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SCAN TO VISIT

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Ruhullah quits NC, Lok Sabha on father's death anniversary

» Targets Omar Abdullah, accuses NC of breaking election promises

» Calls for new political movement, raises youth, jobs, reservation issues

» Asks Tufail Matoo's father to hand over resignation letter to Farooq Abdullah



Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Nov 03: In a major setback to the National Conference, Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday announced his exit from the party and said he was relinquishing his parliamentary position, while calling for a new political movement centred on dignity, principles and the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a large gathering at Behisht-e-Zehra Park in Budgam, Ruhullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), made the announcement at 2:40 pm, coinciding with the death anniversary of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi.

During his speech, Ruhullah asked Muhammad Ashraf Mattoo, father of 2010 protest victim Tufail Mattoo, to hand over his resignation to NC president Farooq Abdullah.

"Till now I was with the National Conference. Right now, I have got freedom from this National Conference and as an MP," Ruhullah said, announcing his departure from the party and decision to step down from Parliament.

Attacks Omar Abdullah

Launching a direct attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Ruhullah accused him of compromising on promises made to the people before the elections.

"I hope I never become so power-dependent that I have to sacrifice my dignity to retain a chair," he said.

He also accused the NC of using his popularity during elections and later failing to honour commitments made to voters.

Recalling the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Ruhullah said party leaders persuaded him to contest while he was abroad. He claimed Omar Abdullah later congratulated him on his victory and told him | More on P6

Ruhullah's speech 'manifestation' of his 'mental, moral bankruptcy': NC

- Accuses him of using abusive language against NC leadership
- Asks what he did in Parliament for J&K's special status
- Questions his selective stance, says 'theatrics' achieve nothing

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 03: Terming Aga Ruhullah's speech as a "manifestation" of his "mental, moral bankruptcy," and an example of his "self-obsession," National Conference on Tuesday accused him of using "derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary" language against the party leadership.

Reacting to Ruhullah's resignation speech, the NC spokesman, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) posted on X: "While invoking the holy Quran and the divine message of dignity and respect for human beings, Ruhullah's speech was full of derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary language against NC leadership. The language used by him only reflects who he is!"

Accusing the former Member Parliament of being "selective about choosing the issue," the NC spokesman said: "Since Aga Ruhullah has chosen to use the issue of special status and reservation to resign from NC, it's important to keep the record straight. He only remembered to resign when he was told to by the party president. The same way he only remembered 2010 today when it suited him. He is a man who happily remained in office as a minister in 2010 until he was removed in a general reshuffle. He was happy to fight elections in 2014 on JKNC ticket and didn't remember 2010 then. In fact he conveniently forgot all about it until 2026, 16 years later."

The NC | More on P6

'People's expectations betrayed'

KNO Correspondent

Member of Parliament from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday resigned from the National Conference, citing differences with the party leadership over its approach towards the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's rights following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Here's the full text of Aga Ruhullah's resignation letter to NC. I will begin my resignation letter with a note that meshes history with the present of | More on P6

'He has blessings of our people': Ram Madhav

Says NC visibly divided

Yogesh

BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav on Tuesday said Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who resigned from the National Conference (NC) and announced his decision to relinquish his Lok Sabha seat, held his Budgam rally with the blessings of "our people".

Addressing a press conference during his day-long visit to Jammu, Madhav, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer | More on P6

'Ideological differences': Congress, PDP on resignation

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Political reactions poured in on Tuesday after National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi announced his resignation from the party and his decision to relinquish his Lok Sabha seat. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Congress attributed his exit to ideological differences with the National Conference, while the PDP said resignations would not address the key issues facing Jammu and Kashmir. | More on P6

'J&K hydro power generation drops by nearly 80%'



Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 03: With the onset of winters, Hydro power generation in Jammu and Kashmir declines by nearly 80 percent—thus raising a question on supply to consumers during the peak winter season.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the hydel power generation from the J&K owned projects was fluctuating between 250-280 Megawatt (MW).

"During the past week, the average power generation from the local generation projects was fluctuating from 250-280 or 270-300 MW," the official said.

The official further said that the power generation usually declines in winters owing to the low water levels.

However, the official said that the Ministry of Power (MoP) is allocating some electricity from the central pool for J&K every year.

"Furthermore, from December-01 till February-2027, we are getting more 330 MW from the central pool that will compensate for the power demand to some extent during the peak season," the official said.

Earlier this news agency reported that | More on P6

Govt forms committee to strengthen ICU services across hospitals

Seeks action plan within 15 days

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 03: Following directions issued by the Supreme Court of India, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a high-level committee of specialists and stakeholders to oversee the implementation of prescribed guidelines for the organisation and delivery of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) services across the Union Territory.

According to Government Order No. 757-JK (HME) of 2026, dated November 3, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the committee has been tasked with identifying deficiencies in critical-care facilities across healthcare institutions and preparing a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to address them.

The move follows directions passed by the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 8402/2016, titled Asit Baran Mondal & Anr. Vs. Dr. Rita Sinha & Ors., particularly its orders dated May 20 and September 21, 2026, concerning the implementation of guidelines for the organisation and delivery of intensive care services.

The committee will assess the preparedness of healthcare institutions in providing Level-I, Level-II and Level-III ICU services and identify gaps in infrastructure, medical equipment, critical-care manpower, nursing staff, allied healthcare personnel, infection control and patient safety arrangements.

As per the order, the Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology/Critical Care at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu will head the committee, while representatives from the Critical Care Medicine Department of SKIMS Soura and GMC Srinagar will be among its members.

Heads of Anaesthesiology/Critical Care Departments of other government medical colleges, including GMC Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur and Handwara, have also been included in the panel.

The committee will further comprise the Additional Secretary (Law), Health and Medical | More on P6

Light rain, snowfall likely around Nov 5: MeT

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 03: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness light rainfall in parts of the region and snowfall over higher reaches around November 5, as a weak Western Disturbance is expected to affect the region, Meteorological Department Director Mukhtar Ahmad said on Tuesday.

Ahmad told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the weather system may cause light precipitation at isolated places, while most areas are expected to experience dry weather thereafter until November 9.

He said another Western Disturbance is likely to influence the region on November 10 and 11, with the possibility of light rain in some districts of Kashmir and Jammu divisions and light snowfall over higher-altitude areas.

Isolated thundershowers are also possible during the period, he said, adding that no major weather activity was anticipated under the prevailing forecast.

Meanwhile, temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir are gradually declining, with further drops expected in the coming days.

"Winter has almost set in," Ahmad said, noting that shallow fog was being observed over plains during morning hours.

He cautioned that reduced visibility due to fog could become more frequent in the coming days and weeks.

On agricultural operations, the MeT director advised farmers to continue harvesting and other field activities, including fresh sowing, threshing and preparation of fields, as weather conditions remained largely favourable.

He also | More on P6

CM Omar inspects construction of new Legislative Assembly Complex, Jammu

Directs timely completion of work, effective coordination among executing agencies

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 03: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inspected the ongoing construction of the New Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu and reviewed the progress of the prestigious project, stressing the need for its timely completion while ensuring the highest standards of quality.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was briefed by the concerned officers on the status of construction and the measures being undertaken to accelerate the pace of work.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need for effective coordination among the concerned departments and executing agency, systematic execution of works and strict adherence to prescribed specifications. He underscored the importance of completing the project within the stipulated timeline, given its significance as a key institutional infrastructure for Jammu and Kashmir.

The New Legislative Assembly Complex, being constructed at a revised estimated cost of 208.53 crore, has a total built-up area of 22,165 square metres. The project was initially taken up in 2012, but construction remained stalled since 2018.

The long-pending project was revived following the grant of revised administrative approval by the present Government in 2025, paving the way for the resumption of construction.

Under the Omar Abdullah-led Government, work on the project resumed on February 15, 2026, with October 31, 2027, fixed as the scheduled date of completion. An expenditure of 5.97 crore had been incurred on the project up to October 31, 2026.

The six-level complex will house a modern Assembly Hall, Central Hall, visitor and press galleries, committee rooms and advanced building management systems.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned departments and executing agency to maintain close coordination and ensure expeditious execution of the project without compromising on quality or the stipulated completion timeline.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional infrastructure and ensuring the timely completion of projects of public importance.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather; Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju; Secretary, Law Department, Achal Sethi; and other senior officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection.

TERROR **FUNDING** CASE

ED searches four Sgr locations

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 03: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at four premises in Srinagar city in connection with an ongoing investigation into alleged terror financing, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the investigation pertains to allegations that Umar Adil Dar was functioning as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and was involved in activities linked to the outfit.

He said Dar, along with his associates, was earlier apprehended while allegedly carrying a substantial amount of cash and incriminating literature related to the banned organisation.

The official further said that Dar had previously remained in jail for around four years in connection with his alleged involvement in separatist and anti-India activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The searches, | More on P6

Illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions

Commissioner SMC orders intensified crackdown

Withholds salaries of 3 Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 3: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has ordered an intensified enforcement drive against illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of municipal regulations across Srinagar, making it clear that officials who fail to act against such violations will also be held accountable.

The directions, as per an official statement, were issued during a comprehensive review meeting of the Enforcement Wing, chaired by the Commissioner Tuesday, to assess enforcement activities and take stock of action against violations across the city.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, Zone East & South and Joint Commissioner, Revenue, Zone West & North, Assistant Legal Remembrancer, Chief Enforcement Officer, Zonal Enforcement Officers and all Ward Officers.

Taking stock of the enforcement measures undertaken so far, the Commissioner called for stepped-up field inspections and closer supervision to ensure that illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of building permissions are dealt with promptly. He directed officers to act decisively on violations and ensure that complaints are not left unattended.

The Commissioner also directed the concerned Joint Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive verification of all ongoing and newly raised constructions within their respective jurisdictions to ascertain whether these conform to approved building permissions and municipal regulations. A definite timeline has been prescribed for completing the exercise, with the concerned officers directed to ensure thorough verification and submit compliance within the stipulated period.

Commissioner also directed for constitution of Enforcement cells under Joint Commissioners and formation of Flying Squads for quick response and verification of field reports. It was directed to develop an online platform for public to report grievances and violations.

The Commissioner made it clear that public spaces cannot be allowed to fall prey to encroachments and that no one would be permitted to undertake construction in violation of approved permissions. Enforcement, he stressed, must be uniform and impartial, irrespective of the individual or interests involved.

The Commissioner also took a firm view of accountability within the Enforcement Wing, directing supervisory officers to ensure that their respective jurisdictions remain under constant watch. He cautioned that any instance of negligence, dereliction of duty or deliberate failure to initiate action against violations would invite strict disciplinary action.

In a significant accountability measure, the Commissioner ordered withholding of the salaries of three Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities. The action underscores the Corporation's firm stance that supervisory and field-level officials will be held directly accountable for enforcement failures and any negligence in preventing or acting against illegal encroachments and unauthorised constructions.

Stressing the need to move beyond routine inspections, he called for sustained field-level enforcement, effective coordination among zonal and ward-level functionaries and visible action against violations on the ground.

While safeguarding public spaces, enforcing building regulations and ensuring compliance with municipal laws must remain among the Corporation's key priorities. The Commissioner directed the Enforcement Wing to deliver measurable results and ensure that municipal regulations are enforced in letter and spirit.

DC Anantnag reviews functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility at GMC Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday visited the In-Patient Department (IPD) of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to review the healthcare facilities and services being provided to patients.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took stock of the infrastructure, availability of essential medical facilities, deployment of doctors and specialists, patient flow, treatment procedures and overall functioning of the facility.

He also enquired about treatment outcomes and the measures in place to ensure effective and quality healthcare services.

