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Every inch of Pak within BrahMos range, Op Sindoor just a trailer: Rajnath Singh

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Terming 'Operation Sindoor' just a trailer, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said any provocation from Pakistan would be met with a stronger response, and every inch of the neighbouring country is within the range of BrahMos missiles.

Speaking at a ceremony in Lucknow in Rajnath Singh, said, "The BrahMos missile is capable of striking long distances at supersonic speeds."

He said that India has strengthened its defence capabilities with the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility Centre in Lucknow under the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.



"Every inch of Pakistan's territory is now within the reach of BrahMos. Operation Sindoor is proof that victory has become our habit. The operation was just a trailer. We must further enhance our capabilities," he said.

Rajnath Singh added that the missile's guided system and traditional warhead critical components must be strengthened to ensure that the entire supply chain remains within India. "We must develop all types of indigenous technologies so that our supply chain remains within India," he said.

The Defence Minister noted that contracts worth approximately Rs 4,000 crore have been signed with two countries in the last month. He said the make it a key component of India's defence and that India is now producing advanced defence systems indigenously.

He said small industries producing Lucknow unit's turnover is expected to reach around Rs 3,000 crore in the next financial year, with GST collection around Rs 500 crore.

> "Every inch of **Pakistan's territory** is now within the reach of **BrahMos**. Operation Sindoor is proof that **victory** has become our habit. The **operation** was just a trailer. We must further enhance our **capabilities**," he said.

Rajnath Singh also inaugurated the Booster Building and observed demonstrations of the booster docking process, Airframe and Avionics checks, Pre-Dispatch Inspection, and Warhead Buildings. DG (BrahMos) Dr Jaytirth R. Joshi handed over the GST bill and cheque of approximately Rs 40 crore to the Chief Minister,

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HE SAID THAT INDIA HAS STRENGTHENED ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITIES with the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility Centre in Lucknow under the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

Statehood Of J&K To Be Restored At Appropriate Time: Amit Shah

■ Says no local youth joined any terror outfit in J&K in 9 months

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Asserting that no local youth has joined any terrorist outfit during the past nine months in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday promised restoration of statehood to the region at "an appropriate time."

Addressing a media conclave in Patna, Shah said, "After the abrogation of Article 370, terror-infested Jammu and Kashmir has taken a U-turn, local recruitment in terror outfits has fallen to zero as no local youth has been recruited in the past nine months."

He said that there is a qualitative change in Jammu and Kashmir, where separatism had been festering since the 1990s. "Earlier, Pakistan felt no need to send terrorists from across the border. They used to place arms in the hands of our children. Now the situation has changed. The people of Jammu and Kashmir feel they belong to the entire country and the entire country belongs to them," Shah said.



The Union Home Minister said, "Today, democracy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir. Panchayat and municipal polls have taken place, and so have elections for the legislative assembly.

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NC MP Ruhullah demands J&K govt release reservation report Today

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Lok Sabha MP Ruhullah Mehdi has demanded that the Jammu and Kashmir government make public the report of the cabinet sub-committee on reservation by



Sunday.

The sub-committee has submitted its report, and the department concerned has been asked to draft

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Devyani Rana right choice for people of Nagrota: LoP Sharma

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma on Saturday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for Nagrota, Devyani Rana is the right choice for people here.



Speaking to reporter ahead of Devyani's nomination filling, Sharm, said under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rana will realise her late father, Devinder Singh Rana's dream.

"She is the right choice for the constituency and she will emerge victorious from the seat," LoP Sharma said, adding that her father left us too early, now she will realize the dream of her father.

Devyani Rana, accompanied by other BJP leaders will file her

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LG Sinha Pays Obeisance To Buddha Relics In Russia Before Bringing Back To India

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance to sacred relics of Lord Buddha brought from India and enshrined at the Central Temple, GedenSheddupChoikorling Monastery, also known as "the Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni" at Elista, Kalmykia, Russia, an official spokesman said Saturday.



The Lieutenant Governor is leading the delegation to bring back holy relics of Lord Buddha after a week-long exposition in Elista.

During the interaction with revered monks, the Lieutenant Governor said the fondness which the people of this city and those from far corners of Russia have shown towards the Lord Buddha's relics is a rare gesture which has left an indelible mark in our hearts.

"As you know, the holy relics of the Buddha are considered as the Buddha himself and his coming here, amounts to his blessing the people of Kalmykia and the whole of Russia. India takes pride in the principles and teachings of the Buddha. His message of compassion, wisdom and non-violence remain more relevant than ever. Our Prime Minister Narendra

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Omar Abdullah Inaugurates National Conference On Patient Safety At SKICC

FE NEWS NETWORK

Emphasizes on integrating patient safety & patient care to strengthen healthcare delivery in J&K



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Patient Safety (NCPS-2025) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), organized by Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. The theme of the conference is "Every Error a Lesson, Every Lesson a Safer Care."

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister expressed hope that such conferences will generate clear recommendations for the government to implement across health institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby ensuring better healthcare and patient safety standards.

"Through this conference, I hope actionable points emerge which the government can adopt in both major and smaller hospitals, ensuring that patient safety becomes as much a focus as patient care," Omar Abdullah said.

> Chief Minister Said The **Deliberations** Should Not Remain Limited To **Academic Discussions** But Translate Into Practical Measures That Can Be Replicated In **Hospitals** Across Jammu And Kashmir...

He emphasized that while patient care and patient safety are closely connected, they are distinct aspects of healthcare. "Patient care is about how we treat the

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Diwali Shopping Surge Brings Bustle Back to Markets

From Lal Chowk to Local Bazaars, Shoppers Stock Up

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With Diwali just a few days away, the markets across Srinagar and other parts of the valley are buzzing with life, colour and festive cheer.

The festival of lights, which will be celebrated on Monday, has brought joy and excitement to both shopkeepers and shoppers as the valley prepares for the grand celebration.

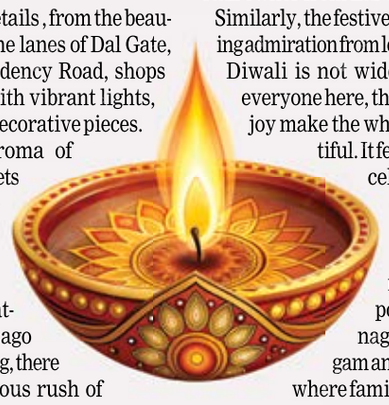
According to the details , from the beautiful Lal Chowk to the lanes of Dal Gate, Polo View and Residency Road, shops have been decked with vibrant lights, candles, Diyas and decorative pieces.

Moreover, the aroma of freshly prepared sweets fills the air as people line up to buy traditional favourites like sweets.

"We started decorating our shop a week ago and since this morning, there has been a continuous rush of customers," said, owner of a bakery in Srinagar. He said this year; the response feels much better, with a sense of happiness among people.

Meanwhile, vendors selling firecrackers and decorative lights echoed similar sentiments. "After quiet years, Diwali sales have picked up. People are buying more sparklers, candles and colourful lights this time," said Rakesh Kumar, a stall owner from Lal Chowk Srinagar.

Similarly, the festive mood is also drawing admiration from locals. "Even though Diwali is not widely celebrated by everyone here, the festive lights and joy make the whole city look beautiful. It feels like a collective celebration," said a college student from Rajbagh.



Similar excitement has been reported from Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Jammu division, where families are seen doing last-minute shopping.

It is worth mentioning, Diwali, or Deepavali, is one of India's most significant festivals, symbolising the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Traditionally celebrated with lamps, sweets and fireworks, the festival also signifies new beginnings and family togetherness.

> "We started decorating our shop a week ago and since this morning, there has been a continuous rush of customers," said, owner of a bakery in Srinagar. He said this year; the response feels much better, with a sense of happiness among people.

Meanwhile, the administration has urged citizens to celebrate safely and

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Cabinet Sub-Committee Report On Reservation Policy Accepted: CM

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Cabinet sub-committee report on the reservation policy in the Union Territory has been accepted by the Cabinet and will be forwarded to the lieutenant governor for approval.



"There is no point in getting into speculations. The only people who know what has been proposed in this are the members of the Cabinet. And therefore, to speculate about what is being slashed, what is being cut, would not be correct at this point in time. The Cabinet sub-committee's report has been accepted by the Cabinet. The department has been asked to prepare a memo for the Cabinet's approval. This will then go to the LG (for approval) as all Cabinet decisions go," Abdullah told reporters here.

The chief minister was responding to questions about opposition accusing his government of slashing the quota of RBA (resident of backward area) category in the reservation policy.

He said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the contents of the report before it reaches the Raj Bhawan.

"For me now, before the memo has reached the LG, to start discussing the contents of that memo would be incorrect," he said.

He said the reservation report will be announced only after the lieutenant governor approves it.

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Jitendra Singh briefs Prez Murmu on J&K situation

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS in the PMO, Jitendra Singh, on Saturday called on President of India, Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan to exchange Diwali greetings and brief her about recent developments and forthcoming Government initiatives under his Ministries.

An official statement said, "During the meeting, Jitendra Singh also gave an update on the current situation in Jammu & Kashmir, from where he is an elected representative. The Union Minister apprised the President of India of two major upcoming national science events — the 4-day India International Science Festival (IISF-2025) to be held in Chandigarh, and the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025) to be held in New Delhi — both positioned as landmark gatherings aimed at showcasing India's innovation ecosystem and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047."

Speaking about the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025), Jitendra Singh

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DC Kathua reviews progress of PMAY (U) 2.0 implementation

Stresses timely disposal of applications and adherence to merit-based selection

FE NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, chaired a meeting to review the progress under Pradhan Mantri



Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua, Surinder Mohan Sharma; Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Ranjit Thakur; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Kathua, and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees Basohli, Billawar, Hiranagar, Lakhanpur and Parole.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress of cases under PMAY 2.0, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to expedite the verification and approval process of pending applications. He emphasized that all cases should be processed strictly on merit and in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

The DC further instructed the officers to ensure that deficient applications are promptly scrutinized and rejected with due justification so that genuine beneficiaries are not deprived of the benefit. He called for maintaining transparency at every stage of implementation and ensuring timely disbursal of installments to eligible beneficiaries.

The DC urged all executing agencies to work in mission mode to achieve 100% saturation under PMAY 2.0 in urban areas of Kathua district.

DIET Doda Facilities Smooth, Transparent Conduct Of Summative, Annual Examinations For Classes 1St To 9Th

DODA: The Summative Assessment/Annual Examination for Classes 1st to 9th (Session 2025) is being conducted smoothly and fairly across all established examination centres in District Doda, as per the date-sheet issued by the Directorate of School Education Jammu.

The examinations are being held under the overall supervision of Principal DIET Doda, Rajesh Kumar and under the guidance of Chief Education Officer Doda, Iqbal Hussain with the coordinated efforts of Cluster Heads and the active cooperation of school staff across the district. The entire process has been marked by discipline, transparency and strict adherence to academic standards.

