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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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Alertness, swift retaliation thwart major Kulgam attack; 3 CRPF men injured

IGP Kashmir, IG CRPF visit spot; massive searches launched to trace assailants; terrorist M Lateef Bhat believed to be orchestrator; LG visits injured at Base Hospital Srinagar

Umaisar Gull Ganie



Kulgam, Nov 11: Alertness, quick response and swift retaliation by the security forces thwarted a major terror attack at Nowpora Akhran, Kulgam in South Kashmir on Wednesday. However, three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel sustained injuries in the incident.

A top police officer while sharing the details of the terror attack, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Police and Security Forces deployment was made in accordance with intelligence inputs regarding suspected movement of terrorists."

He said, "Two motorcycle borne terrorists approached the area from a cluster of trees located around 50 metres away from the spot. The area has dense vegetation. One of the terrorists opened fire, while the other remained positioned on the road, providing cover. However, the alertness, preparedness and swift retaliation by security forces on the spot effectively frustrated the plans of terrorists."

The officer said, "Prompt and effective response of security forces prevented the attackers from inflicting casualties and damage on the scale they had intended. Consequently, the terrorists were forced to retreat from the spot without achieving their desired objectives."

"One of the CRPF jawans, who sustained injuries, opened fire in retaliation, forcing the attackers to retreat. Three CRPF personnel were injured in the attack, but prompt action—also captured on CCTV footage—turned the situation around. A swift call was made to the CRPF camp just meters away from the spot," he added.

He said, "The incident reflects the growing frustration and desperation of the terrorists, who are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve their objectives due to the heightened alertness, preparedness and effective area domination by Security Forces. The alertness and professional response of our SF personnel deserve appreciation."

"This could have escalated into a major attack had the fire not been immediately returned. Intelligence inputs had suggested that terrorists might attempt an attack to cause maximum casualties to project their presence following a prolonged lull in the valley," the officer said, adding, "A few weeks earlier, an alert had been sounded following intelligence inputs indicating suspected terrorist movement. Jammu and | More on P6

Perpetrators will be hunted, brought to justice: LG Sinha



Says security forces given free hand

Chairs review meeting at Lok Bhavan

Condemnations pour in from political parties

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 11: Asserting that security forces have been given a free hand to crackdown on terrorists and their supporters, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that perpetrators of Kulgam terror attack that left three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel injured will be hunted down and brought to justice.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), soon after the Kulgam terror attack LG Sinha reviewed the security situation with senior officials at Lok Bhavan here, and later visited the Base Hospital in Srinagar to enquire about the health of CRPF Head Constable, who sustained serious injuries in the attack and is undergoing treatment.

After chairing the meeting LG Sinha wrote on X: "Have reviewed the security situation with senior officials in Lok Bhavan, Srinagar. Security forces have been given a free hand to crack down on terrorists"

"Visited Base Hospital, Srinagar, to enquire about the health of CRPF Head Constable Sonbir Singh, who sustained serious injuries in the heinous terror attack in Kulgam and is currently | More on P6

CRPF top brass briefs MHA

Umaisar Gul Ganaie

Following Kulgam terror attack that left three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel injured, top brass of the paramilitary force on Wednesday briefed the Ministry of Home Affairs on the security situation in J&K.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the CRPF top officers briefed the MHA after an attack on its personnel at a checkpoint in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. "A high-level meeting assessed the ground situation and reviewed developments," said a source. The briefing came as security agencies | More on P6

MeT predicts light to moderate rain, snow for two days

Higher reaches receive snowfall, rain in plains

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 11: Higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall while several areas in the plains witnessed rainfall on Wednesday as a weather system approached Jammu and Kashmir, with the Meteorological Department forecasting widespread precipitation over the next two days.

Fresh snowfall was reported from Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road and Gurez Valley, prompting authorities to suspend vehicular movement on the Mughal Road as a precautionary measure amid slippery road conditions.

The weather department has forecast light to moderate rainfall across most places in Jammu and Kashmir, while higher reaches are likely to receive light to moderate snowfall from November 12 to 13.

According to the forecast, accessed by the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in Poonch and adjoining areas, while higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal may receive moderate to heavy snowfall, particularly from the forenoon of November 12 till late night on November 13.

The department has also warned of possible thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds at isolated places during the period.

Director | More on P6

MoD signs 498.58-cr contract for refit, re-powering of INS Betwa

KT News Desk

Srinagar/New Delhi, Nov 11: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth 498.58 crore with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Normal Refit and Repowering of Indian Naval Ship (INS) Betwa.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Ministry said the contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on November 11, 2026.

Under the contract, INS Betwa, a Brahmaputra-class frigate of the Indian Navy, will undergo a major propulsion system transformation, involving the replacement of its existing steam-based propulsion system with a diesel-engine-based propulsion system.

The refit will also include the upgradation of its combat capabilities through the installation of | More on P6

Law mandates Sgr by-election within 6 months

Vacancy must be filled by May 2, 2027

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 11: The by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat must be held on or before May 2, 2027, as the law governing elections mandates that casual vacancies be filled within six months.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), under Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a casual vacancy must be filled within six months from the date on which it occurs.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in Sections 147, 149, 150 and 151, a bye-election for filling any vacancy referred to in any of the said sections shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the | More on P6

LG Sinha calls for expanding opportunities in rural areas

Says true measure of progress lies in improving farmers' incomes

Urges students to become entrepreneurs, not just job seekers

Inaugurates 4 key infrastructure facilities at SKUAST-Kashmir

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 11: Calling for expanding opportunities in rural areas, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that the true measure of progress lies in improving farmers' incomes and strengthening their economic security.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating four key infrastructure facilities at SKUAST-Kashmir here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I believe that the greatest test of any change is how much positive difference it makes in a farmer's life. The true measure of our progress should be the rising income of farmers, their economic security, a better future for their families, and the new opportunities emerging in rural areas."

He said, "The identity of Jammu Kashmir lies in its hardworking farmers, artisans, and its rich traditions of agriculture, horticulture, and handicrafts. HADP's projects and farmer-centric policies in the past 6 years have played an important role in strengthening Jammu Kashmir's rural economy and creating new opportunities for employment and | More on P6



Accelerate project execution, ensure benefits of schemes reach people: CM directs officials



Yogesh

Udhampur, Nov 11: Directing officials to execute projects on fast-track basis, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday called for closer monitoring of projects being executed under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and timely release of development funds.

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting here to assess the developmental scenario of Udhampur District, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) directed officials | More on P6

LG Sinha proposes creation of 'Veshow Archive'

Umaisar Gul Ganie



Kulgam, Nov 11: Calling for greater efforts to preserve Jammu and Kashmir's literary and cultural heritage, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday proposed the creation of a 'Veshow Archive' to document oral traditions, folk tales and folk poetry, while unveiling a five-point agenda for the future growth of the 'Veshow Festival.'

Inaugurating the 'Veshow Festival' here in South Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor, as per the news agency—Kashmir News | More on P6

Arrangements for JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination finalised in Budgam

Strict adherence to prescribed SOPs, examination guidelines, security protocols stressed

KT News Desk



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based examination for the posts of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Additional Secretary, JKSSB, ASP Budgam and all concerned officers and officials.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the arrangements was undertaken, including the deployment of Centre Superintendents, Magistrates, Invigilators and security personnel at all designated examination centres.

The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation and monitoring of the examination proceedings. It was further informed that CCTV cameras have been installed at the examination centres to facilitate live monitoring and enhance transparency.

The ADC also reviewed arrangements for the secure transportation and handling of both sensitive and non-sensitive examination material, besides security arrangements, traffic management, seating capacity and availability of essential facilities at all examination centres.

Emphasising the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, the ADC directed all concerned officers to ensure that their respective arrangements are completed well in advance and responsibilities are discharged with utmost diligence.

He stressed strict adherence to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), examination guidelines and security protocols at every stage of the process.

The ADC further directed that all personnel deployed for examination duties be properly briefed and sensitised about their roles, responsibilities and the prescribed procedures to ensure efficient and coordinated execution of duties.

Heads of Institutions and Centre Superintendents were directed to ensure adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness and other essential facilities for candidates at all examination centres.

The ADC underscored that foolproof security arrangements, continuous monitoring and close coordination among all stakeholder departments are imperative for ensuring the smooth, orderly and transparent conduct of the examination across all centres.

All concerned departments were directed to remain fully prepared for the successful conduct of the examination across the district.

SDM Karnah inspects Farmer ID Generation Camps

Reviews progress of registration drive

KT News Desk



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 11: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Firdous Ahmad Qadri accompanied by Tehsildar Karnah Wednesday inspected the Farmer ID Generation Camps being organised at various locations across the Karnah Sub-Division to review the progress of the ongoing registration process and assess the arrangements being made for facilitating farmers.

During the inspection, the SDM, as per an official statement, interacted with the officials and field functionaries deployed at the camps and took stock of the progress achieved in generating Farmer IDs. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that every eligible farmer is covered under the registration exercise so that they can avail the benefits of various government schemes and agriculture-related services.

The SDM directed the concerned Revenue and Agriculture Department officials to maintain close coordination and ensure that the registration process is carried out smoothly, efficiently and without causing inconvenience to the farming community. He stressed the need for special attention towards residents of remote and far-flung areas, ensuring that no eligible farmer is left out due to geographical constraints or connectivity-related issues.

Special arrangements are also being coordinated for residents of remote villages, including Jabdi, where the absence of mobile network connectivity poses challenges to online registration. Accordingly, a dedicated camp has been facilitated at Toli with the support and cooperation of the Army authorities stationed there. Residents of Jabdi have been informed to reach the designated location to complete their Farmer ID registration.

The SDM appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Revenue, Agriculture and other concerned departments, along with the support extended by the Army authorities, in facilitating the initiative in the geographically challenging areas of Karnah.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Dowry Prohibition Act at Kokerbagh

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through Sankalp–Hub for Empowerment of Women (Sankalp-HEW), Mission Shakti, organised an awareness programme on the Dowry Prohibition Act at Marriage Hall, Kokerbagh, with the objective of sensitising frontline workers about the legal provisions of the Act and strengthening awareness regarding women's rights and legal safeguards.

During the programme, Advocate Ishfaq Rasool, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) spoke on the Dowry Prohibition Act and elaborated on its key provisions, legal implications and the need to eradicate the practice of dowry from society. He emphasised the importance of legal awareness and highlighted the role of frontline workers in educating communities, discouraging dowry-related practices and promoting gender equality.

Yaqoob, Protection Officer, Mission Vatsalya, also addressed the participants and provided an overview of Mission Vatsalya, highlighting its objectives, key interventions and important schemes aimed at ensuring the care, protection and welfare of children. He elaborated on various child protection mechanisms and emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts at the grassroots level to safeguard the rights and interests of children, particularly those in need of care and protection.

DLSA Budgam celebrates National Education Day

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, celebrated National Education Day at Al Asma Educational Institute, with the objective of creating awareness among students about the importance of education, its role in shaping responsible citizens and its significance in promoting an informed and empowered society.

On the occasion, Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan, Resource Person from District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, interacted with the students and highlighted the importance of education as a fundamental tool for individual development, social progress and nation-building.

He also emphasised the role of education in creating awareness about constitutional values, fundamental rights and duties, equality and access to justice.

Double laning of Jourian-Pallanwala road to start in March 2027: DDC Minga Sherpa

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner Minga Sherpa today said that the up-gradation of Jourian–Pallanwala Road has already been approved and the work would commence in March 2027, after land acquisition is completed.

The DDC was addressing a public gathering at the Block Diwas programme convened in Khour, on wednesday. He informed that the 18 KM road is set for double laning and directed the concerned officers to fill potholes in the meantime.

The DDC assured that the defence-land matters would be taken up with the Defence Estates Officer. On the demand for bunkers, he said the essential data has already been shared with the Ministry and work may be started soon.

He also took note of the staff requirements and the need for augmentation in the education, health and revenue departments. The infrastructure requirements of SDH Khour and GDC Khour were likewise noted.

Public issues related to the Kaleeth Firing Range were acknowledged by the DDC, who said the same would be taken up with the concerned authorities.

DDC building nearing completion at Kathua



KT News Desk

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Wednesday inspected the progress of work on the under-construction District Development Council (DDC) Building coming up here near Hatli Morh.

The DC, as per an official statement, was apprised that the civil construction work of the building has been completed, with only certain finishing works remaining.

Taking stock of the progress, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the pending work in a time-bound manner, ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards and approved specifications. He stressed on quality electrical installations, internal fittings and other essential amenities to make the building fully functional and ready for use.