It was informed that the 10-bedded ATF ward is functioning with requisite medical facilities to provide dedicated treatment and care to patients. Specialists have also been made available to ensure proper medical attention, diagnosis and treatment.

The DC, as per an official statement, stressed the importance of ensuring accessible, quality and patient-centric healthcare services. He emphasised that adequate medical staff, essential facilities and proper patient care mechanisms must be maintained for the effective functioning of the facility.

He assured that addiction treatment and rehabilitation services would be further strengthened, with a focus on timely medical intervention and providing a supportive environment for patients undergoing treatment.

The visit was aimed at assessing the ground-level functioning of the facility and ensuring that patients receive appropriate medical care and necessary healthcare support.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Mahima madan, CPO Tawseef Ahmad, SE Hydraulic, Superintendent of GMC, Executive Engineer R&B , Field functioners of R&B and other staff of GMC.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 held at GDC Kulgam

KT News Desk



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 03: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kulgam, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Tuesday organised the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 at Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; Principal GDC Kulgam, Prof. Mohd. Abbas Shah; Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Khushal Gupta, besides faculty members and students.

The programme featured deliberations by students on the theme "One Nation, One Election", providing young participants an opportunity to express their views, exchange ideas and engage in discussions on important democratic and governance-related issues. Addressing the gathering, DC Kulgam appreciated the initiative, describing it as an important platform for young people to put forth their views and participate in meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. He highlighted that selected participants would get an opportunity to present their ideas and views at the Legislative Assembly level and subsequently before Parliament.

The DC emphasised that such initiatives provide positive direction to youth engagement and help nurture leadership qualities among young people. He encouraged students to remain informed about national issues and develop critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork skills, observing that the energy, ideas and commitment of youth are vital to nation-building and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Deputy Director MY Bharat, highlighted the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 and stressed the importance of providing youth with platforms to express their views, engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the country's developmental journey.

Principal GDC Kulgam underscored the role of educational institutions in enhancing students' awareness, confidence and leadership abilities while nurturing responsible citizens.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

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

Corrigendum 01 for Date Extension

Name of work: Minor repairs to be conducted to the departmental Escorts make Backhoe loader Digmax of Machinery Division Kashmir

Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2026-27/26 Date:24-10-2026

(Tender ID: 2026_PWDJK_329239 _1)

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

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	02 - 11-2026 (18:55 hrs)	09-11-2026 upto 06:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	03 - 11-2026 (14:00 hrs)	10-11-2026 at 02:00 PM

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

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

No. MDSK/TS/3138-41 DIPK-7322/26 Dated: 03-11-2026 Date: 03-11-2026.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 |

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/27
Date	03.11.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned work: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid Security/EMD in (In Rs)	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing, fitting, testing and commissioning of Hydraulic pump for Escorts Farmtac 6090 snow cat tractor of Machinery Division Kashmir	50/-	40700/-	2035/-	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Acctt/26 of 2026-27 Dt.30.04.2026.	Sanctioned Vide No 19 of 2026-27 Dated; 03 /11/2026

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below :-

01	Publish date	03 -11-2026 (18:00hrs)
02	Date of start of downloading of bid document	03 -11-2026 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	03 -11-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	12 - 11-2026 (18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	13 - 11-2026 (14:00 hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

No: MDSK/ TS/3145-48
Date: 03 .11.2026

DIPK-7325/26
Dated: 03-11-2026

NOTICE

I Ashiq hussain Ganaie F/o usman Ashiq R/o Tujar pahle Har , Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my son's name from Usmain Aashiq to usman Ashiq for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 287729188395
Henceforth, he shall be known as usman Ashiq

NOTICE

I shareefa Begum M/o Mudasir Bashir R/o Ningly Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my son's name from Mudabir Bashir to Mudasir Bashir for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 453291594911
Henceforth, he shall be known as Mudasir Bashir

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name mentioned in Aadhaar card is RUHAMIYA which is wrong however my actual name is HAMANAH FATIMAH Now i intend to rectify my name in my aadhaar card. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the concerned authorities within a period of 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

HAMANAH FATIMAH D/O FAYAZ AHMAD
SHEIKH R/O KHAN PORA WAKURA GANDERBAL
ADHAAR CARD NUMBER .785247643081

PUBLIC NOTICE

This information is for the general public, that in my Daughter's J&K Bank Account Branch-Ganderbal bearing Account No. 0081040800028190, Her name was wrongly mentioned as SANIA SHAFI M/TF while actual/correct name is SANIYA SHAFI D/O: MOHAMMAD SHAFI TANTRAY R/O: GADOORA GANDERBAL 191131 as per her Aadhaar Card, Pan Card and School Admission Record, Now it needs to be corrected as per said Documents in my account number, Anybody having objection may contact J&K Bank Branch Ganderbal within (7) seven days No, objection shall be accepted after said time period.

MOHAMMAD SHAFI TANTRAY
F/O: SANIYA SHAFI
R/O: GADOORA GANDERBAL 191131
Contact: 6006751828

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 0205010001874. from GHULAM AHMAD NAJAR TO ALTAF AHMAD NAJAR If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision GANDERBAL PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name. ALTAF AHMAD NAJAR S/O GHULAM AHMAD NAJAR R/O BEEHAMA GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the mother's name of my son, namely *Abdul Mannan Ahangar, has been inadvertently mentioned as *"Rukhsana"* instead of *"Rukhsana Bashir"* in the school records maintained by **Ingenious School, Mallbagh, Srinagar*.
I intend to get the aforesaid discrepancy rectified in the school records. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same, along with supporting documents, before the concerned School In-charge/Head of the Institution, *Ingenious School, Mallbagh, Srinagar, within **seven (07) days* from the date of publication of this notice.
In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from the general public, and the matter may be processed accordingly.
Name of Parent: Rukhsana Bashir W/o Zia Ur Rehman Ahangar R/O Pandach 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 ABDUL HANNAN DARIAL S/D/W of SHAKEEL AHMED DARIAL Resident of KH NO-63 C-28/B 1ST FLOOR GATE NO.3 FREEDOM FIGHTER ENCLAVE NEB SARAI IGNOU DELHI SOUTH DL in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler /Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL12CE0494 Chassis No MALAM51CLBM1885495 Engine No. G41ABM646318 in favour of IRFAN FAROOQ SHEIKH S/D/W of; FAROOQ AHMAD SHEIKH Resident of WANIPORA SALOORA GANDERBAL 191131 (Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the Re-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
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/-
TAAZIM AHMAD PARRAY
S/o SHAMEEM AHMAD PARRAY
R/o TEHIPORA HARRAN Ganderbal

CM Omar distributes appointment letters to 17 candidates



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 03: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday distributed appointment letters to 17 candidates appointed in the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department here at the Civil Secretariat. The appointment letters were distributed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, Director Finance, R&B, and other concerned officers.The Chief Minister con gratulated the newly appointed candidates and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours.

He expressed hope that they would discharge their duties with dedication, sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility, contributing meaningfully to the functioning of the department and the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The appointees include eight Supervisors and eight Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) appointed under the RAS, while one candidate has been appointed under SRO-43.

Delegation calls on LG Sinha



Tarun Singla, Chairman, Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ), and President, Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various important matters pertaining to promotion of Trade and industry sector in the region.

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 03: Tarun Singla, Chairman, Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ), and President, Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and projected various important matters pertaining to promotion of Trade and industry sector in the region.

He also expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor led UT Administration for taking dedicated measures for the welfare of the local entrepreneurs.

J&K Tourism showcases offerings at WTM London 2026



KT News Desk

London, Nov 03: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism is participating in the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2026, being held at ExCeL London from November 3 to 5, with two dedicated stalls showcasing the Union Territory's diverse tourism offerings and emerging opportunities.

The Indian Pavilion at WTM London was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in the presence of Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir's participation at the prestigious international travel and tourism exhibition is aimed at showcasing its rich tourism potential, diverse destinations and unique visitor experiences to the global travel trade fraternity.

Several tourism stakeholders from Jammu and Kashmir are also participating in the event, providing an opportunity to engage with international tour operators, travel professionals and industry representatives, while exploring avenues for collaboration and expanding the region's presence in the global tourism market.

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism stalls have been witnessing an encouraging response from visitors and industry stakeholders, reflecting sustained interest in the Union Territory as a tourism destination.

Through its participation in WTM London, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism seeks to strengthen its international outreach, promote its diverse tourism products and establish new partnerships to position the Union Territory

Ruhullah's resignation

'Budgam turnout exceeded expectations'



Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Nov 03: Former National Conference (NC) leader and Srinagar Member Parliament (MP) Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday said the public gathering held in Budgam exceeded his expectations, asserting that people had participated voluntarily by spending their own time and money in support of what he described as principled politics.

Speaking to reporters at his residence, Ruhullah said the participants had not been mobilised by any political party or organised cadre, but had travelled from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir on their own.

"People had come from different areas, from Poonch to Kupwara, including Rajouri and Kishtwar. They spent their own money and time to participate. They were not brought by any party or political organisation," he said.

Mehdi said the gathering was not organised to celebrate any political achievement, but reflected the willingness of people to stand for principles and demand political accountability.

He called the public response an achievement not only for himself but also for the idea of principled politics, saying the turnout was beyond what he had anticipated.

Asked about his future political strategy and the time required to build a new political platform, Ruhullah said the process could take time and that he had not set any specific deadline in terms of months or years.

"There is no fixed timeline. If the right people come forward soon, the process will move quickly. If finding such people takes more time, the process will take that much time," he said.

Appealing to young people as well as senior citizens to come forward and shoulder responsibility, Aga Ruhullah said no individual had a monopoly over public leadership and that ordinary people could also contribute towards building an alternative political movement.

He urged people to come forward with commitment and work towards creating a political alternative based on principles, accountability and the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

MP's departure raises public expectations, attendees say

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Nov 03: Attendees at the public gathering organised by Srinagar Member Parliament (MP) Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi in Budgam on Tuesday welcomed his decision to resign from the National Conference (NC) and his parliamentary position, describing it as a significant political step while expressing hope that it would lead to a new movement focused on public issues and accountability.

Several participants said Ruhullah's decision had raised expectations among people, particularly the youth, who they believe have suffered due to prolonged political uncertainty and what they described as repeated political exploitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Aga Sahib has fulfilled a commitment made to people during the election campaign. His decision reflected his stated position that he would not remain associated with the party if it went against the promises made to the electorate," one of the participants said.

He said Kashmir had remained away from the political process for a considerable period, with young people and ordinary residents bearing the consequences of political experiments and exploitation

Any emerging political movement should provide space to people who had themselves suffered and remained affected by the prevailing circumstances, the participant said, adding that the involvement of honest and committed individuals was essential for meaningful change

Another participant Angad Singh Khalsa appreciated Mehdi for giving up his political position, describing the decision as a sacrifice

"I appreciate Aga Sahib for leaving the chair while beingin power. It is a big sacrifice, although people here have made even greater sacrifices by laying down their lives," Khalsa said.

Referring to Muhammad Ashraf Mattoo, father of Tufail Mattoo, who was handed Ruhullah's resignation during the gathering, Khalsa said the gesture reflected respect for a family that had been seeking justice since 2010.

He said Tufail Mattoo's family had yet to receive justice, adding that Ruhullah's decision to hand over his resignation through his father was a significant gesture.

Khalsa described the announcement as the beginning of a new political initiative and urged people to support leaders who, he said, were raising issues concerning the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Decision won't resolve J&K's political grievances: Muntazir Mehdi

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee



Budgam, Nov 03: Reacting to the resignation of Srinagar Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi from the National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi on Tuesday said it would not bring any immediate relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir or resolve the region's long-standing political grievances.

Muntazir said the issues concerning political rights, reservation and other challenges faced by the people cannot be resolved through the latest political developments.