To ensure fair and uniform conduct, District-Level Monitoring Teams and Cluster-Level Teams have been actively inspecting various examination centres. These visits aim to maintain the sanctity of the examination process and verify that the question papers framed by the school authorities are in accordance with the guidelines issued by SCERT, Divisional Office Jammu.

The examination process has been widely appreciated for its smooth management, punctuality and adherence to standards of academic integrity. The joint efforts of DIET Doda, Cluster Heads and school management teams have ensured the seamless and transparent execution of the examinations.

In addition, all Cluster Heads have been instructed to evaluate the answer sheets on the same day to facilitate the timely declaration of results, enabling the commencement of new classwork from November 1st.

Principal DIET Doda, Rajesh Kumar expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the examinations and appreciated the Cluster Heads, teachers and monitoring teams for their collective commitment to ensuring fairness, discipline and efficiency in the evaluation process.

Director Horticulture inaugurates processing unit at Samba

SAMBA: A Processing Unit was inaugurated at Samba by the Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed, marking an important step towards promoting value addition and employment generation in the horticulture sector.



The event was attended by MCC Kathua Anju Bala, MCC Jammu Shreshtha Gaur and HDO Vijaypur Manmohan Lal, who extended their support and shared insights on strengthening processing activities at the grassroots level.

More than 50 farmers took part in the programme, where they were made aware of various departmental schemes and initiatives aimed at encouraging self-employment and entrepreneurship among rural youth and women. As part of the event, mobile demonstration programmes were also conducted to impart hands-on training to women, enabling them to adopt processing and value addition activities for sustainable income generation.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal reviews progress of upcoming Judicial Infrastructure projects in Kathua

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs speedy completion of works

KATHUA: Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Kathua inspected and reviewed progress of the judicial infrastructure projects coming up in the District.



Justice Oswal began his tour from Hiranagar, where he inspected the under-construction new Court Complex. The HC Justice assessed the pace of work and directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining work and complete the project at the earliest. He was warmly received by Principal District Judge Kathua Jatinder Singh Jamwal, Munsiff Hiranagar, and members of the Bar Association. Member Legislative Assembly Hiranagar Vijay Kumar Sharma was also present. SDM Hiranagar and functionaries of the executing agency briefed the visiting dignitary about the status of the project.

Later in Kathua, Justice Oswal interacted with the concerned Executive Engineers and functionaries from J&K Housing Board to take an appraisal of the progress of Judicial Infrastructure Development work at Billawar, Basohli, Mahanpur and the new District Court Complex.

Special emphasis was laid on the timely completion of the Lawyers' Chambers block. The Administrative Judge directed the functionaries of Executing Agencies to expedite the works to ensure early completion of the same.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma also met Justice Oswal during his visit.

The HC Justice later held a meeting with the Bar Association Kathua, where President, Y.C. Katoch presented a charter of demands on behalf of the Lawyer fraternity.

Responding to the demands, Justice Oswal assured that the genuine concerns of the Bar would be given due consideration.

Justice Oswal also reviewed facilities at the District Court Complex Kathua and emphasized creating adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of litigants and lawyers alike. In separate meetings at Kathua and Hiranagar, he impressed upon judicial officers to work with devotion and ensure speedy disposal of cases with focus on clearing old matters.

His visit, marked by detailed inspections and interactions with officers and members of the legal fraternity, assured timely strengthening of judicial infrastructure in the district.

Buckwheat honey in Kargil opens new pathways towards rural livelihood

KARGIL: A Kargil-based agricultural institute has devised a new method to extract honey from buckwheat crops, opening new pathways towards sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood development

According to an official, buckwheat honey extraction at School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh, was part of efforts to promote apiculture in the region.

In 2019, honey was extracted from alfalfa crop at the institute which was earlier named as Mountain Agriculture Research and Extension Station, Kargil.

"This year, the School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil formulated a floral calendar and accordingly introduced bee colonies in synchronisation with floral period of alfalfa and buckwheat and thus able to extract honey from both the crops resulting in a significance development in apiculture as honey was extracted for the first time from buckwheat crop," an official of the institute said.

He said the buckwheat crop was sown on July 22 and later in synchronisation with the flowering of buckwheat crop, bee colonies were introduced from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir on August 24.

After a gap of one-and-a-half month, honey was extracted from these colonies marking a historic step, the official said, adding that the extraction of buckwheat honey has opened new pathways towards sustainable agriculture, rural livelihood development, and biodiversity conservation.



He said the unique altitude and climate of Kargil have given this honey a distinctive aroma and taste, setting it apart from other regional varieties and making a way for the untapped potential for high quality honey production from Kargil region. The official said the institute is planning to expand more bee colonies in desirable villages, honey branding, and marketing and to promote buckwheat honey of Kargil as a unique GI-tagged product in the future. (PTI)

Paddy Procurement Centre Inaugurated At Village Marh

JAMMU: In line with the Government's food policy that emphasizes farmers welfare and national food security, a Paddy Procurement Centre was inaugurated today at Village Marh, Sub-Division Marh by Member Legislative Assembly Marh Surinder Kumar, in the presence of a large number of enthusiastic farmers from the area.



The initiative aims to ensure that farmers receive fair and assured prices for their produce and to prevent distress sales by facilitating procurement at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) prescribed by the Government of India for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025–26.

The inaugural program was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma; Subject Matter Specialist (DL) Rajeev Katoch; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Khalid Hassan and zonal staff of the Agriculture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Surinder Kumar highlighted that the establishment of procurement centres closer to farmers' fields will help reduce transportation costs and ensure timely sale and payment for their produce. He reiterated the government's commitment to uplifting the farming community through transparent procurement systems and farmer-centric reforms.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Manohar Lal Sharma, in his address, stated that the Agriculture Department is working in close coordination with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure smooth procurement operations across the district. He urged farmers to bring their paddy to the designated centres and assured them of fair weighing, quality assessment and prompt payments under MSP norms.

Farmers present at the event expressed gratitude to the government and the Agriculture Department for opening the Paddy Procurement Centre in their vicinity, which they said would greatly benefit them by saving time, transportation expenses and ensuring guaranteed returns at MSP.

AYUSH Department celebrates 10th Ayurveda Day-the Dhanwantari Jayanti at Ramban

RAMBAN: The Department of AYUSH Ramban under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, celebrated the 10th Ayurveda Day, which coincides with Dhanwantari Jayanti, engaging the community in honoring



India's ancient health system.

The event observed on Dhanteras, paid tribute to Lord Dhanwantari, the deity of Ayurveda and highlighted the significance of traditional health practices.

Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme was attended by the officers, officials and locals.

In his address, CPO emphasized Ayurveda's essential role in modern healthcare, encouraging the community to integrate Ayurvedic principles into their daily lives for holistic well-being and disease prevention.

The celebration included enriching lectures by Doctors; Ayush Health Workers, emphasizing Ayurveda's benefits for boosting immunity and managing lifestyle diseases.

District Yoga Coordinator and Senior AYUSH Officer Dr. Masood Iqbal Zarger expressed appreciation for the community's participation and reiterated AYUSH's commitment to promoting Ayurveda.

Dr Masood Zarger concluded the event with a vote of thanks, underscoring this celebration as part of a national movement to revive Ayurveda as a sustainable healthcare approach.

DLSA Jammu holds special Lok Adalat to settle Cheque Bounce Cases

JAMMU: In Compliance to the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases was held today, under the Chairmanship of Y. P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Jammu here in the Court complex Janipur.

As many as 18 Benches were constituted in different Courts to deal with the matter of 138 Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

The Special Lok Adalat focused specifically on the amicable settlement of cheque bounce cases in line with the broader aim of reducing pendency and promoting accessible justice for all.

The Special Lok Adalat stands as a testimony to the commitment of the Legal Services Authorities to ensure that justice is not only delivered, but delivered efficiently, empathetically and economically.

It also reinforces the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in strengthening the justice delivery system.

A total number of 277 cases pertaining to Cheque Bounce Cases were taken up, out of which 74 cases were settled. The total Amount recovered was Rs. 2,60,38,463/-.

Government Polytechnic Reasi organises Annual Sports Day

REASI: Government Polytechnic Reasi organised on Saturday Annual Sports Day on the College campus, featuring Badminton, Chess,



Carrom, Table-tennis and Volleyball competitions.

The tournaments commenced in the institute on October 13 on knockout basis prior to the interdepartmental tournament.

The Principal Er. Arun Bangotra was the chief guest at the final matches of the interdepartmental tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, he encouraged all participants to take part in the sports activities to stay fit and healthy and imbibe sportsmanship and leadership spirit.

The event commenced with the trials in all categories to identify the most skilled players. A number of matches were organised across multiple disciplines to determine the finalists. As many as 56 students participated in Badminton tournament' 40 in Carom, 15 in Chess 40 and several teams in Volleyball.

Earlier, the participants took a solemn sportsmanship pledge led by the institution sports secretary Ajay Dogra, reaffirming to uphold fairness and integrity on the field.

Kissan Mela a unique platform for empowering farming community: Javid Dar

Inaugurates Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at Baramulla

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar today inaugurated a Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at Dak Banglow here, organized by department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Baramulla.

Addressing the Mela, the Minister said that this Kisan Mela serves as a unique platform to connect farmers, agri experts, agri e vntrepreneurs and institutions, showcasing modern technologies, government schemes and success stories aimed at empowering our farming community. He added that the mela also demonstrated improved crop varieties and animal breeds, advanced farm and agricultural machinery, displays of innovative technologies as well as sustainable agricultural practices and improve crop yields. Javid Dar expressed confidence that the Kisan Mela would go a long way in empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural



practices in the region. He urged farmers to take advantage of the event and learn about the latest technologies and schemes aimed at improving their livelihoods The Minister stated that the department will exercise strict control over the sale of sub-standard pesticides and fertilizers in the markets. "We will establish check post to regularly monitor and check the quality of pesticides and fertilizers being sold in the markets", he said. He warned that strict action will be taken against those found selling substandard pesticides and fertilizers.

Javid Dar urged upon the officers to work tirelessly to resolve all the issues of farming community. He also called for conducting awareness camps at all block levels so that the farmers gets benefits from all schemes run by central as well as state government. Earlier, Javid Dar also inspected the stalls established by Agriculture, Horticulture Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, allied sector and other stakeholders.

MLA, Baramulla, Javed Hassan Beigh; MLA Pattan, Javaid Riyaz Bedar; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MlA Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; others District officers and larger number of farmers were present on the occasion.

DC, SSP Srinagar chair District NCORD meeting, Reviews Anti-Drug Measures

Emphasis laid on intensified action to combat drug menace

SRINAGAR:- To review the impact of ongoing efforts and strategize further measures in the fight against drug abuse and its trafficking, a meeting



of the District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Sandeep Chakravarthy was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was given a comprehensive briefing on the key measures undertaken in the district to combat drug abuse, trafficking and ensure proper rehabilitation of affected individuals. The DC was apprised of recent seizures, arrests, financial investigations, and detentions carried out under the NDPS Act.

