision by supplying quality equipment while creating opportunities for skills, employment and exports.

India's sports goods manufacturing base draws on established clusters such as Jalandhar (Punjab) and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), skilled workers and a network of entrepreneurial MSMEs. Small and micro enterprises account for nearly 90% of production, making the sector an important avenue for local enterprise and employment. The global sports equipment market, valued at approximately US\$140 billion in 2024, is projected to reach around US\$283 billion by 2036, offering substantial opportunities for Indian manufacturers to expand their presence.

To build on these strengths, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme, with a total outlay of 1,856.67 crore for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2033-34. Announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, the scheme brings together support for investment, technology, innovation, skills and market development to position India as a globally competitive hub for the design, development and manufacture of sports goods. The Budget Speech 2026-27 noted that "India has the potential to emerge as a global hub for high quality, affordable sports goods."

Key Interventions under the Scheme

The scheme provides support across the sports goods manufacturing value chain, from infrastructure and investment to research, skills, certification and market development. It has two parts: incentives that support manufacturing and interventions that build the wider ecosystem.

Developing integrated manufacturing zones: The integrated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs) will bring together manufacturers, suppliers, testing facilities, design and prototyping centres, and ancillary enterprises. Developed through convergence with the BHAVYA Scheme and NICDC Industrial Parks, these zones will strengthen industry linkages and improve manufacturing efficiency. There may be four such integrated zones, each covering more than 300 acres.

Attracting investment and expanding production: Two components, with a combined outlay of 1,130 crore, will support manufacturing growth. Anchor Investment Support will provide 20% capital expenditure support to anchor investors investing at least 100 crore, encouraging leading domestic and global manufacturers, brands and retail chains to establish manufacturing facilities within Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs). Turnover Linked Support will offer incentives of up to 15% to manufacturers investing 10 crore or more, encouraging higher production and capacity expansion.

Upgrading existing clusters and supporting MSMEs: Existing sports goods manufacturing clusters will receive support for upgrading common facilities and shared infrastructure through cost-sharing with States, helping smaller enterprises strengthen their manufacturing capabilities.

Supporting international certification: An outlay of 105 crore will help manufacturers obtain and renew certifications from International Sports Federations. Support will cover 70% of first-time certification costs and 50% of renewal costs, promoting internationally accepted quality and performance standards and facilitating global market access.

Advancing research and start-up innovation: Centres of Excellence in premier



educational and research institutions will support research in sports equipment, material sciences, protective gear and advanced manufacturing technologies. Research co-funding will be encouraged through convergence with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation. DPIIT-registered sports start-ups will be eligible for grants of up to 20 lakh. Aligned with Startup India, this support will facilitate the development, testing, validation and commercialisation of new technologies, processes and products.

Developing industry-aligned skills: Skill development initiatives will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and relevant industry stakeholders to meet evolving workforce requirements.

Promoting Indian sports goods globally: An India Sports Expo and a Brand India campaign, alongside branding, outreach and market development initiatives drawing on the Export Promotion Mission, will strengthen the visibility of Indian sports goods and support wider access to international markets.

Strengthening India's Sports Goods Manufacturing Base

India's Sports Goods Industry Today

India's sports goods industry combines established manufacturing skills with a broad network of small enterprises. Its strengths extend beyond individual products to clusters of manufacturers, suppliers and household units serving domestic and international buyers.

An established manufacturing network: Jalandhar and Meerut together comprise over 250 exporting units, more than 1,000 domestic-market units, over 4,000 micro enterprises and nearly 20,000 household units. Other centres include Ludhiana for bicycles and Delhi and Mumbai for sports accessories and apparel.

Strong MSME participation: Nearly 90% of production is undertaken by small and micro enterprises. This makes growth in sports manufacturing closely connected with entrepreneurship, local livelihoods and employment.

Products with an international presence: India manufactures cricket bats, protective gear, inflatable balls, and gym and athletic training equipment. The United Kingdom, United States and Australia together receive over half of India's sports equipment exports, providing established connections with major overseas markets.

Areas of strength: India-based brands and manufacturers together account for about 75 to 80% of the global cricket bat market, and India holds an estimated 30 to 35% of the

cricket helmet market.

Opportunities across related industries: Sports equipment production draws on capabilities in rubber, polymers, composites, wood and metals. Shared materials, machinery and skills create opportunities to diversify products and strengthen supplier networks across industries.

Scope to serve domestic and global demand: India's domestic sports goods market is estimated at US\$2.5 billion, including approximately US\$0.5 billion in equipment. Globally, equipment exports reached around US\$52 billion in 2024, offering opportunities to expand beyond India's existing equipment exports of US\$275 million.

Significant long-term potential: India's sports equipment exports could reach approximately US\$8.1 billion by 2036, potentially generating around 54 lakh additional direct and indirect jobs.

A decade of major events: The Los Angeles Olympics 2028, the Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad, the Brisbane Olympics 2032 and India's planned bid for the 2036 Olympic Games create a decade of demand for sports equipment.

Together, these strengths provide a foundation for expanding production, developing higher-value equipment and building a greater international presence. Technology, testing, certification and industry partnerships can help translate this potential into manufacturing growth.

Building on These Strengths through the New Scheme

The Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme brings together support across the manufacturing value chain. Its interventions address the following priorities:

Stronger Domestic Manufacturing: Integrated manufacturing zones and investment and production support will encourage capacity expansion, strengthen supplier networks, increase domestic value addition and reduce import dependence.

Growth of MSMEs: Upgradation of existing clusters, common facilities and shared infrastructure will support smaller enterprises.

Better Quality and Innovation: Research centres, technology development, start-up support and international certification will strengthen product development and quality.

Skills and Employment: Training aligned with industry requirements will help develop a skilled workforce and support employment across the value chain.

Greater Global Competitiveness: Branding, outreach and market development will help Indian sports goods reach international

buyers.

Support for India's Sporting Ambitions: High-quality, internationally certified equipment will support the sports sector and athlete development programmes, complementing Khelo India and Fit India.

Convergence with National Schemes and Initiatives

The scheme builds on existing national initiatives to connect manufacturing infrastructure with research, skills and export opportunities. It also supports the wider goal of strengthening India's sporting ecosystem.

Manufacturing Infrastructure

BHAVYA: The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna provides for 100 plug-and-play industrial parks with an allocation of 33,660 crore. Facilities such as ready-built factory sheds, testing laboratories and warehousing provide the infrastructure needed by manufacturers. The scheme's Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones will be developed through convergence with infrastructure under the BHAVYA Scheme.

National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited (NICDC): NICDC helps develop industrial cities with land, roads, power, water and transport links for manufacturers. Its industrial corridor programme covers 20 industrial smart cities across 13 States, with four completed as of September 2026. The sports goods scheme will use infrastructure in NICDC Industrial Parks to develop manufacturing zones that bring manufacturers, suppliers and supporting facilities together.

Research and Innovation

Anusandhan National Research Foundation: ANRF supports research and collaboration between educational institutions, research organisations and industry. Convergence with ANRF will encourage R&D in the sports goods sector, alongside the scheme's support for Centres of Excellence working on equipment, materials, protective gear and manufacturing technologies.

Startup India: Startup India supports new enterprises through seed funding, investment and credit guarantees, helping ideas progress into viable businesses. As of 31 March 2026, India had over 2.23 lakh recognised start-ups, which had generated more than 23.36 lakh direct jobs. The sports goods scheme's dedicated start-up support will align with this wider ecosystem to encourage innovation in equipment, materials and manufacturing processes, from development and testing to validation and commercialisation.