"Whatever happens today, I do not think it will bring any relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The political grievances will remain unresolved, and the reservation issue, which has become like a volcano, will not be settled overnight," he said.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's political history since 1947, the PDP MLA alleged that successive political developments reflected attempts by the Centre to control the region's sentiments and aspirations.

He referred to political agreements between Delhi and Srinagar, the alleged rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections and the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, alleging that these developments had contributed to uncertainty and alienation in the region.

Muntazir further alleged that attempts were being made to create political uncertainty in Jammu and Kashmir despite the mandate given by people in the 2024 Assembly elections, which, he said, was intended to address their long-pending grievances. Claiming that the growing public inclination towards the PDP was not being welcomed by certain quarters, he alleged that efforts were being made to create confusion and political instability to prevent people from turning towards the party.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Gridlock forces Sopore Mandi produce halt till Wednesday

KNO

Sopore, Nov 03: Amid mounting traffic congestion, the Fruit Mandi Sopore has suspended fresh arrivals till Wednesday 10 PM, while the vital Sopore Bypass Bridge is expected to reopen on November 5.

President, Fruit Mandi Sopore, Fayaz Ahmed Malik, popularly known as Kaka Ji said that the mandi has reached its capacity and no fresh produce-laden vehicles would be allowed entry until the existing congestion is cleared.

"We have already packed the mandi. Once the existing congestion is cleared, fresh arrivals will be allowed. No produce will be permitted to enter the mandi till tomorrow 10 PM," Malik said.

He said the continued closure of the bypass bridge has aggravated the traffic situation in Sopore, affecting the movement of vehicles, particularly those transporting horticultural produce.

Meanwhile, the bridge is expected to be thrown open on November 5, with stakeholders expressing hope that its reopening would facilitate smoother vehicular movement.

The Sopore Bypass Bridge is a crucial connectivity link that helps divert heavy traffic away from the town, particularly vehicles travelling between Kupwara and Srinagar. Its closure for repair work has forced commuters and transporters to use alternative routes through Sopore, adding to traffic congestion.

The disruption has come at a crucial time for the horticulture sector, with the fruit mandi witnessing considerable movement of apple consignments during the ongoing marketing season.

The reopening of the bridge is expected to ease pressure on the town's roads and improve transportation of fruit consignments, providing much-needed relief to growers, traders and transporters—(KNO)

High-density apples 'replace' paddy for profits

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 03: Kashmir's traditional agricultural landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, with an increasing number of farmers abandoning paddy cultivation in favour of high-density apple orchards, driven by better returns, early fruit production and changing market preferences.

The shift is particularly visible in low-lying areas of Kashmir, where vast stretches of land once dominated by paddy are gradually being converted into apple orchards.

In several villages of Pulwama district, including Niloora and Nowpora in the Shahoora area of Litter Tehsil, farmers said the proportion of land under paddy cultivation has declined dramatically. According to local estimates, paddy cultivation, which once covered nearly 95 per cent of the agricultural land in these villages, has now been reduced to approximately 10 to 15 per cent in just a few years.

Growers said that the trend is largely influenced by the comparatively higher economic returns from high-density apple varieties, which begin producing fruit within a short period and allow farmers to recover their investment earlier than traditional plantations.

"Earlier, almost every household in our village was associated with paddy cultivation. The fields would remain covered with paddy crops during the summer and autumn. However, things have changed considerably. Today, only a small portion of the land is being used for paddy, while the remaining area has been converted into apple orchards," a grower from Niloora said.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Kashmir Thunder

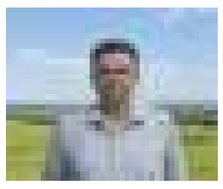
EDITORIAL

Pause, Verify, Report

A video call comes. On the screen is a man in police uniform, holding what looks like an official ID card. He says your Aadhaar is linked to a serious crime. He warns you not to tell anyone. He tells you to transfer money to prove you are innocent. Many people, even educated ones, have believed this and lost their savings. This is the "digital arrest" scam, and it is spreading. The first thing to remember is simple: there is no law in India that allows the police to arrest you over a video call. No genuine officer will demand money to clear your name. If someone does, it is a fraud. End the call. Do not argue. Do not explain. Just stop. The second thing is to verify. Do not use the number the caller gives you. Look up the official number of the police station or the agency yourself, and call them. Ask a family member. Ask a friend. Break the isolation the fraudster is trying to create. Fear works best when a person is alone and in a hurry. Forensic science can help catch these criminals. Digital records, call logs, bank transactions and money trails can be traced. But investigation takes time, and money once gone is hard to recover. So, prevention is better than cure. The cybercrime helpline 1930 and the portal cybercrime.gov.in exist for this purpose. Report quickly. Every minute matters. Banks, schools and the media must also do their part. Awareness is the cheapest and strongest defence. A simple message should reach every household: a uniform on a screen proves nothing, a threatening voice proves nothing, and an official-looking document can be fake. In the end, the best protection is a moment of calm. Pause. Verify. Report. A few seconds of clear thinking can save a lifetime of savings.

The Awards Are On The Wall; The Waste Is Still In The Tawi

Biomedical waste disposal needs urgent review, and dependence on a single private facility must be reduced by creating additional facilities across Jammu province. Plugging the loopholes in the system and closing all gaps is Jammu's next and most important cleanliness test—because a city may keep its streets visually clean while its river absorbs the waste moved out of public view.



Anuj Kumar Verma

There is no denying that cleanliness in Jammu city has improved markedly over the past couple of years. Better waste logistics, GPS-tracked garbage vehicles, biometric attendance for sanitation staff, ward-level air-quality initiatives, and new composting and bio-CNG facilities reflect determined civic action. In Swachh Survekshan 2024–25, Jammu leapt from 248th to 42nd among Indian cities in the 3–10 lakh population category and was named the cleanest city in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yet the real test lies beyond awards: can Jammu close the gap between visible street-level hygiene and invisible systemic failures in waste processing, source segregation, and river pollution?

Progress, but a widening gap

Jammu generates about 374–380 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) daily, according to government Monthly Progress Reports to the National Mission for Clean Ganga. While the Municipal Corporation claims near-complete door-to-door collection and substantial scientific processing, official data and audit findings point to a persistent shortfall. About 164 tonnes of wet waste and roughly 130–160 tonnes of dry waste are reported processed daily, leaving a gap of around 50–80 tonnes that may remain untreated or unaccounted for.

This gap could have been largely eliminated had bulk waste generators complied with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (and the 2026 update). The rules are clear: households and bulk generators—large housing societies, gated colonies, hotels, hospitals, and commercial establishments—must segregate wet, dry and hazardous waste and, wherever possible, compost wet waste on site. According to data confirmed by the Health Officer, JMC, there are 163 bulk waste generators within JMC limits; of these, only about 20 are fully compliant, while the rest are at various stages of notices, penalties or corrective action. Most have not constructed segregation sheds or halls; only a few have purchased composting machines, and even these remain ineffective where wet and dry waste arrive mixed.

The JMC must move beyond routine notices: impose penalties transparently within fixed timelines, publish ward-wise compliance data, and compel bulk generators to construct segregation facilities and operate composting units immediately.

A division-wide leakage of waste and money

The problem is not confined to Jammu. Official data indicate that hundreds of tonnes of urban waste remain unprocessed daily across Jammu and Kashmir. The Comptroller and Auditor General's audit (period ended March 2022) found that source segregation was not being carried out in 17 sampled urban local bodies during 2017–22, while more than 103 crore in user charges remained uncollected. As of March 2022, 18.35 lakh metric tonnes of unprocessed waste lay in the open at dumping sites in eight sampled ULBs, including Jammu and Srinagar.

Kot Bhalwal remains the centre of Jammu's waste crisis, but the absence of an operational authorised engineered landfill in the Jammu Division increases the risk of continued unscientific dumping. Bioremediation work has been awarded for a major share of the legacy waste at Kot Bhalwal and seven other ULBs, but detailed, publicly available data on legacy clearance, fresh-waste inflow, compost output, bio-CNG production and residual disposal are still lacking. This could make Kot Bhalwal a genuine resource-recovery hub—but only if these flows are measured and published regularly.

Composting without data is not accountability

Composting of wet waste is reported at three sites—Kot Bhalwal, Narwal Mandi and Bandurakh—but the system runs without public data. There is a need maintain transparent data about daily waste composted at all three locations, the quantity of manure produced, and how that manure is disposed of or used alongwith quantities and locations, where sold or despatched. Without these basic numbers, composting remains a claim, not a verifiable public service.



Cutting single-use plastics at source

The three principles of waste management—Recycle, Reuse and Reduce—must be adhered to completely. Packaged drinking-water bottles and plastic milk pouches are major contributors to municipal waste; waste characterisation studies in Indian cities suggest they can account for roughly a quarter of the total stream. The Housing and Urban Development Department should consider proposing a ban on packaged drinking-water plastic bottles up to two litres and require milk suppliers to shift to biodegradable pouches, for which commercially viable alternatives exist elsewhere in India. Many regions in India and abroad have successfully implemented bans on packaged water bottles up to 500 ml or 1 litre. Purified water fountains need to be installed at short intervals, with regular water testing and public awareness campaigns encouraging people to carry steel, glass or earthen water bottles.

Strong enforcement is also needed against polythene bags below 120 microns, especially in fruit and vegetable markets, rural areas and semi-urban markets. The government should also ban covering of sweet boxes by sweet vendors by polythene films. These steps would reduce single-use plastics and prevent waste from entering drains, open spaces and the Tawi.

Biomedical waste: enforcement must match risk

Biomedical waste disposal needs urgent review. One private-sector startup at Swankha Morh, Samba, has operated as a Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) for about a decade; a second is under construction. Biomedical waste from other cities is ferried to this facility, a difficult process with risks of leakage and non-compliance by some private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, pathological laboratories and dialysis centres.

According to the JKPCC's Annual Report on Biomedical Waste Management for 2025, healthcare facilities in Jammu and Kashmir recorded 6,725 violations in 2025 (3,587 in Jammu; 3,138 in Kashmir). During the year, 730 show-cause notices/directions were issued to healthcare facilities (595 in Jammu; 135 in Kashmir), one direction was issued to a CBWTF in Jammu, and 206 closure orders were issued in Jammu (23 in Kashmir). These figures show that enforcement action is being taken, but dependence on a single private facility must be reduced by creating additional facilities across Jammu province, in either the private or public sector. The JMC Commissioner and Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee should personally lead and monitor verification of machinery, capacity and compliance.

The Tawi contradiction

The most serious contradiction lies in the Tawi. Official monitoring records under the National Green Tribunal process identify most of the 26 drains carrying untreated sewage and other waste into the river. A city may keep its streets visually clean while its river absorbs the waste moved out of public view. The Tawi is not a drain; it is Jammu's ecological, cultural and hydrological lifeline.

All 26 Tawi-bound drains must be intercepted and treated, with clear timelines and public monitoring. Jammu's progress is real, but so are its gaps. The awards are on the wall; the waste is still in the Tawi. Plugging the loopholes in the system and closing all gaps is Jammu's next and most important cleanliness test.

Anuj Kumar Verma is a Jammu-based Environment Advocate and Policy Writer. He is convenor of We The Humans Forum for Nature and Mankind, a public charitable trust. Email: verma.anujjk@gmail.com

Why We Delay Important Decisions

Understanding what drives delay can make big decisions easier to face

Ryan C. Warner

I'm sure you can relate to putting off an important decision until next week, then the week after that, and then the week after that. Maybe you need to decide where you would like to relocate, choose a healthcare provider, or determine whether to move forward with an important medical procedure. You know the decision needs your attention, but you keep finding reasons to wait.