Furthermore, the DC was apprised of steps taken to ensure accurate revenue entries in NDPS cases to safeguard property records and cent percent use of computerization/online billing system at pharmaceuticals in district.

On the occasion, the DC emphasised effective anti-drug public awareness and sensitization campaigns, strengthening of Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs), improved interdepartmental coordination, and intensified surveillance and preventive measures at identified vulnerable hotspots.

The DC underscored the importance of eradicating the illegal cultivation of contraband crops such as bang and poppy within the district. He also sought proactive community engagement in the ongoing war against drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; SDM East, SDM West, Chief Education Officer, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner and Officers of Excise, Drug Control Organization, DYS&S, Heads of ATFs at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and other concerned.

LA Speaker constitutes business advisory committee



SRINAGAR: The Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, on Saturday nominated eight members to the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Assembly.

With Rather as Chairman of the Committee, the other members include Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarik Gul, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Gulam Ahmad Mir, Sajad Gani Lone, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, and Choudhary Mohammad Akram.

The committee will oversee the conduct of business and coordination among members during Assembly sessions.

LG Kavinder Gupta launches REWA 2.0 Scheme

Says the scheme removes financial barriers for Ladakh's UPSC aspirants



Leh: The REWA 2.0 Financial Assistance Scheme marks a significant milestone in the Union Territory's journey towards youth empowerment and equitable opportunity, reflecting the Administration's commitment to enabling 80 meritorious yet economically disadvantaged candidates from Leh and Kargil to access quality coaching for the UPSC Civil Services Examination.

This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta after launching the REWA 2.0 Scheme at the LG Secretariat, Leh, in the presence of Administrative Secretary, Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha, and other senior officials of the UT Administration.

The Lt Governor stressed the need to make UPSC coaching more accessible for economically disadvantaged students from Ladakh, emphasising the importance of providing merit-based scholarships to attract talented candidates from the region who can crack the examination, secure top government jobs, and serve the nation.

He said that REWA 2.0 will provide a level playing field to deserving candidates by covering coaching and accommodation expenses of 1.18 lakh each for a period of six months, enabling them to pursue training at reputed institutions of their choice across the country. He added that the scheme underscores the Administration's resolve to ensure that financial hardship does not hinder the aspirations of talented youth from Ladakh who wish to serve the nation through civil services.

Emphasising the need for greater access to high-quality coaching and mentorship for Ladakhi students, the Lt Governor said the initiative reflects the government's broader vision of inclusive development through education and opportunity. He urged eligible candidates to make full use of the scheme and strive for excellence with determination and confidence.

Lt Governor also commended the Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Smt. Bhanu Prabha and her team for conceptualising and implementing the scheme, terming it a visionary initiative that aligns with the Administration's focus on empowerment, merit, and equal opportunity for all. He added that such initiatives will go a long way in nurturing local talent and preparing a new generation of capable and confident civil servants from the Union Territory.

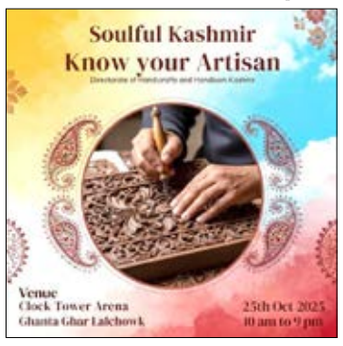
Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha highlighted that under the REWA 2.0 scheme, Rs 1.18 lakh—covering both coaching fees and accommodation expenses—will be provided to 40 candidates each from Leh and Kargil, including one seat per district for persons with disabilities, for a duration of six months. Candidates between 21 and 36 years of age can select any coaching institute of their choice and must appear in the forthcoming UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination, she added.

The Commissioner Secretary urged the youth of Ladakh to take full advantage of this unique opportunity, prepare with dedication, and strive for excellence, emphasising that the scheme is designed to support and empower deserving candidates to achieve their dreams and serve the nation through civil services.

Ghanta Ghar to tick craft bells on Oct 25 in 2nd edition of 'Know Your Artisan' series

SRINAGAR: Riding high on the resounding success of its inaugural outing, the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, is all set to host the second chapter of the "Know Your Artisan" initiative under the vibrant Soulful Kashmir campaign.

Following the overwhelming response at the Jhelum River Front, where crowds flocked to witness live craft demonstrations, forge direct connections with master artisans, and snag authentic GI-tagged treasures, the spotlight now shifts to Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower Arena), here in the city centre, on October 25.



In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the department, urged the people to come in large numbers to support the renowned artisans from Kashmir, whose exquisite handmade products have set the highest standards in global markets. Expect an afternoon brimming with immersive experiences, hands-on interactions with a fresh lineup of renowned artisans showcasing specialties like intricate woodwork, exquisite embroidery, and timeless weaving techniques; interactive storytelling sessions revealing the soul-stirring journeys behind each creation; and vibrant display-cum-sale stalls offering exclusive deals on Soulful Kashmir-branded masterpieces," he added.

Giving details, the spokesman stated that as many as 10 stalls will be installed in various GI crafts during the 'Know Your Artisan' campaign from 10.00 am to 9.00 pm.

"The campaign will also have separate 'Try Your Hands' corner where visitors can have firsthand experience on pottery wheels, handlooms and spinning of Pashmina. Issuing a fervent appeal to the visitors to become 'Vocal for Local, the spokesman hoped that the event will rekindle our shared pride in Kashmir's artisanal legacy while opening doors to sustainable livelihoods.

"The energy from the first event has been electric and now, we invite every Srinagarite, visitor, and culture enthusiast to join us in even greater numbers at Lal Chowk to make the event a resounding success a time," he added.

ADDC Reviews Implementation of Social Security Schemes in Shopian

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today convened a meeting to review the implementation and progress of various social security and financial inclusion schemes in the district. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved under varous schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and other welfare initiatives aimed at providing social and financial security to the weaker sections of society. A detailed discussions were held on beneficiary coverage, account saturation, seeding of Aadhaar with bank accounts and awareness activities being carried out at the block and panchayat levels.

ADDC directed officers from Rural Development, Social Welfare and other line departments to ensure effective coordination with banks and financial institutions for the smooth implementation of these flagship schemes. He stressed the importance of reaching out to every eligible individual, particularly those in remote and far-flung areas, to ensure they avail the benefits of these schemes.

ADDC also directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to mobilize MGNREGA field staff and village-level functionaries to assist in awareness generation and beneficiary enrollment under PMJDY, PMSBY and PMJJBY. While highlighting the Government's focus on inclusive growth, ADDC said that these schemes are vital in providing a safety net to the poor and unorganized sector workers by ensuring access to banking, insurance, and pension facilities. He called for regular monitoring, timely updating of beneficiary data and ensuring transparency in the implementation of these schemes. Among others, ACD, LDM, BDOs and other concerned were present in the meeting.

J&K Bank's half-yearly net profit up at Rs 979 Cr, Q2 net at Rs 494 Cr

Despite tough challenges, we are on track to achieve our annual guidance numbers: MD & CEO

SRINAGAR: While maintaining higher provisioning requirements owing to regulatory compliance, J&K Bank posted a net profit of Rs 494.11 Cr for the July-September Quarter (Q2) of current financial year (CFY), remaining well on course to meet its annual market guidance. The Bank's net profit for half-year (H1) witnessed an increase to Rs 978.95 Cr from Rs 966.41 Cr recorded for H1 last FY.

The Bank announced financial numbers after its Board-of-Directors reviewed and approved the quarterly and half-yearly figures during a meeting held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Key Highlights

Moderated by the provisioning of Rs 92 Cr towards its investment in the Regional Rural Bank—Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank—following the amalgamation of EllaquaiDehati Bank with the erstwhile J&K Grameen Bank under Central Government's "One State, One RRB' direction, the Bank today recorded a net profit of Rs 494.11 Cr for the Q2 and Rs 978.95 Cr for H1 of the CFY.

Reflecting steady core operations, the Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) for the half-year (H1) is marginally up by 3.4% Year-on-Year at Rs 2899.43 Cr, while for Q2 NII stood at Rs 1433.99 Cr. In line with its market guidance, the Bank has maintained its NIM at 3.64% for the half-year (H1). The Bank's other income for H1 was at Rs 405.19 Cr while the Cost to Income Ratio for the half-year stood at 60.80%.

Commenting on the Bank's Q2H1 numbers, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "In spite of widespread disruptions during the first quarter following the Pahalgam incident and the extensive damage caused by floods in the second quarter, the overall growth we have recorded is both encouraging and reassuring."

"Even though profitability for Q2 was moderated due to an additional impairment provision of Rs 92 Cr made during the quarter in compliance with regulatory requirements, the performance is better than what was anticipated under the challenging circumstances.", he added. Notably, the Bank has made a total provisioning of Rs 180 Cr towards Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank during the first two quarters of the current financial year. Excluding the impact, the Bank's H1 profitability would be upwards of 15% YoY.

Asset-Quality

Despite difficult situation arising out of Pahalgam attack in Q1 and floods, landslides thereafter in Q2, the Bank has gained further stability in asset quality. During the quarter, the Bank's Gross NPA Ratio has declined 18 basis-points QoQ to 3.32% and decreased by 63 bps YoY from 3.95% recorded in September,



2024.

The Net NPA ratio has also moderated by 9 bps YoY to 0.76% from 0.85%, while declining 6 bps from 0.82% recorded for the June quarter of current financial year. Meanwhile, Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of the Bank continued at above 90% level, while the Return on Assets (RoA) stood at 1.17% for the half-year.

On the Bank's asset-quality, MD & CEO expressed optimism, saying, "With GNPA around 3.30% half-way through the year, I think on asset quality front, our progress is steady. And with our robust and focused risk-management practices in place, I remain optimistic about meeting our annual guidance of below 3% GNPA by the financial year-end. Besides, our PCR is also healthy at 90.39%."

Business Growth

During the quarter, the Bank's deposits witnessed growth of 10.23% Year-on-Year basis reaching Rs 152030 Cr, while as the net advances increased by 9.38% YoY to Rs 105153 Cr from Rs 96139 Cr recorded last year. Up by 18 bps in sequential terms from 45.71% recorded in Q1, the Bank's CASA stood at 45.89% for the Q2 and continues to be one of the highest in the industry.

Regarding business growth, MD & CEO said, "Marking a nearly 10% year-on-year growth in business numbers reaching Rs 2.57 Lac Cr, our Q2 performance demonstrates the Bank's operational discipline."

"Our deposit growth is at par with the industry average, while advances primarily driven by Agri/corporate segments have shown good credit growth both in sequential and YoY terms. Our CASA ratio also exhibited a slight uptick to 45.89% on sequential basis, underscoring our commitment to sustained, quality growth", he added.

