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War ends as Hamas frees all Israeli hostages

transferred to the Red Cross later in the day. Though details about the hostages' conditions were not immediately available, news of their release was met with cheers and applause. Crowds gathered in cities and towns around the country, watching live broadcasts of the events. In Tel Aviv, large public screenings drew thousands of people, many waving flags and holding signs with the names and faces of those still held in Gaza.

Outside the Reim military base in southern Israel, a small crowd had already gathered by sunrise, holding Israeli flags and wrapped in silence and prayer. No immediate details were released about the hostages' conditions, but for many, simply knowing they were alive brought a measure of peace.

The crowd clapped and sang while watching live coverage of the hostage releases. A man blew the traditional Jewish horn, the shofar, to welcome the news. Some members of the community, almost all wearing T-shirts featuring a picture of Ohel, cried as they watched the news of the hostages being released after more than two years in captivity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara had prepared handwritten notes and goodies for the returning hostages. The note reads: "On behalf of all the people of Israel, welcome back! We waited for you, hugging you."

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said that each returning hostage would receive a personalised reception kit: clothing, personal equipment, a laptop, a phone, and a tablet.

In Gaza, the Israeli Defence Forces planted flags along the path home, marking each stretch of the journey not just as a logistical route, but as a symbolic reclaiming of life, hope, and loss.

Alongside plans for two rounds of live hostage returns, the government has also prepared for the return of slain hostages' bodies by noon.

Moreover, the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt will bring together Trump and over 20 global leaders to review the next steps of the US-brokered peace framework. Central to that is the creation of a new international body, the "Board of Peace," which Trump is expected to lead.

However, the path forward remains uncertain. Key elements of Trump's proposed 20-point plan - including the post-war governance of Gaza and the future of Hamas - are still unresolved. The group has so far rejected Israel's demand that it disarm, leaving the ceasefire fragile despite Monday's breakthrough.

Upgrade curriculum regularly to meet NEP objectives: LG to SMVDU

Jammu University VC (Prof) Umesh Rai, Kashmir University VC (Prof) Nilofer Khan, VC & Board of Management, Ahmedabad University, Chairman (Prof) Pankaj Chandra, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Amethi, Prof A S K Sinha, Director, IIT, Jammu, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, LG's principal secretary Mandeep K Bhandari, SMVDSB CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SMVDU registrar Ajay Kumar Sharma and other members of the executive council.

The executive council discussed several important academic and administrative issues and gave in-principle ap-

proval to various agenda points presented during the meeting.

2-way movement of heavy vehicles restored on NH

forts, the damaged stretches were repaired and black-topped. The most affected and vulnerable portion near Tharad, between Udhampur and Chenani, approximately 300 mt in length, was fully blacktopped on October 5, ensuring smooth passage for both HMVs and LMVs," officials said.

"Two-way traffic has now been restored for heavy vehicles," the officials added.

2 brothers accused of murder arrested

in his death. Following a complaint lodged on October 9 by the deceased's wife, Harbhajan Kaur, an FIR was registered against the two for attempt to murder, wrongful restraint and rioting at Miran Sahib police station.

According to the complaint, Narinder was severely assaulted by Tanveer and Bavneet, along with their family members.

The injured was rushed to the GMCH, where doctors declared him brought dead, officials said, adding that Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was later added to the case.

After medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for last rites, and a police team launched a manhunt to trace the culprits.

After multiple raids across Jammu and neighbouring districts, and acting on specific intelligence, the team apprehended Tanveer and Bavneet from Punjab, police said.

Their sustained questioning was in progress.

After Cong declines seat, NC names 4th candidate for RS polls

(treasurer). They submitted their nomination papers earlier in the day.

Imran Nabi Dar was the last to file his nomination. The Congress yesterday decided not to contest the fourth Rajya Sabha seat proposed by NC, calling it a risky option for the party.

"A detailed discussion was held about the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. The unanimous view was that our central leadership had sought a safer seat, either number 1 or 2. The NC offered seat No 4, which is comparatively less secure. Under these circumstances, it was unanimously decided that we would not field any candidate for this seat and leave it to our alliance partners to decide," the Congress said on Tuesday.