Assistant Commissioner Development Gulshan Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur and Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Wing, BDO Kathua accompanied the DC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It **is notified for the information of general public that my name** enlisted in my bank account is HABRAT T/M RIFAT . However my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is HASRAT JAHAN ZABE D/O JAHAN ZABE KHAN . Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may **file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd NUNNAR** GANDERBAL within a period of 3 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name .HASRAT JAHAN ZABE
D/O: JAHAN ZABE KHAN
R/O: WAYILOO BALA GANDERBAL
Account number. 0174040100014199

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- exen-mechospsgr@jk.gov.in
GIST of e-tender
e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/83/e-tendering,
Dated: 11-11-2026
(SHORT TERM)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis in two cover system from registered/reputed/ **experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -**

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rate contract for MGPS works for the year 2026-27 installed in Govt. Medical College Srinagar & Associated Hospitals for the year 2026-27.	5.00	300	07 days for individual order	07 MCS of 2026 Dt:23.04.2026	SEMHK/ TS-14/43 Dated: 24.10.2026	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

1. Downloading **of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q),** Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 11.11.2026(18.00hrs)and can be downloaded from 11.11.2026 (18.00hrs)
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 11.11.2026 (18.00hrs) to 17.11.2026 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 17.11.2026 at 15.00(hrs)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/5323-27 DIPK-7591/26 DATED: 11-11-2026 Dated:11.11.2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDERS

ENIT NO. 99 of R&B /CHADOORA/ 5745-54 of 2026-27 DATED: 11/11/2026

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Pending items for construction of B.O's Hut at Neego Branwar.	5.46	300.00	10920	15	2406 Forestry & Wildlife	C/D
2	Construction of road upto the H/o Ab Majid Wagay at Chowdrigund.	9.82	600	19640	21	UT-SECTOR	C/D

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir/ Conservator of Forest Srinagar Circle
Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/11/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/11/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	11 /11/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	18/11/2026 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	**19/11/2026 11.00 AM in the office of** Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
1.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora **(Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation** of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non- responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 5745-54
DATED: 11/11/2026

DIPK-7577/26
DATED: 11-11-2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Kashmir's Wazwan to go through 'Bond Signing'

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 11: For generations, the narrow lanes of Wazapora in downtown Srinagar have produced the men behind Kashmir's grand wedding feasts. From shaping Rista and Gushtaba to preserving recipes passed down through generations, Wazas have remained central to a culinary tradition that defines Kashmiri celebrations. Now, they want weddings to end on time.

The Kashmiri Waza Association on Wednesday announced new timings for marriage functions, asking families to serve lunch by 3 PM and conclude dinner by 10 PM, saying prolonged delays and late-night feasts have made the profession increasingly difficult.

Association President Ghulam Nabi Waza said that the decision followed years of hardship caused by the late arrival of grooms and guests, often leaving chefs waiting for hours after completing preparations.

"Late arrival of the groom and guests and dinner stretching late into the night has made our work extremely difficult," he said.

Waza said chefs begin work early in the morning and spend hours preparing the traditional Wazwan, but delays in wedding functions disrupt their schedules and affect food quality and overall arrangements.

Nabi appealed to families to ensure that baraats and guests arrive on time and marriage ceremonies follow the announced schedule.

Meanwhile, the announcement followed a meeting of Wazas held on Tuesday, which was attended by chefs from Srinagar district. It was unanimously decided that the chef and the host family would sign an agreement on timings, outlining the terms and conditions.

An affidavit would subsequently be prepared and signed by both parties before the chef accepts the wedding food contract.

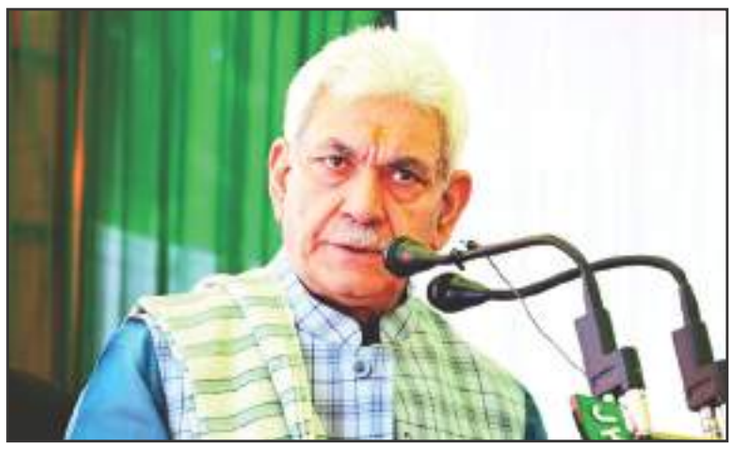
The association further said its next meeting, which will be attended by Waza chiefs from across Jammu and Kashmir, is scheduled to be held within the next few days.

A Waza told KNO that this profession demands long hours and years of training, making it difficult to attract young people. "Earlier, boys would learn the craft from their fathers and continue the family profession. Today, many want different careers and more regular working hours," he said.

A local resident, Sahil, said the association's announcement is a welcome move and should be implemented. "In Kashmir, we have seen 2-2:30 PM written on invitation cards, but the meal is served at 4-5 PM, which should change," he said.

The association has urged families to cooperate with the new timings, saying punctuality would make marriage functions more convenient for hosts, guests and the Wazas—(KNO)

LG Sinha sets up committee over Nehru Market fire

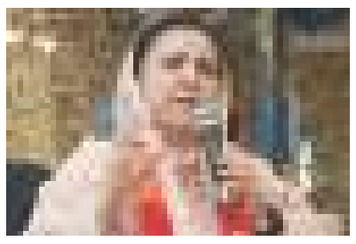


KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 11: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has formed an inquiry committee, comprising the Inspector General, Jammu, Sh. Tejinder Singh, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Sh. Vikas Kundal, to ascertain the cause and circumstances of the fire incident at the Warehouse, Nehru Market on 08.11.2026.

The committee is directed to probe any lapses or negligence, fix responsibility, and submit its report within 15 days.

Sakina Ittoo bats for age relaxation in J&K Bank recruitment



KNO

Srinagar: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Masoodi has come out in support of the demand for relaxation in the upper age limit for recruitment in J&K Bank, saying aspirants should not be penalised for delays beyond their control.

In a post on X, the minister said thousands of J&K Bank aspirants had lost valuable years waiting for recruitment opportunities and deserved a fair chance to compete.

"Dreams shouldn't have an expiry date! Thousands of J&K Bank aspirants have lost precious years waiting for recruitment opportunities. They must not be punished for delays beyond their control," she wrote.

The minister appealed to the J&K Bank authorities to grant age relaxation up to 40 years for recruitment aspirants.

"Give our youth a fair chance. Their future cannot wait," she added.

Sakina Masood Ittoo is the first minister in Omar Abdullah-led cabinet who has come out in support of the demand—(KNO)

GMC Handwara cancels provisional MBBS admissions of 5 PwD candidates

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 11: Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara has cancelled the provisional admissions of five MBBS candidates who were admitted under the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category for the academic session 2026-27, following communications issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JKBOPEE).

According to an official order issued by the Principal, GMC Handwara, the admissions have been cancelled in pursuance of five JKBOPEE notifications.

The candidates had been granted conditional, provisional admission under the PwD category following JKBOPEE Notification No. 163-BOPEE of 2026 dated August 24, 2026, and subsequent Office Order No. 152-GMCH of 2026 dated September 9, 2026.

The five candidates whose admissions have been cancelled include Mir Mubashir Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad Mir, resident of Lolab, Kupwara; Morifat Reyaz, daughter of Reyaz Ahmad Khan, resident of Lalpora, Kupwara; Suhail Ahmad Wani, son of Zaffar Iqbal, resident of Darhal, Rajouri; Wali Mohd Wani, son of Wali Mohd Wani, resident of Drugmulla, Kupwara; and Aqsa Nisar, daughter of Nisar Hussain, resident of Dodasan, Rajouri.

As per the order, their conditional admissions had been granted on August 27 and 29, 2026.

Meanwhile, reacting to the cancellation, All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) president Dr Mohammad Momin Khan has urged the J&K authorities and investigating agencies to conduct a retrospective audit of disability category certificates, particularly those used to secure government jobs, professional admissions and other benefits.

He said the cancellation of provisional MBBS admissions following discrepancies should prompt a wider examination of the verification mechanism to ensure that benefits meant for genuinely deserving persons are not cornered by ineligible beneficiaries.

"If the system is clean, let verification prove it. If fraud is found, expose it, cancel the benefits wrongfully obtained, recover public resources and prosecute those responsible," Dr Khan said.

He said genuinely deserving candidates should not suffer because of alleged fraudulent claims, adding that the authorities must investigate discrepancies while protecting the rights of eligible persons with disabilities.

"Investigate the categories. Protect the genuinely deserving. Restore public faith," he said—(KNO)

Budgam hospital, CCU construction progresses

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam: Construction work on the 125-bed District Hospital and the 100-bed Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora in Budgam district is progressing steadily, raising hopes of improved healthcare facilities for residents across the district.

The two projects are expected to significantly strengthen healthcare infrastructure in Budgam, a densely populated district where patients often face difficulties due to overcrowding and limited facilities at the existing District Hospital.ï

The foundation stone of the 125-bed hospital was laid by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in 2023. However, the construction work of the District Hospital had remained suspended for some time due to various issues. Work has now resumed, with construction activities, including brickwork and plumbing, underway at the site.

Local residents have welcomed the resumption of work, saying the new hospital would provide much-needed relief to patients, particularly those travelling from far-flung areas of the district.

Residents said the existing District Hospital faces considerable pressure, with inadequate parking space and heavy patient footfall adding to the difficulties faced by patients and their attendants.

"We want this hospital to become operational as soon as possible," a resident told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "Earlier, we were told that the project would be completed within one-and-a-half years, but the work of the District Hospital was interrupted several times." "I visited the site a couple of months ago and found the construction suspended. Now, work has resumed, and we hope it will be completed soon," the resident said.

Another resident said the new facility would benefit people across Budgam, particularly those living in far-flung areas, who often have to travel long distances for healthcare services.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Central Jail Srinagar gets new medical officer

KNO

Srinagar: The Health Department has posted a new Medical Officer at Central Jail Srinagar, with Dr Syed Manzoor ul Haq being shifted from Gousia Hospital Khanyar under a fresh administrative order. As per an order, a copy of which was accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Syed Manzoor ul Haq, presently working at Gousia Hospital Khanyar, has been directed to report to Central Jail Srinagar for duties until further orders.

Consequently, Dr Waseem Ahmad Gangoo, Medical Officer at NTPHC Gagribal, who was deployed at Central Jail Srinagar, has been directed to report to Gousia Hospital Khanyar for further duties. The order further states that both Medical Officers shall be deemed relieved from their respective places of posting with immediate effect—(KNO)

Police solve Parigam murder case

Main accused arrested

KNO

Pulwama, Nov 11: Police have solved the murder case of a 70-year-old woman, who was brutally killed inside her residence at Parigam village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district last month, with the arrest of the main accused.

According to the details available, Police identified the accused as Imran Bashir Mir, son of Bashir Ahmad Mir, of Parigam. "He was arrested in connection with FIR No. 211/26 registered at Police Station Pulwama under Section 103(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)," a police officer said.

He said the case pertains to the gruesome killing of Jana Begum, wife of late Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, whose body was found inside her house on the morning of October 19, 2026, with her throat slit. "The incident took place in the early hours when unidentified assailants allegedly entered the house at around 5:00 AM. At the time, the elderly woman was alone at home as her son had gone to a nearby mosque to offer Fajr prayers. Upon returning, her son found her lying in a pool of blood, following which he raised an alarm," he added.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

'Unhealthy Diet, inactivity harm women's reproductive health'

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 11: Changing food habits, lack of physical activity and rising obesity are increasingly affecting reproductive health among women in Kashmir, with doctors warning that Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOD) are emerging as important contributors to infertility.

Health experts say that while infertility can result from several medical and biological factors, lifestyle-related problems, particularly unhealthy diets and sedentary routines, are playing a significant role in the growing burden of hormonal disorders among women of reproductive age.

Dr Rehana Akhter, a gynaecologist at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, said PCOS has become one of the commonly encountered hormonal disorders among women, with obesity, unhealthy eating patterns and physical inactivity contributing to its growing prevalence.

She said excessive consumption of junk food, processed items and calorie-rich diets, coupled with limited exercise, can lead to weight gain and insulin resistance, which may aggravate hormonal imbalances associated with PCOS.

"Food habits and physical activity have a direct bearing on women's hormonal health. A diet dominated by junk food, combined with a sedentary lifestyle, can contribute to obesity and insulin resistance. These factors can disturb hormonal balance and affect the regular release of eggs from the ovaries," she said.

