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SCAN TO VISIT

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Kashmir's rich historical, literary heritage receives international recognition

Kalhana's Rajatarangini enters UNESCO Memory of the World register

UNESCO inscription proud moment: LG Sinha

Inclusion matter of pride for J&K: CM Omar

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 06: Kashmir's rich historical and literary heritage has received international recognition with the 12th-century Sanskrit chronicle Rajatarangini, authored by Kalhana, being included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the manuscript, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in the Sri Pratap Singh Library Complex in Srinagar, was among three Indian documentary works selected during the 11th session of UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Union Ministry of Culture announced the inscription through the Press Information Bureau on Thursday. The other two works recognised alongside Rajatarangini are the Mahabharata manuscript preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune and Kautilya's Arthashastra, housed at the Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru.

Written in Sanskrit in the 12th century, Rajatarangini is regarded as one of the most significant historical accounts of Kashmir. Authored by Kalhana, the chronicle documents the region's rulers, successive dynasties, political developments and social conditions across centuries, offering an extensive account of Kashmir's past.The work is particularly noted for its historical approach, with Kalhana drawing upon earlier accounts and available sources while examining the rise and fall of rulers and political developments. Its narrative extends | More on P6

Dissenting MLAs, NC top brass inch closer to reconciliation

After meeting CM Omar, Dr. Farooq, legislators say some demands would be addressed immediately

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 06: The dissenting MLAs of the National Conference appeared to have moved closer to reconciliation with the party leadership following a two-hour-long meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and party president Dr Farooq Abdullah.

The meeting between the two sides was held at Farooq Abdullah's Gupkar residence in Srinagar on Friday morning.

Speaking to reporters after the two-hour-long meeting, Farooq Abdullah, who addressed the media in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the dissenting legislators, termed reports of a split within the National Conference as baseless.

"The baseless reports being spread that the National Conference is divided are completely false," he said, adding that the NC stands united.

He said those who believe they can break the NC should understand that it has never been broken and will never be broken.

The NC president said the issues raised by the MLAs were genuine and had been given due consideration.

"Some concerns will be addressed immediately, while others will be taken up gradually," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, NC MLA Abdul Majeed Bhat alias Larmi, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the leadership had acknowledged the concerns raised by the legislators and assured them that corrective measures would be taken gradually.

"Everything has been sorted out. Whatever differences were there have been resolved," Larmi said.

He said the meeting covered all issues raised by the legislators, including changes in ministerial portfolios, the removal of certain individuals, strengthening the party organisation, and improving coordination between elected representatives and the government.

Larmi said the implementation of the party's election manifesto and efforts for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A were also discussed.

NC MLA Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri said the leadership had listened to the legislators' demands and expressed hope that some issues would be addressed immediately, while others might require more time.

"Some demands will be accepted immediately, while some may | More on P6

Dry weather likely till Nov 9, rain, snowfall from 10: MeT

Jammu hottest at 29°C, Gulmarg coldest at 0°C minimum

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 06: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9, while light rain and snowfall over higher reaches are likely from November 10.

According to the latest weather advisory, accessed by the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), generally cloudy conditions are expected on November 10 and 11, with a spell of light rain at scattered to many places and light snowfall over higher reaches, particularly towards late evening on November 10.

The Meteorological Centre said generally cloudy weather is likely to continue on November 12 and 13, with light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches at many places from the evening or night of November 12. Partly cloudy conditions are expected on November 14 and 15.

Meanwhile, the temperature data issued by the department showed that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.4 degrees Celsius against the normal of 19.3 degrees, while the minimum settled at 3.4 degrees Celsius against the normal of 3.0 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.7 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 16.6 degrees and a minimum of 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 1.6 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 18.9 degrees as the maximum and 4.7 degrees as the minimum.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 13.0 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 0.0 degrees. The normal minimum temperature for the destination is 1.7 degrees below zero.

In the Jammu | More on P6

Kashmir maps 30,000 Chinar trees in digital conservation drive

QR-enabled identification plates installed on 13,500 prominent trees

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 06: Jammu and Kashmir has geo-tagged nearly 30,000 Chinar trees and created a digital database to document the iconic species, marking a major step towards digitally recording the region's natural heritage.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the exercise is part of a wider initiative to identify and document prominent trees across the Union Territory, with QR-enabled metal identification plates being installed to make information about individual trees accessible through digital technology.

He said 13,500 such plates have been installed so far, including 10,000 on prominent Chinar trees in Kashmir and another 3,500 on Peepal and Bargad trees in Jammu region.

The official said that the progress was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Forests, Ecology and Environment Minister Altaf Ahmad Wani at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force in Jammu.

During the meeting, officials informed the minister that geo-tagging of approximately 30,000 Chinar trees had been completed and their details incorporated into a digital database.

The second phase of the initiative will cover the remaining Chinar, Bargad and Peepal trees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The digital documentation is expected to provide a systematic record of the trees, helping authorities identify their locations and maintain information about individual specimens. The QR-enabled plates also | More on P6

Terror recruitment case

CIK raids multiple locations across Kashmir



KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 06: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday carried out searches at around 10 locations across the Valley in connection with a terror recruitment case involving an alleged module accused of radicalising and recruiting youth through social media platforms.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that searches were conducted at multiple residential premises in Budgam, Safakadal and Zainakote areas of Srinagar, Bijbehara and Mattan in Anantnag district, and parts of Pulwama.

The raids were carried out by CIK teams in coordination with local police and revenue officials in the presence of executive magistrates, he said.

"The case, registered as FIR No. 07/2023 at Police Station CIK Srinagar, pertains to an alleged terror recruitment module operating through social media platforms to radicalise and recruit youth into proscribed terrorist organisations," the official said.

According to the official, the investigation was launched following inputs indicating that Pakistan-based | More on P6

'How many more deadlines? Kashmir residents seek firm timeline for AIIMS Awantipora opening

Say fresh assurances have eroded public confidence, point to AIIMS Jammu being functional for two years

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 06: Despite fresh assurances from Union Health Minister J P Nadda regarding the commencement of services at the under-construction All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Awantipora, residents across Kashmir have sought a definite timeline for making the institution functional, questioning how many more deadlines people will have to wait for before the premier healthcare facility starts serving patients.

Residents said repeated revisions in project completion and operationalisation schedules had eroded public confidence, with people now seeking concrete action rather than another set of assurances.

Their demand gained renewed significance after Nadda, during his visit to AIIMS Awantipora a day before, announced that OPD services are targeted to commence before December 2026, while IPD services are proposed to begin in July 2027. He also directed the concerned agencies to complete the remaining construction works by March 2027.

While appreciating the latest announcement, residents told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the government must ensure that the new timelines are strictly adhered to, particularly when the project has already missed several deadlines.

"Every few months, a new date is announced, but people are still waiting for the



hospital to become functional. First, we were told that OPD services would start in 2025, then August 2026. Now, the deadline has shifted to before December. How many more deadlines will people have to hear?" residents questioned.

They said the institution was sanctioned with the objective of strengthening tertiary healthcare facilities in Kashmir and reducing the dependence of patients on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir, but the prolonged delay had defeated the purpose to some extent.

Residents also questioned the difference in the pace of operationalisation of the two AIIMS projects sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 — one at Vijaypur in Jammu and another at Awantipora in south Kashmir. "AIIMS Jammu has already been functional for the past two years, while people in Kashmir are still waiting for comprehensive services at AIIMS Awantipora. Both projects were sanctioned together, and people here also deserve the same level of healthcare infrastructure and timely delivery," they said.

They said Kashmir's geographical distance from major healthcare institutions outside the Union Territory makes the operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora particularly important. Patients suffering from cancer, cardiac ailments, neurological disorders and other serious diseases often have to travel to Delhi, Chandigarh and other cities for specialised treatment, adding to their financial and emotional burden.

"For an ordinary family, travelling outside Kashmir for treatment is not easy. Apart from medical expenses, there are transportation, accommodation and other costs. Many families are already struggling financially. Had AIIMS Awantipora been functional, a significant number of patients could have received specialised treatment closer to home," residents said.

They stressed that the commencement of OPD services should be treated as an immediate priority and should not be delayed on account of pending work in other parts of the campus. "If the OPD block and other essential facilities are ready, there should be no reason to keep patients waiting. The authorities should start services in the completed portions while simultaneously completing the remaining infrastructure," they said.

During his November 5 visit, Nadda reviewed infrastructure development, procurement of medical equipment, recruitment of faculty | More on P6

DC Shopian chairs consultative meet for Maiden 'Jashn-e- Hurud'

Festival to boost culture, tourism, local economy



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 06: In a landmark initiative to foster community engagement and promote local heritage, the District Administration Shopian, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Charandeep Singh, held a high-level interactive meeting Friday at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was convened for celebrating 'Jashn-e-Hurud', a first-of-its-kind festival planned for the district.

The comprehensive consultative interaction brought together key stakeholders, including prominent members of civil society, traders associations, youth representatives and the media fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that 'Jashn-e-Hurud' will mark a new dawn for Shopian by celebrating its unique identity, promoting local talent and bringing the community together in a festive environment. He stated that the festival is envisioned as a catalyst to spotlight Shopian's tourism potential and support local vendors, artisans and businesses.

The District Administration assured full administrative backing for the event, emphasizing structured setups, robust media outreach and comprehensive security arrangements to make the maiden celebration a resounding success.

Deliberations focused on collaborative planning to ensure the event serves as a vibrant platform showcasing Shopian's rich cultural ethos, scenic beauty and local enterprise.

Community-driven insights and suggestions were gathered during discussions with civil society members and trade unions.

DC Ganderbal visits old Age Home Pandach

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Friday conducted a visit to the Old Age Home at Pandach, Ganderbal, to review the facilities and interact with the elderly residents.

The DC was accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Ganderbal and other concerned officials.

The DSWO briefed the DC, as per an official statement, on the overall functioning of the institution and detailed the various welfare measures being implemented by the department for the care and well-being of senior citizens in the district.

DC Kupwara visits Machil Valley, reviews winter preparedness

Directs all departments to ensure adequate arrangements well in advance

KT News Desk



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, Friday undertook an extensive tour of the remote and border Machil Valley to review winter preparedness, availability of essential commodities and delivery of public services ahead of the approaching winter season.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, chaired a comprehensive review meeting with sectoral and field officers at the Tehsil Office, Machil, to assess department-wise preparedness, including advance stocking of food grains, fuel, LPG, firewood and medicines, besides the status of power and water supply and readiness of snow-clearance machinery.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, the DC directed all departments to ensure adequate arrangements well in advance, remain stationed at their respective headquarters and maintain round-the-clock emergency response mechanisms. He stressed that no resident of the remote valley should face hardship due to heavy snowfall or disruption of road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected Food and Civil Supplies stores to assess the availability and quality of essential commodities. He directed the concerned officers to maintain adequate buffer stocks to meet the requirements of the local population during prolonged winter road closures. During the tour, the DC visited AGS Chountiwari Payeen, where he interacted with students and took stock of the facilities and academic environment. He also interacted with local residents, who shared their concerns and requirements. He issued on-the-spot directions for redressal of several grievances and instructed the concerned officers to resolve the remaining issues within stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner also expressed his appreciation to the Indian Army for its continued cooperation and support in the region, particularly in facilitating essential services and extending assistance to the local population. The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring effective governance and uninterrupted delivery of essential services to residents of far-flung and border areas.

Senior district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the tour.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

Instructs Officers to ensure Proper arrangements for smooth, fair, transparent conduct of examination

KT News Desk



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, it was informed that 43 designated examination centres have been established across the district, where approximately 12,500 candidates are expected to appear in the examination.

