SUNDAY
08 November 2026

Volume: 17
Issue No: 264
Pages: 08
Price: ₹2

Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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

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

'Western Disturbance to bring rain, snowfall from November 12'

Kashmir records above normal day temperatures

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 07: Weatherman on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a spell of rain and snowfall from November 12 onwards as a Western Disturbance is expected to affect the region.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), weather is expected to remain generally dry on November 8 and 9, while generally cloudy conditions are likely to prevail on November 10 and 11. "Light spell of rain over plains and light snowfall over higher reaches at scattered places is expected towards on the evening or night of November 10," he added.

"Weather will remain generally cloudy on November 12 and 13, with light to moderate rain in plains and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches at many places, particularly towards the evening or night of November 12," the official said.

A separate prediction issued by Kashmir Weather Forecast also indicated that the second Western Disturbance has gained intensity and is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir between November 12 and 14.

It said moderate to heavy snowfall is possible over higher reaches, while rain is expected over the plains of Jammu and Kashmir. | More on P6

Kashmir markets wear festive look on Diwali eve



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 07: Markets across Kashmir wore a festive look on Saturday as people thronged shopping areas for last-minute purchases ahead of Diwali, with shops decorated with colourful lights, flowers and other festive items.

Sweet shops, firecracker stalls and stores selling decorative items witnessed a rush of customers, while families were seen purchasing sweets, lamps, gifts and other items associated with the festival.

"The markets look beautiful with colourful lights and decorations. We have come out with our family to buy sweets and other items and enjoy the festive atmosphere," Rahul Sharma a resident told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Shopkeepers | More on P6

Deepawali victory of light over darkness: LG Sinha

KT NEWS DESK

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Deepawali.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, I extend warm greetings | More on P6

Festival carries message of hope, compassion: CM Omar

KT NEWS DESK

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to all those celebrating Diwali across the country and abroad.

In his message, | More on P6

Search process for SKUAST-K VC begins

LG constitutes selection panel, applications invited from eligible candidates

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 07: The process for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has begun, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha constituting a selection committee to recommend a panel of suitable candidates for the post.

The selection committee has started its task by inviting applications from eligible candidates for the position.

According to a notification issued by the Agriculture Production Department, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Vice-Chancellor's post will be filled on a tenure basis for a period of up to three years or until the incumbent attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Candidates applying for the post should not be more than 62 years of age as on the closing date for submission of applications.

As per the eligibility criteria, applicants must be eminent agricultural scientists or academicians with outstanding credentials and a Ph.D. in Agriculture, Veterinary | More on P6

J&K Notifies Private Universities Rules, 2026

CM Omar says new framework to attract reputed institutions, expand opportunities for local youth

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has congratulated Minister for Education Shamim Firdous on the notification of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Rules, 2026, describing it as a significant milestone in the government's efforts to expand access to quality higher education and strengthen the region's academic ecosystem.

The Chief Minister said the new Rules establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for setting up and operating private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, creating an enabling environment for reputed national and international institutions to establish their campuses in Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that the simplified approval mechanism, including a provision for preliminary scrutiny within 30 days, would facilitate a more efficient and transparent process for institutions seeking to invest in the higher education sector. At the same time, the framework provides for effective regulatory oversight to ensure accountability, quality assurance and adherence to prescribed academic standards.

Emphasising the importance of safeguarding local interests, the Chief Minister said the provision for a minimum 25 per cent reservation for J&K domiciles in student admissions, as well as teaching and non-teaching | More on P6

IAF's IL-76MD aircraft sets world record, lands at 13,629 feet in Ladakh

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Ladakh, Nov 07: The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a major aviation milestone on Saturday when its IL-76MD transport aircraft successfully landed at Nyoma air base in Ladakh at an altitude of 13,629 feet, setting a world record for the highest-altitude landing by the aircraft.

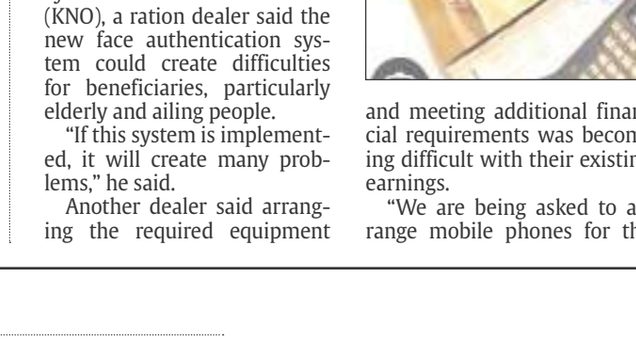
Located around 25 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, the Nyoma Advanced Landing Ground holds strategic importance for the deployment of troops, equipment and essential supplies along the border.

In a post on X, the IAF according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the successful landing marked a new milestone in aviation history and demonstrated the aircraft's capabilities as well as the exceptional skills and professionalism of its crew. "13,629 feet. A new height in aviation history. An Indian Air Force IL-76MD has scripted history with a successful landing at Nyoma, marking the highest-altitude landing ever achieved by the aircraft anywhere in the world," the IAF said.

The IAF also lauded the crew for executing the challenging landing with | More on P6

AIIMS Awantipora to start OPD services this month: Itoo

Jahangeer Ganaie



Kulgam, Nov 07: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday said that Outpatient Department (OPD) services at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora, are expected to commence during the ongoing month.

Taking to reporters on the sidelines of inauguration of developmental projects at Gudder here in South Kashmir', Itoo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the OPD facility getting operational at AIIMS would provide much-needed respite to the people. "It would be an important step towards ensuring access to advanced healthcare facilities closer to people's homes, reducing their dependence on hospitals outside the Union Territory."

She said Union Health Minister J P Nadda, who visited AIIMS Awantipora earlier this week to review the progress of the institute, had issued necessary directions to the concerned authorities for expediting the process and starting OPD services at | More on P6

Kashmir parents seek change in school timings

Demand 10 am to 3 pm in Sgr, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm in peripheries

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 07: Amid freezing morning temperatures, parents of school children of winter zones of Kashmir division on Saturday demand for a change in school timings.

The news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) received calls from several parents of school children—urging School Education Department to revise the timing in educational institutes of the region from 10 am to 3 pm in Srinagar and 10:30 am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits.

One of the parents, Nasreena Jan said, "My two kids are primary-level students, and for more than a week now, they have been constantly telling me that they shiver in the cold when they leave for school."

She said, "There is a dire need for a change in school timing for the students. The winter has already arrived and the government must take a call on revising the school timing."

Another parent, Showkat Ahmad Dar narrated the same ordeal. He said, "As the new academic | More on P6

J&K Govt approves project to boost border tourism in Uri

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 07: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded Administrative Approval for the creation of tourist infrastructure to promote border tourism in Uri at an estimated cost of 7.93 crore.

The comprehensive project envisages infrastructure development across five locations — Uri Town, Bosiyan-Gingal, Mahura, Garkote and Bela Boniyar — with a focus on enhancing tourist facilities and improving the overall visitor experience.

The proposed interventions include the development of tourist huts, facilitation centres, riverfront and scenic parks, viewpoints, trekking paths and public conveniences. The initiative aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure while providing visitors with better facilities to explore the region's scenic landscapes and natural attractions.

The project is expected to give fresh impetus to tourism-related economic activities in Uri, create livelihood opportunities for local communities and strengthen the area's potential as an emerging border tourism destination.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed hope that the initiative would enhance Uri's profile on the tourism map, promote its rich natural heritage and | More on P6

Youth found dead in Jammu

KNO Correspondent

Jammu, Nov 07: A 23-year-old youth was found dead inside his rented room in the Miran Sahib area of Jammu district on Saturday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the youth was found dead inside his rented accommodation in Miran Sahib, Jammu.

He was immediately shifted to Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, where doctors declared him brought dead. The deceased has been identified as Chander (23), a native of Bihar who was residing in Jammu.

Meanwhile, | More on P6

Digital Verification: Ration dealers question advance payment demand

Raise concerns over Rs 1 lakh security deposit, e-KYC machines | Govt says machinery upgradation routine process

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 07: Fair Price Shop dealers in Kashmir have raised concerns over additional financial requirements, including a Rs 1 lakh security deposit, licence fee and advanced demand of cash before taking a ration digital verification.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a ration dealer said the new face authentication system could create difficulties for beneficiaries, particularly elderly and ailing people.

"If this system is implemented, it will create many problems," he said.

Another dealer said arranging the required equipment and meeting additional financial requirements was becoming difficult with their existing earnings.

"We are being asked to arrange mobile phones for the new system. These things involve considerable expenses. How are small dealers supposed to manage all this with their existing income?" he said.

The dealers also expressed concern over the requirement of a Rs 1 lakh security deposit, saying such a financial burden would be difficult to manage.

They also flagged the proposed licence fee of Rs 2,000 and the demand for advance payments, questioning why dealers were being asked to pay before procuring the required machines and other equipment.

On face authentication, they sought continuation of fingerprint and OTP-based verification options alongside face recognition to ensure elderly and ailing beneficiaries do not face difficulties in collecting ration.

The concerns come amid the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department's push for Aadhaar-based e-KYC and face authentication in ration distribution. During a review meeting on November 5, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA Sourabh Bhagat directed officials to intensify efforts to complete the e-KYC of pending beneficiaries and introduce the Face Authentication Application from the current month's ration distribution cycle.

A top official of the department told KNO that the upgradation of machinery was part of a routine process and there was no need for worry.

He said the new e-KYC machines would have all verification options, including OTP and face | More on P6

Body found afloat in Chenab



KNO Correspondent

Doda, Nov 07: A body was found floating in the River Chenab near Bhaghyana Dalwal area of Doda district on Saturday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body was spotted floating in the river near Bhaghyana Dalwal in Doda tehsil during the morning h| More on P6ours.

Commissioner SMC calls for expeditious completion of Water Supply Augmentation Works

Reviews NGT Action Plan, AMRUT 2.0 Projects

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Saturday chaired a review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to assess the implementation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Action Plan and review the progress of ongoing projects under AMRUT 2.0.

The meeting took stock of the progress achieved under various components of both initiatives, with particular focus on water supply augmentation, quality parameters, inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of approved works.

Reviewing the progress under AMRUT 2.0, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, stressed that strengthening the city's water supply infrastructure and addressing areas facing water shortages must remain a priority. He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the ongoing works and ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed technical and quality standards.

The Commissioner observed that the commissioning of the approved AMRUT 2.0 projects is expected to bring further improvement in supply of different localities of Srinagar, including Batamaloo, Aloochibagh, Jenab Sahab Soura, Bagwanpora, Lal Bazaar, Natipora, Malbagh, Jawahar Nagar, HMT and Lawaypora.

Emphasising the importance of quality in public infrastructure, Dr. Basharat directed the concerned officers to ensure that all prescribed quality parameters are duly addressed during execution, with no compromise on technical specifications or standards. He called for closer field-level supervision, regular assessment of physical and financial progress and prompt resolution of bottlenecks affecting the pace of work.

The Commissioner remarked that the people of Srinagar deserve better basic civic facilities and that ongoing developmental initiatives must translate into tangible improvements in the quality of services delivered to citizens. He stressed that all concerned departments and executing agencies must work in close coordination and with a clear sense of responsibility to address existing infrastructure gaps and improve the availability and reliability of essential civic services.

