TUESDAY
03 November 2026

Volume: 17
Issue No: 259
Pages: 08
Price: ₹2

Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

This newspaper is the sister concern of news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

www.kashmirthunder.in | epaper.kashmirthunder.in | twitter.com / kashmirthunder | facebook.com/kashmirthundernews | Regd. No. JKENG/2010/39938

152-year-old Darbar Move tradition lives on

Move offices reopen in Jammu, CM Omar Abdullah receives Guard of Honour



- **1872:** Introduced by Maharaja Ranbir Singh
- **Six-month cycle:** Govt offices shift between Jammu and Srinagar twice a year
- **Summer Secretariat:** Govt functions from Srinagar during summer
- **Winter Secretariat:** Offices operate from Jammu during winter
- **1987:** Farooq Abdullah-led government proposed scrapping practice but withdrew move following opposition in Jammu
- **2021:** Darbar Move discontinued by Govt
- **2025:** Practice revived by Govt
- **Ceremonial welcome:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received a Guard of Honour on arrival at Civil Secretariat

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Nov 02: As part of the 152-year-old tradition of the biannual shifting of government offices between Srinagar and Jammu and vice versa, the Darbar Move offices, including the Civil Secretariat, which houses the offices of Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister, Ministers, and top bureaucrats, reopened here on Monday.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Civil Secretariat and other government offices, which had closed in Srinagar on October 30 and 31, reopened in Jammu and will function from here for the next six months as part of the long-standing tradition.

On reaching the Civil Secretariat in the morning, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

The Chief Minister inspected the ceremonial parade presented by a contingent | More on P6

Centre committed to eliminate terrorism, make India drug free by 2029: Amit Shah

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 02: Reiterating Centre's commitment to eliminate terrorism from the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that the government is working on a plan to make India 'drug-free' by 2029.

Addressing a public gathering in Hyderabad, Telangana, HM Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to eliminate terrorism and he has fulfilled it. The government acted against terrorism through surgical strikes, airstrikes and Operation Sindoor."

The Union Home Minister also reiterated the Centre's commitment to make India drug-free by December 31, 2029, saying the government would eliminate drugs from the country before the deadline.

TARGETS CM REDDY, CHALLENGES RAHUL

Targeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Shah accused him of turning the state into an "ATM" for Congress leaders in Delhi and alleged that the six guarantees promised by Rahul Gandhi had not been fulfilled.

He also challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to participate in a discussion in a special session of Parliament, alleging that the opposition was deliberately disrupting parliamentary proceedings.

"Parliament's responsibilities are discharged through the country's Constitution, but Rahul ji does not allow Parliament to function. We are ready to convene a special session. Come and participate in a discussion," Shah said.

Taking a swipe at Gandhi over his criticism of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Shah said the BJP had won the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections without any such exercise.

He also cited the BJP's electoral victories in Maharashtra, Haryana, Delhi and Bihar, accusing the Congress of questioning election results when it failed to win.

'NO PLACE FOR INFILTRATORS | More on P6

OPERATION SINDOOR

IAF demonstrated capabilities of precise, decisive air power: New Air Chief

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 02: Newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Monday recalled the Indian Air Force's role in Operation Sindoor, saying the force demonstrated the capabilities of precise and decisive air power under the leadership of his predecessor, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

In his first address after taking over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, Dixit, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, the security environment remained demanding and the changing character of warfare required the Air Force to maintain high operational readiness. "I take over from Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, under whose leadership in 'Operation Sindoor,' the Air Force displayed what precise and decisive air power can achieve. I thank | More on P6

Ahead of Diwali, authorities beef up security along J&K borders

Drones, electronic surveillance, rapid-response teams deployed to maintain tight vigil

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 02: To prevent any attempt to disrupt the festive celebrations authorities have beefed up the security along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Diwali.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that security forces are conducting a series of joint mock drills and stepping up surveillance along vulnerable border stretches. "Security grids particularly along sensitive stretches in Poonch and Rajouri districts of the Jammu region, have been strengthened, while additional vigilance is being maintained along | More on P6

Ruhullah Mehdi to resign from Lok Sabha, NC today

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 02: All eyes will be on Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi today as he is set to announce his decision to resign from the Lok Sabha during a rally in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Ruhullah said he would resign from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

"I will resign from the Lok Sabha tomorrow," he said.

Ruhullah is set to quit both the National Conference and the Lok Sabha over differences with the party on issues including Article 370 and other emotive matters.

A three-time MLA from the Budgam Assembly segment, Ruhullah won the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in 2024 by defeating PDP candidate Waheed Ur Rehman Para by a record margin of 1.88 lakh votes.

Ruhullah, who catapulted to the centre stage of Jammu and Kashmir politics for his outspoken stand on Article 370, also played a key role in the National Conference's victories in the 2024 Assembly elections.

The MP is known for his strong | More on P6

Dry weather likely in J&K till Nov 9, light rain, snow possible in higher reaches

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 02: Weather is expected to remain largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9, with brief spells of light rain and light snowfall over higher reaches possible on November 5 and 6, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, dry weather is likely to prevail on November 3 and 4. However, isolated areas may witness light rain or snowfall in higher reaches during the evening of November 5 and 6.

The department, according to the news | More on P6

Accelerate pace of development works, effective funds utilisation: CM Omar Abdullah

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired an introductory meeting with Ministers and senior officers of the Civil Administration at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, following the resumption of the traditional bi-annual Darbar Move.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, all Ministers, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries, heads of departments of several departments and other top civil and police administration.

Outstation officers attended the meeting via video conferencing. | More on P6

Reasi couple killed after accidental discharge of own VDG weapon

KNO Correspondent

Reasi, Nov 02: A man and his wife died after the man's Village Defence Guard (VDG) weapon accidentally discharged in the Mahore area of Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the incident took place at Bralkund Baggodas village in Mahore tehsil, where the couple sustained gunshot injuries from the weapon | More on P6

Why does New Delhi have so much suspicion about us: Mehbooba Mufti at PDP Foundation Day

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 02: Thundering before a packed gathering of Peoples Demoratic Party (PDP) workers at Sher-e-Kashmir Park, the party president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday accused the ruling National Conference (NC) of contributing to Kashmir's growing trust deficit with the Centre, holding its leadership responsible for the "widening political and emotional disconnect" between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi.

She criticised the NC for "changing its political positions" on India, Pakistan and autonomy over the years.

Addressing a mega workers' convention organised to mark the PDP's Foundation Day in Srinagar, Mufti, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), questioned why Kashmiris continued to face suspicion despite J&K having acceded to India and raised concerns over the harassment of youth, termination of government employees and eviction of tribal communities.

"Why does India have so much suspicion about us? Our youngsters are being beaten, Kashmiri officers are being removed from service and tribal communities are being evicted. This is something that needs to be thought about," she said.

Blaming the NC for the prevailing "mistrust", Mehbooba said the party's shifting political positions had created uncertainty among Kashmiris and contributed to the continued questioning of their allegiance.

Recalling J&K's accession to India, she said it was Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who had taken the decision despite the region being | More on P6

Air Force schools across country, including 3 from J&K, adopt child digital safety programme

Yogesh



Jammu, Nov 02: Air Force schools across the country, including three schools of J&K, have been on-boarded onto Scroll Control, a comprehensive child digital safety programme through Information Sharing and Analysis Center Foundation (ISAC).

An official statement sent to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads that the ISAC will build a cyber safety capability in these schools and protect children from online hazards.

"This initiative has been taken by the Indian Air Force Educational and Cultural Society under the aegis of Air Headquarters that as many as 261 teachers from 42 Air Force Schools, including three Air Force Schools namely AFS, Jammu, AFS Srinagar and AFS Udhampur, operating in J&K have undergone certification course as Cyber Crime Intervention Officers, to protect children from online grooming and exploitation, misuse of artificial intelligence, gaming-related harm and financial frauds, and also enabling them to preserve digital evidence and act as first responders," the statement reads.

"In the era of affordable high-speed internet, smart devices and access to social media, school-going children are extensively exposed to unregulated digital spaces which are primarily designed for adults. To ensure safety of school children in the cyberspace, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed affiliated schools to incorporate cyber safety best practices through the monthly observance of Cyber Jagrookta Diwas. The present initiative enables Air Force Schools to align with this requirement with trained in-house capability," the statement said.

"Through ScrollControl, Air Force Schools will be able to form cyber clubs, certify students on cyber safety, conduct awareness | More on P6

District Red Cross Initiative

DC Srinagar inaugurates Special Health Check-up Camp at DC Office Complex

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday inaugurated a Special Health Check-up Camp at the premises of the DC Office Complex, with the objective of promoting health awareness and facilitating access to essential healthcare services for employees and visitors.

The camp was organised by the District Red Cross Society, Srinagar, in collaboration with Government Gousia Hospital Khanyar and Office of the Chief Medical Office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative was aimed at encouraging preventive healthcare, early detection of potential health issues and regular health monitoring. He emphasised the importance of prioritising health and well-being and encouraged people to make regular health check-ups an integral part of their routine.

The camp, as per an official statement, provided an opportunity for participants to avail themselves of medical consultations and basic health screening services.

The DC underscored the need for proactive health monitoring and timely medical intervention to promote a healthy workforce across the District. The DC complimented the Health Department and the District Red Cross Society for organising the healthcare camp at the DC Office Complex.

During the camp, more than 100 employees and incoming public at the DC Office and allied Offices located in Amar Niwas Complex, besides a large number of visitors, were screened for diabetes, blood pressure-related issues, ophthalmological conditions and other health related concerns.

The camp was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Accounts Officer, Mohammad Iqbal, Officials of DC Office, members of District Red Cross Society and other concerned.

DC Anantnag chairs NCORD Meeting

Stresses coordinated efforts to effectively tackle menace of drug abuse

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Monday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse and strengthen enforcement against drug trafficking in the district. The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on reviewing the action taken by various departments, strengthening inter-departmental coordination and intensifying efforts towards drug prevention, awareness and rehabilitation. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse. He emphasised strict action against drug peddlers, enhanced surveillance and sustained awareness campaigns, particularly among youth. He also reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre and stressed the need to further strengthen its services.

The meeting was informed that 792 kanals of wild cannabis growing along riverbeds and other areas had been destroyed.

The chair was also informed that 100 percent CCTV cameras have been installed in pharmacies across the district. The concerned department was directed to intensify inspection and checking of pharmacies to ensure strict compliance with prescribed regulations.

DDC Shopian reviews progress of irrigation Deptt works

KT News Desk



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 02: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh Monday held a comprehensive review meeting of the Irrigation Department to assess the progress of various ongoing and planned works being executed under different schemes and budgetary heads across the district.

During the meeting, the DDC, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and took stock of the status of various proposed and planned works. He emphasised the need to accelerate the pace of execution and ensure that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on the quality of works.

The meeting was also apprised that the district has a total Command Area (CCA) of 19,700 hectares, out of which 16,693 hectares has been achieved. The district has an irrigation network comprising approximately 212 km of main canals and 602 km of distributaries.

The DDC directed the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Shopian and his team of officers and field staff to remain vigilant, maintain close field supervision and ensure effective monitoring of all ongoing works. He emphasised that any unnecessary delays, lack of coordination or administrative bottlenecks must be addressed promptly to facilitate smooth execution of projects. It was further informed that a total of 60 irrigation schemes are presently being managed in the district, comprising 36 Gravity Schemes and 24 Lift Schemes, including 3 Major/ Medium Schemes and 57 Minor Schemes. The DDC further emphasised the importance of proper planning, technical assessment and field verification before preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), observing that all proposed works must be based on actual field requirements, technical feasibility and the anticipated benefits to the public. He directed that DPRs should be comprehensive, realistic and properly vetted to avoid deficiencies and delays at subsequent stages.