Export Promotion

Export Promotion Mission: With an outlay of 25,060 crore for 2025-26 to 2030-31, the Mission brings together export finance,

quality compliance, logistics and market-access support, particularly for MSMEs and first-time exporters. Its two components, Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha, help exporters access finance, meet international standards and connect with overseas buyers through trade fairs, buyer-seller meets and warehousing facilities. The sports goods scheme will draw on this wider framework for branding, outreach and market development, helping Indian manufacturers strengthen their international presence.

Sports Development

Khelo India and Fit India: Khelo India supports participation, talent development, training and sports infrastructure, while Fit India promotes fitness and an active lifestyle. The manufacturing scheme will complement these efforts by strengthening the capacity to produce high-quality, internationally certified sports goods for India's sports sector and athlete development programmes.

Khelo India Scheme

Launched in 2017: brought the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, the Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and the National Sports Talent Search Scheme into one framework for sports development.

Five pillars: training centres to identify talent; capacity building for coaches and support staff; sports science and technology; competitions and leagues; and sports infrastructure.

Reach as of July 2026: 349 sports infrastructure projects approved with an investment of 3,176 crore; 1,067 Khelo India Centres; 267 academies supported; and 2,745 Khelo India Athletes supported with coaching, equipment, medical care and a monthly allowance.

Policy Alignment

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025: The policy recognises sport as a driver of economic growth, including through entrepreneurship, investment and sports start-ups. The manufacturing scheme supports this approach by connecting sporting development with opportunities for production, innovation, employment and exports.

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025

National sports policy: uses sport for nation-building, economic growth and social inclusion, in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Grassroots to elite: early identification and nurturing of talent, competitive leagues, and infrastructure in rural and urban areas.

Sport for all: sport in the school curriculum under the National Education Policy 2020, and wider participation of women, marginalised groups, tribal communities and persons with disabilities

Production Linked Incentive Schemes: Supporting Manufacturing Growth

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes reward increases in production and sales across 14 sectors, encouraging investment and competitive manufacturing.

As of June 2026, these schemes had:

- Attracted 2.6 lakh crore in investment.
- Generated 23.8 lakh crore in production and sales.
- Supported over 15.5 lakh crore in exports.
- Created 14.6 lakh jobs.

Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047: By expanding domestic manufacturing, increasing value addition and reducing import dependence, the scheme supports Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Its focus on investment, employment and exports also contributes to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Towards a Global Hub for Sports Goods

The scheme is expected to position India as a globally competitive hub for the design, development and manufacture of sports goods. By strengthening manufacturing, promoting innovation and widening access to global markets, it will create new opportunities for growth, employment and exports, and support India's aspiration to emerge as a leading sporting nation.

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

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Secretary reviews functioning of Social Welfare Department Kashmir division

Timely, judicious utilisation of available funds stressed

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Secretary, Social Welfare, Dr. Sagar D. Doifode, Friday chaired an exclusive review meeting regarding functioning of the Social Welfare Department, Kashmir Division, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Director, Social Welfare Kashmir; Director, Planning, Social Welfare Department; Director, Finance, Social Welfare Department; Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Welfare Kashmir and the District Social Welfare Officers of Kashmir Division.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighted the status of implementation of various schemes and programmes of the Department, along with

key issues concerning their execution, progress and overall functioning.

During the meeting, an extensive review of the physical and financial progress of various welfare schemes was undertaken. Focus was laid on ensuring effective implementation, timely delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries, identification of implementation-related bottlenecks and resolution of issues hindering smooth execution of departmental programmes.

Dr. Sagar D. Doifode stressed the need for timely and judicious utilisation of available funds. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all prescribed physical and financial targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised that funds should be utilised efficiently and strictly in accordance with the approved

guidelines. He further directed that any bottleneck affecting expenditure or implementation progress be addressed promptly to ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among the Directorate, district offices and concerned sections of the Department to ensure efficient implementation of welfare initiatives and achievement of prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

The Secretary also directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness and outreach activities regarding various welfare schemes of the department. He asked them for prioritising the grassroots level communities, to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are adequately informed about the benefits, eligibility criteria and application procedures of

the schemes. He stressed the need for proactive dissemination of information through field functionaries and other available communication channels so that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of the benefits.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening the monitoring mechanism while ensuring accountability at all levels. He asked for taking prompt action on pending issues so that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and hassle-free manner.

Dr. Sagar D. Doifode directed the concerned officers to ensure regular follow-up on the issues discussed during the meeting. He asked them to take necessary measures to improve the delivery and implementation of welfare schemes across Kashmir Division.

Monitoring Committee reviews implementation of PMFBY in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi Friday chaired a meeting of District Level Monitoring Committee under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to review the verification and approval status of farmers' claims enrolled for Kharif 2026 on the National Crop Insurance Portal.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh and other officers concerned.

As per the enrolment summary placed before the Committee, a total of 21,214 farmers were enrolled for coverage of Paddy and Maize crops under PMFBY Kharif 2026. The crop-wise coverage comprises 1,469 Paddy cultivating farmers and 19,745 Maize cultivating farmers.

The Committee decided that Loanee farmers/Kisan Credit Card holders, whose verification has already been carried out by the Revenue and Agriculture Departments, shall be treated as verified for the purpose of further processing, subject to verification from the Lead District Manager through the banks and compliance with applicable PMFBY guidelines and

records. The concerned authorities were asked to accord the necessary approvals on the NCIP.

In respect of Non-Loanee farmers, the concerned Revenue Officers shall verify the enrolled farmers and certify the correctness of their relevant particulars.

After completion of the verification, the Agriculture Department shall process the eligible cases for approval on the NCIP. The Committee emphasised due care and strict adherence to PMFBY guidelines at every stage.

The DLMC also reviewed the cases flagged for discrepancies. A total of 27 cases were rejected by the Committee, including 20 Loanee farmer cases flagged as duplicate by the banks and 7 Non-Loanee farmer cases in which the land records were found not to belong to the applicants.

The Committee directed all concerned departments and officers to coordinate closely and ensure timely verification, portal updation and approval so that eligible farmers are not deprived of the benefits available under PMFBY.

The Agriculture Department will coordinate with the concerned Revenue Officers and other stakeholders to facilitate completion of the process within the prescribed timeline.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range flags off 'Run for Unity' rally



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 30: As part of the Rashtriya Ekta Saptah celebrations, the Udhampur Police, in collaboration with District Administration Udhampur, Friday organised the 'Run for Unity' rally to promote national unity, integrity and communal harmony.

The rally, as per an official statement, was flagged off by DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Swarn Singh Kotwal from Jakhani Chowk in presence of Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi and SSP Amritpal Singh.

The officers from the District Administration and Police Department, prominent citizens, civil society members, students and staff from various educational institutions participated in the Rally.

Addressing the gathering, the DIG highlighted the significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, urging participants to promote the spirit of national integration in the society. He emphasised the importance of fostering peace, harmony and mutual respect among communities, reiterating that such initiatives play a vital role in strengthening social cohesion and promoting a shared sense of belonging.

KVK Shopian celebrates PM-KISAN Utsav Divas

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: A district-level programme to celebrate PM-KISAN Utsav Divas, marking the release of the 24th instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme, was successfully organised Friday at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Shopian.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from more

than 130 progressive farmers representing different parts of the district.

The event was graced by Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Shopian; Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, Scientist, Horticulture; Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, Scientist, Food Science and Technology, along with other staff members, progressive farmers, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and

representatives of civil society.

Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Shopian, highlighted the pivotal role of KVK in providing technical guidance, strengthening farmers' capacities and disseminating scientific knowledge through various flagship schemes and agricultural extension activities. He also emphasised the importance of adopting modern agricultural

technologies and scientific practices to enhance farm productivity and farmer's income. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the major challenges faced by orchardists and conducted hands-on training on pruning techniques in high-density apple plantations, highlighting practical approaches to improving orchard productivity and management.

KU marks vigilance awareness week

Calls for collective responsibility in curbing corruption

KT News Desk

Srinagar October 30: The University of Kashmir (KU) organised an event at its Main Campus to observe Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 themed 'Probity for Prosperity' with a focus on promoting integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical practices in public administration.

The event, as per KU statement, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of honesty and responsibility in public service and encourage employees to uphold ethical standards in their professional conduct.

In her message, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan stressed on the importance of maintaining transparency and integrity in all aspects of institutional functioning. She said that public institutions must promote a culture of fairness, accountability and responsible conduct.

"Integrity and transparency must guide every decision we make in public service," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that accountability and adherence to established rules and procedures are essential for the effective functioning of any institution.

"A transparent and accountable work culture begins with each one of us taking responsibility for our actions," he said.

Dean, School of Law KU, Prof. Shahnaz, highlighted the importance of legal awareness and ethical conduct in strengthening institutional accountability. She said that respect for the rule of law and adherence to laid down procedures are necessary for ensuring transparency in public institutions.

SSP ACB Srinagar, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir (JKPS), spoke about the role of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in addressing corruption and promoting accountability. He emphasised the importance of public awareness and collective responsibility in preventing corruption.

The event concluded with a pledge, led by Prof. Iqbal, to uphold integrity, promote transparency and discharge official responsibilities with honesty and accountability. It was attended by various deans, heads of departments, University officers, and non-teaching staff of the campus.

The event proceedings were conducted by Sheikh Asif, Joint Registrar KU, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ashfaq Zarri, Special Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor, KU.

NCORD MEETING DM calls for strengthening de-addiction facilities in Reasi

KT News Desk

REASI, OCTOBER 30: District Magistrate Reasi Kumar Abhishek Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review measures undertaken to combat drug abuse and trafficking and assess the implementation of anti-narcotics initiatives in the district.

The District Magistrate, as per an official statement, reviewed action against pharmacies and medical establishments found violating prescribed norms. He directed strict adherence to mandatory computerised billing and installation of CCTV cameras at medical shops to ensure transparency and effective monitoring. He warned of strict action against establishments found violating the prescribed regulations. The Drug Inspector informed the meeting that regular inspections are being conducted across the district to monitor the sale and distribution of medicines.

The District Magistrate also reviewed the measures to keep check on illicit cultivation of poppy and cannabis. He directed the concerned departments to intensify surveillance and take necessary measures to prevent such activities.



Emphasising the importance of awareness, he called for continuing Information, Education and Communication activities to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse. He also stressed the need to strengthen anti-drug awareness programmes in schools and colleges and ensure effective implementation of the Drug-Free Campus initiative.

The Health Department informed the meeting that the Drug De-addiction Centre and Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Reasi have been initiated and the required medicines have been received. The department also apprised the meeting of the counselling services being provided to individuals affected by substance abuse.

The District Magistrate directed the Health Department to make provision of regular counselling services to strengthen the functioning of the

de-addiction facility. He further called for giving wide publicity to the drug addiction helpline number to facilitate timely assistance to affected individuals and their families. He further stressed the need to operationalise the facility as an In-Patient Department (IPD) to provide comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services.

The meeting also reviewed the process of cancellation of driving licences in cases involving drug-related offences. The availability and utilisation of drug testing kits was also discussed, with directions to ensure their effective use by the concerned agencies.

To plug every possible supply channel of narcotic substances, the District Magistrate called for formulating a Standard Operating Procedure for courier and parcel service providers to prevent their use for transportation of drugs.

Cyber awareness-cum-hygiene programme held at Poshan Project Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 30: The Cyber Awareness-cum-Hygiene programme was held at Poshan Project Bandipora with an objective to create awareness regarding cyber-crime, online fraud, cyber hygiene, cybersecurity and other cyber-related threats.

During the programme, the participants were educated about preventive measures to safeguard themselves against such threats and crimes.

An interactive session, as per an official statement, was also held during which participants were sensitized about safe use of internet, social media and online transactions.

On the occasion, officers, officials including Anganwadi Workers and other frontline workers participated in the programme.

National Unity Day ADC Budgam reviews arrangements for 'Run for Unity'

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 30: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the 'Run for Unity', being organised tomorrow to commemorate National Unity Day.

The run will commence from Karipora Railway Bridge and culminate at Railway Station Budgam.

The meeting, as per an official statement was attended by the PO ICDS, Additional Superintendent of Police, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Chief Education Officer (CEO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and other district officers.

During the meeting, the



ADC took a comprehensive review of the preparations and assessed the departmental responsibilities assigned for the successful conduct of the event. He emphasised the need for close coordination and effective inter-departmental cooperation to ensure the smooth, disciplined and hassle-free conduct of the programme.

The ADC directed all district officers to ensure maximum participation in the 'Run for Unity', including officers and subordinate staff, Anganwadi

Workers and Helpers, lumberdars, students from colleges and schools, as well as senior citizens. He stressed that active participation from all sections of society would reinforce the message of unity, integrity and collective responsibility that National Unity Day seeks to promote.

The ADC also directed the Chief Medical Officer, Budgam, to ensure the deployment of adequate paramedical staff along the route and at the venue, besides making necessary medical and emergency

arrangements to promptly address any eventuality.

The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Budgam, was instructed to ensure proper cleanliness, sanitation and maintenance of the entire route and venue before and during the event.

Further, the ADC directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to organise similar 'Run for Unity' events and related activities at their respective sub-divisional headquarters to ensure wider outreach and participation at the grassroots level.

Reiterating the importance of the occasion, the ADC called upon all officers to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost dedication, coordination and punctuality, ensuring that the event concludes smoothly without causing any inconvenience to participants or the general public.

ADC Shopian reviews preparations for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Run For Unity



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Friday presided over a meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review and finalize the arrangements for the upcoming observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and the much-anticipated Run for Unity being held on October 31, 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC, as per an official statement, underscored the immense national significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, noting that the observance serves as a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to the nation's unity, integrity and security. He stressed that seamless cross-departmental coordination is vital for making the event a grand success

and ensuring participation of all employees, officers/officials of all departments.

The ADC directed officials for ensuring that all logistical, security, medical and transport arrangements are put in place with maximum efficiency. He urged every department to work in close coordination to guarantee enthusiastic public participation particularly from the youth transforming the Run for Unity into a memorable district-wide celebration.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to work together harmoniously to uphold and promote the enduring spirit of unity.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer (DPO), Mohammed Imran, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, CPO, Mudasir Ahmed, Dy.SP, CEO, Dy. CMO, ARTO, DYSSO and other concerned.

CIPMC Srinagar organises "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" in Pulwama



KT News Desk

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 30: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Pulwama, organized "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" and an awareness campaign on "Fake vs. Genuine Pesticides" at Parigam, Pulwama Friday.

Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), sensitized farmers about the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. He demonstrated the use of sticky traps, delta traps and botanical pesticides for effective and eco-friendly pest management. He also explained how to identify genuine pesticides through the CIB&RC-approved list and emphasized essential safety precautions during pesticide application to prevent

adverse health effects. Manjeet Singh, SMS, SDI, delivered an informative lecture on the safe and judicious use of pesticides, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in protecting farmers' interests and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Kawal Nain Singh, SA, demonstrated the identification and conservation of beneficial natural enemies in agricultural fields.