Most of us may think of procrastination as putting things off because we are busy or lack motivation. However, what if we are not avoiding the task itself, but the uncertainty that comes with making a decision? Oftentimes, the most difficult part is not knowing what to do, but accepting that we cannot predict how things will turn out.

Escaping Discomfort

Experts argue that one reason this happens is negative reinforcement. When avoiding something uncomfortable brings relief, our brains will likely desire to avoid it again. Consider, for example, when a deadline gets pushed back. In the moment, you may feel better knowing you have more time to complete the task at hand, even though you know that the work still needs to get done. Delaying an important decision can have the same effect. We may receive temporary relief, however the decision still remains unresolved.

In my work with people facing difficult life decisions, I have seen how the desire to avoid making the wrong choice can become a significant barrier. People may spend considerable time weighing possibilities, seeking reassurance, and revisiting the same concerns.

Why We Keep Looking For The Best Choice

Another reason important decisions can be difficult to make is that we want to make the best possible choice. Experts describe this tendency as maximizing. It involves searching for the best available option, rather than choosing one that meets our needs and priorities. Wanting to make a good decision is reasonable, but constantly searching for something better can make it harder to settle on an option.

Let's think about someone deciding whether to relocate for a new job. The opportunity they are considering may offer better pay and career growth, however accepting it could mean leaving family, familiar surroundings, and comfort. They may continue comparing options and questioning whether another opportunity would have been better, even after obtaining enough information to inform their decision.

Recent research offers some insight into this pattern. For instance, in a 2024 study, researchers examined how people with maximizing tendencies estimate the time they spend making decisions. Results showed that "maximizers" tended to underestimate how much time they spent comparing and reconsidering their options. They likely don't realize they are making decision-making harder not easier for themselves.

When More Choices Make It Harder To Decide

Making a decision becomes even more challenging when we are faced with too many options to select from. For instance, someone who has decided to undergo a medical procedure, but must choose how to pay for it, has to decide on using a credit card, applying for a medical credit line, choosing an in-house payment plan, or financing through a third-party company, which adds another decision to an already important one.

One emerging example in the healthcare industry is "first-look financing." An article by Cherry describes how this concept introduces one preferred financing option first while keeping other options available. This approach reflects choice architecture, which examines how the presentation of choices can influence people's decisions.

For example, after a patient agrees to move forward with a medical procedure, the clinic might first explain its preferred third-party financing option, including the monthly payment and application process. If the patient is not comfortable with that option, the provider can then discuss other options, such as an in-house payment plan or using a credit card.

Practical Steps To Move Forward

Here are a few ways to make important decisions feel more manageable:

Start with one small step. When a decision feels overwhelming, try to avoid focusing on everything that needs to happen at once. Identify one manageable action, such as making a phone call, gathering information from a trusted friend, or scheduling an appointment. Taking that first step can make the larger decision feel less difficult.

Narrow your options. You do not need to explore every possibility available. Instead, try to focus on two or three realistic choices and identify what matters most to you at that moment. Setting a reasonable boundary on how much time you spend researching can help prevent you from repeatedly comparing the same options.

Aim for a "good-enough" decision. We often want to feel certain that we are making the right choice. However, waiting for an option with no disadvantages can keep us from moving forward. Look for a choice that meets your needs and makes sense for your current situation. You can only make the best decision possible with the information you have at the time.

Recognize when you are avoiding the decision. Ask yourself whether you genuinely need more information or whether you are putting off the decision because you feel uncomfortable with the uncertainty. A question to ask could be: "Am I waiting because I need more information, or because I'm concerned that I will make the wrong decision?"

The Bottom Line

Putting off important decisions is something many of us experience, especially when we are uncertain about what may happen next. Avoiding a decision can make us feel better temporarily, but it does not necessarily make the situation easier. Ultimately, we do not have to find the perfect option or know exactly how everything will turn out before moving forward. Sometimes, making a good-enough decision and taking one small step at a time is what can help us move past the uncertainty.

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DIGITISATION OF LAND RECORDS

Sagar emphasises expeditious strengthening of Revenue administration

Advocates scientific preservation of historical documents, filling of grassroots level vacancies

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department, Law, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Tuesday emphasised upon the Revenue Department to expedite the process of digitisation and verification of land records.

Sagar, as per an official statement, stressed on making the Settlement Wing fully functional and strengthening the revenue administration at the grassroots level. He directed for ensuring scientific preservation of historical revenue documents. He called for a time-bound action plan to address the infrastructure and manpower deficiencies, particularly in remote and far-flung areas. He directed the officers to ensure transparent, accessible and hassle-free delivery of revenue services to the public.

Speaking at a review meeting of the Revenue Department, the Minister stressed that digitisation must be backed by proper verification and authentication of records, adequate field-level infrastructure and effective monitoring so that the ongoing reforms translate into tangible benefits for the citizens. He directed the officers to strengthen coordination with elected representatives and establish an effective mechanism for addressing public grievances and area-specific problems.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Revenue, Avny Lavasa; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; Custodian General; Inspector General of Registration; Additional Deputy Commissioners; Assistant Commissioners Revenue (ACRs); Tehsildars and other senior and field-level officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a detailed assessment of various aspects of revenue administration, with focus on digitisation of land records, settlement operations, preservation of historical revenue documents, strengthening of field-level infrastructure, manpower requirements and streamlining of citizen services.

Emphasising that modernisation of the Revenue Department must translate into tangible benefits for the common people, Sagar stressed that digitisation should not be confined to mere conversion of physical records into electronic formats. Instead, it must ensure accuracy, authenticity, transparency and easy accessibility of land records thereby reducing procedural delays and eliminating unnecessary hardships for citizens.

He underscored the need to strengthen the grassroots revenue administration, particularly in remote and far-flung areas, where inadequate infrastructure, electricity supply, internet connectivity, computers and other essential technical facilities continue to impede the digitisation process. He stressed that every Patwar Halqa must be equipped with the requisite electronic infrastructure to ensure that people in even the remotest areas can access digital revenue services without difficulty.

The Minister also called for making the Settlement Wing fully functional and operational, observing that settlement activities must progress simultaneously with digitisation. He emphasised the importance of proper verification, authentication, updating and reconciliation of land records to ensure that digitised data is accurate and free from discrepancies.

Taking note of the condition of historical revenue records, Sagar called for strengthening Mahafiz Khanas with adequate infrastructure, trained manpower and modern preservation facilities to safeguard valuable historical documents, including Lathas, Jamabandis, Massavis and other traditional revenue records.

The issue of missing, damaged, incomplete and untraceable revenue records also figured prominently during the deliberations.

The Minister stressed the need for a systematic, transparent and time-bound mechanism to identify, retrieve and reconstruct such records through authentic historical references, settlement documents and other verifiable sources. He made it clear that no unverified or unauthenticated entries should find their way into digitised land records.

On the manpower front, the Minister emphasised the need to address staff shortages at the grassroots level, particularly at the Patwari, Girdawar and Naib Tehsildar level. He observed that strengthening the administrative structure at the Tehsildar level alone would not serve the intended purpose unless adequate supporting manpower was also available in the field. He also stressed the need for proper office accommodation and essential facilities in Patwar and Girdawar Khanas, especially in underserved and remote areas.

Reviewing the delivery of routine revenue services, Sagar called for timely mutation entries, correction of discrepancies, maintenance of updated records and an effective grievance-redressal mechanism. He stressed that citizens must not be made to undertake repeated visits to government offices or face avoidable delays while obtaining essential revenue documents and services.

The Minister also underlined the importance of institutionalising regular consultation and coordination with MLAs, elected representatives and other public stakeholders. He said their active involvement was essential in identifying area-specific issues relating to disputed and missing land records, settlement operations, infrastructure deficiencies, manpower shortages and public grievances.

Sagar stressed that the benefits of ongoing reforms must reach ordinary citizens, particularly those living in remote and far-flung areas, through simplified procedures and time-bound delivery of services.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of GMC Jammu

Stresses on optimal utilisation of Golden Hour for saving precious lives



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday conducted surprise inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to take first-hand assessment of the healthcare facilities, patient care arrangements and overall functioning of the premier healthcare institution.

During the inspection, the Minister, as per an official statement, visited various sections of the hospital, particularly the Emergency wing, and took stock of the availability of medical facilities, functioning of essential services, patient management arrangements and the overall cleanliness and sanitation measures.

She also interacted with the patients and their attendants, and took first hand appraisal from them about the services being provided at this health facility.

Emphasising on the critical importance of an efficient and responsive Emergency healthcare system, the Minister directed the hospital administration to further strengthen emergency facilities, ensure round-the-clock availability of essential medical services and maintain adequate deployment of doctors, paramedical staff and other supporting personnel.

She stressed that Emergency services constitute the most crucial component of any healthcare institution and must function with utmost efficiency, promptness and sensitivity, particularly in cases requiring immediate medical intervention.

"The first few minutes of a medical emergency can make the difference between life and death. Every patient reaching the hospital in an emergency must receive immediate attention, without any avoidable delay. Our priority should be to save precious lives through timely intervention, coordinated response and efficient utilisation of available resources", the Minister said.

The Minister also underscored the importance of effectively utilising the Golden Hour in emergency and trauma cases, calling for a coordinated mechanism to ensure prompt assessment, diagnosis and initiation of treatment.

She directed the concerned authorities to streamline emergency response protocols, minimise procedural delays and strengthen coordination among doctors, nursing staff, diagnostic units and other allied departments to ensure that critical patients receive timely and appropriate treatment.

"Golden Hour management should not remain confined to guidelines, it must translate into immediate action on the ground. Every minute is valuable when a patient is critically ill or injured. The hospital administration must ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place so that no precious time is lost in initiating treatment", she emphasised.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Minister also held a meeting with the Administration of the GMC Jammu.

During the meeting, the Minister called for sustained and visible improvements in cleanliness and sanitation across all hospital areas, including wards, corridors, washrooms, waiting areas and the Emergency section. She stressed that maintaining a hygienic hospital environment is fundamental to patient safety, infection prevention and quality healthcare delivery.

Directing the administration to adopt a more vigilant approach towards sanitation, she called for regular monitoring of cleanliness arrangements, proper disposal of biomedical waste and accountability of the agencies and personnel entrusted with sanitation-related responsibilities.

"Cleanliness in a hospital is not merely an administrative requirement but an essential part of patient care. A clean and hygienic environment is vital for preventing infections and ensuring the safety and comfort of patients, attendants and healthcare workers. There should be no compromise on this front," the Minister maintained.

During her interaction with doctors, medical staff and hospital administrators, Sakeena Itoo stressed that GMC Jammu, being one of the major tertiary healthcare institutions of the region, carries a significant responsibility in providing accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to people.

The Minister also stressed the need for optimal utilisation of available infrastructure, equipment and human resources, ensuring that facilities created for public welfare are put to maximum use for the benefit of patients.

She impressed upon the hospital administration to maintain close supervision of patient care services and take timely corrective measures wherever deficiencies are noticed.

"The people come to government hospitals with immense trust and expectations. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that this trust is upheld through quality treatment, timely services, proper facilities and a compassionate approach. Every patient deserves dignity, attention and the best possible care", she maintained.

SARAS Mela Kashmir concludes, records impressive business

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 03: The 10-day SARAS Mela 2025 concluded Tuesday here at poloview Park celebrating India's unity in diversity and promoting women entrepreneurship nationwide.

The Mela, as per an official statement, which began here at the poloview park Srinagar on 25th October continued till Tuesday, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country.

More than 200 women artisans from different parts of rural India participated and showcased their products on 80 stalls provided by the JKRLM for exhibition and sale. women from self-help groups from 17 states /UTs displayed handicraft, handloom and natural food items from different rural areas in the vibrant stalls handled and managed by Women SHG members.