Taking serious note of delays in execution by certain contractors, the DDC directed the Irrigation Department to strictly monitor the performance of contractors and take appropriate action against those failing to execute the allotted works as per the prescribed timelines and contractual obligations. He made it clear that accountability must be fixed wherever negligence or undue delay is noticed.

The DDC emphasised that development of irrigation infrastructure is crucial for strengthening the agricultural economy of the district and ensuring adequate irrigation facilities to farmers. He stressed that the interests of the district and its people must remain paramount and that no negligence or laxity in the implementation of development works would be tolerated.

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Shopian, assured the District Development Commissioner that all necessary measures would be taken to expedite the execution of ongoing works, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure timely completion of projects. He also assured full commitment and coordination from the officers and staff of the Division in achieving the targets set for the department.

Day-long Disaster Management Workshop organised in Kupwara

KT News Desk



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 02: District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Monday organised a day-long workshop on Disaster Management at the Meeting Hall of the ACD Office Complex, Kupwara.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan.

Experts from NDRF and SDRF participated in the workshop and imparted comprehensive awareness to the participants, including district officers, officials, volunteers and school children, about various aspects of disaster management, preparedness and response mechanisms.

The experts also sensitized the participants about the importance of preparedness, timely response and coordinated efforts in mitigating the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Pamphlets containing important information and guidelines related to disaster management were also distributed among the participants to enhance awareness and promote community preparedness.

As part of the programme, a mock drill was also conducted in the lawns of the ACD Office Complex, during which NDRF and SDRF personnel demonstrated various rescue operations and emergency response techniques. The demonstration provided participants with practical insights into rescue procedures and highlighted the importance of coordination, preparedness and prompt action during disaster situations.

IN THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE GANDERBAL

File No. 7491/2026
CR No. JKGB0300278/2026
D.O.I: 13.10.2026
D.O.O: 13.10.2026
In the Case of:
Fazee Wd/O Late Mohi ud Din Bhat
R/O Batwina Ganderbal
Applicant
V/S
The Registrar of Births & Deaths/B.D.O
Ganderbal Block Wakura Tehsil Wakura
Respondent
In the matter of : Application u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended seeking an order forissuance of delayed registration of the death of Late Mohi-ud-din and issuance of his death certificate

CORAM : : Ms Nusrat Ali Hakak. U.ID No. : JK00200
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1. The instant application came to be filed before this court on 13.10.2026 under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for issuance of death certificate of the decease namely Late Mohi-ud-din Bhat S/O Rahim Bhat R/O Batwina District Ganderbal.
2. Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the general public be called for issuance of death certificate in favour of the above named person.
3. Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days , to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced
13.10.2026

Chief Judicial Magistrate ;
Ganderbal

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

In the case of:-
Ghulam Nabi Bhat
S/o Mohammad Sultan Bhat
R/o Wakura Ganderbal

(Complainant)

Versus
Ishfaq Ahmad Baba
S/o Abdul Majeed Baba
R/o Magraypora Sopore

(Accused)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(SECTION 82, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE)

Whereas, complaint has been made before me that one Ishfaq Ahmad Baba S/o Abdul Majeed Baba R/o Magraypora Sopore has committed/ is suspected to have committed the offence in Execution petition of Complaint u/s 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ishfaq Ahmad Baba cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ishfaq Ahmad Baba has absconded/is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Ishfaq Ahmad Baba is required to appear before this court/me at 10:30 a.m on the 13th day of November, 2026 to answer the said complaint.

Issued under my hand and seal of the court today the 28/10.2026.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my Passport bearing No. U7606369 has been lost somewhere. I have applied for the issuance of a Duplicate Passport.

Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Passport Office, Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Sd/-
TAAZIN AHMAD PARRY
S/o SHAMEEM AHMAD PARRY
R/o TEHIPORA HARRAN Ganderbal

THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE GANDERBAL

File No 7567/2026
CRN No. JKGB030026562026
D.O.I : 19.10.2026
D.O.O: 19.10.2026
IN THE Case of:- Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Tantry
S/o Habib Ullah Tantry
R/o Gadoora Ganderbal
V/S
Registrar of Births and Deaths
(Block Development Officer Ganderbal)
In the matter of :- Application seeking issuance of DOB Certificate
CORAM : Ms Nusrat Ali Hakak J.O Code :JK00200
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1. The instant application came to be filed before this court on 19.10.2026 under Section 13 (3A) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Tantry S/o Habib Ullah Tantry R/o Gadoora Ganderbal, Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the
general public be called for issuance of birth certificate in favour of the above named person.
3. Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days , to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced
19.10.2026

Chief Judicial Magistrate ;
Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss PEER MUBASHIR MEHRAJ S/D/W of/PEER MEHRAJ UD DIN Resident of RZ-377, VISHNU GARDEN, NEW DELHI DELHI 110018 in Respect of LMV/ Three wheeler /Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No.DL-12CK2059 Chassis No MAJAXXMRKAGK19175 Engine No. GK19175 In favour of PEER MUBASHIR MEHRAJ S/D/W of PEER MEHRAJ UD DIN Resident of: RESHIPORA GIRAJ GANDERBAL JK-191201 (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Ganderbal

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 153/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/9738-48 Dated: 02-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Public Park at Narsthan Aripal Tral.	19.88	800/-	2% of Adv cost	60 working days	Priority Works CAPEX Budget 2026-27	BEE, CEE	Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No: 113-PS/DTK/PLN of 2026 Dated: 21.10.2026.
Position of funds: Committed.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below--

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-11-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02-11-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-11-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	12-11-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-11-2026 12:00 PM

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)
(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
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)
(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)
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)
(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)
3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Deposit Account of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora bearing JK Bank Account No: 0334010200000160, IFSC: JAKA0AWANTI), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Sd/-
Draftsman

DIPK-7292/26
DATED: 02-11-2026

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL
NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss IMRAN AHMAD KHAN S/D/W of / NAZIR AHMAD KHAN Resident of HOUSE NO-2545 FOURTH FLOOR KAMRA BANGASH SIR SYED
AHMAD ROAD DARYA GANJ CENTRAL DELHI 110006 in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler /Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL10CM7357 Chassis No MAJXXMRKAKE67538 Engine No, KE67538 In favour of: MUSHTAQ AHMAD S/D/W of: GHULAM AALI BABA Resident of: KHAMULLA GANDERBAL JK 190006 (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

Authorized Signatory Assitant Regional Transport Ganderbal

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) RAFIQA BANO to (New name) RAFIQA In future I will be known as (New Name) RAFIQA. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Kishtwar youth delays wedding for Ruhullah's resignation gathering

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee



Budgam, Nov 02: In strong display of political support, a youth from Kishtwar has postponed his wedding to attend the public gathering scheduled to be addressed by Srinagar Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday at Behisht-e-Zehra Park, Budgam, where the MP is expected to announce his resignation from the National Conference and Lok Sabha.

The youth, identified as Abrrar Ahmad said that his wedding had been scheduled for November 2-3, but he decided to reschedule it after Ruhullah announced the date of his resignation programme, so that he could participate in the gathering.

Ahmad said he had met Ruhullah earlier and informed him about his fixed wedding date. However, following the announcement of November 3 for the public gathering, he decided to postpone the wedding to attend the event.

Explaining his admiration for the MP, Ahmad said he was impressed by Ruhullah's commitment to his words and promises, adding that he believed principles and commitments should take precedence over political positions.

He said that despite holding the position of an MP, Ruhullah has decided to relinquish his seat, which, according to him, reflects his commitment to the concerns of the people.

Asked whether Ruhullah would receive widespread public support after resigning, Ahmad said, "Standing up for what one believes to be right requires courage," he added.

He also referred to Ruhullah's parliamentary speeches, particularly his interventions on Article 370, and said issues concerning unemployment, youth distress and drug abuse needed greater attention.

Ahmad argued that addressing unemployment and the lack of opportunities for young people was important in tackling the growing problem of drug abuse, adding that the government should focus on creating employment opportunities alongside anti-drug initiatives.

Ahmad, who travelled from Kishtwar to attend the gathering, said the MP's decision had encouraged him and others who believe that political commitments and public trust should take precedence over positions of power.

The November 3 gathering is expected to witness participation from supporters and people from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, amid the political developments surrounding Ruhullah's proposed resignation—(KNO)

CM Omar meets fire-hit Shiv Market traders



Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday visited the fire-ravaged Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station and interacted with traders whose shops were gutted in a massive blaze last month, leaving them with huge financial losses.

The visit marked Omar Abdullah's first public engagement in Jammu on the opening day of the annual Durbar Move.

During the visit, the Chief Minister took stock of the damage caused by the fire, which destroyed around 40 shops and listened to the grievances of the affected shopkeepers.

He also assessed the difficulties being faced by traders following the incident.

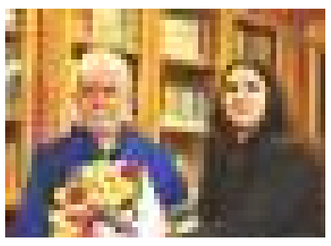
The shopkeepers apprised him of the scale of destruction and the hardships they were facing after losing their businesses, goods and sources of livelihood. They are now seeking financial assistance from the government to recover from the losses, which are estimated to run into crores of rupees.

The blaze broke out late on October 25 and continued for more than five hours. Fire tenders from seven fire stations were pressed into service and the flames were brought under control in the early hours of October 26, followed by cooling operations to prevent reignition. No casualties were reported.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary had also visited the affected traders and expressed solidarity with them. He assured the shopkeepers that the government was aware of their difficulties and would extend necessary support.

The Deputy Chief Minister had also informed the traders that the district administration had forwarded the relief cases of all affected shopkeepers to the Chief Minister for consideration and approval of appropriate financial assistance—(KNO)

International Pencak Silat players call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 02: Aqsa Gulzar and Ms Muskan Shaban, International Pencak Silat players from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday, and projected various issues pertaining to promotion of sports in Shehr-e-Khaas area of Srinagar.

They were accompanied by Shri Mohammad Iqbal, National Coach.

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Rs 189 lakh infrastructure works at Civil Secretariat Jammu

Takes round of newly created facilities, inspects arrangements to facilitate smooth functioning of offices

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday inaugurated infrastructure works worth Rs 189 lakh at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, aimed at strengthening office infrastructure and improving facilities for employees and visitors following the resumption of the traditional Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister, as per an official statement, inaugurated the newly constructed pre-fabricated office accommodation block, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 158.09 lakh under the CAPEX budget.

He also inaugurated the renovated Reception Hall at the entrance gate of the Civil Secretariat, completed at a cost of Rs 31. 10 lakh under the Maintenance and Repairs (M&R) component.

The inauguration of these facilities marks another step towards strengthening infrastructure and enhancing the working environment at the Civil Secretariat following the reopening of offices in Jammu under the traditional Darbar Move.

The concerned engineers briefed the Chief Minister about the projects, highlighting the facilities created and the infrastructure developed as part of the works.

The Chief Minister also took a round of the newly created facilities and inspected the arrangements put in place to facilitate the smooth functioning of offices at the Civil Secretariat.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

SKIMS expands infra, pushes referral reforms to reduce patient burden



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 02: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) is expanding infrastructure at its main campus and SKIMS Medical College, alongside procuring advanced medical equipment, to strengthen specialised healthcare services and reduce patient dependence on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Director SKIMS, Prof Mohammad Ashraf Ganie said new college, inpatient department (IPD) and outpatient department (OPD) blocks were under construction at SKIMS Medical College as part of efforts to expand capacity.