The DC reviewed the arrangements being made by various departments and instructed the concerned officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for the peaceful and hassle-free conduct of the examination.

He took stock of the availability of essential facilities at examination centres, including proper seating arrangements, furniture, drinking water, electricity, heating facilities, sanitation, security, transportation, traffic regulation and medical assistance. The DC directed the concerned education authorities and Centre Superintendents to personally

Accounts Assistant Examination

DC Shopian presides over training programme at GDC Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Friday presided over a training programme for officials deployed on examination duties in connection with the upcoming JKSSB Accounts Assistant (Finance) Examination, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, stressed upon all officials to discharge their assigned duties with utmost dedication, sincerity and responsibility, while ensuring strict adherence to the prescribed instructions and guidelines. He emphasised that all necessary arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The DC briefed the participating officials about their respective roles and responsibilities and highlighted the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders involved in the conduct of the JKSSB examination.

The training programme was organised to familiarise Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Centre Observers and Invigilators with examination-related guidelines, procedures and responsibilities to ensure the smooth and impartial conduct of the examination.

Master Trainers imparted detailed training to the participating officials, highlighting various aspects of examination management, adherence to prescribed guidelines, maintenance of discipline and observance of confidentiality and fairness throughout the examination process.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal GDC Shopian, Tariq Ahmed, and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Contact No. 0194 3100263

Abstract of Short Term e-NIT NO: 06 _CDM_OF _2026-27
D A T E D :- 05-11-2026

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two-Cover system **(Technical and financial) Annual Rate Contract on item rate basis (percentage basis in accordance to the rate fixed by the Govt. from time to time) from Authorized Gas Distributors for below mentioned supply.**

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Time of Completion for particular consignment.	Head of Account
1.	**Rate contract for supply of commercial gas refilling-19 Kg cylinders for office use during** the winter season 2026-27.	**Rs.1000.00**	**Rs.100.00**	02 days	2217

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ) , set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	**Period of downloading of bidding** documents /sale of tender documents.	05-11-2026 from 10.00 A.M
02.	**Bid submission start date**	06-11-2026 from 11.00 A.M
03.	**Bid submission end date**	**13-11-2026 upto 6.00 P.M**
04.	**Date & time of opening of Cover Ist (technical bids) on line.**	**14-11-2026 at 02.00 P.M OR Any other subsequent date convenient to the opening** authority.
05.	**List of Documents to be uploaded:-** i. **Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt. The amount should be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account in J&K Bank titled F.A/Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar, A/C No. CD/0216010200000007, Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN.** ii. **Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit in shape of Bank Receipt The amount should be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account in J&K Bank titled F.A/ Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar, A/C No. CD/0216010200000007, Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN.** iii. **Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration, PAN Card and Authorized Gas Distributor Certificate.**	
07.	**Bid Opening Authority**	**Ex. Engineer Mech. City Drainage Division Srinagar**

1. **The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule with Digital Signature and no bid will be accepted in physical form.**
2. **The Executive Engineer Mech. City Drainage Division Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof.**
3. **The contract is valid upto 15-03-2026**
4. **The bids for the supply shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of tech. bids.**
5. Linked bank account with GSTIN: The contractor/bidder shall disclose the bank account number which is linked with their **GSTIN at the time of bid submission, no payment shall be released by this division to any other bank account except one linked with the GSTIN registered number of the successful bidder (As per Circular No.01(Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08-07-2025).**
6. Performance Security: **The successful bidder has to deposit an amount of Rs.2000.00 as Performance Security in the shape of bank receipt to be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account titled F.A/Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar No. CD/0216010200000007, J&K Bank Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN Srinagar before issuance of formal allotment order and the same shall be retained till the successful completion of the ARC.**
7. All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the PWD form No. 25.

For further details, terms and conditions log on www.jktenders.gov.in

. DIPK-7437/26
DATED: 06-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR

Kashmir Thunder



IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS

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

IN THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE GANDERBAL

File No. 7707 / 2026
CNR No. :JKBG03002798.2026
D.O.I : 31.10.2026
D.O.O : 31.10.2026

In the Case of
Ab Majeed Khan S/O Gh Ahmad Khan
R/O Shallabugh Ganderbal
Applicant
V/S
The Registrar of Births & Deaths Block Sherpathri
B.D.O Sherpathri.
Respondent

In the matter of : Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.

CORAM : | Ms Nusrat Ali Hakak | U.I.D No : JKO0200

To,
The General Public
P R O C L A M A T I O N

1. The instant application came to be filed before this court on 31.10.2026 under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act. 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely Ab. Majeed Khan S/O Gh Ahmad Khan R/O Shallabugh Ganderbal.

Based on the second image provided, here is the transcribed text, which appears to be the continuation (paragraphs 2 and 3) and conclusion of the proclamation document from the first image:

Whereas this court has ordered that the objections from the general public be called for issuance of birth certificate in favour of the above named person

Therefore this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of ~~seven~~ days, to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced
23.10.2026

Chief Judicial Magistrate
Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my bank account bearing Account No. 002036012000250, maintained with J&K State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Qamria Chowk Branch, as Mainson Zahoor instead of my correct name Mohsin Zahoor.

My correct name, as per my Aadhaar Card and other valid documents, is Mohsin Zahoor, S/o Zahoor Ahmad, R/o Saloora, Ganderbal.

I intend to get the aforesaid discrepancy rectified in the bank records to match my Aadhaar Card. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned bank authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Mohsin Zahoor
S/o Zahoor Ahmad Rather
R/o Saloora, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Rasool Sheikh S/o Wali Mohd Sheikh, R/o Waskura, Ganderbal, hereby notify the general public that my Date of Birth has been wrongly recorded in my service records as 06-07-1971 instead of my actual and correct Date of Birth, i.e. 06-08-1971, as per official records.

I intend to get the said discrepancy corrected in my service records from the concerned Police Department/Authority. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Ghulam Rasool Sheikh
S/o Wali Mohd Sheikh
R/o Waskura, Ganderbal

Keran sees 55,000 tourists, eyes 1 lakh footfall

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Nov 06: The border village of Keran in north Kashmir's Kupwara district has recorded more than 55,000 tourist arrivals till November this year, with the administration targeting over one lakh visitors, including foreign tourists, in the near future.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma said that tourist footfall in the scenic Line of Control (LoC) vil-lage has been rising steadily year after year, reflecting its growing popularity as an emerging tourism destination.

Speaking at the inauguration of a heritage cafe and flag site in Keran, Sharma said the administration is focused on strengthening tourism infrastructure while preserving the village's natural beauty and unique character.

"Keran has already crossed 55,000 tourist arrivals till No-vember this year, and we are aiming for a footfall of over one lakh, including foreign tourists. The increasing num-ber of visitors every year is encouraging," he said.

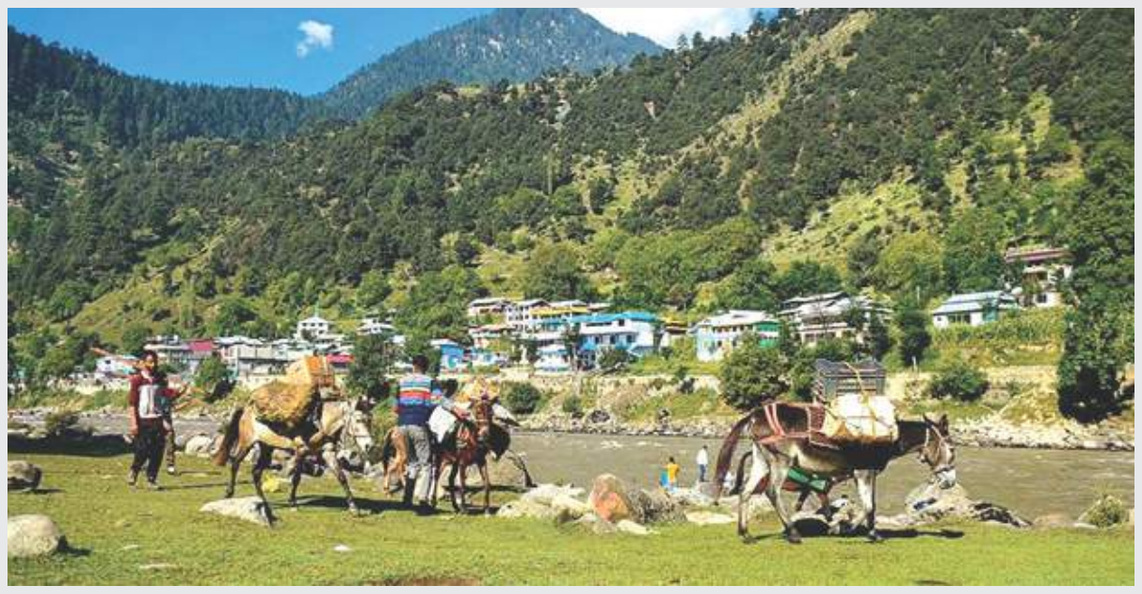
The DC said the goal was not only to attract tourists but also to create an experience that encourages them to re-turn and share their memories with others.

Highlighting the Indian Army's contribution to promoting tourism in the border area, Sharma said it has consistently supported efforts to develop Keran and improve visitor facilities. "Facilities are being created so that tourists leave with beautiful memories. This requires collective effort, and the Indian Army has always played its role in that direc-tion," he said.

Sharma said Kupwara's border areas hold immense tour-ism potential, which can be fully realised through coordi-nated efforts by civil society, the Indian Army, local en-trepreneurs and the administration.

"We have tremendous potential and numerous opportu-nities. With a joint effort, we can make Keran one of the world's finest tourism destinations," he said.

He also urged travel enthusiasts to visit Keran and expe-rience its scenic beauty, heritage and distinctive border-village charm—(KNO)



Security Forces on alert for peaceful Diwali

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 06: To ensure peaceful Diwali celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir, authorities have beefed up the securitWy with Special Operations Group (SOG) and other security forces personnel maintaining heightened vigil at important locations, highways and sensitive points.

An official said that tight security arrangements have been put in place at Udhampur, Jammu, Srinagar, Qazigund, Kautha, Samba and other parts of the Union Territory.

He said special checkpoints and nakas stand established at important junctions, entry and exit points and other vulnerable locations, while patrolling has also been inten-sified to keep a close watch on suspicious movement.

SOG personnel are maintaining vigil and monitoring the movement of vehicles on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) as part of the beefed up security ar-rangements ahead of the festival.

The official said vehicles are being stopped at designated nakas for checking, while frisking of commuters and veri-fication of documents are being carried out wherever re-quired. Security personnel are also keeping a close watch on vehicles and individuals moving through sensitive stretches.

He said additional deployment has been made at im-portant locations, with security agencies coordinating with one another to strengthen surveillance and ensure that no untoward incident takes place during the festive period.



Patrolling teams have also been directed to maintain round-the-clock vigilance, particularly around crowded places, major roads, markets and other locations witness-ing increased public movement during the festival, the of-ficial said, adding that the arrangements are part of rou-tine security measures undertaken during important fes-tivals to maintain law and order and prevent any attempt to disturb peace.

Security personnel have also been keeping watch over highway movement and other strategic locations, while checking and surveillance measures have been strength-ened in different districts.

The security arrangements come ahead of Diwali, when markets and public places generally witness increased movement of people—(KNO)

NC a 'sinking ship': Sat Sharma



Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 06: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma on Friday described the Na-tional Conference (NC) as a "sinking ship", citing its recent electoral setbacks and reports of internal discontent within the ruling party.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Sharma said the NC's performance over the past two years reflected growing public dissatisfaction.