Taking up the NGT Action Plan, the Commissioner reviewed the status of various environmental interventions and stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholder departments to ensure effective implementation of the prescribed measures and compliance with the directions of the National Green Tribunal. He called for regular monitoring and timely action on all pending issues. The Commissioner further directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to submit comprehensive and updated reports on the status of works under their respective jurisdictions, clearly indicating the progress achieved, pending activities, implementation-related challenges and proposed timelines for completion. The reports shall facilitate a detailed assessment of project implementation, identify areas requiring intervention and ensure effective monitoring and timely follow-up.

Reiterating the need for accountability and effective project management, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, strengthen monitoring at the field level and ensure that ongoing projects are completed expeditiously without compromising quality.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration; Joint Commissioner, R&E; Joint Commissioner, Works); Joint Commissioner, H&S); Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer; Superintending Engineer, Drainage Circle; Divisional Forest Officer; Executive Engineer, Mechanical/ SWMO; Executive Engineer, UEED; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti-PHE; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti-Masterplan; Assistant Legal Remembrancer; and Chief Enforcement Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Jashn-e-Harud celebrated in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 07: The first-ever 'Jashn-e-Harud', organised by the District Administration Shopian, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in Shopian Saturday, witnessing an overwhelming public response and huge participation from people from different parts of the district. MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Deputy Commissioner Charandeep Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, other officers and people from all corners of Shopian participated in the festival.

The event, as per an official statement, showcased the rich heritage, vibrant culture, traditional art and timeless traditions of Shopian through a variety of activities and exhibitions. A number of departmental and thematic stalls were set up on the occasion, showcasing various welfare schemes, developmental initiatives, local products, traditional crafts, artefacts, horticulture produce and achievements of different departments. Cultural programmes, including traditional performances, folk songs, and other activities, further added colour to the celebrations.

Mission Director NHM J&K reviews health sector in Anantnag

KT News Desk



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 07: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Amir ul Shafi Khan, Saturday visited District Anantnag and reviewed the implementation of various national health programmes and healthcare services in the district.

The Mission Director, as per an official statement, chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, Dialgam, attended by Principal GMC Anantnag, Heads of Departments, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers and district and block programme management teams.

During the meeting, he took a detailed review of key health programmes, including Maternal and Child Health, Routine Immunisation, JSY, JSSK, PMSMA, RBSK, National NCD Programme, Ambulance Services, Blood Bank Services, Dialysis Services, Critical Care Services, PM-ABHIM infrastructure projects and the DNB Programme at GMC Anantnag.

He assessed the performance of the district in terms of institutional deliveries, antenatal care, high-risk pregnancy tracking, immunisation coverage, screening of non-communicable diseases, referral services and availability of essential healthcare facilities.

RTO Kashmir stresses timely delivery of public services

Reviews functioning of ARTO office Bandipora

KT News Desk



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, Qazi Irfan Saturday visited the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Bandipora, and reviewed its overall functioning, administrative performance and delivery of public services.

During the visit, the RTO, as per an official statement, reviewed various citizen-centric services, including issuance of driving licences, vehicle registration, permits and fitness certification. He also assessed the pendency of applications and progress in service delivery through the SARATHI and VAHAN portals.

Emphasising accountability and efficiency, the RTO directed the officers and officials to ensure timely disposal of applications in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act. He stressed that the public should not face unnecessary delays or repeated visits to the office for availing services.

The RTO also stressed transparency, proper record maintenance, public-friendly behaviour and regular monitoring of pending cases. He called for intensified enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules, with special focus on road safety and compliance with traffic regulations.

On the occasion, ARTO Bandipora, Mukhtar Ahmad briefed the RTO about the functioning of the office, disposal of public grievances, pendency of applications and steps taken to improve service delivery.

The RTO appreciated the efforts of the ARTO and his team and urged them to continue working with dedication and professionalism to ensure transparent, efficient and hassle-free transport services to the people of District Bandipora.

Kashmir Thunder



IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE
(TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Usman Khurshid
Jo Code: JK00320
Application No: 101405/2026
Aiza Manzoor(Minor) through father
Manzoor Ahmad Rather(Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth with the following particulars:
Name: Aiza Manzoor
Date of birth: 03-04-2018.
Place of birth: Mother & Child Hospital Sopore
Father's name: Manzoor Ahmad Rather.
Mother's name: Roshana Begum.
Address: Hardushiva Tehsil Dangorpora.
Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.
Issued under the seal of this Court Sopore on 28TH Day of October 2026.

District Mobile Magistrate
Sopore

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE
MAGISTRATE (TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Usman Khurshid
Jo Code: JK00320
Application No: 101404/2026
Aira Manzoor(Minor) through father
Manzoor Ahmad Rather(Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth with the following particulars:
Name: Aira Manzoor
Date of birth: 03-04-2018.
Place of birth: Mother & Child Hospital Sopore
Father's name: Manzoor Ahmad Rather.
Mother's name: Roshana Begum.
Address: Hardushiva Tehsil Dangorpora.
Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.
Issued under the seal of this Court Sopore on 28th Day of October 2026.

District Mobile Magistrate

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL
DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT GANDERBAL

In the case of:-
1. Mohammad Maqbool Ronu
2. Mohammad Rafiq Ronu
Both S's/O S/O Ghulam Ahmad Ronu Both R's /O Syed Meerak Shah Colony Habak Hazratbal Srinagar.
V/S
(Caveators)
Public at Large.
(Respondents/ Non- Caveators)
In The Matter of: Caveat petition U/S 148-A.
May it please your Honour
The petition is submitted as under
1. That the petitioners are the residents of the UT of J & K and has every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court as and when his rights will be infringed.
2. That the Caveators are having apprehension that any of his any relative or the **local may file a false and fabricated case/ suit against the person of the Caveators** and their properties, as such there is apprehension that the respondent will bring the suit on fabricated Grounds against the Caveators.
3. That since anybody can file the false and fabricated suit and it is impossible to serve the notice to respondents who are public at large as such the present caveat petition against the public at large.
4. That notice has been given to public at large through the publication in news paper which will be annexed with the petition.
5. That the petitioners have the apprehension that the respondent(Public at Large) may institute the suit on false and fabricated grounds against them and may get the ex-party order.
6. That in case the respondent succeeded in getting the ex-party order the petitioners will suffer an irreparable loss, which cannot be compensated later on.
7. That in case any suit is instituted against the petitioners, the Petitioners may be given the opportunity of being heard before passing any orders.
In the premises, it is therefore prayed that the petition may be allowed and the petitioners may be given the opportunity of being heard before passing any order in ex-party, as and when the case titled above is presented before this Hon'ble court.

Dated:-07-11-2026

Caveators through counsel.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
(PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

Email id: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in

GIST
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No: JSMDS /e-NIT 31 of 10/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, Srinagar, invites tenders by e-tendering mode on percentage basis from registered Mechanical Firms for execution of the following work -

S. No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost (in Rs)	Cost of tender documents in Rs	EMD in (Rs)	Time of completion	Head Of Account
01	Supply installation, testing and commissioning of deep well submersible unit for WSS Fair view (Discharge 5000GPH, Head 80 M and motor compatible to this specification (Annexure C)	1,50,000/-	500/-	3000/-	20 days	4215 (Capex) 020 (M&E)
02.	Supply installation, testing and commissioning of deep well submersible unit for WSS Talley Manzil (Discharge 5000GPH, Head 60 M and motor compatible to this specification. (Annexure D)	1,70,000/-	500/-	3400/-	20 days	4215 (Capex) 020 (M&E
03.	Supply installation, testing and commissioning of deep well submersible unit for WSS Zethyar 1st (Discharge 5000GPH, Head 60 M and motor compatible to this specification. (Annexure E)	1,20,000/-	500/-	2400/-	20 days	4215 (Capex) 020 (M&E
04	Supply, installation testing and commissioning of 10000 GPH open well type horizontal submersible pumping unit at WSS Shivpora (Annexure F)	1,20,000/-	500/-	2400/-	20 days	4215 (Capex) 020 (M&E

Position of AAA: - Accorded Vide Order No: 07 SMCS of 2026-27 Dated 29-10-2026 issued under endorsement No. JSMCS/TS/1401-1402 dated 29-10-2026
Technical sanction: - Accorded

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-10-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31-10-2026 (10:00 a.m.) to 11-11-2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
3.	Period of submitting of bids (online)	From 31-10-2026 (10:00 a.m.) to 11-11-2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-11-2026 (02.00 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar
5.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	After evaluation of technical bid(s)

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money in the form of CDR/ FDR/ IBG as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar. In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

1. Note: All the interested parties are requested to visit the sites before bidding for proper assessment of the subject work

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
Srinagar.

No: -JSMDS/CC/3461-65
Dated: - 31/10/2026

DIPK-7477/26
DATED: 07-11-2026

J&K NHM employees get 5% annual increment



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 07: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has sanctioned a 5% annual increment for eligible contrac-tual employees engaged under the National Health Mis-sion (NHM) for the financial year 2026-27, a move that will benefit thousands of healthcare workers across the Union Territory.

However, the announcement has drawn a lukewarm re-sponse from NHM employees' representatives, who have termed the increment a routine annual exercise rather than any special concession, reiterating their demand for salary enhancement, job security and other service-related benefits.

According to an order issued by the Mission Director, NHM J&K, the increment will be applicable to eligible contractual employees working at the State, Divisional, District and Block levels, including those engaged under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) and various disease control programmes.

The order states that the sanction has been accorded in pursuance of the approval of the NHM State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP) 2026-27 for Jammu and Kashmir, conveyed by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on June 19, 2026.

As per the notified schedule, contractual employees who completed one year of service on or before March 31, 2026, will be entitled to the increment with effect from April 1, 2026.

Similarly, employees completing one year of service be-tween April 1 and September 30, 2026, will receive the benefit from October 1, 2026, while those completing one year of service after September 30, 2026, will become eli-gible from April 1, 2027.

The order further directs the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and Controlling Officers to extend the benefit only to eligible contractual employees after verifying their qualifying service and satisfactory performance in accordance with the applicable NHM guidelines.

Meanwhile, reacting to the order, JKNHMEAK Chief Spokesperson Abdul Rauoof rejected the government's claims of fulfilling its commitments towards NHM em-ployees, saying the 5 percent increment was part of the routine annual budgetary framework and should not be projected as a special achievement.

He said the annual increment was already incorporated into the NHM budgetary framework approved by the Government of India and did not address the broader concerns of employees who have been demanding better service conditions for years.

"NHM employees are still waiting for meaningful decisions on salary enhancement, equal pay for equal work, job security, social security and retirement benefits. A routine annual increment cannot be considered a substi-tute for these long-pending demands," he said.

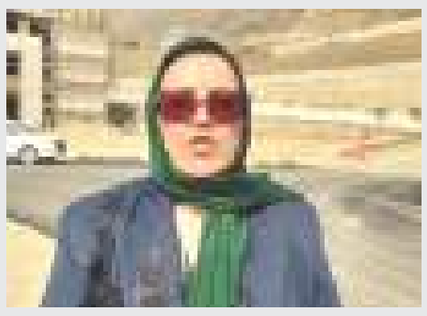
Rauoof particularly appealed to Health and Medical Edu-cation Minister Sakeena Itoo to recall the meeting held on September 18, 2026, in her Civil Secretariat chamber in Srinagar with representatives of the JKNHMEA Joint Co-ordination Committee, during which several employee-related issues were discussed and assurances were re-portedly extended.