Some of the prominent items displayed at the stalls were the handmade cloth from Jammu-Kashmir with sozni and ariwork, Kutchi handloom from Gujurat ,Phulkari suits from Punjab ,Pickles from Lakshwadeep, Pochampalli Ikkat from Telengana, Sambhalpuri from odisha, Kantha from West Bengal and many more .

Addressing the gathering at the closing ceremony, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma, expressed satisfaction over the successful culmination of the Mela, highlighting the encouraging sales, participation of women entrepreneurs from different States/UTs and the overall coordination of the event.

She remarked, "This year's SARAS Mela has recorded encouraging sales, while the participation of different States and UTs has made it a truly enriching experience. She added,"the very purpose of organising the SARAS Mela has been fulfilled. Beyond business and the showcasing of products, the Mela has provided a shared platform where SHG members from across the country have come together, built bonds of friendship, shared experiences and explored opportunities for mutual learning and economic gains."

Dr Shubhra Sharma also expressed her gratitude to the line departments for their active participation and support throughout the Mela. She particularly acknowledged the media for its coverage and for helping bring the stories, products and entrepreneurial efforts of rural women to a wider audience.

The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions. In the awards category, Rajashtan secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category.

The closing ceremony was attended by Additional Mission Director JKRLM Syed Naseer Ahmad, State project Managers JKRLM besides other staff members of the Mission

Finance Minister convenes review meeting on fiscal position, revenue performance, financial reforms

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Minister for Finance, Agriculture Production, Mining and Cooperative Departments Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday chaired introductory cum review meeting on the fiscal position, revenue performance, expenditure management and ongoing financial reforms in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar, Director General, Accounts & Treasuries, Director General ,Resources, Director General Codes, Joint Director Codes, Deputy Director, Resources and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

The meeting, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed review of the overall financial position of the Union Territory with emphasis on revenue mobilisation, strengthening of own-resource generation, efficient financial management, expenditure monitoring, debt management, digitalisation of financial systems and implementation of key reform initiatives.

The Finance Minister took note of the positive growth in Jammu and Kashmir's own revenue collection, which has reached 13,628 crore up to October 2026, registering an increase of 14.8 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. The tax revenue has recorded growth of 15.2 per cent while non-tax revenue has increased by 13 per cent, reflecting sustained improvement in revenue mobilisation. Overall, the own revenues increased by around 1,751 crore upto ending October, 2026.

The meeting also noticed the significant improvement in GST collections, with GST contributing substantially to the overall increase in revenue. Revenue augmentation measures, including improved GST return compliance, enhanced billing efficiency, increased dealer registration, e-stamping and transparent excise auctions, were appreciated as important initiatives towards strengthening the revenue base.

The meeting also reviewed initiatives for creating new sources of non-tax revenue, including the proposed Carbon Credit Trading Policy, which seeks to leverage Jammu & Kashmir's hydropower, forestry and clean-energy assets and is expected to generate an additional revenue stream.

Javid Dar appreciated various financial reforms undertaken by the Finance Department for improving the financial efficiency and optimising the cost of public borrowing. He lauded the positive impact of power-sector reforms, which are expected to improve the revenue realisation and generate savings in power-related expenditure. The initiatives undertaken for timely settlement of liabilities and improvement in financial liquidity with settlement of GPF claims and contractor liabilities within 10 days, facilitating faster payments and supporting economic activity were appreciated by the Minister.

The meeting took note of the accelerated processing and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with Mother Sanctions and the corresponding UT share being released within 48 hours, thereby facilitating timely implementation of development programmes.

Javid Dar assessed the progress on the ongoing digital transformation of financial management in Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of IFMIS 3.0 and Works Activity Monitoring System (WAMS. He directed the officers to reduce avoidable recurring expenditure, control committed liabilities and improve the quality of public spending. He stressed on the need to strengthen own tax and non-tax revenue, plug leakages and improve collection efficiency across departments.

KU, IMHANS hold workshop on life skills for substance abuse prevention, care

KT News Desk



Srinagar, November 3: The National Service Scheme (NSS), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Child Guidance and Well-being Centre and the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS-K), Srinagar, organised a one-day workshop on "Life Skills for Substance Abuse Prevention and Care" at the Main Campus on Tuesday.

The workshop, as per a KU statement, aimed to help young people understand the risks associated with substance use and develop practical life skills to make informed choices, manage stress and deal with difficult situations. It also focused on early identification of warning signs, reducing stigma around addiction and encouraging young people to seek timely help and support.

Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, emphasised the importance of creating a supportive environment in which young people can develop the confidence and life skills to make healthy choices.

She underscored the role of universities in promoting awareness, well-being and access to timely support.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that substance abuse among young people requires sustained awareness, early intervention and support from educational institutions, families and communities.

In his address Professor, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Arshid Hussain, highlighted the importance of life skills in helping young people respond to social and emotional challenges. He said that skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making can help individuals recognise risks and resist situations that may lead to substance use.

In his remarks Head, Drug De-addiction Centre, GMC Srinagar Dr. Yasir Ahmad Rather, said that life skills are an evidence-based approach to substance abuse prevention as they help individuals develop healthy coping mechanisms, emotional regulation and resilience.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Programme Coordinator NSS KU, Dr. Wakar Amin, said that the workshop was organised to make students aware of the risks associated with substance use and help them develop skills that support healthy choices.

The day-long workshop featured technical sessions by resource persons from IMHANS-K on understanding substance use and addiction, early warning signs and risk factors among youth and pathways to care and support.

The sessions also included practical training in stress and emotion management, coping strategies, decision-making and resilience.

An interactive session allowed participants to discuss their concerns and seek guidance from the experts. The programme concluded with a collective 'Say No to Drugs' pledge.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Yasir Hamid, Programme Officer, NSS KU, who also proposed the vote of thanks.

Kashmir Thunder

Minister Rana stresses food security, transparency, consumer protection

Reviews functioning of FCS&CA Dept

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 03: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Tuesday chaired his maiden review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting reviewed the overall functioning of the department, ongoing reforms and key initiatives including Public Distribution System (PDS) and Legal Metrology, with focus on strengthening food security, improving public service delivery and safeguarding consumer interests.

The officers presented a comprehensive overview of the department's functioning, highlighting the reforms undertaken to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS), enhance transparency and improve service delivery through technology-driven interventions. They apprised of the functioning, achievements and initiatives of the Legal Metrology wing, which plays a vital role in protecting consumer rights and promoting fair trade practices.

The Minister was apprised of various measures introduced to make the Public Distribution System more transparent, accessible and beneficiary-friendly. He was also informed about the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen consumer protection and promote fair trade practices through effective implementation of the Legal Metrology Act and its associated rules.

While reviewing the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Rana appreciated the efforts being made towards modernising and streamlining the Public Distribution System. He stressed the need for sustained coordination with the Government of India to further augment foodgrain allocations



and address the requirements of the people, particularly vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

The Minister emphasised that every deserving beneficiary must be brought within the ambit of the Public Distribution System. He directed the department to take all necessary measures to ensure that no eligible household is left out of the welfare net. He said that the Government is committed to ensure food security for all sections of society and making the delivery mechanism more convenient, transparent and hassle-free for beneficiaries. He called for continued improvements in the system to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Reviewing the functioning of the Legal Metrology Department, the Minister was apprised of its activities and achievements in protecting consumer rights, promoting fair trade practices and ensuring compliance with prescribed standards of weights and measures.

The officers informed that all departmental services have been made available online through the J&K Single Window platform to promote transparency, accessibility and efficient service delivery. The department has also undertaken consumer awareness programmes to educate people about their rights, relevant legal provisions and remedies available under the Legal Metrology Act and the Consumer Protection Act.

During 2025-26, the department conducted 53,144 inspections, registered 2,952 cases and generated revenue of 538.62 lakh, achieving 108 per cent of its annual target.

The officers also highlighted the J&K Government Approved Test Centres Rules, 2026, which provide for third-party verification of weights and measures. The department ranks third on the J&K Single Window System in terms of online applications received and disposed of, with an average processing time of 11 days.

As part of its outreach initiatives, the department organised 485 verification camps, 764 consumer awareness programmes and 807 trader workshops during the year. It also plans to hold interactive sessions with trader associations to promote voluntary compliance and strengthen stakeholder engagement.

Appreciating the department's efforts, Rana emphasised the importance of accuracy and transparency in commercial transactions, particularly in ensuring correct dispensing of fuel at petrol pumps and accurate measurement of packaged commodities. He called for strengthening enforcement mechanisms and ensuring strict adherence to prescribed standards across commercial establishments.

The Minister also reviewed the functioning of the Secondary Standards Laboratory and other departmental laboratories. He was briefed on their functioning and the role of specialised equipment in ensuring precision and reliability in the verification and calibration of weights and measures.

Stressing the need for continuous technological upgradation and modernisation of laboratory infrastructure, Rana said that well-equipped laboratories are essential for strengthening enforcement, maintaining accuracy and protecting consumer interests.

The Minister called upon the officers to maintain close monitoring of departmental activities, ensure timely achievement of targets and further strengthen public-oriented services. He also stressed the need to simplify procedures and facilitate the trading community through improved ease of doing business, while ensuring that consumer interests remain paramount.

The meeting was attended by Controller, Legal Metrology Shiv Kumar Gupta, Director General FCS & CA Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, Joint Director, Minakshi Vaid, Deputy Director, Sham Lal Abrol, Deputy Director Jyoti, Rehana Tabassam, Assistant Controller, Legal Metrolog, Jaideep, Singh, Kewal Krishan, Mohd Muzaffer Wani and Mohsin Khateeb.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Ruhullah quits NC

he had saved the party's honour after the NC leader's own electoral defeat.

Alleges NC Failed To Keep Promises

Ruhullah accused the NC government of abandoning key election promises after coming to power, including commitments related to Article 370, reservation issues, release of prisoners, free electricity and removal of smart meters.

Questioning the party's approach towards the Centre, he asked: "Why are you afraid of the BJP? Why don't you fight for your people?"

Referring to reported remarks by Farooq Abdullah on Article 370, Ruhullah said the party should have been forthright with voters if it believed restoration of the provision was no longer possible.

Raises Youth, Jobs And Reservation Issues

Ruhullah also criticised the government's handling of issues concerning students, unemployment and youth welfare, alleging that public concerns had not received adequate attention.

He accused the Chief Minister of showing greater urgency in pursuing positions for associates than in addressing concerns related to prisoners, unemployment and other public issues.

Calls For New Political Platform

In a key section of his address, Ruhullah appealed for the formation of a new political platform involving youth from both Jammu and Kashmir.

He said his aim was not to leave one party for another but to bring together people committed to protecting the dignity and interests of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of region, religion or community.

"I need honest people, youth from both Jammu and Kashmir," he said, urging families to encourage young people to participate in public life.

He said the initiative should represent all communities, including Kashmiris, Dogras, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others, and suggested that participants themselves decide its future structure and name.

"The new journey has begun," he declared.

Criticises Centre

Ruhullah also criticised the BJP-led Union government, alleging that minority rights were being undermined and asserting that Jammu and Kashmir should determine its own political priorities.

"Now we will set the agenda, the Centre will not set it for us," he said.

He further criticised the Omar Abdullah-led government over its handling of the Waqf Bill, alleging that it had failed to pass a resolution against it in the Assembly.

The Lok Sabha seat will fall vacant only after the Speaker accepts the resignation. A by-election may subsequently be held. Ruhullah's future political course, including whether he contests again as an independent candidate, remains unclear.

His exit presents a political challenge for the National Conference, which now faces the prospect of losing a sitting MP who won the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in 2024. (KNO)

Ruhullah's speech

spokesman said, "Wasn't Aga Ruhullah the first to welcome the resolution demanding restoration of special status, passed by the J&K Assembly on November 6. Didn't he say that it was the promise that had been delivered?"