"We are not focusing only on the main campus. Both institutions are under the same administrative setup, and efforts are being made to improve facilities at both places," he told reporters on the sidelines of a sports programme on Monday.

Prof Ganie said the institute was also acquiring new medical equipment and exploring additional funding sources beyond regular government support to upgrade services.

"Our priority is to continuously improve patient care so that people can receive the treatment they need here instead of having to travel outside Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On overcrowding and long waiting times, Prof Ganie said the heavy patient load reflected SKIMS' role as a tertiary-care referral centre, with many patients arriving from district and peripheral hospitals, including cases that could be managed at lower levels of care.

He said infrastructure expansion alone would not ease pressure unless the referral system was streamlined.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

IGP Kumar directs security upgrade in Srinagar amid winters



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 02: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the Srinagar City security grid and directed the officers to strengthen it in line with winter security strategy.

In a post on X, Kashmir Police posted: "IGP Kashmir chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the Srinagar City Security Grid today at Cargo, attended by DIG CKR, DIG SKR, SSPs Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Awantipora, along with concerned Zonal SPs and SP SOG."

The post further said: "During the meeting, the prevailing security scenario, threat inputs concerning Srinagar and adjoining districts and measures to further strengthen the security grid under the Winter Security Strategy were discussed in detail. The security arrangements and ongoing operational measures along the Jhelum Corridor, particularly in Pulwama and Awantipora, were also reviewed, with emphasis on enhanced inter-district coordination and effective implementation of the Winter Security Strategy."—(KNO)

AIMSA seeks stipend hike for PG residents in J&K

Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Nov 02: The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) on Monday urged the Jammu and Kashmir government to address the long-pending demands of Postgraduate (PG) resident doctors regarding revision of their stipend structure.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the association expressed concern over the existing stipend rates for PG medical and dental residents in the Union Territory, arguing that their remuneration does not adequately reflect their demanding clinical responsibilities, extended duty hours and contribution to patient care.

Addressing a press conference at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, the AIMSA representatives highlighted the disparity between the stipends paid to PG resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir and those offered in several other states, calling for an urgent revision of the existing structure to ensure fair and competitive remuneration.

The press conference was addressed by AIMSA Chief Advisors Dr Sanah, Dr Abhishek Mittal, Dr Fazan Lone and Dr Sidhant Sharma. Dr Danish Hamid, Joint Secretary of AIMSA, represented PG dental residents across Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the dental resident fraternity's concerns and demands. Dr Shahnawaz Malik, the association's Additional Secretary, was also present.

AIMSA representatives pointed out that PG resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir currently receive a stipend of Rs 64,000 during their first year and Rs 67,000 in subsequent years, raising questions over the disparity with the remuneration offered to resident doctors in several other states.

They maintained that postgraduate residents play a crucial role in the functioning of government medical colleges and associated hospitals, where they are actively involved in patient management, emergency services, ward duties and other essential clinical responsibilities.

The association stressed that the demanding nature of postgraduate medical training requires residents to work for extended hours while balancing academic commitments with clinical duties. It said their financial concerns should be addressed through a fair and transparent stipend policy.

Seeking government intervention, AIMSA submitted a representation to Chief Minister Omar

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

GMC Jammu's Pediatric Surgery Dept wins Best Paper award

Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Nov 02: The Department of Pediatric Surgery, SMGS Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, has brought laurels to the institution by winning the Best Paper Award at the 14th National Conference of the Society of Pediatric Urology, held at King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow.

The award-winning paper, titled "Laparoscopic and Endourological Management of Rare Urological Disorders in Children," was presented by Dr Saalim Nazki, Head of the Department of Pediatric Surgery, GMC Jammu.

The department presented three scientific papers at the national conference, reflecting its growing academic and research activities. Notably, one of the papers was presented by a DrNB resident doctor, highlighting the department's commitment to academic growth, research and nurturing young surgical talent.

Expressing his happiness, Dr Nazki said the achievement was a matter of great pride and prestige for the department as well as the institution.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

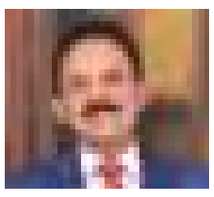
EDITORIAL

Building A Sporting Economy

For too long, India's sporting ambition has been one-sided. We have built stadiums, trained athletes and won medals. But the equipment they use has largely come from abroad. The Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of Rs 1,856.67 crore, is a serious attempt to correct this imbalance. The numbers behind the scheme are telling. Small and micro enterprises account for nearly 90 per cent of India's sports goods production, spread across clusters. Yet India's equipment exports stand at only about $275 million, in a global market worth $52 billion. That gap is not just an economic loss. It is a missed opportunity for jobs, for skills and for self-reliance. What is welcome about this scheme is that it does not stop at money. It builds an ecosystem. Integrated manufacturing zones will bring manufacturers, testing facilities and design centres together. Anchor investment support and turnover-linked incentives will draw serious players. Support for international certification is particularly thoughtful, because without it, Indian goods cannot enter global markets, no matter how good they are. Centres of Excellence, start-up grants and skilling programmes address the long-term foundations. The timing is right. The coming decade brings the Los Angeles Olympics, the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, the Brisbane Olympics and India's own bid for 2036. This is a decade of demand. If Indian manufacturers are ready, they can serve not just Indian athletes but the world. The scheme also aligns sensibly with existing missions — BHAVYA for industrial parks, ANRF for research, Startup India for innovation and the Export Promotion Mission for global reach. This is joined-up government, not isolated announcements. Much will depend on implementation. But the direction is correct. A sporting nation must also be a sporting manufacturer. This scheme gives India a chance to play on that field too.

Private Universities In India: Expansion Without Excellence

India does not need to choose between expanding access and maintaining excellence; it must achieve both. The time has come to move beyond the race to establish more universities and concentrate on building better ones—a university should be judged not by the number of degrees it awards, but by the quality of minds it develops and the future it helps create.



Prof. R.K. Uppal

India is witnessing a remarkable expansion of private universities. Across the country, new campuses are emerging, professional programmes are multiplying, and educational institutions are competing to attract students. This expansion has widened access to higher education and brought investment, technology and new academic opportunities into the system. Yet, an uncomfortable question demands attention: Is India building universities of excellence, or merely multiplying institutions that produce graduates without adequately preparing them for the future?

The mushrooming of private universities is not necessarily a problem. A country as large and diverse as India needs a strong higher education network. Private institutions can complement public universities, encourage innovation, introduce flexible programmes and respond to emerging employment opportunities. However, expansion becomes a serious concern when the number of institutions grows faster than their academic capabilities. The real challenge is not the growth of private universities, but the possibility of quantity overshadowing quality.

When Education Becomes a Commercial Proposition. Establishing a university requires substantial investment, and private institutions must maintain financial sustainability. Nevertheless, higher education cannot be treated like an ordinary commercial enterprise. A university has a larger social responsibility: developing knowledge, nurturing critical thinking and preparing responsible citizens.

In an intensely competitive education market, some institutions may devote considerable resources to advertising, admission campaigns and impressive infrastructure. Attractive buildings, modern auditoriums and sophisticated promotional materials can create a favourable first impression. But do they guarantee effective teaching, meaningful research or competent graduates?

A university's reputation must rest on academic performance rather than promotional visibility. If admission targets and revenue generation become the dominant measures of success, educational priorities risk being pushed into the background. Commercial sustainability is necessary, but it must remain subordinate to the institution's academic mission.

Faculty- the foundation of Academic Excellence. No university can achieve excellence without competent and committed faculty. Buildings and technology support education, but teachers stimulate intellectual curiosity, guide research and develop students' analytical abilities.

Research beyond Publications and Patents. A university is more than a degree-awarding institution. It must also be a centre of inquiry, innovation and knowledge creation. Yet research excellence cannot be manufactured through publication targets or promotional claims.

Meaningful research requires sustained funding, well-equipped laboratories, accessible libraries, ethical supervision and collaboration across disciplines. Institutions must encourage original investigations into India's economic, technological, environmental and social challenges.

Private universities with strong research cultures can make significant contributions to India's innovation ecosystem. The objective should be to encourage more institutions to develop such cultures rather than assume that establishing a university automatically creates a research environment.

Degrees without Employability. The ultimate test of higher education is not simply how many students graduate, but what they can do with the knowledge and skills they acquire. Employers frequently seek communication skills, digital competence, problem-solving abilities, adaptability and practical experience alongside academic qualifications. Universities must regularly update curricula, strengthen industry partnerships and provide internships, apprenticeships and project-based learning. Students should graduate with the ability to apply knowledge rather than merely reproduce information in examinations.

At the same time, employability should not become the sole purpose of higher education. Universities must also cultivate ethical judgment, independent thinking, civic responsibility and intellectual maturity. The goal is to produce capable professionals and informed citizens, not merely candidates trained for immediate employment.

Institutions that demonstrate sustained academic excellence should receive appropriate flexibility and encouragement. Those failing to meet essential standards should face proportionate corrective measures. Accountability must protect students without imposing unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions on legitimate academic innovation.

From Expansion to Excellence. India's private universities have considerable potential to strengthen higher education, support innovation and attract international academic collaboration. Realizing this potential requires a fundamental shift in institutional priorities. University managements must recognize that reputation is built through competent graduates, credible research and committed teachers—not simply through admissions, infrastructure or advertising.

The government, regulators, managements and academic community must work together to create a system that rewards genuine educational achievement. Students and parents must also look beyond impressive campuses and promotional promises when choosing institutions.

India does not need to choose between expanding access and maintaining excellence; it must achieve both. The success of private higher education should be measured by the knowledge it creates, the capabilities it develops and the contribution its graduates make to the nation. The time has come to move beyond the race to establish more universities and concentrate on building better ones. A university should be judged not by the number of degrees it awards, but by the quality of minds it develops and the future it helps create.