He said employees were expecting concrete decisions fol-lowing the meeting but were disappointed over the con-tinued delay in addressing their grievances.

"Government must honour the commitments made dur-ing

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Govt delivers on promise to NHM employees: Sakina Itoo



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 07: Minister for Health and Medical Educa-tion Sakina Itoo on Saturday said the government has ful-filled its promise by sanctioning a 5 per cent annual in-crement for eligible contractual employees engaged un-der the National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2026-27.

In a post on X, Itoo described the decision as an important step towards recognising the dedication and contributions of NHM employees in strengthening healthcare delivery across the Union Territory.

She said NHM employees continue to play a vital role in the healthcare system and reiterated the government's commitment to their welfare. "Our commitment to the welfare of healthcare workers remains steadfast. We will continue working towards a stronger, more responsive and inclusive healthcare sys-tem under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah," she wrote.

The 5 per cent annual increment is expected to provide financial relief to eligible contractual employees working under NHM across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

J&K Bank recruitment sparks age cap, reservation debate



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 07: Jammu and Kashmir Bank's latest re-cruitment notification for 1,356 posts has triggered a de-bate over the upper age limit and reservation policy, with political leaders and aspirants demanding that the age cap be raised from 30 to 40 years.

The bank has advertised 323 Probationary Officer (PO) posts and 1,033 Banking Associate posts. The online appli-cation process began on November 7 and will continue till November 26, while examinations will be conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

Candidates must be between 20 and 30 years of age as on January 1, 2026, with relaxations applicable to eligible re-served categories. The recruitment has also drawn attention over its reserva-tion matrix, under which 60 per cent of the vacancies have been earmarked for reserved categories and 40 per cent for the open category. The distribution includes 20 per cent for Scheduled Tribes, 10 per cent each for residents of backward areas and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), 8 per cent each for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, and 4 per cent for residents of areas adjoining the Line of Con-trol (LoC) and International Border.

PDP MLA from Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Parra, criticised the age criterion, saying thousands of aspirants who have been awaiting recruitment opportunities for years would be excluded. He questioned why the upper age limit had been fixed at 30 years when the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) allows candi-dates up to 40 years of age. CPI(M) leader and MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami urged the bank to revisit the age criteria in view of rising unemployment and align it with JKSSB norms.

PDP MLA from Budgam Muntazir Mehdi also called for increasing the upper age limit to 40 years, saying the exist-ing criterion could exclude many deserving candidates.

Several aspirants echoed similar concerns, pointing out that the recruitment drive is taking place after nearly six years. "Please provide age relaxation. The examination is being conducted after almost six years. Even the age limit for PO posts in the previous recruitment was 32 years, which has now been reduced to 30," an aspirant said.

The PO selection process will comprise preliminary and mains examinations followed by an interview, while Banking

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Rs 7.93 Cr approved for border tourism infra-structure dev in Uri

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 07: The government has accorded adminis-trative approval for the creation of tourist infrastructure to promote border tourism in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district at an estimated cost of Rs 7.93 crore.

According to a post shared by the Office of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on X, the project will cover Uri town, Bosiyan-Gingal, Mahura, Garkote and Bela Boniyar.

The project includes the development of tourist huts, fa-cilitation centres, riverfront and scenic parks, viewpoints, trekking paths and public conveniences.

The initiative aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure in the border areas of Uri and promote the region as a tour-ist destination while creating opportunities for local eco-nomic growth—(KNO)

Rare female Sambar Deer spotted at Sin-than Top

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Anantnag: A female sambar deer has been spot-ted in the forests of Sinthan Top in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, with wildlife officials describing the sighting as rare.

The animal was reportedly sighted by passengers travel-ling on the Kashmir side of Sinthan Top near Daksum. Of-ficials believe the deer may have become separated from its group. Wildlife Warden South, Bijbehara, Sajad Ahmad Bhat said the Sinthan Top forest area is connected to the Kishtwar belt, and the animal may have either migrated from that side or moved to lower elevations in search of habitat.

"Our men are deployed in the area and are receiving such inputs. Wild goats have also been sighted there," he said.

Another wildlife official said sightings of female sambar deer in Kashmir are uncommon, as the species occurs in relatively smaller numbers in the Valley and is more commonly found in the Jammu region. The sambar (Rusa unicolor) is the largest deer species found in the Indian subcontinent.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Mortal remains of Adnan likely to reach Srinagar today

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07: Mortal remains of a Kashmiri student Adnan Altaf Rathar, who died in Bangladesh on Novem-ber 4, are likely to reach Srinagar on Sunday.

A source said that the repatriation process has entered its final stage, with only packing and handover of the mortal remains to the family remaining. "It is likely to be com-pleted by Sunday morning," he added.

Pertinently, the matter to get the mortal remains of Adnan from Bangladesh was taken up by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with the Ministry of External Affairs, while Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo had requested Union Health Minis-ter J P Nadda to intervene to help the grief-stricken fami-ly.

Meanwhile, National Convenor of the Jammu and Kash-mir Students Association (JKSA), Nasir Khuehami, told KNO that the embalming process had been delayed due to difficulties in arranging a government-authorised doctor, further compounded by Friday being an official holiday in Bangladesh.

He said embalming was mandatory before international transportation, as airlines require the prescribed proce-dure and documentation before accepting mortal re-mains. "We are hopeful that the remaining formalities, in-cluding packing and handover to the family,

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Blocked ramp hampers disabled litigants at Bandipora Court

KNO

Bandipora, Nov 07: At the entrance of the District Court Complex in Bandipora, a ramp built to provide easy ac-cess to persons with disabilities stands largely unusable, allegedly blocked for long hours by an official vehicle, leaving some litigants to rely on the goodwill and physical assistance of others simply to enter the premises.

For many visitors, the court is a place where rights are protected. For persons with disabilities arriving at the complex, however, reaching the courtroom itself can be-come the first battle.

On Friday, a lawyer said that a specially abled litigant had to be carried into the court complex because the access ramp was obstructed and wheelchairs were not available for use.

"We had no option but to lift the person and carry them inside," the lawyer said. "The ramp was blocked and the wheelchairs had been kept aside. It was humiliating to watch."

Lawyers and litigants alleged that the situation is not an isolated occurrence and has persisted for some time, de-spite the ramp being specifically meant to facilitate access for persons with disabilities.

Several court visitors expressed disappointment over what they described as a glaring contradiction within an institution tasked with dispensing justice.

"What is the purpose of constructing a ramp if it cannot be used?" asked one litigant waiting outside the court com-plex.

Photographs from the court complex show a vehicle parked in front of the ramp area, effectively obstructing the route intended for wheelchair users and others with mobility challenges.

The irony is difficult to miss: in a place often described as a temple of justice, some of the most vulnerable citizens are allegedly finding the door to that justice physically in-accessible—(KNO)

Jammu staff in Kashmir get special leave Monday

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday sanctioned two days of Special Casual Leave for PM Package, migrant and Jammu-based employees posted in various departments across the Kashmir Divi-sion to celebrate Diwali in Jammu.

According to an order issued by the Government's Gen-eral Administration Department (GAD), the special leave has been sanctioned for November 7 (today) and Novem-ber 9 (Monday).

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of two days Special Casual Leave on 7th November, 2026 (Saturday) and 9th November, 2026 (Monday) in favour of PM Pack-age/Migrant/ Jammu based employees, posted in differ-ent departments in the Kashmir Division, for celebrating 'Diwali' at Jammu," the order reads—(KNO)

Police arrest seven peddlers Kashmir

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 07: Police have arrested seven alleged drug peddlers in separate operations in Anantnag, Baramulla and Handwara districts of Kashmir, recovering heroin, Charas and other narcotic substances from their posses-sion, officials said on Saturday.

In Anantnag, Police Post Sangam apprehended Reyaz Ahmad Mir, son of Ab Rehman Mir, a resident of Khelen Litter, during naka checking and recovered heroin from his possession.

In a separate operation at Marhama, another police team from the same police post arrested Zubair Sultan Reshi, son of Mohd Sultan Reshi, a resident of Sether Sangam, and recovered Charas from his possession.

Meanwhile, Police Post DK Pora apprehended Rayees Ahmad Khan, son of Gh Mohi-ud-Din Khan, a resident of Damhal, and recovered charas from his possession.

In two separate operations, Police Post Dialgam arrested Yawar Ahmad Gani, son of Mohd Iqbal Gani, and Ubaid Manzoor Doobi, son of Manzoor Ahmad Doobi. Both are residents of Fathepora. Charas was recovered during their personal searches.

In Baramulla, a police team intercepted a passenger vehi-cle (Sumo), bearing registration number JK05N-9646, dur-ing a naka checking operation at Cheradari. The vehicle was travelling from Baramulla towards Chandoosa.

During checking, a passenger identified as Ubair Ahmad Mochi, son of Abdul Ahad Mochi, a resident of Kalantara Bala, was found carrying a bag containing two polythene packets of bhang-like substance weighing approximately 822 grams.

The police called the concerned Magistrate and inde-pendent witnesses to the spot and completed the requisite legal formalities, including seizure proceedings, in ac-cordance with the prescribed procedure.

In Handwara, police intercepted a tipper bearing registra-tion number JK05B-5479 during naka checking at Bata-gund. A charas-like substance concealed inside the vehi-cle's dashboard was recovered.

The driver, identified as Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Gh Nabi Dar, a resident of Shanoo Langate, was arrested.

All seven accused have been taken into custody, and fur-ther investigation into the cases is underway.

Police reiterated their commitment to intensifying the crackdown on drug trafficking and urged the public to cooperate in the collective fight against the drug men-ace—(KNO)

Bharat Ratna LK Advani Ji At 100!

As Lal Krishna Advani Ji enters the hundredth year of his life, I pray that he be blessed with good health and that he continues to inspire us all as he has always done.

Narendra Modi







Very few people whose lives have touched so many different chapters of modern India. Advani Ji was born on 8th November 1927, on Dev Deepawali. As a youngster in 1947, he experienced the pain of leaving behind his familiar world in Sindh. He rebuilt his life from scratch without bitterness. This trait of being able to build from scratch, against all odds, has stayed with him throughout. It was seen while he was strengthening the Jana Sangh and later building the BJP. His tenures as BJP President saw the Congress falling sharply from 400 to below 200 in 1989 and the BJP becoming the single largest party for the first time in 1996. Advani Ji nurtured generations of Karyakartas and gave the Party a clear foundation rooted in the principle of Nation First.

Two qualities always set Advani Ji apart as a leader. First, his ideological clarity and intellectual sharpness. This was reflected in his speeches and writings. The Jana Sangh and BJP resolutions he authored remain worth reading even today, while his interviews were consistently incisive and precise. Second, the manner in which he exposed the pseudo-secularism propounded by a large section of the Indian polity for many years.

Advani Ji took up every responsibility with immense diligence. As an RSS Pracharak, Advani Ji first worked in different parts of Rajasthan. From there, he went to the national capital, where he started working closely with Atal Ji. History shows that it is rare for two towering political leaders to work together for several decades, cooperating with each other without becoming competitors. Advani Ji and Atal Ji set a remarkable example. Together, they changed the course of Indian politics.

The Delhi that Advani Ji came to was coming to terms with the horrors of Partition. He immersed himself in making the Jana Sangh stronger. In 1967, Advani Ji became the Chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council, where he worked alongside the late Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji (who became Chief Executive Councillor).