The programme included an interactive session wherein farmers raised field-related concerns, which were addressed by the resource persons through practical demonstrations and simple explanations.

The campaign, as per an official statement, aimed to promote scientific pest management, discourage the use of spurious pesticides and encourage safe, responsible and sustainable agricultural practices.

Mandeep Kaur directs strengthening of animal care, operational arrangements

Inspects ABC facility at Tengpora



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 30: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, accompanied by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, on Friday inspected the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Facility at Tengpora to take stock of its functioning, infrastructure and arrangements for animal care.

During the inspection, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for adequate

feed stock and uninterrupted availability of essential medicines, besides ensuring proper heating arrangements to safeguard the animals against the prevailing cold conditions. She also stressed maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene across the facility, with regular cleaning and effective upkeep of all sections.

Mandeep Kaur directed the concerned officers to ensure timely replenishment of essential supplies, close monitoring of day-to-day operations and proper care of animals housed at the facility. The officers were asked to address any

shortcomings promptly and ensure that the facility remains adequately equipped and operationally efficient.

Emphasising that animal welfare and hygienic conditions must receive due attention, the Commissioner Secretary called for sustained supervision and accountability to ensure that all essential arrangements are maintained and the facility functions smoothly.

The inspection was attended by Joint Commissioner (Administration), Joint Commissioner (Works), Executive Engineers and other senior officers of SMC.

India's extreme poverty rate falls sharply in 12 years to 2.6 pc in 2023: World Bank report

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 30: India's extreme poverty rate dropped sharply to 2.6 per cent in 2023 from 27.1 per cent in 2011, with the country lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty, a World Bank report said.

The World Bank's report titled 'India Poverty and Equity Brief: October 2026' said the poverty estimates are based on the lower middle-income country threshold of USD 4.20 per day and the extreme poverty threshold of USD 3 per day, measured at 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP).

Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty across both monetary and non-monetary dimensions, recording "one of the fastest poverty declines" in the world, it said.

"Between 2011 and 2023, the share of the population living below the Lower Middle-Income Country line (USD 4.20/day, 2021 PPP) fell from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty, while extreme poverty (USD 3/day) declined from 27.1 per cent to 2.6 per cent," it said.

The report further said that poverty is projected to continue declining, albeit more gradually, with the poverty rate at the USD 4.20/day line expected to fall from 14.2 per cent in 2026 to 12.1 per cent by 2028.

These indicative microsimulation-based projections will be updated as labour market and macroeconomic data are revised, or new data becomes available.



In a post on X, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the World Bank identifies strong consumption growth, rising employment, especially among women, and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies, as major drivers.

She said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government's sustained policy efforts are yielding tangible results, strengthening the foundations for inclusive growth and greater economic opportunity.

"This is the reason why the NDA govt wins people's trust and the mandate of our citizens. We remain committed to building on this progress through productive employment, stronger household incomes and effective delivery of public services, so that aspirations of our people are met," Sitharaman said.

On the non-monetary dimensions, as measured by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), poverty fell sharply from 53.8 per cent in 2005-06 to 16.4 per cent in 2019-21, with the World Bank MPI measure at

15.5 per cent in 2022-23.

"This progress was mainly driven by strong consumption growth, rising employment, especially among women, and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies," it said.

As poverty declined, it became increasingly concentrated among households with lower education, fewer assets, limited access to stable employment, and higher dependency ratios, the report said.

Wage disparities, however, remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10 per cent of workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10 per cent in 2023, it added.

Spatially, the report said India's poverty reduction story is one of both convergence and concentration. Households in both rural and urban areas experienced substantial welfare gains, with faster progress in rural India significantly narrowing the rural-urban gap.

"Yet many of the households that remain poor continue to live in rural areas, where productivity is lower and access to higher-quality non-farm employment opportunities

remains more limited," it said, adding that poverty has also become increasingly concentrated geographically.

While living standards improved across most states, households in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal account for about 57 per cent of India's poor population.

As a result, further reductions in national poverty will increasingly depend on enabling productive employment in these states, the report said.

"Over the recent period, between 2017 and 2023, employment increased by about 134 million people, nearly twice the growth of the working-age population, with much of the gain driven by rural women entering paid work and raising the number of earners per household," the report said.

Labour market conditions continue to be broadly resilient, with labour force participation and employment rates stable between Q1 FY2026 and Q1 FY2027.

"However, youth unemployment rose from 14.6 to 15.9 per cent between the two quarters, particularly among rural young women. Moreover, real earnings remained broadly unchanged with employment growth concentrated in relatively low-productivity activities," it said.

The report said poverty estimates over the past decade are based on three official household surveys: the 2011-12 CES and the 2022-23 and 2023-24 HCES, and are measured using welfare aggregates from the MMRP design and deflated spatially and temporally.

India aims to be globally competitive semiconductor powerhouse by 2047: MoD

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 30: India aspires to emerge as a globally competitive, dependable and technologically self-reliant semiconductor powerhouse by 2047, with leadership in selected next-generation chip technologies, the defence ministry said on Friday.

The vision encompasses the development of a vibrant and sustainable semiconductor ecosystem, generation of high-value employment opportunities and delivery of inclusive societal benefits, it said.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) participated in the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 at the Bharat Mandapam from October 27-29.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the conclave with the theme 'Creative Minds, Catalysing Science, Empowering Society' was jointly organised by 12 ministries and departments under the guidance of the principal scientific adviser to the government of India, the ministry said in a statement.

The event showcased cutting-edge research, deep-tech breakthroughs, and thought-provoking discussions with Nobel laureates, global experts, policymakers and emerging leaders, igniting a new era of scientific leadership, it said.

The DRDO, as one of the key organisers, led the thematic session on 'Semiconductors & Next-Generation Chips'.

Chaired by B K Das, Director

General, Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS), the session brought together eminent leaders from the industry, academia, indigenous chip-development ecosystem and defence electronics.

"The discussions explored emerging developments in semiconductor technologies, purpose-built artificial intelligence (AI) system-on-chips (SoCs), intelligence at the silicon edge and the evolving microprocessor landscape, the statement said.

The session also highlighted DRDO's evolving role in enabling industries and startups to develop game-changing solutions, accelerate next-generation chip design and strengthen indigenous core technologies.

"India aspires to emerge as a globally competitive,

dependable and technologically self-reliant semiconductor powerhouse by 2047, with leadership in selected next-generation chip technologies," the ministry said.

The DRDO outreach stall at ESTIC 2026 showcased key initiatives, achievements, research programmes and contributions of the ministry towards science, technology and innovation.

It featured a diverse range of indigenous technologies developed by DRDO laboratories, including advanced communication systems, quantum technology prototypes, extreme-cold-weather clothing, PRABALA female full-body protector, passive and powered exoskeletons, portable hybrid energy management systems, high-power pulse laser diodes and scramjet engine technology,

the statement said.

Semiconductor technology is a critical enabler of national sovereignty, economic strength and digital security. It plays a key role in advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Aatmanirbhar Bharat by strengthening indigenous technological capabilities, the ministry said.

From communication devices and advanced sensing systems to sophisticated defence platforms, semiconductor chips determine the performance, efficiency and reliability of modern technologies.

Beyond chip manufacturing, technological self-reliance requires comprehensive capabilities in chip design, fabrication, testing, industrial-scale production and resilient supply chains, it said.