"The fact that the National Conference has failed to deliv-er over the past two years is, in itself, an indication that it is a sinking ship. The party has lost two by-elections. In Budgam, the Chief Minister vacated his seat, but another political party won the election. In Nagrota, the National Conference forfeited its deposit. This itself indicates that the party is a sinking ship and nobody would want to board a sinking ship," he said.

Calling the differences within the NC an internal matter, Sharma said the resentment among some legislators was understandable as, according to him, the government had failed to address public grievances and meet expectations.

"Even the MLAs feel that by remaining part of a political party that has failed to live up to people's expectations and address their grievances, they risk being sidelined. People have faced difficulties and hardships, and their concerns have not been addressed. They know the party could be pushed to the margins and, therefore, their an-ger is justified," he said.

Sharma also targeted NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah over his

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Police arrest 2 more accused in terror module case

KNO

Bandipora, Nov 06: Bandipora Police have arrested two more persons in connection with an alleged prison-linked terror module case involving a banned organisation ac-cused of targeting women for separatist ideology and propaganda, taking the total number of arrests to eight.

A Police officer said that the arrests were made during the ongoing investigation into the case registered under FIR No. 168/2026 under Sections 10 and 13 of the Unlaw-ful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The arrested persons were identified as Irshad Ahmed Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, of Chakloo, Baramulla, and Showkat Ahmed Reshi, son of Ghulam Mohammad Reshi, of Watlab, Sopore.

According to police, both accused were allegedly associ-ated with the module and have been taken into custody for questioning and further investigation.

With these arrests, the total number of persons arrested in the case has reached eight. Police said the investigation is continuing to establish the extent of the accused persons' involvement and identify other individuals and possible links connected with the module.

Pertinently, the case relates to an alleged network linked to a banned organisation, which police had earlier claimed was involved in attempts

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

GMC Jammu adds 12 PG seats, total strength rises to 254

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 06: In a significant boost to postgraduate medical education in Jammu and Kashmir, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu has added 12 postgradu-ate (PG) seats across various disciplines for the academic session 2026-27, taking the institute's total PG seat strength from 242 to 254.

As per the details available, the enhancement includes an increase in seats in four existing disciplines, besides the introduction of postgraduate training in Respiratory Med-icine for the first time, marking an important develop-ment for the department.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo in a post on 'X' said that the MD Pathology seats have been in-creased from 18 to 23, while MD Paediatrics seats have gone up from 18 to 20.

Similarly, MD Pharmacology seats have been enhanced from 10 to 12, and MD Microbiology seats from seven to eight.

Besides this, two MD seats in Respiratory Medicine have been introduced for the first time, opening a new avenue for postgraduate medical training in the specialty at the institution.

The latest enhancement comprises 10 additional seats in the existing disciplines and two newly introduced seats in Respiratory Medicine.

Minister Sakina Itoo said the expansion would provide greater opportunities for aspiring medical professionals and strengthen postgraduate medical education in the Union Territory.

She also stated that over the past two years, 70 MBBS seats and 56 PG

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.

Pulwama farmer sets up solar-powered cold storage

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Nov 06: In a significant push towards modern-ising agriculture and strengthening the local vegetable-growing sector, a progressive farmer from Tahab area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has introduced a solar-powered mini cold storage facility, offering local growers an opportunity to preserve their produce and fetch better market prices.

Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Tahab, has taken a different approach from the growing trend of converting agricul-tural land into orchards, turning his horticultural land back into agricultural fields and venturing into large-scale vegetable cultivation.

By adopting modern farming techniques and cultivating organic as well as improved varieties of vegetables, he is attempting to demonstrate the economic potential of veg-etable farming. His initiative has also inspired other local growers to explore vegetable cultivation as a sustainable source of income.

To expand the effort through collective participation, he has brought together 29 other farmers under a Farmers Interest Group (FIG), with the objective of increasing pro-duction, promoting improved agricultural practices and strengthening farmers' access to markets.



A key component of this initiative is the installation of a 10-metric-tonne-capacity mini vegetable cold storage unit at Farooq's farmland, provided free of cost by an organic foundation. The facility operates on solar energy and is being described as the first such facility in the area.

"The cold storage unit is expected to address a longstand-ing challenge confronting vegetable growers, who often have limited options to preserve their harvested produce and are compelled to sell it immediately, sometimes at lower prices due to market fluctuations and excess sup-ply," Farooq said.

With the facility, members of the FIG will be able to store their vegetables and release them into the market accord-ing to demand, particularly during the off-season, when better prices can be secured.

Farooq said modern agricultural technology had become indispensable for improving farm productivity and ensur-ing better economic returns, and that farmers could sig-nificantly enhance production even with limited re-sources by adopting scientific cultivation methods and making effective use of available technological facilities.

"The mini cold storage facility will be a major support for local farmers. Instead of selling the entire produce imme-diately after harvesting, we will be able to preserve vege-tables and supply them to markets when demand and prices are favourable. This will help improve farmers' earnings," he said.

He also called upon unemployed youth and fellow farm-ers to explore the potential of vegetable cultivation, say-ing agriculture could emerge as a viable source of em-ployment if supported by modern technology, proper planning and market-oriented production. He urged farmers to take maximum advantage of government-sponsored schemes and agricultural support pro-grammes.

The initiative assumes significance at a time when im-proving post-harvest management, reducing wastage and ensuring remunerative prices have emerged as important concerns for the farming community.

The introduction of solar-powered storage, coupled with collective farming efforts, is expected to provide local growers with greater flexibility in handling their produce and encourage more farmers to take up commercial vege-table cultivation—(KNO)

Bandipora blaze renders 3 families homeless

Sajid Raina

Bandipora, Nov 06: A massive fire rendered three fami-lies homeless at Quilmuqam village in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday.

According to the details available, the blaze caused exten-sive damage to the houses, leaving the affected families with little of their belongings. "Among victims was a fam-ily preparing for their daughter's wedding. Fire destroyed clothes, household items and other arrangements that were made for the occasion," said a resident.

"What was meant to be a joyous occasion for the family has now turned into a period of distress, as the wedding preparations they had made over time were reduced to ashes along with their home," he added.

The blaze also engulfed a cowshed, causing further losses to the affected households.

Soon after the fire broke out, local residents rushed to the spot and joined Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel and Indian Army soldiers in efforts to bring the flames under control and prevent them from spreading to nearby struc-tures.

The incident left the affected families devastated, with residents expressing concern over the loss of shelter and household belongings, particularly for the family whose daughter's wedding is approaching.

Locals have appealed to the district administration to as-sess the losses and provide immediate financial assis-tance, temporary shelter and rehabilitation support to the affected families.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

ACB books former revenue officials in wrong Khasra, state land case

KNO

Jammu, Nov 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a then Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and two private per-sons for facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land in Gurha Brahmana village of Jammu, officials said.

In a statement, an ACB spokesperson said the FIR was registered against the then Naib Tehsildar, Patwari and certain private persons for their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana.

He said the FIR was registered on the basis of Verifica-tion No. 02/2024, conducted into a complaint lodged by Sohan Singh. The verification prima facie revealed that the accused public servants had allegedly abused and misused their official positions and failed to discharge their duties in accordance with the law, thereby facili-tating wrongful gain to private persons and causing consequential wrongful loss to the complainant as well as the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The spokesperson said the complainant had alleged that he had purchased one kanal of land falling under Khasra

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

A Long Wait For A Vital Hospital

The AIIMS Awantipora beginning OPD services before December 2026, with IPD services from July 2027 and MBBS classes in the 2027-28 session, is welcome. It is also, frankly, overdue. The project was approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2019. Seven years later, patients in south Kashmir are still waiting for the hospital to open its doors. That delay deserves to be named clearly, not hidden behind fresh deadlines. Why does it matter so much? Because AIIMS Awantipora is not a prestige project. It is a necessity. Today, a patient from Pulwama or Shopian who needs specialised treatment must travel to Srinagar, to SKIMS or SMHS, and wait in long queues. For the poor, the journey itself is a cost. For the critically ill, the journey can be the difference between life and death. A 750-bed hospital with modern equipment, trained faculty and a medical college would change that reality for lakhs of people. The details released after the Union Health Minister's review are encouraging: major buildings completed, procurement approved for 180 equipment items worth Rs 59.41 crore, 652 personnel cleared for the OPD rollout, and — importantly — 100 MBBS seats instead of the 50 announced earlier. That last point is significant. It means the institute will not just treat patients but train the doctors Kashmir needs for decades to come. But the past seven years teach us one lesson: deadlines slip. The March 2027 construction deadline, the December 2026 OPD target, the July 2027 IPD date — all of these must be tracked publicly. The government should publish progress every quarter, not once a year. The project is good. The intention is good. What has been missing is speed. Kashmir's patients have waited long enough. Let this time be different.

BAL VIVAH MUKT BHARAT

Two Years Of Collective Action Towards A Child-Marriage-Free India

Press Information Bureau



Child marriage remains a persistent social challenge in India. Its prevalence among women aged 20-24 who married before 18 has declined from 23.3 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21) to 20.1 per cent in NFHS-6 (2023-24) — a fall of 3.2 percentage points. Launched on 27 November 2024, the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat (BVMB) campaign works to prevent child marriage through legal safeguards, public awareness and community participation. In two years, it has conducted 6.85 lakh awareness programmes, reached 12.47 crore participants and registered 42.01 lakh pledges.

The legal foundation: PCMA, 2006

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 replaced the 1929 Sarda Act, shifting the law from merely restraining child marriage to prohibiting it. A child is a male below 21 and a female below 18. A child marriage is voidable at the option of the party who was a child, and void in cases involving trafficking, force, deceit or immoral purposes.

Offences are cognizable and non-bailable. An adult male marrying a child, and anyone who solemnises, abets, promotes or attends such a marriage — including parents — faces rigorous imprisonment up to two years and/or a fine up to Rs 1 lakh. Women offenders are not liable to imprisonment. The Act provides for maintenance, residence and custody, and children of such marriages remain legitimate. Magistrates can issue injunctions to stop an impending marriage.

Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs), appointed under Section 16, must prevent solemnisation, collect evidence, counsel families, create awareness and furnish returns. Effective implementation demands preventive outreach, not just enforcement after violation.

Supreme Court framework

In its judgment of 18 October 2024 in Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action v. Union of India, the Supreme Court directed States and UTs to appoint dedicated, full-time CMPOs at district and sub-district levels; create special units for coordination, monitoring and grievance redressal; run multi-sectoral awareness campaigns; train key functionaries; and use technology-enabled reporting and risk databases. The judgment shifts the focus from punishment towards prevention, protection and empowerment.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

While the law prohibits, BBBP — launched in January 2015 and implemented under Mission Shakti — works to change the social attitudes that sustain the practice. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development with four partner ministries, it promotes girls' survival, protection and education through awareness, advocacy and community mobilisation. Promoting girls' education and challenging discriminatory norms helps delay marriage and widen opportunities. BVMB builds on this foundation with a sharper operational focus on child marriage.

The campaign

Launched by MWCD on 27 November 2024, BVMB brings together government institutions, States and UTs, local bodies, educational institutions, frontline workers, civil society, faith leaders, youth and citizens around one national commitment. It aims to reduce prevalence and make India child-marriage-free by 2030, in line with SDG Target 5.3. MWCD fully funds the campaign, prioritising 257 high-burden districts identified through NFHS-5 data.

The portal

The BVMB Portal provides the digital backbone — public access to CMPO details, reporting of incidents, recording of awareness activities and pledge-taking, also facilitated through MyGov. It serves both as a citizen-facing platform and a monitoring mechanism.