About the writer

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal is an academician, economist, author and researcher with 39 years of experience in higher education and research. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics and Management and a D.Litt. in Business Administration. He has authored 85 books, published 365 research papers, completed seven major research projects and guided 21 Ph.D. scholars. His work focuses on higher education, research quality, banking and finance, and institutional reform. He currently serves as Principal of Sardar Parkash Singh Badal College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab.
uppalmlt@gmail.com

Geothermal Energy: A New Chapter In India's Clean Energy Journey

The intense heat in the Earth's interior is a powerful source of clean energy called geothermal energy. Given India's rich geothermal resources, this form of energy holds immense promise as a round-the-clock available source of power. The National Policy on Geothermal Energy aims to harness this potential. It seeks to make geothermal energy a key part of the nation's renewable energy story as India drives towards Net Zero by 2070. The recent commissioning of the first two geothermal wells in Ladakh marks the beginning of this journey.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

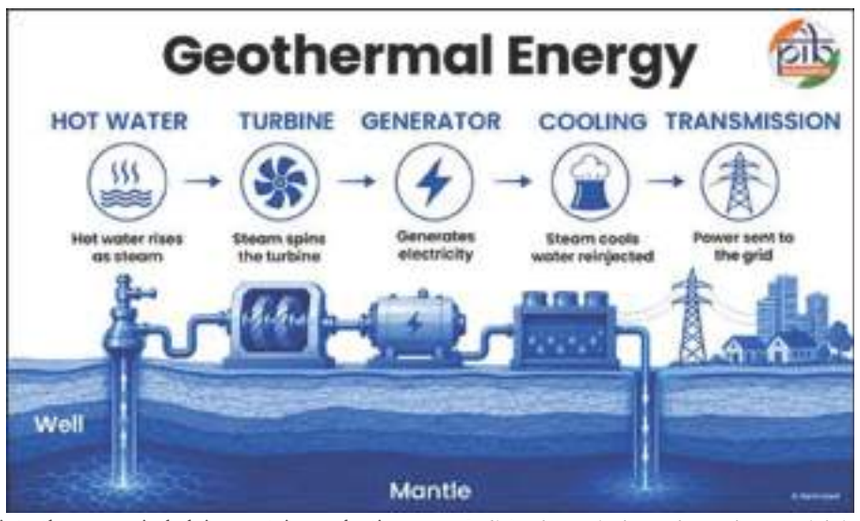
Geothermal energy is the heat stored beneath the Earth's surface. It is a low-carbon, renewable and weather-independent energy source that can provide electricity and direct heat around the clock. As India works towards its Net Zero target by 2070, geothermal energy could diversify the country's renewable energy mix and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The Government of India notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy in September 2025, establishing a framework for exploration and development. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is responsible for implementing the policy. A major step followed in July 2026, when the ONGC Energy Centre commissioned India's first two geothermal wells in Puga Valley, Ladakh. Located more than 14,000 feet above sea level, Puga is one of the country's most promising geothermal sites. The two wells, each 1,000 metres deep, will help assess the underground reservoir and support plans for a 1-megawatt demonstration power project.

How geothermal energy works

Heat within the Earth comes partly from radioactive elements such as uranium, thorium and potassium, and partly from residual heat left over from the planet's formation. This heat drives movement within the Earth's mantle and contributes to tectonic activity. In geologically active areas, faults and fractures can bring heat closer to the surface, creating underground reservoirs of hot water and steam in permeable rock.

To generate electricity, deep wells bring hot water or steam to the surface. The steam turns a turbine connected to a generator. Afterward, water is condensed and reinjected into the reservoir, helping sustain production. Geothermal heat can also be used directly for district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, and building heating and cooling.



Unlike solar and wind power, geothermal energy does not depend on weather or daylight. Its steady availability makes it a potential source of reliable, low-carbon energy.

India's resource potential

India's varied geology provides a promising foundation for geothermal development. The Geological Survey of India has mapped 381 hot springs and identified 10 geothermal provinces. These include the Himalayan, Naga-Lusai, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Son-Narmada-Tapi, West Coast, Cambay Graben, Aravalli, Mahanadi, Godavari and South Indian Cratonic regions.

India's theoretical geothermal potential is estimated at approximately 10.6 gigawatts, with 42 sites identified as promising for electricity generation or direct heat use. Although favourable rift basins offer strong potential, suitable projects may be possible anywhere resources are present. Technologies such as Enhanced Geothermal Systems and Advanced Geothermal Systems could make a wider range of locations viable.

Abandoned oil and gas wells may also offer opportunities. Where technically and operationally feasible, inactive wells could be repurposed for geothermal projects, drawing on existing well data, drilling expertise and infrastructure.

Research and demonstration projects

India is moving from resource assessment towards field demonstrations. Between July and August 2025, MNRE sanctioned five research and development projects covering electricity generation, heating and cooling, resource assessment and domestic technology development.

Projects include a pilot in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, exploring electricity generation from retrofitted oil and gas wells; and a solar-geothermal demonstration in Gandhinagar, where three wells produce geothermal fluid at 70–80°C and have demonstrated 50–90 kilowatts of electricity generation. In Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, studies are examining five sites through fieldwork and geochemical analysis. Other projects are developing geothermal cooling for air conditioning in Hyderabad and analytical models for shallow geothermal heating and cooling using borehole heat exchangers.

Commercial-scale geothermal power generation has not yet been established in India. However, these projects are building the technical knowledge and field experience needed for future deployment.

Policy, investment and partnerships

The National Policy on Geothermal Energy aims to make geothermal power a significant part of India's renewable energy system. It supports systematic exploration, drilling, reservoir management and direct-use applications, including Ground Source Heat Pumps for heating and cooling. It also encourages public and private investment, pilot projects, a national geothermal data repository and Centres of Excellence. Repurposing abandoned oil and gas wells is another area of policy support.

MNRE's Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development programme supports research institutions and industry partners working to develop cost-effective domestic technologies, including for geothermal energy.

International cooperation is also contributing to India's efforts. Geothermal energy is an area of collaboration with Australia and Iceland, and a focus of bilateral engagement with Saudi Arabia. These partnerships can support research, knowledge exchange and technology development.

Worldwide, installed geothermal capacity reached 15.67 gigawatts by the end of 2025. Indonesia, the United States, the Philippines, Türkiye and New Zealand together held about 67% of global capacity, illustrating the scale of development possible in countries with supportive conditions and investment.

India's geothermal journey is also part of a wider clean-energy effort. The Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, held in New Delhi from 2–5 November, brings together international participants to discuss investment, innovation and cooperation across renewable energy, including storage, green hydrogen and grid integration.

A steady addition to India's energy mix

The commissioning of the first geothermal wells at Puga Valley marks a shift from policy and assessment towards implementation. With significant estimated resources, emerging technologies, demonstration projects and international partnerships, India is laying the groundwork for geothermal energy to contribute to electricity, heating, cooling, agriculture and other uses.

Geothermal power is not yet a commercial-scale source in India, but the country's early projects are building the foundations for its wider adoption. As India pursues energy security and its 2070 Net Zero goal, geothermal energy has the potential to become a dependable, home-grown addition to its renewable energy portfolio.

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

Owner & Editor, Printer, Publisher: **Nasir Azam Khan**, Published From **Srinagar,** Printed at **K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industries Estate, Rangreth**,
RNI NO:-**JKENG-2010/39938**, Email:- **Kashmirthunder123@gmail.com**, Website: **Kashmirthunder.com**, Mobile: **9906797575, 9419006285**
Owner & Editor-In-Chief of Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a leading news agency in Jammu & Kashmir. Website: www.kashmirnewsobserver.com, Mail: info@kashmirnewsobserver.com

WMDA issues strict directions on solid, liquid waste management

Prohibits littering, illegal dumping around Manasbal Lake

KT News Desk



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 2: With a view to maintaining environmental cleanliness, protecting the fragile ecosystem of Manasbal Lake and ensuring effective solid and liquid waste management, the Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) has issued a public notice directing all residents, shopkeepers, restaurant owners, commercial establishments, institutions and other stakeholders to strictly comply with the prescribed waste management and sanitation guidelines within its jurisdiction.

As per the directions issued by the Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, a door-to-door solid waste collection system has been introduced by the Authority. All households and commercial establishments have been directed to hand over their daily generated waste exclusively to designated sanitation staff and authorised collection vehicles of the Rural Development Department, Block Safapora, at the notified time and place.

The Authority, as per an official statement, has made segregation of waste at source mandatory, directing all waste generators to separate wet/biodegradable waste from dry/non-biodegradable waste. Mixing of segregated waste has been strictly prohibited.

The public notice also imposes a complete prohibition on littering and illegal dumping of garbage, plastic waste, polythene, construction debris and other waste materials on roads, footpaths, open spaces, lake periphery, water bodies, drains, parks and tourist spots. Burning of garbage, plastic and other solid waste in open or public spaces has also been prohibited.

Shopkeepers, restaurant owners, dhabawallas, vendors and other commercial establishments have been directed to maintain cleanliness within their premises and adjoining areas and make adequate arrangements for proper storage, segregation and disposal of waste. Institutions and event organisers have also been asked to ensure proper collection and disposal of waste generated during public functions and activities and restore the premises to a clean condition immediately after completion of events.

Emphasising the protection of Manasbal Lake and its surrounding ecosystem, WMDA has strictly prohibited the discharge of untreated sewage, wastewater, kitchen wastewater and other liquid waste directly into the lake, adjoining drains, water channels, wetlands and public spaces.

All households, hotels, restaurants, commercial establishments and institutions have been directed to ensure proper collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater. They have also been asked to maintain septic tanks, soak pits and other sanitation facilities properly and ensure that collected sewage and sludge are transported and disposed of only through authorised facilities.

The Authority has warned that any violation of the directions shall invite strict penal action under the applicable provisions of the J&K Development Act, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, Water(Prevention of Pollution) Act-1974 and other relevant laws and regulations. Action may include imposition of fines and penalties, issuance of notices and initiation of further legal proceedings before the competent authorities.

The concerned officials and sanitation staff have been directed to maintain strict vigilance and report instances of violations for necessary action.

Calling upon the general public to extend full cooperation, WMDA emphasised that maintaining the cleanliness of Manasbal Lake and its surrounding tourist areas is a collective responsibility, adding that any act causing environmental degradation or defacement of the tourist destination shall not be tolerated.

The directions have been issued in the larger public interest to safeguard public health, environmental protection, ecological conservation and sustainable tourism.

Speaker accorded warm welcome as JKLA Secretariat opens in Jammu



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 2: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, was accorded a warm and enthusiastic welcome by senior officers and staff of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the first day of opening of Darbar Move offices in the winter capital, Jammu, Monday.

The Speaker, as per an official statement, was received by senior officers and officials of the Assembly Secretariat, who extended greetings on the commencement of the winter functioning of the Assembly Secretariat in Jammu.

Interacting with the officers and staff, the Speaker appreciated their dedication and commitment towards ensuring the smooth and efficient functioning of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, discipline and efficiency in discharge of the official responsibilities.

The Speaker called for close coordination among all branches of the Secretariat to ensure timely disposal of official business and seamless delivery of services. He also underscored the need to maintain a responsive, transparent and public-oriented institutional approach while facilitating the smooth conduct of legislative affairs.

He wished the officers and staff a productive and successful tenure during the winter Darbar Move. He expressed confidence that the Legislative Secretariat would continue to uphold the dignity, traditions and institutional responsibilities of the Legislature.

ATMA SCHEME

Bandipora farmers depart for 7-day exposure visit to Punjab



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 02: A group of farmers from Bandipora departed from the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, for a seven-day exposure visit to Ludhiana, Punjab, under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme of the Agriculture Department.

The visit aims to familiarise farmers with modern agricultural technologies, advanced farming practices, improved crop production techniques, farm mechanisation and innovative agricultural interventions.

The farmers will gain practical exposure to progressive farming methods and technological advancements in the agricultural sector. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the technical knowledge and capacity of farmers while encouraging the adoption of modern, scientific and sustainable farming practices.

The exposure visit, as per an official statement, is expected to help farmers apply the knowledge and techniques gained during the programme in their respective fields, contributing towards improved agricultural productivity and better livelihood opportunities.

DC Udhampur conducts tour of Chenani, Sudhmahadev

Inspects ongoing developmental works

KT News Desk



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 02: To assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and review the implementation of the flagship schemes, the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi Monday conducted an extensive tour of Chenani and Sudhmahadev areas of the district.

During the visit, the DC inspected the ongoing construction work on the Chenani–Sudhmahadev road and reviewed the progress of other developmental projects. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all projects within the stipulated timelines, maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the BDO Office and CHC, Chenani, where he interacted with the officials and staff and took stock of their functioning.

Emphasising punctuality, discipline and accountability, he stressed that timely attendance in government offices is essential for ensuring efficient public service delivery.

Underscoring the importance of responsive and citizen-centric governance, the DC directed all officers to ensure doorstep delivery of government services and strengthen the existing public service delivery mechanism.