He further said, "Despite tough challenges, this steady performance in the first half of the financial year affirms my confidence that we are very much on track to achieve our annual guidance growth numbers."

Capital Adequacy

The Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) for the July-September quarter stood at 15.27% as against 14.99% recorded last FY. In his remarks on capital position, the MD & CEO said, "With a CRAR of over 15 %, we remain well-capitalized and positioned to support future growth opportunities while maintaining financial discipline. Significantly, the CAR is exclusive of half-yearly profit of Rs 978.95 Cr, which would otherwise result in taking the ratio to above 16%."

Building Business Momentum

Commenting upon the Bank's growing operational focus in rest of the country, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee asserted, "We continue to execute our policy of expanding operations beyond J&K, strategically partnering with top-tier corporates across India. Simultaneously, through increased engagement of the Bank's leadership with the clientele across these geographies, we are in the process of sharpening our focus on building a gainful niche in the retail landscape outside J&K, particularly in the personal banking/finance segment."

Concluding his remarks, he said, "All these initiatives are tangible markers of the transformation currently underway at our Bank. However, the foundation of our progress rests on a firm triad: our people, our processes and our technology. And we are steadily strengthening all these pillars, ensuring that efficiency, resilience and excellence remain at the core of every facet of our operations."

Div Com Kashmir invites tourists to Valley, says admin fully prepared for winter

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday invited tourists to visit the Valley this winter, saying that the administration is fully geared up to ensure smooth public services and promote winter tourism across prominent destinations.

Speaking to reporters, in Lal Chowk Srinagar, Anshul Garg, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that winters are not new to Kashmir, they come every year and with each passing season, administration keeps improving its preparedness. He said that the Chief Secretary has issued specific directions regarding winter preparations and that divisional and district administrations are conducting regular field visits to review arrangements.

"From control rooms to snow clearance and other facilities, everything has been organized in a detailed and systematic manner," he added.

Highlighting tourism prospects, the Divisional Commissioner said the government is trying to "kickstart winter tourism" this season. "We invite all tourists to visit Kashmir. Proper arrangements have been made at all prominent destinations, and we warmly welcome every visitor to the Valley," he said.

He added that the administration has also activated helplines and snow clearance mechanisms to ensure hassle-free travel for tourists and residents alike—(KNO)

Commissioner SMC reviews Progress of ongoing Projects under NCAP

SRINAGAR: In a continued effort to strengthen air quality management in the city, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted a comprehensive review of all ongoing projects under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The review meeting, held at the SMC Headquarters, focused on the status, progress, and timelines of various interventions aimed at mitigating air pollution and improving environmental sustainability across Srinagar. Senior officers from different departments and executing agencies briefed the Commissioner on the current implementation status of NCAP projects, including green space enhancement, mechanical road sweeping, dust suppression measures, installation of air quality monitoring systems, and public awareness campaigns. The Commissioner emphasized strict adherence to project timelines and directed concerned officers to ensure quality execution of all works. He further underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination to achieve measurable improvements in the city's air quality index. Commissioner reiterated SMC's commitment to implementing the NCAP roadmap effectively to make Srinagar cleaner, greener, and healthier for its citizens.

Editorial

Promise of Normalcy

The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, has once again directed attention towards Jammu and Kashmir UT, asserting two important statements that are fundamentally linked. While in Patna he stated that no local youth from the region has been recruited by a terrorist outfit in the prior nine months, he also made a renewed conditional promise to restore statehood "at the appropriate time." While the first claim may indicate some tactical success, conditionality on the second statement may provide the basis for a lasting strategic and psychological victory.

For decades, violence in the Valley was driven not just by foreign terrorists, but also disaffected local youth, a trend that saw a dramatic decrease in recent years. To say this number has fallen to zero would imply ground reality for the first time has changed. The Home Minister attributes the drop in local recruitment to the nullification of Article 370 claiming that it has developed a "new sense of belonging" among the people of Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of India and vice-versa.

True integration is not merely the absence of violence; it is the presence of trust, democratic empowerment, and political dignified. This is where HM Shah's second part of his statement becomes important. The stated intention to restore statehood, even at "appropriate time," recognizes that a persistent political deficit still exists. The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's observations about the "gulf" created by continued denial of statehood resonate with only a section of the political class.

The Centre is correct to point out the successful conduct of public democratic exercises, these are important structures of a living democracy. But even a well-functioning state is less than a UT's status. UT is more than a label, it is a representation of people's right for issues that directly affect their lives. The restoration of statehood would not be a good signal that the period of direct governance was a meaningful and temporary corrective period, not the everlasting new normal.

Thus, the way forward is to be principled about progress. The government needs to build on the noted security progress and to also encourage quicker movement on the political journey. There cannot be an "appropriate time" continually moving the goalposts in Jammu and Kashmir. Indeed, a different route to hearts and minds could be achieved with an open and public political roadmap, complete with timelines, rather than any statistics.

New Delhi's task, now more than ever, is to show that its policy in Jammu and Kashmir has turned to partnership. The end of local recruitment is good news and progress, but it is the signal of the beginning, not the end, of the journey. Ultimately, the logical end of this process can only be the democratic aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir's people who, equally with the other states or YT's are equally and formally stitched into the Indian Union.

Diwali: Celebrating The Light Of Wisdom



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Diwali is a festival of the year that not only symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, but also conveys the message of awakening spiritual light by eliminating the darkness within humanity. It is a day when people decorate their homes, light lamps, wear new clothes, and distribute sweets. But have we ever stopped to think whether the true Diwali is complete only by cleaning and lighting the house? Does the darkness, which this festival is celebrated to destroy, really exist only within the walls and courtyards, or is it also hidden somewhere in our minds and behavior?

Today's society is so engrossed in external glitter that the inner light is dimming. Diwali is now often becoming a celebration of show, expense, and competition. People decorate their homes with thousands of lights on this day, but ignore the darkness that lurks in the recesses of their hearts—jealousy, ego, resentment, and intolerance. The true purpose of the festival was to introspect, nurture relationships, and spread the light of love around us. But today, this spirit is being lost in the noise of the market and materialism.

Diwali is not only a time for the arrival of Lakshmi but also for introspection. When we sweep the dust from every corner of our homes, we should also sweep away the dust from our hearts—old grievances, disagreements, bitterness, and tension. Each lamp reminds us that a single lamp is enough to dispel darkness, provided it is lit with a true heart. A small smile in the family, a gesture of forgiveness, a loving conversation—these are the lamps that illuminate the corners of relationships.

In today's world, this festival also holds great significance for mental health. The fast-paced life, social pressures, work stress, and the hustle and bustle of the digital world are leaving people feeling empty from within. We've even turned festivals into "events"—photoshoots, social media posts, and the tradition of lavish gifts have weakened their spirit. We need to remember that the joy of Diwali lies not just in the external decorations, but in the mental peace we find in belonging, communication, and intimacy.

Today's children and youth find happiness in the glow of firecrackers. But do we have the right to pollute the environment for our own happiness? Every living being, every child and every elderly person, breathing in the smoke-filled and noisy air, is paying the price for this happiness. True joy lies when our lamps do not harm anyone. When we are as sensitive towards Mother Earth as we are towards our homes. Celebrating an eco-friendly Diwali is no longer just an option, it is a responsibility. We can make this festival beautiful by using earthen lamps, decorations with natural colors, and local products—and this beauty is much more lasting than artificial lights.



On the occasion of Diwali, another darkness needs to be dispelled—that of loneliness and mental restlessness. The festive season is a time of celebration for many, but for some, it's also a time of memories and sadness. For those who are far away, who have lost a loved one, or who are grappling with economic and social struggles—this light can often sting. It is society's duty to include those around us in this light. The true meaning of Diwali will be realized only when the darkness in someone's home is dispelled by our lamps.

Our scriptures say, "Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamay"—meaning, "We must move from darkness to light." This light is not just that of a lamp, but of knowledge, wisdom, and compassion. When the light of compassion burns in the heart, it radiates more light than thousands of lamps. Diwali teaches us that spreading light in life is not just about lighting lamps, but about walking on the path of kindness, truth, and love.

Festivals aren't just about following traditions. They give us an opportunity to pause and reflect on our journey. Diwali reminds us that the light outside is only lasting if there is also light within. It's when we awaken the Rama within us and burn the Ravanas of ego, hatred, and greed that a true Diwali is celebrated.

In today's times, it's also crucial that we make Diwali a "festival of inclusiveness." The walls of social division, caste and religious differences, and economic inequality—these are the darkness of our age. If each person can spread a little light at their own level—feeding a poor person, supporting a child's education, or supporting a sick person—that Diwali will be the brightest. The true Lakshmi is the one who enters a home in the form of compassion, kindness, and service.

Diwali is also considered a festival of business. It's a time when markets are vibrant and businesspeople's hopes soar. But the business community should also remember that true profit isn't just financial, but also moral. Honesty, transparency, and respect for customers are the lasting assets. Only when the light of trust shines in the marketplace will society prosper.

Our culture also says, "Diwali is not only a symbol of prosperity, but also of restraint." Therefore, true devotion lies in avoiding excessive consumption, ostentation, and competition. This festival teaches us how to find "much in little." Where there is love, contentment, and unity, every day is Diwali.

Today, we need to see Diwali as a spiritual and social movement. Every person should make a resolution in their life—to spread light in some form or another. Some will light the lamp of knowledge, some of help, some of love. When every person becomes a lamp, a light will spread in society that no darkness can extinguish.

Sometimes it's also necessary to celebrate this festival with a moment of peace. A few moments of introspection, spending time with loved ones, and reflecting on our achievements and shortcomings should also be part of Diwali. When we illuminate the path with the light within us, life's direction becomes clear.

Diwali not only means "lamp," but also "avali," meaning chain. This chain signifies that light passes from one to another. This is the fundamental message of humanity—one lamp should light another, one heart should illuminate another. Only then will this world be free from darkness.

Ultimately, this Diwali, let us resolve to illuminate not just our homes, but our thoughts, behavior, and society. A Diwali devoid of noise and pollution, filled with simplicity and affection, will truly be a "Deepwali of joy and peace." This lamp will become a symbol of India's culture—where light spreads not just through electricity, but through humanity.

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From Soil To Soul: The Holistic Blessing Of Seeds



By Dr Aftab jan

Seeds are among the most beautiful gifts of Allah to mankind, hidden treasures inside small shells that carry within them the power to heal, nourish, and strengthen both body and soul. The Qur'an reminds us again and again about the miracle of growth, how a tiny seed placed in the earth sprouts into life-giving food, and how this cycle is a sign for those who reflect. Allah says in the Qur'an, "Indeed, Allah is the cleaver of grain and date seed. He brings the living out of the dead and brings the dead out of the living. That is Allah; so how are you deluded?" (Surah Al-An'am 6:95). In these words lies the essence of understanding how something as small as a seed holds immense blessings for human beings. From the earliest years of life until old age, seeds provide strength, energy, and healing, and they stand as witnesses to Allah's wisdom that nothing in His creation is without purpose. In today's world, where people are running after expensive supplements and artificial health products, often forgetting the natural treasures already present in their kitchen, reflecting on these seeds brings us back to simplicity, faith, and health.