Explaining the link between PCOS and infertility, Dr Akhter said the condition often interferes with normal ovulation, making conception difficult. "In women suffering from PCOS, hormonal disturbances can prevent the ovaries from releasing eggs regularly. Sometimes ovulation becomes irregular or stops altogether, which reduces the chances of pregnancy," she said.

According to the doctor, dietary changes and physical activity should form an important part of managing the condition, advising women to adopt balanced eating habits and maintain a healthy body weight. "Regular exercise, even in the form of daily walking, along with proper nutrition and weight control, can help improve insulin sensitivity and hormonal balance," she added.

Dr Akhter also pointed towards delayed marriages as another factor affecting fertility, saying reproductive potential naturally declines with advancing age, with many women now entering marriage in their late twenties or early thirties.

Another gynaecologist, Dr Masarat Jan, said pelvic inflammatory disease, often associated with sexually transmitted infections, can also lead to infertility if not diagnosed and treated in time.

She said unsafe abortions and procedures performed by untrained persons at unregistered facilities can cause serious infections and damage to the reproductive system. "Septic abortions can result in severe infections of the reproductive tract and, in some cases, cause complications that may permanently affect a woman's ability to conceive," she said, stressing awareness about contraception

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Locals seek upgrade of Pulwama–Awantipora road

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama: Residents of several villages along the Pulwama–Awantipora road urge authorities to undertake comprehensive upgradation and proper macadamisation, widen narrow stretches and repair damaged portions to ease the hardships faced by daily commuters.

Residents of Dangerpora, Tengpuna, Koil, Malangpora and Pudgampora said that the road has emerged as a crucial transportation link for thousands of people, connecting several rural habitations with Pulwama, Awantipora and other adjoining areas.

They said the existing condition of the road and the need for its improvement have made daily commuting difficult, particularly for students, employees, patients, traders and people travelling for other essential purposes.

According to residents, the road holds considerable importance as it provides connectivity to prominent institutions, including the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and AIIMS Awantipora. Thousands of students, employees, patients and attendants use the route, making its

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

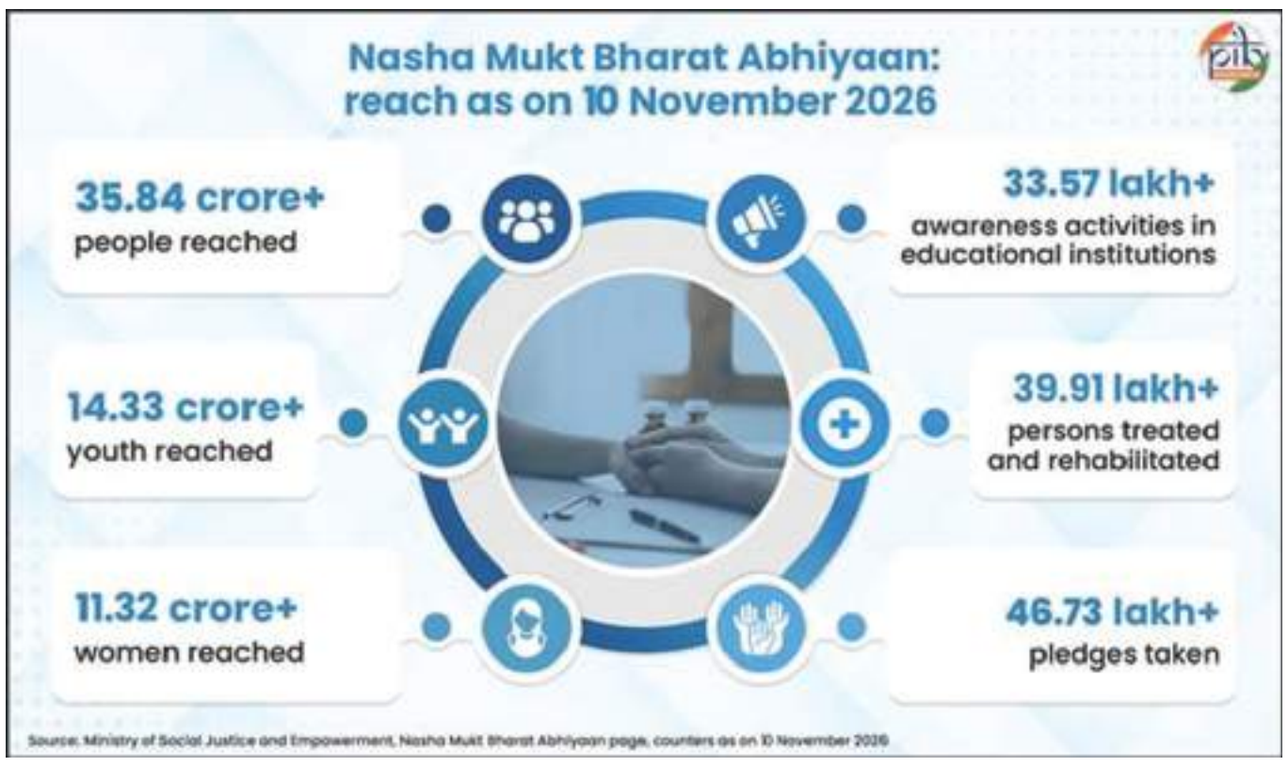
A Settlement Worth Making

The Kashmir's business community has done the right thing by welcoming J&K Bank's RAHAT scheme. It has also done the right thing by asking for more. The scheme offers a one-time settlement to borrowers with principal NPAs of up to Rs 5 crore. That covers many small traders and MSMEs, and it will help them close old accounts and start again. But it leaves out a large section of the business community whose liabilities are above Rs 5 crore. These are not fly-by-night operators. They are hoteliers, industrialists and established traders who once employed hundreds of people and whose businesses collapsed during years of disruption. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry's demand is not for a blanket loan waiver. It has said this clearly. What it wants is an SBI-pattern Special OTS — a fair, transparent, formula-based settlement for genuinely distressed borrowers with larger accounts. That distinction matters. A waiver rewards defaulters. A settlement scheme, properly designed, recovers what can be recovered and releases the rest, so that a shut factory can reopen or a closed hotel can be sold or revived. The government has a role here. It is the majority shareholder in J&K Bank. It cannot sit quietly while a large part of the business community remains outside the relief net. The Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister should take this up with the Bank's Board and management and examine what is possible within regulatory and governance rules. Resolving legacy debt is not charity. It is economics. A stressed account that is settled brings money back into circulation. An account that stays stuck in litigation brings nothing to anyone. RAHAT is a good first step. Now let there be a second one, for the bigger borrower who is also waiting.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan At Six: From Awareness To A People's Movement

Six years on, the Abhiyaan has grown from a campaign in 272 districts into a movement of 35 crore people, with more than 2 lakh enrolled NMMs and a treatment network of five kinds of facilities across the country. The helpline 14446 remains the first door for anyone who needs help.

Press Information Bureau



The Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on 15 August 2020 across 272 districts. It was extended nationwide to all districts on 15 August 2023. As of 10 November 2026, the campaign has reached over 35.84 crore people, including more than 14.33 crore youth and 11.32 crore women. Support services under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) have grown rapidly — persons seeking treatment and counselling rose from 2.08 lakh in 2020-21 to over 9.11 lakh in 2025-26, and more than 2 lakh citizens have enrolled as Nasha Mukti Mitr.

A Movement of 35 Crore People

Under Article 47, the Constitution directs the State to endeavour to prohibit the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health. A 2018 national survey showed that over 7 crore people in India suffered from substance use disorders, including nearly 1.2 crore children and 58 lakh women. Substance dependence harms individuals, families and entire communities as a complex psycho-social-medical issue.

To address this, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) on 15 August 2020 in 272 districts identified as most vulnerable to substance use, chosen from inputs of the Narcotics Control Bureau and findings of the first National Survey on the Extent and Pattern of Substance Use. It was expanded to 372 districts in August 2022 and to all districts of the country from 15 August 2023. It is the flagship awareness programme of NAPDDR, the Ministry's scheme for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The Ministry describes the six-year change as a shift from organisational involvement to community involvement, with States, districts and local stakeholders taking ownership and making it a Jan Andolan.

NMBA has reached out to more than 35.84 crore people, including over 14.33 crore youth and 11.32 crore women, as on 10 November 2026. More than 33.57 lakh awareness activities have been held in educational institutions. Its outreach has grown from 1.4 crore people in 2021. When the campaign marked five years at Amritsar on 18 November 2025, more than 6 crore people joined its anniversary events at over 2.10 lakh locations, and it had reached 23.74 crore people.

The Scale of the Challenge

The Ministry has run a scheme for the prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse since 1985-86. The scale of the task became clear with the first National Survey on the Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, conducted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of AIIMS, New Delhi, in 2018 and released in February 2019. About 16 crore people consumed alcohol, of whom more than 5.7 crore needed help for harmful or dependent use. About 3.1 crore used cannabis products and 2.26 crore used opioids, with about 25 lakh dependent on cannabis and about 77 lakh needing help for opioid use. More than 7 crore individuals were affected by substance use disorder, including nearly 1.2 crore children and 58 lakh women.

NAPDDR is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with central sector components. Its two objectives are to reduce drug demand through preventive education, awareness, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation, and to reduce the stigma and discrimination that keep people who depend on drugs from returning to society.

How the Abhiyaan Runs

The Home Minister chaired the 9th Apex Level Meeting of NCORD in New Delhi to review the progress of NAPDDR and NMBA, directing the formulation of a three-year action plan aimed at reducing drug demand. To institutionalise these efforts, a three-tier monitoring and coordination mechanism was suggested.

At the State/UT level, a Steering and Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary will meet quarterly and function as an apex body and high-level task force with all relevant stakeholders and line departments. At the district level, a Drug Demand Reduction Committee under the District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner will meet monthly and undertake mandatory quarterly inspections. At the block level, a Drug Demand Reduction Committee under the Block Development Officer will meet and conduct field inspections monthly.

The State/UT committee is to provide overall oversight for implementation of the State Action Plan, ensure achievement of quarterly and annual targets for awareness, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling, coordinate efforts of Social Welfare, Health, Home, Youth Affairs, Women and Child Development, Higher Education, School Education, Skill Development, Panchayati Raj and other departments, and integrate drug demand reduction activities into existing State programmes. It will review outreach in educational institutions, villages and vulnerable communities, monitor implementation of NMBA, promote engagement of youth clubs, MY Bharat Volunteers and NGOs as Nasha Mukti Mitr, and review the availability and functioning of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs), District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs). It will also identify high-risk districts, direct special campaigns in emerging hotspots, review training programmes, ensure timely reporting on the NMBA portal and facilitate optimal utilisation of Central and State resources.

The district committee is to prepare and implement a District Drug Demand Reduction Plan aligned with State targets, identify district-specific vulnerable populations and geographical hotspots, coordinate awareness programmes in schools, colleges and communities, strengthen referral linkages between schools, communities, healthcare institutions and treatment centres, and monitor the functioning of DDACs, IRCAs and ATFs. It will conduct mandatory inspections of these facilities and educational institutions undertaking prevention activities, verify service quality and beneficiary records, encourage participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Self-Help Groups and faith-based organisations, validate district-level data and ensure timely submission of reports.

The block committee is to carry out field-level monitoring of NMBA activities, ensure achievement of monthly targets assigned by the district committee, map villages, institutions and populations vulnerable to substance abuse, conduct monthly inspections of de-addiction and treatment facilities and educational institutions, engage Panchayats, teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, SHGs and local leaders, facilitate referral of individuals requiring treatment, support follow-up and reintegration, and submit monthly implementation and inspection reports to the district committee.

States and UTs are encouraged to convene these committees regularly, and the Ministry reviews implementation through monthly meetings, Chintan Shivirs and national conferences. The Ministry provides Rs 10 lakh to each district in a financial year as grant-in-aid for campaign activities, with later instalments released against utilisation certificates and progress reports. On the ground, Panchayati Raj Institutions, local leaders, Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers carry out the work, alongside volunteers of the National Service Scheme and Mera Yuva Bharat.

The Union Budget provides Rs 333 crore for NAPDDR in 2026-27. The revised estimate for 2025-26 is Rs 420 crore, against Rs 268.32 crore spent in 2024-25.

Strength from Spirituality

Spiritual and faith-based organisations, with their influence in society, have been envisioned as major stakeholders under NMBA. The Ministry has signed MoUs with Brahma Kumaris, The Art of Living, Sant Nirankari Mission, All World Gayatri Pariwar, ISKCON, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, University of Patanjali, Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Dhanwantari Ashram, Adhyatm Vigyan Satsang Kendra, Chinmaya Mission, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan, Hare Krishna Movement and Bosconet (Don Bosco) to leverage their networks for drug awareness. Through community events, school sessions, bike rallies, competitions, mobile vans, awareness runs, counselling and meditation sessions, these organisations have reached over 7.72 crore people. MoUs with more organisations are underway.