Motor Vehicle enforcement drive conducted in Bandipora

230 vehicles checked, 55 compounded

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 02: On the directions of Transport Commissioner, J&K, Vishesh Pal Mahajan, and under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Motor Vehicles Department conducted an intensive enforcement drive across Kaloosa, Gulshan Chowk and adjoining areas of the district.

The special enforcement team of ARTO Bandipora, as per an official statement, conducted thorough checking of commercial and passenger vehicles, focusing on mandatory installation of speed governors, unauthorised operation of passenger vehicles and other violations of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules.

During the drive, 230 vehicles were checked, out of which 55 were compounded, with an expected penalty realisation of approximately Rs 1,47,500. The driving licences of four violators were also recommended for suspension.

Transporters and drivers were sensitised and directed to follow traffic rules, comply with road safety requirements and avoid operating passenger vehicles from unauthorised locations to prevent traffic congestion and ensure smooth vehicular movement.

The Motor Vehicles Department reiterated that such enforcement drives will continue across the district to curb traffic violations, strengthen road safety and ensure better traffic management.

The general public, particularly transporters and commercial vehicle operators, have been urged to cooperate with the department and strictly adhere to traffic rules and statutory provisions.

DC Udhampur reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

KT News Desk



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, Monday chaired a review meeting with officers and representatives from various agencies associated with the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to assess the progress and implementation of the scheme in the district.

During the meeting, the DC sought detailed feedback from the concerned stakeholders regarding the challenges hindering the effective implementation of the scheme. He stressed the need for an extensive door-to-door awareness campaign to educate the public about the benefits of the scheme and encourage more eligible households to avail its benefits.

The DC also impressed upon the concerned officers to expedite the installation and coverage of smart meters, highlighting their importance in ensuring transparency, improving energy efficiency and enhancing consumer convenience.

He directed the empanelled vendors to accelerate the installation of pending rooftop solar panels and ensure timely completion of all allotted cases, so that the maximum number of eligible households across the district can benefit from the scheme.

J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides team calls on DC Samba

KT News Desk

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 02: A team of Jammu and Kashmir Bharat Scouts and Guides District Samba Monday called on Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rupesh Kumar.

The delegation led by District Organizing Commissioner (DOC) Yash Pal congratulated Dr Rupesh on his new assignment. The visiting delegation also briefed the DC about the functioning, activities and initiatives being undertaken by the Bharat Scouts and Guides in the district.

The District Team highlighted the significant role of the Scout and Guide Movement in nurturing discipline, leadership qualities, self-reliance, patriotism, social responsibility and character building among young people. They also apprised him of the organisation's efforts in engaging students and youth in community service, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness, social awareness campaigns and other constructive activities.

The Deputy Commissioner was also briefed about the organisation's future plans and proposed activities aimed at expanding the reach of scouting and guiding in educational institutions and rural areas of the district.

Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 02: On the eve of Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a Mega Gram Sabha was organized by the Tribal Affairs Department, District Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian.

The Gram Sabha, as per an official statement, was held for awareness and disposal of claims of ST community including AKs, ASKs, Dajgua and others under Forest Rights Act, 2006, which was presided over by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

The demands of ST community regarding road connectivity were also discussed. The issues regarding Potato Farm Road and Redh Agri-Bakerwal Check to Sedow Adda Road were highlighted. It was informed that both the roads have been tendered and the work will start within this week.

Nodal Officer, Tribal Affairs Department Shopian, Mohammad Imran Khan, besides other officers and large number of tribal community members were present on the occasion.

Proposals seeking benefits of HADP, other schemes reviewed in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review and consider applications received under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKCIP and National Mission on Natural Farming.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore, Assistant Commissioner Development, Om Parkash and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

The Committee examined a total of 392 proposals received under the three programmes for scrutiny and consideration. These included 347 cases under HADP, 43 cases under JKCIP and 2 cases under NMNF.

The applications were examined scheme-wise and department-wise by the committee as part of the district-level scrutiny and approval process.

JK-SAMADHAN PORTAL

DC Udhampur reviews response of departments to public grievances

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi Monday chaired a meeting with officers of the line departments to review the status of disposal and pendency of public grievances received through the JK-Samadhan Portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers of the concerned departments.

The DC conducted a detailed review of the grievances redressal mechanism adopted by the departments and assessed the status of the grievances on the portal. He also took stock of the departmental response to the grievances received.

The DC directed the departments to expedite the disposal of pending grievances and ensure timely and quality redressal. He further directed the ADC to closely monitor the disposal process and ensure regular follow-up with the concerned departments.

Health screening camp held at Charota, over 100 beneficiaries avail services

KT News Desk

DODA, NOVEMBER 02: As part of the Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada celebrations being observed from November 1 to November 15, 2026, a Health Check-up-cum-Screening Camp was organized Monday at Village Charota, Medical Block Assar, district Doda.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the residents of Charota and adjoining areas. More than 100 people availed the healthcare services provided at the camp. The services provided included general health check-up, X-ray examination, laboratory investigation, dental check-up and specialized screening for Tuberculosis (TB), including X-ray screening for early detection of the disease.

The beneficiaries, as per an official statement, were also facilitated with information and assistance regarding the generation of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards and Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards, aimed at expanding access to healthcare benefits under the relevant government health schemes.

Medical Officer, RBSK Dr. Khursheed Alam led the RBSK team comprising staff from PHC Assar and the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU). The medical team worked in close coordination to provide quality healthcare services and raise awareness about preventive healthcare and the importance of timely screening.

The camp was organized under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal and Director Health Services Jammu Dr Poonam Sethi with the objective of ensuring accessible and comprehensive healthcare services for the people, particularly those residing in remote and underserved areas.

Kashmir Thunder

Sakeena Itoo reviews health sector scenario in J&K

Health Minister calls for strengthening food safety, drug testing measures across J&K

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Monday, undertook a comprehensive review of the overall health sector scenario across Jammu and Kashmir, taking stock of the functioning of healthcare institutions, availability of medical facilities, manpower position, infrastructure development and delivery of patient-care services across the Union Territory.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Commissioner Secretary Health and Medical Education, Saugat Biswas; MD NHM, CEO SHA, Managing Director JKMSCL, Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Director SKIMS, Special Secretary Health and Medical Education department, Director Health Services Jammu/Kashmir, Director Family Welfare, Principals of all GMCs, Principals of Dental College Srinagar/Jammu, State Controller Drugs J&K, Director Ayush, Medical Superintendents of various hospitals and other senior officers of health department.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasised on strengthening of food safety measures as well as drug testing across Jammu and Kashmir. She called upon the officers to procure more number of mobile testing vans so that the testing facilities can be increased across J&K.

The Minister emphasized that strengthening the public healthcare delivery system, upgrading medical infrastructure and ensuring accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for every citizen remain the foremost priorities of the Government.

She stressed on the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach among all concerned departments and healthcare institutions to address existing gaps in service delivery and ensure that the benefits of ongoing healthcare initiatives reach people at the grassroots level.

The Minister underscored that healthcare institutions, particularly those operating in far-flung, remote and underserved areas, must be adequately equipped with essential medical facilities, diagnostic services, medicines and qualified healthcare professionals so that patients are not compelled to travel long distances for basic treatment.

The Minister called for optimal utilisation of available human resources, directing the department to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the requirement and deployment of doctors, specialists, nurses, paramedical staff and other supporting personnel across healthcare institutions. She stressed that rational deployment of manpower should be guided by patient load, institutional requirements and the availability of specialised services, with special attention to areas facing staff shortages.



"Doctors, paramedics and other healthcare professionals are the backbone of our public health system. We must ensure that their services are utilised in the most effective manner and that no healthcare institution, particularly in remote and underserved areas, suffers due to avoidable manpower gaps," the Minister said.

Reviewing the status of healthcare infrastructure, she directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects, proper maintenance of existing facilities and early operationalisation of completed infrastructure. She emphasised that the focus should not remain confined to the creation of physical assets but must also ensure that hospitals and health centres are adequately equipped, staffed and made fully functional.

The Minister also stressed the need to strengthen primary and secondary healthcare services, improve diagnostic facilities and expand access to specialised treatment so that patients can receive quality medical care closer to their homes.

"Every investment in the health sector must translate into better facilities, improved patient outcomes and greater public confidence. Our objective should be to build a healthcare system where quality treatment is accessible to every citizen, irrespective of their geographical location or economic background," she maintained.

On the availability of medicines and medical equipment, Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of a robust procurement and distribution mechanism, strict quality control and transparent procedures. She directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely availability of essential and life-saving medicines, surgical consumables and functional medical equipment in all government healthcare institutions.

She also called for strengthening emergency healthcare services, ambulance facilities, referral mechanisms and critical care infrastructure to ensure timely medical intervention, particularly in cases requiring specialised and emergency treatment.

Emphasising the importance of preventive healthcare, the Minister called for sustained efforts in immunisation, maternal and child healthcare, disease surveillance, health awareness and community-level interventions. She stressed that greater emphasis must be laid on early diagnosis, preventive screening and public awareness to reduce the burden of preventable diseases.

"Public healthcare must be driven by compassion, accountability and commitment. Every patient visiting a government health institution deserves dignified treatment, timely attention and quality medical care. There should be no compromise on patient safety, cleanliness and the overall standards of healthcare services," she said.

The Minister also called for strengthening the monitoring mechanism at the administrative as well as institutional levels, directing senior officers to undertake regular field visits, interact with healthcare professionals and assess the functioning of hospitals and other health facilities.

She stressed that officers must remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt corrective measures wherever deficiencies are identified.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to transforming the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, Sakeena Itoo said that the department must work with a clear roadmap, measurable targets and a strong focus on outcomes.

"Our endeavour is to establish a robust, inclusive and responsive healthcare delivery system across Jammu and Kashmir. We have to move forward with a shared sense of responsibility and ensure that the Government's initiatives translate into visible improvements in the lives of ordinary people," the Minister said.

The Minister, during the meeting, also directed the department to procure around 100 Ambulances, including ample number of 4x4 Ambulances for hilly terrain areas. She also called for immediate posting of medical officers, who have been recruited recently.

The Minister also directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, ensure time-bound implementation of decisions and work with dedication towards strengthening the public healthcare infrastructure and service delivery mechanism across both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

152-year-old Darbar

of the Jammu and Kashmir Police at the Civil Secretariat.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, ministers, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, and senior officers of the civil administration and police were present on the occasion.

Soon after the ceremony, the Chief Minister proceeded directly to his office to attend to official business.

The Darbar Move practice was introduced in 1872 by Maharaja Ranbir Singh and has remained a distinctive feature of Jammu and Kashmir's administrative system.

After 1947, Dogra rule came to an end, but the practice of shifting offices between the erstwhile state's two capitals continued.

In 1987, the Farooq Abdullah-led government mooted the idea of abolishing the Darbar Move, but the proposal was met with fierce opposition in Jammu, forcing the government to abandon the plan.

In 2021, the government abolished the Darbar Move practice, but it was revived in 2025.

Centre committed

IN ELECTORAL ROLLS'

Shah further said the BJP would ensure that every infiltrator was removed from electoral rolls, reiterating the party's position on illegal immigration.

Referring to Hyderabad's integration with India, HM Shah paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and said the city would not have become part of the country had Patel not made the Nizam surrender at the time.

He also accused the Congress, BRS and AIMIM of failing to stop alleged corruption in Telangana, claiming that only the BJP under PM Modi's leadership could address the issue

Ruhullah Mehdi to resign

advocacy of issues related to Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir's political rights, and reservation policy.