100-Day Intensive Awareness Campaign

Launched on 4 December 2025 and implemented from 27 November 2025 to 8 March 2026, the campaign ran in three spells: schools, colleges and universities; religious institutions, faith leaders and marriage-related service providers such as caterers and tent houses; and Gram Panchayats and Municipal Wards, where resolutions declaring jurisdictions child-marriage-free were facilitated.

Key achievements

- Awareness: 6.85 lakh programmes conducted; 12.47 crore participants reached.
- Institutional strengthening: 71,882 CMPOs reflected on the portal, including 59,686 designated at Gram Panchayat level.
- Citizen participation: 42.01 lakh pledges — 40.96 lakh through the portal and 1.05 lakh through MyGov.
- Reporting and prevention: 4,536 incidents recorded on the portal, with focused interventions during high-risk periods such as Akshaya Tritiya involving district administrations, CMPOs and law enforcement.

Progress across States and UTs

Most States and UTs show a decline since NFHS-5. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu recorded the largest reduction of 10.1 percentage points, followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands (7.4), Assam (6.5), Bihar (6.2) and Tripura (6.1). Twenty-eight States and UTs are performing better than the national average, including Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Keralam.

The road ahead

The National Observance on 27 November 2026 marks two years of the campaign, providing an occasion to take stock, recognise the contribution of CMPOs and grassroots stakeholders, and renew the national commitment. The focus remains on strengthening CMPO arrangements, improving portal data, expanding awareness and pledges, and ensuring timely reporting and prevention. Prevalence is falling but unevenly, which is why the effort must be sustained until 2030.

Indian Higher Education: A Marketplace Of Degrees Or A Mission Of Knowledge?

The ultimate test of a university is not how many degrees it awards, but how much knowledge it creates, how many minds it transforms, and how meaningfully it contributes to the progress of the nation.

Prof. R. K. Uppal

Imagine a university where admission targets matter more than academic standards, degrees are distributed without meaningful learning and research is measured by the number of publications rather than their contribution to society. Such a situation raises a fundamental question: Are universities becoming marketplaces of degrees or institutions dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge? This question is increasingly relevant to Indian higher education, where the rapid expansion of institutions has created new opportunities but also serious concerns about quality, academic integrity, and the commercialization of education.

Education was traditionally regarded as a public good, a means of intellectual development, social transformation, and national progress. Universities were established to promote critical thinking, scientific inquiry, innovation, and the advancement of human knowledge. However, the growing commercial orientation of higher education threatens to weaken these fundamental objectives. When institutional success is determined primarily by admissions, revenue generation, and the number of degrees awarded, the mission of education risks becoming secondary.

The Growing Commercialization of Education

The expansion of private universities and colleges has played an important role in increasing access to higher education. However, expansion without adequate academic accountability can create serious challenges. In some institutions, educational activities increasingly resemble commercial operations, with students treated as customers and academic programmes marketed as products.

The problem is not private participation itself. Private institutions can make significant contributions to research, innovation, and professional education. The real concern arises when financial objectives dominate academic priorities. Education becomes problematic when institutions focus on attracting students without ensuring that graduates acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies required for meaningful employment and responsible citizenship.

The distinction between an educational institution and a commercial enterprise must remain clear. Universities may require financial sustainability, but their ultimate responsibility is to society.

Degrees without Knowledge

India has witnessed a substantial expansion in higher education enrolment. Yet the availability of degrees does not automatically translate into intellectual development or employability. Many graduates struggle to demonstrate practical skills, analytical abilities, and the capacity to solve real-world problems.

The disconnect between education and employment raises serious questions about curriculum design, teaching methods, assessment systems, and institutional accountability. Students may successfully complete examinations without developing the competencies expected by employers or society.

A degree should represent demonstrated learning, not merely the completion of a prescribed period of study. Universities must therefore move beyond examination-oriented teaching and promote experiential learning, project-based education, internships, research assignments, and industry engagement.

The objective should not simply be to produce graduates but to develop capable individuals who can contribute to economic and social development.

Research: The Forgotten Mission

Research is another area where commercial and quantitative pressures can undermine academic quality. Universities are expected to generate new knowledge, address societal challenges, and contribute to technological and economic progress. However, when research is driven primarily by publication counts, promotion requirements, or the acquisition of doctoral degrees, originality and impact may receive insufficient attention.

Faculty: Educators or Revenue Generators?

The quality of higher education depends substantially on the quality of its faculty. Teachers are responsible for developing intellectual curiosity, encouraging independent thinking, and guiding students towards academic and professional excellence.

However, increasing administrative burdens, contractual employment, inadequate remuneration, and pressure to meet admission targets can undermine the professional dignity of faculty members. When professors are expected to function primarily as admission agents or revenue generators, their academic responsibilities become compromised.

Institutions must recognise that faculty members are intellectual assets rather than merely operational employees. Regular appointments, professional development, research opportunities, academic freedom, and fair compensation are essential for building strong universities. A university cannot achieve academic excellence by neglecting the people responsible for teaching and research.

NEP 2020: Restoring the Mission of Education

The National Education Policy 2020 offers an opportunity to transform Indian higher education through multidisciplinary learning, flexibility, research promotion, skill development, and institutional autonomy.

However, policy aspirations must translate into meaningful institutional change. Merely adopting new terminology, introducing revised curricula, or establishing additional programmes will not guarantee educational transformation.

Restoring Universities as Centers of Knowledge

India must redefine the purpose and performance of higher education institutions. Accreditation and institutional evaluation should place greater emphasis on learning outcomes, research originality, ethical practices, graduate employability, and social contribution.

Universities must strengthen collaboration with industries, research organizations, local communities, and government agencies. Students should be encouraged to develop practical solutions to agricultural, environmental, technological, and social challenges.

Conclusion

The future of Indian higher education depends on the choices made today. A university that prioritizes profits over knowledge may expand its revenue, but it cannot fulfill its responsibility towards society. A university that values intellectual curiosity, research excellence, innovation, and ethical responsibility can become a powerful instrument of national development.

India's ambition to become a developed nation by 2047 requires strong universities capable of producing knowledge, not merely distributing degrees. The country needs institutions that encourage students to question, investigate, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to society. Higher education must not become a marketplace where qualifications are purchased and sold. It must remain a mission of knowledge, intellectual freedom, and human development.

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

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Jammu Expo 2.0 concludes, provides boost to local entrepreneurs

Expo witnessed participation of 60 exhibitors from across J&K

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: The five-day "Jammu Expo 2.0 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine", organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, with an encouraging response from exhibitors, visitors and stakeholders.

Jammu Expo 2.0 celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culinary heritage of Jammu The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive and strong consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

The concluding ceremony, as per an official statement, was graced by Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, besides other senior government officials.

The Expo witnessed participation of 60 exhibitors representing local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, start-ups, women-led enterprises, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and emerging brands from across Jammu & Kashmir. The exhibition provided a vibrant platform for showcasing the region's rich handicrafts, handloom, traditional products, agriculture and horticulture produce, food products, while facilitating direct consumer engagement and business networking.

A significant highlight of this edition was its emphasis on promoting women entrepreneurship and providing greater market visibility to women-led enterprises. Out of the 60 participating stalls, 40 were represented by women entrepreneurs, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total participation. Through dedicated spaces for HAUSLA women entrepreneurs, rural women SHGs and emerging business owners, JKTPO continued its efforts towards creating meaningful opportunities for women to showcase their products, access markets, strengthen business networks and expand their entrepreneurial activities.

In a significant step towards connecting local enterprises with digital marketplaces, the Expo facilitated linkages with leading e-commerce platforms to promote digital adoption among MSMEs. As part of this initiative, 20 participating MSMEs were enrolled under the Walmart Vriddhi Programme, while 07 out of the 20 registered MSMEs were successfully onboarded onto Flipkart, enabling local businesses to explore digital commerce opportunities, expand their customer base, enhance market access and strengthen their online presence.

This edition of Jammu Expo was particularly special as it coincided with the festive shopping season, positioning the exhibition as a vibrant shopping destination for visitors. The Expo showcased an extensive range of traditional handicrafts, handloom products, locally manufactured goods, lifestyle products and unique offerings from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The dedicated "जम्मू दे स्वाद" Food Corner emerged as a major attraction, bringing together authentic Dogra delicacies and popular local favourites, including Queer, Rajma Chawal, Maa Madra with Khamere, Kachalu, Kaladi Kulcha, Desi Ghee Halwa and other regional specialities. The Expo also featured cultural performances celebrating the rich Dogra heritage, adding to the overall visitor experience.

Speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director, JKTPO, stated that Jammu Expo 2.0 was conceptualised as a consumer-oriented and experience-driven platform, bringing together enterprise promotion, local products, traditional cuisine and cultural heritage under one roof. He remarked, "The encouraging response to the Expo reflects the entrepreneurial potential of Jammu & Kashmir. Initiatives such as Walmart Vriddhi/Flipkart onboarding further strengthen our efforts to connect local enterprises with digital marketplaces. JKTPO remains committed to facilitating greater market access and sustainable business opportunities for entrepreneurs, artisans, SHGs and MSMEs across the Union Territory."

The successful culmination of Jammu Expo 2.0 marks another significant step in JKTPO's continued efforts towards establishing regular market-oriented platforms across Jammu & Kashmir. Building on the encouraging response to the inaugural Jammu Expo 2026 and the successful organisation of two editions of Kashmir Expo, JKTPO continues to strengthen its initiatives for promoting local enterprises, showcasing indigenous products and craftsmanship and facilitating wider market access through exhibitions, trade events and business networking platforms.

JKTPO extends its sincere gratitude to the people of Jammu, exhibitors, artisans, entrepreneurs, women-led enterprises, startups, partners and all stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the second edition of Jammu Expo a success.

DDC Doda reviews progress of district plan (CAPEX) works

KT News Desk

DODA, NOVEMBER 06: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal Friday chaired a review meeting in the conference hall of DC Office to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget and various other funding components.

The DDC, as per an official statement, conducted a detailed review of the sector-wise and block-wise progress of works taken up under Tied and Untied Funds, Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), BDC, PRI grants and other developmental programmes.

The DC inquired about status of administrative approvals, tendering, allotment, issuance of Letters of Intent (LOIs), commencement and completion of works, besides expenditure incurred in the current financial year.

The review also covered the progress of works under PRI, BDC and ABDP components. He also reviewed pending dispute cases related to developmental works and the issues requiring inter-departmental coordination. He stressed the need for timely resolution of such cases to avoid unnecessary delays in execution and ensure completion of approved projects within the stipulated timelines.

The officers were directed to closely monitor the progress, expedite pending formalities, ensure optimum utilisation of allocated funds and maintain transparency and accountability in project implementation.

Emphasis was also laid on adherence to quality standards and ensuring that the benefits of developmental initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by DFO, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers, EO Municipality, BDOs, CDPOs and other concerned officers.

Legal Services Week Celebration

Exhibition-cum-sale of products made by Jail inmates held at District Court Complex Janipur

Chairman DLSA Jammu inaugurates stalls

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: As part of the ongoing Legal Services Week celebration, District Legal Services Authority, Jammu under the guidance of Principal District & Sessions Judge (DLSA Chairman) Tahir Khurshid Raina and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-DLSA Secretary, Maleeka Sharma, Friday organised an Exhibition-cum-Sale of products made by the inmates of Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal and District Jail Amphalla here at District Court Complex.

The stalls were inaugurated by the DLSA Chairman Tahir Khurshid Raina, in presence of Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma, Judicial Officers, Advocates, litigants and court staff.