The Sixth Year: Targets, Tools and Data

After August 2025, the Ministry set result-based targets in six areas: training and capacity building of Nasha Mukti Mitr; evidence-based information, education and communication material; targeted intervention for vulnerable groups; new faith-based and spiritual partners; coordination with line ministries; and quality de-addiction, treatment, rehabilitation and telemedicine services.

The first NMBA mobile application was built to collect data on the Abhiyaan's activities and show it on the NMBA Dashboard at district, State and national levels. The upgraded NMBA 2.0 App was launched on 24 April 2026 at the Chintan Shivir in Chandigarh. Citizens can take the e-Pledge on it, read awareness material, reach the helplines and find the nearest de-addiction centre.

The NAPDDR Management Information System records every beneficiary at supported facilities — registration, clinical assessment, substance use pattern, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. The Project Monitoring Unit inspects centres through surprise visits, and continuation of a project and release of its grant depend on a satisfactory inspection report. Every organisation receiving a grant must be registered on NITI Aayog's NGO Darpan portal and recommended by its State or UT, and accreditation of grant-in-aid institutions is under way through the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals.

The first National Survey, titled "Magnitude of Substance Use in India," gave estimates at national and State levels. It covered about 2 lakh households in 186 districts across all 36 States and UTs, and more than 4.73 lakh people aged 10 to 75 were interviewed. A second method, respondent-driven sampling, reached more than 70,000 people dependent on illicit drugs in 123 districts. The second National Survey, entrusted to NDDTC, will give district-level estimates for the first time, with results expected in 2027.

Life skills modules developed by the Ministry for students of classes 6 to 11 equip teachers to teach life skills and drug education and to reach parents. The national toll-free helpline has been running since 1 March 2017, first as 1800-11-0031 and now as 14446. It offers round-the-clock tele-counselling and refers callers to the nearest supported facility, and has received 5.10 lakh calls till date. It is integrated with two other national helplines — MANAS, the Narcotics Control Bureau's helpline 1933, and Tele-MANAS under the National Tele Mental Health Programme.

Citizens as Nasha Mukti Mitr

Youth involvement has brought new perspectives, energy and creativity to the Abhiyaan. A Nasha Mukti Mitr (NMM) initiative has been launched to enable citizens to contribute actively towards drug demand reduction. Any citizen can enrol through the NMBA Portal and receive a certificate and badge based on their level of participation. NMMs spread awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse, encourage people, especially youth, to stay away from drugs, help connect affected individuals and families with counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services, participate in and organise NMBA activities, act as community-level change agents and promote the pledge, logo, mascot and helpline 14446.

More than 2 lakh registered Mitr were recorded as on 10 November 2026. A Personal Dashboard launched on 17 June 2026 lets each Mitr track activities, access IEC material and take the e-pledge.

The Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah, observed from 17 to 26 June 2026 under the theme "Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan," drew 1.31 crore participants through pledge drives, rallies, competitions, street plays and yoga sessions. It closed at Haridwar with the extension of the MoU between the Department and the All World Gayatri Pariwar. More than 46.73 lakh pledges were recorded as on 10 November 2026.

Treatment and Recovery

Under NAPDDR, the Ministry supports a network of five kinds of facilities: 344 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts, 71 Outreach and Drop-In Centres, 45 Community-based Peer-Led Intervention centres, 198 District De-Addiction Centres and 155 Addiction Treatment Facilities in Government hospitals. IRCAs provide in-patient treatment, counselling and rehabilitation; ODICs screen, assess and counsel and refer people to treatment; CPLIs work through youth volunteers on early prevention among vulnerable adolescents; DDACs bring the services of an IRCA, ODIC and CPLI under one roof at the district headquarters; and ATFs are set up in Government hospitals through NDDTC, AIIMS, and through the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, for the North Eastern States.

The Ministry recorded 39.91 lakh persons treated and rehabilitated as on 10 November 2026. The number of persons seeking treatment and counselling at supported facilities rose from 2.08 lakh in 2020-21 to more than 9.11 lakh in 2025-26, and more than 6.68 lakh recovered users have taken the NMBA e-pledge.

A case in point is Amit (name changed), a 31-year-old graduate from Kamrup Metropolitan district in Assam, who reached the emergency department of AIIMS Guwahati after a heroin overdose. He was started on opioid substitution therapy, treated for Hepatitis C and taken through relapse prevention therapy with his family's support, and the hospital's Addiction Treatment Facility carried his care after discharge. He found work within two to three months of recovery and has stayed free of substance use for over a year, with his medication now being reduced under supervision.

Jammu and Kashmir: A Model with Potential for Replication

In Jammu and Kashmir, the campaign has reached more than 1.26 crore people, including 72.26 lakh youth and 54.04 lakh women, and 11,152 Nasha Mukti Mitr have joined, as on 2 November 2026. The Ministry supports an IRCA, 3 ODICs, 2 CPLIs, 6 DDACs and 21 ATFs in the Union Territory, and the helpline has taken more than 11,000 calls from it.

Reviewing the UT's social welfare schemes on 22 October 2026, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, described its coordinated, whole-of-government campaign against drug abuse as a model with potential for replication across the country. Under the Nasha Mukt J&K 100 Days Abhiyan, Addiction Treatment Facilities attended to more than 66,500 outpatients. Government Medical College, Srinagar presented a "Circle of Care" that follows a person from admission through treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and long-term monitoring, and a proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026, sets out a three-year recovery framework.

The Road Ahead

The second National Survey on the Extent and Pattern of Substance Use will give the country its first district-level estimates, with results expected in 2027. NAPDDR itself is being restructured after Chintan Shivirs and regional consultations with State Governments, NGOs, grant-in-aid institutions, experts and line ministries for health, education and prisons, and an expert committee is revising its guidelines.

Speaking at the third National Conference of the heads of the Anti-Narcotics Task Forces of the States and UTs in September 2026, the Union Home Minister said the country will collectively uproot the drug trade by 31 December 2029, placing the protection of young people within the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Abhiyaan is the demand side of that resolve: informed communities, early prevention, accessible treatment and reintegration with dignity.

Six years on, the Abhiyaan has grown from a campaign in 272 districts into a movement of 35 crore people, with more than 2 lakh enrolled NMMs and a treatment network of five kinds of facilities across the country. The helpline 14446 remains the first door for anyone who needs help.

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Mission YUVA: Banks to clear all pending cases within specific timelines

DDC Pulwama reviews progress

KT News Desk



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA at Circuit House, Pulwama.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was convened to review the overall progress of the scheme, assess the status of applications at different stages and address issues affecting timely processing, sanctioning and disbursement of financial assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs.

During the meeting, a detailed review was undertaken of various aspects of Mission YUVA, including district-wise applications received, application verification, DLIC approvals, bank-wise pendency, age-wise analysis of cases pending with banks, reasons for rejection of applications by banks, and the status of cases reprocessed after rejection. The meeting also examined cases pending with banks for the second time, sanctioned cases awaiting disbursement, and output tracking, including progress reports, completion reports and their verification by the concerned authorities.

Taking note of the pendency of cases at various bank branches, the DDC directed the Lead District Manager and concerned bank authorities to undertake regular monitoring and ensure expeditious disposal of all pending cases. He observed that unnecessary delays and prolonged pendency, particularly cases remaining unresolved beyond two to three months, would not be acceptable.

The DDC stressed that the scheme must be implemented in mission mode, with focused efforts to clear all pending cases and achieve substantial progress within the current month. He directed all concerned officers and bank representatives to ensure that every eligible case is processed, with particular emphasis on timely disbursement and completion of entrepreneurial units.

He further directed that the updated status of cases be furnished every Saturday, ensuring continuous monitoring and accountability at every level.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Zonal Head, J&K Bank, Pulwama; Lead District Manager, Pulwama; Cluster Heads of J&K Bank; all Branch Managers of district Pulwama; SBDU Lead, Mission YUVA Pulwama; and BHD Leads of Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora.

SMC Commissioner reviews winter preparedness

KT News Desk





SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday reviewed the Corporation's preparedness for the prevailing weather forecast and took stock of the follow-up action on directions issued during the previous review meeting.

The meeting, held at the SMC Central Office, Karan Nagar, focused on the availability of men and machinery, snow clearance arrangements and the functioning of field and monitoring teams.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Works, Joint Commissioner, H&S, Chief Accounts Officer, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers of various wings, Purchase and Procurement Officer, Chief Sanitation Officer, Stores Officer and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the arrangements across the city, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure that field teams, machinery and essential equipment remain available for immediate response to any situation arising from adverse weather conditions. He stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned wings so that issues on the ground are addressed without delay.

With regard to snow clearance, Dr. Basharat directed that both manual and mechanised arrangements be maintained across all municipal wards. Major roads and important public routes are to be cleared on priority, particularly those connecting hospitals, ration depots, shrines and government institutions. He also called for adequate manpower to undertake manual clearance in interior lanes, narrow streets, footpaths and areas inaccessible to snow clearance vehicles.

The Commissioner took stock of the SMC snow clearance fleet and was informed that vehicles which had been sent for repairs have now been repaired and are ready for deployment.

Grand Finale of 'Kashmir Got Talent' concludes with Vibrant Youth Performances in Kupwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 11: The mega youth talent hunt initiative, 'Kashmir Got Talent', culminated Wednesday with a grand finale held at Government Degree College (GDC) Kupwara, witnessing enthusiastic participation, cultural vibrancy, and an impressive display of artistic talent by the youth of the region.

The initiative was jointly organised by the District Administration, Indian Army, and Taha Film International to provide a professional platform for local youth to showcase their creative abilities and nurture emerging talent across diverse artistic domains.

The talent hunt received an overwhelming response, registering over 600 entries and witnessing participation from more than 400 boys and girls in categories including singing, dancing, art and craft, and other unique talent showcases. Following multiple rounds of screening and competition, the top 10 finalists were shortlisted to perform at the grand finale.

The grand finale was graced by Major General, Rakesh Nair and Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, who jointly presided over the proceedings. The occasion also witnessed the presence of notable figures from the Indian film and entertainment industry, including actor-producer Harman Baweja, Vipin Sharma, Ashwath Bhatt, Namrata Jadhav, and Kapil Matoo.

A special highlight of the occasion was the presence of renowned playback singer Kumar Sanu, who delighted the audience by performing live and singing a few of his classic melodies. Commending the raw talent and creative expression of the young contestants, Sanu interacted with the finalists, offering encouraging words and practical guidance, while underscoring the importance of perseverance and disciplined practice in the performing arts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the rich artistic legacy and cultural depth of Kashmir, observing that such platforms are specifically organised to ensure that hidden local talent finds a voice, recognition, and the right direction. He noted that the presence of legendary singer Kumar Sanu added immense significance and inspiration to the initiative, giving the young contenders invaluable exposure to national excellence.

The DC extended warm gratitude to all contributing partners, including the Indian Army, District Police Kupwara, and the College Administration for their seamless coordination and support. He also lauded the guest artists and local performers, and expressed heartfelt appreciation to the participants and the people of Kupwara for their overwhelming enthusiasm and active engagement in making the event a resounding success.

Underlining the broader socio-developmental impact, the DC emphasised that cultivating creative platforms for youth not only celebrates regional heritage but also plays a key role in strengthening tourism potential and promoting positive engagement in border districts.

The grand finale concluded with the felicitation of the winners and participants by the dignitaries, amid enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the audience.

National Education Conclave 2026 held at Government College of Education Srinagar

Experts, policymakers, academicians deliberate on NEP-2020 implementation

KT News Desk







SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: The Innovation and Action Research Cell of the Government College of Education (IASE), Cluster University Srinagar, organized the National Education Conclave-2026 Wednesday.

Conceived as a premier platform for policy dialogue, instructional reflection, and actionable recommendations, the conclave aimed to bridge the visionary framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with the implementation realities and strategic priorities of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event brought together eminent policymakers, educational administrators, and scholars from across the country to deliberate on two pivotal thematic tracks: "How far have the structural and curricular reforms envisaged under NEP 2020 translated into institutional practice?" in Higher Education, and "Competency-Based Education, Holistic Progress Card and Learner Development" in School Education.