In 1970, Advani Ji's Parliamentary innings began. His interventions have won appreciation across the political spectrum. He made a mark as an MP and later, as Leader of Opposition in both houses and from the treasury benches too. Despite parliamentary commitments, he frequently travelled across India meeting people.

I vividly recall the 1991 Lok Sabha elections. It was decided that Advani Ji would contest the Lok Sabha elections from two seats, one of which was Gandhinagar. He had an old link with Gujarat. His father had settled in Kutch after Partition. Advani Ji had also served as a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat. So, it was a homecoming of sorts. Being involved in the BJP organisation, I had the honour of helping prepare his papers and assisting him throughout the campaign. The people of Gandhinagar sent him to Parliament time and again. As a voter of Gandhinagar, I also had the honour of voting for Advani Ji on numerous occasions. The care and attention he devoted to his constituency is something to learn from.

The Emergency was a watershed moment in Advani Ji's life. He was at the forefront of saving democracy and protecting the Constitution. His experiences found their way into his book, 'A Prisoner's Scrap-Book.' One part of that book, titled 'A Tale of Two Emergencies', beautifully explained the striking similarities between the events in India starting June 1975 and those in Nazi Germany in 1933.

Advani Ji was a fiery Opposition leader but an equally excellent administrator. When the Janata Government came to office in 1977, Advani Ji became Minister for Information and Broadcasting. It is widely accepted that his work in this department was extremely impactful. As Deputy Prime Minister and one of India's longest-serving Home Ministers, he was instrumental in strengthening India's security apparatus. His work in improving the lives of our security forces is remembered with great fondness. His unequivocal stand against terrorism ensured India got a tough anti-terror law.

Of course, an iconic moment in Advani Ji's life was the Somnath to Ayodhya Rath Yatra. It changed the course of Indian society for the better. I consider it a privilege that I got the opportunity to be involved in this Yatra from the ideation stage to execution. Being present at Somnath when the Yatra began was particularly special. A Yatra can be very demanding, requiring long hours, constant travel, physical endurance and an ability to remain focused despite fatigue. Advani Ji embodied this endurance.

I also have memories of the saddening moments of Advani Ji's arrest in Bihar. Then, in Gujarat, the BJP withdrew support from the Chimanbhai Patel Government. With this, a simple message was given, that when it comes to our ideology and the Ram Temple, there will never be any compromise. Many of our senior leaders and Karyakartas took an oath that, come what may, a Ram Temple will be built. And, years later, with the blessings of the people of India, a grand Mandir for Prabhu Shri Ram became a reality in Ayodhya.

There is so much more of Advani Ji that is outstanding. His simplicity, for example. After the Navnirman Movement, Advani Ji had come to Junagadh and stayed for a month as an ordinary Karyakarta, preparing the Party for the Assembly elections in which Congress was rejected. He has always shown what probity in public life is about. He is a voracious reader. Those who have spent time with him know how carefully he goes through newspapers. He is a big fan of cinema and theatre, and has been an enthusiastic film critic. His sense of history and the need to preserve it is visible in his book, 'My Country My Life.'

Advani Ji always remained in touch with Sindhi culture. Another effort he undertook was the popularisation of Sindhu Darshan Puja near Leh. I myself had been to one Puja with Advani Ji and George Fernandes Ji.

Any account of Advani Ji's remarkable journey would be incomplete without mentioning Kamla Advani Ji. She was a constant source of strength and support throughout his public life.

Growing up in Karachi, Advani Ji could hardly have imagined the path his life would take. In an expression of gratitude, the people of India conferred upon him the Bharat Ratna in 2024. As Advani Ji enters the hundredth year of his life, I pray that he be blessed with good health and that he continues to inspire us all as he has always done.

Author is a Prime Minister of India

The Last Lesson We Cannot Afford To Skip

NEP 2020 envisages learners who think, question and act. Our schools can begin by teaching children to protect the planet.

Afshan Nabi

A child can recite the water cycle perfectly and still leave the tap running. She can score full marks in a chapter on pollution and still toss a wrapper out of a bus window. This is the quiet failure of our education system: we have taught children about the environment without teaching them to care for it.

The stakes are no longer abstract. Toxic air hangs over our cities, groundwater levels are falling, forests are shrinking, and the seasons have become increasingly unpredictable. Today's schoolchildren will inherit all of this. We must ask ourselves whether we are preparing them merely to live with the consequences—or to help solve them.

A policy with the right instinct

The National Education Policy 2020 points the way. It calls for experiential learning, critical thinking, constitutional values and environmental awareness. It seeks to dissolve the rigid divide between "curricular" and "co-curricular" activities and to replace rote memorisation with meaningful understanding.

Its message is clear: education should change how a child lives, not merely what she writes in an examination. Environmental education is where that promise can be tested first.

The classroom is bigger than the classroom

A child who plants a sapling and waters it for a year learns more about ecosystems than any textbook definition can teach. A class that audits its school's water and electricity consumption learns mathematics, science and civic responsibility in a single exercise. A child who segregates wet and dry waste for a month will never again see garbage as somebody else's problem.

None of this requires large budgets. It requires imagination, commitment and consistency. Schools can begin with simple, practical initiatives:

- Kitchen gardens and plantation drives that teach patience and show children where food comes from.
- Waste segregation and reuse practices that make environmental responsibility a daily habit.
- Nature walks that turn children into careful observers of local birds, insects and plants.
- Plastic-free campuses that set an example for homes and neighbourhoods.
- Water and energy audits that make conservation measurable, personal and meaningful.

Small voices, larger change

The deepest impact begins when learning moves beyond the school gate. A child who refuses a plastic bag can change what a family brings home from the market. A child who notices a leaking tap can inspire a household to repair it. Children are among society's most persuasive messengers, and schools must deliberately nurture them as young environmental ambassadors.

Children who observe, question and test solutions to real problems also develop the scientific temper that NEP 2020 values. Some of them will become the scientists, engineers, teachers and policymakers who solve the challenges our generation has left unresolved.

Everyone's classroom

Governments can frame policies and organisations can run campaigns, but neither can succeed alone. This effort needs teachers who weave nature into every subject, parents who practise at home what children learn in school, and communities that protect the resources they share.

We often say that children are the future. The harder question is: what kind of future are we handing them, and are we raising the kind of people capable of protecting it?

Let us educate children not merely to succeed in life, but to safeguard the life that makes success possible. The values we plant today will determine whether tomorrow's world still has clean air to breathe and green land to walk upon.

About the author

Teacher, PM SHRI Government Girls High School, Kaloosa | Department of Education |PG in Environmental Sciences, Bundelkhand University |
Email: afsha.mir@gmail.com

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

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

Amnesty scheme for electricity consumers in pipeline: Ali Mohammad Sagar

Visits Alusteng Grid Station, directs adequate power supply during winter

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 7: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Disaster Management and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Saturday visited the 220/132/33 KV Grid Station at Alusteng to review the power supply scenario and assess the preparedness of the department for the upcoming winter months.

During the visit, the Minister, as per an official statement, took a detailed assessment of the functioning of the grid station, its existing capacity, power distribution arrangements and measures being undertaken to ensure adequate and reliable electricity supply to consumers, particularly in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

Emphasising the need for uninterrupted power supply during the winter months, the Minister directed the officers to minimise unscheduled power cuts and ensure that consumers are provided adequate electricity as per the prescribed curtailment schedule. He stressed that effective planning, timely maintenance and better coordination among field functionaries were essential to address the challenges associated with increased power demand during winter.

The Minister asked the Chief Engineers and other senior officers to maintain close coordination with local representatives and residents, regularly assess ground-level requirements and address public grievances promptly to ensure positive feedback from consumers. He also directed the officers to pay special attention to Kangan and adjoining areas and take appropriate measures to resolve issues related to power supply.

The Minister also stated that an amnesty scheme for electricity consumers is in the pipeline, adding that the proposal is under consideration.

The Minister was informed that the Alusteng Grid Station, having an existing transformation capacity of 320 MVA, caters to several areas of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts, including Alusteng, Shuhama, Nagbal, Gadoora, Tulbagh and adjoining areas through its associated receiving stations.

To strengthen the transmission infrastructure and meet the growing power demand, the capacity of the grid station is proposed to be augmented from the existing 320 MVA to 475 MVA at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 56.78 crore.

The Minister observed that the proposed augmentation would significantly strengthen the power transmission network and improve the availability, reliability and quality of electricity supply to the adjoining areas of Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Chief Engineers of the concerned wings of the Power Development Department and other senior officers were present during the visit.

Later, the Minister met several deputations and individuals who apprised him of various public issues and developmental requirements. The Minister gave a patient hearing to their grievances and assured them that genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for their timely resolution.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards improving public service delivery, Ali Mohammad Sagar directed the officers to remain responsive to people's concerns and ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to provide reliable and adequate

Jammu Ring Road Project: Div Com Jammu inspects ongoing works



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 7: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing works under the Jammu Ring Road Project to review the pace of construction of tunnels and other infrastructure components.

The Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Minga Sherpa, Project Director NHAI Rajiv Kumar, members of the NHAI team, ACR Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner visited Tunnel-1 and Tunnel-2 connecting Kheri to Jagti and took on-site feedback regarding the pace of construction, execution-related challenges and other issues affecting the smooth progress of the project.

The Project Director NHAI apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the challenges being faced during the construction of Tunnel-1, particularly loose soil conditions, which have been affecting the pace of work.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Project Director NHAI and executing agencies to expedite the pace of construction across all ongoing components and ensure close coordination among the concerned agencies for timely completion of the project. He also stressed the need to address the site-specific challenges through appropriate measures and maintain close monitoring of the ongoing works.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner also inspected Balicharan Road towards Satwari and reviewed the condition and related infrastructure aspects.

MISSION VATSALYA

SWD Ganderbal organises 1-day exposure visit for children

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 07: The Social Welfare Department (SWD) Ganderbal organised a one-day exposure visit for the boys and girls residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) of the district under Mission Vatsalya.

As part of the initiative, the children were taken to Bage Gule-Dawood and Mughal Gardens to provide them with an opportunity for recreation, social interaction and exposure to places of natural beauty and historical significance.

The visit, as per an official statement, was flagged off by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, who extended his best wishes to the children and encouraged them to participate in such activities for their overall growth and personality development.

During the flag-off ceremony the ADDC was accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer, Ganderbal, who highlighted the department's commitment towards the care, protection, well-being and holistic development of children residing in Child Care Institutions.

SSS campaign launched from Sharshali Pampore to empower youth

KT News Desk



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: In a significant initiative aimed at empowering youth and opening new avenues for their personal, educational and economic development, the District Administration Pulwama Saturday launched the district-wide SSS (Skill Development, Self-Employment and Sports/ Studies) Campaign from Sharshali, Pampore.

The campaign, as per an official statement, is designed around three key pillars, focusing on equipping young people with employable skills, promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment, and encouraging greater participation in sports and education.

It aims to identify the aspirations, interests and potential of local youth and connect them with suitable opportunities, institutional support and various government-sponsored schemes.

The initiative follows the announcement made by District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, during a recent Block Diwas programme, wherein he highlighted the need for a dedicated campaign to guide, support and empower local youth through coordinated departmental efforts. The launch programme was held under the overall supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushaq Ahmad Lone, with the active participation of various district and sectoral departments.