GSLV rocket carrying navigation satellite NVS-03 lifts off

PTI

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 30: ISRO's GSLV rocket carrying the next-generation navigation satellite NVS-03 lifted off from this spaceport late on Friday.

At the end of the 24-hour countdown, the 50-metre-tall GSLV-F18 lifted off majestically at a prefixed time of 11.51 pm and soared into dark skies from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here.

The three-stage rocket, with a lift-off mass of 420 tonne, is on a mission to deploy the NVS-03 satellite, weighing around 2,232 kg, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

According to ISRO, NVS-03 is the third satellite in next



generation navigation satellite system envisaged for providing continuity of navigation services for IRNSS series.

"The satellite carries indigenous Atomic clock, along with the procured Atomic clocks. It also includes L1 signal in addition to existing L5/S signals with coverage over India land mass and a region extending 1500 km around Indian geopolitical boundary," it said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Monitor anti-national

to ensure a peaceful environment in Kashmir Division.

The Lieutenant Governor also asked for monthly reviews regarding the attachment of properties belonging to narco-terrorists and the terror-supporting ecosystem. He said the action against narco-terrorists must continue unabated, besides relentless crackdowns on drug smugglers and peddlers, to realize the vision of Drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

Emphasizing the swift resolution of public grievances, the Lieutenant Governor stated that fostering a strong connection between citizens, police, and the administration is of paramount importance.

"Under no circumstances should communal harmony and the law & order situation be allowed to deteriorate. We must institutionalize best practices and implement District Convergence Plans to ensure sustainable peace and development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He called for setting up district-level social media cells to swiftly counter misinformation.

In view of the winter season, the Lieutenant Governor directed the administration to ensure adequate stock and availability of essential commodities and robust snow-clearance mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects across Kashmir Division. (KNO)

LG Sinha calls

"This Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, let us honor his legacy by pledging to strengthen peace, harmony, and national solidarity. On this sacred occasion, I appeal to all sections of society, especially our youth to uphold the spirit of unity and work together to build a stronger, self-reliant Jammu Kashmir," he said.

Cabinet expansion

and should now be replaced by new faces," an MLA was quoted as saying during the deliberations. The legislators also reportedly sought the removal of Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Finance Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, and Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo were among those who took oath when the government was formed in October 2024 and have since completed two years in office. Former minister Satish Sharma, who had also completed two years, was recently dropped from the Council of Ministers.

The legislators also demanded the constitution of a parliamentary board to decide future cabinet inductions.

According to sources, the group is planning to meet the NC's top leadership in the coming days to place its demands before the party high command. (KNO)

Air Marshal Inderpal

Japan and South Korea. He has also undergone the Advanced Command and Staff Course in the United Kingdom and the National Defence College in Bangladesh.

Before taking over as the head of Eastern Air Command in February 2026, he served as its Senior Air Staff Officer.

In recognition of his distinguished service, Walia was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2008 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2018. (KNO)

MeT predicts

a maximum temperature of 27.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16 degrees, while Katra recorded 25.6 degrees as the maximum and 15.8 degrees as the minimum.

The department recorded 0.4 mm of rainfall in Pahalgam during the preceding 24 hours, while Qazigund received trace precipitation. No rainfall was recorded at Srinagar, Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg during the period.

According to the forecast, weather is likely to remain generally dry on October 31, while partly cloudy conditions are expected from November 1 to 3, with a brief spell of precipitation possible at a few places late on November 1 or during the evening.

From November 4 to 7, the weather is expected to remain generally dry, although isolated places may receive light rain or light snowfall over higher reaches late on November 5 or during the evening.

The department said no significant weather activity was expected across Jammu and Kashmir until November 7. (KNO)

J&K Cabinet

(Part-II), Kathua, at a cost of Rs 101.80 crore. The Chief Minister said the projects would strengthen industrial infrastructure, attract investment, promote local manufacturing and create new employment opportunities for the youth.

He added that these initiatives would contribute to sustained economic growth and further strengthen the industrial ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Govt appoints

and 18(1) of the Haj Committee Act, 2002, read with Rule 20 of the Haj Committee Rules, 2002.

The appointed members include MP Mian Altaf Ahmad, legislators Javid Iqbal and Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Zafar Iqbal Manhas and Ahsan Ul Haq Mirza.

The notification further states that the Executive Officer of the Haj Committee shall serve as an ex-officio member of the J&K Haj

Committee.

The members will hold office for three years from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette. (KNO)

DICs face of DIPR

public engagement.

"Timely and credible information is the foundation of effective public communication. Our focus should be on taking verified information to the people through appropriate platforms, while ensuring that the achievements and initiatives of the Government receive adequate and factual coverage," Mamta Yadav remarked.

She also stressed the importance of proactive media engagement and maintaining cordial and professional relations with local media organisations. She called for improved coordination with district administrations and concerned departments to ensure comprehensive coverage of important government events, public outreach programmes and developmental activities.

Highlighting the need for innovation in departmental publicity, the Director encouraged the district units to explore local success stories, developmental milestones, cultural heritage and public-oriented initiatives for wider dissemination through print, electronic and digital media.

"Every district has its own stories of development, innovation and public participation. Our officers must identify these stories and bring them to the forefront. Effective communication should not remain limited to official events but must also reflect the impact of government initiatives on the ground," she added.

Mamta Yadav also called for greater accountability, regular monitoring and adherence to professional standards in the discharge of official responsibilities. She directed the concerned officers to maintain regular communication with headquarters, ensure timely submission

of reports and strengthen the quality and consistency of departmental publicity.

Reiterating her commitment towards strengthening the DIPR's institutional capacity, Mamta Yadav said that a coordinated, responsive and technology-driven approach would be central to making departmental communication more effective and people-centric.

She urged all district units to work with renewed commitment and ensure that the DIPR continues to serve as a reliable bridge between the Government and the people.

Over 5.20 lakh tourists

grid for the first time this year, ending a long-standing demand of residents.

The opening of Shinon Meeras, a cultural centre dedicated to the Dard-Shina community, has also added a cultural dimension to tourism in Gurez. The centre focuses on preserving the heritage and language of the community.

In Lolab, tourism promotion has also received recognition, with the valley being named the Best Offbeat Destination at the Outlook Traveller Awards in 2023.

In Uri, the historic Kaman Bridge, also known as Aman Setu, linking the area with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, is being developed as a potential tourism destination. Restrictions on civilian access to Kaman Post were also eased this year, allowing visitors to reach the historic location.

The growth in tourism has been supported by initiatives of the Army, district administrations and the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, which have organised events and programmes to promote border areas.

Residents said continued peace along the LoC would be crucial for sustaining tourism, generating employment and improving economic opportunities in these otherwise remote areas. (KNO)

BJP will bring UCC in UP if voted to power again: Amit Shah



PTI

Lucknow, Oct 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the BJP would implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttar Pradesh, expressing confidence that the party would return to power in the state after assembly elections next year.

Addressing the party's state working committee meeting here, Shah targeted the Samajwadi Party and other opposition parties over the Ram temple issue and alleged voter list irregularities.

"This time, when the government comes to power, UCC will be implemented in Uttar Pradesh. UCC has already been implemented in many states," he said.

Shah kickstarted the daylong meeting at the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University auditorium. It was chaired by BJP state president and Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP state in-charge Vinod Tawde and national general secretary Smriti Irani were among those present.

Shah said the BJP in Uttar Pradesh could not be dislodged as the government has firmly established itself in the state.

"The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is like Angad's foot. Nobody can move it. The BJP is going

to form the government again. There should be no doubt about it," he said.