Chia seeds are among the most powerful examples of this hidden nourishment. These tiny black and white grains were known in ancient times for giving energy to travelers and warriors, but modern science has confirmed their unmatched richness. They are packed with omega-3 fatty acids that nourish the brain, reduce inflammation in the body, and keep the heart strong. They are loaded with fiber that aids digestion, cleanses the stomach, and prevents constipation, making them a natural solution for those who suffer from gut problems in a world where fast food has disturbed our digestive health. They balance blood sugar, making them beneficial for people struggling with diabetes, and they provide slow-releasing energy that keeps a person active throughout the day without sudden crashes. Chia seeds are also rich in calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus, strengthening bones and teeth, which is essential from childhood till old age. They keep cholesterol under control, improve skin glow, and keep hair healthy. Eating chia seeds soaked in water or milk in the morning is like beginning the day with a secret medicine gifted by Allah. Spiritually, they remind us that even something so small and unnoticed by the eyes can hold endless blessings, just like small acts of worship we sometimes underestimate but that weigh heavily on the scale in the Hereafter.

Flax seeds, also known as Alsi in our culture, are another marvel. They are full of lignans, compounds with antioxidant properties that protect the body against harmful free radicals and reduce the risk of cancer. Flax seeds are among the richest sources of plant-based omega-3, making them essential for brain development and protection against heart diseases. They help lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol, and support weight management because their fiber makes a person feel full and reduces unnecessary cravings. For women, flax seeds regulate hormones and ease symptoms of menopause, providing natural balance in a stage where many suffer silently. They also improve skin elasticity, prevent wrinkles, and keep the skin hydrated. The Qur'an tells us that Allah created everything with balance, and flax seeds are a living reminder of that balance inside the human body. When people chase beauty in artificial products, Allah has already placed natural beauty medicine in these tiny brown seeds. Socially, teaching our children and youth to add flax seeds to their diet instead of packaged junk food is a way of reviving sunnah-like simplicity in eating, choosing nature over artificiality.

Pumpkin seeds are another jewel, often thrown away when people cut pumpkins, not realizing they are more valuable than the flesh itself. Rich in zinc, they strengthen the immune system, speed up wound healing, and improve fertility, especially in men where zinc plays a critical role in reproductive health. Pumpkin seeds are also loaded with magnesium which relaxes the nerves, improves sleep, and reduces stress, something desperately needed in today's anxious and restless society. They are a good source of healthy fats and antioxidants, protecting the heart and lowering the risk of chronic diseases. For those who suffer from kidney or bladder issues, pumpkin seeds support urinary health and protect against infections. They even improve hair growth, making them a natural remedy for baldness and thinning hair. Pumpkin seeds can be eaten roasted, sprinkled on salads, or blended into smoothies, making them versatile and easy to consume. Spiritually, they remind us that what people discard as useless often turns out to be the most valuable, just as in society many humble and unnoticed people are treasures of goodness in the eyes of Allah.



Among all seeds, black seed, known as Nigella Sativa or Kalonji, holds the most special place in Islamic tradition. The Prophet Muhammad said, "In the black seed there is healing for every disease except death" (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim). This alone is enough to show its divine importance. Modern science has confirmed its antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. It strengthens the immune system, helps fight respiratory problems like asthma and bronchitis, supports liver health, and protects against diabetes by lowering blood sugar levels. It reduces joint pain, boosts memory, and even fights against certain cancers. Black seed oil is also beneficial for skin conditions like eczema and acne, while its consumption strengthens hair and prevents premature greying. The Prophet's guidance on black seed is a timeless prescription, reminding us that true healing comes not just from laboratories but from the wisdom of revelation. In a time where people often put full trust in man-made medicine and forget natural remedies, reflecting on black seed brings us back to reliance on Allah's creation, balanced with medical knowledge. Socially, spreading awareness of black seed's use can bring natural healing to communities suffering from chronic diseases.

Sunflower seeds are another blessing, often eaten casually but rarely reflected upon. They are high in vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant that protects the heart, improves skin glow, and strengthens immunity. They contain selenium which helps detoxify the body and reduce cancer risk. Their magnesium supports muscle function and reduces fatigue, while their healthy fats promote brain health and memory. Sunflower seeds also help regulate mood, as they increase serotonin production, fighting depression and anxiety. They are light, crunchy, and easy to carry, making them a better choice than chips and fried snacks. Spiritually, the sunflower always turns toward the sun, and its seeds remind us to keep turning towards the light of Allah's guidance no matter how many distractions surround us. Socially, replacing harmful snacks with sunflower seeds in children's lunchboxes can improve their health and build better habits for the future.

Basil seeds, known as Tukmalanga or Sabja, are a hidden treasure of the Muslim world, often used in drinks during Ramadan. They are cooling, soothing, and full of fiber, making them excellent for digestion and weight control. They help manage acidity, reduce constipation, and balance blood sugar. Rich in iron, they prevent anemia, and their calming effect reduces stress and improves sleep. They also hydrate the body and prevent heatstroke, which is why they are especially beneficial in summer. Basil seeds are rich in antioxidants that improve skin health, reduce acne, and slow down ageing. Eating them soaked in water or milk reminds us of Ramadan evenings, where families would break their fast with drinks containing these seeds, showing how culture and faith intertwine with health. Spiritually, their hidden strength when soaked and swollen is a lesson that hidden patience inside a believer blooms when tested, just as tiny basil seeds expand with water.

Watermelon seeds, often discarded, are surprisingly full of health. They contain proteins, magnesium, zinc, and good fats that support heart health, muscle strength, and energy. They improve male fertility, boost immunity, and aid in managing diabetes. They also cleanse the kidneys and prevent stones, supporting overall urinary health. Roasted watermelon seeds make a healthy snack, and their oil is even used for skin and hair nourishment. Spiritually, their lesson is clear: never ignore what looks small or useless, for inside it lies strength that can benefit generations. Just as society sometimes overlooks the poor and humble, yet they carry values and strength more powerful than the rich.

Looking at all these seeds together, one realizes that Allah has spread health and healing in the smallest of creations. From the child who needs growth, to the student who needs focus, to the adult who fights stress, and the elderly who struggles with weak bones and illness, seeds provide silent healing at every stage of life. In a world drowning in chemical medicines, expensive supplements, and fast food, returning to seeds is like returning to fitrah — the pure natural way Allah created us. Seeds do not just heal the body, they heal the heart by reminding us of simplicity, humility, and gratitude. The Qur'an says, "Then let mankind look at his food. How We poured down water in torrents, then We broke open the earth, splitting [it with sprouts], and caused to grow within it grain and grapes and herbs and olives and palm trees and gardens of dense shrubbery and fruit and grass—as enjoyment for you and your grazing livestock" (Surah Abasa 80:24-32). This verse is not only about food, but about reflection: every bite we take should make us remember Allah and His mercy. Seeds are not just nutrition, they are a trust, a cure, and a reminder that in every small thing Allah has placed both worldly benefit and spiritual lesson. If people learn to replace harmful food habits with these seeds, families would be healthier, hospitals would be less crowded, and society would be closer to gratitude. The tiny seed becomes a reminder of how small good deeds, small words of kindness, and small acts of worship can change the world and our akhirah, just as a seed changes into a tree and provides fruit for generations.

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Dentists not merely tooth doctors; they are integral to preventive, systemic healthcare: Sakeena Itoo

FE NEWS NETWORK

- Addresses 16th IDA J&K Dental Conference at SKICC Srinagar
- Calls for due recognition to Dental Professionals at par with MBBS doctors



SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo addressed the 16th Indian Dental Association J&K Dental Conference at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here today.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena lauded the vital contributions of dental professionals in strengthening the healthcare system of Jammu and Kashmir. She underlined that oral health is cornerstone of overall well-being and must be integrated more prominently into general healthcare policies.

The Health Minister highlighted that oral health was commonly an overlooked aspect for most of the individuals, but in recent times people have understood that oral health plays a critical role in preventing systemic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular ailments and respiratory infections.

The Health Minister added that in recent years oral hygiene practices and dental check-ups have emerged as an essential routine for people, especially the young generation. She urged the dentists and participants to aware people about adopting regular oral hygiene practices and dental check-ups an essential part of their healthcare routine.

Acknowledging various issues faced by dental doctors, Minister Sakeena emphasized that dental doctors are as important as MBBS doctors and dentists need to be given due recognition at par with other kind of doctors.

"Dentists are not merely tooth doctors; they are integral to preventive and systemic healthcare. It is high time that dental professionals are given due recognition and status, at par with MBBS doctors," she asserted, drawing a resounding applause from the audience of leading dental experts, practitioners and students.

Highlighting the government's commitment to improving dental education and public oral health awareness, the Minister highlighted that policy measures are being explored to strengthen dental infrastructure, research, and service delivery across urban and rural areas. She also added that measures are being explored for creating employment avenues for dental doctors.

Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan and Principal Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College and Hospital Jammu, Dr. Parveen A Lone also spoke on the occasion.

The dental conference, organized by the J&K chapter of Indian Dental Association (IDA), brought together eminent academicians and practitioners from across the country to deliberate on advances in dental science, public health dentistry and innovations in oral care technologies.

Div Com inaugurates 3rd Chrysanthemum Show at Lal Chowk Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says Show will become as famous as Tulip season, increase influx of tourists



SRINAGAR: After Gul-e-Lala (Tulip) season of Spring, Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum) season of Autumn is gradually turning into another attraction for tourists & locals in Srinagar. On Saturday, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg inaugurated the 3rd Chrysanthemum Show at Clock Tower, Lal Chowk Srinagar organised collectively by SKUAST-K, SMC and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL).

As the heart of city glows in hue of vibrant colours casted by a variety of Gul-e-Dawood flower beds, Div Com invited tourists, locals & students to visit the place and enjoy the show which shall continue to uplit-spirit of visitors till 20th of November.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg says the Chrysanthemum Show is a great initiative of SKUAST-K to decorate the city hub and to reach to the people.

Divulging the market essence of flower farming, Div Com said that cut flowers is a big industry and an opportunity for the progressive farmers for income generation.

He said that for twenty years Kashmir has been famous for the Tulip season which attracts visitors from across the country & the world.

He added that Autumn season is equally colourful and famous season of Kashmir as Spring, Summer or Winter.

He hoped that the Chrysanthemum Show would be another attraction for the tourists to visit Kashmir & enhance the influx of visitors. Div Com divulged that Chrysanthemum gardens will be developed at different spots to adorn and beautify the city which will augment the vibrancy of Smart City.

VC, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad while speaking at the occasion remarked "we converted a bustling business hub into a Colorful garden" and urged the business community to take care of Gul-e-Dawood show for the rest of the period.

