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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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Body, weapon recovered from Kulgam encounter site

Cordon intact, operation still underway | DGP, IGP Kashmir visit district to oversee operation | Identity of deceased to be confirmed by family members | Para Special Forces join anti-terror operation

Umaisar Gull Ganie



Kulgam, Nov 16: The body of a terrorist, along with a weapon, was recovered from the encounter site in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, while the search operation to track down another terrorist will resume at first light on Tuesday, officials said.

A top police officer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that "the cordon remains intact and the operation is still underway."

He said the body of the terrorist has been recovered and the ongoing anti-terror operation is still on. "The identity of the deceased would be established after identification by family members," the officer added.

Another officer said that security forces have intensified efforts to track down another suspected terrorist believed to be hiding in the area. "The cordon has been extended, while additional search teams have been deployed to thoroughly scan the entire area. Para Special Forces have also joined the operation," he added.

The official said lighting arrangements were installed during the night, however, the operation was halted and will resume again on Tuesday morning.

He said security forces are maintaining a tight cordon around the area and will continue the search operation to trace the remaining terrorist.

Earlier, an encounter broke out after a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police and security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation (CASO) following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

As the search party approached the suspected location, the hiding terrorists opened fire, triggering an exchange of fire.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar, accompanied by other senior officers, visited Kulgam to personally oversee the ongoing anti-terror operation.

The intensified operation follows a terrorist attack on November 11 in the Akhran area near Mir Bazar, where terrorists opened fire on a CRPF checkpoint, injuring | More on P6

KULGAM TERROR ATTACK

Jawans' courage foiled terrorists' nefarious designs: Special DG CRPF

'Perpetrators will be brought to justice, operational discipline, alertness being maintained'

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 16: Lauding the courage of CRPF personnel who thwarted the recent terrorist attack in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, on Monday said the force is maintaining heightened alertness and operational discipline to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), on the sidelines of the inauguration of the fourth edition of the CRPF Cup at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here, Khirwar said, "The courage displayed by the jawans foiled the nefarious designs of terrorists."

He said, "CRPF is maintaining alertness, discipline and coordination among colleagues to achieve success in ongoing operations."

Asked about the ongoing operation in Kulgam, which has entered its fifth day, Khirwar said the operation had been launched to ensure that those responsible for the attack were brought to justice. "We have launched the operations. We owe it to the people of J&K, to our own forces and our injured colleagues that the perpetrators are brought to justice," he said.

Pertinently, three CRPF personnel were injured in a terrorist attack at Nowpora Akhran in Kulgam district on November 11, following which | More on P6

44% consultant posts, 25% medical officer posts vacant in J&K healthcare institutions

Health Dept says filling vacancies in far-flung areas priority; 316 posted recently in remote regions

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 16: If you fall sick in the peripheral areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the first healthcare facility you are likely to visit is not a medical college hospital but a district hospital, sub-district hospital, or primary health centre. However, these institutions are grappling with a severe shortage of manpower, with 25 per cent of Medical Officer posts and 44 per cent of Consultant posts lying vacant.

In its reply to a questionnaire from the Estimates Committee of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Health & Medical Education Department, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated that against a sanctioned strength of 791 Consultant posts, only 445 are in position, leaving 346 vacancies.

Similarly, against the sanctioned strength of 2,534 Medical Officer posts, only 1,901 are in position, leaving 633 vacancies.

The department said it is according priority to filling vacancies in rural, remote, far-flung, and border areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

It submitted that the objective is to strengthen healthcare delivery and ensure equitable access to medical services across the Union Territory. The department further stated | More on P6

Kashmir braces for rain, snow as Gulmarg, Pahalgam shiver at -3.5°C

Weak Western Disturbance may bring brief precipitation over next 15 hours | 4–5 inches of snow possible at a few upper reaches, predicts weatherman

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 16: As night temperatures plummeted to minus 3.5 degrees Celsius at Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the weatherman on Monday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a brief spell of rain and snowfall over the next 15 hours.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a relatively weak Western Disturbance is expected to bring light to moderate rain and snowfall over a short period.

He said the system has a potential to keep minimum temperatures on the lower side, which could result in a further drop in the snowline. Consequently, if snowfall occurs, Gulmarg and Sonamarg have higher chances of witnessing it. | More on P6

623 MW power deficit likely during peak winters in J&K, Ladakh

Riyaz Bhat



Srinagar, Nov 16: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of over 16 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December.

An official said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 16.3 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 623 MWs against the available power position during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December.

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for December-2026 for both the Union Territories, the official said that there will likely be a peak availability of 3190 MW against the requirement of 3813 MW—keeping a loophole of 623 MW during the peak solar and non-solar hours.

Earlier this week, KNO carried news that the onset of cold weather has pushed Kashmir into a daily power deficit of nearly 4,400 megawatt-hours (MWh)—leaving consumers to contend with scheduled curtailments amid plummeting temperatures.

An official had informed that "Over 24 hours, we face an actual power demand | More on P6

Govt notifies new timing for Kashmir schools

10:30 am–2:30 pm for classes 1–8; classes 9–12 until 3:30 pm

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 16: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Monday ordered change in school timing for all educational institutes of Kashmir division from November-17

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), DSEK in an order said that the elementary classes from nursery to 8th standard shall function from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm and in case of 9th to 12th standard, the school timing shall be 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

It also said that the timing shall be applicable | More on P6

Finance Dept tells offices to ensure timely payment of electricity dues

Only Rs 496 crore of Rs 763 crore electricity allocation utilised so far

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 16: The Finance Department of J&K Government has expressed concern over the non-payment of electricity bills by several government offices within the stipulated time frame, saying the delays have resulted in the accumulation of substantial arrears against various departments and subordinate offices.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in a circular, the Finance Department said that the failure to settle electricity dues on time has not only led to mounting outstanding liabilities but has also caused avoidable financial losses to the government in the form of late payment surcharges and penalties.

The department stated that timely payment of electricity dues is essential for maintaining the financial viability of power utilities, ensuring reliable power supply, and reducing the Average Cost of Supply (ACS)-Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) gap.

It further pointed out that the pre-qualification criteria under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) mandate 100 per cent payment of current electricity dues by all government departments, local bodies and autonomous bodies during the year under evaluation.

It has advised departments to put in place an effective mechanism for the prompt settlement of | More on P6

Govt approves Rs 22.71 cr to revive stalled Batamaloo Mini Secretariat

Integrated Disaster Management Centre to be part of proposed administrative complex

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Nov 16: The Jammu and Kashmir government has approved Rs 22.71 crore for the construction of a Mini Secretariat along with an Integrated District Disaster Management and Mitigation Centre at Batamaloo in Srinagar, paving the way for the revival of a project that has remained stalled for several years.

As per Government Order No. 57-JK (Rev) of 2026, issued by the Revenue Department, administrative approval has been granted for an estimated expenditure of Rs 2,271.07 lakh. The project cost has been assessed on the basis of estimates vetted by the Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works (R&B) Department.

The proposed facility will serve as an administrative hub while also housing infrastructure for district-level disaster preparedness, management and mitigation.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the project dates back to October 2017, when the proposal for establishing a Mini Secretariat at the erstwhile General Bus Stand in Batamaloo | More on P6

Man found dead in Srinagar

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 16: A 70-year-old non-local man was found dead inside a rented room in Noorbagh area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found dead inside a rented room at Push Mohalla, Noorbagh, Srinagar.

He said the deceased used to collect donations for a madrasa and had been unwell for the past few days. Police teams reached the spot and took the body into their custody for medico-legal formalities.

The deceased was later identified as | More on P6

'Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir' book released at special awareness event

Experts stress region-specific research, dietary awareness, lifestyle changes to tackle diabetes burden

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 16: A book titled 'Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir', focusing on the region's dietary habits, cultural practices and lifestyle patterns and their link with diabetes, was released during a special academic and awareness programme held to mark World Diabetes Day.

The event brought together endocrinologists, physicians, academicians, healthcare professionals, researchers, writers and members of civil society to deliberate on the growing burden of diabetes and the need for region-specific approaches to its prevention and management.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the programme began with an introductory address by Dr. M. Hayat Bhat, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of World Diabetes Day.

The statement said the highlight of the programme was a Lecture of Excellence delivered by Prof. Ab. Hamid Zargar, former Director, SKIMS, who discussed the local diabetes scenario, evolving challenges, regional concerns and research contributions in the field over the past three decades. He stressed the importance of locally relevant research and evidence-based interventions.



The book has been jointly authored by Dr. Shahnawaz Mir, Associate Professor, Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar; Dr. Nasir Shamas, Consultant Physician and HOU, JLNM Hospital; and Prof. M. Hayat Bhat, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar.

It is among the first comprehensive attempts to address diabetes in Kashmir's regional context, offering insights into local food preferences, dietary habits, cultural practices and lifestyle patterns, alongside practical, evidence-based recommendations for prevention and management.

The book | More on P6

Man hit to death by vehicle

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 16: A man died after being hit by a vehicle near Zakura Petrol Pump on the outskirts of Srinagar city, officials said on Monday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found lying injured on the roadside and was subsequently shifted to hospital for treatment.

The official said the man had been hit by a vehicle, following which he collapsed on the roadside. However, doctors at the hospital declared him brought dead on arrival.

He said the identity of the deceased is being ascertained, while a probe into the incident has been initiated. (KNO)

Safety, Security Financial Transparency

DC Pulwama orders inspection of coaching institutes

KT News Desk



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama, K.K Sidha has ordered the constitution of a District-Level Committee to conduct comprehensive inspections of coaching centres to ensure the safety, security and welfare of students enrolled in coaching institutes operating across the district.

The order, as per an official statement, aims to ensure strict adherence to prescribed safety and security regulations, statutory provisions and other mandatory requirements governing the functioning of coaching institutes, with particular focus on student welfare and transparency in institutional operations.

A District-Level Committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora, with jurisdiction-specific representation from various departments, including Revenue, Police, Municipal Bodies, Fire and Emergency Services, Power Development Department, Health, Education and Labour.

The committees will undertake physical inspections of coaching centres within their respective territorial jurisdictions, focusing on verification of registration and statutory authorisations, building infrastructure and safety arrangements, basic amenities and hygiene, student welfare and accessibility, as well as transparency in fee structures, courses offered, faculty particulars and other relevant information.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight of coaching institutes and ensuring that these establishments provide a safe, secure, hygienic and student-friendly learning environment while maintaining transparency in their operations.

Dir Agri Kashmir reviews district-wise expenditure performance

KT NEWS DESK



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Monday chaired a review meeting at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi to assess the physical and financial progress achieved by all the districts under HADP, JKCIP, CSS, Capex, Revex and SASCI.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by all the chief Agriculture officers of Kashmir division along with drawing and disbursing officers.

During the review, the Director instructed the chief agriculture officers to identify all the bottlenecks which are hampering the pace of expenditure, and sought their timely removal for achieving all the physical and financial targets within shortest possible time. The director undertook a detailed assessment of district-wise expenditure achievements, financial progress and the implementation status of various schemes. He also reviewed the pace of execution of approved activities under each component of various schemes, and the progress achieved against the targets set for the current financial year.

The Director called for expediting the pace of expenditure for those districts which are lagging behind, and instructed the concerned chief Agriculture officers to achieve all the allocated targets within a week.

Shah stressed on achievement of all physical targets earmarked for each district under JKCIP and directed all the district officers to implement this international funded project as per the guidelines within stipulated time period. He also instructed the concerned officers to submit the success stories under JKCIP on priority basis.

Shah directed the concerned district officers to ensure that the benefits of various departmental interventions are effectively extended to the farming community.

Reiterating the department's commitment to result-oriented implementation of government schemes, Sartaj Ahmad Shah called upon all district officers to adopt a proactive approach, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure that the available resources are translated into tangible outcomes for the agricultural sector.