With Ruhullah's resignation, the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat will fall vacant, necessitating a by-election within six months. The bypoll is likely to witness a direct contest between Ruhullah and the National Conference, although other political players are also expected to enter the fray.

Ahead of Diwali

traditional infiltration routes in Kathua district," the official added.

He said, "A joint mock exercise was recently conducted by security forces along old infiltration routes in Kathua to assess preparedness and strengthen coordination in responding to possible security threats."

Another official said that in North Kashmir, heightened vigilance is also being maintained in Gurez, Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar sectors, while Sunderbani remains among the sensitive areas in the Jammu region.

Along the International Border, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have intensified round-the-clock patrolling and surveillance, particularly at vulnerable locations. Electronic monitoring systems, drones and other modern equipment are being used to detect suspicious movement.

Officials said troops deployed along the LoC have also increased area domination exercises and maintained close coordination with other security agencies to respond promptly to any infiltration attempt or ceasefire violation.

MOCK EXERCISES IN BANDIPORA

Meanwhile, security forces in Bandipora district have conducted several counter-terrorism exercises over the past few days to assess their operational readiness.

Bandipora Police, Army's 13 Rashtriya Rifles and 45 Battalion CRPF, along with other agencies, conducted a joint Cordon, Intervention and Rescue (CIRS) drill at PM High School, Gundgahagir in Hajin.

The exercise was based on a simulated situation in which two civilians were held hostage by terrorists inside the school building. After receiving information at 11 am, participating teams reached the location within 15 minutes, cordoned off the area and evacuated students and other civilians.

A coordinated intervention was subsequently carried out in which both simulated terrorists were neutralised. One hostage was rescued unharmed, while another, who was shown injured during the exercise, received first aid and CPR before being shifted to hospital.

A thorough search of the school and adjoining areas was conducted following the operation.

A day earlier, Bandipora Police and 13 RR held an anti-fidayeen mock drill at Aragam, where a simulated terrorist hiding in an under-construction building was neutralised. Joint teams subsequently sanitised the area to check for suspected explosive material and assessed casualty evacuation arrangements.

Meanwhile, District Police Bandipora conducted another anti-fidayeen exercise at the District Police Lines, involving SOG Bandipora, 3rd Battalion CRPF, 14 RR and 27 Assam Rifles.

During the exercise, four simulated terrorists hiding in two under-construction buildings were neutralised, followed by an area sanitisation operation involving an explosive detection team and a sniffer dog.

Officials said such exercises are aimed at improving response time, testing operational preparedness and strengthening coordination among agencies in dealing with any emergency.

With Diwali falling on November 8 this year, security agencies have maintained heightened alert across vulnerable areas to ensure that celebrations pass off peacefully.

IAF demonstrated

him for handing over a force in a high state of readiness," he said.

Dixit, who previously served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, said, "Modern warfare is being reshaped by emerging technologies, including drones, long-range precision weapons, space, cyber, artificial intelligence and the electromagnetic spectrum."

He said the IAF, while transforming into the force India would need in the next decade, must always remain ready to fight and win.

Outlining his priorities under the 'VAYU' vision, Dixit said the focus would be on vigilance and readiness, self-reliance, innovation and unity of effort among the armed forces.

He said restoring the IAF's combat strength towards its sanctioned level would be a foremost priority, while indigenous platforms, sensors and weapons would be central to strengthening operational capabilities.

Dixit also stressed the need for innovation in technology, doctrine and operational procedures, and greater coordination among the Army, Navy and other national agencies to strengthen joint operations.

Pertinently, Air Chief Marshal Dixit assumed charge on October 31, succeeding Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, who retired after 42 years of service. The new Air Chief has over 3,500 hours of flying experience and has held several key operational and strategic appointments.

Accelerate pace of

At the outset, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar briefed the meeting on administrative arrangements and key issues concerning the functioning of various departments, including preparation of the Budget for 2027-28.

Deputy Chief Minister and other Ministers also highlighted various issues of public importance and sought the administration's cooperation for timely resolution.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister congratulated the Ministers and officers on the commencement of the Darbar Move in Jammu and stressed that administrative functioning must remain focused and unaffected by external distractions.

Observing that the next six months are crucial for accelerating developmental activities and ensuring optimal utilisation of funds allocated to various departments, the Chief Minister urged all departments to enhance the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of developmental works.

He asked newly inducted Ministers and those assigned new portfolios to undertake a detailed review of their respective departments and assess the implementation status of commitments made during the last Budget.

The review, he said, should clearly identify completed projects, ongoing works and projects yet to be initiated, along with reasons for delays and measures required to expedite their implementation.

The Chief Minister also called for a comprehensive review of the Government's manifesto commitments to assess progress and identify further steps required for fulfilment.

Emphasising the need for close monitoring of developmental projects, particularly those being implemented under SASCI, the Chief Minister directed Ministers to regularly review their progress and ensure timely execution.

For the financial year 2027-28, he directed all departments to prepare project proposals and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) well in advance for projects proposed under SASCI. Departments were asked to keep DPRs and tender documents ready so that tendering and other preparatory formalities could be completed ahead of time, enabling immediate commencement of works once allocations are received.

He said these directions had already been conveyed to the departments and reiterated the need for their effective implementation.

The Ministers were also asked to undertake reviews of the districts assigned to them at the earliest and ensure close monitoring of developmental works.

The Chief Minister reviewed winter preparedness and stressed the importance of maintaining uninterrupted essential services through effective inter-departmental coordination. Taking note of concerns regarding ration dumping in certain areas, he asked the concerned department to address the issue and ensure adequate availability of essential commodities.

Calling for a proactive approach towards budget formulation, the Chief Minister directed departments to initiate consultations with the Finance and Planning Departments well in advance for preparation of the next financial year's Budget.

He observed that early identification of priorities and preparation of realistic proposals would provide adequate time for proper consideration and help avoid last-minute inclusion of commitments that may be difficult to implement.

The Chief Minister also emphasised the need to ensure comfortable working and living arrangements for employees who have shifted to Jammu in connection with the Darbar Move.

He directed the administration to address shortcomings relating to accommodation, office facilities and other essential requirements to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the Secretariat.

Calling upon Ministers and officers to work in close coordination, the Chief Minister stressed the need for a focused approach towards effective implementation of developmental commitments and public welfare initiatives.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the chambers of the newly inducted Ministers and inspected various rooms, sections and offices of the Civil Secretariat. He interacted with staff and officials and took stock of the facilities and arrangements put in place following the reopening of the Civil Secretariat after the Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues and other senior officers.

Reasi couple killed

while being part of a VDG team.

The official said the man died on the spot, while his wife succumbed to her injuries later at PHC Baggodas.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated necessary proceedings.

Dry weather likely

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said dry conditions are expected to resume from November 7 to 9, with no significant weather activity forecast during the period.

Meanwhile, Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir at minus 0.2 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kupwara and Kokernag recorded 2.8 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees Celsius, 4.3 degrees Celsius and 4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The Meteorological Department has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural activities in view of the favourable weather conditions.

Air Force schools across

sessions for parents and staff, access age-appropriate content rating platform for families, and be recognised as a cybersafe school," it said, adding, "The training and certification of teachers, their empanelment on the National Security Database, and 24x7 victims supports through a multi-disciplinary ecosystem of cyber lawyers, cyber psychologists and forensic experts are being provided under this programme through ISAC."

"Set up as welfare measures and provide continuity of education in face of frequent transfers, Air Force Schools have been established at many important Air Force stations and primarily cater to serving and retired defence personnel, and a limited number of entitled civilians. They are co-educational and predominantly affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education, offering education from kindergarten up to Class 12 in science, commerce and humanities streams," the statement said.

Why does New Delhi

Muslim-majority.

She referred to Sheikh Abdullah's association with Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, saying the decision was taken in view of the democratic and secular values represented by them.

On the political positions taken by Sheikh Abdullah after accession, Mufti said the NC had spoken about India, then Pakistan and later the plebiscite before returning to power through an agreement.

Taking a dig at the NC's demand for autonomy, Mehbooba said the party had itself buried the issue when the position of Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was changed to that of Chief Minister.

Referring to the continued suspicion against Kashmiris, she said even ordinary expressions of identity and faith could invite allegations of being Pakistani.

Mehbooba questioned why Kashmiris are still being asked to prove their loyalty to the country when the region had chosen India decades ago.

'NC responsible for Kashmir's difficult years'

Mehbooba also criticised the National Conference leadership for the difficult years of militancy in Kashmir, accusing it of using Ikhwan forces during that period. She said people had suffered during the NC's rule and that 'dead bodies' were left on roads during those years.

Referring to NC president Farooq Abdullah's recent remarks on Pakistan, the PDP chief questioned his political position, saying that while statements were made about Pakistan in Kashmir, the same leadership spoke differently when it went to Delhi.

She said Kashmiris had already made their choice and stood with India, while such contradictory statements by political leaders further contributed to suspicion against the people.

Taking a dig at Pakistan, she referred to it as 'Daki-stan' while speaking about the political debate surrounding Kashmir.

'Mufti Sahab must be proud today'

Remembering her late father and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Mehbooba said he must be proud of the PDP and its journey, recalling his efforts to restore peace and dignity to Jammu and Kashmir.

She said Mufti Sayeed had brought former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Jammu and Kashmir and conveyed to him that the people did not merely need roads and bridges but also dignity. "He told him that we do not require roads and bridges, but dignity," she said.

Mufti recalled that Vajpayee had extended a hand of friendship towards Pakistan from J&K as part of his peace efforts.

She also referred to the construction of the Mughal Road during Mufti Sayeed's tenure, saying his government had worked towards improving connectivity and bringing people closer.

Mehbooba said her father had attempted to bridge the gap between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir through dialogue, reconciliation and initiatives aimed at restoring public confidence.

The PDP, she said, was founded to restore the dignity and identity of Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that the party had never followed a double agenda.

Seeks dialogue with Centre, warns against coercive measures

Appealing to the Government of India to initiate dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the former CM questioned how long the region could be governed through force and restrictions.

"The government must listen to the people rather than rely on coercive measures to maintain peace," she said.

Referring to the October 10 developments at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, Mehbooba said the government should understand the anger and resentment among people instead of assuming that everything was normal because of the absence of visible protests.

Warning against continued reliance on force, she said the accumulated anger could erupt one day. "This lava will burst one day and then do not say you were unaware," she said.

Mehbooba also warned the Centre against attempts to undermine Jammu and Kashmir's identity, describing the region as the crown of India.

She said any attempt to remove Jammu and Kashmir from that position would have consequences for the country itself.

"If you try to remove Jammu and Kashmir from the crown, you will be wiped out and your story will find no place in history," she said.

Reiterating the PDP's political position, Mehbooba said the party would continue to fight for the dignity, identity and political rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir Thunder

EPAPER.KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN
KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN

NEWS 07

TUESDAY | 03.11.2026

India's economic growth high despite West Asia crisis: PM Modi

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India's economic growth is strong despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, and the country is set to add about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity over the next 10-11 years.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, Modi said that the country's non-fossil fuel capacity is over 300 GW and expressed confidence that India will achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

He said that over the next 10 to 11 years, about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity will be added. He noted that it is a tough call, but "we have to do it".

"If India had not created renewable energy capacity in the last 10 years, then the energy crisis in India could have been worse than in other parts of the world... India's economic growth is high despite the ongoing West Asia crisis."