CEO, SSCL Faz Lul Haseeb while speaking at the event highlighted the collaboration between SKUAST-Kashmir and Smart City to organize the show and its potential to increase footfall of tourists.

Among others, the event was attended by the business community, traders, locals, students and officers from concerned departments.

CM Omar Abdullah's first year exposes governance failure: AIP

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Spokesperson of Awami Itihaad Party (AIP), Inam Un Nabi Saturday strongly criticized the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government for its performance after completing one year in power, describing it as a period marked by unfulfilled promises, administrative failures and political stagnation.

Nabi said, "After a full year in office, Omar Abdullah has openly confessed his government's inability to deliver on governance and political promises. The restoration of statehood, which was central to his electoral narrative, remains unfulfilled."

Inam added that the much-touted free electricity scheme continues to suffer from technical glitches, while the distribution of free ration and LPG cylinders is still pending, despite last year's New Year promise by the CAPD Minister. Now, another New Year has arrived, yet the people continue to wait, highlighting the administration's apathy and inefficiency. The government's rationalisation of reservation is also still pending, despite a year having passed, severely affecting the future of general category students and aspirants. Similarly, the regularization of daily wagers, contractual employees and SPOs continues to remain in limbo, creating uncertainty and discontent among a large segment of the workforce.

On the political front, Omar Abdullah has remained mum on the release of political prisoners, including MP Baramulla Engineer Rashid and MLA Mehraj Malik, whose prolonged detention has become a growing concern across the region.

Inam Un Nabi emphasized, "The people of Jammu & Kashmir deserve transparent governance, timely delivery of welfare measures and restoration of political rights. Omar Abdullah's first year demonstrates a government in retreat, unable to put public welfare above political excuses."

He warned that public patience was waning and urged the JKNC leadership to take concrete action, fulfill its promises and meaningfully engage with the people and elected representatives, emphasizing that real development, employment justice and political progress could not be postponed indefinitely—(KNO)

Indian Red Cross Society Organizes Awareness Programme on CPR at 82 BN CRPF Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir branch, successfully conducted a comprehensive awareness programme on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for personnel of the 82nd Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at their Srinagar camp.

The event underscored the vital importance of life-saving skills in emergency situations, empowering security forces with essential first aid knowledge to enhance safety and response capabilities in high-risk environments.

The programme was presided over by Honorary Treasurer, IRCS-J&K, G.A. Qureshi and Deputy Commandant, 82 BN CRPF, Srinagar, Munir Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Qureshi emphasized IRCS's commitment to equipping citizens, especially frontline workers, with practical skills to save lives, stating, "In critical moments, timely CPR can make the difference between life and death. Such initiatives bridge the gap in emergency response across J&K."

The awareness session on CPR was expertly imparted by Dr. Shalindra Kour, a First Aid Trainer. She delivered hands-on demonstrations covering key techniques, including chest compressions, rescue breaths. Participants engaged in interactive drills using mannequins to practice scenarios such as cardiac arrest, trauma response, fostering confidence in applying these skills during real-life emergencies.

The programme aligns with IRCS's broader mission as an auxiliary to state authorities, focusing on disaster mitigation, health education, and humanitarian aid. By providing awareness to CRPF personnel, who often operate in challenging terrains, the initiative aims to build a resilient network of first responders capable of immediate intervention, potentially doubling survival rates in cardiac events.



State Taxes Department supports Rural Women Entrepreneurs on Diwali

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In true spirit of Diwali, a team from J&K State Taxes department, led by Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra visited stalls set up by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (Umeed) at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The officers enthusiastically interacted with the women entrepreneurs and purchased 'diyas, decorative items, candles, and other festive products, showcasing their solidarity and encouragement towards local talent and self-reliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Namrita Dogra expressed heartfelt appreciation for the creativity and determination of the SHG members. "These women are not just crafting beautiful products; they are shaping brighter futures for their families and communities," the Additional Commissioner said. "This Diwali, I personally pledge to continue supporting Self-Help Groups by buying from them and encouraging others to do the same. Every small purchase from a local artisan lights up many homes."

The initiative, under the supervision of Additional Commissioner, highlighted the department's commitment towards promoting local entrepreneurship and women empowerment. The event reflected how collective efforts and conscious choices can bring festive cheer and sustainable growth to the grassroots level.



Two NIT Srinagar Faculty Secure ₹73.6 Lakh Ministry Of Mines Grant For Innovative Bioremediation Project

FE NEWS NETWORK

Research initiative marks a major step in Institute's commitment to sustainable, applied engineering innovation: Director



SRINAGAR: In a major boost to interdisciplinary research and sustainable engineering innovation, two faculty members from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar have been awarded a prestigious research grant of ₹ 73,60,921.5 by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

The grant has been sanctioned for a groundbreaking project titled "Bioremediation-Enhanced Pavement System for Removal of Toxic Elements from Underground Soil."

The project will be spearheaded by Dr. Vivek, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, as the Principal Investigator (PI), and Dr. Anshul Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, as the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).

The central objective of the research is to develop and demonstrate sustainable pavement systems that incorporate bioremediation techniques for removing toxic and harmful elements from underground soil.

This dual-purpose system will not only help in environmental remediation but also maintain and enhance pavement durability and performance.

According to the investigators, the project seeks to create field-deployable solutions for contaminated sites by bridging the gap between geotechnical engineering and environmental remediation.

It will also explore the integration of biological agents and material engineering strategies to ensure cost-effective and sustainable soil purification methods.

Upon completion, the project is expected to make a significant contribution to sustainable infrastructure development and eco-friendly engineering practices throughout India. In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated the investigators and appreciated the Ministry of Mines for supporting such crucial research.

"This project reflects NIT Srinagar's growing commitment to sustainable technologies and applied research with national impact. Environmental restoration using engineering innovation is the need of the hour, and this grant will strengthen our contribution to that cause," he said.

Prof. Kanaujia added that the institute continues to encourage collaborative, cross-disciplinary projects that address real-world challenges, promoting innovation among both faculty and students.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, also lauded the faculty for securing the competitive grant and highlighted the project's broader relevance.

"Such research initiatives are crucial for addressing pressing environmental issues. The efforts of Dr. Vivek and Dr. Anshul reflect the research excellence and academic dedication of NIT Srinagar," he said.

Prof. Rehman further said the institute is fully committed to providing infrastructural and administrative support to ensure the successful execution of the project.

Rajnath Singh

representing revenue generated for the state.

The Lucknow facility completes the full assembly, integration, and testing of BrahMos missiles, making Uttar Pradesh a key hub in India's indigenous defence manufacturing and reinforcing the operational readiness of the armed forces—(KNO)

Amit Shah

Rajya Sabha elections will also take place after some time."

Asked about a statement by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who spoke of a "gulf" remaining in between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi on account of statehood not being restored even after a year of his swearing in. Shah replied, "He (Abdullah) may be saying this out of political compulsions. But statehood would be restored at an appropriate time. And it will be done following discussions with him."—(KNO)

NC MP Ruhullah

a memo which will be approved by the cabinet and then sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his approval.

However, Mehdi, who has been estranged from his party for some time now, has given a deadline of Sunday for the report to be made public.

Mehdi's deadline came after a student delegation met him at his residence in Budgam.

"Before any call is taken on the Budgam by-election, the Reservation Sub-Committee Report must be made public and shared with stakeholders by tomorrow," Mehdi said on his official handle on X.

He said all channels of communication shall remain open with the students' representatives.

"Any future decision will be guided by the contents of the report," the MP said.

Earlier on Saturday, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the reservation report will be announced only after the lieutenant governor approves it.

Asked about the demands for the report to be made public, the chief minister told a press conference here that it does not work that way.

"No government works under pressure, and I am the last person who you can pressurise to do something. There is a procedure, and that is being followed. It is not only impropriety, it is bordering on illegal to release the information that has not even reached the LG," he added. (PTI)

Omar Abdullah

disease—diagnosis, treatment, and empathy for the patient. On the other hand patient safety would mean taking every precaution to avoid errors that can endanger life. A treatment cannot be considered good unless both are ensured," he added.

Highlighting the purpose of the conference, the Chief Minister said the deliberations should not remain limited to academic discussions but translate into practical measures that can be replicated in hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. "The biggest benefit of such conferences is that we can learn from the best practices of others and adopt them to our own unique circumstances," he remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah released the Souvenir of NCPS-2025 and Annual Appraisal Report 2024–25 of SKIMS on the occasion.

Addressing the inaugural session, Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo lauded SKIMS as a premier medical institution envisioned by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah. She said, "We must remain eternally grateful to Sher-i-Kashmir and his team for establishing SKIMS. The government under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to strengthening our health institutions by providing modern equipment and facilities so that people need not travel outside J&K for treatment."

She underlined the importance of behavioural change among doctors and public awareness to build a stronger doctor-patient relationship based on trust.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, in his address, said that the credibility of SKIMS lies in its strong commitment to patient care and safety, which has made it a trusted institution in Jammu and Kashmir. He lauded the contibution of SKIMS in producing thousands of specialist doctors who are contibuting towards quality healthcare in J&K, other parts of the country and abroad.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Secretary Health & Medical Education Dr. Abid Rashid, Director SKIMS Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Head of Hospital Administration Prof. G.H. Yatoo, and founder Director SKIMS Dr. A.K. Nagpal.

The conference is being attended by faculty members, senior doctors, researchers, scholars, and delegates from across the country. Among those present were several MLAs, former directors of SKIMS, Director SKICC Haris Ahmad Handoo, administrative officers, and senior faculty members of SKIMS. (DIPR)

LG Sinha

ModiJi has always reiterated the relevance of Buddha's teachings in the modern world and continues to emphasise this aspect at different international forums reminding the world of Buddha's timeless wisdom," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the message of the Buddha along with his teachings should get more embedded in societies especially among the youth. (DIPR)

Devyani Rana

nomination papers today for the bypoll to Nagrota seat. The seat felt vacant after the demise of her father last year—(KNO)

Jitendra Singh

informed the President that the event, scheduled from November 3 to 5, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, will mark India's first integrated platform dedicated to science, technology, and innovation.

The conclave, themed 'Imagine, Innovate, Inspire for Viksit Bharat 2047', will convene scientists, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to deliberate on frontier technologies, including semiconductors, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, space science, and clean energy.

He highlighted that ESTIC-2025 has been conceptualised with the participation of 13 ministries and departments, embodying a "whole-of-government" approach to fostering innovation.

Jitendra Singh said the conclave will include 11 thematic sessions and feature interactions between researchers, startups, and industry stakeholders to promote actionable collaborations.

He noted that India's innovation landscape has witnessed a remarkable transformation over the past decade, with the country emerging among the top six globally in patent filings and expected to surpass major economies in research publications by 2029.

The Minister emphasised that ESTIC-2025 will serve as a strategic forum to chart India's long-term scientific and technological roadmap, aligning innovation with national priorities and sustainable development goals.