Claiming that the Samajwadi Party would remain out of power in the state, he said, " (SP president) Akhilesh babu, mark my words, your party will not form the government in Uttar Pradesh for the next 30 years. The people will not forgive even your third generation."

Referring to the events of October 30, 1990, when police opened fire on kar sevaks in Ayodhya, Shah targeted the Samajwadi Party and its leadership over the Ram temple issue.

"I want to ask them, on what grounds do they talk about forming a government? They ordered firing on Ram devotees, while we have built the Ram temple," he said.

Shah also attacked opposition parties over their allegations of vote theft, and compared their complaints to a team blaming the umpire after losing a match.

"After losing the match, they are blaming the umpire and alleging vote theft. The BJP is ready for a discussion in Parliament. Let them come today and convene a special session. We are ready to answer every question. Let there be a discussion in Parliament," he said.

Earlier, the Union minister lit a ceremonial lamp to start proceedings of the meeting, and paid floral tributes to portraits of party ideologues Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Centre forms Social Security Board to frame welfare schemes for gig, platform workers



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Centre has notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers to design, monitor and recommend targeted welfare schemes aimed at extending social security benefits to India's informal workforce.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, in a statement, said the Board has been constituted under the statutory framework of the Code on Social Security, marking a step towards integrating gig and platform workers into India's formal welfare architecture.

Gig workers are those who perform work or participate in a work arrangement and earn from such activities outside the traditional

employer-employee relationship. Platform workers are those who engage in work through or with online platforms. The Board will be chaired by the Union Minister for Labour and Employment and comprise representatives from the Central and state governments, aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions, and gig and platform worker associations.

Its primary mandate is to design, monitor and recommend targeted welfare schemes to bridge the social security gap for millions of gig and platform workers, alongside traditional unorganised workers.

The National Social Security Board will meet at least three times a year and follow the rules of procedure prescribed by the Central government for conducting its meetings.

Will serve people of India till my last breath: PM Modi



PTI

Bhildi (Gujarat), Oct 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that he would serve the people of India till his last breath, an assertion coming days after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remark, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega".

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre at Bhildi in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, launching and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 14,000 crore.

"Jeevan ke antim kshan tak janta ki seva main hi juta rahunga (I will continue to serve the people until my last breath)," Modi said.

In an apparent jab at the Opposition, he said there are some people who get happiness when the country faces difficulty.

"They spread rumours after the Iran war that farmers would not get fertilisers, and people would not get LPG, as they wanted to defame Modi," the PM said.

Modi said his government has always prioritised the welfare of farmers and empowered them.

"Amid global uncertainties, fertiliser prices saw a huge jump, but our govt did not let the burden fall on farmers," he said, adding that the government has given Rs 4.5 lakh crore to small farmers under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.

PM releases Rs 3,000 cr PM-KISAN instalment to over 35.38 lakh farmers

PTI

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday released the 24th instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme, transferring over Rs 18,690 crore to the bank accounts of more than 9.34 crore farmers across the country, including 35.38 lakh in Odisha.

The beneficiaries in Odisha received Rs 3,000 crore as part of the instalment released by the prime minister from Banaskantha in Gujarat, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi joined the programme virtually from Bhubaneswar and addressed beneficiary farmers at a state-level 'PM-Kisan Utsav'.

"The welfare and empowerment of farmers is the core commitment of our government. Today, India's esteemed Prime Minister, Shri @narendramodi, launched the release of the 24th instalment of the nationwide 'PM-Kisan' scheme via a virtual event from Banaskantha, Gujarat,"



Majhi wrote on X.

Under the scheme, financial assistance was transferred directly to the bank accounts of over 35.38 lakh farmers in the state through direct benefit transfer (DBT), he said.

"For us, a farmer is not merely a cultivator; they are our 'Annadata'. Initiatives such as the Central PM-Kisan and the state's CM-Kisan schemes, procurement of paddy at a rate of Rs 3,100 per quintal, the Subhadra Yojana, the 'Krusha Vidyani-dhi' scholarship, and the 'PM Dhan-Dhanya Krushi Yojana' have today strengthened

our rural economy," he wrote.

Majhi said his government was making efforts to revive millet cultivation across all 30 districts of the state.

Expressing concern over crop losses caused by recent floods in several districts, including Ganjam and Gajapati, the chief minister assured farmers that assistance would be provided to affected families based on damage assessments and in accordance with prevailing norms.

During the programme, Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and other dignitaries observed

a one-minute silence in memory of Union Agriculture Minister Shivravi Singh Chouhan's mother, who died on Friday morning.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Smt. Kashi Bai Ji, beloved mother of Union Cabinet Minister Shri @ChouhanShivravi Ji. In this moment of profound grief, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Shri Shivravi Singh Chouhan Ji and the bereaved family. May Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give the family strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss," Majhi said in a social media post.

"Losing a mother is an irreparable loss, and no words can adequately lessen the grief of losing her presence, strength, and blessings. On behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, and on my own personal behalf, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Shri Shivravi Singh Chouhan Ji and the entire bereaved family during this painful time,"

Include action against violations in policy on use of live-streamed court proceedings: SC to Centre

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to incorporate measures for taking action against violations of its interim restrictions on the unauthorised extraction, dissemination and commercial exploitation of live-streamed court proceedings in the proposed policy framework.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that suggestions from various high courts and other stakeholders had been received and forwarded to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the preparation of comprehensive guidelines.

The solicitor general said that the MeitY would consider the suggestions and respond in a few days. He sought listing of the plea for further consideration after Diwali vacation.

He also flagged violations of earlier orders and urged the bench to consider directing the removal of material uploaded in breach of its restrictions.

Taking note of the submission, the bench said, "Necessary measures for taking action against those



who fail to comply with the directions will also be incorporated in the policy regime."

The bench, in its order, referred to the interim directions issued earlier, including the order dated October 9, 2026, and emphasised the need to ensure their compliance and effective implementation.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan suggested that every official clip released by the court should carry a verifiable digital signature or watermark, enabling the public and digital platforms to distinguish genuine footage from manipulated versions.

He further suggested that all court proceedings should be made available on the Supreme Court's website in an authenticated and watermark format.

The court is examining

reporting court proceedings.

News organisations were permitted to continue reporting on judicial proceedings and legal developments, but they could not use audio or video clips of the hearings in their reportage.

On October 9, the bench reiterated that there was no question of gagging reporting or restricting live-streaming of court proceedings.

However, it expressed serious concern over the commercial exploitation of courtroom recordings through monetisation, advertisements, personal promotion and misleading representations. The CJ had observed that the misuse of live-streamed proceedings for commercial gain had caused immense damage to the bar, the bench and the institution as a whole.

Justice Bagchi had also pointed out that some lawyers were using courtroom recordings for personal promotion and professional gain, raising concerns about the principles governing the legal profession.

The court is hearing petitions seeking to prevent the unauthorised extraction and commercial exploitation of videos of judicial proceedings.

Moving backgrounds keep kids watching, but not necessarily learning, finds ISB study

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 30: Visual motion acts as a powerful perceptual driver of children's screen retention but that attention is directed largely towards moving background rather than the educational content, a new study has found.

According to the study by the Indian School of Business (ISB), as children's digital media consumption reaches record levels globally, understanding what sustains young viewers' attention on platforms like YouTube has become a critical challenge for parents, educators, and content creators.