Questioning his performance in the Parliament, the NC spokesman asked what has Aga Ruhullah done in Parliament on special status. "Wasn't he elected to the parliament to represent the sentiment of people and garner support of secular parties and MPs in the parliament. Aga Ruhullah Mehdi was able to gather signatures of over 100 MPs from different parties in the parliament to move an impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekar Kumar Yadav. Can he tell us if he ever made such an effort to gather signatures of MPs for the restoration of special status or statehood? Did he even try to move a resolution or bill in the parliament in this regard?"

He said, "Aga Ruhullah Mehdi was sent to parliament to speak about the dispossession and how people's will represented by the elected government has been undermined and belittled by the Central Government and its appointed Lt Governor in an attempt to delegitimise the vote and elected government. Did he speak even once - that even under the current UT arrangement, the departments which are technically under elected government are not allowed to function and LG continues to run them through remote control?"

The NC spokesman said, "Aga Ruhullah Mehdi started his opposition to elected government on the issue of reservation in jobs, a grave injustice to the open merit category. It's indeed a grave injustice committed during LGs rule. NC raised this issue made it an important part of its election manifesto and promised to change it.

Ironically, Aga and his ilk chose to blame the whistleblower for the problem. Did he ever utter a single word against LG and central government for snatching jobs of open merit category?"

The spokesman said, "In accordance with its election promise, NC government formed a cabinet sub-committee and made first significant changes in the reservations. The file has been stalled by the powers that be. Did Mr Mehdi, raise this issue in the parliament and ask the Centre why they have stalled the J&K cabinet decision on Reservation in jobs?"

"Aga sb was elected as MP six months before Assembly elections and formation of elected government in J&K. Did he organise a single protest against the LG and demanded justice for open merit? Did he raise the issue of multiple fraud recruitments and exams and how job aspirants of one region were systematically removed from the system and jobs?," the NC spokesman asked.

He said, "While the NC government knows its limitations given the present scheme of things, it has carefully chosen its roadmap on the issues which are directly linked to our existence and identity. Our thrust on restoration of statehood is not and will never be at the expense of the special status. If it was so, the first transition of business of this government would not have been the special status. And on August 15 the CM would not have reiterated it. Protection and preservation of our identity and constitutional rights form the foundation of NCs political ideology. Abandoning it means abandoning the party and the politics it has stood for last over 90 years."

The spokesman said, "Reclaiming and repossessing what was taken away from us needs a deft politics, not theatrics. Theatrics will not take us anywhere. It may temporarily grab some attention and social media likes, but in the long run it will not achieve anything for people."

"Aga Ruhullahs decision to resign as MP is too late. He should have done a year ago when he chose to join the forces who were rattled by the mandate to NC. While sitting in NC, he became instrumental in the defeat of the party in the assembly byelections of the Budgam seat. Where was his conscience then? Backstabbing the same party he owed his political existence," he added.

"Isn't it astonishing that someone who owes his whole political existence to NC, started his politics in the party, remained MLA for three terms, minister in the government and MP of the party is so brazenly showing his narcissistic conduct and finding all faults in the party after 25 years," the spokesman asked. (KNO)

'People's expectations

the region that I belong to, Jammu and Kashmir. Our region and its people bear the burden of history. The weight of history hangs on our past, present and future like the Damocles Sword. This is all the more burdensome since the abrogation of Article 35 A and Article 370 in 2019. This shock to the people, our history, and our politics was a brazen assault on our rights. Rights, to make a philosophical point, make a people. Without these, there is just the erasure of a people.

But 2019 was also, paradoxically, an opportunity. It was an opportunity to reclaim politics, political space and our rights. But this called for a struggle, sacrifices and prices. Given our very existence, politics and rights were at stake, the struggle was essential. Prices had to be paid. My working assumption then was that the National Conference, the grand old party of Kashmir, was the natural candidate for the struggle that the situation demanded.

I approached you and you assured me of a struggle, the pain that the abrogation of the Articles had caused you. Based on this assurance, I aligned my politics more vigorously with the NC. The hope was this alignment would create and catalyze a movement for the restoration of our rights. But, alas, this was not to be. I vigorously and tirelessly campaigned in the electoral arena in 2024.

I will not claim credit for the vote share and the seat share of the NC. All I will say is I did my best. The people poured their anger and expectations on NC with a massive mandate. But the electoral arena had not yet cooled down, the NC did an about turn.

Personally, I saw this as a betrayal. But that is politics and part of politics. What hurt me most was that the expectations of people had been betrayed. This happened at a time when JK faces an existential threat. This was a time when able and determined leadership was needed to take the struggle for rights further. But the NC abdicated this space for mere governmentality and for a vain and vague promise of so-called restoration of statehood. When I approached you regarding this, the strains in our political relationship developed. Insult was added to injury when the party aligned itself to a stance of total and absolute abdication.

We, the people of Kashmir, are in the midst of many cross cutting transitions. The forces behind these are so powerful that we can't even be sure if Kashmir will remain Kashmir in the not so distant future. Depoliticization and abdication of politics, at this critical time, aids and abets this process of denudation of the people of J&K. I cannot and will not be party to this. My conscience and ethics determined politics will not allow this.

I thank you for the political journey we have had together till now. But this will not continue. I, hereby, tender my resignation from the party. I will, with Allah's help, find a niche and way to serve my people to the best of my ability and capacity. This is a pledge that I have made with my father's soul and above all with my creator. I will stick to principles and not expedience that my faith, values and ancestral guidance inspire. Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi. (KNO)

'He has blessings

(KNO), was asked about Ruhullah's rally, where the Srinagar MP announced his resignation from the NC and Parliament.

"Aga Ruhullah has the full blessings and support of our people. That is why he held the rally today," Madhav said.

However, he declined to comment further on the developments within the National Conference, describing them as an internal matter of the ruling party.

"I would not like to comment on the matter, but the National Conference is visibly divided today," he said.

Aga Ruhullah announced his resignation from the National Conference and his decision to relinquish his Lok Sabha seat, citing differences with the party leadership.

Madhav maintained that the BJP had no role in the NC's internal affairs and said the party's leaders were dealing with their own differences.

Asked about speculation surrounding possible political realignments involving disgruntled NC legislators, he declined to speculate, saying the situation would have to unfold before any conclusions could be drawn.

Madhav was in Jammu to address issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Accusing the Congress of spreading misinformation about the exercise, he said the Election Commission had already explained the process and its rationale.

He said the revision was aimed at updating electoral rolls by removing duplicate, shifted, deceased and ineligible voters, and alleged that the Opposition was attempting to create unnecessary controversy around the exercise.

The BJP leader also accused the Congress of trying to undermine public confidence in constitutional institutions through what he described as misleading claims about the electoral roll revision process. (KNO)

'Ideological differences

JKPCC president Tariq Hameed Karra said Ruhullah's differences with the NC appeared to stem from divergent political views and a possible lack of ideological compatibility.

"He had a different perspective, while the party was moving in a different direction. Perhaps there was also a lack of ideological compatibility," Karra said.

Karra, however, asserted that the Congress remained aligned with the National Conference.

PDP MLA Agha Syed Muntazir Mehdi said repeated resignations would not address the issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including political concerns and reservation-related grievances.

He also questioned the existing reservation framework, saying a large section of the population had been left with limited opportunities.

Aga Ruhullah announced his decision to quit the National Conference and relinquish his Srinagar Lok Sabha seat at a public rally in Budgam. He also said he had submitted his resignation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. (KNO)

'J&K hydro power

Kashmir is reeling under power deficiency of nearly 300 MW.

An official had informed that "In Kashmir, the power demand during the third week of September remained around 1350 Megawatts (MW)."

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

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

As already reported by KNO that Jammu and Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

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

Top officials have informed that out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.

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

According to the official figures, The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) had recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and 1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

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

Govt forms committee

Education Department; Deputy Secretary (MR), who will function as Member Secretary; General Manager, Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL); Deputy Directors of Health Services Jammu and Kashmir; a representative from the Accounts Service to be nominated by the Director Finance; and representatives of two selected private hospitals having established ICU and critical-care facilities.Among its major responsibilities, the committee will review the existing ICU guidelines, compliance matrix and gap analysis report to identify institution-wise shortcomings against the prescribed standards for different levels of intensive care services.

It will also formulate a time-bound strategy to address deficiencies related to availability of specialists, doctors, nurses and other trained healthcare personnel, besides assessing requirements for equipment, infrastructure, medical utilities, infection prevention and control, safety arrangements and specialised critical-care training.

The order also lays emphasis on strengthening Tele-ICU and tele-consultation facilities across J&K. The committee has been asked to recommend mechanisms for real-time information about ICU bed availability and better referral linkages between healthcare institutions to ensure that critically ill patients can access appropriate treatment without unnecessary delays.

Another important aspect of the exercise will be an assessment of ambulance and referral services, with the panel asked to examine their adequacy and recommend measures for ensuring the availability of appropriately equipped ambulances capable of transporting and stabilising critically ill patients.

The committee will also examine the compliance of private hospitals and institutions operating ICU and critical-care facilities with the prescribed guidelines and suggest corrective measures wherever deficiencies are identified.

Special attention will be given to healthcare institutions located in hilly, remote and geographically difficult areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The panel will assess the specific challenges faced by such facilities, review measures already undertaken and recommend suitable interventions with clearly defined timelines.

To strengthen critical-care infrastructure, the committee has also been mandated to explore permissible funding avenues, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), assistance from non-governmental organisations and other authorised sources.

As part of its assignment, the panel will prepare a consolidated, institution-wise action plan identifying existing gaps, corrective measures, financial and resource requirements, implementing agencies and specific timelines for execution.

Importantly, the committee has been directed to submit its consolidated draft Action Plan/Roadmap to the Commissioner/Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, within 15 days from the issuance of the government order.

The department will subsequently examine the proposed roadmap in terms of technical feasibility, administrative implications, financial requirements and conformity with the Supreme Court's directions before placing it before the competent authority for approval.

Once approved, the action plan will be circulated among all concerned government medical colleges, SKIMS, Directorates of Health Services, JKMSCL and other implementing agencies for execution within the prescribed timelines.

The committee will also periodically review implementation, assess the progress achieved, identify pending deficiencies and report bottlenecks requiring intervention at the government level.

The order further states that the committee may invite specialists, technical experts and officers from other departments or institutions whenever required and seek necessary information to complete its assigned responsibilities.

The Health and Medical Education Department will provide secretarial and logistical support, while heads of concerned institutions and departments have been directed to extend cooperation and furnish the requisite information and data to facilitate the exercise.

The committee will function under the overall supervision of the Health and Medical Education Department, with its recommendations aligned with the directions and timelines laid down by the Supreme Court. (KNO)

Light rain, snowfall

urged people travelling across the region to adhere to traffic advisories, particularly while moving through vulnerable and higher-altitude areas. (KNO)

ED searches four

the official said, are aimed at tracing alleged proceeds of crime, identifying financial networks and funding channels, examining suspected links with handlers across the border and gathering further evidence in connection with the alleged terror financing activities. Further details are awaited as the searches are underway. (KNO)

India witnessed fall in extreme poverty, transformation in urban transport infra over 12 years: PM Modi

PTI

Pune, Nov 3: Citing a World Bank report, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said around 50 crore people had been lifted out of extreme poverty in India over the last 10 to 12 years, noting that the fight against poverty was limited to "slogans" in the past.

Modi doubled down on the development agenda; underlined "transformation" in urban transport infrastructure over the past 12 years, and maintained that empowering the poor and delivering good governance were hallmarks of his government.