On October 6, the Election Commission of India (ECI) had issued three separate notifications, initiating the nomination process for four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu & Kashmir.

The first notification states that election will be held to fill the vacancy in the Council of States caused due to the retirement of Mir Mohammad Fayaz on February 10, 2021, upon the expiration of his term.

The returning officer has informed that nomination papers can be submitted by candidates or their proposers to the returning officer (secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly) or the assistant returning officer (additional secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly) at their offices located in the legisla-

tive assembly secretariat, Srinagar, between 11 am and 3 pm on any working day.

The last date for submission of nomination forms is Monday, ie October 13, 2025. Forms of nomination may be obtained at the same offices during the stated timings.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on Tuesday, October 14 at 11 am in the office of returning officer at the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar.

Candidates may withdraw their nomination by October 16 before 3 pm either personally or through authorised proposers or election agents. In the event of a contested election, polling will be conducted on October 24 from 9 am to 4 pm.

The second notification pertains to the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Shamsheer Singh on February 10, 2021. The procedure for filing, scrutiny, and withdrawal of nominations, as well as polling, remains the same as outlined in the first notification. The returning officer for this election is Manoj Kumar Pandit, secretary of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

The third notification relates to the election of two members to the Council of States to fill vacancies caused by the retirement of Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway on February 15, 2021, upon the completion of their terms.

Nomination papers can be delivered at the same offices between 11 am and 3 pm, with the last date for filing being October 13, 2025.

Scrutiny will be conducted on October 14 at 11 am and withdrawal of candidature must be completed before 3 pm on October 16. Polling, if required, will be held on October 24, 2025, from 9 am to 4 pm.

The ECI has reiterated that all forms and submission procedures must adhere to the timelines specified, and candidates or their authorized agents are responsible for delivering the papers within the prescribed schedule.

Omar stresses on making J&K destination for investment, manufacturing

was "an important vote of confidence" in Jammu and Kashmir.

During his address, Omar Abdullah outlined the government's ongoing efforts to expand investment opportunities in J&K.

"That is something, as a conscious effort, my government is trying to address so that we can attract more investment into Jammu and Kashmir, more manufacturing. Recognizing the constraints that we have, we are trying to address the infrastructure gaps," he said.

He acknowledged the unique challenges that J&K faces due to its geography and limited resources, stating that the government's focus is on leveraging sectors where Jammu and Kashmir holds inherent advantages. These include agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, pharmaceuticals, IT services and electronics.

Speaking about the overall business environment, Omar highlighted that confidence continues to play a crucial role in shaping the region's industry.

"Confidence is one of the most vital elements for business, and regrettably, Jammu and Kashmir has been deprived of it for the past 30 to 35 years," he said and added, "We are doing everything possible to ensure that this lack of confidence does not define our future."

Highlighting the resilience of the local economy, he said, "Given the extent of the challenges that we face and the disadvantages inherent to doing business in Jammu and Kashmir, we are still an economy that is growing reasonably well. Our own estimate is that our GDP will grow in the double digits, around 10-11 pc this year."

He expressed concern over the economic repercussions of recent events, noting that tourism had suffered a serious setback. The impact, he said, had spilled over into agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts sectors and also impacted exports.

He underlined the government's priority to position Jammu & Kashmir as a hub for MSMEs and high-value, low-volume industries, mentioning that the region once had a budding high-tech manufacturing base before militancy disrupted progress in the late 1980s. "Prior to the militancy breaking out in 1989, Kashmir was emerging as a hub for new high-tech manufacturing industries. We believe those are the areas of economy that remain ripe for revitalization," he noted.

He emphasised several advantages that could support renewed industrial growth in the region, including competitive electricity rates, an educated young workforce, and favourable policy frameworks. However, he acknowledged

that the perception of the region as a risky business destination has to change for the better.

"Your presence here does, to a large extent, enable us to try and change the perception of Jammu & Kashmir being too unsafe to visit. I thank all of you for choosing Srinagar for your Board of Management meeting, and I look forward to more such engagements that can help J&K move forward," he said.

The meeting was attended by FIEO President S.C. Ralhan, Vice President Shrikant Kapoor, DG & CEO Ajay Sahai, regional chairpersons, past presidents, board members and other dignitaries.