A wide range of products prepared by the inmates inside the jails, including candles, bedsheets, furniture items, bakery items and other handicraft items were displayed for the sale.

The exhibition, as per an official statement, aimed to showcase the skills of the inmates, encouraging their rehabilitation and reintegration into society and providing them a platform to become self-reliant. Judicial Officers, Advocates, Litigants, Court staff and public visited the stalls and purchased the items, thereby extending their support and encouragement to the inmates.

The Secretary DLSA appreciated the efforts of the Jail Authorities for the initiative. "Such programmes not only help in skill development of inmates but also instill confidence and a sense of dignity among them, which is essential for their reformation and successful reintegration into mainstream society," she noted.

MC Rajouri introduces face authentication-based attendance system for staff



KT News Desk

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 06: In a significant step towards promoting digital governance, transparency and accountability in public service delivery, the Municipal Council Rajouri has introduced face authentication-based attendance marking through the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) for all its staff members, including sanitation workers. The initiative has been taken under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner.

Under the introduced system, employees, as per an official statement, can now mark their attendance through face authentication using the AadhaarBAS mobile application on their personal mobile devices. The system enables sanitation workers to mark their attendance directly from their respective duty locations/assigned wards, subject to the configured entry points and location-based authentication requirements.

One of the major benefits of this initiative is that sanitation workers are no longer required to visit the Municipal Council office merely to punch their attendance on a conventional biometric machine. They can mark their attendance at their respective places of deployment, thereby saving valuable time, reducing unnecessary travel and allowing them to focus more effectively on their assigned sanitation duties.

Accounts Assistant Examination: DM Doda reviews arrangements

KT News Desk



DODA, NOVEMBER 06: District Magistrate (DM) Doda Krishan Lal Friday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the JKSSB OMR-based examination for the recruitment of Accounts Assistants in the Finance Department.

The examination, being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), is scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM. A total of 5,478 candidates are expected to appear in the examination at 19 designated examination centres across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, who is also the Chief Inspector for the JKSSB examination, ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, ASP Mohammad Aslam, SE PWD (R&B), ACD, CEO, CMO, DySP Traffic, JKSSB representatives, district officers, principals of government colleges, heads of educational institutions, teaching staff and representatives of various government departments. Several officers also participated through virtual mode.

The District Magistrate reviewed department-wise action plans and assessed the preparedness for the successful conduct of the examination. He issued necessary directions to the concerned officers, emphasising foolproof security arrangements, uninterrupted power supply, effective traffic management and physical inspection of all examination centres.

The DM directed the concerned authorities to establish well equipped control rooms at all examination centres, with clear signage for easy identification. He also stressed the timely installation and functional readiness of CCTV cameras to ensure close monitoring and transparency throughout the examination process.

Reviewing the availability of essential facilities, the DM directed the Executive Engineers of PDD and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power supply and adequate drinking water arrangements at every examination centre.

The Chief Education Officer was directed to personally ensure proper infrastructure and the availability of all requisite facilities at all examination centres. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was asked to arrange adequate medical facilities, including the deployment of medical teams at sensitive examination centres, to address any emergency.

The District Information Officer (DIO) was directed to make necessary arrangements for videography and camera coverage at all examination centres to ensure proper monitoring and transparency during the examination. Reviewing the deployment of invigilators and magistrates, the District Magistrate directed the Centre Superintendents, Deputy Centre Superintendents and invigilators to visit their respective examination centres one day before the examination to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place.

Decks cleared for up-gradation of AAM Gutasa

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 06: The pending up-gradation work at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) Sub Centre Gutasa-Bhaderwah sanctioned under District CAPEX is expected to move on after a health department team resolved a land dispute hampering the execution.

Under the directions of the Chief Medical Officer, a joint team comprising Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah, Assistant Director Planning (Health), Junior Engineer, PWD (R&B), Girdawar and Patwari, visited Gutasa to resolve the land-related dispute.

The team held necessary discussions and coordinated with the concerned stakeholders to address the issue.

After the intervention of the visiting team, as per an official statement, the land dispute was successfully resolved, paving the way for the execution of the pending sanctioned CAPEX work at the facility.

The department is expected to initiate the work shortly, which will further strengthen the healthcare facilities for the local population.

Fight Against Drug Abuse

Addiction Treatment Facility established at DH Reasi

KT News Desk

REASI, NOVEMBER 06: In a significant step towards strengthening the district's efforts to combat substance abuse, the district administration Reasi has established an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital under the special initiative of Deputy Commissioner Kumar Abhishek.

The facility, as per an official statement, aims to provide accessible, comprehensive and confidential treatment services to individuals struggling with substance dependence, while supporting the district administration's mission to build a drug-free society.

The ATF will provide medical consultation, treatment, counselling and guidance to help individuals overcome addiction and lead healthy, drug-free lives. Prescribed medicines will also be provided free of cost, subject to availability.

Special emphasis will be laid on safeguarding the dignity, privacy and well-being of patients. All personal information, medical records and treatment details will be maintained with strict confidentiality. The dedicated ATF team will provide appropriate medical care, prescribed medication and continued support throughout the recovery process, helping patients reintegrate into a healthy and productive life.

The establishment of the facility marks an important step towards strengthening healthcare support for individuals affected by substance abuse and reinforces the district administration's commitment to creating a drug-free Reasi.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of AIIMS Awantipora

Calls for strengthening biomedical waste disposal mechanism

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Friday chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the progress of the AIIMS Awantipora project, assess the status of essential infrastructure and address issues requiring inter-departmental coordination for its operationalisation.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora, briefed the chair about the progress achieved and highlighted various issues requiring intervention and coordination. The meeting discussed the additional land requirement for the project, power and water supply, CCTV installation, operationalisation of lifts and other vital installations, besides transport and road connectivity arrangements.

Regarding the additional land requirement, ADC Awantipora informed the meeting that approximately 300 kanals of land have already been identified and the case forwarded to the competent authority for necessary action.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for seamless vehicular movement from the National Highway to the AIIMS main gate, internal transportation and adequate parking facilities.

It was apprised that arrangements for transport facilities had been finalised, while internal transportation arrangements are being made by the executing agency. The DC advised the executing agency to explore the provision of two buses under its CSR initiative to facilitate internal transport within the campus. He also stressed the need for effective traffic regulation and prevention of indiscriminate parking along the approach road. The issue of macadamisation of the approach road leading to the electricity receiving station was also taken up with the executing agency for necessary action.

The chair was further informed that the police station within the AIIMS premises is ready for handover. The meeting decided that the police station would be formally taken over next week.

Reviewing the arrangements for commencement of healthcare services, the DC directed the executing agency to put in place a well-structured biomedical waste management and disposal mechanism. He also advised exploring the feasibility of constructing an emergency helipad within the premises to facilitate emergency medical response.

Emphasising the project's potential to strengthen the local economy, the DC called upon the AIIMS authorities to provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth, wherever feasible. He also stressed wide publicity of recruitment notifications to ensure that eligible local candidates are adequately informed and get sufficient time to apply.

Taking note of the sloping terrain and challenging winter conditions in the area, the DC sought details of the snow-clearance plan and measures proposed to prevent slippery road conditions. He directed the Mechanical Engineering Department to formulate a coordinated plan for the procurement and deployment of adequate machinery to ensure timely snow clearance and uninterrupted connectivity.

The meeting also deliberated on drainage, water harvesting and water inundation mitigation measures in view of the area's topography and the possibility of heavy rainfall and cloudbursts. The chair was apprised that a comprehensive plan had been devised to prevent waterlogging and inundation of the AIIMS campus and adjoining areas. The DC directed the concerned authorities to revisit and strengthen the plan to ensure effective management of surface runoff, particularly during extreme weather events. He further stressed the need for adequate retaining walls along the hillside to safeguard the campus and its infrastructure.

Kashmir Thunder

Secretary Tourism reviews key projects at Patnitop, Kud, Sanasar

KT NEWS DESK



Udhampur, Nov 06: Secretary, Tourism, Avny Lavasa on Friday undertook an extensive tour of the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) jurisdiction, covering Kud, Patnitop and Sanasar to review the functioning of the Authority and assess the progress of various ongoing works.

Chief Executive Officer, PDA, Rakesh Dubey, briefed the Secretary about the overall functioning of the Authority, its administrative framework, ongoing developmental initiatives. He also informed about the key challenges and future roadmap for transforming Patnitop and its adjoining destinations into leading sustainable tourism destinations.

The Secretary chaired a detailed review meeting with the officers and held an interaction with the staff of the Authority. She issued necessary directions for improving the functioning of the Authority and ensuring effective implementation of tourism development initiatives.

During the review meeting, comprehensive deliberations were held on major tourism infrastructure projects and initiatives, including implementation of the Master Plan, Tulip Garden at Sanasar, eco-tourism initiatives, promotion of community events, tourist attractions, waste management, cleanliness and revenue generation.

The Secretary reviewed several important infrastructure projects, including upgradation of the existing stone pathway from Sanasar Bus Stand towards Sanasar Lake, pathways at Children's Park, Patnitop, drainage solid waste management at Patnitop, Sanasar Golf Course, beautification of Sanasar Lake and Bus Stand, installation of solar streetlights, upgradation of high-mast and streetlights and widening and strengthening of the Circular Road at Patnitop.

Emphasising the need for timely execution and quality development, Avny Lavasa directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of ongoing works by mobilising adequate manpower and machinery for completion within the stipulated timelines. She stressed effective monitoring and proper maintenance of all tourism assets being created.

Taking serious note of encroachments within the PDA jurisdiction, the Secretary directed the concerned authorities to undertake regular monitoring and daily inspections to prevent and check illegal encroachments.

During her field visit to Sanasar, the Secretary inspected various ongoing developmental works including the nine-hole golf course, bamboo huts, artificial waterfall and musical park pathway. She directed the executing agencies to expedite the execution of these projects.

Avny Lavasa also directed the CEO, PDA, to ensure that all public toilet facilities remain functional, clean and properly maintained for the convenience of tourists and visitors.

Meanwhile, a deputation of Ponywala representatives met the Secretary and projected their demands, including provision of sheds and improvement of tracks.

The Secretary assured them that their genuine issues would be examined and addressed on merit.

The Secretary was accompanied by SDM Chenani, Dr Ranjit Singh Kotwal, AD Tourism Arif Lone and other officers.

Comm'r Secy HUDD calls for time-bound action on RDF utilization

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 06: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur on Friday chaired a meeting of the High-Level Multi-Departmental Task Force on Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Utilization under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, to review the challenges faced by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Jammu and Kashmir regarding scientific disposal and utilization of RDF generated at waste processing facilities, besides addressing issues related to the bioremediation of legacy waste.

The meeting was attended by Chairman, CPCB, J&K; Member Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC); Mission Director, SBM (U)-2.0, J&K; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC); Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu; and Director Planning, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, besides other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised on the need for coordinated and time-bound action on the matter. She directed all concerned departments to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's observations and compliance requirements in case CA No. 6174/2023 concerning implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed on the need for exploring all possible avenues for the scientific disposal and productive utilization of RDF generated by ULBs across J&K. She asked the members of the Task Force to actively identify and engage potential industrial units within the Union Territory that could utilize RDF as an alternative fuel.

The Commissioner Secretary also directed the Industries and Commerce department to provide a comprehensive list of cement industries and paper mills operating in the Union Territory to facilitate their participation in the Expression of Interest (EOI), which will be floated afresh by the Mission Directorate, SBM (U)-2.0, for identification of suitable RDF utilization partners.