Under the Skill Development component, the campaign seeks to encourage youth to acquire practical, vocational and market-oriented skills that can enhance their employability and enable them to explore diverse career opportunities.

Through the Self-Employment component, aspiring entrepreneurs are being encouraged to establish their own ventures by accessing government-sponsored schemes, financial assistance, credit facilities, subsidies and necessary institutional guidance.

The Sports and Studies component aims to provide opportunities to young people interested in sports, while also identifying those who have discontinued their education and facilitating their connection with suitable educational avenues. The initiative seeks to promote sporting talent through guidance, coaching and available facilities, while ensuring that educational aspirations are not left unaddressed.

On the occasion, various district and sectoral departments established dedicated stalls and interacted with visiting youth and members of the public, sensitising them about government schemes, welfare initiatives, skill development programmes, employment opportunities, financial assistance, subsidies and other available benefits.

Guidance regarding eligibility criteria, application procedures and registration facilities was also provided, with on-the-spot registrations and counselling facilitated wherever required.

The campaign seeks to establish a direct link between young people and government departments, ensuring that information, guidance and institutional support reach potential beneficiaries at their doorstep. It also aims to address the gap between available government opportunities and public awareness, enabling eligible youth to make informed choices about their education, career and livelihood.

Through the SSS initiative, the District Administration aims to create a supportive ecosystem in which every young person gets an opportunity to develop skills, explore self-employment, pursue education and participate in sports according to their interests and capabilities.

FINANCIAL LITERACY, SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

SWD Srinagar organises community awareness programmes



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Srinagar, organized a series of Community Awareness Programmes at Khonkhan, Dalgate, with the objective of empowering women and community members through awareness, information and access to various government welfare initiatives.

A Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes was organized at Khonkhan, Dalgate. The programme, as per an official statement, aimed at educating participants about the importance of financial independence, responsible financial management, savings and awareness of various government-sponsored financial assistance and social security schemes. Participants were sensitized about the benefits, eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing these schemes so that eligible beneficiaries could avail themselves of the available government support.

Additionally, an awareness programme was organized at Mission POSHAN Zone Khonkhan on the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day 2026. Resource persons from the Department of Health imparted valuable information regarding cancer prevention, early warning signs, risk factors, preventive measures and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment. Special emphasis was laid on breast and cervical cancer awareness, regular health screenings and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

The programmes witnessed active participation from women and beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN. The participants were encouraged to utilize the information shared and disseminate awareness within their families and communities. Through these initiatives, the Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, reaffirmed its commitment to promoting women's empowerment, financial inclusion, health awareness and grassroots-level outreach by facilitating access to information about various government schemes and services.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

KT News Desk



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and review the status of solid waste management in both urban and rural areas of the district.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) towards effective solid waste management and identify areas requiring further improvement.

During the meeting, officers of the concerned departments, including Rural Development Department, and Executive Officers of all Municipal Councils and Committees apprised the DC of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention.

The meeting also reviewed the status of solid waste management in rural areas, with particular focus on coverage of villages and households under door-to-door garbage collection. ACD, CPO and Block Development Officers participated in the deliberations and shared the progress made in their respective areas. Various key aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspection and functioning of waste processing plants, four-way segregation of waste at source, retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal, enforcement of penalties against violations, management of seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and preparedness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were also reviewed.

The DC stressed the need for strict enforcement of the prescribed rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door waste collection and scientific processing and disposal of waste. He directed all BDOs to ensure coverage of every village and household under the door-to-door garbage collection mechanism and take necessary measures to strengthen waste management in rural areas. The meeting was attended by ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, CPO Malik Suhail, BDOs, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees and other concerned officers and representatives.

DC Pulwama visits various areas ahead of Diwali, reviews arrangements

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Saturday visited various areas of the district ahead of Diwali and reviewed the arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful celebration of the festival.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm Diwali greetings and interacted with the residents. He listened to their issues and concerns and took stock of the availability of essential services and civic amenities in these areas.

The DC reviewed the status of drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, cleanliness, road connectivity, street lighting, illumination and other essential facilities. He also assessed the arrangements for uninterrupted power and water supply, proper waste disposal and maintenance of public spaces to ensure that residents face no inconvenience during the festive period.

As part of the visit, the DC visited Pandit Colony Hawal, Murran and Batnag Noorpora, where he interacted with community members and reviewed the arrangements on the ground. On the occasion, he also distributed sweets and presented flowers to community members for the Puja on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

He also paid obeisance at the Murran Temple and extended his wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Executive Engineer, PWD; concerned Tehsildars and Block Development Officers, besides other officers from various line departments.

Educated youth to be trained for PO examination, educated in Financial Literacy, Cyber Hygiene

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Saturday chaired a Financial Literacy programme at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, organised in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

The programme focused on promoting financial literacy, safe banking practices, awareness about digital and financial frauds, and providing awareness about ICICI Bank's PO Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called for structured, day-wise awareness programmes across all colleges of the district, commencing next week, aimed at sensitising students about financial literacy, Cyber Security and the PO Programme of the bank. He further instructed the ICICI Bank representatives to prepare an informative pamphlet detailing the available opportunities, eligibility requirements and application procedures for wider circulation among students to facilitate awareness and informed participation.

The Chief Education Officer Pulwama was also directed to facilitate similar programmes in educational institutions in coordination with the Zonal Education Officers.

On the occasion, the DC further stressed the need for sustained institutional engagement to equip students with relevant knowledge, skills and awareness.

The programme was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; Principals and representatives of various Degree Colleges; Chief Education Officer and representatives of ICICI Bank.

Explained: Hoax Bomb Threats Targeting European Flights

AGENCIES



Paris: Bomb threats targeted dozens of flights across Europe this week following a string of hoaxes that caused flight diversions and forced airlines to scramble to keep passengers safe and air traffic disruptions minimal.

Fake bomb threats are relatively common, but it is unusual to see so many in such a short period. No suspicious items were found and no one has been injured, but the threats raised concerns because they came on the heels of other European disruptions — including attacks on supermarket refrigeration systems and drone incursions.

With unanswered questions hanging over the continent — it was not known whether the threats were linked, who sent them or what they hoped to achieve — security experts were to meet in Brussels next week to discuss measures to deal with the hoaxes.

Here's what to know:

Dozens of flights across Europe have been targeted

The hoaxes have led to plane searches and diversions, and, in some cases, emergency landings and military escorts.

Still, the European air traffic authority insisted that overall, the threats caused minimal disruption to aviation.

Separately, three broadcasters — the Irish national broadcaster RTE, the UK-based Sky and NOVA TV, a private broadcaster in Bulgaria — also received security threats on Friday, a possible sign the menace was spreading beyond the skies.

Explained: Hoax Bomb Threats Targeting European Flights

It remains unclear who is behind the airline threats, which come at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and warnings from authorities that Russia may be ramping up its so-called hybrid threats in Europe — a mix of covert and indirect attacks attributed to Moscow and meant to destabilise European countries.

Authorities haven't attributed the threats to any group or state actor, and no evidence has emerged linking the hoaxes to a government. An email containing the threat sent Thursday to airport authorities in Rome and reviewed by The Associated Press purported to come from a group describing itself as anti-feminist and claiming it was targeting a "feminist regime."

Another European airport received a threat with similar wording, but it was unclear if it came from the same sender.

In Amsterdam, meanwhile, the Dutch Marechaussee military police detained a man on Thursday night at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport in connection with a threat to a flight that was about to leave for Prague, Marechaussee spokesperson Doron Wallin said Saturday.

It was not clear if the threat was linked to other recent hoaxes. Wallin said the Marechaussee regularly deals with fake bomb threats. The aircraft flew on to Prague later in the evening and the man was released the following day.

Expert says travellers should not be alarmed

Matthew Borie of Osprey Flight Solutions, which advises airlines on flight threats, said he had several hypotheses for the incidents — ranging from a single threat triggering copycat incidents to an individual or a group making multiple threats, and "hybrid warfare" operations by state actors or their supporters.

The focus on Europe means "there could be a Russian angle," said Borie, the company's co-founder and chief intelligence officer. "We need to keep in mind, though, that Iranian hybrid warfare is just as active in certain pockets of Europe as well."

His message for travellers?

"Don't be alarmed," he said, noting that national authorities have "coordinated response mechanisms," including, at times, the deployment of NATO fighter jets to escort such planes.

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, a senior fellow at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels, said the threats were "stress-testing" how European governments and airport officials respond, and whether their responses were coordinated.

The idea behind the threats "appears to be to sow chaos, uncertainty, about the reliability of air traffic across Europe" and could have "cascading effects" — such as economic damage and costs related to inspection, investigation and the cleaning of aircraft.

Compulsory Retirement Order is Neither Punitive Nor Stigmatic in Character: SC

Press Trust Of India



New Delhi: The Supreme Court has held that an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character and does not cast any aspersion on the conduct of an employee, nor does it imply any finding of misconduct.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Shree Chandrashekhar, which upheld the Chhattisgarh government's order of compulsory retirement to five of its 14 employees, said it was based on subjective satisfaction of the competent authority that the employee's continued retention in service is no longer conducive to public interest.

"...an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order does not cast any aspersion upon the conduct of the employee nor does it imply any finding of misconduct," it said.

"The ultimate assessment as to whether an officer has become dead wood or whether his continuance would be detrimental to administrative efficiency falls within the domain of the executive. However, such satisfaction cannot be found upon mere conjecture or whim. It must rest upon objective and relevant material available on record," it held.

The top court on Friday upheld that the April 12, 2023 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court upholding the single-judge bench's order affirming the 2017 government circular to compulsorily retire the employees, and rejected their contention that other similarly placed employees were not retired.

"An employee cannot successfully assail an order of compulsory retirement merely by contending that another officer possessing a comparable service record was not subjected to similar action," it said, adding that the evaluation of an employee's utility, integrity, efficiency and overall service profile is essentially an individualised exercise undertaken by the competent authority based on the materials pertaining to that particular employee.

The bench said the fact that action was taken against one employee while another similarly situated employee was left untouched does not, by itself, render the action unconstitutional or discriminatory.

"The doctrine of equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution embodies a positive concept and does not countenance the claim of negative equality. This court has consistently held that an illegality or omission committed in favour of one person cannot furnish a valid basis for extending the same benefits to another. If a wrong has been committed in an earlier case, it cannot be relied upon to perpetuate a similar wrong in subsequent cases," it said.

The top court further said that where the government itself prescribes norms or criteria governing the exercise of the power, judicial review extends only to examining whether such norms or criteria have been duly observed.

"It follows, therefore, that an order of compulsory retirement must be supported by relevant material such as Annual Confidential Reports, integrity assessments, performance evaluations and other service-record entries bearing upon the employee's utility and suitability for continued retention," it said.

The bench said judicial review in such cases does not entail a re-appreciation or re-weighing of the material by the court as though it were sitting in appeal over the administrative decision.

"The court is concerned only with whether relevant material existed, whether such material was taken into consideration by the competent authority, and whether the conclusion drawn therefrom is one which a reasonable person could have arrived at. So long as these requirements are satisfied, the court will not substitute its view for that of the authority entrusted with the decision-making process," it said.