The West Asia crisis disrupted energy supplies worldwide earlier this year and created difficulties for many countries. Modi also asked investors to invest in India, saying the country offers huge investment opportunities in renewable energy as it provides political and policy stability.

The Prime Minister stated that by the end of the decade, investment opportunities worth over Rs 20 lakh crore will emerge in the renewable energy sector. Modi also said that India is among the top three countries in the solar and renewable energy sector.

"We need to connect every government building, school, college, hospital, street-lighting system to solar energy ...We need an indigenous storage solution and must develop new battery storage capacity," he stated.

India is progressing rapidly to take a big leap in green hydrogen and has a target of annual production capacity of 50 lakh tonnes, Modi said while highlighting progress in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

He also highlighted the Green Energy Corridor (inter-state transmission lines), which will help evacuate power from the upcoming renewable energy capacity.

The govenrment has provided an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the second phase of Green Energy Corridor.

Modi said the future of energy security lies in clean power. He noted that more than 44,000 govt buildings have been connected to solar energy, resulting in annual savings of about Rs 700 crore.

Amit Shah dares Rahul Gandhi to debate SIR issue

Says govt ready to convene special session of Parliament



PTI

Hyderabad, Nov 2: In a blistering counterattack on the INDIA bloc over its 'vote chori' allegation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government is ready to convene a special session of Parliament on the issue and dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to debate the matter in the House. Dismissing the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi on Sunday as a "save infiltrator" rally, he wondered how the Congress formed governments in states, including Telangana, "if the EVMs are bad," and said that Rahul Gandhi can become Prime Minister only in mock Parliament.

Leading the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' padayatra here, Shah said: "Rahul holds the Constitution in hand, but doesn't respect the Constitution. Rahul ji, you don't allow Parliament to run. Be it EVMs, SIR, infiltrators, I challenge you from Hyderabad. We are ready to convene a special session of Parliament. Come for debate."

Further, he said: "We will remove every infiltrator from the electoral rolls."

If a Parliament session is held, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will "shred Congress into pieces," he said and accused the Congress of wishing to be in the limelight through anarchy.

Rahul 'toolkit' of foreign forces seeking to destabilise India, alleges BJP chief

PTI



Kolkata, Nov 2: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Monday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was leading those behind "anarchy" in the country, acting as a "toolkit" of foreign forces seeking to destabilise India.

Addressing a gathering after leading a march in Kolkata to counter the INDIA bloc's campaign against "vote theft", he accused the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha of working at the behest of foreign powers that had "engineered" unrest in Nepal and other neighbouring countries.

"Rahul Gandhi is a toolkit of those forces which engineered the unrest in Nepal and other neighbouring countries. He is leading those forces who are behind the anarchy across the country," Nabin alleged.

He claimed that Gandhi was being "used" by foreign-backed forces to create instability in India. "Rahul Gandhi has no vision; he will be responsible for the Congress' complete wipeout."

The BJP chief also questioned the Congress leader's political stance, pointing out that he had criticised the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal during the Assembly elections but was now sharing a platform with its leaders.

"During the Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi came here and spoke against corruption and misrule of the Mamata Banerjee regime. Now both are sharing the stage," he said.

Nabin claimed that had the Congress and Gandhi learnt lessons from their electoral failures, they would not have raised "baseless allegations" against the Election Commission.

"If you have a problem with the poll process, why are you not questioning the election process in Kerala and Tamil Nadu where the opposition forces have won," Nabin asked and accused the opposition parties of disrespecting the people's mandate.

Earlier in the day, Nabin led a march in Kolkata that was joined by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and the party's state unit president Samik Bhattacharya, among others.

The BJP has launched 'Save Democracy, End Anarchy' marches across the nation as a counter-offensive to the INDIA bloc's campaign demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and "vote theft".

The march in Kolkata began at College Street and proceeded towards Dharmatala in central parts of the city, with hundreds of BJP supporters joining the rally.

Ensure legal aid to poor much like patient is treated in hospital: CJI



PTI

Deoghar (Jharkhand), Nov 2: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday stressed that the judiciary should ensure that the economically and socially disadvantaged people have access to legal aid, "much like a patient is treated in a hospital".

Addressing the State Level Legal Services-Cum-Empowerment Camp in Jharkhand's Deoghar, he said it should be ensured that people can access legal support round-the-clock.

"The time has come for India's judiciary -- at every level, from the taluka and district courts to the high courts and the Supreme Court -- to understand the pain of the poor and provide a remedy, much like a patient is treated in a hospital," the CJI said.

He said that when a patient arrives at the hospital, nurses and technicians reassure him that he would be treated. "By the time a doctor visits him, half his illness is already resolved," Justice Kant said.

Similarly, legal aid professionals and para-legal volunteers should reach out to the poor, as well as the elderly, women, children and physically challenged persons and ensure legal support to them, he said.

The CJI virtually inaugurated legal aid clinics at Palamu and Ranchi on the occasion. He also distributed benefits among beneficiaries under various government schemes.

Earlier, the CJI visited Baba Baidyanath Dham temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country, and offered prayers.

Tatas imp for economy; differences should be settled amicably: FM

PTI



Mumbai, Nov 02: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the ongoing differences between Tata Sons and its largest shareholder, Tata Trusts, should be resolved amicably at the earliest.

Amid foreign investor outflows and growing calls for tax cuts, Sitharaman declined to say anything specific, stating that she is sensitive to the "louder" voices of concern.

On the Tata issue, she emphasised that the matter is critical for the Indian economy and should not spill into the public domain.

She, however, declined to comment on whether the government will take efforts to engage both sides in discussions, terming the matter "sensitive".

"This is a very critical component to the Indian economy, and therefore, it has to be amicably settled among themselves, so they talk it out to make sure that it comes back quickly to some normalcy," Sitharaman said while speaking at the Financial Express Leadership Awards 2026.

"It cannot be spilling out like this in the public. And for the maturity of that leadership, we would like to have this seen settled sooner," she added.

Describing the issue as delicate, Sitharaman said it required commercial acumen and cordiality among stakeholders, while expressing hope that the leadership would resolve the differences and restore normalcy at the earliest.She acknowledged the Parsi community's contributions, which helped make Tata a global brand and also the expanse of activities that the conglomerate is invested in. Tensions had been brewing at the 158-year-old Tata group for the past few months and spilt out into the open with a vertical split between the board of its holding company, Tata Sons, led by N Chandrasekaran and its largest shareholder, Noel Tata-headed Tata Trusts, at a board meeting on September 17. The board meeting held within a week of the RBI's letter rejecting Tata Sons' request to de-register as a core investment company decided to go for a listing as per the central bank's mandate and also reappointed Chandrasekaran as Chairman of Tata Sons.

Noel Tata's was the only dissenting vote at the meeting, which saw Tata Trusts' second nominee director Venu Srinivasan breaking ranks and voting with the majority.

Sitharaman also acknowledged concerns over foreign capital outflows and the need to support equity investments, saying the government recognised the anxiety among retail investors and market participants.

She noted that the taxation structure was similar in 2023-24, when India witnessed its highest foreign investment inflows, but said circumstances had changed with increased net outflows by foreign institutional investors (FIIs). While inflows had started resuming, she said the government recognised growing concerns.

Emphasising the importance of capital, particularly equity, in sustaining India's economic growth, the finance minister said the government would consider concerns raised by market participants.

"At a time when our growth is very important, where people are putting their very best, we are able to see sustained seven-plus growth. In order to keep that intact, we need capital and equity, particularly now," she said.

Telcos to face up to Rs 20 lakh fine per quarter per circle for complaint redressal lapses

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Nov 02: Telecom operators and internet service providers may face a penalty of up to Rs 20 lakh per quarter per circle if they fail to dispose of consumer complaints, as per new rules published by the sector regulator Trai on Monday.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has tightened the consumer grievances redressal mechanism for telecom and internet operators. Trai, in a list of penal actions on service providers for disposal of complaint or appeal in contravention of the fourth amendment made in Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal Regulations, said, "The amount of financial disincentive payable by a service provider.. shall not exceed Rs 20 lakh per quarter for the licensed or authorised service area."

The regulator has mandated telecom and internet service providers to set up round-the-clock operational complaint centres for redressal of complaints with human representatives available for a minimum of 16 hours per day.

The communication with the consumer care number needs to be free. Besides this, the service providers will have to offer the complaint filing option through their websites and mobile apps as well.

The service provider will need to acknowledge the complaint or request with a docket number and keep updating consumers unless the grievance is resolved.

The time limit for filing an appeal following disposal of a complaint has been revised from 30 days to 15 days, as consumers would normally prefer to appeal as soon as possible, whereas a longer time allowed unduly increases compliance requirements.

Trai has added a new mechanism of "Feedback Survey" in the updated norms. Upon resolution or closure of a complaint or appeal, the service provider shall conduct an online feedback survey to assess the consumer's satisfaction with the resolution.

"The service provider shall publish the results of such feedback surveys on its website on a quarterly basis," Trai said.

Under the amended rules, service providers have been mandated to place a quarterly report on the redressal of complaints, appeals and the results of feedback surveys before its CEO or Board of Directors.

"This has been done to ensure suitable review and oversight of the disposal of complaints and appeals by the service providers at the highest level," the regulator said.

Trai may conduct periodic review of the functioning of the grievance redressal mechanism of the service providers.

In case the regulator finds contravention in complaint disposal, then a penalty of Rs 1,000 will be levied per violation, and Rs 5,000 per instance by the appellate authority, but the total amount will not exceed Rs 20 lakh per quarter per authorised service area.

The regulator can impose a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh for failure to submit the quarterly performance report as per the amended rule.

Don't travel by air, says SC; refuses urgent listing of plea alleging 700 pc hike in airfares

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 2: Don't travel by air, the Supreme Court told a petitioner on Monday while refusing urgent listing of a plea alleging nearly 700 per cent increase in airfares.

An advocate mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Aparesh Kumar Singh.

"The aviation fare has increased by 700 per cent," the advocate said.

"Don't travel by air," the bench observed.

The advocate then said air travel is an essential service. "It's a violation of Article 14."

Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law.

The apex court is already hearing a separate petition filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who has sought a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector and regulatory guidelines to control "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

During a hearing on that plea on October 16, the Centre informed the top court that administrative approval has been granted to rules under a 2024 legislation aimed at regulating India's aviation sector, and is likely to be published in two weeks.

The apex court had asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to place the published rules under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, before the court on the next date of hearing -- November 16.

On August 17, the Centre told the top court that it had fast-tracked the framing of rules under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, aimed at modernising India's aviation sector

In November last year, the top court sought responses from the Centre and others on Laxminarayanan's plea.

While hearing the matter in January, the top court had said it would interfere with th "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and flagged the exorbitant rise during festivals.

It had termed the exorbitant hike of fares by airlines "exploitation" and asked the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to file their replies on the plea.

Govt notifies grievance redressal rules under VB-G RAM G Act

Fixes 15-day deadline

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Centre has notified rules for grievance redressal under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, mandating that complaints related to the implementation of the rural employment scheme be resolved within 15 days and providing for their escalation if they remain pending beyond the prescribed period.

Under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026, notified by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, state governments will have to establish a three-tier mechanism at gram panchayat, block and district levels, the ministry said in a statement issued Monday.

The rules provide for designated grievance redressal officers at each level to receive, register, enquire into and dispose of complaints.

According to the ministry, grievances can be submitted in person, through speed post, a designated digital platform, telephone helplines or any other mode decided by state governments.

No grievance can be refused registration on the grounds of its format, language, manner of submission or any procedural deficiency, the statement said.