The inaugural session commenced with the solemn rendering of the National Song and the National Anthem, and was attended by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the host college, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges; Prof. (Dr.) Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, Registrar, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Controller of Examinations, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. Aarti Srivastava, Professor & Head, Department of Higher & Professional Education, NIEPA; Prof. Sharad Sinha, Head, Department of Teacher Education, NCERT, New Delhi; and Prof. Amit Kauts, Dean, Faculty of Education, GNDU, Amritsar.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, J&K, delivered an inspiring keynote address reflecting deeply on the real meaning and purpose of education. He observed that true education is achieved when an individual begins to hear their own "inner drumbeat" and learns to march in tune with it. Drawing vivid examples from the lives and journeys of Mahatma Gandhi, Sachin Tendulkar, and Amitabh Bachchan, he shed light on how tuning into one's inner calling and cultivating intrinsic passions is what ultimately guarantees enduring excellence and success in life. While accentuating the philosophy behind progressive academic frameworks, Prof. Singh urged educational institutions to orient students toward real-world problems. He emphasized that students must acquaint themselves directly with societal and industry challenges, stressing that learning to work collaboratively in groups to confront and solve these challenges constitutes the true essence of 21st-century education.

Addressing the gathering as the Guest of Honour, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, remarked that we are living in an unprecedented era of change where technology is rapidly overtaking conventional systems and demanding a fundamental restructuring of education. He stressed that the effective implementation of NEP-2020 must be firmly anchored in quality, relevance, high-impact research, and institutional collaboration. Emphasizing the central role of teacher education institutions in transforming the educational ecosystem, Prof. Mobin highlighted the essential shift in the role of the teacher from the traditional notion of a mere knowledge giver to that of a mentor, facilitator, guide, and researcher. He further underscored that realizing the mandates of NEP-2020 cannot be treated as the sole responsibility of governments and universities alone, but requires proactive, shared commitment from all educational stakeholders.

Earlier, Prof. Naz highlighted a major institutional milestone, sharing that the college has been granted official recognition by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to run B.Ed, M.Ed, Integrated B.Ed–M. Ed, and the flagship Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) across both B.Sc.–B.Ed. and B.A.–B.Ed. streams.

Fazl Illahi, Coordinator, Innovation and Action Research Cell, IASE, presented the National Conclave Rationale. He underscored that we are living in a rapidly shifting VUCA world, marked by pervasive volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, where Artificial Intelligence has profoundly disrupted conventional paradigms. In light of this transformation, he stressed the urgent necessity for teachers and teacher-educators to fundamentally rethink and recalibrate their professional roles to equip learners with the adaptability, resilience, and competencies needed to overcome the emerging challenges of this complex landscape.

SWD Srinagar organises Community awareness programmes on Scholarships, Sponsorship

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), organized Community Awareness Programmes at Tailbal, Srinagar to sensitize and inform the public, particularly women and girls, about various welfare initiatives and government schemes aimed at promoting social and economic empowerment.

During the programme, as per an official statement, participants were sensitized about various scholarship schemes, sponsorship support, skill development courses and social security schemes available for eligible beneficiaries. Detailed information was shared regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures, benefits and the process of accessing these schemes. The initiative aimed at ensuring that deserving beneficiaries are aware of the available opportunities and are able to avail themselves of the benefits extended by the Government.

In another initiative, the Department organized awareness programme in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, focusing on the welfare and empowerment of women, adolescent girls and other community members in Zone Tailbal. The programme provided a platform to disseminate information on various women-centric welfare initiatives, Scholarships and social protection measures, while encouraging community participation and awareness.

The programmes witnessed active participation from community members, particularly women, who were encouraged to seek information about available schemes and make informed use of the opportunities provided by the Government.

The Department reiterated its commitment to taking welfare schemes to the grassroots level through sustained community outreach, inter-departmental coordination and awareness initiatives, ensuring that the benefits of government programmes reach the intended beneficiaries.

JKEDI Pulwama launches 2 batches of entrepreneurship, skill development programme

KT News Desk

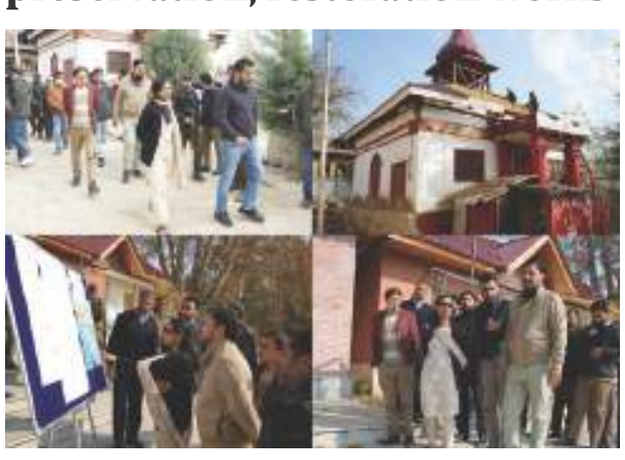
PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, launched two batches of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at ITI Pulwama.

The programme, as per an official statement, was inaugurated in the presence of Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Showkat Anwar Rather, Superintendent, ITI Pulwama; Waseem Ahad, Project Manager, JKEDI; Muzaffar, Senior Faculty, ITI Pulwama; and Yasir Ahmad, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI.

Officials outlined the objectives of the RAMP scheme and its role in promoting entrepreneurship at the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir. They said that the programme aims to equip participants with practical skills in business development, financial planning, and market awareness.

While speaking at the occasion, dignitaries briefed trainees on the current entrepreneurial ecosystem and startup opportunities, they stressed upon the need to promote entrepreneurship to address unemployment and encouraged participants to focus on creating jobs rather than seeking them.

DC Ganderbal inspects heritage preservation, restoration works



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Wednesday undertook an extensive inspection tour of various heritage sites across the district to review the progress of ongoing preservation, restoration and conservation works being executed under the scheme "Revival, Restoration, Preservation & Maintenance of Architecture & Heritage."

During the tour, the DC, as per an official statement, inspected the ongoing developmental and restoration works at Ghat Temple, Prayag Raj, Narayan Bagh. She also visited Roop Bhawani Temple at Waskura to assess the progress of roof restoration and other conservation works.

Later, the DC visited Jarokabagh to take stock of the ongoing restoration and conservation of historical remains at the site.

During the inspection, the DC directed the concerned executing agencies and officers to ensure strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and timely completion of the works.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, Executive Engineer, PW(R&B), Ganderbal, and other concerned officials.

DC Poonch chairs Block Diwas program at village Degwar Terwan

KT News Desk

POONCH, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma Wednesday chaired a Block Diwas public outreach programme here at village Degwar Terwan- Block Poonch, with the participation of officers from different departments and a large number of local residents.

During the programme, the DDC interacted with the general public and took stock of the developmental issues and public grievances.

Residents of the area highlighted a number of demands related to road connectivity, electricity, drinking water, education and other essential public services and facilities.

The DDC, as per an official statement, gave a patient hearing to the people and directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and take necessary measures for its timely redressal.

During the interaction, local residents also raised concerns regarding the non-functioning of the attendance system under the VB G RAM G scheme implemented by RDD.

The DDC issued directions for making necessary arrangements for smooth attendance recording under the VB G RAM G scheme.

Officers and officials from the School Education Department, Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department, Jal Shakti, Power Development and other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

The Block Diwas provided an effective platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling residents to put forward their genuine concerns and seek solutions from the concerned authorities.

National Education Day celebrated at GDC Sopore

KT News Desk



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 11: The Sub-Divisional Administration Sopore Wednesday celebrated National Education Day 2026 with great enthusiasm at Government Degree College (Boys), Sopore, commemorating the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister.

The programme was organised under the theme "The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education," highlighting the importance of youth participation, educational innovation, inclusive learning, skill development and leadership in shaping the future of education.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of quality education in shaping the future of society and called upon students to actively participate in transforming the education system through innovation, creativity and leadership. He encouraged the young generation to make the best use of educational opportunities, develop new skills and contribute meaningfully towards nation-building.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools and colleges, besides principals, teachers, faculty members, research scholars and other educational stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Government Degree College (Boys), Sopore, Dr. Shahid Muzaffar Ahmad, delivered an insightful address, highlighting the role of education in shaping character, nurturing responsible citizens and preparing the younger generation to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Oil Tanker Union meets Jammu Traffic SSP over Ramban delays

'Smoother tanker movement expected within two weeks'

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 11: A delegation from the J&K Oil Tanker Union, led by President Ranjit Singh Raina, met SSP Traffic Jammu City Amit Bhasin on Wednesday to discuss delays affecting oil tankers at Ramban due to ongoing infrastructure and construction work along the National Highway.



The delegation, which included Union spokesperson Harasis Singh and senior member Surinder Singh, outlined the difficulties faced by tanker operators and drivers because of movement restrictions. They also raised other concerns related to drivers' daily operations.

Bhasin heard the representatives and said the government was aware of the issue. He assured them that the road would be made available for smoother tanker movement within two weeks.

After the meeting, Harasis Singh said the delegation had presented its concerns and hoped for positive action.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Alertness, swift

Kashmir Police and deployed security forces were updated accordingly."

The officials identified the three injured CRPF personnel as Constable Rakesh Dass, Head Constable Somveer Singh and Constable Santosh Chandru belonging to the 46th Battalion of the paramilitary force. "They were rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment from where Santosh Chandru was airlifted to 92 Base Hospital Srinagar for advanced treatment," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat and Inspector General of CRPF, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Sujit Kumar visited GMC Anantnag and enquired about the health of the injured personnel. IGP Kumar and IG CRPF visited the attack site and took stock of the situation.

A top officer told KNO that terrorist Mohammad Lateef Bhat, of Khrewan Chader of Kulgam district is believed to have carried out this attack. "He (Bhat) carries a reward of Rs 15 lakh on his head and was reportedly involved in the killing of a police constable and a non-local labourer earlier this year. He joined terrorist ranks last year."

The officer said that security forces have cordoned off the entire area and launched massive search operations to trace Bhat and his accomplice believed to be involved in the attack.

Meanwhile, forensic teams collected samples and other evidence from the attack site as part of the ongoing investigation.

Later, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited Base Hospital, Srinagar, to enquire about the health of CRPF Head Constable who sustained serious injuries in the terror attack and is currently undergoing treatment. He prayed for his swift and complete recovery. (KNO)

Perpetrators will

undergoing treatment. Praying for his swift and complete recovery," he wrote.

"Two other injured CRPF personnel, Constable Rakesh Das and Constable Santanu Chandra, are in stable condition and recovering at 46 Bn CRPF Unit Hospital, Kulgam. I strongly condemn this cowardly act of terror and assure the people that those responsible will be hunted down and brought to justice," he added.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma also condemned the attack, describing it as an act of desperation and frustration by terrorists amid what he termed the final push against terrorism.

"After a long time today, a sudden terrorist attack took place on a CRPF patrol party at a checkpoint in Kulgam, in which three CRPF personnel were injured," Sharma said.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary termed the attack unfortunate and said terrorism had caused immense damage to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We pray that those injured recover as quickly as possible and return to their homes and duties," he said, adding that terrorism was a disease that had entered Jammu and Kashmir and caused immense destruction.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo also condemned the incident, saying such attacks should not happen and stressing the need to strengthen security arrangements to prevent their recurrence.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also condemned the attack, describing such acts of violence as unacceptable and deserving unequivocal condemnation. She also wished the injured CRPF personnel a speedy and complete recovery, saying there could be no place for violence in a society yearning for lasting peace, stability and dignity.

J&K Congress president Tariq Hamid Karra condemned the attack but questioned the security situation, alleging that the incident reflected a failure on the part of the Government of India.

J&K BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma also strongly condemned the attack, asserting that terrorism and its sponsors would face an uncompromising response from India. He said there would be no tolerance for terrorism, no safe haven for terrorists and no escape for those threatening innocent lives.

BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur also condemned the attack and said no leniency would be shown towards terrorists under the ongoing zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. He warned terrorists and Pakistan against attempting to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) J&K president Vivek Bali also condemned the attack, expressed solidarity with the injured personnel and prayed for their speedy recovery. (KNO)

MeT predicts light

of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said the main weather activity was expected to intensify from November 12 and continue till November 13, affecting both the plains and mountainous regions.

The department has predicted a significant fall of 6-8 degrees Celsius in daytime temperatures during November 12 and 13.

Meanwhile, maximum temperatures recorded on Wednesday remained above the seasonal average at several weather stations across the Kashmir Valley.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 19.2 degrees Celsius, which was 1.9 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 7.7 degrees Celsius, 5.8 degrees above the seasonal average.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 19.8 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal, while its minimum temperature settled at 6.1 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 16.2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 14.5 degrees, while the minimum settled at 3.4 degrees Celsius, 4.4 degrees above normal.