Handicrafts & Handloom Department organises awareness-cum-registration camp in Sopore



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 16: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Baramulla organised a one-day Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp at Dak Bungalow, Sopore, on Monday to sensitise local artisans, weavers and unemployed youth about various government welfare schemes and support facilities.

The programme, as per an official statement, was attended by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, ADC Sopore Shabir Ahmad Raina and Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir Sameer Jan, besides other officers and dignitaries.

During the camp, participants were briefed about various government initiatives, including the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, scheme for skill upgradation, scholarships for children of artisans, training programmes for unemployed youth and marketing support for handicraft products.

The officers emphasized the importance of registration with the department to avail benefits under different welfare schemes and encouraged artisans and weavers to utilize the available financial assistance, skill development programmes and marketing facilities.

The initiative aims to strengthen the traditional handicrafts and handloom sector, empower local artisans, promote entrepreneurship and generate employment opportunities for unemployed youth.

District Capex Plan 2026–27

DDC Shopian reviews physical, financial progress

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the District Capex Plan 2026–27 to assess the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental works across the district.

During the meeting, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Shopian, Mudasir Ahmed presented a detailed sector-wise abstract highlighting the current status of approved works, fund releases and expenditure. Out of 1,794 approved works under the District Capex Plan 2026–27, 1,268 works (70.7%) have been taken up for execution, while 847 works (47.2%) have been completed till date.

Against a total approved cost of Rs 4,669.54 lakh, an amount of Rs1,640.19 lakh has been released during the current financial year. Departments, as per an official statement, have recorded a cumulative expenditure of Rs 378.82 lakh, representing 23.1% utilization of the released funds. The DDC reviewed the performance of executing agencies including R&B (Shopian and Zainapora), Jal Shakti (PHE), Education, Health & Medical Education, Irrigation, Urban Development (UDD) and Youth Services & Sports.



While R&B Zainapora achieved 100% utilization of released funds and Education recorded 68.6%, the DDC expressed concern over slow expenditure in sectors like PHE (6.3%) and Youth Services & Sports (0%). Taking serious note of lagging expenditure in certain departments, the District Development Commissioner directed all sectoral and executing officers to expedite the tendering and execution process to ensure 100% physical completion and optimal utilization of released funds well within the stipulated timeframe.

DAWN, Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat

DLSA Ganderbal organises awareness programmes

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: Continuing its district-wide awareness initiatives, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, organised awareness programmes at Qamaria Model School, Saloora, and Government High School (GHS), Shallabugh, under the NALSA DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation) Fortnight Awareness Campaign and the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaign.

The programmes were organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal.

At Qamaria Model School, Saloora, Advocate Younis Saleem Wani, Panel Lawyer, conducted an awareness session on Dowry and Maintenance Laws, sensitising students about the legal provisions relating to dowry prohibition, women's rights and maintenance laws. He also highlighted the legal consequences of misuse of social media, including cyber offences, cyberbullying, online harassment and the importance of responsible use of digital platforms.

At Government High School, Shallabugh, Advocate Aslam, Panel Lawyer, sensitised students about the harmful consequences of child marriage, its legal implications and the importance of protecting children's rights.

Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, also conducted an awareness session under the NALSA DAWN Campaign, highlighting substance-use risks, preventive measures and the importance of seeking timely help and assistance.

Kashmir Thunder

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shiekh Javeed, father of Mahira Javeed and Aleena Javeed, hereby notify the general public that the names of my daughters have been wrongly recorded in the school records of New Tiny Hearts School, Duderhama, Ganderbal, as Mahira Javaid and Aleena Javaid, instead of their actual and correct names, Mahira Javeed and Aleena Javeed, respectively.

Furthermore, my name (father's name) has also been wrongly recorded in the said school records as Sheikh Javaid instead of my actual and correct name, Shiekh Javeed Ali .

Now, I intend to rectify the above-mentioned discrepancies in the school records. If anybody has any objection, he/she may file the same before the Principal, New Tiny Hearts School, Duderhama, Ganderbal, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Shiekh Javeed Ali
Father of the above-named students Mahira Javeed and ALeena Javeed. R/o saloora Ganderbal

NOTICE

I Safiya Latief D/o Latief Ahmad shalla R/o Neharpora, Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from sufaya lateef to safiya Latief for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 653580112990

Henceforth, i shall be known as safiya Latief

NOTICE

I Rifat Ara W/o Firdous Ahmad shoosha R/o Bismillah colony Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Rifat Begum to Rifat Ara for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 338430783445

Henceforth, i shall be known as Rifat Ara

NOTICE

I Gulshan Ara W/o Farooq Ahmad Langoo R/o Mohallah mum kak Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Gulshan Begum to Gulshan Ara for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 686875377744

Henceforth, i shall be known as Gulshan Ara

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi Akhnoor Road, Jammu / Zamzam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

(www. jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Final Selection List for 03 Posts of Telephone Operator in Estates Department, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022, under Item No 130.

Notification No.38 Selection of 2026

12th of November 2026

whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, vide Indent No. Est/79/2021-04-(86979)/900 dated 11.04.2022 received (03) Three Posts of Telephone Operator from Estates Department, advertised vide Notification No, 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022, as per the following category-wise break up:

Name of the Post	Cadre of the post(s)	Item No.	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	TOTAL
Telephone Operator	UT	130	02	01	0	0	0	0	0	03	130

Whereas, the requisite qualification for selection against these posts, as per the Indent, was prescribed as under:
" Matric with ITT/diploma in electronics and communication trade"
whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board, accordingly, conducted an (OMR) based written examination for these (03) three posts on 02.03.2025 and accordingly the result was declared on 14.05.2025; and
whereas, after the publication of Result/Score-sheet, the candidates, falling under the consideration zone, were called for Document Verification on 04.06.2025 followed by supplementary Document Verification w.e.f 24.06.2025 to 25.06.2025; and
whereas, vide Office Order No 221-SSB of 2025, dated 14.07.2025, a Selection Committee was constituted for preparing the Selection List for these (03) Three posts in Estates Department, advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022; and
whereas, the said Selection Committee, upon careful scrutiny of the Indent/advertisement, and procedures thereafter, placed its recommendation before the board in its 350w meeting held on 21.05.2026. The board after due deliberations, approved the notification of the Provisional Selection List for (03) Three Posts of Telephone Operator, in accordance with the Merit/ Eligibility as per the extant rules and the same was notified vide Notification No. JKSSB-Scry/22/2025-06 (E-7731805) Dated 26.05.2026, seeking objections from the candidates within a period of 10 days from the date of issuance of the notification; and
whereas, pursuant to the above, only one representation was received in the Board, which was examined as per the available record/ extant guidelines and found baseless. Accordingly, the Selection Committee prepared the Final Selection List for (03) Three Posts of Telephone Operator; and
whereas, the proposal for notifying the Final Selection List, for the (03) Three posts of Telephone Operator, in Estates Department advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022, as prepared by the concerned Selection Committee, was placed in the Board in its 364w meeting held on 16.09.2026, which after due deliberation on various aspects related to the instant selection, approved its notification.
Now, , therefore, the Final Selection List of the candidates for (03) Three posts of Telephone Operator, in Estates Department advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated 27.07.2022, under Item No. 130, is hereby notified as per "Annexure-A to this Notification. It is further notified that:

i. This Final Selection List shall be subject to outcome of the 0As/Writ Petition(s), if any,pending in the competent court of law.
ii. This shall also be subject to the outcome of any pending inquiry, involving candidate(s), figuring in this Provisional Selection List.
iii. Formal recommendation to the concerned Indenting Department shall be forwarded separately.
iv. This being a combined selection, the waiting list shall be notified and forwarded on the request of the Indenting Departments, against the non-joining candidates, if any
v. The selection of the candidate has been made on the basis of Self-declaration/ certificates submitted by him/her and if at any stage, it comes to light that he/she has submitted false information or has secured selection on the basis of fake or invalid documents/ certificates, the selection shall be liable to cancellation at any stage.

By order.

Khurshid Ahmad Sahai, JKAS
Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board

No: JKSSB-Scry/22/2025-06 (E-7731805) Dated: 12.11.2026

DIPK-7733/26
DATED: 16-11-2026

"Annexure-A" of Notification No. JKSSB-Scry/22/2025-06 (E-7731805) dated 12.11.2026

Final Selection List for the post of Telephone Operator, UT Cadre, Estates Deptt. Advertised vide Notification No. 04 of 2022, Item No. 130

S.No.	DV. No	Roll No	Candidate Name	Father Name	DoB	Category	Total Score	Selection Category	Address	Qualification Possessed	Year of Passing	Name of Institute	Remarks/ Defficiency
Selection List under Open Merit													
1	14CMR	2010157	AAM1R AMIN	MOHD AMIN DAR	05/08/2000	OM	94.00	OM	Khanpora, Budgam-191111	03 Years DipSoma in (E&C) Engineering	2018	K.G. Polytechnic Srinagar (JKBOTE)	
2	34041	2010063	ZEESHAN AMIN	MUHAMMAD Amin MIR	03/09/1997	OM	86.75	OM	Batapora, Shopian-192303	03 Years Diploma in (E&C) Engineering	2017	Govt. Polytechnic College Shopian (JKBOTE)	
Selection List under SC Category													
1	11-3MU	1010236	DEEPAK SINGH	B1SHAN DASS	30/09/1994	SC	50.50	SC	223-Darsopur, R.S Pore, Jammu-181101	03 Years Diploma in (E&C) Engineering	2014	NITS Poly. Jammu OKBOTE)	

Harud Festival showcases Kashmir's heritage at Gulmarg



Waris Fayaz

Gulmarg, Nov 16: Kashmir's cultural heritage will remain at the centre of upcoming tourism events, with the Directorate of Tourism planning a seven-day carnival in Gulmarg towards year-end to celebrate the festive season and welcome the New Year.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Harud Festival organised at Gulmarg, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said the festival was organised for both locals and tourists. He said visitors come to Kashmir with different interests, including those with a deep interest in its culture and those who want to explore and understand its traditions.

The department would continue to promote Kashmir's cultural heritage through upcoming tourism events and festivals, Sajjad said.

The Director added that Gulmarg would host a seven-day carnival towards the end of the year to celebrate the festive season and welcome the New Year, with a special focus on showcasing Kashmir's culture and traditions to visitors.

The festival featured performances by local artists, who presented traditional Kashmiri songs and music, creating a vibrant cultural atmosphere.

Traditional arts and crafts formed another major attraction, with skilled artisans demonstrating Ari work, Sozni embroidery, papier-mâché and willow craftsmanship. Dedicated stalls showcased the diversity of the Valley's indigenous handicrafts, allowing visitors to witness the intricate processes involved in their creation.

A traditional village setup recreated the rural lifestyle of Kashmir, with students from various schools portraying different aspects of village life, customs and everyday cultural practices.

Live painting sessions added an artistic dimension to the celebrations, while food stalls offered visitors an opportunity to savour traditional Kashmiri cuisine—(KNO)

Minister Sakina Itoo talks tough on food safety violations

KNO DESK



Srinagar, Nov 16: Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Masood Itoo on Monday said that those violating food safety norms will face the full force of the law.

In a post on X, the minister said that food safety is non-negotiable and any violations will invite strict action.

She said that the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has inspected 85 meat units across Jammu and Kashmir and issued 16 notices in as many cases.

The minister added that 11 cases have been recommended for legal proceedings.

"Enforcement will be intensified, accountability ensured, and those found violating food safety standards will face the full force of the law," she said. She said there would be zero tolerance for practices that endanger public health. "Protecting the health of our people remains our highest priority," she added—(KNO)

FDA ramps up meat safety enforcement drive

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 16: Continuing its enforcement activities to ensure food safety and prevent the sale of substandard, unsafe and expired food products, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K (FDA), conducted inspections of meat processing units, meat shops and other establishments dealing with meat and meat products.