All complaints received physically at gram panchayat, block or district level will have to be entered on the designated digital platform on the day of receipt or, if that is not feasible, by the next working day.

The complainant will receive an acknowledgement with a registration number, date of receipt and designation of the receiving authority.

The rules stipulate that an enquiry into a grievance must be completed within seven working days of its receipt, while the complaint must be resolved within 15 days.

The designated officer can call for relevant records, documents, reports and electronic data from the authorities concerned and provide the complainant an opportunity to be heard, either in person or electronically, wherever necessary.

Complaints not resolved within 15 days will be escalated to the next higher level under the mechanism established by the state government. Such cases will continue to be monitored electronically until their disposal.

A district programme coordinator will oversee grievance redressal at the district level and ensure that complaints are addressed through the designated mechanism and digital infrastructure.

The rules also provide for appeals against orders passed under the grievance redressal mechanism, in accordance with Schedule I of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025.

The Act provides the statutory framework for the Centre's rural employment guarantee programme. The new rules lay down the institutional and procedural framework for addressing complaints arising from its implementation, including mandatory registration, timebound enquiries and digital tracking.

The ministry said the provisions are aimed at making grievance redressal more accessible and ensuring that citizens' concerns regarding the scheme receive timely attention.

Quick Read

Four Americans, one Canadian among 69 killed in Spain train collision

AP

Madrid, Nov 2 : Four Americans and one Canadian were among the 69 people killed in last week's high-speed train collision in Spain, authorities said.

So far, 66 of the dead have been identified, authorities said late Sunday.

Most of those killed — 54 of the 69 victims — were Spanish nationals. The crash took place last Wednesday when a high-speed train slammed into another that had stopped on the tracks.

Other foreigners among the fatalities who have been identified include one each from France, Japan, Argentina, Mexico, Portugal, Tunisia and the Czech Republic. Authorities said they have three bodies still to identify and three people reported missing — two Australians and one Japanese.

The crash in the province of Toledo came just nine months after another collision farther south on the same Madrid-Seville line killed 46 people. The collisions have shaken confidence in the Spanish rail network that has long been hailed for its speed and safety.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has pledged an investigation and improvements to restore trust in the system that carried some 45 million travellers last year, including millions of tourists.

The crash happened one month before a November 29 general election in which Sanchez is seeking to extend his eight-year premiership. He is now facing questions about the safety of the railways and investments under his governments in Spanish infrastructure.

Supermarket freezers in several European countries hit by suspected cyberattacks



AP

Stockholm, Nov 2 : Supermarkets in Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg and Estonia were hit Monday by problems with freezers and fridges that apparently were caused by cyberattacks, forcing some to dispose of ruined food.

The problems follow a case last month in which attackers remotely took control of refrigeration systems in hundreds of supermarkets and independent stores across France, sending temperatures soaring.

In Sweden, ICA Group supermarket chain spokesperson Gustaf Nilsson told news agency TT that "a limited number" of stores were affected overnight by an incident that affected refrigeration and freezing systems. He declined to give a specific number.

The ICA Kvantum branch in Sjobo in southern Sweden wrote on its Facebook page that its fridges and freezers had been hacked and set to 50 degrees Celsius. It said it was working to discard the affected items.

The Coop chain said that six of its stores in central Sweden had problems with their fridges and freezers, TT reported, though it didn't immediately have details.

The Delhaize chain said that an "IT incident" had affected refrigeration systems in several dozen of its stores, mostly in Belgium but also a few in neighbouring Luxembourg.

"In the affected stores, the range of fresh and frozen products is temporarily somewhat limited. Our distribution centres are operating normally, and there has been no disruption to deliveries to our stores," spokesperson Sarah De Meester said.

The Carrefour supermarket chain in Belgium said a "cyberattack targeting refrigeration installations only had an extremely limited impact," affecting 15 of its more than 700 stores.

In Estonia, a company that makes the affected technology said that one of its clients had been hit by a cyberattack in which attackers accessed a computer controlling refrigeration and turned up the temperature to 50 degrees Celsius, public broadcaster ERR reported.

Jann Mutso, the CEO of Kitman Coldtech, declined to say which store's cooling system had been affected but said that the attack was responded to within minutes and there was no significant damage. The Selver chain said one of its outlets was affected.

The cyberattacks in France appeared to target old systems.

Iran proposes 2-day plan to reopen Strait, resume nuclear talks with US

AP



Dubai, Nov 2 : Iran said Monday it had a two-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and resume nuclear talks with the United States, shortening a process originally expected to take seven days.

The UN migration agency said more than 300,000 people in Yemen had fled renewed fighting. China, meanwhile, is sending a special envoy to Iran, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Monday.

Iran's 2-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, resume nuclear talks

Iran said it had a two-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and resume nuclear talks with the US if Washington meets its demands.

The announcement came as the region braces for possible renewed fighting, even as Iran's top diplomat said Sunday that he hoped the US would choose "diplomacy over other paths."

Iran previously said the plan could be implemented within a week if the US met seven conditions, including lifting its blockade of Iranian ports. Iran now says ships passing through the reopened strait would have to follow a route agreed upon by Iran and Oman and travel under Iranian supervision. Separately, Iranian officials have said the US must lift sanctions on Iranian oil sales and agree to a ceasefire that would include Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the plan remained the basis for negotiations with Washington through mediators, despite the shorter implementation timeline. "This once again demonstrates Iran's good-faith approach," he added.

Baghaei gave no indication that Tehran had changed its demands or that Washington had accepted its proposal.

President Donald Trump has alternated between pursuing diplomacy and threatening heavy bombing of Iran in his public comments.

More than 300,000 Yemenis have fled fighting, UN says

The UN migration agency said the people are struggling to find shelter and life essentials, as aid groups face limited access to those in need. They have fled as renewed fighting between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-backed government forces broke a four-year truce, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation in one of the Middle East's poorest countries.

Taiz province, in southwestern Yemen, continues to take in displaced families, but many are fleeing south to Aden, which has now received more than 56,000 people, according to the latest figures by the International Organisation for Migration.

"After years of conflict, families in Yemen are being forced to flee yet again, often with little more than the clothes on their backs," Abdusattor Esoev, head of the IOM's mission in Yemen, said Sunday.

"They urgently need shelter, food, clean water and health care. Without more funding, thousands of families could be left without the help they urgently need," he added.

China to send special envoy to Iran and the Gulf

China said Monday it plans to send a special envoy to Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia in early to mid-November. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters the envoy would focus on easing tensions and promoting regional stability.

The Gulf region "should not become an arena for great-power rivalry and geopolitical conflict," Chinese President Xi Jinping told Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said on Monday, according to a readout of their meeting.

The move comes as China seeks to expand its influence in the rapidly changing region, which it depends on for a large share of its oil.

Strikes on Gaza kill 2

Two Israeli airstrikes killed two men in southern Gaza early Monday, according to Nasser Hospital, where their bodies were taken. One strike killed a man in his home; the other killed a man in a tent.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Major fighting between Israel and Hamas largely halted under the October 2025 ceasefire. Israel continues

JKFA executive body elections scheduled for November 25; eligible voters, club representatives asked to submit claims within 3 days



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 02: The All India Football Federation (AIFF), with the support and facilitation of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC), will conduct elections to the executive body of the Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on November 25.

The election process is being initiated in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble court dated 27/10/2026 and in accordance with the applicable guidelines governing sports bodies.

In this regard, A consultative meeting was held with representatives of the AIFF, JKSC and various football stakeholders, including clubs and district representatives, to discuss the election process and ensure clarity regarding eligibility criteria and other procedural requirements.

The AIFF has initiated the election proceedings, including the nomination process and scrutiny of eligibility documents.

All eligible voters and club representatives have been asked to submit their claims regarding eligibility, along with the relevant supporting documents, to the designated email address jkfaelections2026@gmail.com within three days .

The Electoral Officer will examine the submissions and take further action in accordance with the prescribed election procedure.

The J&K Sports Council has assured full support and facilitation to AIFF in conducting the elections in a transparent and orderly manner, ensuring participation of all eligible stakeholders.

NCW to hold national consultation on women in sports on November 3

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 2 : The National Commission for Women, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, will organise a national consultation on women in sports here on Tuesday to deliberate on challenges faced by women athletes and measures to strengthen their safety, welfare and participation. The consultation, titled 'Khel Shakti: National Consultation for Women in Sports', will be held at Vigyan Bhawan in the presence of Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse and NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, the commission said in a statement on Monday.

"The consultation aims to bring together key stakeholders from the sporting ecosystem to deliberate on challenges faced by women athletes and identify measures to strengthen institutional mechanisms for their safety, welfare, participation and professional advancement," it said.

Ranji Trophy: Puducherry reach 261/6 against J&K on Day 1

Mohit Kale (73), Neyan Kangayan (70) hit half-centuries; Sunil Kumar claims three wickets



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 02 : Puducherry scored 261 for six on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match against Jammu and Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Monday.

After winning the toss and opting to bowl, J&K managed to restrict the visitors to 261 runs in 77 overs by stumps.

Mohit Kale, top-scored with 73 off 123 balls, while skipper Neyan Shyam Kangayan contributed 70 off 126 deliveries. Ritesh Gudge (39) and Ankit Sharma (45) also made valuable contributions.

For J&K, Sunil Kumar was the pick of the bowlers, claiming three wickets for 59 runs, while Umar Nazir and Waseem Bashir picked up one wicket each.

Prasad Pawar (1) and Aman Khan (9) were unbeaten at the crease when stumps were drawn.

The four-day encounter will continue on Tuesday, with play scheduled to resume on the second day—(KNO)

Mexico bans cellphone use in schools despite parents' concerns over violence

AP

Culiacan (Mexico), Nov 2 : Starting Tuesday, Mexican schools will ban cellphones from classrooms as part of a federal government effort to limit children's and teenagers' use of electronic devices, following similar measures taken by over a hundred countries in the last decade.

The initiative, spearheaded by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, has been supported by experts who see it as an opportunity to reduce young Mexicans' exposure to technology and the resulting attention deficit, stress and anxiety.

Mexican authorities are also preparing to implement regulations this month that will require digital platforms to remove posts containing hate speech, abuse, sexual violence, harassment, cyberbullying and other illegal content.

However, the cellphone ban, which will take effect on November 3, is already facing resistance in some parts of the country. Some parents fear being unable to communicate with their children amid ongoing violence, from which children and adolescents are not spared.

Sarfaraz expresses frustration over prolonged wait for India recall

PTI



Mumbai, Nov 2 : "Why should I work hard?" Middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan on Monday sounded bitter after improved fitness and consistent runs at domestic cricket failed to secure him a return to the Indian Test team.

Sarfaraz's last appearance in India whites came against New Zealand in 2024 at the Wankhede Stadium.

"So much has happened. I am not thinking much. I wake up every morning and ask myself the same question, 'why should I work hard?" Sarfaraz told reporters here after the first day's play of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy match against Railways. "The same routine starts at 5:00am in the morning... I have played for India. Even with a normal routine I can play Ranji Trophy for Mumbai, because I have been scoring those 30s, 50s and the 100s," he added. The 29-year-old said his father, Naushad Khan, remains his inspiration in tough times.

"But sometimes, the question pops up and when I see my father working hard, then I think 'okay, I will go out there and score for him.' I have the same routine.

"Everyone knows that if you want to meet Sarfaraz Khan you don't have to come to his home address but you can meet him either at the Azad Maidan or the Cross Maidan at 6:00am," he added.