After inaugurating Pune Metro Line 3 (Pink Line) via video conferencing, Modi said India's operational metro network, which covered 248 km before 2014, now covers 1,200 km, and stressed that better urban infrastructure would accelerate the country's economic growth. The 23-km-long Pink Line, built at a cost of over Rs 8,300 crore, will connect the Hinjewadi IT hub to the District Court Metro station.

It is expected to improve daily commutes for thousands of IT professionals, ease traffic congestion, and reduce dependence on private vehicles.

Modi laid the foundation stone of four new metro corridors under Phase-II, involving a total investment of around Rs 21,800 crore.

"When the country gave the NDA the opportunity to serve in 2014, we set out with a resolve to ensure the ease of living and ease of transportation for the middle class living in cities," Modi said.

Reaching out to farmers amid drought in Maharashtra, the Prime Minister said they should not worry and assured full support from the Union government.

He also appealed to people across the country to remember farmers during the ongoing festive season and ensure that drought-affected families also experience the happiness of Diwali.



"I am aware of the drought situation in Maharashtra. The state government has also provided advance assistance. I want to assure every farmer in Maharashtra that during this difficult time, the NDA government stands with them with full sensitivity.

"Do not worry, we are all standing with our farmers. We will collectively face this crisis", Modi added.

He said the state government, under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's leadership, has undertaken substantial water conservation work in recent years, but the current natural calamity has created serious challenges.

Modi referred to the assistance being provided through the PM-KISAN scheme and reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the farming community.

Citing a recent World Bank report, the Prime Minister said that around 50 crore people had overcome extreme poverty in India in the last 10-12 years.

"Earlier, the fight against poverty was limited to slogans. Today, India is defeating poverty on the ground," he said, adding that the country's economic growth and poverty reduction are interconnected, with increasing investments in infrastructure and welfare schemes improving people's lives and creating employment opportunities.

Modi said the government's approach is based on empowering people rather than merely providing assistance.

Referring to "transformation" in urban transport infrastructure, Modi said India now figures among the world's top three metro networks.

He said the expansion of metro networks across the country reflected the government's focus on people-centric, proactive good governance.

Stressing that urban infrastructure is central to the vision of a developed India, Modi said cities are no longer identified only by their industries or products but increasingly by their competitiveness and quality of life.

The Prime Minister said the Centre approved an Urban Challenge Fund in February this year, with Rs 1 lakh crore in Central assistance aimed at mobilising investments in urban development over the coming years.

He urged local bodies and private sector stakeholders to work together in mission mode to transform smaller cities into growth hubs.

The state government has declared 85 per cent of Maharashtra drought-hit and announced an interim aid of Rs 5,000 before Diwali.

Noting that farmers play a significant role in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation, Modi asserted that his government is continuously working to empower them.

On poverty eradication, he said India is now among the fastest-growing economies and among the fastest poverty-reducing countries.

"Economic growth and poverty reduction are interconnected," Modi added. Modi said investments in infrastructure, including roads, railways, airports and metro networks, as well as electricity, drinking water and gas pipeline projects, are improving people's lives and creating employment opportunities.

He added that providing houses, toilets, tap water and LPG connections to poor families has boosted their confidence, saved time and created opportunities for additional income.

Referring to his 25 years in public office, Modi said his government's approach is to empower the poor and help them overcome poverty through their own efforts.

"Power to empower, this is good governance," he added.

He said the operational metro network in Maharashtra has expanded from just 11 km in 2014 to nearly 200 km, while work is underway on more than 680 km of metro lines.

Noting that cities are not merely places to live but are major centres of economic activity, Modi stressed the need for developing hundreds of smaller cities across the country as growth hubs.

"The Pune Metro Project is significant as it was developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, demonstrating how joint efforts between the government and private sector could accelerate development," he added.

Ready to convene special session to discuss SIR: Amit Shah

Alleges Rahul Gandhi backed 'Janatana Sarkar' of Maoists'

PTI

Raipur, Nov 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government is willing to convene a special session of Parliament to hold discussions on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, and dared the Opposition to join the debate.

Accusing the Congress of supporting Naxalism, he alleged that party leader Rahul Gandhi had backed the Maoists' unconstitutional 'Janatana Sarkar' and also recently "mocked Parliament by staging a fake Parliament".

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the three-day Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav celebrations here, Shah said the Narendra Modi government has a clear policy that those who abide by the law would be treated as citizens, while security forces would deal firmly with those who violate it, be it in Bastar, the Northeast or Kashmir.

"Let Parliament function. We are ready to convene a special session to hold discussions on SIR. If you have the courage, come and engage in a discussion before the people of this country. Simply carrying a copy of the Constitution around does not equate to supporting it. One's conduct must be Constitutional," he said.

"Rahul Gandhi supported a fake 'Janatana Sarkar', unconstitutional governments and has now made a mockery of Parliament by staging a 'fake' Parliament.

"By conducting a 'mock' parliament, he staged a charade of a discussion. I want to tell Rahulji that the Narendra Modi government is prepared to discuss every single issue," he added.

He said development work was undertaken in Chhattisgarh



during the 15-year BJP rule under former chief minister Raman Singh, but the Congress government at the Centre at that time lacked the political will to eliminate Naxalism, leaving the vision of development in tribal areas unfulfilled.

After the BJP returned to power in Chhattisgarh (in 2023), the state government within two months took a resolve to eliminate Naxalism, he said.

Shah said he had made it clear that those willing to surrender must lay down their arms and join the mainstream, while those refusing to do so would face action by security forces.

He claimed that 90 per cent of Maoists had surrendered and 10 per cent had been killed, resulting in the country becoming free from Naxalism.

He said the government has provided artificial limbs to people who had lost them in violence over the past 30 years to help them lead a better life.

"Those who used to write lengthy articles and offered advice on the situation in Bastar but lacked the courage to spend even a day in the region to visit the area, I invite them now. Do not be afraid, nobody will harm you now. Come and witness the wave of development that has reached here," he said.

"If you have any concern for the people, write a couple of articles here highlighting their pain and suffering," he said.

Shah congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh, particularly the tribal community, on the state becoming free from Naxalism and moving forward on the path of development and thanked the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Chhattisgarh Police for their role in the achievement.

Shah said Chhattisgarh would emerge as one of the leading states in tourism in the coming years.

"Earlier, it was said that the land is rich (referring to mineral rich Chhattisgarh) but its people are poor. I assure you that within 10 years, both the land and its people will be prosperous. This is Narendra Modi's guarantee," he said.

He said the BJP's three previous terms and its fourth term in the state would take Chhattisgarh from fear to trust and from resources to prosperity, while converting its potential into achievements.

He said earlier in the day he inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Park, 'Peepal Van', in Nava Raipur, where 2,500 peepal trees have been planted at one location.

He had given a special responsibility to the state's Finance Minister to ensure that 5 lakh peepal trees are planted in Nava Raipur alone. Once it becomes a Peepal City, Nava Raipur will emerge as the world's largest environmentally friendly city, Shah said.

Spread over around 16 acres, the park has more than 2,500 peepal trees and over 500 plants of indigenous species, the statement said.

On the occasion, Shah released the 33rd instalment of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, transferring over Rs 632 crore into the bank accounts of eligible women beneficiaries.

Earlier in the day, Shah inaugurated the Artemis Shanti Hospital in Raipur, an official statement said.

Govt ensuring Indian students headed to Uzbekistan receive quality edu: MEA

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 3: The government remains focussed on ensuring that Indian students heading to Uzbekistan for medical studies or other studies receive "quality education" and comply with the National Medical Commission's guidelines in India, the MEA said on Tuesday.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this at his bi-weekly media briefing. He was responding to questions about reports claiming a drastic drop in the number of Indian students wishing to pursue medical education in Uzbekistan and whether any conversations were ongoing between the two countries on this matter.

"We continue to engage with the Uzbek side as far as issues about Indian students are concerned," Jaiswal said.

The MEA spokesperson cited past advisories issued by the Indian Embassy in Tashkent, as well as the advisory from the National Medical Commission (NMC). These advisories provided guidelines to students wishing to pursue education not just in Uzbekistan, but in several other places as well. "Please do have a look at the advisories that have been issued," he said.

In the June 25 advisory, the Embassy advised Indian students who wish to study medicine in Uzbekistan to use only those Education Consultants (ECs) whose businesses are registered in India, should they decide to engage an EC.

"Please note that some newly established institutions, particularly private universities, may lack infrastructure and laboratories, English-speaking faculty and hence not meet NMC's Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate (FMGL) regulations 2021. Students are also advised to come on a student visa to study in Uzbekistan," it said.

"A few cases of students coming on e-visas have come to the Embassy's attention. In case of any difficulty being faced, the Consular Officer of the Embassy may be contacted," the advisory had said.

Jaiswal said in his response that the government remains focussed on ensuring Indian students heading to Uzbekistan for education, including medical education, "must receive quality education, and quality medical education, such that they comply with the guidelines of the NMC, which is a body here in India"

"It is also important to ensure that Indian students headed to Uzbekistan for medical studies or other studies are not exploited by unscrupulous elements both here in India as also in Uzbekistan. And as I said, I urge you to look at the advisories that we've issued. You will get a clearer idea as to why things are happening the way they are happening," he added.

Rupee rises 9 paise to settle at 94.75 against US dollar

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 3: The rupee settled 9 paise higher at 94.75 against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by inflow of foreign funds amid massive buying in domestic equity markets.

However, a recovery in crucial oil prices due to geopolitical uncertainties capped gains in the Indian currency, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.68 and touched the day's high of 94.60 against the greenback. The unit pared some gains before settling 9 paise higher at 94.75 against the US dollar.

The Indian currency fell 8 paise to close at 94.84 against the dollar on Monday, after appreciating 50 paise in the preceding session on Friday.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee gained on a surge in domestic markets and a soft dollar. However, a recovery in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on strength in domestic markets amid expectations of changes in LTCG. Fresh



weakness in the dollar and fresh foreign inflows may also support the rupee. However, tensions between Ukraine and Russia and attacks in the Middle East may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from ISM manufacturing PMI data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in the range of Rs 94.40 to Rs 95," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.69, higher by 0.07 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.86 per cent at USD 105.67 per barrel in futures trade.

Analysts said crude oil prices rebounded after reports that the US conducted fresh strikes on some Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz, triggered concerns over global trade disruptions. According to a US official, the strike was carried out after Iranian surface-to-air missiles targeted some American assets.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex surged 1,225.07 points or 1.62 per cent to settle at 76,917.85, while the Nifty climbed 370.05 points or 1.58 per cent to 23,810.85.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net buyers for the third consecutive day on Tuesday and purchased equities worth Rs 6,836.81 crore on a net basis, according to exchange data.

Over 30,000 ha of crops damaged by Murasu cyclone in Andhra

PTI

Amaravati, Nov 3: Over 30,000 hectares of standing crops were damaged in 15 districts by the severe cyclonic storm Murasu, which mostly affected the districts of Krishna, Bapatla and Nandyala.

Officials estimated that paddy, cotton and corn crops suffered the most damage, an official press release said on Tuesday.

"According to preliminary estimations, crops were damaged in 30,661 acres in 15 districts. Crops were majorly damaged in Krishna, Bapatla and Nandyala districts due to the cyclone," it said.

Murasu caused abnormal impact over 132 mandals in 15 districts, and



10,805 people were evacuated to cyclone shelters. The state government has arranged 171 relief camps and distributed 14,810 food packets, the release further said.

Eleven NDRF and 13 SDRF teams were deployed for relief operations, along with the arrangement of 613 generators. The Fire Department has deployed 185 teams to clear uprooted trees and stranded water.

As a precautionary move before the cyclone started striking the southern state, 3,066 pregnant and 1,008 nursing mothers were shifted to hospitals.