The study "Attention Trap? How Visual Motion Shapes Children's Screen Time and Engagement on Video Platforms" conducted with researchers from US's Santa Clara University examines how visual motion affects children's screen time and engagement, drawing on an analysis of over 32,000 YouTube videos marked "made for kids", a randomised experiment, and an eye-tracking study involving children aged 6-10.

Co-authored by Sumeet Kumar and Madhu Viswanathan at ISB and Ravi Bapna at Santa Clara University, the study has been published in Information Systems Research.

The analysis found that a 10 per cent increase in visual motion was associated with approximately 1.1 per cent more views across the videos studied, even after accounting for other audio, visual, emotional and textual features.

In a randomised experiment, educational videos with added background motion recorded higher view rates, with increases of 1.6 pc for medium motion and 2.0 pc for high motion compared with versions without added motion. "Motion is a powerful design lever, but it must be used intentionally. Rather than maximising continuous stimulation throughout a video, creators should use targeted motion to facilitate attention recovery during moments where attention drift is most expected," said Madhu Viswanathan, Associate Professor of Marketing.

"While visual motion keeps children attached to the screen, our research does not show that screen retention automatically translates into improved focus on learning content. More work may be needed to explore this," he added.

Bhutan glacial lake outburst triggers flash flood; high alert in north Bengal, Assam

PTI

Reuters: Thumphu/New Delhi, Oct 30: A glacial lake outburst in Bhutan has triggered a flash flood, washing away infrastructure at a major tourist site and prompting a high flood alert in parts of northern Bengal and Assam. Authorities have begun evacuating vulnerable riverbank settlements along the Sankosh river and its tributaries amid fears of a sudden rise in water levels. No casualties have been reported in Bhutan.

Flash flood washes away infrastructure at Bhutan tourist site

The flood, triggered by the Shintaphu glacial lake bursting its banks, washed away infrastructure at the Gasa Tshachu natural hot springs in northern Bhutan, media reports said on Friday.

The extent of the damage from the late-night flash flood was not immediately known due to "darkness and the strong flow" of floodwaters, Bhutan's state broadcaster BBS reported. Two Bailey bridges, built using portable, pre-fabricated sections, may also have been washed away.

Bhutan's national newspaper Kuensel reported that part of the



road leading to Laya village, where the hot springs are located, had been washed away, rendering it impassable. The road has been

closed to traffic indefinitely.

The area had been evacuated before the floodwaters reached it, Kuensel reported. No injuries or loss of life have been reported, according to BBS. Gasa Tshachu, a major tourist attraction in northern Bhutan, was also hit by a flash flood in 2021, when the Mochhu River changed course and swept through the area.

North Bengal villages evacuated as Sankosh water levels threaten to rise

The glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) has triggered a high flood alert in parts of northern West Bengal, with residents of riverbank villages in Alipurdur district

leaving their homes with cattle following evacuation instructions.

Nearly 7.4 million cubic metres of water surged out of the breached Shintaphu Lake into the Mo (Mofu) river, raising concerns over a sudden rise in the water level of the Sankosh, which flows along the West Bengal-Assam border.

Evacuation measures began late Thursday night in villages along the Sankosh. Loudspeaker announcements were made in riverbank settlements under the Rampur-I gram panchayat area, asking residents to move to designated shelters.

Quick Read

Pope Leo XIV has become first pope in history to vote in US election



AP

Vatican City, Oct 30 :Pope Leo XIV has become the first pope to vote in a US election. The Vatican confirmed Friday that the Chicago-born pontiff had submitted a mail-in ballot in Chicago ahead of November's midterm elections, citing his long-standing belief in civic participation. Leo, formerly Robert Prevost, "has exercised his right to vote as a United States citizen" and has done so "whenever he was eligible to do so," the Holy See press office said. The statement said he had also voted while living in Peru whenever he was eligible. "The Holy Father expresses his belief in the right and the duty of citizens to participate in democratic processes," it added.

Europe's economy shows moderate Q3 growth despite Iran war energy shock



AP

Frankfurt (Germany), Oct 30 : Europe's economy persevered with moderate growth in the third quarter despite higher oil prices from the US-Iran war, as gross domestic product increased by 0.4 per cent over the quarter before. The figure released Friday for the 21 European Union member countries that use the euro currency was better than the 0.2 per cent expected by market analysts. Compared to the same quarter a year ago, the economy of the 21 countries using the euro grew by 1.3 per cent in the July-September period, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat. The continued growth shows that "households and businesses have not pared back their spending due to the Iran war," said Jack Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone economist at Capital Economics. "All in all, the eurozone economy remains resilient amid geopolitical turmoil and a worsening inflationary environment," wrote Paolo Grignani, senior economist at Oxford Economics. That is despite "worrying signs" that higher oil prices are spreading to other sectors. Those so-called second-round effects -- where high oil prices start to influence wages and prices throughout the economy -- would support higher interest rates from the European Central Bank. Inflation of 3.8 per cent remains above the 2 per cent target set out by the ECB, which left rates unchanged at its policy meeting Thursday. That means the ECB may raise rates at its next meeting in December to cool inflation, imposing higher borrowing costs on the economy even as growth remains modest and unevenly distributed among member countries. Germany, the largest of the euro economies, saw growth of 0.2 per cent despite headwinds from high energy prices and low river levels that disrupted commerce. France, however, shrank by 0.1 per cent as a political deadlock over how to address an outsized budget deficit continues to weigh on business confidence. Stronger performers were Spain, the Netherlands and Estonia with 0.6 per cent. The eurozone growth figure was distorted by an increase of 5.5 per cent in Ireland, where figures are volatile because it is host to multinational tech and pharmaceutical companies whose global activities can influence the figures. Excluding Ireland, growth was 0.2 per cent.

Saudi Arabia says Houthi drone intercepted near Mecca, other Mideast news

AP

Dubai, Oct 30 : Saudi Arabia said it intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels near Islam's holiest city, a claim the Houthis denied. Meanwhile, a tanker caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz. Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Friday. Read our full coverage here. Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on Friday for talks with Iranian officials. Iran state media said Friday that Qatari mediators have returned to Iran for talks with officials, in the latest diplomatic push to try to broker an end to the war with the United States and Israel.

The IRNA state news agency said the Qatari delegation was headed by the country's foreign minister and senior adviser to the prime minister. IRNA said they were meeting with senior Iranian officials but did not specify who. The visit follows outreach from US Vice President JD Vance, who sent a letter in recent days to Maj. Gen. Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Tehran on Thursday acknowledged receipt of the letter but said it had not responded and did not detail its contents. US President Donald Trump suggested the letter was not about peace negotiations but instead about possibly allowing humanitarian aid. Diplomats say US officials have told Middle East countries and regional allies to be prepared for potential renewed military action against Iran after next week's midterm elections in the United States. Iran says it's stopped two oil tankers attempting to use unauthorised routes through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it has stopped two oil tankers attempting to use unauthorised routes through the Strait of Hormuz, the state-run IRNA media reported on Friday. The Guard's



navy said one tanker was stopped in the eastern part of the strait and the other in the western part. Both had switched off their navigation and positioning systems and were attempting to leave through unauthorised routes with US military support, it said. The Guard said the vessels ignored repeated radio warnings, but did not specify how they were stopped in the waters along the south side of the strait. The British military's Maritime Trade Operations Centre said it had received one report of a vessel on fire in the strait northeast of Oman, and another of an attack on a tanker off the northwest tip of the country. Iran insists that ships seeking to transit the strait communicate with its authorities and follow a route on the north side of the waterway, near its coast. Ships seeking to avoid Iran have been sticking to the south side of the strait. Rescue teams search for missing after Syria flash floods. Civil defence teams were searching for missing people in eastern Syria on Friday after deadly flash floods swept through several areas. At least five people, including four children, were killed by the floods in rural areas of Raqqa and Deir el-Zour provinces, the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management reported Thursday. Civil defence teams have rescued