Updating the President on preparations for the India International Science Festival (IISF-2025), Jitendra Singh said the four-day event, beginning December 6 at Panjab University, Chandigarh, will celebrate the theme 'Vigyan Se Samriddhi – Science to Prosperity'.

Jitendra Singh conveyed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has entered its most dynamic phase in scientific growth and technological advancement.

He noted that every major address by the Prime Minister — from Independence Day to policy announcements — has underscored the role of science and technology in national progress. Referring to the recently held curtain raisers for both IISF and ESTIC, the Minister said the two events complement each other: while ESTIC focuses on the study and understanding of science, IISF celebrates discovery and innovation. (IANS)

CM Omar

Asked about some sections demanding that the report be made public, the chief minister said it does not work that way.

"No government works under pressure, and I am the last person who you can pressurise to do something. There is a procedure, and that is being followed. It is not only impropriety, it is bordering on illegal to release the information that has not even reached the LG," he added. (PTI)

Diwali

responsibly by avoiding loud firecrackers and encouraging eco-friendly celebrations—(KNO)

MLA Banihal kick-starts blacktopping work on Haroq–Karara Road

GOOL: Member Legislative Assembly Banihal Sajjad Shaheen inaugurated the blacktopping work on the Haroq–Karara via Ashmar Road, in the presence of DDC Chairperson Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan. The much-awaited project spans a total length of 8 kilometers and has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of 91.89 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) scheme.

Executive Engineer PMGSY Arth Gupta and AEE Naveen Aslam and many others were present.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA emphasized that the government is committed to improving rural connectivity and augmenting the quality of road infrastructure in far-flung areas. He said that better road connectivity not only ensures ease of travel but also plays a crucial role in promoting economic development, improving access to education and healthcare and improving the standard of living of rural residents.

The MLA directed the executing agency to adhere to quality standards and ensure timeline completion of the blacktopping word.

The DDC Chairperson also lauded the government for prioritizing infrastructure development in remote regions like Gool and Banihal. She said that such developmental works reflect the administration's resolve to bring equitable growth and progress across all parts of the district.

Local residents expressed gratitude to the MLA and the District Administration for fulfilling their long-pending demand, noting that the project will significantly ease commuting and boost local economic activities in the area. (DIPR)

Director Horticulture Jammu conducts extensive tour of District Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed along with Assistant Director Horticulture Sunil Gupta conducted a two day extensive tour of District Kishtwar to oversee Horticulture sector operations and other development activities in the region.

The team conducted a thorough review and assessed the ground level impact of flagship schemes including HADP, MIDH, JKCIP & UT Capex.

The Director led team also inspected various orchards in Pochhal area & cold storage unit at Shalimar, besides convening a meeting with the District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar regarding departmental activities.

While interacting with the orchardists and farmers, the Director highlighted departmental initiatives and encouraged them to come forward and avail benefits under Micro Food Processing, MIDH and HADP schemes for the development of the horticulture sector in Kishtwar district.

Later, the Director chaired a meeting with the Chief Horticulture Officer and other field Officers to review the physical and financial progress of each scheme. He stressed upon timely completion of developmental works and maintaining high standards in nursery management and fruit plant propagation.

The visit concluded with an assurance from the Director of all possible support to farmers for the promotion of horticulture activities and value addition in the area. (DIPR)

SBI RSETI Ramban organises entrepreneurship awareness programme at Neel Batoo, Neel Top

RAMBAN: State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI) Ramban today organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) at Neel Batoo and Neel Top.

The Programme, held under the guidance of Director, S. Harvinder Singh and led by Senior Faculty Member Amrik Singh Raju, witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 50 local residents, including youth, women, and aspiring entrepreneurs. Ex-Sarpanch Ghulam Rasool, who graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, lauded SBI RSETI Ramban for reaching remote areas and encouraging rural youth to become self-reliant through entrepreneurship.

The Faculty Member informed participants about the free training programmes conducted by SBI RSETI Ramban to enhance self-employment skills. He also elaborated on Government Sponsored Loan Schemes such as PMEGP, JKREGP and MUDRA, urging youth to avail the benefits the same for establishing their ventures. Awareness was also imparted about Mission YUVA, focused on skill-based training and financial empowerment.

Additionally, participants were briefed about social security schemes like PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY. The locals appreciated SBI RSETI Ramban for organizing such a beneficial programme, acknowledging the institute's ongoing efforts in promoting financial literacy, skill development and entrepreneurship across rural areas.(DIPR)

GMC Srinagar Organizes Special Health Camp for Differently Abled Individuals

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 18: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar organized a special health check-up camp for the residents of Abhinandan Home, an institute for the blind and school for the deaf and dumb in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar.

The camp aimed to provide advanced medical care to specially abled individuals who may face challenges in accessing medical facilities.

Specialists from various departments, including Medicine, ENT, Ophthalmology, and Dermatology, provided thorough health check-ups to about 200 inhabitants. Patients received consultation, medical advice, and medication as needed.

The medical college reaffirmed its commitment to providing advanced treatment facilities to all individuals, including those with special needs.

The camp demonstrated GMC Srinagar's dedication to reaching out to vulnerable populations and ensuring they receive the medical care they deserve.

The health camp provided a valuable opportunity for the residents of Abhinandan Home to access specialized healthcare services, which might have been challenging for them to access otherwise. (DIPR)

All options open for by-polls: Tariq Karra

Awaiting directions from party high command

SRINAGAR: Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra on Saturday said



that all options are open for the party regarding the Budgam and Nagrota by-polls.

In response to a question on whether the Congress will field candidates from both the Budgam and Nagrota seats, Karra, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "All options are open. I have submitted my report to the central leadership, and they are reviewing it."

He admitted that the National Conference has offered them the Nagrota seat. "They have offered it to us. We have presented our case before the central high command, and we are waiting for their response," he said.

When asked whether Omar Abdullah's statement on smart meters would be a problem for the party, Karra said it was for the National Conference to explain. "We don't have any issue with it. That was not in our manifesto. It is for them to explain what they had said earlier and what they are saying now," he said—(KNO)

LG Sinha Hands Over Exhibitions belonging to International Buddhist Confederation & National Museum to Kalmyk Museum

"Preservation & education of heritage is essential": LG Sinha



FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAAGR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday Handed over the exhibitions belonging to International Buddhist Confederation and the National Museum to the Kalmyk Museum.

In a post on X, Office of LG wrote, "Handed over the exhibitions belonging to International Buddhist Confederation and the National Museum to the Kalmyk Museum, so that the Lord Buddha's importance and relevance, and also visit of holy relics to Kalmykia is remembered by the people of this beautiful land."

"History, tradition, culture & spiritual wisdom shape identity & transmit ethical values across generations and drive sustainable development. Preservation & education of heritage is essential & I am truly delighted to see this museum is a small Kalmykia in itself under one roof,"the post reads. (DIPR)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Sub: e-NIT No. 03 of 2025-26, dated: 20-05-2025 for below mentioned work:
Revamping / Modernization of Marval Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pulwama.

Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's.: **2025_IFC_277504_1**

CANCELLATION NOTICE

In light of the decisions taken at the meeting held on **16-10-2025** in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, under his chairmanship (MoM No. 10601-03, dated: 16-10-2025), the above-mentioned **e-NIT** is hereby **cancelled**. A fresh **e-NIT** will be issued shortly.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

No. MIDS/Ts/3386-3408
Date: 18-10-2025

DIPK-7335/25
Dt: 18-10-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 47/5228-38 /RnB/SPN /e-Tendering/2025-26 **Dated:- 17-10-2025**

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	**Macadamization of Link road to SDH Keller.**	C&T of capex Budget 2025-26	**19.773**	**3954 6/-**	**CEE/BEE**	**10 Days**	**800/-**	**162-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 17-10-2025**	**34-TS/RnB/SPN /2025 -26 Dated:-17-10-2025**
	Macadamization of road Arshipora and Sharatpora Division Shopian	C&T of capex Budget 2025-26	**29.251**	**5850 2/-**	**BEE/AAY**	**10 Days**	**1100/-**	**161-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 17-10-2025**	**34-TS/RnB/SPN /2025 -26 Dated:-17-10-2025**

Position of funds :- Committed Department South Kashmir ***Project Authority= PW(R&B)***

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** on the dates listed below:

1	*Date of Issue of Tender Notice*	***17-10-2025***	
2	*Document downloading **Start Date.***	***18-10-2025***	*From 10.00 A.M*
3	*Document Downloading **End Date.***	***27-10-2025***	*upto 2:00 P.M*
4	*Bid submission **Start Date.***	***18-10-2025***	*From 10.00 A.M*
5	*Bid Submission **End Date.***	***27-10-2025***	*upto 2:00 P.M*
6	*Date & time of opening of Bids **(Online)***	***28-10-2025***	*at **10:00 A.M***

2. Bids must be accompanied by a **Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059** in the name of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian** (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
3. **At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days).**
4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (tender receiving authority).
5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

No:NIT/5228-38
Dt: 17-10-2025

Sd/-Ex.Engineer

DIPK-7311/25 **Dt: 18-10-2025**

Benefits Of Revised Tax Structure Reaching End Consumers: Sitharaman

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman; Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal; and Union Minister for Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw held a joint press conference on GST Bachat Utsav in New Delhi.



In her opening remarks, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced from the Red Fort that Next-Gen GST Reforms would be implemented before Diwali.

"Accordingly, rate reduction, simplifying the process, bringing down number of slabs from four to two, and resolving classification related issues have all been completed well before time. Next-Gen GST Reforms came into effect from the first day of Navratri and I feel the people of India have received it well," Smt. Sitharaman said.

The Union Finance Minister said , "We set the course for GST, we implemented it. The Opposition neither brought GST nor even dared to attempt it. What we are doing today is not a correction, but a conscious decision - a reflection of cooperation between the Central Government and the GST Council to pass on greater benefits to the people."

"A reduction in tax rates is for the benefit of consumers — and that's exactly what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has guided us to do. We have been doing this consistently since 2017 till today," Sitharaman said.

The Union Finance Minister further added, "Since September 22, we have been receiving information from the zonal levels on all items. However, we have been closely monitoring the prices of 54 products to ensure that the benefits of the revised tax structure are reaching the end consumers. The Next-Gen GST benefits have been fully passed on across all 54 items."

The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is actively monitoring select 54 products during the Next-Gen GST transition period.

In his opening remarks, Piyush Goyal expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister for making this year's Navratri special with the implementation of the next-generation GST on 22nd September. He said that the reform has brought a new excitement and energy across the country — among the common people, the industrial and commercial sectors, and within households. Calling it the biggest reform since independence, the Minister said that the indirect tax system impacts 140 crore Indians, and the decision to provide relief of Rs 2.5 lakh crore through both direct and indirect tax measures is unprecedented and beyond imagination.