During the latest enforcement drive, a total of 108 inspections were conducted across various districts, and five food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis to assess their compliance with the prescribed standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As part of the enforcement action, five cases were recommended for proceedings under Section 56 of the Act, which provides for a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh for manufacturing or processing food under insanitary or unhygienic conditions. Additionally, one case was initiated under Section 58 in connection with the sale of expired food articles, attracting a penalty of up to ₹2 lakh, subject to adjudication.

Taking cognizance of violations of food safety requirements, the FSSAI licences of three establishments, viz. M/s Nadam Poultry, Anantnag; M/s Asalam Chicken, Anantnag; and M/s The Frozen Hub, Kothanwal, Jammu, were suspended for violations of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Furthermore, expired food articles worth approximately ₹77,500 were destroyed to prevent their further sale and consumption. In another enforcement action, three cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Act, with a total compounding fee of ₹3,000 realized.

FDA, J&K, reiterated that enforcement activities will continue across all districts, with particular focus on establishments involved in the processing, storage, transportation and retail sale of meat and meat products.

Food Business Operators have been advised to maintain the highest standards of hygiene during the handling, processing and storage of meat and meat products and to ensure that no expired, unsafe or non-compliant food articles are offered for sale. Any violation shall invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Consumers are also urged to remain vigilant and report any instance of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the official email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

GMC staff resume protest over non-finalised service rules



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 16: Non-gazetted employees of five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday resumed their protest over the alleged failure of the government to finalise their Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs).

The employees, representing GMCs Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag said they were compelled to resume their agitation as their long-pending demands continued to remain unresolved despite repeated assurances from the administration.

The Coordination Committee representing the employees said that since 2019, they have been approaching the authorities at different levels, attending meetings and seeking intervention of the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department, but the exercise has failed to yield any tangible outcome.

The employees said they had earlier deferred their protest after being assured that the service rules would be finalised by September 30, 2026. However, the deadline passed without any notification, leaving them with no option but to resume their agitation from November 16.

They said the prolonged uncertainty had deprived hundreds of non-gazetted employees of a clearly defined service structure, regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings and fair opportunities for career progression.

The committee expressed resentment over what it termed "repeated assurances without concrete action," questioning why the matter had remained pending for almost seven years despite changes in the administrative leadership of the department. It pointed out that around six IAS officers have served as Secretary or held the corresponding senior administrative position in the H&ME Department since 2019, but the service rules continued to await finalisation.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

LoP Sharma seeks S-VYASA's support to tackle drug menace in J&K

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 16: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, has urged S-VYASA to extend its yoga-based initiatives to Jammu and Kashmir to help tackle the growing drug menace among youth through de-addiction, meditation and stress-management programmes.

In a statement, Sharma made the appeal while attending the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram in Bengaluru as the Chief Guest on November 16, marking 50 years of its contribution to yoga, research, wellness and holistic healthcare.

The occasion also commemorated the birth centenary of Manneeya H.V. Sheshadri Ji, whose guidance helped shape the institution during its formative years.

Padma Dr. H.R. Nagendra, President of S-VYASA Society, presided over the function. Sharma was received by Chancellor Dr. H.R. Dayananda Swamy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Manjunath Sharma N.K. and Registrar Prof. Sony Kumari. Paying tribute to H.V. Sheshadri Ji, Sharma recalled his life of simplicity, dedication and selfless service, saying his ideals continued to inspire generations of karyakartas across the country.

He also praised Dr. Nagendra for leaving his scientific career at NASA to return to India and dedicate his life to yoga. He observed that a modest yoga centre established five decades ago had evolved into a globally recognised institution, with S-VYASA making contributions to yoga, Ayurveda, research and holistic healthcare.

Highlighting yoga's global recognition, Sharma said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's ancient tradition had emerged as a worldwide movement, with International Yoga Day celebrated across continents. He stressed that achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 required a healthy, disciplined and value-driven younger generation, in shaping which institutions like Prashanti Kutiram had an important role. Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's spiritual heritage, Sharma highlighted its contribution to Kashmir Shaivism through masters such as Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta, and recalled the Vijñā na Bhairava Tantra, which describes 112 meditation techniques.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

AIMSA sets Nov 18 deadline on PG residents' stipend revision

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 16: The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) has given the Jammu and Kashmir government a final deadline of November 18 to resolve the long-pending demand for revision of stipends paid to postgraduate (PG) medical and dental residents, warning that peaceful protests will be launched across the Union Territory from November 19 if the issue remains unaddressed.

AIMSA President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said the association had been repeatedly raising the concerns of PG residents, but the government had yet to take a concrete decision on the matter.

He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene personally and ensure that the genuine demands of resident doctors are addressed without further delay. Dr Khan said the association had now given the government a final opportunity to resolve the issue through dialogue and appropriate administrative intervention, adding that failure to act by November 18 would leave the residents with no option but to resort to peaceful and democratic protests from the following day.

The development comes after AIMSA, during a press conference at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu earlier this month, had sought an urgent revision of the existing stipend structure, highlighting the disparity between the remuneration of PG residents in J&K and several other states.

The association pointed out that postgraduate medical residents in Jammu and Kashmir currently receive Rs 64,000 during their first year and Rs 67,000 in subsequent years, arguing that the amount does not adequately reflect their demanding clinical responsibilities, extended duty hours and contribution to patient care.

AIMSA representatives said that PG residents form an integral part of the healthcare system, performing duties in emergency services, wards and other critical areas while simultaneously undergoing rigorous academic and clinical training.

The association had also submitted a representation to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking his intervention for an early resolution of the issue.

Earlier, AIMSA had set November 12 as the deadline for the government to provide a concrete response and initiate steps towards addressing the stipend-related grievances.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

CAG flags Rs 4.17 lakh tax irregularity in Srinagar firm under VSV scheme

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Nov 16: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has pointed out an alleged irregularity in the implementation of the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas (VSV) Scheme, 2020, in Jammu and Kashmir, with a Srinagar-based private company figuring among the cases where benefits were reportedly granted despite non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

As per CAG Report No. 8 of 2026, the case involves V1 Pvt. Ltd., registered under the jurisdiction of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (PCIT), Srinagar, for the assessment year 2017-18. The audit has quantified the tax impact of the case at Rs 4.17 lakh.

The Srinagar case is among 17 instances identified by the national audit authority across 11 states, involving a combined tax effect of Rs 6.96 crore. In these cases, the Income Tax Department allegedly allowed taxpayers to avail benefits under the scheme despite their ineligibility.



Listed at serial number 16 in Annexure 5.8 of the report, the Srinagar-based firm's identity has been partially withheld, with the audit document referring to it as V1 Pvt. Ltd. The report, however, does not elaborate on the specific circumstances or grounds behind the irregularity in this particular case.

The audit report has also presented data regarding the participation of Jammu and Kashmir taxpayers in the scheme. According to the figures, a total of 585 applications were received from the Union Territory, of which nine cases, accounting for around 1.5 per cent, were selected for detailed scrutiny.

These nine cases were part of a nationwide audit sample comprising 5,335 cases drawn from an overall pool of 1,48,366 applications. Jammu and Kashmir's share in the total applications stood at approximately 0.39 per cent.

At the national level, the CAG examined 5,212 cases and detected violations of the provisions of the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act and Rules in 389 instances, resulting in a revenue impact of Rs 1,675.65 crore.

The reported deficiencies included incorrect computation of disputed tax and payable amounts, non-recovery of interest paid to assessees, errors in calculating tax liabilities in search-related cases and granting scheme benefits to taxpayers who did not meet the prescribed conditions.

Apart from these irregularities, the audit flagged delays in application processing, deficiencies in maintaining records and weaknesses in the department's monitoring and information technology systems.

The CAG has called for stronger oversight by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), uniform implementation of the scheme's provisions and improved internal controls to prevent recurrence of such discrepancies—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Rotten Meat, Rotten Excuses

Two tonnes of rotten meat in two days. First 1,600 kilograms at Budgam Railway Station on Friday, then another 380 kilograms on Saturday. And before that, 2,600 kilograms were seized in Srinagar. The question every Kashmiri is asking is simple and frightening: how much of this filth has already been eaten? How much passed through undetected and reached our kitchens, our restaurants, our children? The details are damning. The meat arrived in ordinary packaging, without ice, without refrigeration, without the mandatory minus 18-degree cold chain. It was leaking blood and emitting a foul smell. It carried no clear documentation, no veterinary certificate, no FSSAI papers, and was not even booked in the name of any identifiable person. And yet it was loaded onto a train and accepted by the railway system. This is not a small lapse. It is a collapse of the basic checks that protect public health. Last year, the same thing happened. There was public outrage. There were assurances of stringent action. Restaurants shut down, businesses suffered, and thousands of livelihoods were hit. And now here we are again, with the same scene repeating. Seizures followed by silence, and then another seizure. This cycle must break. The Food and Drugs Administration has done its job after the fact — 85 inspections, 16 improvement notices, 11 cases recommended for prosecution. The police acted swiftly. But action after detection is not enough when the question is how the consignment entered at all. The KCCI is right: every incoming consignment must face physical inspection, verification of source, veterinary certification and cold-chain checks at railway stations, highways and warehouses. Above all, the guilty must be named. The government must publish the findings of the investigation, fix accountability and punish those responsible under stringent provisions of the law. Public health cannot be protected by press statements. It is protected by consequences. No one should have to fear their plate. That fear, and that anger, must now find an answer.

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative

From Household Income Enhancement To Women-Led Rural Entrepreneurship

Press Information Bureau

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative promotes sustainable household incomes through women's entrepreneurship and diversified livelihoods. It is being implemented under the DAY-NRLM, which leverages the SHG network to provide rural women with financial access, skills and market opportunities. The initiative's implementation reflects a phased approach to policy planning, institutional strengthening and community mobilisation. As of June 2026, the initiative has enabled 3.76 crore Lakhpati Didis, with a target of six crore by March 2029.An independent assessment by IIM Ahmedabad reported a 61 percent rise in average monthly household income and a 61.7 percent increase in average monthly savings in Lakhpati Didi households.

From Subsistence to Sustainable Livelihoods

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative is a flagship effort to strengthen women's economic participation in rural India. It aims to improve household incomes through sustainable livelihood opportunities and enterprise development. The government announced this initiative on 15 August 2023. It initially targeted two crore women from Self-Help Group (SHG) households. The target was subsequently increased to three crore in February 2024. The initiative aims to create six crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029. This target was envisioned in February 2026.

A Lakhpati Didi is an SHG member whose household earns at least 1 lakh annually. The benchmark considers total household income rather than individual earnings. Income from eligible farm and non-farm activities contributes towards this target. It is calculated after expenses and should remain sustainable across agricultural seasons or business cycles.

The initiative builds on the institutional network of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It seeks to move rural women beyond subsistence-based activities. Its approach combines livelihood diversification, financial inclusion, skill development and enterprise support.

3.76 Crore Rural SHG Women Enabled as Lakhpati Didis

By June 2026, 3.76 crore rural SHG women had been enabled as Lakhpati Didis and 5.70 crore women were identified as Potential Lakhpati Didis.

An independent evaluation of the Lakhpati Didi initiative by IIM Ahmedabad, covering 6,531 respondents in 17 states and UTs, reported improvements in household economic conditions. Average monthly household income increased by 61 percent, while average monthly savings increased by 61.7 percent.

Institutional Foundation: DAY-NRLM and the SHG Network

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative operates through DAY-NRLM. The government launched DAY-NRLM in June 2011. It organises women from poor rural households into SHGs. These groups promote regular savings and collective financial activities. They also connect members with banks, credit, training and markets. As of 12 November 2026, DAY-NRLM had mobilised approximately 10.13 crore SHG members into 94.40 lakh SHGs. SHGs function through a wider institutional structure. Village Organisations and Cluster Level Federations strengthen this network. This institutional foundation provided the delivery mechanism for the Lakhpati Didi Initiative. It enabled the government to build upon existing community institutions rather than establish a separate structure.