dozens of people who were trapped by rising waters or stranded in their vehicles, state-run SANA news agency reported, while hundreds of families were evacuated from camps for internally displaced people in northern Syria. Palestinians in Gaza have little hope that Israel's election will improve lives. Palestinians in Gaza weren't holding out hope that Israel's elections would impact their dire humanitarian situation, as near-daily Israeli strikes continue despite a ceasefire. "Suffering in Gaza will remain exactly as it is. Nothing will change for us, whether it is Netanyahu or Eisenkot," said Ziad Abed, a resident of Maghazi in central Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief rival Gadi Eisenkot failed to secure a parliamentary majority in this week's election. Netanyahu's bloc won 53 seats, Eisenkot's 48 and Arab-led parties 19, leaving coalition negotiations ahead. Arab-led parties secured their largest-ever number of seats in Israel's parliament, with Palestinians hoping it could move the needle, though it is unclear whether either of the main parties would work with them. "If such an alliance were to be formed, it could lead to progress," said Yazan Hamad, a man displaced from northern Gaza.

Netanyahu faces difficult coalition talks after bloc loses parliamentary majority



AP

Jerusalem, Oct 30 : Israel's final election results confirmed that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc lost its parliamentary majority and that weeks of difficult negotiations among very different parties, from ultra-Orthodox Jewish to secular to Arab-led, lie ahead. The results released early Friday showed Netanyahu's bloc won 53 seats in Tuesday's election. The main opposition bloc won 48. Arab-led parties secured the other 19, a historic showing. Now parties must meet, bargain and seek a way to team up for at least 61 seats in the 120-seat Knesset. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, remains in charge. "Now comes the truly hard part," centrist politician Yair Lapid said on X, urging patience and adding: "If you want to know if something's happening behind the silence you're hearing now, the answer is yes." The president will task someone with forming a government. Difficult decisions lie ahead. Will the main opposition parties that campaigned hard to unseat the divisive Netanyahu make the politically sensitive choice to partner with Arab-led ones? Or will they toss their vows aside to team up with

Netanyahu in a potentially fractious unity government? Friday is when much of Israel starts winding down for Shabbat, and it was not clear who might be meeting with whom. Israelis debated possible coalitions and challenges, as some expressed traditional wariness around Arab parties and others insisted it was time for Israel to take a deep breath and embrace them. "There are options for all of this, not like in the United States, where there are only two parties," said Benny Engalrd, a resident of Tel Aviv. The election results still need to be certified and submitted to the president next Wednesday. Then President Isaac Herzog will task someone with forming the new government. That could be the leader of the party that received the most votes -- Netanyahu -- or whoever the leaders of the various parties believe is best suited. If multiple attempts to form a government fail, Israel faces a new election early next year. Herzog this week said he will do everything in his power to avoid that scenario. Netanyahu and Likud target Arab parties without evidence. In the hours before final results were announced, Netanyahu and his Likud party amplified unsubstantiated allegations that Arab-led parties had "stolen" the election, potentially with foreign assistance.

DYSS Bandipora holds district-level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027

KT News Desk

Bandipora , Oct 30: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Bandipora, organised the Inter-Zonal District-Level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBULD) 2027 at the Auditorium Hall of NM Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, Bandipora. On the occasion, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir attended the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest stated that the youth of Bandipora possess exceptional talent in various fields, which needs to be identified, nurtured, explored and showcased at different platforms. He emphasized that, in order to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat, the New Education Policy (NEP) has been introduced with a focus on providing ample opportunities and platforms to young people to express and showcase their talents in diverse fields, rather than limiting education to conventional methods of learning. He also congratulated the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, for its remarkable achievements in various district, UT-level and national-level competitions, which have brought laurels to the district and enhanced its recognition at different platforms. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from young talents representing different zones of the district, providing them with a vibrant platform to showcase their artistic abilities, cultural heritage, creativity and leadership potential.

Nagaland United SC beat RKFC 3-1 in IFL opener in Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 30: Nagaland United SC defeated Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) 3-1 in the opening match of the Indian Football League (IFL) 2026-27 season at TRC Ground, Srinagar, on Friday. The match, which kicked off at 6:30 pm, was played under floodlights and witnessed a massive turnout, with thousands of football enthusiasts turning up despite the cold weather. Minister for Youth Services and Sports Mir Saifullah, Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar and RKFC owner Arshad Nizam Shawl were among those present on the occasion. Both teams started aggressively, but Nagaland United SC took an early lead by scoring the opening goal in the initial minutes of the

match. The visitors continued their attacking approach and doubled their lead before the half-time whistle, taking a comfortable 2-0 advantage into the break. RKFC came back strongly in the second half and managed to reduce the deficit by scoring their first goal of the match. However, Nagaland United SC responded quickly with another goal, restoring their two-goal cushion and making it 3-1. Despite efforts by the home side to stage a comeback, Nagaland United SC maintained their lead until the final whistle to register a winning start to their IFL campaign. RKFC will now play their second match of the season on November 7 at their home ground in Srinagar.

G20 ministers face deep divisions as talks begin in Atlanta

AP

Atlanta, Oct 30 : The top diplomats from the Group of 20 largest world economies, including envoys from Russia and China, are meeting in Atlanta as they face deep rifts over multiple wars and other global crises that threaten international security and trade. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is chairing the gathering on Friday and Saturday that will set the stage for a G20 leaders' summit hosted by President Donald Trump at his Miami golf club in December. There appears to be little chance that the group will come to a consensus on many of the most contentious issues. Among those are the Russia-Ukraine



conflict, the US-Israeli war against Iran, US tariffs and Chinese machinations in the South China Sea. All have contributed to spikes in the global cost of fuel as well as uncertainty about trade. US officials say their top priority for the meeting is resolving differences over issues related to freedom

of navigation, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, the Black Sea and the South China Sea. The topic will include discussions on Iran, Russia-Ukraine and China and its smaller neighbors. But hanging over the meeting is the prospect of new US military intervention in Iran, which has

put the region, including G20 member Saudi Arabia, on edge. The Associated Press has reported that US officials have told several Middle East countries and regional allies to be prepared for potential renewed military strikes against Iran after Tuesday's midterm elections and the possibility that Iran will retaliate against them. Some G20 countries have expressed concern that the US invited Russia, which will be represented in Atlanta by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during its heightened attacks on Ukraine. China will be represented by a deputy foreign minister, but most other countries have sent their top diplomat, US officials say.

J&K Sports Council facilitates IFL 2026-27 launch

Srinagar , Oct 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council on Friday facilitated the launch of Indian Football League season 2026-27, featuring Real Kashmir FC and Nagaland United Sports Club in the opening match. The league is being organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and hosted by RKFC in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The event holds importance for the promotion of football in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing together players, officials and football enthusiasts. The stadium witnessed an enthusiastic turnout, with a large number of spectators turning up to support the teams and enjoy the fixture. The match generated considerable excitement among football fans, reflecting the growing popularity of the sport in Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion, Honourable Minister for Youth Service



and Sports, Mir Saifullah was the chief guest and was accompanied by Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar. Real Kashmir FC, while welcoming the J&K Sports Minister and Secretary J&K Sports Council presented

them with their uniform kit. Later guests interacted with both the teams, wishing them best for the game. The administration had made all necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the match.