It added that the principle is well settled that judicial interference with an order of compulsory retirement is warranted only where the decision is shown to be based on no evidence, suffers from non-application of mind, is manifestly arbitrary or perverse or is vitiated by malafides.

With regards to the aggrieved employees, the top court said due process was followed in retiring them compulsorily and the recommendations made by the screening committee were founded upon an objective evaluation of the utility, efficiency and suitability of the employees concerned, with a view to maintaining administrative standards and ensuring efficiency in public service.

"Consequently, this court is satisfied that the parameters and standards applied while considering the cases of the appellants for compulsory retirement were uniformly applied to all similarly situated employees and that no element of discriminatory treatment or selective application of criteria has been established," it said.

The bench said the parameters had been applied uniformly and comprehensively to all eligible employees and only after their examination that the Screening Committee identified five employees, whose overall service-record assessment fell below the prescribed benchmark and whose recent confidential reports disclosed patterns indicative of unsatisfactory performance, declining efficiency or lack of utility in public service.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Western Disturbance

The forecast further indicated the possibility of the season's first snowfall in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri and the plains of Pahalgam.

According to the forecast, higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora may receive moderate snowfall, while higher reaches of central and south Kashmir are likely to receive light to moderate snowfall.

Weather is expected to improve thereafter, with partly cloudy conditions forecast for November 14 and 15.

MET ADVISES FARMERS TO CONTINUE HARVESTING TILL NOV 10

Meanwhile, the MeT has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations until November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops.

Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly, as fresh snowfall over higher reaches may disrupt traffic on important mountain passes and hilly roads. The forecast has also indicated the possibility of thunder and gusty winds at a few places between November 10 and 12.

KASHMIR RECORDS ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES

Meanwhile, day temperatures remained above normal across most weather stations in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

According to the MeT's daily weather bulletin, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius, which was 5.9 degrees above the seasonal average, while the minimum settled at 2.0 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 22.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.0 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 18.0 degrees Celsius as its maximum and 0.0 degrees Celsius as its minimum.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 23.0 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 1.5 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded 20.4 degrees Celsius and 0.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 13.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 1.2 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 29.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.0 degrees Celsius.

No rainfall was recorded at the listed weather stations during the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on November 7, the bulletin said. (KNO)

Kashmir markets

said the demand for sweets, decorative lights, traditional lamps and gift items had picked up ahead of the festival, with customers continuing to visit markets for last-minute shopping.

Markets across the city were illuminated with colourful lights and decorations, adding to the festive atmosphere as people prepared to celebrate the festival with their families.

Diwali, the festival of lights, will be celebrated across the country on Sunday, with people marking the occasion by lighting lamps, offering prayers and exchanging sweets. (KNO)

Deepawali victory

and best wishes to all. The festival of Deepawali celebrates the eternal victory of light over darkness, virtue over vice, and justice over injustice. On this joyous occasion, let us rededicate ourselves to bringing happiness and prosperity into the lives of all citizens, spreading the warmth of compassion and solidarity."

The LG added, "Let us reach out to extend support and happiness to those in need. I pray that Maa Lakshmi, Bhagwan Ganesh, and Prabhu Shri Ram bring their blessings to every home. May the festival bring happiness and prosperity to all and illuminate their lives with lights of hope and joy."

Festival carries

the Chief Minister said that Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolises the triumph of good over evil and the victory of truth and righteousness. He observed that the festival conveys the enduring message of hope, harmony and compassion, while reinforcing the values of unity and mutual respect that define India's rich cultural diversity.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household.

"May the festival of Diwali illuminate every home with happiness and usher in peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir and across the country," he said.

IAF's IL-76MD aircraft

precision and professionalism.

It may be recalled that the Nyoma air base became fully operational in November last year. Its three-kilometre-long runway was developed to facilitate rapid mobilisation of defence forces and strengthen India's strategic capabilities along the northern frontier.

The project, sanctioned in 2021 at an estimated cost of Rs 214 crore, was designed to support emergency operations and the movement of heavy aircraft in extreme high-altitude conditions. (KNO)

J&K Govt approves

generate new avenues of economic growth for the local population.

Kashmir parents

session started this week, the School Education Department must revise its current school timing in both the Srinagar and peripheries of Kashmir region."

Dar said, "Nothing is more important than the health and wellbeing of our kids. If the government does not change the school timing, I would prefer to keep my kids at home rather than risking their health."

The parents urged the government to revise the school timing. "In view of the cold temperatures in the morning, the government must change the school timing from 10 am to 3 pm in Srinagar and 10:30 am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits. The School Education Department must prioritize the health and wellbeing of the students."

Pertinently, the government in mid-October had ordered a change in school timing for all government and private schools from October-15 asking schools falling in the Srinagar municipal limits to function from 10 am to 3:30 pm and 10: 30 am to 4 pm to the school falling outside the Srinagar municipal limits. (KNO)

J&K Notifies Private

positions, would help ensure that the benefits of institutional expansion translate into meaningful educational and employment opportunities for local youth.

He said the Rules also envisage a dedicated regulatory mechanism to monitor admissions, fee structures and academic standards, backed by stringent penalties for violations, including irregularities in admissions, excess fee collection, issuance of invalid degrees, deficiencies in faculty strength and qualifications, and inadequate infrastructure.

The Chief Minister said the new framework would open avenues for the establishment of institutions across a wide range of disciplines, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Medicine, Law, Business Studies and Liberal Arts. This, he observed, would broaden academic choices for students, promote interdisciplinary learning and create greater opportunities for teaching, research and innovation within Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that the entry of reputed institutions would enable local students to access quality, globally benchmarked education closer to home while attracting leading academics, researchers and scholars, besides encouraging research collaborations and institutional partnerships from across the country and abroad.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government was committed to creating a transparent, predictable and investor-friendly environment that encourages responsible private investment while protecting students' interests and maintaining the highest standards of academic quality.

He also acknowledged the contribution of Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, who held the Education portfolio at the time the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill was passed during the Budget Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly earlier this year, and appreciated her role in advancing the legislative process.

The Chief Minister said the notification of the Rules marks an important step towards translating the legislative initiative into an effective institutional framework for the growth and modernisation of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

Search process for

Sciences, or a related discipline. They should have at least 10 years of experience as a Professor or in an equivalent position in a reputed academic institution. The candidates must also possess a minimum of three years' administrative experience as a Dean, Joint Director, Director, or in an equivalent position at a university or national institution.

Another eligibility criterion is at least five years of experience as the Head of a Department, Division, or an equivalent academic unit in a reputed institution, along with a minimum of 20 research publications in peer-reviewed national or international journals, including books, and demonstrated experience in leadership.

The process has begun before the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ganaie, completes his extended tenure. Prof. Ganaie was granted a two-year extension with effect from December 16, 2024, and is scheduled to complete the term on December 15, 2026. (KNO)

AIIMS Awantipora

the earliest.

The Health Minister further said she had raised the issue of increasing MBBS seats at AIIMS Awantipora from the existing 50 to 100 with the Union Health Minister, adding that the demand stands accepted.

Itoo said the increase in MBBS seats would create additional opportunities for aspiring medical students from Jammu and Kashmir while also strengthening the region's medical education infrastructure.

She added that she had also urged the Union Health Minister to ensure the availability of advanced medical machinery, modern diagnostic equipment and adequate infrastructure at the institute so that patients could receive specialised treatment without being compelled to travel to other states.

CANCER CASES INCREASING AT ALARMING RATE

Highlighting the growing burden of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir, Itoo said she had specifically requested the installation of advanced cancer diagnostic equipment at AIIMS Awantipora to facilitate early detection and timely treatment.

"Cancer cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Jammu and Kashmir. I have requested the Union Health Minister to ensure that advanced machinery and diagnostic facilities, particularly for cancer detection, are made available at AIIMS Awantipora. Early diagnosis is crucial, as it can help patients receive timely treatment and improve their chances of recovery," she said.

She said the availability of modern diagnostic and treatment facilities at the institute would help strengthen the healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir and provide significant relief to patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections who often face difficulties travelling outside the Union Territory for specialised medical care.

Pertinently, AIIMS Awantipora is among the major centrally sponsored healthcare projects in Jammu and Kashmir and is expected to emerge as a major centre for tertiary healthcare, medical education and research in the region. The institute's early operationalisation has remained a longstanding demand of residents, who have been awaiting the commencement of services after several deadlines were missed. (KNO)

Body found

rushed to the spot and took the body into custody. The identity of the deceased is yet to be established.

Meanwhile, cognisance of the matter has been taken and further investigation has been initiated. (KNO)

Digital Verification:

recognition, adding that the move was part of efforts to ensure transparency. "Everything is transparent these days and there is no need for any sort of panic," he said. (KNO)

Youth found

cognizance of the incident has been taken up. (KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

EPAPER.KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN
KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN

President Murmu, PM Modi greet citizens on eve of Diwali



Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Nov 7: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted citizens on the eve of Diwali and hoped that the country's patriotic youth, guided by Indian values, would contribute enthusiastically to building a Viksit Bharat.

In a message, she said the joyous celebrations followed Bhagwan Shri Ram's return to Ayodhya after his victory over Ravana.

"Bhagwan Shri Ram beheld the beautiful rows of illuminated lamps," the President said.

"This forms the cultural and devotional significance of Diwali. The festival also symbolises the auspicious beginning of Ram Rajya," she added. The President wished good health, happiness and prosperity to every citizen of our country.

"May we preserve the environment, live with harmony and may our patriotic youth, guided by Indian values, contribute enthusiastically to building a Viksit Bharat," she said.

Diwali festival marks the victory of virtues over negative tendencies, and also signifies the end of suffering and the beginning of a joyful and prosperous life, the President said.

On this occasion, people worship Bhagwan Ganesh for auspicious beginnings and well-being, and Mahalakshmi Mata for prosperity. Prayers are offered for the happiness of all, she added.

"On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad," President Murmu said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed Diwali greetings to people and said the festival celebrates the eternal victory of light over darkness, goodness over evil and hope over despair.

Modi hoped that this festive season inspires everyone to spread kindness, embrace positivity and work towards a brighter future.

"Dear fellow citizen, warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Diwali! This festival celebrates the eternal victory of light over darkness, goodness over evil and hope over despair," he said in a message posted on the government of India's 'Jan Sampark Portal'.

The prime minister said Diwali is also an occasion to cherish India's rich traditions and strengthen the bonds of togetherness.

"May Diwali illuminate every home with happiness, harmony and prosperity. May this festive season inspire us to spread kindness, embrace positivity and work towards a brighter future," he said.

Modi urged everyone to move forward with renewed energy and determination to build a prosperous and 'Viksit Bharat'.

"Once again, wishing you a Happy Diwali," he said.

All Agniveers eligible for regular enrollment post 2-year tenure extension: Rajnath

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 7: After completing an additional two-year tenure, all Agniveers will be eligible for enrollment as regular soldiers, subject to their willingness and meeting the selection criteria, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. Singh's remarks during an interaction with air warriors at West Bengal's Bagdogra Air Force station came three days after the government announced that Agniveers set to exit the military at the end of their four-year tenure will be given an additional two-year extension and subsequent permanent recruitment subject to meeting specific eligibility criteria.

Singh said the decision is a "significant Diwali gift for Agniveers" and reiterated the government's commitment to the welfare of the defence forces personnel and their families.

The step would provide Agniveers with another opportunity to serve the nation, he said.