She also directed the Urban Local Bodies to expedite the implementation of on-site waste segregation and ensure effective segregation of waste at source. She observed that the upcoming Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) projects would further strengthen the waste processing ecosystem and facilitate the production of quality RDF through improved segregation practices.

During the meeting, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0, J&K, Ayushi Sudan, apprised the meeting about the action taken on the decisions and directions issued during the first meeting of the Task Force.

Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), J&K, Vasu Dev Yadav, informed the meeting about the status of registration of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) on the CPCB portal and highlighted the progress made in this regard.

During the deliberations, Waseem Trumboo of M/s Trumboo Cement Industries, J&K, an external member of the Task Force, assured the Commissioner Secretary of his industry's willingness to utilize RDF generated by the Urban Local Bodies of J&K.

He informed the meeting that the industry is adopting German technology and developing a facility with an RDF intake capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day. The proposed facility, he said, would have the potential to cater to RDF requirements not only of Jammu and Kashmir but also of other States and Union Territories.

Pertinently, with the Government's consistent efforts and proposed initiatives as well as active participation of the industrial sector, Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards achieving 100 percent scientific disposal and utilization of RDF generated by its Urban Local Bodies.

SC rejects plea for guidelines on appointment of ministers facing criminal charges

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking guidelines to prevent individuals facing serious criminal charges from being appointed as ministers or allocated Cabinet portfolios.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, while dismissing the plea, said constitutional morality was not binding.

The plea sought guidelines for the prime minister and chief ministers to take into account the criminal backgrounds of legislators, while appointing them as ministers and assigning Cabinet portfolios, saying there is no such regulatory framework.

The petitioner clarified that the plea did not seek to introduce any additional disqualification under Articles 75 and 164 of the Constitution, which deal with the appointment of Union and state ministers respectively.

Instead, it sought to ensure that the discretion exercised in selecting ministers and assigning portfolios was guided by certain standards of prudence.

Justice Bagchi observed, "What you are arguing is constitutional morality. It is not binding."

He further questioned the feasibility of such a framework.

Justice Bagchi further said, "Do you know, criminal law is continuously weaponised against people who are in the democratic process, sometimes by their political opponents. In such a situation, would it not be left to the discretion of the chief minister to decide whether a particular criminal case is sufficiently embarrassing for the government to exclude that person from the cabinet?"

The petitioner, however, maintained that the plea was not intended to question the constitutional powers of the executive but only to ensure that there is a certain degree of prudence.

"All that I am saying is that the exercise of discretion has to be reasonable. There have to be certain parameters governing that discretion," the counsel submitted.Justice Bagchi said that the court would be entering difficult territory if it attempted to frame such guidelines.

"We are conscious of the fact that criminal prosecutions may follow a change of regime. We would be wading into that area," he said.

The petitioner also referred to an analysis by an NGO that a large number of legislators face serious criminal charges.

The bench dismissed the plea and told the counsel in lighter vein to exercise the NOTA option on the voting machine next time.

Secy revenue reviews Agristack, farmer ID generation, revenue schemes in Udhampur

KT News Desk



Udhampur, Nov 06: Secretary, Revenue, Avny Lavasa on Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Agristack and the implementation of various revenue-related schemes in District Udhampur.

Secretary conducted a detailed review of the status of Farmer ID generation, PM-KISAN, digitisation of land records, geo-referencing of cadastral maps/Mussavis and tehsil-wise implementation of the SVAMITVA scheme.

While addressing the meeting, Avny Lavasa directed the concerned officers to ensure comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under Agristack and accelerate the generation of Farmer IDs. She also instructed them to organise special camps in their respective jurisdictions to facilitate farmer registration and ensure maximum coverage.

Emphasising the need for coordinated efforts, she directed the officers to expedite the implementation of various initiatives and ensure timely completion of assigned targets.

Avny Lavasa stressed that all eligible farmers must be facilitated and the benefits of various government schemes should reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, briefed the Administrative Secretary on the functioning of the Revenue Department and the progress achieved in the generation of Farmer IDs, implementation of Agristack and other key initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan, SDMs and Tehsildars other concerned officers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's rich

from Kashmir's legendary origins to the reign of King Jayasimha during Kalhana's lifetime.The recognition also brings international attention to the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, which has preserved the historic manuscript as part of Kashmir's documentary heritage.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) assisted in preparing the nomination dossiers for all three Indian works, officials said.

LG SINHA, CM OMAR WELCOME RECOGNITION

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha welcomed the inscription of Kalhana's Rajatarangini, the Mahabharata and the Arthasastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, describing it as a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation.

In a post on X, LG Sinha said the inclusion of Rajatarangini celebrated Jammu and Kashmir's rich intellectual heritage.

He said the global recognition reaffirmed the timeless value of India's civilisational traditions and their contribution to humanity.

The Lieutenant Governor said the recognition also highlighted the collective responsibility to preserve and promote this invaluable wisdom for future generations.

Welcoming the recognition, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the people of the Union Territory, saying the inscription of the manuscript on UNESCO's regional register was a matter of pride.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said the manuscript, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, was an invaluable repository of Kashmir's historical and cultural traditions.

He said the international recognition celebrated Jammu and Kashmir's historical legacy and underlined the importance of preserving its rich heritage.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also described the inscriptions as a significant recognition of India's documentary and intellectual heritage.

With the latest additions, India's total number of inscriptions on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register has increased to six.

The three earlier entries, recognised in 2024, include illustrated manuscripts of Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas, a rare manuscript of the Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana, a significant work on Indian poetics.

The latest inscription places Kalhana's chronicle among the region's important historical and intellectual works, recognising its contribution to documenting Kashmir's past. (KNO)

Dissenting MLAs

take time," Veeri said, adding that the outcome of the discussions would become clear in the coming days.

On the restoration of Article 370, Veeri said the party leadership remained committed to pursuing the issue.

He also expressed hope that concerns regarding legislators' access to ministers and difficulties in getting constituency-related work done would be addressed.

NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi said the party leadership had listened to their concerns and that some demands would be addressed immediately, while others would be taken up gradually. (KNO)

CIK raids multiple

operatives, allegedly working in coordination with handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other banned outfits, were attempting to lure Kashmiri youth into terrorist activities.

Further investigation is underway. (KNO)

Kashmir maps

introduce a digital identification system for trees that hold ecological, historical and cultural significance.

The Chinar, known for its distinctive broad canopy and changing colours during autumn, occupies a special place in Kashmir's landscape. Found in public gardens, university campuses, village commons and along roadsides, the trees have remained an integral part of the region's cultural identity for generations.

Beyond their visual and cultural significance, mature Chinars contribute to the local ecosystem by providing shade, supporting biodiversity and absorbing carbon dioxide.

The initiative also extends to Jammu, where Peepal and Bargad trees are being included in the identification exercise, bringing three prominent tree species under a common documentation programme.

Appreciating the initiative, Wani said the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's natural heritage was a collective responsibility of the government and the people.

He also directed officials to involve concerned legislators in development works undertaken in their respective districts, saying their participation would help improve transparency and ensure that local realities were taken into account.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Sarvesh Rai; Chairman, PCC, Vasu Yadav; Chief Wildlife Warden and Director, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Research Institute, Dr Suneesh Buxy, besides regional wildlife wardens, divisional forest officers and other senior officials.

With the second phase planned, the department aims to expand the digital documentation exercise to cover more of Jammu and Kashmir's prominent trees. (KNO)

Dry weather likely

region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.0 degrees, while Banihal recorded 22.4 and 5.7 degrees, respectively.

Bhaderwah recorded a maximum of 22.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.6 degrees, while Batote recorded 22.7 and 9.5 degrees, respectively.

The department advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations till November 10 and ensure safe storage of harvested crops.

Travellers and transporters have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories.

The maximum temperature in Kupwara was 23.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Qazigund and Srinagar at 21.4 degrees each. Pahalgam recorded 16.6 degrees, Kokernag 18.9 degrees and Gulmarg 13.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded the highest maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees Celsius, followed by Katra at 27.0 degrees, Batote at 22.7 degrees, Banihal at 22.4 degrees and Bhaderwah at 22.1 degrees Celsius.

No rainfall was recorded at the listed weather stations during the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Friday, the department's data showed.

The department has advised farmers to complete harvesting and other agricultural operations by November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops. Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories. (KNO)

'How many more

and staff and preparedness for launching healthcare and academic activities. Officials informed him that all major buildings had been completed, while Phase-I infrastructure, including the OPD Registration Block, OPD Block, residential buildings and designated hostels, had been completed, with inventory verification and handover formalities underway.

The meeting was also informed that procurement approvals had been issued for 180 medical equipment items worth 59.41 crore, with notices of award issued for 140 items. Besides, the Ministry has approved the engagement of 652 personnel for OPD and related services.

Residents said the progress indicated that preparations for operationalisation were underway, but authorities must ensure that equipment installation, recruitment and other essential arrangements are completed within the announced timeframe. They also sought a public status report detailing the facilities that would be available when OPD services commence, including specialist departments, diagnostic services, laboratory facilities and emergency arrangements.

The project, sanctioned at an estimated cost of around 1,828 crore, envisages around 57 structures, including hospital and academic blocks, hostels and residential quarters. Once fully operational, it is expected to add around 1,000 beds to Kashmir's healthcare infrastructure, including 300 super-speciality beds, along with a medical college with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students and a nursing college with 60 seats.

The project was initially expected to be completed by January 2025, but the deadline was revised to November 2025. Operationalisation targets were later pushed to 2026, with officials earlier indicating that MBBS courses would begin in July 2026 and OPD services by August 2026. Both targets could not be achieved. The project has faced hurdles including land-related litigation, the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions following the abrogation of Article 370, issues concerning a nearby Army establishment, adverse weather and labour shortages.

Residents said they hoped the latest intervention would finally translate into the commencement of services, appealing to Nadda and the J&K administration to personally monitor progress and ensure accountability at every level. "People do not need another announcement or another foundation stone. They need doctors, diagnostic facilities, medicines and treatment. AIIMS Awantipora should now become functional on the ground, not remain a project discussed through deadlines," they said. (KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

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NEWS | 07

SATURDAY | 07.11.2026

PM Modi greets citizens on Dhanteras

Stresses investing on health, loved ones



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted people on the occasion of Dhanteras, the first day of Diwali festivities, and hoped their lives would always be illuminated with happiness, peace and good health by the divine grace of Lord Dhanvantari. Modi also urged everyone to make a commitment to better health this Dhanteras.

"Wishing endless warm greetings to all fellow countrymen on the occasion of Dhanteras. May everyone's life always be illuminated with happiness, peace and good health by the divine grace of Lord Dhanvantari. May the eternal lamp of joy and cheer remain ignited in every family – this is my heartfelt best wish," Modi said in a post on X in Hindi.

The prime minister also encouraged families to adopt healthier habits, from mindful eating and regular yoga to adequate sleep and timely health screenings.

"Let us invest in what matters most – the health of our loved ones and a healthier future for our families," he said, commenting on an article by Union minister Prataprao Jadhav on the importance of investing in healthcare.

Buying gold, silver, utensils, etc., on Dhanteras is a popular Hindu tradition, as these metals are believed to symbolise wealth, prosperity and good fortune.

The occasion, also known as Dhantrayodashi, is celebrated two days before Diwali, marking the beginning of five-day festivities.

In much of north India, the festivities begin with Dhanteras, followed by Naraka Chaturdashi (Chhoti Diwali), Diwali, Govardhan Puja and Bhai Dooj.