Evolution and Expansion of the Initiative

The initiative evolved through a series of policy decisions and implementation measures. In 2021, the government advised States to promote sustainable livelihoods and diversify farm and non-farm activities among SHG households. In August 2023, the government announced the target of enabling two crore rural SHG women as Lakhpati Didis. Recognising the need to strengthen community institutions for achieving this goal, the government conducted structured training for community cadres between November 2023 and March 2024. Approximately 5.5 lakh persons received training, which comprised of 12 modules delivered over 15 hours.

In February 2024, the Interim Budget increased the national target to three crore Lakhpati Didis. The Lakhpati Didi portal was also launched during this period. In May 2024, the Digital Aajeevika Register began recording the livelihoods and income of each household. Under this process, women are identified as 'Potential Lakhpati Didis' on the LokOS platform. Trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) prepare business plans for individual households. Households then receive coordinated support in areas such as skills, finance, assets and markets. The national and state missions monitor progress through the same register. By August 2024, one crore women had achieved Lakhpati Didi status.

Further digital interventions followed in July 2025, with the introduction of the Didi Business Plan tool and a financial-literacy application for CRPs. The reported achievement in creating Lakhpati Didis increased to two crore women in August 2025. By December 2025, the initiative had achieved its three-crore target ahead of schedule. Subsequently, in February 2026, the government revised the national target to six crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029.

Identification and Implementation Framework

The initiative follows a community-led identification and implementation process. It provides equal opportunities to SHG members across social and economic categories. Potential Lakhpati Didis are identified through consultations. Trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) facilitate this process. They assess household livelihoods and support women in identifying additional income opportunities. The implementation framework follows several stages:

Identification: Potential beneficiaries are identified through the SHG network and LokOS platform.

Income Assessment: Household livelihoods, income and expenditure details are recorded. The Digital Aajeevika Register provides a common monitoring framework.

Enterprise Planning: CRPs prepare individual business plans. These plans are consolidated to identify common requirements and sectoral opportunities.

Implementation Support: Women receive coordinated assistance over three years. This includes training, finance, livelihood assets and market access.

Monitoring: National and State missions review progress through digital records. State missions also validate reported achievements.

This process connects household-level planning with institutional support. It also allows interventions to respond to local livelihood requirements.

Leadership in Action: From Strategic Planning to Implementation

The initiative's implementation reflects a phased approach to policy planning, institutional strengthening and community mobilisation.

The groundwork began on21October 2021, when the government issued an advisory to States. It encouraged sustainable diversified farm and non-farm livelihoods among SHG households under DAY-NRLM. On 29 December 2021, the government requested States to establish time-bound targets.

Subsequently, a communication dated 10 June 2022 introduced a mobile application-based household income survey to provide an evidence base for identifying household income gaps and planning targeted interventions.

On 6 September 2023, the government organised a National Conclave, in which State missions, development partners and line ministries participated. The government released a Strategy Note on Enabling Two Crore Lakhpati SHG Didis. The strategy adopted an institutional approach by leveraging the existing DAY-NRLM network. The design recognised four critical considerations. Additional credit needed to support viable livelihoods and repayment capacity. Household income required a consistent measurement framework. State capacities varied and required context-specific support. Community institutions also needed adequate training to prepare household-level plans. These considerations were presented to the Prime Minister on 10 October 2023. The Ministry of Rural Development subsequently submitted a detailed action plan to the Prime Minister's Office. It issued implementation action points on 16 October 2023.

Consultations with States also identified 12 priority livelihood sub-sectors. These included bamboo, honey, goat rearing, poultry and tasar silk.

During 2024, the initiative received continued leadership attention through national addresses and direct interactions. The Prime Minister referred to it during Mann Ki Baat and other national addresses. He also interacted with SHG women, drone operators and entrepreneurs. A Performance Review Committee meeting took place in July 2024. The government also organised regional consultations across Guwahati, Srinagar, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Raipur during 2024-25. These engagements facilitated interaction with State missions and enabled discussions on implementation progress.

In January 2025, a Lakhpati Didi tableau featured in the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path. The government conducted refresher training during February-March 2025. In March2025, it initiated discussions with the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and MSME departments. These discussions focused on convergence between their respective schemes. The government also introduced a learning portal and chatbot in October 2025.

The government also strengthened data governance during 2025-26. It introduced checks to identify unusual income entries. State missions were asked to reconcile discrepancies and certify reported figures. This helped strengthen the credibility of progress assessments. In 2026, implementation support expanded further through digital and institutional interventions. An application for individual enterprise loans was introduced on 21 February 2026. An upgraded version of LokOS followed in May 2026. Regional workshops were organised at Gaya and Pushkar. A review involving all States took place during the Rashtriya Grameen Vikas Sammelan on 28-29 June 2026. On 29 June 2026, a platform for producer groups and enterprises and a public Lakhpati Didi dashboard were also launched.

Overall, the implementation approach demonstrates the importance of leadership beyond target-setting. The government combined evidence-based planning with institutional capacity building. It leveraged existing community networks and promoted interdepartmental convergence. Regular reviews, digital tools and data validation strengthened monitoring and accountability. This combination enabled a nationally coordinated initiative to function through decentralised, community-led institutions.

Building Women-Led Rural Prosperity

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative represents an approach to rural livelihood development centred on women. It combines existing community institutions with enterprise planning and financial support. Its focus extends beyond increasing household income. It also promotes diversified livelihoods, entrepreneurship and community leadership. By enabling women to become active economic contributors, the initiative seeks to strengthen rural households. It also creates pathways for broader rural economic development.

The Five Stages Of AI Grief

I started to feel sadness about a world in which human thought would no longer be distinct from machine work

Dani Rodrik

People facing a diagnosis of terminal illness, the Swiss-American psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross famously wrote, experience five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. The same could also be said of our response to AI's rapidly expanding capabilities.

At first, it seemed as if AI would not amount to more than a glorified search engine or a chatbot that does a decent job of simulating a human being. That made it easy enough to deny that the technology would have much impact on our lives or professions.

Then AI started cropping up everywhere and in the most infuriating ways. Its influence appeared in lawyers' briefs with hallucinated case references; in software code with mistakes and security vulnerabilities; in customer service bots that went off script; and (a particular source of irritation for academics like me) in student essays and assignments. These were all good reasons for getting mad.

But then AI got better. The fabrications, hallucinations and mistakes grew rarer. As it became obvious that AI use by students was unstoppable, many started to see an upside in the technology's potential to enhance learning. It was time to negotiate. We would need to make all kinds of adjustments in how we worked but we told ourselves that there were still inherent limits to what AI could do. It could undertake a vast amount of cognitive and analytical work, and much faster than any human, but questions of judgment, taste, values and preferences were still, and would remain, matters for the human mind. AI could execute but we humans would imagine. It was just a matter of getting the division of labor right.

I clung to this view for quite some time and I confess that it gave me much comfort. Alas, AI was not playing ball. Each time I asked my chatbot a question, it came back not only with answers but with much more. It told me what else I should be looking for, suggested a different way of framing my approach and offered a parallel or contrast with some other project on which I had worked (regardless of whether I had consulted AI on it or not). It was sort of annoying but I could not deny that I was receiving valuable insights. I would like to think that I would have arrived at similar thoughts on my own in due time but my chatbot regularly preempted me. Worse still, it clearly could be very imaginative.

Inspired by my colleague Jason Furman's claim that AI tools would do a better job today than professionally trained economists in staff roles at the White House Council of Economic Advisers, I tested my chatbot with a difficult question: "It is 2027 and the country is faced with a crisis in care. There is a shortage of home care aides, accidents and deaths are rising among elderly and disabled people left without help, and workers are dropping out of the labor market to look after loved ones. The CEA chair needs options to present to the president."

I hit enter and the AI promptly prepared a technical memo with detailed recommendations covering federal matching grants, adjustments to Medicaid pay and a caregiver visa program, complete with a fiscal accounting. Exceeding its authority (and, characteristically, the prompt itself), it also outlined a political strategy for selling the program.

Hmm, I thought, my chatbot is clearly very good at operating within the prevailing economic and institutional context. But could it move beyond it? To answer that question, I asked it to develop some out-of-the-box policy alternatives, disregarding political realities. It came back with some interesting possibilities, including a "National Care Corps" that would draft young people to take care of the old and converting underutilized office and mall space to "care districts" that would benefit from scale and agglomeration economies.

Then, on a whim, I asked AI to turn one of my manuscripts into a stand-up comedy routine. What came back made me laugh so hard that I worried about passersby fearing for my mental health. Insight, imagination, humor. This was not part of our bargain, was it?

That is when the depression began to set in. I started to feel sadness about a world in which human thought would no longer be distinct from machine work — and would be needed less day by day. Like the mathematicians who signed a joint letter on the impact of AI on their field, I became alarmed about the loss of "conceptual understanding and insight" that would follow from letting AI take over our work. It was frightening and disorienting.

The next stage, the manual tells us, is acceptance. Here we do have a choice. Unlike a terminal illness, AI and its uses are not outside our control. From the Silicon Valley firms developing the technology and the businesses deploying it to the professional communities that set the norms of appropriate use and the governments that must one day (better sooner than later) regulate it, decisions are being made each day about our relationship to AI. The worst mistake we can make is to accept a world in which we cede too much to it.

Ultimately, we will have to figure out how we restrain the use of AI for the good of humanity. The appropriate analogy here is to performance-enhancing drugs, which temporarily increase human capabilities but eventually harm users. AI is similar, except that it is much more powerful and its commensurately disastrous side effects will show up much later. The temptation to indulge in it freely is, and will remain, very strong.

Homer's Odysseus knew that the sirens promised knowledge but delivered disaster. He had himself tied to the mast of his ship so that he would not succumb to their beautiful song and steer toward them and the cliffs that had claimed so many mariners. The challenge we face with AI is similar: to restrain ourselves from losing our humanity.

Dani Rodrik, professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School, is past president of the International Economic Association and the author of "Shared Prosperity in a Fractured World: A New Economics for the Middle Class, the Global Poor, and Our Climate" (Princeton University Press, 2025). Courtesy: Project Syndicate

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World Heritage Week- 2026 Celebrations

Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums J&K reviews preparations

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Director, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Pranjal J Hazarika Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming World Heritage Week 2026 celebrations across both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Director emphasized the Department's commitment to preserving, promoting and creating widespread public awareness about the rich historical, architectural and cultural legacy of the Union Territory. He directed officials from both divisions to ensure seamless coordination and high levels of public participation—particularly among students, researchers and youth—throughout the week-long observance.

To mark the occasion, the Directorate, as per an official statement, has chalked out an extensive calendar of events across key heritage sites, monuments and museums in both divisions. The planned programmes feature guided heritage walks through historic precincts, ancient temples, cleanliness drives at monuments and sites and heritage trails in Jammu and Srinagar, alongside special museum visits and interactive open houses at the SPS Museum in Srinagar and the Dogra Art Museum in Jammu, offering closer access to rare manuscripts, numismatics, paintings and archaeological artifacts.

In addition, departmental conservators and experts will conduct hands-on conservation and restoration workshops, focusing on traditional preservation techniques and the scientific care of antiquities, complemented by thematic photo and archival exhibitions showcasing rare historical records, treaties and ongoing excavations, as well as youth outreach initiatives including inter-school heritage quizzes, painting competitions and symposiums.

Reviewing the logistical arrangements, Pranjal J Hazarika instructed the concerned officers to ensure proper upkeep, illumination and signage at all protected monuments and museum galleries ahead of the celebrations. He also stressed the importance of collaborating with local educational institutions, cultural bodies and heritage enthusiasts to make World Heritage Week 2026 a meaningful and impactful public outreach initiative.

World Heritage Week is observed annually from November 19th to November 25th to raise awareness about the preservation of cultural heritage and historical monuments worldwide.