Goyal highlighted that the major relief announced in income tax on February 1 this year was a major step towards encouraging savings and increasing disposable income for the people. He said that under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister has been working on comprehensive tax reforms for the past year and a half, which culminated in the announcement on 3rd September 2025.

Goyal noted that the multiplier effect of these reforms is already visible in investment, business, and industry, which has created a surge in the Indian economy and boosted consumer spending. Goyal said that when infrastructure development and daily essentials become more affordable, the combined push from both supply and demand sides helps the economy grow faster, making India the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

In his opening remarks, Ashwini Vaishnaw today highlighted the remarkable growth in India's electronics ecosystem and the positive multiplier effects of GST reforms on consumption, investment, and manufacturing. The Minister said that the Indian economy continues to demonstrate strong fundamentals driven by record consumer demand, policy stability, and a rapidly expanding manufacturing base. (PIB)

Defence Minister Dedicates Titanium & Superalloy Materials Plant in Lucknow

LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday dedicated to the nation a Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant at PTC Industries' Strategic Materials Technology Complex in Lucknow, calling it a major step towards India's self-reliance in defence and aerospace manufacturing. Emphasising the importance of producing rare materials domestically, Singh said India must manufacture its own critical defence and aerospace materials to become a technology creator and safeguard its technological sovereignty.



"We will gain true strength only when we produce our own materials, components, chips, and alloys," he asserted according to Press Information Bureau (PIB).

The plant, one of the first in the private sector to manufacture aero-engine and superalloy components, positions India among a select group of nations with indigenous capability in advanced defence materials production. It will play a crucial role in manufacturing components for fighter jets, missiles, naval systems, and satellites.

Calling the facility a living example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the defence minister said it would not only boost defence innovation but also strengthen Uttar Pradesh's industrial base by creating direct and indirect employment. He added that the UP Defence Industrial Corridor was emerging as one of Asia's most advanced manufacturing zones, offering vast opportunities to MSMEs and start-ups.

Highlighting the shift from Make in India to Design, Develop, and Deliver in India, Shri Singh lauded the growing role of the private sector in defence production and urged innovators, entrepreneurs, and youth to view defence manufacturing as both an opportunity and a national duty.

During the event, an MoU was signed between PTC Industries Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to form a joint venture for the design and manufacture of propulsion systems, guided bombs, and small aero-engines for missiles and UAVs, aiming to accelerate indigenisation in advanced propulsion technologies.

PTC Industries also received multiple Letters of Technical Acceptance (LoTA) from the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), DRDO for the indigenous development of key titanium components for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and Kaveri Derivative Engine (KDE-2) programs.

The 1,000-crore Strategic Materials Technology Complex, spread over 50 acres, has a production capacity of over 6,000 tonnes per annum, enabling India to produce aviation-grade titanium and superalloys from domestic and recycled sources — a major stride toward strategic materials independence.

The Defence Minister was accompanied by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat, and other senior officials. (PIB)

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Holds Gram Chaupal in Gorakhpur; Urges Farmers to Diversify into Allied Sectors

GORAKHPUR: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday held a Gram Chaupal in Dumri Khurd village of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, where he interacted with farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, and Panchayat representatives.

Addressing a large gathering, the Minister underlined the government's commitment to enhancing farmers' income through diversified livelihoods, urging cultivators to adopt animal husbandry, fisheries, beekeeping, and horticulture alongside traditional agriculture. He also assured farmers of compensation for crop losses under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and sought direct feedback on challenges related to crop production, input costs, and local market access.

Shri Chouhan highlighted several ongoing initiatives, including the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission', aimed at increasing the production of lentils and grams. He informed farmers that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for key Rabi crops—wheat, gram, lentil, and mustard—has been raised this year to ensure better returns.

Emphasising the government's pro-farmer fiscal reforms, the Minister said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on agricultural machinery has been reduced from 12% and 18% to 5%, providing direct financial relief to cultivators. "Wide changes are possible when people and ministers work together," Shri Chouhan remarked, adding that collective participation is key to achieving rural prosperity.

During the interaction, farmers and SHG members shared their concerns and suggestions with the Union Minister. Shri Chouhan reiterated the Centre's focus on modernising agriculture through technology, quality seeds, and better irrigation, while also expanding support for animal vaccination and allied sectors to make rural livelihoods more resilient.

Concluding the Gram Chaupal, the Minister appealed for community cooperation to further the vision of rural development and agricultural self-reliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (PIB)



Infiltration stopped in Assam, but illegal immigrants getting 'red carpet welcome' in Bengal: Shah

PATNA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday claimed that while infiltration has stopped in BJP-ruled Assam, it was continuing in adjoining West Bengal because the government there was giving a "red carpet welcome" to illegal immigrants.



Addressing a media conclave in Patna, he also mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for having given up the diatribe on "vote theft", reiterating that Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls would weed out "infiltrators".

"It is baffling that the opposition has been getting a bellyache over an exercise launched by the Election Commission, which would weed out infiltrators. I am fully in support of the SIR exercise, which would eventually take place in the entire country," he said at the conclave organised by ABP News and Hindustan.

Shah, however, bristled when reminded of the opposition charge that if there were infiltrators in the country, the blame ought to be on the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, which has been in power at the Centre for 11 years.

"People sitting in Lutyens Delhi have no idea of what the borders are like. The border with Bangladesh has dense forests and mighty rivers, which are in spate during the monsoons. Fencing is impossible, and so is round-the-clock vigil. Boats for security personnel manning the borders also tend to get washed away," he said.

"My point is, when a person from the neighbouring country enters our territory, can it not be known to the local police station and the patwari? Why do these officials not raise an alarm? Because they are under orders from above to give a red carpet ('lal jaajim') welcome to these infiltrators. This is the reason why infiltration is rampant in West Bengal but has been checked in Assam," he added.

Urging the people of West Bengal to vote out CM Mamata Banerjee in next year's assembly polls, he promised to "drive out every infiltrator" from the state.

Claiming that Gandhi has forgotten the aof "vote chori", Shah said in the last 15 days, "on the very few occasions that he has been seen in public", he has never made the charge.

"Perhaps the people of Bihar have made him give up on the charge. He must have been under advice based on some feedback," he said.

The allusion was to the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' that Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, took out in Bihar a couple of months ago, in protest against SIR, which, the INDIA bloc has been alleging, aimed at disenfranchising a large number of voters.

The former BJP president also dismissed the opposition charge that the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which provides for the removal of ministers, including the PM and CMS, if they spent 30 days or more in jail, was aimed at destabilising governments in states not ruled by the party.

"I had stepped down when a case was pending against me in the court, and did not accept a post until I was acquitted. We have seen, in the recent past, governments being run by people behind bars. That cannot be allowed. Why is the opposition so scared? The Bill does not stipulate that a minister be removed as soon as his name comes up in an FIR," he said.

Shah also raked up the "insult to the then Prime Minister Sardar Manmohan Singh" by Gandhi, who tore off a copy of an ordinance that would have prevented politicians from automatic disqualification upon conviction.

It was widely believed that the ordinance had been brought to "save" RJD president Lalu Prasad, a fodder scam convict, who had served as the railway minister in the UPA 1 government. (PTI)

Paid Holiday Announced for Bihar Assembly Elections and Bye-Elections on Polling Days

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared that all voters will be entitled to a paid holiday on the days of polling for the upcoming Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections 2025 and bye-elections in eight Assembly constituencies, in accordance with Section 135B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.



As per the election schedule announced by the Commission, polling in Bihar will be held in two phases — Phase I on November 6, 2025 (Thursday) and Phase II on November 11, 2025 (Tuesday). The bye-elections for all eight constituencies will also take place on November 11, 2025.

The ECI has clarified that every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking, or other establishment who is entitled to vote shall be granted a paid holiday on the day of polling. Employers have been directed not to make any wage deductions on account of this leave, failing which they will be liable to a fine under the provisions of the Act.

Importantly, the Commission has also extended this benefit to daily wage and casual workers, ensuring they too receive a paid holiday to cast their vote. Furthermore, voters employed in industrial or commercial establishments located outside their home constituencies but registered in a constituency going to polls will also be entitled to a paid holiday to enable them to exercise their franchise.

The Election Commission has directed all State and Union Territory governments to issue necessary instructions for strict compliance with these provisions, ensuring that every eligible elector is able to vote freely and conveniently during the polling days. (PIB)

Taiwan's main opposition party elects new leader in race clouded by claims of China meddling

TAIPEI: Taiwan's main opposition Nationalist Party chose a former lawmaker as its new chairperson on Saturday in a competitive election clouded by allegations of China's meddling.

By a wide margin, Cheng Li-wun — the only female candidate in the race who positioned herself as a reformist — defeated former Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin and four others contesting the leadership of the China-friendly party. The Nationalists, also known as the KMT, maintain strong political influence in Taiwan despite losing three consecutive presidential elections to the independence-leaning ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

The party holds enough seats to form a majority bloc with its allies in the legislature and survived two recall elections just months ago that were sparked by concerns over their lawmakers passing changes seen as diminishing the power of the executive and favouring China, which considers the island as its own territory.



Scheduled to take office in November, Cheng could influence how Taiwan handles its relationship with Beijing and other key policies and domestic and international political matters. She will also anchor the party in the 2026 local elections and in the 2028 presidential race against the incumbent Lai Ching-te.

During her campaign, Cheng pledged to turn KMT from a flock of "sheep" into "lions," hoping the party could regain support from young people. Cheng was once a DPP member.

Beijing has a particularly strained relationship with Lai, whom it accuses of being a separatist. It has threatened to use force to bring Taiwan under its control, if necessary, and has increasingly mobilized military, diplomatic and economic pressure in an attempt to undermine Lai's administration.

Traditionally, KMT has had warmer ties with Beijing, with Chinese politicians visiting for exchanges. Supporters of the KMT see the ties as beneficial to the island democracy's stability and economy, but its critics are wary of the influence Beijing exerts.

Over the past week, Jaw Shaw-kong, Hau's supporter in the party, alleged that China was involved in an organised interference, citing videos attacking Hau and supporting Cheng.

The head of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, Tsai Ming-yen, said it found over 1,000 videos discussing the election on TikTok, in addition to 23 YouTube accounts posting related content, with over half of the YouTube accounts based outside of Taiwan. He did not say which candidates these videos supported or directly answer whether they were based in China. In response to allegations over foreign interference, Cheng had previously called for party unity and cautioned against internal fighting, saying it would only hurt the KMT and allow other parties to exploit divisions, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported.

Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, on Wednesday said the election was the party's internal affair and the views of some mainland Chinese internet users did not represent the government position.

Under late leader Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalists rose to power in China during the 1920s, fighting invasion by Japan and then Mao Zedong's communists, before fleeing to Taiwan with the remnants of his forces when Mao's insurgents took power. Taiwan began transitioning from martial law rule to multiparty democracy in the 1980s and held its first direct presidential election in 1996. (PTI)

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