As many as 725 medical teams were dispatched to 13 districts and 362 ambulances were kept on standby, among other measures.

Health ministry selects 19 part-time members of dental commission

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Union health ministry has selected 19 part-time members of the National Dental Commission (NDC) and its three autonomous boards through a draw of lots.

Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava participated in the selection process, a ministry statement said.

The appointments, for a tenure of two years, include 10 members representing state and Union Territory governments and nine representing state dental councils, the ministry said.

The members representing state and UT governments have been selected from Sikkim, Jharkhand, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The nine members representing state dental councils are from Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Puducherry, according to the statement.

The ministry also selected the second 'part-time' member for each of the three autonomous boards from among the nine state dental council representatives.

Telangana has been selected for the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Dental Education Board, Karnataka for the Dental Assessment and Rating Board, and Madhya Pradesh for the Ethics and Dental Registration Board.

Additional Secretary Vinod Kotwal and other ministry officials were also present during the process.

The ministry said the draw of lots followed the statutory procedure prescribed under the Act for appointing part-time members to the commission and its autonomous boards.

In a major reform aimed at improving the quality of dental education in the country, the Union government earlier this year had notified the constitution of the NDC with three autonomous boards, replacing the Dental Council of India (DCI).

The new framework became operational on March 19.

IISc Bengaluru, five IITs feature in Asia's top 100 universities

All six slip in QS rankings

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have secured places among Asia's top 100 universities, but all six institutions have slipped in the latest QS Asia University Rankings announced on Tuesday.

India remained Asia's second most represented higher education system, with 325 ranked universities, including 34 new entrants. Mainland China retained the top position.

According to the London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), IIT Delhi continued to be India's highest-ranked university, securing the 66th position in Asia, despite dropping seven places from last year's 59th rank.

IISc Bengaluru recorded the



second-highest position among Indian institutions, falling to 79th from 64th last year.

IIT Bombay slipped to 83rd from 71st, while IIT Madras dropped to 85th from 70th. IIT Kharagpur fell to 90th from 77th, while IIT Kanpur slipped to 97th from 77th, according to the rankings. Overall, all six of India's highest-ranked institutions registered a decline in their positions compared with last year.

Quick Read

Iran plans to train one million paramilitary volunteers

AP

Dubai, Nov 3 : Iran opened its third military training centre in Tehran as authorities announced plans to train 1 million paramilitary volunteers nationwide, amid fears of renewed conflict with the United States and Israel.

Members of the Basij, a paramilitary force affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard, attended the inauguration, the semiofficial ISNA news agency reported. Two similar centres previously opened in Tehran in August and September.

Iran's "Janfada" or "sacrificials" campaign began registering volunteers in March and includes military training, emergency relief and logistical support. Courses cover urban defence, weapons handling, air defence, rescue operations, firefighting and navigation.

US voters cast final ballots in midterms seen as referendum on Trump



PTI

Washington, Nov 3 : Americans began voting on Tuesday in one of the most consequential elections in recent times, widely seen as a referendum on Donald Trump's presidency that has been marked by a prolonged war in Iran, rising inflation, trade wars and deep divisions in society.

The polling will decide whether President Trump's Republican Party retains control of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the two chambers of the US Congress, or, as opinion polls are predicting, the Democratic Party wrests control of at least the House if not the Senate, also in the final two years of Trump's second term in office.

On the eve of the elections, the US launched limited strikes on Iran's Qesham island in the Hormuz Strait. Officials said that the strikes were in response to Iran firing at a US aircraft.

At stake in the elections are all 435 seats of the House and 37 seats in the 100-member Senate.

Elections are also being held for the post of Governor in 36 states, including in Ohio, where Indian American Vivek Ramaswamy is locked in a keen contest with his rival and Democratic nominee Amy Acton.

A number of Indian American candidates are in the electoral fray for posts ranging from Governor to city council members. Democrat Nithya Raman, who was born in Kerala, is locked in a keen contest with her former boss Karen Bass for the post of Mayor of Los Angeles, the second-largest city in the US.

Indian-American lawmakers Ro Khanna, Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal and Suhas Subramanyam are seeking re-election to the US House of Representatives, while fellow Democrats Pia Dandiya and Amish Shah are in the fray in competitive races to make their debut as Congresspersons.

Sindhu, Mirabai among 10 sportspersons elected unopposed to IOA Athletes Commission

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 3 : Olympic medallists PV Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu were among 10 sportspersons declared elected unopposed as members of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) here on Tuesday.

With former track and field athlete Sudha Singh pulling out of the race late Monday night, there was no need to conduct the polls as just 10 candidates were left in the fray for the same number of seats.

Returning Officer Sanjay K Srivastava on Tuesday declared all the 10 candidates -- five male and five female -- to have been elected unopposed.

Earlier on Monday, ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth withdrew his candidature.

The chairperson and vice chairperson -- one male and one female in either of the two -- of the Athletes' Commission shall be made members of the IOA Executive Council.

Two members -- one male and one female -- of the Athletes' Commission will become members of the IOA General Body with voting rights. They will take part in the IOA Executive Council elections on December 5 as Athletes' Commission representatives.

Iran's chief negotiator says US must act to prevent renewed war

AP



Dubai, Nov 3 : Iran's chief negotiator says it's up to the United States to prevent renewed war after what he described as a "firm and rational response" to Washington. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf did not elaborate. His comments came after the US conducted defensive strikes on some Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Tuesday. Read our full coverage here.

Iranian parliament speaker says the ball is in the US court to prevent renewed war

Iran's chief negotiator and parliament speaker says the ball is now in the US court to prevent new fighting after Tehran delivered what was a "firm and rational response" to the US, state TV reported.

In an address to parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran remained ready "for battle with its finger on the trigger."

He did not elaborate and it was unclear what "response" he referred to. His comment came after a US official said the military conducted defensive strikes on some Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the official, the strikes targeted Iranians using surface-to-air missiles. The official wasn't authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iranian state television reported that explosions were heard on Qeshm Island.

Ghalibaf said: "If Washington makes another strategic miscalculation, it should know that this time it will face a new battlefield and will find itself even more desperate than it is today, searching for a way out."

Iran plans to train 1 million paramilitary volunteers

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UN says displaced Yemeni women and children are losing services

Women and children displaced by the fighting in Yemen are losing access to essential services, including maternity care and protection from violence, the UN said.

Renewed fighting between the Iran-backed Houthis and the Saudi-backed government forces has displaced some 300,000 people over the past few months. The conflict, which is mainly concentrated in the west coast and southern province of Taiz, broke a four-year truce and exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation in one of the Arab world's poorest countries.

Francesco Galtieri, the UN Population Fund's representative in Aden, said fighting had escalated to levels not seen since 2020. It has led to limited access to services, leaving women and girls increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, sexual violence and exploitation.

In the besieged city of Taiz, Galtieri warned of a "rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation," with life-saving services increasingly out of reach for more than 147,000 women and girls of reproductive age. Of the city's 27 emergency maternal and neonatal hospitals, only five remain operational.

Death toll rises to 31 after Russian strike on Ukrainian aid site



AP

Kyiv, Nov 3 : The death toll from a Russian attack in southern Ukraine on a site where people had gathered to receive humanitarian aid rose to 31 on Tuesday, with dozens of people still missing, as a wave of overnight strikes targeted power plants across the country, damaged hospitals and wounded scores of people.

Teams of rescuers and volunteers continued to search the cratered blast site of a destroyed aid facility and shelter in Komyushuvakha, a village in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, hoping to find more than 45 missing residents alive under the rubble. Instead, more bodies were pulled out and carried away in white plastic sheeting.

"The scale of the tragedy is terrifying," Mykhailo Semikin, acting head of the region's military administration, wrote in an online post. "This is one of the worst tragedies in terms of the number of civilian victims in our region since the start of the full-scale war."

Russia launched 289 attack drones, 17 ballistic missiles and 59 cruise missiles across nine regions, triggering emergency power cuts, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an online post that noted the barrage coincided with US elections.

"The Russians think America won't notice this signal of theirs," he said. "But we need to notice and stop such terror. We need to help Ukraine defend its skies; otherwise, Russia will never stop its missile strikes."

Three days of mourning were declared in Zaporizhzhia where Russian bunker-busting bombs, filled with nearly 1.5 tons of explosives, were used in Monday's attack. The dead included four police officers and two rescue workers, Semikin said Tuesday. At least five people were hurt. In the northeast region of Kharkiv, a combined Russian missile and drone attack wounded at least 62 people, local authorities said. A strike damaged a medical facility in the Nemyshlianskyi district, shattered windows in four apartment buildings and damaged cars. More than 200 patients were transferred to other medical facilities, head of the regional military administration Oleh Syniehubov said.

Ranji Trophy: Qamran, Shubham put J&K at 149/0 against Puducherry



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 03 : Openers Qamran Iqbal and Shubham Khajuria struck unbeaten half-centuries to guide Jammu and Kashmir to 149 without loss against Puducherry at stumps on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A encounter at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Tuesday.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), J&K were 149 for no loss in 50.3 overs, with Qamran batting on 68 off 144 deliveries and Shubham scoring an unbeaten 80 off 160 balls.

The duo stitched together an unbeaten 149-run opening partnership, giving the hosts a steady start in reply to Puducherry's first-innings total of 385.

Resuming their innings at 261 for six, Puducherry added 124 runs before being bowled out for 385 in 93.2 overs.

J&K now trail by 236 runs with all 10 wickets intact as the four-day contest heads into its third day—(KNO)

Athlete education, doping prevention top priority: Mandaviya



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 3 :Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday launched the Extramural Research Grant Policy of the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) at the 10th World Association of Anti-Doping Scientists (WAADS) Quality Assurance Managers' Meeting 2026 here. The two-day meeting that began on November 2 was organised by NDTL and brought together international stakeholders from the sports and scientific communities.

Mandaviya, as the chief guest, also oversaw the launch of the NDTL Newsletter at the meet.

"Friends, India has zero tolerance for doping. Our responsibility is to ensure that every victory is earned through talent, discipline, and hard work," Mandaviya said. "Over the last two years, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, sports has been recognised as an important pillar of nation-building. India's sporting journey has entered a new phase," he said.

Highlighting India's commitment towards anti-doping research and education, Mandaviya said, "Today we launched the important Extramural Research Grant Policy, which aims at promoting research and development in areas of advanced detection and prevention. This initiative will strengthen the scientific foundation of our anti-doping efforts."

With India set to host Commonwealth Games in 2030 and harbouring ambitions of hosting the 2036 Olympics, Mandaviya said education and awareness about doping play a vital role in India's fight towards preventing it.

Spanish footballer dies after suffering on-field collision in second-division match



AP

Barcelona, Nov 3 : Tenerife forward Jesús de Miguel has died after he suffered cardiac arrest from an on-field collision in a Spanish second-division match, his club said Tuesday. He was 30.

De Miguel was challenging for the ball near midfield on Monday when he was struck in the chest by the onrushing Andorra goalkeeper Jesús Owono during added time.

Owono was shown a straight red card for the incident.

De Miguel was taken to a hospital and the match, tied 2-2, was abandoned after the incident.

Tenerife said in a statement to Spanish media late Monday that De Miguel suffered cardiac arrest but that his pulse was restored in the ambulance to the hospital. However, it later said his condition had "worsened neurologically" and subsequently announced that De Miguel had died at 8 a.m.

The club located on Spain's Canary Islands said it was "heartbroken."

De Miguel, a Madrid native, made his professional debut in 2015 with Leganés B and has since played for a number of lower-divisions clubs in Spain. He joined Tenerife last year.

"There are no words of comfort," the club statement read. "There is absolutely nothing that can alleviate this profound sense of sorrow. We stand with his devastated family, his loved ones, and the entire Tenerife community."