District Capex Budget 2026-27

DC Srinagar reviews progress of developmental works

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 16:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday convened a comprehensive meeting of all executing agencies and line Departments here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the physical and financial progress of approved developmental works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Secretary SMC, Tahir Magrey, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud Din, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad Para, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDCL, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District and Sectoral Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook an executing-agency-wise detailed review of the progress achieved in the tendering process, allotment of approved works, commencement of projects and completion of developmental works so far under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. He also took stock of the works taken up under the savings plan.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that 99 percent of the works have already been allotted, with 87 percent works started on ground, while over 60 percent works have been completed on ground.

While appreciating the efforts of the Officers, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to maintain the momentum and further accelerate the pace of work on the ground to ensure timely completion of projects.

The DC underscored the need to make optimal use of the ongoing working season to accelerate the physical execution and financial progress of developmental works. He further stressed strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and stipulated timelines to ensure quality execution, timely completion of projects and effective delivery of developmental benefits to the public.

Reviewing the status of developmental works approved under the savings plan for the current financial year, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to accord these works priority, expedite the execution process and ensure visible progress on the ground within the stipulated timelines, while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

DDMA Meeting

DC reviews disaster mitigation measures in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, Monday convened a meeting with officers of the stakeholder departments to review disaster mitigation measures and preparedness in the district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Additional SP and other senior officers from the concerned departments attended the meeting.

Taking detailed department-wise review, the DC stressed the need for close coordination among the stakeholders to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.

The DC, as per an official statement, directed the NDRF and SDRF teams to conduct regular mock drills to assess preparedness and ensure an effective response during emergencies. He also instructed Tehsildars to make optimum use of locally available resources, maintain a buffer stock of essential supplies and identify suitable lodging and relief centres in their respective areas.

Emphasising a proactive approach, the DC directed all concerned officers to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for disaster preparedness and mitigation. He further stressed the need to hold regular meetings with field-level teams, ensure effective inter-departmental coordination and conduct periodic field inspections to assess preparedness and address any gaps.

The DC underscored that timely planning, effective coordination and preparedness at the grassroots level are crucial for minimising the impact of disasters and ensuring public safety.

DC Ganderbal reviews SANJY 2026 execution, ongoing works

KT News Desk



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: To review the overall execution of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, a meeting was convened Monday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Harshal R. Mahajan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Dr. S. Salah ud Din, ACD Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, besides sectoral heads and other concerned departmental officers.

At the outset, the ADC briefed the Chair on the overall conduct of SANJY 2026, highlighting the arrangements made by various departments, key achievements, and operational aspects of the Yatra.

During the meeting, the concerned departments presented detailed assessments of the works undertaken, funds allocated and utilized, progress of ongoing projects, and challenges encountered during SANJY 2026. The deliberations focused on identifying gaps and areas requiring further improvement, particularly in strengthening transit camp facilities, augmenting water and power supply infrastructure, improving sanitation and waste management, enhancing disaster preparedness and medical facilities along the Baltal Axis.

While appreciating the coordinated efforts of all departments and stakeholders in ensuring the smooth conduct of SANJY 2026, the DC emphasized that the meeting was aimed at undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the works executed, reviewing pending activities and identifying priority interventions well in advance of the next Yatra.

The DC directed all concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite pending works and initiate necessary follow-up on administrative clearances. She further emphasised that the lessons learnt during SANJY 2026 should be duly incorporated into future planning to address identified gaps and further strengthen the infrastructure, facilities and services provided to pilgrims along the Baltal Axis.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of clean Himalayan, hill city initiative

KT News Desk



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, Monday convened a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Clean Himalayan and Hill City Initiative.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, Rakesh Dubey; District Information Officer Neeraj Bhargav and other concerned officers.

Detailed deliberations were held on various components of the initiative, with focus on the effective implementation of activities envisaged under the approved CHHCI Action Plan. The progress, execution strategy and responsibilities of the concerned departments were also discussed.

The DC, as per an official statement, directed the concerned departments and officers to ensure the timely execution of the approved action plan and discharge their assigned responsibilities with proper planning, close inter-departmental coordination and effective monitoring, strictly adhering to the prescribed rules and guidelines.

Emphasising the importance of collective efforts and coordinated action among all stakeholders, the DC called for a mission-oriented approach towards achieving the objectives of the initiative. He stressed that its effective implementation is essential for ensuring sustainable, clean and environmentally responsible development of Patnitop as a premier hill destination.

NALSA SCHEMES

DLSA Budgam inaugurates 60-days drive for implementation

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, Monday inaugurated 60-Days Mega Drive for implementation of NALSA Schemes at Grassroots Level under Phase-I (Part-II) at village Mujpathri Khansahib Budgam with the objective of strengthening awareness and ensuring effective implementation of various legal services and welfare schemes at the grassroots level.

The programme, as per an official statement, was conducted under the supervision of the Chairman, DLSA Budgam, O. P. Bhagat, and the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Tabassum Qadir Parray.

Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Malik and Advocate Aamir Hamid Mir, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Budgam attended the programme as resource persons and deliberated on the objectives and significance of various NALSA schemes. They highlighted the importance of taking legal services and welfare initiatives to the doorsteps of the common people, particularly vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

The resource persons also sensitised the participants about the role of legal services institutions in ensuring access to justice, awareness of legal rights and the availability of free legal aid to eligible beneficiaries. Emphasis was laid on the active involvement of Paralegal Volunteers (PLVs) in identifying eligible beneficiaries, disseminating information and facilitating access to various government welfare schemes and legal services.

The programme witnessed the participation of PLVs and members of the general public, who were encouraged to actively contribute towards the successful implementation of NALSA schemes at the grassroots level.

Through such initiatives, DLSA Budgam reiterates its commitment to strengthening legal awareness, promoting access to justice and ensuring that the benefits of legal services and welfare schemes reach every eligible individual.

DC Shopian chairs Civil-Military Liaison Meeting

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Monday chaired a Civil-Military Liaison Meeting to discuss various issues requiring collective action and consensus among the stakeholders.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Senior Commanding Officer, 02 Rajput, Zawoora Manloo; Commanding Officer, 44 RR, Lassipora; Commanding Officer, 55 RR, Panzgam; Commanding Officer, 34 RR, Behigagh; Commanding Officer, 14 Bn CRPF, Batpora Shopian; Commanding Officer, 178 Bn CRPF, Zainapora; Officer Commanding, 52 RCC, C/o 56 APO; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian; ASP Shopian, ACR Shopian, SDM Zainapora, DFO Shopian, all Tehsildars and other concerned officers from civil administration and Army.

The agenda included issues related to requisition, de-requisition and land transfer. Detailed deliberations were held on each agenda item, with particular focus on issues requiring coordinated action for their early resolution. District-wise mutation, compensation and other important matters requiring action from the civil and Army authorities were also discussed threadbare.

The DC directed the concerned officers to take necessary action at their respective levels at the earliest to ensure timely disposal of the issues.

He exhorted all stakeholders to maintain seamless coordination and ensure timely sharing of information on all concerned matters for effective resolution of issues and strengthening civil-military cooperation.

JKEDI Pulwama commences Entrepreneurship Development Programmes

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir National Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKNRLM), organised two six-day Entrepreneurship Development Programmes at Aglar, Pulwama, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

The program has been designed to equip rural youth and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills in business planning, opportunity identification, financial management, marketing, and enterprise sustainability. These initiatives form part of JKEDI's ongoing efforts to promote self-employment and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural areas of the Union Territory.

The program, as per an official statement, witnessed presence and active engagement of various dignitaries including Mohammad Ashraf, Block Development Officer, Shadimarg/Ichegoza; Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Sajad Wali, Principal Govt Hr. Sec. Litter; Dr Imran Ahmad, District Officer NRLM Pulwama; Other dignitaries and staff members of various allied Departments.

Experts interacted with the participants. They encouraged the trainees to embrace entrepreneurship as a viable career option and urged them to take their businesses to the next level.

Tech Fusion 2026 begins at KU's Zakura Campus

Focuses on drones, robotics, IoT, 5G

KT News Desk

Srinagar, November 16: The Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), commenced Tech Fusion 2026 – 'Learn, Build, Innovate', a five-day programme of hands-on workshops on emerging technologies and engineering practices.

The programme aims to give students practical exposure to new technologies, strengthen their technical skills and help them understand how classroom concepts are applied in real-world engineering. It also seeks to encourage innovation, problem-solving and interaction between academic institutions and industry.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, as per KU statement, said that engineering education must provide students with opportunities to learn by doing and working with emerging technologies. She stressed on the importance of practical training in preparing students for changing professional requirements.

"Our students must have the opportunity to turn their classroom knowledge into practical skills and innovative solutions," she said.

In his remarks Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that such initiatives help students gain confidence in working with new technologies and understand their practical applications.

In his address Controller of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman, highlighted the importance of strengthening industry-academia linkages and said that closer engagement between educational institutions and industry can help align academic learning with professional requirements and expose students to the skills needed in the workplace.

Earlier, Director IoT, Zakura Campus, KU, Prof. Mohammad Tariq Banday, in his welcome address, said that Tech Fusion 2026 was designed to give students practical experience in emerging areas of engineering and technology.

The five-day programme includes five specialised workshop categories: Drone Technology, Hands-on Robotics and IoT (Internet of Things), Hands-on 5G Systems, Engineering through Practice and Experimental Techniques in Civil Engineering.

Training programme inaugurated for SHG Members of Imaan Cluster to operate Rural Mart in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 16: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Monday inaugurated a training programme at the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Bandipora, for selected members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) belonging to Imaan Cluster of Bonakoot Block, who have been selected to operate the Rural Mart at Pethkoot.

The training programme, as per an official statement, aims to equip the selected SHG members with essential entrepreneurial skills, business management techniques and practical knowledge required for the effective establishment and operation of the Rural Mart.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Bandipora emphasised the importance of skill development and capacity building in empowering rural women and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He urged the participants to actively engage in the training and make the best use of the opportunity to strengthen their entrepreneurial capabilities.

He further highlighted that Rural Marts can play a significant role in providing market linkages to local products, promoting rural entrepreneurship and strengthening the economic prospects of rural communities.

The programme is expected to enhance the managerial and operational capabilities of the selected SHG members, enabling them to efficiently manage the Rural Mart and contribute towards strengthening the rural economy of the district.

President Murmu to attend Mizoram University convocation on Nov 30

PTI

Aizawl, Nov 16: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Mizoram to attend the convocation of Mizoram University (MZU) at Tanhril on the western outskirts of Aizawl on November 30, an official said on Monday.

Murmu is scheduled to arrive in the state on November 28 and leave for New Delhi after attending the university's convocation on November 30, the official said.

There is no official engagement of the President on November 29, a Sunday.

Preparations for the President's visit gathered pace on Monday with a high-level coordination meeting chaired by Mizoram Chief Secretary Khilli Ram Meena.

The meeting, attended by senior administrative, police and university officials, reviewed arrangements relating to security, protocol, logistics, infrastructure, health services, communication and traffic management.

Director General of Police Sharad Agarwal, MZU Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, Aizawl Deputy Commissioner and senior police officers overseeing Aizawl, traffic and security were among those present.

The departments and agencies concerned have been assigned specific responsibilities and directed to put the arrangements in place with immediate effect, officials said.

Museum at PM Modi's hometown Vadnagar wins prestigious Red Dot Award 2026 in Germany

PTI



Ahmedabad, Nov 16: An archaeological experiential museum at Vadnagar, the hometown of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat's Mehsana district, has won the prestigious 'Red Dot: Best of the Best Award 2026' in Berlin, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said on Monday.

The archaeological experiential museum, Anant Anadi Vadnagar, is constructed over an area of 1,35,000 sq ft and was completed in 2025. According to its official website, Anant Anadi Vadnagar is India's largest archaeological excavation experiential museum, showcasing ancient artefacts and immersive exhibits that tell a story of civilisations that shaped our world.

"Red Dot is one of the world's most respected design honours. With this win, Vadnagar becomes India's first and only museum to receive the Best of the Best award, and the second museum from Gujarat to be honoured by Red Dot after Smritivan (at Bhuj in Kutch district)," Patel said in a post on X.