Upon completion of the two-year engagement period, all Agniveers will get an opportunity to be enrolled as regular soldiers, subject to their willingness and their meeting selection criteria, he said.

Under the Agnipath scheme initiated in June, 2022, soldiers were recruited for a four-year term, with a provision to retain only 25 per cent of them in regular services.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani announced the changes in the scheme on Wednesday, just over three weeks before around 18,300 Agniveers were to exit the armed forces after completing their four-year tenure.

At present, over 3,00,000 soldiers recruited under the Agnipath scheme are serving in the military.

Gen Subramani said the government's decision will open a "pathway" for all Agniveers, ensuring almost all of them are going to be absorbed into the defence forces. Defence officials said on Friday that all serving Agniveers will be absorbed as regular soldiers after six years of service, provided they are willing to continue, physically fit, and disciplined. The Agnipath recruitment scheme has not been rolled back, they insisted.

Several opposition parties, including the Congress, had targeted the government over the scheme, wondering what will happen to 75 per cent of the Agniveers after their four-year tenure ends, as only 25 per cent of the total recruits will be retained for 15 years.

151 years of composition

Vande Mataram symbolises national identity, self-respect: President

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 7: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday congratulated all citizens on the 151 years of the composition of the national song 'Vande Mataram' and said it symbolises our national identity, self-respect and devotion to the motherland.

"I hope that our fellow citizens will embrace the spirit of nation first embodied in 'Vande Mataram' and contribute to nation-building," she said in a post on X in Hindi.

The national song was written by Bengali novelist and poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on the occasion of Akshaya Navami, which fell on November 7 in 1875.

"On the completion of 151 years since the composition of the national song 'Vande Mataram', I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all fellow citizens. During the freedom movement, this song served as a rallying cry of courage, unity and resolve for patriots," the president said.

Even today, it symbolises our national identity, self-respect and devotion to the motherland, she added.

'High fares, longer journeys, delays make special trains less attractive to passengers'

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 7: Despite the Railway Ministry's claim of operating 18,000 special train trips across the country to clear the festive rush, regular trains continue to be in much greater demand, with waiting lists often exceeding the permissible limit and ticket-booking websites displaying the 'Regret' status.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday during a media interaction that all trains were being monitored closely through a special War Room set up at Rail Bhawan to ensure their safe and timely arrival at destinations.

However, railway officials admit that passengers don't prefer special trains due to their higher fares, longer journey times and poor punctuality.

The IRCTC website shows that regular trains on almost all routes have either long waiting lists or a 'Regret' status, indicating that the number of passengers on the waiting list has exceeded the permissible limit.

"If you look at the New Delhi-Patna route, Train No. 04096, a festival special, charges Rs 1,745 for an AC 3-tier ticket, whereas the regular Sampoorna Kranti Express charges Rs 1,390," an official said.

He added that the special train also takes considerably longer to cover the same distance.

While it takes 22 hours and 55 minutes, the Sampoorna Kranti Express completes the journey in 13 hours and 8 minutes.

"Despite the longer scheduled journey time, special trains hardly reach their destinations on time, often resulting in a tiring journey of 25 to 30 hours," he said. He argued that this was one of the reasons why the Sampoorna Kranti Express has a much higher waiting list than the special train.

Similarly, special train No. 01143 from Mumbai to Danapur (Patna) charges Rs 2,235 for an AC 3-tier ticket and takes 35 hours and 20 minutes to complete the journey.

In comparison, the regular LTT-Rajgir Express covers almost the same distance in 32 hours and 35 minutes, with an AC 3-tier fare of Rs 1,865.

Another official said that while regular trains generally run on schedule, special trains are often delayed by several hours, causing uncertainty and inconvenience to passengers.

They stated that regular trains get overcrowded during the festive season because passengers are willing to travel even with waiting-list tickets, as these trains generally operate according to their scheduled timings.

"Normally, fares on special trains are up to 30 per cent higher than those on regular trains. Moreover, we have to create separate paths for these trains, keeping in mind the capacity constraints on particular routes," a senior railway official said.

Compulsory retirement order is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character: SC

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court has held that an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character and does not cast any aspersion on the conduct of an employee, nor does it imply any finding of misconduct.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Shree Chandrashekhar, which upheld the Chhattisgarh government's order of compulsory retirement to five of its 14 employees, said it was based on subjective satisfaction of the competent authority that the employee's continued retention in service is no longer conducive to public interest.

"...an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order does not cast any aspersion upon the conduct of the employee nor does it imply any finding of misconduct," it said.

"The ultimate assessment as to whether an officer has become dead wood or whether his continuance would be detrimental to administrative efficiency falls within the domain of the executive. However, such satisfaction cannot be found upon mere conjecture or whim. It must rest upon objective and relevant material available on record," it held.

The top court on Friday upheld that the April 12, 2023 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court upholding the single-judge bench's order affirming the 2017 government circular to compulsorily retire the employees, and rejected their contention that other similarly placed employees were not retired.

"An employee cannot successfully assail an order of compulsory retirement merely by contending that another officer possessing a comparable service record was not subjected to similar action," it said, adding that the evaluation of an employee's utility, integrity, efficiency and overall service profile is essentially an individualised exercise undertaken by the competent authority based on the materials pertaining to that particular employee.

The bench said the fact that action was taken against one employee while another similarly situated employee was left untouched does not, by itself, render the action unconstitutional or discriminatory.

"The doctrine of equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution embodies a positive concept and does not countenance the claim of negative equality. This court has consistently held that an illegality or omission committed in favour of one person cannot furnish a valid basis for extending the same benefits to another. If a wrong has been committed in an earlier case, it cannot be relied upon to perpetuate a similar wrong in subsequent cases," it said.

The top court further said that where the government itself prescribes norms or criteria governing the exercise of the power, judicial review extends only to examining whether such norms or criteria have been duly observed.

"It follows, therefore, that an order of compulsory retirement must be supported by relevant material such as Annual Confidential Reports, integrity assessments, performance evaluations and other service-record entries bearing upon the employee's utility and suitability for continued retention," it said.

The bench said judicial review in such cases does not entail a re-appreciation or re-weighing of the material by the court as though it were sitting in appeal over the administrative decision.

"The court is concerned only with whether relevant material existed, whether such material was taken into consideration by the competent authority, and whether the conclusion drawn therefrom is one which a reasonable person could have arrived at. So long as these requirements are satisfied, the court will not substitute its view for that of the authority entrusted with the decision-making process," it said.

It added that the principle is well settled that judicial interference with an order of compulsory retirement is warranted only where the decision is shown to be based on no evidence, suffers from non-application of mind, is manifestly arbitrary or perverse or is vitiated by malafides.

With regards to the aggrieved employees, the top court said due process was followed in retiring them compulsorily and the recommendations made by the screening committee were founded upon an objective evaluation of the utility, efficiency and suitability of the employees concerned, with a view to maintaining administrative standards and ensuring efficiency in public service.

The bench said the parameters had been applied uniformly and comprehensively to all eligible employees and only after their examination that the Screening Committee identified five employees, whose overall service-record assessment fell below the prescribed benchmark and whose recent confidential reports disclosed patterns indicative of unsatisfactory performance, declining efficiency or lack of utility in public service.

It said the remaining nine employees, having satisfied the prescribed standards, were found fit for continued retention in service.

Eligible CAA applicants to get citizenship by Dec 31: Bengal CM

PTI



Aranghata (WB), Nov 7: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari promised that the process of granting citizenship to all eligible applicants under the CAA would be completed by December 31, alleging that the previous TMC government failed to facilitate its implementation, leaving thousands of applications pending.

Inaugurating a Kali Puja pandal at Aranghata in Nadia district on Friday, Adhikari said around 2.5 lakh applications were pending in Nadia and neighbouring North 24 Parganas, both border districts with a sizeable population of people who migrated from Bangladesh.

"All eligible applications under the CAA will be disposed of by December 31. No eligible applicant will be left out, and citizenship certificates will be issued within the stipulated period," he said.

The chief minister said his government had taken responsibility for expediting the process and initiated administrative steps to clear the backlog.

"District magistrates had undergone training through the Home Department, while sub-divisional officers (SDOs) would supervise verification of applications and conduct hearings to ensure their timely disposal," he said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, or CAA, passed by Parliament in December 2019, provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, after facing religious persecution.

The Centre notified the rules under the Act in March 2024, paving the way for its implementation more than four years after its passage.

The issue has considerable political significance in Nadia and North 24 Parganas, particularly among sections of the Matua community, whose members have long sought legal citizenship status following their migration from Bangladesh.

Adhikari also accused the previous government of creating obstacles to religious and cultural activities, particularly by restricting permissions for Durga Puja celebrations and immersion processions.

In another announcement, he said the state government would spend Rs 1,000 crore over the next two years on renovating and restoring old maths and temples under a proposed initiative called the 'Tirthakshetra Circuit'.

The project would cover religious institutions managed by trusts, 'debottar' bodies and public organisations, while privately owned establishments would be excluded, he said.

Toll in explosion at OIL facility in Assam rises to three

PTI

Dibrugarh, Nov 7: The toll in an explosion at Oil India Limited's facility in Assam's Dibrugarh district rose to three, with two more persons succumbing to burn injuries on Saturday, officials said.

A fire broke out on Friday during maintenance work at Oil India Limited's Intermediate Tank Farm in Tengakhat, following the explosion, according to a statement issued by the PSU.

An Intermediate Tank Farm is a facility where petroleum products are temporarily stored in tanks before being transferred for further processing or transportation.

Oil India Limited (OIL) on Saturday announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased, and Rs 5 lakh to each injured person.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma are closely monitoring the situation, the public sector undertaking (PSU) said.

A worker of Spectron Engineering Private Limited, a company engaged by OIL, died at a Guwahati hospital where he was taken after his condition became very critical, an official said, adding that the deceased was identified as Rupam Gohain.

The death of the engineer, identified as Tapas Jyoti Gogoi, was confirmed by the company's area manager Kamal Phukan on Saturday.

Gogoi, a resident of N Gali in Milan Nagar of Dibrugarh, and Gohain were among the six workers who sustained burn injuries in the explosion a day ago.

The injured workers were initially taken to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh.

"Subsequently, Gogoi had been taken to a private hospital in Dibrugarh and Gohain had been admitted to a Guwahati hospital," the official said.

Gogoi, who sustained around 70 per cent burns, succumbed to his injuries at around 3 am on Saturday, his elder brother said.

He had been working with the company for the past 13 years.

He is survived by his parents, wife and a daughter.

Three of the injured workers remain in critical condition, another official said.

A total of nine workers were present at the site when the accident occurred on Friday, and seven of them sustained injuries, with one of the injured workers succumbing to his injuries, an official statement said.

The person who died on Friday was identified as Raju Dutta.

Meanwhile, Union Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal called OIL Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath to take stock of the situation.

Sonowal urged the CMD to ensure the best medical treatment for those injured in the incident and to take all necessary measures without delay, the company release said.

The Union minister, who is the Lok Sabha MP from Dibrugarh, also called for appropriate compensation for the families of those who lost their lives in the incident.

Sonowal advocated a high-level inquiry by the authorities concerned to establish the exact cause of the fire and bring all aspects surrounding the incident to light, the release added.