In Kupwara, the maximum temperature settled at 18.6 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum was recorded at 4 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a maximum of 18.1 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 6.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg, meanwhile, recorded the lowest maximum temperature in the Valley at 8.4 degrees Celsius, 1.5 degrees below normal. The minimum temperature there settled at 0.5 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.5 degrees Celsius, while Katra recorded 25.5 degrees Celsius as its maximum and 15.8 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

Advising farmers to take precautionary measures, the Meteorological Department asked them to ensure safe storage of harvested crops during November 12 and 13 to prevent damage from rainfall.

It also cautioned that moderate to heavy snowfall in higher reaches could disrupt traffic on important mountain passes and hilly roads.

Tourists, travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow official traffic advisories before travelling to vulnerable areas.

The department has forecast generally dry weather from November 14 to 20, with the possibility of brief spells of light rain or snowfall at isolated places on November 14 and 15. (KNO)

MoD signs 498.58-cr

a modernised weapon suite, thereby enhancing the ship's operational effectiveness.

The Ministry said the project will further strengthen indigenous capabilities in the ship repair and maintenance ecosystem, particularly in undertaking complex propulsion system transformation and modernisation of naval platforms. It is expected to involve more than 50 MSMEs and generate significant employment opportunities across the Indian shipbuilding and ancillary industries.

The project will provide a major impetus to the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, while reinforcing the country's indigenous naval ship repair and maintenance capabilities. (KNO)

CRPF top brass

examined the circumstances surrounding the firing and the possible movement of the motorcycle borne attackers, who opened fire at CRPF personnel deployed at a naka and fled away.

The attack left three CRPF personnel with firearm injuries, with the condition of one jawan described as "critical."

Pertinently, Kulgam firing comes against the backdrop of a period of relative calm of a few months.

A 35-year-old policeman, Aashiq Hussain Qureshi, posted on duty at Anantnag town in South Kashmir was shot dead by terrorists on July 22, 2026. Terrorists had opened fire on a police party deployed for Amarnath Yatra security duty at Lal Chowk in Anantnag.

In another incident on July 31, 2026, terrorists opened fire on two migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh at Kellam village in Kulgam. One of them, Deepak Ratray, was killed on the spot, while the second labourer, Bhupinder, later succumbed to his injuries. (KNO)

LG Sinha calls for

entrepreneurship among youth."

"The real success of any modern technology or modern tools will come only when their benefits reach the small farmers in villages and bring about a real increase in their incomes," LG Sinha added.

He highlighted the crucial role of agricultural universities in delivering practical solutions to challenges related to food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. "Agricultural universities are unique institutions where concerns and aspirations linked to a nation's food security can be transformed into concrete solutions. Four facilities inaugurated today collectively reflect a comprehensive vision of smart agriculture and rural advancement."

INAUGURATES SOLAR-POWERED IOT-BASED IRRIGATION AND FERTIGATION SYSTEM

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a solar-powered Internet of Things (IoT)-based irrigation and fertigation system, designed to provide crops with water and nutrients in the right quantity and at the right time. He observed that the technology has significant potential to benefit small and marginal farmers by reducing labour-intensive irrigation practices and dependence on conventional energy sources.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Prototype Design and Development Centre, which will help translate innovative concepts into practical agricultural tools and technologies.

He expressed confidence that the facility would promote mechanisation and bridge the gap between laboratory research and field-level application.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Health and Wellness Centre, describing it as an important addition to the university's infrastructure for the well-being of students and faculty members.

DIRECTORATE OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE

Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship, the Lieutenant Governor described the newly established Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship as a transformative initiative.

He encouraged students to become job creators by establishing enterprises in areas such as seed testing, cold-chain management and soil health services. He asked the university to develop the directorate into a platform that provides mentoring, guidance and assistance in accessing capital for young entrepreneurs across Jammu Kashmir.

Calling for sustained action, the Lieutenant Governor asked SKUAST-Kashmir to take the new irrigation technology to villages within the coming year and actively involve farmers in its improvement. He stressed the need to convert data collected through sensors into simple agricultural advisories in local languages and deliver them to farmers through digital platforms.

FACILITATE STUDENT-LED STARTUPS

The Lieutenant Governor further encouraged the university to facilitate the establishment of at least 100 student-led startups, strengthen linkages among laboratories, cooperative societies, farmer-producer organisations and farmers, and place youth and women farmers at the centre of future programmes.

"We must make data and technology partners of the farmer. Our goal should be to establish at least 100 student-led enterprises and startups from the SKUAST-Kashmir campus within the coming year.

The University must become a strong bridge between laboratories and cooperative societies, between farmer-producer organisations, and between researchers and small and marginal farmers. I want youth and women farmers to be at the centre of every programme," he said.

Emphasising the growing challenges posed by climate change, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the university to make sustainable development and environmental stewardship central to its identity. He underlined that the true measure of progress lies in improving farmers' incomes, strengthening their economic security and expanding opportunities in rural areas.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released a coffee table book highlighting the achievements and institutional journey of SKUAST-Kashmir. A Multi-Tier Data Management and Accreditation Workflow System, aimed at strengthening institutional data management and accreditation-related processes was also launched.

Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperatives; Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; Prof Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Prof Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar SKUAST-K, HoDs, senior officials, faculty members and students attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

Law mandates

vacancy," the Act states.

The law, however, provides that a bye-election is not required to be held if the remainder of the term of the vacant seat is less than one year.

In the case of the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, this exception does not apply. The current Lok Sabha is scheduled to complete its term on June 23, 2029. As of the date of the vacancy, more than two years and seven months of the House's term remain.

The law also provides another exception under which the six-month deadline may be relaxed if the Election Commission, after consulting the Central Government, certifies that it is difficult to conduct the bye-election within the stipulated period.

The Srinagar Lok Sabha seat fell vacant on November 3, 2026, following the resignation of Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

The by-election may be held independently or clubbed with Assembly elections scheduled in several states early next year. (KNO)

Accelerate project

to accelerate project execution and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach people in a timely manner.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to focus on improving physical progress and ensuring optimal financial utilisation. He stressed that developmental projects must move forward in a coordinated and time-bound manner, with accountability at every level.

Calling for closer monitoring of projects being executed under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister directed that their progress be reviewed fortnightly to identify bottlenecks, address implementation-related issues and ensure timely completion. He emphasised the need to maximise utilisation of allocated funds and ensure that the district derives full benefit from the available financial assistance.

The Chief Minister also stressed the timely release of funds under various development and relief schemes, particularly the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), observing that delays in fund disbursement should not impede public works or deprive beneficiaries of timely assistance.

On issues concerning project implementation, CM Omar directed district authorities to expedite pending forest clearances in accordance with prescribed rules and procedures, while ensuring close coordination with the concerned departments to avoid unnecessary delays in developmental works.

INAUGURATES 4 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

During the visit, the Chief Minister e-inaugurated four developmental projects of the Rural Development Department (RDD), completed at a cumulative cost of 5.06 crore, strengthening grassroots development infrastructure in the district.

The inaugurated projects included the District Development Council (DDC) Building at Udhampur, constructed at a cost of 235.76 lakh; Block Development Council (BDC) Building at Parlidhar, costing 80.17 lakh; BDC Building at Jaganoo, completed at a cost of 84.41 lakh; and BDC Building at Sewna, constructed at a cost of 106.32 lakh.

The projects have been executed under the CAPEX budget and cater to Udhampur East, Ramnagar and Chenani constituencies.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi gave a detailed presentation on the district's overall developmental profile, sector-wise achievements, ongoing projects, financial and physical progress, and preparedness for the winter season.

Reviewing major infrastructure initiatives, the meeting was apprised of the progress of the Government Medical College (GMC), Udhampur, at Baili, which has achieved 88 per cent overall physical progress. Updates were also shared on national highway projects along NH-244, NH-44 and NH-1A, besides the Mantalai tourism development project being undertaken under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, for which the Request for Proposal (RFP) is scheduled to close in November 2026.

Winter preparedness also figured during the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner briefed the meeting on the comprehensive road clearance mechanism covering 124 roads spanning approximately 775 kilometres, supported by the deployment of requisite machinery. The arrangements also include buffer stocks of power poles and transformers, availability of water tankers and medical supplies, and advance stocking of ration in snow-bound areas to ensure uninterrupted essential services during winter.

The meeting also reviewed progress under the District and UT CAPEX budgets, tribal affairs initiatives, PMGSY road connectivity, MGNREGA employment generation and completion of houses under PMAY-G.

In the water and power sectors, discussions covered implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, urban water supply projects under AMRUT 2.0, smart metering and infrastructure augmentation under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of reliable public utilities, particularly during the winter months.

The health and social welfare sectors were also reviewed, with the presentation covering PMJAY-SEHAT coverage, efforts towards TB elimination, institutional deliveries, social security pension coverage and initiatives under Mission Shakti.

In the agriculture and allied sectors, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars, issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and progress in generating Agristack Farmer IDs, in which Udhampur has emerged among the leading districts in the Union Territory.

The review further covered industrial development, including the Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre at Battal Ballian, distribution of property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, regulation of mining activities, revenue generation and targeted food distribution through the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

On public grievance redressal, the meeting was informed that the district had achieved a disposal rate of 96 per cent of grievances received through the JK Samadhan portal. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of responsive administration and timely resolution of public grievances.

DELEGATIONS APPRISE CM ABOUT VARIOUS PUBLIC ISSUES

Several deputations also called on the Chief Minister during his visit and apprised him of various public issues and demands concerning their respective areas and sectors.

Ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar, Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Mir Saifullah, Shamim Firdous and Altaf Ahmed Wani; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia; MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta; MLA Udhampur East Ranbir Singh Pathania; MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bhardwaj; Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal; Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi; and divisional and district heads of various departments attended the meeting. (KNO)

LG Sinha proposes

Observer (KNO), said the event has emerged as a symbol of the region's intellectual, literary and cultural consciousness since its launch in 2023.

"We must resolve to make Jammu Kashmir the cultural centre of the country," LG Sinha said while addressing writers, poets, scholars, artists and literary enthusiasts.

He said the festival has evolved into a platform for dialogue, creativity and cultural exchange, with growing participation reflecting that ideas and creative expression transcend geographical boundaries.

Highlighting Kulgam's civilisational heritage, the LG recalled the contributions of Yogini Lalleshwari, Nund Rishi, Sayyid Hussain Simnani and other saints and thinkers associated with the region's Rishi-Sufi tradition.

He said the tradition placed humanity above divisions and dialogue above discord, describing the 'Veshow Festival' as a contemporary expression of this cultural legacy.

The Lieutenant Governor proposed five measures for the festival's expansion, including establishing a Veshow Archive, promoting multilingual translations through modern language technologies, expanding mobile libraries to remote villages, linking the festival with tourism, handicrafts and homestays, and setting up a Veshow Writers' Residency to attract authors and poets from across the country.

"We must connect the Veshow Festival directly with tourism and handicrafts. By leveraging the branding of the festival, homestays and offbeat destinations in the region can be promoted. This festival must be transformed into a cultural movement," he said.

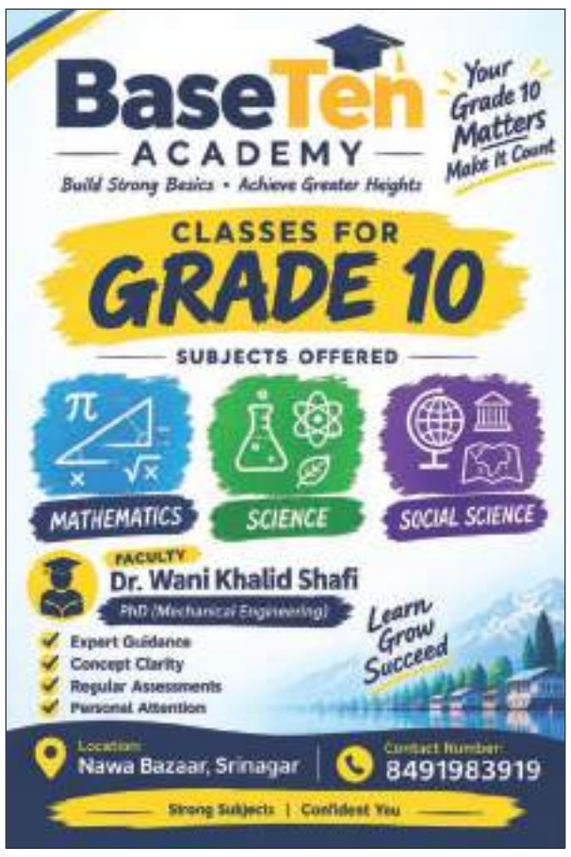
LG Sinha also encouraged young people to use digital platforms and podcasts to document and promote Kulgam's stories, traditions, literature and crafts.