Calling Vadnagar a living testament to India's civilizational continuity, with over 2,500 years of uninterrupted human habitation, the CM further said the museum brings this journey alive through more than 5,000 excavated artefacts and an excavation site that visitors can walk through, layer by layer of history.

Patel maintained the global recognition reflects the Prime Minister's vision of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' (development along with heritage), and congratulated everyone associated with this proud achievement for Gujarat and India.

Located about 100 km from Ahmedabad, Vadnagar is a historic town with a population of approximately 28,000.

"From the timeless legacy of our civilisation to global design excellence, Vadnagar is making history! Anant Anadi Vadnagar - Archaeological Experiential Museum has earned the prestigious Red Dot: Best of the Best Award 2026 in Berlin, Germany," Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi tweeted.

"Making India proud, Vadnagar becomes the country's first and only museum to receive this distinguished honour, placing Gujarat's heritage on the global design map. From our glorious past to global recognition, Gujarat continues to create history!" he said.

The museum is managed by the Gujarat government's Directorate of Museums.

'Never maintained a diary, mostly from memory': Sonia on recalling details in memoir

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday said she never maintained a diary in her life and the details in her memoir are mostly from her memory.

Speaking at the official launch of her memoir, "Belonging: A Journey of Love", Sonia Gandhi said she never documented her experiences in a diary while growing up or in her political career.

Asked about her ability to recall details from her life for her memoir, Sonia Gandhi said, "No, I have never kept a diary; it's a big mistake. Never when I was growing up, and even worse, never in the course of my political career."

"I have a few handwritten notes, perhaps three, four, or five, from the time I was leader of the opposition during the Vajpayee government. Apart from that, nothing," she said.

"These days, you have internet and all but basically yes, I remember," she added.

In his remarks at the event, her son Rahul Gandhi also pointed to her "perfect memory".

"I constantly have this argument with my mother: 'You have a perfect memory.' My mother says, 'No, I don't have a good memory.' She never, never, never forgets anything, except one thing.

"If you ask her what happened when Papa died, she has no memory of it. What you read in the book has been pieced together by my sister and her," Rahul Gandhi said.

"And so this wonderful life, this wonderful love that they had, in one day it disappeared," he said.

Several INDIA bloc leaders, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and BJP leader Amarinder Singh, attended the launch of Sonia Gandhi's memoir here.

The book, published by HarperCollins India, was released on November 10 to a lot of enthusiasm from readers, as they have been lining up at prominent bookstores to pick up copies of the memoir, while many have been ordering it online.

While the BJP has accused Sonia Gandhi of "whitewashing" events in the book, Congress leaders have hailed the memoir for being candid and lauded the former party chief for her achievements.

"Belonging: A Journey of Love" is a personal memoir, with politics providing the background or "a kind of framework", as she writes in the book.

Edu Ministry invites applications for JNU VC's post



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Ministry of Education on Monday invited applications for the appointment of the next vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), according to an official notification.

The move comes ahead of the end of the tenure of incumbent Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit in February next year. According to the notification, applicants should be distinguished academicians with at least 10 years of experience as a professor in a university or 10 years of experience in a reputed research or academic administrative organisation, along with evidence of academic leadership.

The candidate should possess a high level of competence, integrity, moral standing and institutional commitment, it said.

The notification said candidates should preferably not be more than 65 years of age on the closing date for receipt of applications. The appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a committee constituted under the provisions of the JNU Act.

The last date for submitting applications is December 15.

India envisions visual library of stolen antiquities; to leverage AI for scientific comparison

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: The culture ministry has envisioned creating a "visual library of stolen antiquities" and leveraging the power of AI to carry out a "scientific comparison" with images of any object suspected to have been illegally taken out of India, whose results can then form a basis for a timely intervention, a top official said on Monday.

Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal said this during an interaction with reporters at the Kartavya Bhawan here after announcing the launch of an "AI-powered semantic search engine" integrated with the website of the ministry which allows users to access "authentic information on Indian culture" sourced from its nearly 65 digital platforms through a single smart interface.

Aggarwal said work had begun last year on the integrated search engine, which has an associated chatbot, 'Sanskriti', and it went live on November 16.

The latest initiative, along with the Gyan Bharatam Mission, to document and digitally preserve ancient manuscripts, is among the steps taken by the ministry to leverage AI for "positive use".

India was the co-chair of the AI summit in Paris in 2025 and hosted the summit in Delhi this year, and it is at the forefront of "responsible use of AI".

"We are looking at more instances of AI integration, and we are looking at more use cases. One of them is museum objects, to have a library of all stolen antiquities and which one can then use this (AI-based) facility to provide information to all our missions and institutions abroad, and can have a better visibility of these things," Aggarwal said.

India in the past decade or so has pushed for repatriation of



stolen antiquities.

Asked if the government was planning to set up a digital database of stolen antiquities, the secretary explained what the ministry has envisioned.

"If you have a library of stolen objects or a visual library, you also need to prove that an object in a gallery (somewhere) or seen at an art auction is the same object. So, there you have to compare the dimensions, the exact indentation that is there in the original object, and whether that same thing is there in the object on display.

"So, this kind of comparison can be done by the use of AI," he said.

Aggarwal said that to correlate, one needs to have a "proof or evidence" that has to be generated.

"And, if you have a technology built in your system, you can generate a proof -- the object's picture is taken, it's put in the AI engine and comparison is done in a very scientific way, then a definite answer can come that this is actually the same object or there is some difference," he added.

Asked if a physical verification will also be done, the top official said, "Of course, that is the legal process. But, you can halt an auction, use the technology at the right moment."

"So, there are a lot of positive things that we can do. And, we are looking at various angles of positive use of AI. This is one of the many that we can do," he said.

Sometimes galleries or collector who have taken antiquities long time ago, they are ready to give it back. So, there it is a "diplomatic exchange".

On the Netherlands returning the 11th-century Chola dynasty copper plates to India in May, Aggarwal said they were known to be of Indian origin, and repatriation happened as part of "diplomatic efforts" between the two countries.

"But, we stopped auction of stolen Chola bronzes in the Netherlands, and we got repatriation done by signing an agreement with the concerned art gallery. And, we have repatriated these Chola bronzes to temples in Tamil Nadu. That was basically a stolen object," he said, without specifying details.

However, sometimes they are "stolen, and you catch them when they are being resold in an auction or something".

"There it is a major requirement that... you have very less time to prove that it is the same object that is the stolen object. So, if you have the help of technology, you can prove and stop an auction... when they don't declare (provenance) and try to sell," he said.

The ministry said a vendor was onboarded for the project on the AI-powered semantic search engine, and it is built on an open-source model.

Built with BHASHINI, India's AI-based multilingual language translation platform, the result can be accessed in 22 scheduled languages.

Aggarwal said the system works like a hub-and-spoke model, with the ministry website being the hub and all the 60-odd portals associated with the ministry being the spokes.

"Only information available on these websites will throw up in the engine's search results, and it will also provide the links to the portal where the information will be sourced from," he said, adding that efforts are to keep the platform updated with the latest information.

This kind of facility is "very unique" and is available in only a few countries such as Chile, he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Body, weapon recovered

three personnel. The attackers fled the spot following the attack, triggering a massive search operation across Kulgam and neighbouring districts.

Special checkpoints and barricades have also been established at several locations to track down those responsible for the attack. (KNO)

Jawans' courage

security forces launched an operation to track down the assailants.

Earlier, inaugurating the T20 tournament, Khirwar said more than 100 teams had applied for participation, of which 16 were shortlisted due to limited capacity. "This is our normalcy. Our youth want to participate fully. Like in the rest of the nation, we participate in sporting events and live a normal life," he said. (KNO)

623 MW power deficit

of 34,400 MWh. However, the power availability fluctuates from 29,000, 31000 MWh. There is a deficiency of nearly 4400 MWh."

The official further said that on an average, there is a power deficiency of nearly 150 MW.

"On an average, we have a power availability of 1280 MW against a total requirement of 1435 MW," he said.

HE further said, "Since yesterday, the peak power demand has increased by 50 MW. Till yesterday we were facing a peak non-solar power demand of 1650 MW which increased to 1700 MW today."

As already reported by KNO, Hydro power generation in Jammu and Kashmir declines by nearly 80 percent.

An official had informed that the hydel power generation from the J&K owned projects was fluctuating between 250-280 Megawatt (MW).

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

Kashmir braces

Keng said snowfall accumulation of 4–5 inches or even higher could not be ruled out at a few locations in the higher reaches.

He added that Jammu and Kashmir is all set to witness dry weather for the next 10–15 days following the passage of the Western Disturbance.

Meanwhile, night temperatures continued to remain below normal at several places across Kashmir, with Gulmarg and Pahalgam recording the season's lowest minimum temperature at minus 3.5 degrees Celsius each, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar.

As per the latest temperature data issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, available with KNO, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 degrees below the seasonal normal of 1.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg's minimum temperature was 2.9 degrees below its seasonal normal of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a departure of 2.3 degrees below its normal of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius against the normal of 1.1 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara settled at minus 0.2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 0.3 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of 1.4 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 degrees below its seasonal normal of 2.2 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.6 degrees Celsius against the normal of 13.2 degrees Celsius, while Katra settled at 12 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded a low of 8 degrees Celsius, Batote 7 degrees and Bhaderwah 2 degrees Celsius. KNO)

44% consultant posts

that 306 Medical Officers have recently been posted in peripheral and far-flung areas of J&K. It added that 81 more Medical Officers will be appointed and posted after the completion of verification by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). (KNO)

Man found dead

Zainul Abidin (70), son of Abdul Hakeem, a resident of Bihar.

Meanwhile, the cause of death is being ascertained and further investigation has been initiated. (KNO)

Govt approves

was taken up during a District Development Board meeting. Its foundation stone was subsequently laid by the then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in January 2018.

Initially, the complex was planned to accommodate multiple government offices under one roof, with the objective of improving public service delivery and reducing the need for people to visit different offices spread across Srinagar.

However, its execution remained delayed due to financial and administrative issues.

The matter was brought up in the Legislative Assembly in March 2025, when Education Minister Sakina Itoo informed the House that Rs 9.82 crore had already been spent on the project. She said the original technically vetted cost stood at Rs 48.23 crore, while a revised Detailed Project Report amounting to Rs 80.26 crore had been submitted by the executing agency and was under consideration. The pile foundation work had also been completed.

The project received fresh attention in September 2026 after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reviewed stalled projects under the Revenue Department and directed concerned departments and district administrations to resolve pending issues and initiate work on languishing and new Mini Secretariat projects within a month. The Batamaloo project was among those reviewed.

Its proposed development also forms part of the broader urban planning vision under the Srinagar Master Plan-2035, which envisages shifting several government offices from central Srinagar to Batamaloo to ease congestion in the city.

Among the offices proposed for relocation are those of the Forest Department, Old Assembly Complex, Old Secretariat Complex, Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Directorate of School Education Kashmir and Agriculture and Horticulture departments.

The Master Plan also proposes shifting the Civil Secretariat to Nowgam along the National Highway Bypass, although a final decision regarding relocation of the existing Secretariat has not been established.

The latest government order has specified a set of conditions for executing the project, including compliance with procurement procedures, availability of funds, technical sanction, statutory permissions and environmental requirements.

It has also made provisions for third-party quality assessment, geo-tagging of construction activities and photographic and videographic documentation to monitor progress.

The executing agency has been directed to complete the work within the prescribed timeline while avoiding cost escalation and delays. Regular progress reporting through the PROOF App and appropriate project-monitoring software has also been made mandatory to ensure transparency and effective monitoring. (KNO)

Finance Dept tells

electricity bills to prevent the accumulation of arrears and avoid any additional burden on the government exchequer.

The Finance Department has directed all Directors Finance and Financial Advisors to ensure strict compliance with these instructions.