Kashmir Thunder

EPAPER.KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN
KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN

Quick Read

Airstrike kills 22 near Yemen's capital, Houthi official says



AP

Cairo, Nov 7 : Airstrikes in a town near the capital, Sanaa, on Saturday killed 22 people and wounded 30 others, mostly women and children, a spokesman for Yemen's Houthi-run Health Ministry said.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Anees Alasbahi accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out the strikes in the village of al-Shariya. There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia.

Missile strikes target Kyiv, injure five as Ukraine prepares for Russia-US talks



AP

Kyiv, Nov 7 : Missile explosions struck across Ukraine Saturday, wounding at least nine people, as Kyiv and Moscow prepared for new talks next week with the United States.

Negotiators from Russia, Ukraine and the US are to meet on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, for talks aimed at ending the war. The new round of negotiations would be the fourth brokered by the Trump administration, the most recent having been in Geneva in February.

Western governments backing the peace initiative are seeking a new formula to break the impasse while acknowledging that territorial and security questions remain unresolved.

The Russian missiles that hit the Ukrainian capital Kyiv overnight damaged homes and commercial properties, triggering new power and water outages, national and city authorities said.

Strikes also prompted officials to close Kyiv's Northern Bridge, a major route that allows commuter traffic in the capital to cross the Dnipro River.

"As a result of the enemy's night attack, energy facilities in the Kyiv and ... Zhytomyr regions were damaged," Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. "The situation with the capital's energy supply is extremely difficult, affecting the city's heating and water supply systems."

In a statement Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was preparing for trilateral talks by "launching ballistic missiles at Ukraine's critical infrastructure."

The Ukrainian leader said that Russia fired 36 ballistic missiles at Kyiv and the surrounding region overnight. The barrage also involved 172 drones over Kyiv and 12 other regions, wounding nine people, including a child, he said.

"When Russia tries to plunge Kyiv — a city of millions — and the entire country into a blackout, Ukraine must not be left to face this alone," Zelenskyy said. He urged greater US support and attention from Congress, calling for bipartisan backing for Ukraine and stronger sanctions on Russia.

Russia's Ministry of Defense confirmed Saturday that it had targeted the Northern Bridge, saying that it facilitated the transport of weaponry, military hardware and specialist equipment for Ukraine's armed forces.

It also said that it had targeted an industrial facility in the capital producing Flamingo missiles, as well as a power station, an electrical substation, and a plant producing ammunition, explosives and gunpowder in the wider Kyiv region. It also confirmed striking an electrical substation in the Zhytomyr region.

Death toll rises to 55 after aid centre strike in Komyshuvakha

Meanwhile, in southern Ukraine, a recovery operation continued into its sixth day in the village of Komyshuvakha, devastated on Monday when multiple Russian guided bombs slammed into a former school and nearby shelter as residents waited for humanitarian aid.

Emergency services said they had recovered nine more bodies in the previous 24 hours, bringing the death toll early Saturday morning to 55. Dozens of people remain missing.

Iran lifts self-imposed limit on missile range, other Mideast developments

AP



Dubai, Nov 7 : Iran's Revolutionary Guard says it has lifted a self-proclaimed limit of 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) on the range of its ballistic missiles, suggesting the country may seek to develop missiles capable of reaching more distant targets amid fears of renewed all-out war.

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed the Gaza Strip, flooding tents and intensifying the misery of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

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

Iran's Revolutionary Guard lifts its missile-range limit

The comments by the spokesman of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard came days after the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khomeini, warned that "any kind and level of threat" from the US or Israel would face a response without geographic limits.

Asked at a Tehran press conference about the limit on missile ranges, Gen. Hossein Mohebbi said, "That restriction has been lifted for us."

He did not say whether Iran had missiles capable of exceeding the limit, saying only Iran would "demonstrate these capabilities in practice" rather than make statements.

Iran is not known to have missiles that can go beyond the 2,000-kilometre (1,200-mile) limit — a range that puts parts of Greece and the Balkans, the entire Arabian Peninsula, the Levant and most of Egypt within reach. However, US officials have said technology from Iran's space program can be repurposed to build intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Iranian military, meanwhile, said a tanker east of the Strait of Hormuz had hit a naval mine and caught fire. It did not identify the nationality or destination of the tanker, which it said had turned off its navigational beacon and was sailing in a "prohibited area."

Rains mark return of winter misery for Gaza's Palestinians

In the Gaza Strip, displaced families spent a sleepless night as heavy rain flooded their fragile tents, soaked mattresses and belongings and turned camp pathways into pools of muddy water.

The rain marks the start of another difficult winter for the more than 1.6 million Palestinians living in tents or other makeshift shelters in the territory, where nearly the entire population has lost its homes from Israel's campaign.

Majed Al-Omari, who lost a limb during the war, struggled to make his way between tents on crutches after the rains tore down the wooden frame and plastic sheeting of his shelter. "We will have to sleep in the street tonight, or find somewhere else to stay," he said.

The UN humanitarian office has said 294,250 families need shelter assistance for the rainy season, but available supplies are enough only to give partial help to 18 per cent of those in need. It said lack of funds, slow procurement procedures and delayed approvals by the Israeli authorities mean additional supplies may not reach Palestinians until more than halfway through winter.

New Zealand election too close to call as early results come in



AP

Wellington, Nov 7 : Early results in New Zealand's election were being released on Saturday, with first counts suggesting the country's tightest election in years and no simple path to victory for either the incumbent conservative government or the leftwing opposition.

With about a third of votes counted, Christopher Luxon's National party and its minor party coalition partners, libertarian ACT and populist NZ First, balanced on a knife's edge that saw them flirting with the slimmest possible majority or falling just short as votes were counted, indicating that a return to power would be precarious.

National and the main leftwing party Labour, led by Chris Hipkins, were neck and neck at just under 30 per cent of the vote. Both would consider this disappointing but it also reflected opinion polls before election day that showed little voter enthusiasm about either of the country's main political groups.

A newcomer to politics who surged in popularity is poised to enter Parliament

Some of the most senior figures in Luxon's National party would be ejected from Parliament in preliminary results that would give more sway to minor parties than before. Among them is Opportunity, a political party that — based on early figures — would enter New Zealand's Parliament for the first time, with six seats.

The socially liberal, technocratic group is led by 38-year-old political newcomer Qiulae Wong, who surged in popularity ahead of the vote with her pledges to bring longer-term thinking and less partisan squabbling to politics. Opportunity has said it was open to negotiating either a conservative or a leftwing government and would deal first with whichever major party won the most votes.

However, the magnitude of Wong's success was still undecided on Saturday. Parties must win 5 per cent of the vote to enter Parliament, and the count so far showed Opportunity had just crossed that threshold.

Early results show conservatives just

India to compete in global championship of F1 Sim Racing



PTI

Mumbai, Nov 7 : The Indian simulator racing unit has earned a spot in the Cup of Nations that will see it compete with top international teams in the two-day global championship here.

The event, to be held from November 7-9, is organised by Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited in partnership with Formula 1. Representing India in the 18-team event will be Karl Verghese and Siddharth Sathgare, following the former's crowning as the national champion in the Open Category at the F1 Sim Racing.

Verghese finished with 150 points, while fellow Mumbaikar Siddharth Sathgare secured second place with 96 points and Chennai's Amith Kutti finished third with 91 points.

The podium finishers maintained their distance from the rest of the pack throughout the six-race competition. Karl remained unbeaten across all six races to establish his dominance in the category.

Gulmarg 12K run to be held on Nov 29 to promote fitness and drug-free Kashmir



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07 : Gulmarg will host the first-ever Gulmarg 12K Run on November 29, bringing together runners from across Kashmir for a sporting event amid the picturesque surroundings of the Gulmarg Bowl.

The organisers said the event is expected to witness the participation of around 120 athletes and will be flagged off from Pine Palace Resort, Gulmarg, at 9:00 AM.

The run will be conducted along the Gulmarg Bowl Road and is being supported by the Gulmarg Development Authority, with M&Co and Pine Palace Resort Gulmarg backing the initiative.

One of the organisers said the event aims to encourage young people to embrace running, adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute towards building a fitter and drug-free society.

"The objective is to encourage young people to embrace running, adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute towards building a fitter, more active and drug-free society," the organiser said.

The proposed route will feature a loop of approximately six kilometres or more, with participants completing two laps to cover the 12-kilometre-plus distance. The final route and distance will be confirmed after a technical assessment and consultations with the concerned authorities.

The organisers said the event also aims to promote Gulmarg as a year-round destination for outdoor recreation, fitness tourism and sporting activities, while adding a new attraction ahead of the winter tourism season.

Registration for the event will open shortly. The competition will be held in the Open Senior Men's category, with participation limited to 120 runners. All participants will receive finisher medals, while cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers.

The organisers said the initiative is part of efforts to strengthen Kashmir's growing running culture and promote fitness through community-based sporting events—(KNO)

Meloni blames pro-Russian hackers for leak of Italian foreign minister's data on dark web

AP

Milan, Nov 7 : Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Saturday that his personal data had been disseminated on the dark web, an encrypted part of the internet, and that he has been exposed to "threats and intimidation." Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni blamed pro-Russian hackers for the leak.

Tajani made the announcement in a social media post following a string of hoax bomb threats across Europe that caused flight diversions, security threats against broadcasters as well as recent attacks on supermarket refrigeration systems and drone incursions.

J&K Sports Council secretary reviews infrastructure, training facilities at major Jammu stadiums



KT News Desk

Jammu,Nov 07: Continuing her extensive inspection tour of sports infrastructure in Jammu, the Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, Tazayun Mukhtar, visited the Mini Stadium Parade, Green field Gandhi Nagar and K.K.Hakhu Stadium.

The site visits covered key sporting venues, including Mini Stadium Parade, Green Field (Gandhi Nagar), and K.K. Hakhu Stadium.

During the inspections, she reviewed the progress of ongoing works on-site. She instructed the concerned officers and executing agencies to strictly adhere to timelines while upholding high-quality construction standards. Emphasizing the importance of rigorous monitoring and cross-departmental coordination, she noted that the upgraded infrastructure must be tailored to meet the evolving needs of athletes and active sporting programs. At the Mini Stadium Parade, the Secretary took time to interact directly with local football players. She listened to their feedback and specific requirements concerning football development in the region. Assuring the athletes of the Council's full backing, she stated that focused efforts are underway to strengthen football infrastructure, enhance training facilities, and expand competitive opportunities for young talent.

Reiterating the Council's broader mandate, the Secretary emphasized that these infrastructure upgrades are designed to foster grassroots sports development. By providing reliable access to quality training environments, the J&K Sports Council aims to create a robust foundation for young athletes across Jammu and Kashmir to excel at regional national and international levels.

Hardik to join Punjab Kings as Arshdeep moves to MI



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 7 :Decks have been cleared for star all-rounder Hardik Pandya to move to Punjab Kings in exchange for pacer Arshdeep Singh, with Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings agreeing to the trade ahead of the IPL auction later this month.

The proposed trade will see Hardik return to a new franchise after his second stint with Mumbai Indians, while Arshdeep is set to join the five-time champions. The deal will, however, require ratification from the BCCI before it is officially confirmed.

An IPL source confirmed that the trade has been completed, adding that Hardik is happy to play under Shreyas Iyer, who will continue as Punjab Kings captain. "The trade has been completed. Hardik is going to Punjab Kings and Arshdeep is moving to Mumbai Indians. Hardik is happy to play under Shreyas Iyer.