Jewellers report brisk Dhanteras sales as gold price drop lures buyers

PTI

Mumbai/New Delhi, Nov 06: Jewellers reported strong demand for gold and silver on Dhanteras on Friday, with gold sales by value expected to rise 15-20 per cent to about Rs 60,000 crore, as a recent drop in prices drew buyers, industry officials said.

Volumes, however, are likely to remain roughly flat from a year earlier because prices are still well above last year's levels, said Rajesh Rokde, chairman of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC).

Dhanteras, which falls two days before Diwali, is considered the most auspicious day in the Hindu calendar to buy precious metals.

"The total gold business across India on the occasion of Dhanteras is estimated to be approximately Rs 60,000 crore, according to our preliminary assessment," Rokde told PTI.

Gold in the national capital fell 20 per cent to Rs 1,46,300 per 10 grams (24-carat, including taxes) on Friday from a record Rs 1,83,000 on January 29. Prices remain well above the Rs 1,32,400 seen on last year's Dhanteras on October 18.

Silver has dropped 52.4 per cent from its January 29 peak of Rs 4,04,500 per kg to Rs 1,92,500, but is still above the Rs 1,70,000 per kg recorded on Dhanteras last year.

Consumers are largely opting for lightweight and 18-carat jewellery and other pocket-friendly items, Rokde said, adding that retailers had seen improved sentiment after gold prices eased over the past four to six months.

The GJC expects silver sales to rise 30 per cent in value and 10 per cent in volume.

GJC Vice Chairman Avinash Gupta said footfall was higher than last year and strong advance bookings had supported sentiment. Western and northern markets were seeing stronger activity.

Kalyan Jewellers Executive Director Ramesh Kalyanaraman said the price correction had given an added boost to festive purchases, noting that 22-carat gold eased to Rs 13,150 per gram from Rs 13,385 a day earlier.

He said customers were favouring pendants, bangles, chains and smaller gold and silver coins, and that smaller cities such as Jaipur, Dehradun, Surat, Belgaum, Ara and Raipur were seeing strong traction, including from first-time buyers.

Amit Shah calls for hat-trick in Uttarakhand

Sets target of winning 65 seats in assembly polls

PTI

Dehradun, Nov 06: Union Home Minister Amit Shah called for a "hat-trick" in Uttarakhand, setting a target of winning more than 65 seats in the upcoming assembly elections.

Addressing a public rally here on the occasion of the 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand, Shah said that when the Congress is in power, it advocates for a "Muslim university", while the BJP was clearing government land from encroachment by removing "illegal shrines and madrasas".

He also said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "vote bachao yatra" was a "ghuspetiya bachao" yatra, as he called for the removal of "infiltrators" from the electoral rolls and the country. In his address at the rally, Shah asserted that the BJP is set to form the government in Uttarakhand once again and said the "voice of Uttarakhand" should reach Rahul Gandhi.

"BJP aims to make Uttarakhand a secure and prosperous state, and to transform 'Devbhoomi' into the cultural capital of the country," Shah said, as he set a target of winning more than 65 seats in the polls set to be held early next year. The state has 70 assembly constituencies.

Shah said, "When Congress comes to power, they advocate for a Muslim university, while the BJP is freeing government land from encroachment by removing illegal shrines (mazar) and madrasas."

"Rahul Gandhi was miffed" when encroachment was ordered to be removed from 29 acres land in Haldwani, the minister claimed, referring to a land dispute in the town.



Shah urged party workers to conduct door-to-door outreach and ensure the formation of a BJP government for the third consecutive term. Pointing to the party's performance—securing 57 seats in 2017 and 47 seats in 2022—he called for achieving the target of "crossing 65 seats" this time.

Shah said that Rahul Gandhi's "vote bachao yatra", in reality, is a 'ghuspethiya (infiltrator) bachao yatra'.

"Rahul ji, your attempts at tourism in the state will not help, as thousands of BJP workers are continuously working to solve problems of locals across the state. The Modi-Dhami are working together to ensure that development of Uttarakhand govt does not stop," said Shah.

"When Congress was in power, they used to say that if roads are made, then the enemy will enter (the country)...we made roads and developed the country in such a manner that no enemy can enter the country now... We have also worked to ensure that migration stops and an industrial economy is set up in Uttarakhand," said Shah.

He also highlighted development projects worth Rs 270 crore being implemented in 51 border villages under the 'Vibrant Village' programme. Before him, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami addressed the rally.

People of the state will no longer be tricked by the Congress party's misleading narratives, he said.

Dhami also questioned the Congress party's silence regarding the "insult" to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval who is from Uttarakhand. He was referring to Rahul Gandhi's remarks ahead of the INDIA bloc's planned anti-CEC demonstrations, in which he called PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, RRS chief Mohan Bhagwat, CEC Gyanesh Kumar and NSA Ajit Doval "villains of this story".

Dhami also asked why Congress leaders were not speaking out against their ally Akhilesh Yadav's characterisation of the people of Uttarakhand as "infiltrators."

The chief minister further claimed that his government has sent over 100 members of the "exam-cheating mafia" to jail and has provided government jobs to more than 35,000 youths—all without any instances of cheating or corruption.

Centre mandates rice, paddy stock disclosure

Allows five southern states to impose limits

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: The Centre has allowed five southern states to impose stock limits on rice and paddy, wherever necessary, until January 31, 2027, as part of measures to check hoarding and keep prices under control.

Under an order dated November 6, all traders and wholesalers, retailers, large retail chains and processors and millers in all states and Union Territories must declare stocks under six categories -- Basmati rice, non-Basmati premium rice, non-Basmati rice, parboiled rice, broken rice and paddy.

Every unit holding stocks will have to update details on the Food Stock Portal (foodstock.dfpd.gov.in) every Friday, the food ministry said in a statement.

Units that are not registered on the portal or that violate stock limits will face action under Sections 6 and 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

In a separate letter, also dated November 6, the Centre has given its consent to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana to impose stock limits on paddy and rice through control orders.The Centre and states will monitor implementation to ensure adequate availability and prevent hoarding and black marketing, an official statement said.

To improve availability, the Centre is allocating additional rice stocks to NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar for sale as Bharat Rice, and has asked them to explore all possible distribution channels, especially in the southern states.



The Centre has also doubled the target for rice sales through e-auction under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for 2026-27 from 25 lakh tonnes to 50 lakh tonnes. Around 25 lakh tonnes had been sold to private parties by October 31, compared to 11 lakh tonnes in the same period of the last year.

Trade and industry experts said deficient and uneven rainfall has contributed to rice inflation, particularly in premium non-Basmati varieties, and pushed up paddy prices in several markets.

Retail rice inflation rose to 8.25 per cent year-on-year in September from 5.89 per cent in August, with the average retail price at around Rs 48.23 per kg, about 12 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Experts, however, said the situation is not a nationwide crisis.

Premium southern varieties have seen steeper increases. Wholesale Sona Masoori was quoted at Rs 65-70 per kg, up from Rs 50 a month ago, according to sources.

Trade estimates put rice output in 2026-27 at around 147 million tonnes compared to a record 154 million tonnes in 2025-26.

Air India reroutes US-bound flights through Iraq airspace

Eyes 10% fuel savings

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: Air India is now operating flights directly to New York and Newark without a stopover as the airline has started using Iraq airspace from this week, a move that has also reduced flight durations by around four hours, according to sources.

With the use of Iraq airspace, there will be around 10 per cent fuel savings as well as less burdensome crew requirements in terms of Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL), one of the sources told PTI.

The full service carrier, which has been significantly impacted by airspace curbs, including due to the West Asia crisis, operates one daily flight each to New York and Newark (in the US) from Delhi as well as Mumbai.

The source said there is now more flexibility in terms of airspace availability, which is allowing operations of direct flights to the two destinations in the east coast of the US.

With the use of the Iraq airspace from this week, the flight duration has been cut down by around four hours whereas earlier, the longer route through Jordan and Egypt resulted in increased flying hours, the source added.

As the airline's New York and Newark flights were making a stopover in Rome (Italy), the journey time increased further. With the stopover, the duration was around 20 hours and that has come down to about 16 hours, the source said.



The flights to New York and Newark are generally operated with Boeing 777 planes and sometimes, New York is also served with A350 aircraft.

The Tata Group-owned airline has been taking longer routes for its European and North American flights since early last year, following the Pakistan airspace closure for Indian carriers.

With longer routes and more flying hours, Air India is required to have additional crew members on these flights to ensure compliance with FDTL requirements.

The sources said as the flight durations will be less through the Iraq route, the airline will have more flexibility in terms of crew requirements.

Last month, a senior airline official said there was a big impact due to the airspace restrictions, including due to the West Asia crisis, and the impact is worse than last year.

"It is not just Pakistan's (airspace closure) impact now; there is also) Iran (conflict) impact," the official had said and mentioned airspace restrictions in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"The more airspaces are closed, the more southwards flights have to go... the more southwards flights have to go, the more the fuel bill. So, it (airspace curbs) is worse than what we had last year," the official had said.

Fireworks on Dalal Street

Sensex soars 1,718 points, Nifty reclaims 25,000



PTI

Mumbai, Nov 06: Benchmark indices registered their seventh day of rally on Friday, defying a global market rout, with the Sensex climbing 1,718 points and the Nifty regaining the 25,000 level, as sustained foreign fund inflows and easing crude oil prices boosted optimism among investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,718.01 points, or 2.17 per cent, to settle at the day's high of 81,028.02.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 493.75 points, or 2.01 per cent, to end at the day's high of 25,030.35.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra climbed 6.15 per cent after the automaker on Thursday reported a 25 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the second quarter ended September to Rs 4,587.88 crore, backed by strong revenue growth, particularly for the auto segment, despite headwinds emanating from the West Asia conflict-linked commodity price pressures.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the winners.

Power Grid was the only laggard from the blue-chip pack.

In the past seven consecutive sessions, the Sensex has surged 7,781.99 points, or 10.62 per cent, and the Nifty rallied 2,331.5 points, or 10.27 per cent.

On Thursday, the Sensex zoomed 2,008.61 points, or 2.60 per cent, to settle at 79,310.01. The Nifty surged 576 points, or 2.40 per cent, to end at 24,536.60.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.50 per cent to USD 96.82 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 14,974.68 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi tanked 6.02 per cent and Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 5.96 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended over 1 per cent lower.

Markets in Europe were trading in negative territory.

The US equity markets ended sharply lower on Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite tumbled 5.52 per cent, the S&P 500 dropped 4.36 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3.44 per cent.

"Indian equities defied a global rout, extending their winning run as investors treated the home market as a relative safe harbour amid turmoil abroad. Wall Street was hammered by a sharp tech sell-off as investors weighed the prospect of tougher regulation under Democrats," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Centre makes rice, paddy stock disclosure mandatory; 5 southern states get nod for stock limits

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: With rice prices rising due to a deficient and uneven monsoon, the Centre on Friday directed traders, retailers, wholesalers, processors and millers across the country to declare their rice and paddy stocks and allowed five southern states to impose stock limits to prevent hoarding.

Under an order dated November 6, all traders and wholesalers, retailers, large retail chains and processors and millers in all states and Union Territories must declare stocks under six categories—Basmati rice, non-Basmati premium rice, non-Basmati rice, parboiled rice, broken rice and paddy.

Every unit holding stocks will have to update details on the Food Stock Portal (foodstock.dfpd.gov.in) every Friday, the food ministry said in a statement.

In a separate letter, also dated November 6, the Centre has given its consent to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana to impose stock limits on paddy and rice through control orders.

The limits will remain in force till January 31, 2027. The Centre and states will monitor implementation to ensure adequate availability and prevent hoarding and black marketing, an official statement said.