According to details, Rs 763.91 crore was budgeted and released under Detailed Head 008 (Electricity Charges) for various departments during 2026-27. Against this, an expenditure of Rs 495.89 crore had been incurred, leaving an unspent balance of Rs 268.03 crore available for the settlement of electricity dues. (KNO)

Govt notifies new

in both rural and urban schools of Kashmir division.

As already reported by KNO, amid freezing morning temperatures, parents of school children of winter zones of Kashmir division were demanding for a change in school timings.

The parents of school children were urging the School Education Department to revise the timing in educational institutes of the region from 10 am to 3 Pm in Srinagar and 10:30Am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits.

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

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

'Diabetes Simplified

was formally released by an eminent panel comprising Prof. Ab. Wahid, Prof. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shariq Masoodi, Prof. Nazir Mushtaq, Saleem Beigh and Prof. A.R. Nasti.

The panel emphasised the importance of locally relevant publications in promoting health literacy, awareness and sensitisation among the Kashmiri population. They appreciated the authors for bringing scientific knowledge closer to the community by incorporating local cultural and dietary realities.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. Shahnawaz Mir expressed gratitude to his teachers, students, patients, researchers and all those who contributed to and supported the initiative.

The gathering also highlighted the role of dietary innovation and physical activity in diabetes prevention and management, with emphasis on high-fibre foods and low-glycaemic-index alternatives.

Information was shared about 'Sugar Cut Rice', a low-GI rice initiative by Aadil Jeelani, as an example of efforts to explore healthier food choices for the community.

A walking guidebook titled 'Five Miles', authored by Dr. Nasir Shamas, was also distributed among participants. The book aims to encourage daily walking, fitness and a healthier lifestyle through walks along Kashmir's heritage routes, combining physical well-being with an appreciation of the region's cultural legacy.

The event witnessed participation from doctors, researchers, innovators, writers, historians, journalists, conservationists, students, dieticians and entrepreneurs, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of efforts to address diabetes. (KNO)

TN CM Vijay takes part in Sonia's memoir release



PTI

Chennai, Nov 16: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay attended the official launch of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, in the national capital on Monday.

Vijay, who was the sole non-Congress Chief Minister invited to the event, was greeted upon his arrival by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and seated in the front row alongside Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

The visit carries significant political weight due to the ongoing Mekedatu dam dispute with neighbouring Karnataka, whose Chief Minister D K Shivakumar also attended the launch event.

CM Vijay is expected to wrap up his engagements in the national capital and board his return flight to Chennai before midnight.

Videos of the seating arrangements with Chief Minister Vijay beside Rahul, and Akhilesh Yadav seated next to Sonia, in the front row while Congress Chief Ministers were relegated to the second row, went viral.

At the event, Vijay was seen interacting with top Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and his presence in New Delhi is viewed as a significant moment in the shifting dynamics of state-level and national coalition.

He departed from Chennai via a chartered flight around 2 pm and is scheduled to return to Chennai late tonight.

The CM has no other engagement in the national capital, and the launch event is restricted to invited special guests, the ruling party and Congress party sources said.

While the main opposition DMK has already demanded that a delegation of elected representatives from Tamil Nadu be taken to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi following an all-party meeting over the Mekedatu issue, AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami has urged Vijay to take up the lifeline issue of the state with the Congress top brass.

Vijay should apprise Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge about Karnataka CM Shivakumar's comments in public against Tamil Nadu over the Mekedatu issue, he said.

The TN CM should exert pressure on the Congress party leadership to ensure implementation of the Supreme Court orders on the overall Cauvery issue, the AIADMK chief said.

Also, Vijay must urge that the directives of the Cauvery Water Management Authority on release of water to Tamil Nadu be complied with by Karnataka, Palaniswami, a former chief minister, said.

Hitting out at Vijay, DMK president M K Stalin said that the Tamil Nadu government should no longer remain silent on the Mekedatu dam issue, as the Karnataka CM had once again started speaking seriously about building it.

The former chief minister said Shivakumar had spoken about the dam issue on November 13 in the presence of PM Modi at a government event.

Shivakumar's remark that nobody would be able to stop the construction of the dam had caused considerable concern among farmers in Tamil Nadu, the DMK chief said. AMMK chief TTV Dhinakaran said Vijay should apply "due political pressure" through the Congress top brass to ensure and bring to an end the proposal of Karnataka to build the Mekedatu dam across the Cauvery River. If Vijay misses the opportunity to take up the matter eyeing power and office, that will be a huge betrayal of the Tamil Nadu farmers, he said.

CPI(M) state secretary P Shanmugam slammed Karnataka CM Shivakumar for often repeating that the Mekedatu dam will be built.

Tamil Maanila Congress chief, GK Vaasan, said the Karnataka CM distorting the Supreme Court judgement on the issue to support his case for the Mekedatu dam was not acceptable.

India's ties with ASEAN at heart of Act East Policy: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: India's relationship with ASEAN countries is at the heart of its Act East Policy and occupies a central place in its MAHASAGAR vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he embarked on a two-day visit to the Philippines.

Modi is visiting Manila on Monday and Tuesday to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. In a post on X, the prime minister said, "India attaches immense importance to close friendship with ASEAN nations. I'm also looking forward to interacting with the Indian community based in the Philippines."



In his departure statement, the PM said India's ties with ASEAN, rooted in centuries of civilisational exchanges, have evolved into a dynamic partnership spanning trade, connectivity, maritime security, technology and people-to-people relations.

Modi said he looks forward to working with fellow leaders at the ASEAN-India Summit to build on the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and give further momentum to shared aspirations for growth, connectivity and prosperity. He said the East Asia Summit will provide an important platform for discussing regional and global challenges and that he will exchange views with participating leaders on strengthening peace, stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

The prime minister will also interact with the Indian community in the Philippines, whose contributions, he said, strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

He expressed confidence that the visit will impart fresh energy to India's partnership with ASEAN and reinforce the collective commitment to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

In a social media post, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said PM Modi has departed for Manila.

BJP calls Samajwadi Party 'anti-Dalit' after R G Yadav's remarks about SCs

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: The BJP on Monday called the Samajwadi Party "anti-Dalit", alleging that its general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav "insulted" the members of the Scheduled Castes by calling them "fools" at a 'Dalit Sammelan' in Agra.

Addressing reporters at the BJP headquarters here, BJP vice president Lal Singh Arya also accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) of organising the Dalit Sammelan under a conspiracy to "deceive" the members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the run-up to the state assembly polls early next year.

The BJP's response came a day after Yadav reportedly made an objectionable remark while reprimanding people who were creating a commotion during his speech at the event.

"Ye jo shor macha rahe hain, aap log party ke smarthak ho, ya party ke virodhi ho. Shant rahiye wahan pe. Moorkh kahin ke. (To those of you making all this noise – whether you are supporters or opponents of the party. Please keep quiet. You fools," the SP Rajya Sabha MP is believed to have said.

Reacting sharply to the SP leader's remark, Arya said, "The words spoken by Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav were deeply distressing. Driven by a hunger for power, they organised a Maha Dalit Sammelan in Agra yesterday to garner Dalit votes.

"From the stage, Ram Gopal Yadav insulted members of the Dalit community by calling them 'fools'."

The SP was playing a "drama of being well-wishers of the Dalits" by organising the event under a conspiracy to deceive them, the BJP leader charged.

"I would like to state here that the Samajwadi Party is attempting to deceive the Dalits, the poor and the backward classes in the name of 'PDA'. In reality, it is in love with power and is obsessed with holding onto its position," Arya said.

"The Samajwadi Party is anti-Dalit, anti-Jyotiba Phule, anti-Savitribai Phule, anti-Babasaheb Ambedkar, anti-Kanshiram and anti-women," the senior BJP leader added.

Arya said Yadav's remark at the event was an "insult to the entire Dalit community".

"The entire Dalit Samaj in the country is watching. Dalits, not just in Uttar Pradesh but across the entire country, will not accept such conspiracy by the Samajwadi Party under any circumstance," he added.

The BJP leader alleged that the SP rechristened various government schemes, named after Dalit icons

'Just transition must have whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approach'



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: India has consistently emphasised that "just transition" must have a whole-of-economy and whole-of-society approach, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said during his address at the fourth Annual High-level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition on the sidelines of COP31 in Antalya, Turkiye, on Monday.

Just transition refers to the approach of moving towards a low-carbon and sustainable economy, while ensuring that no one is left behind or pushed behind due to the process.

Yadav also highlighted that adequate financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building are essential to enable developing countries to implement their national priorities. During his address, he said, "India's experience demonstrates that there can be no one-size-fits-all approach."

The minister cited examples of sub-national heat action and disaster management plans, which address vulnerabilities of workers and communities, as well as the country's renewable-energy expansion that seeks to combine low-carbon development with affordable energy access. "These examples underline the need to integrate just transition considerations across adaptation, livelihoods and development planning," he said.

Reaffirming India's support for operationalising a two-tier, member countries-guided Just Transition Mechanism, the minister stressed that it must be responsive to the needs of developing countries and respectful of national sovereignty and diverse national circumstances.

The mechanism should build on existing efforts, avoid duplication and facilitate access to adequate means of implementation, according to Yadav.

Politics of performance replaced policy paralysis during PM Modi's rule: Amit Shah

PTI

Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nov 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said politics of performance replaced policy paralysis of earlier times during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule since 2014.

He was speaking at the Ramoji Excellence Awards function instituted by Ramoji Group in memory of its founder and veteran journalist Ramoji Rao here. Shah heaped praises on Ramoji Rao, saying he fought for values and established them.



Recalling the stellar contributions of Ramoji Rao, Shah said the former's contributions in journalism can only be compared with that of veteran Ramnath Goenka. The union minister said abolition of Article 370, ending Naxalism, ensuring national security and economic progress were among the good work carried out during the Modi rule.

While the development forecast of many countries has declined amid ongoing wars, the Moody's Ratings raised India's growth forecast, he said.

Citing World Bank report, he said 50 crore Indians emerged out of poverty during PM Modi's regime.

He also highlighted the achievements of the NDA government, including growth in exports, connectivity and development of new airports. Some persons become institutions themselves because of work during their lifetime in which the institutions continue to progress even after they leave the world. Ramoji Rao is one such extraordinary personality, Shah said.

"Ramoji Rao fought for values. He established values," he added.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his deputy Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Governor Abdul Nazeer, Union ministers Kishan Reddy, K Ram Mohan Naidu and Bh Srinivasa Varma attended the event.

Sensex jumps 512.34 points; Nifty up 146.80 points on foreign fund inflows

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 16: Benchmark stock index Sensex climbed 512 points while Nifty settled near 25,300 on Monday following gains in financial, FMCG and oil & gas shares amid sustained foreign fund inflows and lower crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 512.34 points, or 0.63 per cent, to settle at 82,104.79. During the day, it surged 719.2 points, or 0.88 per cent, to 82,311.65.

The 50-share NSE Nifty closed up 146.80 points, or 0.58 per cent, at 25,291.10.

From the Sensex pack, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Eternal, Power Grid, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major winners.

Tata Steel, Maruti, InterGlobe Aviation and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,736.55 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors made a strong comeback to Indian equities in the first fortnight of November, pumping in Rs 84,290 crore after two consecutive months of net outflows, amid a global AI sell-off, falling crude prices and

Adani begins production of India's longest 91.2-metre wind turbine blades at Gujarat plant

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 16: Adani Wind has begun manufacturing India's longest onshore wind turbine blades, measuring 91.2 metres, at its integrated facility in Mundra, Gujarat, while securing certification for its 5 MW wind turbine platform, paving the way for serial production.

Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has developed the blades for its MWL185-5.0 MW wind turbine platform, which has received certification from German testing and certification body WindGuard Certification GmbH.

The turbine features a rotor diameter of 185 metres, the largest in India, and a hub height of 140 metres. Its rotor sweeps nearly 26,600 square metres, equivalent to more than three and a half standard football pitches. The larger rotor is designed to capture more wind energy, including at sites with low and moderate wind speeds, potentially expanding the locations suitable for commercial wind power generation.