The session discussed various opportunities of collaboration between J&K government and key representatives of India's export community.

Nomination process begins for Nagrota, Budgam assembly by-elections

same had already picked up.

While BJP would be contesting the polls on its own without having a truck with any political party, NC & Congress were likely to field a joint candidate to win from the constituency. Or, both the parties may decide to field their own candidates.

The bye-elections in the two constituencies would be closely watched, as these were expected to play a key role in shaping the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi backs Trump's Gaza peace plan

to the Red Cross before being reunited with their families, with the help of the Israeli army.

"We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity," the PM said in a post on X.

"Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support President Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region," he added.

Earlier on Monday, President Trump addressed the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and said that the Gaza peace deal would not have been possible "with a nuclear Iran". Trump told lawmakers that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu frequently requested military assistance during his presidency.

"Bibi [Netanyahu] would call me so many times asking for weapons - so many that Israel became strong and powerful. That's what led to peace," Trump said.

Concluding his speech, he again credited himself for preventing a war between India and Pakistan, citing it as one of eight global conflicts he claimed to have helped resolve.

Ladakh poised to emerge as premier winter sports destination: LG Kavinder

He underlined the UT administration's commitment to developing Ladakh into a top winter sports destination, with Khelo India Winter Games and other winter sports events, particularly those related to ice hockey, being organised annually in Ladakh during the peak winter months.

The LG also mentioned key notable initiatives taken by the UT administration, with the support of the Government of India, including the installation of the chilling plant for the ice hockey rink at NDS Stadium in Leh and also in Kargil to create year-round artificial ice for the benefit of local players.

The development of such infrastructure would help in nurturing local talent for national and international competitions, including the Winter Olympics.

The stakeholders, including the CEC/Chairman, Executive Councillor, and Councillors from LAHDC Kargil, along with members of the Ski Association, requested the Lt. Governor to initiate work on winter sports development at the earliest, highlighting the potential for Ladakh to become a hub for winter sports in India while empowering local talent.

Earlier, officials from Ronmas Pvt India, the consultancy firm, apprised about the project, with Chair Lift/Ski Drag Lift to be established in the first phase and Winter Sports Academy in the second.

The meeting was attended by Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Er Punchok Tashi; Councillors from Drass and Zanskar; Administrative Secretary, YSS, Bhanu Prabha; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain; government officials and members from Ski Association and Zanskar Ski School.

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13 :

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry reorientation of CTs between 33 KV Sangam and 33 KV Airfield lines at Grid Station Awantipora, shutdown of 33 KV Sangam II line will be observed due to which K-Koot & Panzgam receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Saimooh, K-Koot, Hariparigam, Kaigam, Chakoor, Gulzarpora, Panzgam Railway, Panzgam, Agriculture, Rakh Litter, Naina, Batpora, Khella and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 14 October, 2025.

In view of construction of 33 KV Pulwama-2nd Ckt., shutdown of 33 KV Lassipora-Pulwama line will be observed due to which Pulwama, Pinglena, MM Flour Mill & Covid Hospital shall remain off while power supply to Pulwama Town, Babhaar, Pinglena, Tanghar, Tahab, Koil and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 15, 20, 26 & 29 October, 2025.

Similarly, in order to carry branch cutting of trees coming in the corridor of 33 KV lines and stabilization works, shutdown of 33 KV Nowbugh-Nagam line will be observed due to which Char-I, Char-II, Hafroo & Nagam receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Kakawring, Yousmarg, Char Town, Rakhe, ITI, Shrine, Tilsera, Alamdard Colony, Town, Badipora, Nagam, Hayatpora, Hafroo, Bizgo, Loolipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.30 AM to 03.30 PM on 15, October, 2025.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Nowbugh-Chadoora line will be observed due to which Chadoora, Panzan, Ranger & Wathoorareceiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Sogam, Rajpora, Dawlatpora, Panzan, Lalgam, Chadoora Town, Chadoora Hospital, Wathhoroa, Bugam, Gadsathoo, Kathairgund and adjoining areas will be affect from 09.30 AM to 03.30 PM on 15, October, 2025.