The festival, he said, brings literature, art, heritage and livelihoods together, providing a platform for writers and poets while showcasing traditional craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

"Let us preserve the rich heritage, promote culture, and shape a new Jammu Kashmir," he said.

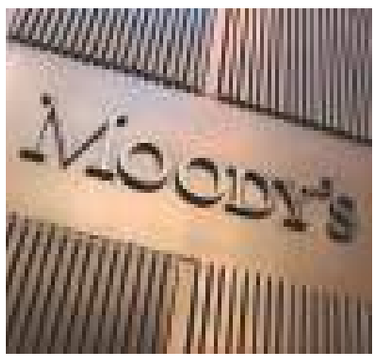
On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the 'Keepers of Veshow Heritage', visited an exhibition on Veshow traditions and released the festival magazine.

Kulgam MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, former DDC Chairman Mohammad Afzal Parray, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, DIG South Kashmir Javed Iqbal Mattoo, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Shahzad Alam and SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Choudhary were also present on the occasion. (KNO)



Moody's ups India's FY27 growth estimate to 7 pc on broad-based momentum

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 11: Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said the Indian economy is expected to grow at a higher rate of 7 per cent in the current fiscal, led by broad-based economic momentum and energy supply shock resilience.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2027-28, Moody's, however, said that near-term risks to growth persist as household consumption remains vulnerable to "intensifying and broadening price pressures", with headline inflation close to the upper end of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2-6 per cent target range, while a deficient southwest monsoon and strengthening El Nino conditions will weigh on agricultural output and rural demand.

"India's broad-based economic momentum and demonstrated resilience to the energy supply shock warrant upward revisions to our 2026-27 growth forecasts to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent," it said.

Robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals imply that the economy appears well positioned to sustain growth near 7 per cent over the medium term, Moody's said. A sustained private investment boom that materially boosts manufacturing, employment and productivity could lift growth rates above Moody's baseline projections.

"With the RBI on track to raise rates further, tighter monetary policy could delay the recovery in private investment," Moody's added.

India has adjusted to the energy price shock better than previously assumed, helped by its ability to diversify crude and gas supplies and buffer consumers from the immediate price impact through state-backed oil marketing companies and tax cuts. India is also home to the world's largest single-site refining complex, and its large and sophisticated refining capacity has helped limit fuel supply disruptions while supporting its role as a major exporter of refined petroleum products, Moody's added.

"High frequency indicators, including robust capital goods production and imports, accelerating industrial credit growth and rising capacity utilisation, suggest that India may be at the cusp of a new private capex cycle after several years of corporate and banking- sector balance sheet repair," the US-based agency said.

Broader economic activity also remains solid amid expanding manufacturing and services purchasing manager indexes and double-digit year-on-year growth in goods and services tax revenue, vehicle sales and merchandise exports, it added.

UNION CABINET DECISIONS

Govt extends Stand-Up India Scheme till March 31, 2031

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 11: The government on Wednesday approved the continuation of Stand-Up India Scheme for next 5 years to promote entrepreneurship among Women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Stand-Up India Scheme up to March 31, 2031.

The scheme aims to promote entrepreneurship among Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and provide financial assistance to additional 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs in a span of five years, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while briefing on the decisions taken by the government at the Cabinet meeting.

Since its launch in April 2016, the scheme has facilitated loans to more than 2.75 lakh Women/SC/ST entrepreneurs. The objective of the Stand-Up India Scheme was to provide loans ranging between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch to set up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector and also for activities allied to agriculture.

The scheme provided loans of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore at the lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category (rating), not exceeding base rate MCLR+3%+ Tenor premium, with a repayment period of 7 years and a maximum moratorium of up to 18 months. Eligible sectors for such loans include manufacturing, services, trading and agri allied activities, and credit guarantee covers 85 per cent of the loan amount with standard guarantee fee of 0.50 per cent.

The government would ensure credit access for women, SC and ST entrepreneurs, enabling enterprise creation and strengthening entrepreneurship across underserved communities, thereby supporting inclusive economic growth, he said.

Rs 62,370 cr subsidy approved for P&K fertilisers in rabi season



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 11: The government on Wednesday approved a Rs 62,370 crore subsidy on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the rabi season 2026-27.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Department of Fertilizers' proposal to fix the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Rabi season 2026-27 (from October 2026 to March 31, 2027) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers.

The Cabinet has approved Rs 62,370 crore as subsidy for P&K fertilisers, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

He said the fertiliser prices have shot up immensely due to the West Asia crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war.

However, the minister said the government has protected farmers' interests by providing adequate fertiliser subsidy.

The Modi government has provided a shield to farmers from geopolitical turmoil, he added.

Vaishnaw said the DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) rate would remain the same at Rs 1,350 per bag of 50 kg each.

The subsidy on P&K fertilisers, including DAP and NPKS (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash, Sulphur) grades, will be provided based on approved rates for Rabi 2026-27 to ensure smooth availability of these soil nutrients to the farmers at affordable prices.

Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units extended for 5 years

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) for five years to March 2031.

As of September 2026, more than 60.36 crore loans amounting to Rs 43.34 lakh crore have been sanctioned by lending institutions since the launch of the PM Mudra Scheme.

The scheme provides credit guarantee coverage to the lending institutions through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) against default risk.

At the briefing on Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units has been extended for five years. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore facilitating Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) loans amounting to Rs 12.6 lakh crore, an official release said.

CGFMU, launched in January 2016, has acted as a major catalyst in enabling the growth of PMMY loans in the country, it added.

Mother Dairy raises milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre, effective today



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 11: Mother Dairy has hiked milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre, effective from Thursday, due to rising input costs, sources said.

Mother Dairy, the largest milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, had last raised prices on May 14, 2026. Prior to that, the price revision was done in April, 2025.

According to sources, Mother Dairy has revised the consumer prices of its liquid milk variants by Rs 2-4 per litre, effective November 12.

Mother Dairy spokesperson declined to comment.

Sources said the procurement prices of milk from farmers have increased, forcing the company to partly pass on the rise in input cost to consumers.

Mother Dairy passes on 75-80 per cent of its milk sales realisation to farmers.

It sells around 35 lakh litres of milk per day in the Delhi-NCR market through its own outlets, general trade and e-commerce platforms. Overall, it sells more than 50 lakh litre per day.

In NCR, the price of toned milk (bulk vended) has been increased to Rs 60 from Rs 58 per litre . Full cream milk (pouched) will now cost Rs 76 per litre from Rs 72.

The price of toned milk (pouched) has been increased to Rs 62 per litre from Rs 60 per litre.

Double toned milk will cost Rs 56 per litre from Rs 54 per litre.

Prices of cow milk have been increased to Rs 65 per litre from Rs 62 per litre.

The hike in milk prices in just six months will impact household budget and could also lead to an increase in food inflation.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), food inflation rose to 7.74 per cent in September from 5.97 per cent the previous month.

Retail inflation rose sharply to 5.54 per cent in September on the back of high onion and other food prices, remaining just within the RBI's tolerance band, as per the latest government data.

The consumer price index (CPI) based headline inflation was 4.83 per cent in August.

Mother Dairy achieved a 17 per cent growth in its turnover to Rs 20,300 crore last fiscal year on improved demand for its milk products and cooking oils.

Commissioned in 1974, Mother Dairy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

The company sells milk and milk products under the 'Mother Dairy' brand. It markets edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand. Fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables, snacks, pulps and concentrates are sold under the 'Safal' brand.

Mother Dairy owns nine milk processing plants and four horticulture processing plants. In edible oil, the company operates through 16 associated plants.

Stock markets surge in early trade; Sensex jumps 1,097 points

PTI



Mumbai, Nov 11: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied in early trade on Wednesday helped by foreign fund inflows, better-than-expected Q2 results and a sustained moderation in crude oil prices. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,097.33 points to 82,186.92 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 274.30 points to 25,317.55.

In the 30 Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Eternal, HDFC Bank, Power Grid and Bharti Airtel were among the major winners.

Titan was the only laggard from the pack. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,212.22 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded at USD 92.44 per barrel level.

"The Nifty-50 has surged by 8.6 per cent in just seven trading days of this month. This surge was triggered mainly by the aggressive FII buying of Rs 53,170 crore, so far, this month. The dramatic change in the market environment was triggered by positive global clues for India from the weakening of the AI trade. But it is important to note that the real fundamental support to the rally has come from the better-than-expected Q2 results," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Given the new favourable environment for the Indian market, FIIs are likely to continue buying, imparting resilience to the frontline stocks in banking/financials, telecom, capital goods, select auto and pharmaceutical majors, he said.

"The drop in Brent crude to USD 92 is an additional macro relief for India," Vijayakumar added.

The domestic equity markets were closed on Tuesday on account of 'Diwali Balipratipada'.

On Monday, the Sensex climbed 107.25 points, or 0.13 per cent, to settle at 81,106.65. The Nifty rose 58.25 points, or 0.23 per cent, to close at 25,044.65.

"Indian equities appear well positioned to extend their recent advance, with a sustained moderation in crude oil prices and a revival in foreign portfolio inflows providing a more supportive backdrop for domestic markets. WTI crude has continued to retreat, trading around USD 86 per barrel, while Brent has eased to the USD 91–92 range. The decline in international oil prices offers some respite from concerns over elevated energy costs, imported inflation and pressure on India's external balances," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

Foreign institutional flows have also emerged as a significant source of support, with the market witnessing a notable turnaround from the sustained selling seen in October to consecutive sessions of aggressive net buying, he said.

"This renewed foreign investor participation has helped reinforce the recent market recovery, improving risk appetite and lending greater confidence to the domestic investment outlook," Ponmudi added.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index were trading higher, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower.

Things will be known at appropriate time: Sunetra Pawar on NCP merger talks

PTI



Baramati, Nov 11: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Sunetra Pawar on Wednesday evaded a direct reply to a query about the possible merger of two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions, saying things would be known at the appropriate time.

The merger buzz gained strength last week after several leaders of the Sunetra Pawar-led NCP, including Praful Patel and Parth Pawar, met NCP (SP) head Sharad Pawar, who was recently hospitalised for a chest infection.

A viral video showed Sharad Pawar and Patel discussing a possible meeting after November 10.

NCP state president Sunil Tatkare also claimed last week that the merger of the two factions would have taken place in February this year had Ajit Pawar been alive.

Responding to reporters' queries about the merger possibility here, Sunetra Pawar said, "I know all of you are more interested in a different issue at present. However, today's subject is entirely different. Things (about the merger) will be known when the time comes."

She was addressing a press conference held to announce programmes marking the 191st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda on November 15.

Ajit Pawar, the then deputy CM and NCP president, died in an air crash on January 28. Sunetra Pawar subsequently became the NCP head and deputy CM in the Mahayuti government, which also comprises the BJP and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena.

The Maharashtra government will observe November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' and organise a service week across the state from November 11 to 18, she said at the press conference.

In Pune district, the Integrated Tribal Development Project office at Ghodegaon will organise various programmes, including distribution of cheques to beneficiaries of government schemes, memorial cleanliness drives, a wild vegetable festival, cultural programmes, tribal gatherings and health and nutrition awareness camps, the deputy CM said.

"Apart from Pune, I am also the guardian minister of Beed district. Therefore, a service week marking Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary and Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas will also be organised in Beed from November 11 to 18," she added.

The programmes in Beed will include health camps, cleanliness drives and awareness activities. Celebrations will also be organised at Kuppa and Khalwat Nimgaon in Wadwani tehsil on November 15, according to her.

Anna Hazare rejects Sonia's claim on anti-corruption movement



PTI

Ralegan Siddhi (Maharashtra), Nov 11: Social activist Anna Hazare on Wednesday rubbished Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's claim that his 2011–2012 "India Against Corruption" movement was covertly supported by the BJP and RSS to dislodge the then UPA government.

"This is wrong. I don't have any connection with the BJP or RSS. I don't participate in their programmes. My country is my priority," Hazare said, replying to a query on the claim in Gandhi's memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love.

"Whatever I do is for my society and country. I don't have anything to do with any party," Hazare said. "What is the basis to claim that the Manmohan Singh-led government lost the (2014) elections due to my agitation," Hazare said.

"Neither has she seen Anna Hazare, nor have I seen her so far. How appropriate is it to comment something without even seeing each other," Hazare said.

A responsible person should speak responsibly, he said. "It is not right to speak in a vague manner. It diminishes that person's image," he added.

"In 2012 a well-known activist from Maharashtra, Baburao 'Anna' (Marathi for 'father' or 'elder brother') Hazare, emerged as the figurehead of a movement that titled itself 'India Against Corruption.' Some of its prominent participants have stated since that it was covertly organised and supported by the BJP and RSS," a viral excerpt from the memoir reads.