"Producing India's longest wind turbine blade and securing certification for our 5 MW platform mark an important milestone for Adani Wind and the country's wind manufacturing sector. Larger blades and higher-capacity turbines enable each machine to capture more energy, including at sites with lower wind speeds.

"This helps in broadening the geography available for wind generation. We are committed to developing and manufacturing advanced wind technology in India to support the country's growing clean energy needs," Adani Wind Chief Executive Officer Milind Kulkarni said.

WindGuard certified the MWL185-5.0 MW platform following prototype testing at its installation site in Mundra. The certification confirms compliance with the internationally recognised IEC 61400 series of standards covering wind turbine design, testing and manufacturing. The platform has been developed in partnership with German technology company W2E (Wind to Energy). The latest blades mark an



expansion of Adani Wind's manufacturing capabilities at Mundra, where it currently produces blades measuring 78.6 metres and 80.5 metres. Manufacturing blades of this scale requires advances in design, materials engineering, production precision and handling infrastructure.

Adani Wind has three turbine platforms listed under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Approved List of Models and Manufacturers for wind turbines. Its MWL160-5.2 MW platform has crossed 2 GW of installations at Khavda in Gujarat, which is home to the world's largest renewable energy project, according to the company. The company said its cumulative orders from independent power producers outside the Adani Group had exceeded 1 GW following recent order wins, indicating demand beyond its parent group's renewable energy projects.

Adani Wind currently has manufacturing capacity of 2.25 GW at Mundra and plans to expand it further. It also operates a technology centre in Rostock, Germany, and has a dedicated research and development team in India.

The company is the only Indian wind turbine manufacturer included in BloombergNEF's Global Top 15 turbine manufacturers ranking for 2025, it said. The development comes as India seeks to strengthen its domestic renewable energy manufacturing ecosystem and reduce dependence on imported equipment. Larger turbines and longer blades are increasingly important for improving the efficiency and commercial viability of wind projects, particularly at sites with less favourable wind conditions.

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China says Xi-Trump-Putin trilateral meeting has 'ground-breaking significance'

PTI



Beijing, Nov 16 : China on Monday described the first-ever trilateral meeting between the presidents of China, the US and Russia, scheduled to be held on November 19 in Shenzhen, as an event of "ground-breaking significance".

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump in Shenzhen on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

"This will be the first ever face-to-face meeting between the Chinese, Russian and US heads of state," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in a media briefing here on the trilateral summit.

"The three presidents will have an in-depth exchange of views on safeguarding world peace and enabling strategic stability in major-country relations. The summit is of ground-breaking significance," Mao said.

China, Russia, and the US are founding members of the United Nations and permanent members of the Security Council. In history, the three countries fought side by side to win the World Anti-Fascist War, she said.

"Under the current circumstances, the three countries shoulder important responsibilities to work together in addressing global challenges and promoting world peace and stability," she said, adding that it is in the interest of the three countries to strengthen communication, manage differences and maintain stable relations.

"This is also the expectation of the international community and is conducive to global stability," she said.

The 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held on November 18-19, in Shenzhen, with leaders of the 21-member grouping attending.

The meeting would mark the first time the presidents of the three powerful countries have held a trilateral summit.

Discussions at the meeting are expected to focus on a range of global issues, including conflicts, artificial intelligence and nuclear arms reduction.

The proposed discussion on nuclear weapons comes amid concerns over the future of global arms control following the expiry of the New START treaty between the US and Russia in February.

The last remaining major bilateral nuclear arms control agreement between the two countries, the New START treaty imposed legally binding limits on their strategic nuclear arsenals. Its expiry has left the world's two largest nuclear powers without such binding limits. "The president has made it clear that, among other topics, he will discuss the reduction of nuclear weapons in the world, whose proliferation President Trump believes is very dangerous," White House spokeswoman Olivia Wales told the media last week.

Beijing has shown little enthusiasm for trilateral nuclear arms control, citing its far smaller arsenal than those of Washington and Moscow, and has repeatedly stressed that it does not subscribe to a model of great power co-governance in global affairs.

The Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported that the discussions could also explore possible commitments on regulating the use of artificial intelligence in nuclear arsenals as part of a broader global governance agenda.

The three countries had engaged in weeks of discussions to finalise the agenda and protocol for the talks, the report said.

Iran is another potential subject of discussion at the trilateral meeting. China is Iran's largest trading partner and the biggest buyer of its crude oil, giving Beijing a significant economic stake in the conflict involving Tehran.

A senior US official said the war in Ukraine would not figure in the trilateral discussions, as Washington was pursuing a separate negotiating track with Moscow on the conflict.

Russia has shown reluctance to discuss its war in Ukraine, the newspaper reported on Monday.

Besides the trilateral, the participation of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in the APEC summit was expected to attract considerable attention as this is the first time she is visiting China after her comments in November last year that a Chinese attack on Taiwan, could prompt a response by the Japanese Self-Defence Forces in support of the US, triggering strong protests from the US.

China claims the self-ruled Taiwan as part of its mainland.

Since her remarks, China unleashed a torrent of criticism against her leading a sharp deterioration of relations between the two neighbours.

Besides lodging diplomatic complaints, followed up with a number of countermeasures including suspension of imports of fish and asking its millions of tourists not to travel to Japan, China has imposed export restrictions on rare earths used to manufacture various high-tech defence equipment.

China is so far silent about any likelihood of meeting between Takaichi and Xi on the sidelines of the APEC summit.

The two leaders last met on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, in October 2025, a week before she made the remarks on Taiwan.

Jay Shah reappointed ICC Chairman for second term

PTI



Bali, Nov 16 : The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced that Jay Shah has been reappointed unopposed as its Chairman for a second two-year term to ensure "continuity at a defining moment for the sport".

The 38-year-old Shah, who served as BCCI secretary before his elevation to the international body, took over in December 2024 and was reappointed during the ICC's Board Meetings that ended here on Sunday. He is the youngest ever to hold this position. "The decision reflects the Board's confidence in Shah's leadership and provides continuity at a defining moment for the sport, with global expansion, growth in fandom and commercial development central to its strategic roadmap," the ICC stated.

Cricket is also preparing for its return to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games. "I am deeply honoured by the confidence the ICC Board has placed in me and sincerely grateful to every Director for their continued trust and support," Shah said in an ICC press release.

"Serving as Chair of the ICC is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I remain committed to working with our Members to advance the interests of cricket across the world." Shah had taken over from New Zealand's Greg Barclay in his first stint at the ICC. Before this, he was also the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) from 2021 to 2024.

"Cricket's return to the Olympic Games at LA28 presents an extraordinary opportunity to introduce our game to new audiences and inspire a new generation of players and fans," Shah said.

"I have always believed that cricket's greatest strength lies in its ability to bring people together. With the support of the Board and our Members, our focus will be on turning ambition into action and ensuring that the progress we make leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come," he added.

England and Wales Cricket Board Chair, Richard Thompson, said Shah's reappointment comes at an important time for international cricket.

"Balancing the traditions of our game with the opportunities presented by innovation, new audiences and changing commercial dynamics will be critical in the years ahead.

"I congratulate Jay on his continued appointment and look forward to working with him and fellow Members as we navigate this important next phase for the game," he said.

ICC Deputy Chair and Zimbabwe Cricket Chair, Tavengwa Mukuhlani, said Shah has demonstrated strong leadership and a clear commitment to bringing Members together.

"His approach recognises that the strength of our sport lies in the collective contribution of all Members and in ensuring that decisions taken at the ICC serve the interests of the global game."

Similar sentiments were expressed by New Zealand Cricket Director Roger Twose and ICC Associate Member Chair Gurumurthy Palani.

Tendulkar, Bindra laud Shah

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar was also among those who congratulated Shah on his reappointment.

Houthis blame Saudi Arabia for strikes that killed 3 in Yemen

AP



Dubai, Nov 16 : The Iran-backed Houthi rebels on Monday blamed Saudi Arabia for two strikes that killed three people in Houthi-controlled Yemen. The Saudi government did not immediately comment.

Iran said on Monday three oil tankers caught fire when they struck naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz. Israel's military said it struck an arms shipments from Syria intended to reach Hezbollah in Lebanon.

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

Read our full coverage here.

Houthis say strikes killed 3 people in Yemen

Houthi health authorities said on Monday three Yemenis, including a child, were killed in two separate strikes in areas controlled by the Iran-backed rebels.

The child was killed in a drone strike on a house in the al-Sarar quarter of the capital, Sanaa, which also wounded seven others, Health Ministry spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said.

Separate airstrikes on Monday morning hit a private fuel station and killed two people and wounded eight in Harf Sufian district in the Omran province, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Sanaa, al-Asbahi said.

CRPF T20 Cricket Cup kicks off in Srinagar with 16 teams, Rs 2 lakh prize for winners

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 16 : The fourth edition of the CRPF T20 Cricket Cup kicked off at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium here on Monday, with 16 teams set to compete in 31 matches over six days.

The tournament was inaugurated by Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, in the presence of senior CRPF officers, including IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma and IG Kashmir Operations Sector Vineet Brijlal, besides representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), Kashmir University and other organisations.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, SDG Khirwar said the tournament reflects CRPF's continued efforts to connect with the youth of Kashmir through sports.

He said the region has immense cricketing potential and emphasised the need to provide young talent with opportunities to showcase their abilities. Referring to the security situation in Kashmir, he said security forces are working together to maintain stability in the region.

The tournament, being held from November 16 to 21, will follow a league-cum-knockout format, with matches scheduled at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium, Kashmir University and SP College in Srinagar. The winning team will receive a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, while the runners-up will get Rs 1.75 lakh, along with trophies and sports gear.

The matches are being live-streamed on social media, while live scores are available on the CricHeroes app. Updates are also being broadcast on 93.5 Red FM.

Notably, the CRPF Cricket Cup, launched in 2023, has emerged as an initiative to promote sports and strengthen engagement with Kashmiri youth. This year's edition received a record 129 team registrations, of which 12 teams were shortlisted through a draw. Four other teams were invited, including one each from JKCA and Kashmir University, besides the winner and runners-up of the 2025 edition. The CRPF is also set to organise the third edition of its Football Cup for Kashmiri youth shortly—(KNO)

Russia says over 1,300 Ukrainian drones intercepted in major attack

AP

Moscow, Nov 16 : Russian air defenses intercepted 1,336 drones launched by Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry said on Monday, in what appeared to be Kyiv's biggest aerial attack since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor nearly five years ago.

Ukraine has scaled up its long-range aerial assaults on Russia, as well as illegally annexed Crimea and the Black and the Azov seas, with more than 1,000 drones used in some attacks in recent months.

Russia, meanwhile, has battered Ukrainian civilian areas with relentless strikes that seek to make normal daily life impossible and break public morale, especially through strikes on the power grid, as well as choking the economy.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and thousands of Ukrainian civilians, Western analysts and officials say.

Six people were wounded in an attack on Russia's southern Krasnodar region, according to local authorities. The town is home to the Ilsky oil refinery, a frequent target of Ukrainian drone attacks.

In the Rostov region near the border with Ukraine, three people in the city of Azov, where two oil depots are located, were wounded by drones, Gov. Yuri Slyusar said.

Inter-departmental sports tournament to begin in Pulwama from November 19, DC distributes uniforms among teams

KT News Desk



Pulwama, Nov 16: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSSO), Pulwama, is organising an Inter-Departmental Sports Tournament from November 19, 2026, with the participation of nearly 10 teams representing various government departments.

The tournament aims to encourage government employees to take part in sports and physical activities while providing an opportunity to interact and compete in a healthy sporting environment.

As part of the preparations, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today distributed sports uniforms among the participating teams. The uniforms were handed over to the respective team captains.

The tournament will bring together employees from different departments on a common platform, encouraging teamwork, coordination and a spirit of healthy competition beyond their routine official duties.

The District Administration is making necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the tournament, which is expected to see active participation from the departments concerned.