To improve availability, the Centre is allocating additional rice stocks to NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar for sale as Bharat Rice, and has asked them to explore all possible distribution channels, especially in the southern states. The Centre has also doubled the target for rice sales through e-auction under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for 2026-27 from 25 lakh tonnes to 50 lakh tonnes. Around 25 lakh tonnes had been sold to private parties by October 31, compared to 11 lakh tonnes in the same period of the last year.



Trade and industry experts said deficient and uneven rainfall has contributed to rice inflation, particularly in premium non-Basmati varieties, and pushed up paddy prices in several markets.

Retail rice inflation rose to 8.25 per cent year-on-year in September from 5.89 per cent in August, with the average retail price at around Rs 48.23 per kg, about 12 per cent higher than a year earlier. With government rice stocks at comfortable levels, they said, pressure is sharpest in regions and grades where supplies are tight.

Premium southern varieties have seen steeper increases. Wholesale Sona Masoori was quoted at Rs 65-70 per kg, up from Rs 50 a month ago, according to sources. Kharif paddy acreage for 2026-27 declined by about 4 per cent to 42.68 million hectares, which has been attributed to deficient rainfall.

Trade estimates put rice output in 2026-27 at around 147 million tonnes compared to a record 154 million tonnes in 2025-26.

Quick Read

Suryakumar Yadav meets PM Modi with family



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 6 : Cricketer Surya Kumar Yadav, along with his family members, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday.

Yadav was accompanied by his wife Devisha, their infant daughter, his sister-in-law Deeksha, brother-in-law Ajay Shetty, and his sister-in-law's two children Ram and Saryu. During the meeting, Saryu sang a Kannada song in front of the prime minister, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

"The arrival of Ram and Saryu has coincided with the atmosphere of Deepavali, making the festivities even more sacred and divine," PM Modi said in a post on X in Hindi.

Yadav, who captained India's T20 squad to a World Cup victory, has led the national team to multiple triumphs and continues to be a key player for the Mumbai Indians.

Zelenskyy urges Western allies to provide clear postwar security guarantees



AP

Kyiv, Nov 6 : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says his government is looking for specific guarantees from Western allies on how post-war security support would function when the nearly-five-year war sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion of his nation finally ends.

Zelenskyy's comments in an interview aired late Thursday came after two days of discussions among allies concluded in Brussels that focused on post-war security and reconstruction, and days before planned three-way talks next week in Abu Dhabi between Ukraine, Russia and the United States, the first trilateral peace discussions since February.

While talks on the contours of peace continue, the grim reality of war remained front and centre Friday in Ukraine, with more Russian drone attacks and a rising death toll from Moscow's guided bomb strike Monday on a former school operating as a humanitarian aid distribution centre.

Zelenskyy seeks security guarantees for Ukraine

Two days of talks in Brussels discussed post-war reconstruction, funding for 2027 and security guarantees backed by the Ukrainian government's Western allies. The meetings brought together officials from the US, UK, France, Germany and the European Union, along with representatives from the World Bank and the US investment group BlackRock, Ukrainian lead negotiator Rustem Umerov wrote in an online post.

"We separately discussed the threats from Russia to Ukraine and all of Europe, as well as joint steps to counter them," Umerov wrote.

In his television interview, Zelenskyy said he wants to see tangible results.

"What matters is that it's clear on paper," Zelenskyy said in an interview with Ukraine's private 1+1 television broadcast late Thursday. "The question isn't dozens of points, but simply an understanding of the outcome: If Russia starts (attacking) again, what will happen? Who will do what, with what means, and when? Those answers have to be clear, above all, to us Ukrainians."

Zelenskyy said it was important to maintain bipartisan support for Kyiv in the United States but acknowledged Democrats' sweeping victories in this week's midterm elections could have a positive effect on US assistance, including the faster delivery of Patriot missile interceptors that Kyiv says are vital to fend off Russian airstrikes.

"I believe our chances of getting additional assistance from the United States may now grow," he said.

Trump met a Russian envoy in Washington

President Donald Trump met Thursday with Moscow envoy Kirill Dmitriev but declined to give details of what they discussed.

Trump discusses Middle East de-escalation with Qatar emir, other regional developments



AP

Dubai, Nov 6 : US President Donald Trump has discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East in a telephone call with Qatar's emir as the region remained on edge over the possibility of renewed US military action against Iran.

Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister held discussions with his Egyptian counterpart, part of an ongoing flurry of diplomacy as Iran's neighbours in the region push for a negotiated settlement rather than a new round of war.

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

Trump discusses de-escalation efforts with Qatar's emir

The telephone call between Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheik Tamim bin Hamad al Thani centered on international efforts to end tensions, according to a statement from the Qatari ruler's media office.

The two discussed in particular Qatar's mediation efforts aimed at reaching "a comprehensive agreement that ends the crisis and achieves security and stability in the region."

Qatar has been mediating between the United States and Iran to end the war. Qatar and other US-allied Gulf Arab countries came under heavy fire by Iran earlier in the US-Iran war and have been anxious to avoid a new escalation that could leave them vulnerable to attacks.

During the call, Sheik Tamim "stressed the importance of continuing dialogue and adopting diplomatic means to resolve disputes, sparing the region further escalation, and ensuring freedom of maritime navigation and the security of energy supplies," according to the statement.

Iran's foreign minister continues telephone diplomacy with Egypt

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty stressed the need to prioritise diplomatic solutions during a telephone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

During the call on Thursday, Abdelatty urged all sides to display flexibility and compromise to reach a political solution and avoid further escalation, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nader Zaki said. This week, Araghchi held phone calls with Turkiye and Gulf leaders, discussing regional developments and securing freedom of maritime navigation.

J&K Sports Council secretary reviews sports infrastructure in Jammu, interacts with athletes, parents

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 06 :Tazayun Mukhtar, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, today visited various sports facilities at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, and the Indoor Sports Complex to take stock of the functioning of the facilities, assess the status of infrastructure and review the training activities being conducted for athletes.

During the visit to M.A. Stadium, the Secretary inspected the Swimming Pool, Skating Rink, Judo Hall and Table Tennis Hall. She also visited the Indoor Sports Complex, where she inspected the Gymnastics Centre, Fencing Hall and Wushu Hall.

During the inspection, the Secretary interacted with athletes undergoing training at various centres and witnessed demonstrations of their sporting skills. She appreciated the dedication, discipline and performance of the athletes and lauded the efforts of the coaches for their commitment towards nurturing sporting talent and promoting excellence in different sports disciplines.

The Secretary also interacted with the parents of the athletes and listened to their suggestions and grievances regarding the facilities and training arrangements. She assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority to ensure a conducive and athlete-friendly sporting environment.

Emphasising the need for maintaining and upgrading sports infrastructure, the Secretary directed the Construction Division, Jammu, to ensure timely completion of all pending works at the sports facilities and instructed the concerned officials to expedite the ongoing works without compromising on quality.

She further stressed the importance of providing quality training facilities, proper maintenance of sports infrastructure and a supportive environment for athletes to excel at national and international levels.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the ground-level functioning of sports facilities, strengthening athlete-centric initiatives and ensuring that the infrastructure being developed by the J&K Sports Council is utilised effectively for the promotion of sports and nurturing of young talent across Jammu and Kashmir.

DYSS Kishtwar organises sports activities in 19 tribal villages on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas



KT News Desk

Kishtwar, Nov 06: To promote sports culture, encourage youth participation and strengthen grassroots sporting activities, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar organised a series of sports activities as part of the of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2026 celebration across 19 tribal villages of the District.

The activities were conducted in various sports disciplines, including Kabaddi, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Chess and Carrom, attracting enthusiastic participation from local youth and children.

The event was coordinated by the respective Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs).

Kenyan doomsday cult leader sentenced to 200 years in prison

AP

Mombasa, Nov 06: The leader of a Kenyan doomsday cult linked to the deaths of more than 400 people was sentenced on Friday to 200 years in prison for the murders of 191 people.

The High Court in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa issued the sentence for Pastor Paul Mackenzie.

He was convicted of murdering 190 children and one adult after he ordered his followers to starve themselves to death in order to meet Jesus.

Justice Diana Kavedza said that Mackenzie, leader of the Good News International Church, bore the "primary criminal culpability" for relocating his followers to a remote location and ordering them to fast to death.

Mackenzie was charged with the murders alongside 28 of his followers, including guards who enforced his fasting directives and gravediggers who helped conceal the mass graves.

All denied the charges, except for one person who confessed and pleaded for leniency.

Japan protests Russia's takeover of Japan Tobacco subsidiaries

AP



Tokyo, Nov 6 (AP) Japan has protested to Moscow after Russia placed four subsidiaries belonging to Japan Tobacco Inc. under the temporary management of a Russian company and demanded that the measure be withdrawn immediately, Japanese officials said Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told reporters that the Japanese government is aware of Russian President Vladimir Putin's order imposed on the Japanese cigarette maker's subsidiaries that operate in Russia.

Japan sent senior government officials to Moscow, where they joined the Japanese ambassador to Russia to lodge a protest and demand the retraction of the measure "to make sure the legitimate interests of Japanese nationals and businesses are not violated," Kihara said.

The takeover is the latest dispute between the two countries. Tensions have risen since Putin made a visit in August to Iturup, one of four Russian-controlled islands off Japan's northern coast that Tokyo also claims.

The Soviet Union seized the Kuril Islands from Japan in the final days of World War II. The territorial dispute has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending their hostilities.

Tensions escalated in mid-October over the arrest of a Japanese journalist in Russia on suspicion of spying. Following Tokyo's demands that Moscow provide an explanation, consular access and humane treatment, Japanese consulate officials were allowed to meet the Hokkaido newspaper journalist in late October and confirmed he was in good health.

Japan Tobacco said in a statement Friday its four manufacturing subsidiaries in Russia have been placed under the temporary management of a Russian firm by presidential order.

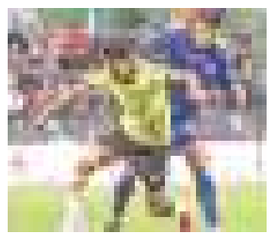
The Japanese tobacco company said it was gathering more information, considering its response and assessing the potential impact on the group.

The move follows a growing number of cases since September in which Russia placed the assets of Western companies operating in Russia under temporary Russian control, Japan's Economy and Trade Minister Ryosei Akazawa said.

"To be honest, we have been cautious," Akazawa said. "We will continue to communicate with the Russian government in order to protect the assets of the Japanese companies."

Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama, whose ministry holds a 37.55 per cent stake in Japan Tobacco, told reporters Friday that she planned to "respond appropriately by cooperating closely with relevant ministries and JT, while watching the development."

RKFC face Sreenidi Deccan in IFL clash at Srinagar's TRC Ground on Saturday



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 06 : Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) will take on Sreenidi Deccan FC in an Indian Football League (IFL) encounter at the TRC Ground in Srinagar on Saturday.

The match is scheduled to kick off at 6:30 pm under floodlights.

Ahead of the clash, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed confidence in his team's preparations, describing Sreenidi Deccan as a strong opponent with a well-balanced squad.

Addressing a pre-match press conference, Ishfaq said Sreenidi Deccan had recruited well this season and had a new coach with considerable experience in Indian football. "They have recruited a good squad this season. We are ready to take them on. If we stick to our plan, I hope we will get a positive result," he said. Referring to the team's previous outing, Ishfaq said ups and downs were part of football, expressing hope for a favourable result in the upcoming match. "This is a new game, and I hope we will get a favourable result in this match," he said.

He also appealed to supporters to turn up in large numbers and back the home team.