According to separate shutdown schedule by the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, shutdown of 33 KV Rawalpore Silkfactory line and 33 KV GIS Tengpora Grid Narkara line will be observed due to which Silk, Narkara & Gangbugh receiving stations shall remain off due to which power supply to Silkfactory, Allochibagh, Rambagh, Cargo, Tulsibagh, Narkara, Galwanpora, Gangbugh, Shaanwar, West End Colony and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 16 October, 2025.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV GIS Tengpora Exhibition Tapline Allochibagh Bund Portion and 33 KV GIS Tengpora KP Bagh line will be observed due to which KP Bagh and Jawa-

harnagar receiving station will remain off while power supply to Allochibagh, Bulbulbagh Bund and KP Bagh Portion to remain off from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 14 October, 2025.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Rangrethh Doodhganga Tapline will be observed due to which KV installation Doodhganga receiving station shall remain off due to which power supply to Kralpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 15 October, 2025.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam DH Pora will be observed due to which Chawalgam, Rambhama, Nillow, DH Pora & Nagam receiving stations will remain off while power supply to DH Pora, Manzgam, DK Marg, Nagam, Nillow, Arreh, Begam, Hospital & adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 14 & 16 October, 2025.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam Yaripora will be observed due to which Yaripora & Behibagh receiving stations will remain off while power supply to Yaripora, Tarigam, Behibagh, Kadder and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 14 October, 2025.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh Ashajipora line will be observed due to which Ashajipora & Dialgam receiving stations will remain off while power supply to Ashajipora, Dialgam, Mominabad and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:00 PM on 22, 27 October, 2025.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh Lisserkokernag line will be observed due to which Janglatmandi, Brakpora and Malaknag receiving stations will remain off while power supply to Janglatmandi, Dooni-pawar, Hazratbal and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:00 PM on 22, 27 October, 2025.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Lissers Hiller line will be observed due to which Hiller, Shankerpora & Aarkoshipora receiving stations will remain off while Hiller, Shankerpora, Akingam, Aarkhoshipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:00 PM on 16 October, 2025.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 KV Lissers Hiller line will be observed due to which Hiller, Shankerpora & Aarkoshipora receiving stations will remain off while Hiller, Shankerpora, Akingam, Aarkhoshipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:00 PM on 16 October, 2025.

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DC Reasi reviews achievements of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry Departments

REASI, OCTOBER 13:

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today reviewed the performance and achievements of the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Departments in the district in two separate meetings.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal of the Agriculture sector Central Schemes and flagship programmes aimed at improving the socio-economic condition of farmers. The review covered Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, Soil Health Card Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, besides Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) - a UT government initiative to improve competitiveness in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The concerned functionaries informed that 2704.37 quintals of High Yield Variety (HYV) seeds and 932.65 metric ton fertilizer have been distributed among farmers across the district.



"Under the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana, an annual income support of ?6,000 is provided in three equal installments to all eligible landholding families. So far, ?133.60 crore has been disbursed under the scheme. Under the KCC Scheme, a total of ?134.32 crore has been disbursed to the farmers of the district," the meeting was told.

Regarding Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the meeting was informed that an amount of ?2.24 lakh was disbursed for the Rabi crop during 2024-25, while this year, 7068 farmers have been registered and the claim

disbursement process is underway.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of beekeeping activities in the district. It was informed that 1845 bee colonies have been established, producing 42 quintals of honey, generating an income of ?16.80 lakh. The district currently has 100 active beekeepers, of which 18 are registered on the Madhukranti Portal.

Reviewing the JKCIP implementation, the meeting was told that out of 89 applications received, 41 were approved and 15 rejected, while 5 are under scrutiny and 28 have been placed

before the District Level Committee (DLC).

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik emphasized the need to further strengthen outreach programmes and awareness campaigns to ensure that more farmers avail the benefits of government schemes.

She directed the officers to ensure timely distribution of seeds, fertilizers and insurance benefits to enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' income.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a detailed review meeting of the Animal Husbandry Department to assess its progress and performance.

She stressed on conducting regular vaccination drives, holding awareness camps and prompt disease reporting to safeguard livestock health.

The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer briefed the DC about ongoing departmental initiatives, livestock population statistics, artificial insemination coverage, fodder development and extension activities being carried out across the district.