Quick Read

Tanker catches fire in Strait of Hormuz: Iran



AP

Dubai, Nov 11 : Iran's Revolutionary Guard said that a tanker caught fire early Wednesday after hitting a naval mine, Iran's state media reported.

It said the tanker was travelling through an unauthorized route in the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway.

The British military said that a tanker was involved in an incident while transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) did not identify the tanker, and further details of the incident were not immediately available.

The centre also said the status of the crew remained unknown. UKMTO is part of the British military tasked with monitoring maritime safety.

Last month, it had said it was "struggling to accurately report" the true number of attacks as the majority of ships now refuse to report them.

It was not immediately clear if the Iranian and UKMTO reports referred to the same incident.

Around 300 Italian schools evacuated over bomb threats



AP

Milan, Nov 11 : Italian authorities evacuated some 300 schools across Italy on Wednesday after receiving an emailed bomb threat, the latest disruptions affecting European institutions following hoax bomb threats against airlines and broadcasters in recent weeks.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said in a statement that there was no indication of any "concrete danger" to Italian schools and said the threats appeared aimed at "generating alarm and concern".

She said investigations were underway, and that she had convened a meeting of ministers for later in the day.

The anonymous email also contained a threat against Meloni, according to copies obtained by Italian media including the news agency LaPresse. She did not address the personal threat in her statement, and Meloni's office had no immediate comment.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani revealed Saturday that his personal data had been leaked to the dark web, an encrypted part of the internet. Meloni blamed pro-Russian hackers.

Minister of Education Giuseppe Valditara said 300 schools had received email threats, the news agency LaPresse reported. The ministry did not immediately return a request for confirmation.

At Rome's Mamiani high school, students poured into the streets thinking the alarm was the recess bell and only learned there was a bomb threat after they were outside.

"They are saying it was a bomb alert because an email arrived from Russian hackers in which they said they would have killed everyone. It was pretty violent," said 18-year-old student Anita Bartocci.

Germany's military to stop using Chinese-made drones for training



AP

Berlin, Nov 11 (AP) The German military will stop using Chinese-made drones for training purposes and replace them with German or other European models, the government said Wednesday.

The Defence Ministry said commanders in the German military, the Bundeswehr, can buy off-the-shelf commercial drones for training and some exercise purposes. It stressed that such drones can only be used after a risk assessment and in circumstances where no "security-relevant information" is at risk. It said in an emailed statement that "in order to strengthen the Bundeswehr's self-sufficiency and technological sovereignty", no Chinese drone models will be used in the future, and they will be replaced by domestic or other European-made drones. German outlet Der Spiegel first reported on the decision.

The ministry did not specify how many Chinese-made drones are in use in the Bundeswehr.

Russia, Ukraine agree to major prisoner swap at Abu Dhabi talks

AP



Abu Dhabi, Nov 11 : Officials at US-mediated talks between Russia and Ukraine said Wednesday that the two sides have agreed a large exchange of prisoners of war.

"One of the positives is we agreed that we're going to have the biggest humanitarian release of prisoners, which we're going to finalise the numbers tomorrow," Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, said after the two days of talks in Abu Dhabi ended.

Vladimir Medinsky, the head of the Russian delegation, and Rustem Umerov, who led Kyiv's delegation in Abu Dhabi, confirmed the planned exchange.

Hopes were low for any major breakthrough in the first meeting in nine months between the delegations. Russia and Ukraine have from time to time swapped prisoners during their nearly five-year war.

US officials say they are determined to revive Washington's peace efforts that so far have failed to deliver significant results.

Kushner says he and US envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Moscow on Thursday to meet with President Vladimir Putin, then fly to Dublin to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The context of the negotiations has changed since the last meeting in February in Geneva. The Trump administration has to reckon with Democrats, who could demand more support for Ukraine, taking over the US Congress in January following the US midterm elections. Also, Russia's wartime economy is under heavy strain, and Ukraine is reeling from devastating aerial attacks on its power grid.

Umerov said Kyiv's delegation is expected to meet Wednesday with European officials. Moscow doesn't want European countries, which are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent, involved in the direct negotiations. However, representatives of European governments, the European Union and NATO were in Abu Dhabi and were consulting with the Ukrainian delegation, officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday's session was "constructive and quite substantive."

The talks were largely about humanitarian issues, including possible prisoner exchanges and returning Ukrainian civilians in captivity, as well as children taken from the country, he said.

Security guarantees also were discussed, he said. However, Russia and Ukraine have shown no sign of a willingness to compromise on their demands.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the meeting "very productive," while cautioning that a breakthrough on stopping the war will take time.

The Abu Dhabi talks are being held against the backdrop of continued fighting on the front line, where little territory has changed hands this year. Meanwhile, both countries are battering each other with long-range missiles and drones.

Overnight, Russia struck the southern Zaporizhzhia region and the eastern city of Kharkiv, wounding seven civilians and damaging property. Russia's Defence Ministry said that air defences downed 627 Ukrainian drones overnight, 150 of them over the region around St. Petersburg, according to the regional Gov. Alexander Drozdenko.

He said that the drones started a fire at the port of Ust-Luga, one of the main facilities for Russian oil exports, injuring three workers.

Srinagar Police to expand youth sports programmes in Nov-Dec, urges youngsters to stay connected with playgrounds, libraries

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 11: With more sports activities planned across Srinagar in the coming weeks, police have urged youngsters to stay connected with playgrounds and libraries, saying constructive engagement is key to keeping them away from negative influences.

SSP Srinagar Sandeep Chakravarthy said on Wednesday that J&K Police would organise more sports tournaments and youth engagement programmes in November and December under its Civic Action Programme (CAP).

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the final match of a 10-day football tournament organised by J&K Police, the SSP said the programme was aimed at giving young people the right direction by engaging them in sports and studies.

"The main aim of this Civic Action Programme is to keep our young population, who are the future of our country, busy with constructive activities and give them the right direction. You all know that there are a lot of negative energies in our society. We have to keep them away," he said.

Chakravarthy said the police would continue organising such activities and support young people whenever they needed assistance. "J&K Police is always with the youth. Whatever support they need in difficult times, J&K Police is at the forefront to support our youth," he said.

Congratulating the winners, runners-up and participants, the SSP said the football tournament had concluded with an exciting final that went into a tie-breaker and penalty shootout.

"Participation is very important. I would like to congratulate all the players who participated in this tournament, especially those who showed us such a good match in the final," he said.

Highlighting the importance of football, Chakravarthy said the game teaches teamwork, discipline and collective effort. "Football teaches us that whenever we want to win, we should play as a team. It teaches us to be strong and play as a team," he said.

The SSP said Srinagar Police had planned more such programmes for the city during November and December, adding that the initiative would seek to increase youth participation in sports.

Referring to the performance of young cricketers from downtown Srinagar in recent tournaments, he said it was encouraging to see local youngsters doing well in sports. "This is the identity of Srinagar. We want to tell the youth to remain engaged in playgrounds and libraries. Srinagar Police and J&K Police are always with you," he said.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Police also concluded its second T-20 cricket tournament under the Civic Action Programme 2025–26 at Sri Pratap College Playground, M.A. Road, Srinagar. The tournament, which began on November 5, witnessed participation from eight teams representing different areas of the city.

IH Sports Barbar Shah emerged as champions, defeating MCC Foreshore Road Srinagar in the final. Trophies, medals and cash prizes were distributed among the winners, runners-up and outstanding performers—(KNO)

Global markets rise on strong AI chip demand despite Wall Street retreat



AP

Hong Kong, Nov 11 : World shares were mostly higher Wednesday after a retreat on Wall Street as US inflation rose higher than expected in October, while US futures edged higher and oil prices rose.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX rose 1 per cent to 26,621.01 after inflation fell to 2.8 per cent in October from a year earlier, according to the federal statistics office on Wednesday.

The CAC 40 in Paris picked up 0.6 per cent to 8,331.94. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.7 per cent to 10,825.97.

The future for the S&P 500 rose 0.6 per cent and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.2 per cent.

In Asia, Taiwan led the regional markets as its benchmark Taiex rose 3.6 per cent.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., or TSMC, climbed 3.1 per cent after the AI chipmaker reported its October revenue was nearly sixfold higher than a year earlier, showing that demand for AI chips remains solid.

TSMC's board also approved up to USD 1 billion in investment in Anthropic and OpenAI, according to a company statement Tuesday.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 advanced 1.3 per cent to 61,248.59. SoftBank Group's shares pared losses to close 0.4 per cent lower as the investment giant reported a quarterly net loss of 1.1 trillion yen (USD 7 billion) on Tuesday after markets closed.

South Korea's Kospi was up 2.4 per cent to 5,365.75. Chipmaker Samsung Electronics gained 3.4 per cent and SK Hynix jumped 5.4 per cent.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng fell 1.1 per cent to 24,296.22, while the Shanghai Composite index recovered 0.5 per cent to 3,680.64.

China's biggest online shopping festival, Singles Day, began Wednesday. Its sales data will offer a gauge of consumer demand in the world's second-largest economy.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.3 per cent higher at 9,153.20.

India's Sensex rallied 0.9 per cent, reaching its highest level in six months.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 slipped 0.4 per cent and gave back some of its big rally from the day before. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.3%, and the Nasdaq composite sank 0.7 per cent.

Pressure from the bond market undercut stocks following the discouraging report on inflation. People had to pay prices for groceries, electricity and other costs of living that were higher in October than economists expected. That could push the Federal Reserve to hike its main interest rate at its next meeting in December.

One Fed official hinted the central bank may increase the federal funds rate by double the typical amount in December because of how high inflation has remained for years.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury leaped to 4.99 per cent from 4.88 per cent late Monday. It was a notable move for the bond market and the yield helps set where rates are for mortgages and other loans going to US households and businesses.

Niraj Kumar wins bronze, secures India's LA Olympics quota in 50m rifle 3P

PTI



Doha, Nov 11 : India's Niraj Kumar secured a quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after winning bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event at the ISSF World Championships here on Wednesday.

It was India's second Olympic quota at the championships, following Jaypal Malviya's silver in the men's 10m air pistol event a few days ago.

Niraj shot 346.5 in the final and was in contention for silver before a costly 9.4 on his 34th shot pushed him down to third. Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN) Dmitrii Pimenov clinched gold with a world junior record score of 362.8, while Slovakia's Patrik Jany took silver. Both also secured Olympic quota places. The other Indian in the final, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, finished fifth with 323.7.

India also won bronze in the team event, with Niraj, Aishwary and Akhil Sheoran combining for 1,751 in the elimination round. They missed silver by a solitary point as Norway finished second with 1,752, while the Czech Republic took gold with 1,754.

Niraj shot 582, Aishwary 587 and Akhil 582 to help India secure the team bronze.

In the subsequent qualification round, Niraj produced an impressive 591 to top the standings, while Aishwary shot 586 to finish fourth and book his place in the final.

The final proved a testing affair, particularly for Aishwary, a two-time Olympian and former World Championships silver medallist. He made a strong start in the kneeling position, shooting 102.9 over 10 shots to be tied for the lead. However, a string of scores in the 9s during the prone series saw him lose ground. His struggles continued in the standing position before he was eliminated in fifth place.

Niraj, meanwhile, kept his composure and remained firmly in the medal hunt. The 26-year-old Navy shooter, who was part of India's silver-winning team at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya recently, looked set for silver alongside his Olympic quota until that costly 9.4 changed the standings.

Jany struck a 10.4 to move ahead of him and claim second place.

Pimenov, meanwhile, was in a class of his own, finishing well clear of the field to claim gold with a world junior record.

J&K Sports Council hosts UT Roller Skating Championship in Jammu, 110 players compete on Day 1

KT News Desk



Jammu,Nov 11: Around 110 skaters and roller hockey players from across Jammu and Kashmir participated in the Open J&K UT Roller Skating Championship 2026, organised by the J&K Sports Council at MA Stadium, Jammu, on Tuesday.

Approximately 60 skaters from different parts of J&K participated in Quad Speed Skating and Inline Speed Skating competitions across various age categories, commencing from the age of six years and above.

The competitions provided a platform for budding skaters to showcase their speed, agility, technical skills and competitive spirit.

In addition, approximately 50 players participated in Roller Hockey competitions across different age groups, adding to the enthusiasm and competitive spirit of the championship.

The championship witnessed keen competition, discipline and sportsmanship among the participants. The event also provided an opportunity to identify emerging talent and encourage greater participation in roller sports across the UT.

The championship was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Ms. Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, with the active involvement of officers, officials, coaches and managers of the Sports Council, who ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The initiative reflects the continued commitment of the J&K Sports Council towards promoting sports at the grassroots level, providing competitive exposure to young athletes and strengthening the sporting ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.