Two JKAS officers...

Special Duty with the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Tribal Affairs and Transport, has been transferred and directed to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.Meanwhile, Mr. Mohd. Raiyaz, JKAS, who was awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Special Assistant to the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Tribal Affairs and Transport.

JKBOSE targets Jan...

results within the targeted timeline, following the completion of the ongoing examinations.

"After the last paper, it takes around 8 to 10 days to conduct practical examinations and examinations for vocational subjects. We will try to declare the results of all classes by January 10," Sheikh told reporters on the sidelines of a function.He, however, cautioned that certain factors could affect the timeline, making it difficult to give a 100 percent assurance on the result declaration date.

On the ongoing examinations, Sheikh said the Class 10 main subject papers had been completed, with only a few additional and vocational subject papers remaining. Most of the main papers for Class 12 had also been conducted, while Class 11 examinations were underway, with three papers completed in each stream.He said the examinations were being conducted smoothly.

The BOSE chairman Sheikh said the distribution of free textbooks among students of government schools from Classes 1 to 8 had begun alongside the academic session, describing it as the first such exercise in several years to start on time.He said the distribution would be completed across Kashmir within 8 to 10 days, with books being supplied to Zonal Education Officers for further distribution to schools.According to the chairman, around 8.2 lakh students in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir are covered under the free textbook scheme, including approximately 3.31 lakh in the Kashmir division.

ED attaches properties...

Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.The provisional attachment order, issued by the ED's Srinagar Zonal Office under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, covers lands and buildings allegedly held by suppliers-cum-brokers and a J&K Bank official accused of involvement in the scheme's misuse.

ED said that investigation was initiated on the basis two FIRs of Anti-Corruption Bureau, CBI, Srinagar alleging misappropriation of PMEGP Scheme's loans amounts in criminal conspiracy with the PMEGP borrowers, bank officials of Sumbal Branch & Gamud Gadkhud Branch of J&K Bank and other unknown persons have cheated the bank and misappropriated bank funds and caused wrongful loss to the bank and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves.

The investigation allegedly revealed that loans were fraudulently obtained in the names of dummy beneficiaries using their KYC documents and fake invoices issued by non-existent firms. The loans were allegedly sanctioned in connivance with bank officials and private suppliers-cum-brokers.During searches and surveys conducted at the two J&K Bank branches under Section 16 of the PMLA, the ED found that 270 term loan accounts and an equal number of working capital accounts linked to the PMEGP scheme had turned non-performing assets (NPAs), involving outstanding dues of around Rs 32 crore.

The ED said its investigation had identified Hilal Ahmad Wani and others as key players in the alleged fraud, claiming that borrowers were induced to avail PMEGP loans using their documents, while fake invoices of non-existent firms registered in the names of suppliers-cum-brokers or their family members were used to facilitate loan disbursement. The agency has so far traced proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 11.37 crore, which were allegedly routed through multiple bank accounts and partly utilised for the construction and renovation of properties held in the names of family members of the accused.

The ED further alleged that a substantial portion of the proceeds of crime had been siphoned off, with the accused allegedly involved in their diversion, concealment, possession and use.The agency said 11 identified properties had been provisionally attached to safeguard the value of the alleged proceeds of crime. It added that a fresh FIR was also registered by the CBI's ACB in June 2026 in connection with the matter.Further investigation is underway, ED said.

Wet spell likely...

is approaching the region on Monday, which may bring light snowfall over a few higher-altitude areas, particularly in the hilly regions of North and Central Kashmir. The weather is also expected to become partly cloudy towards late afternoon and evening.

A feeble to moderate intensity Western Disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir around November 12, resulting in widespread rainfall, with moderate precipitation at a few places.Snowfall is expected over the higher reaches of South, North and Central Kashmir, besides the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions of Jammu . Some higher-altitude areas may receive moderate snowfall as well.

The system may also trigger thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places.The weather is expected to improve from November 14, although brief spells of cloudiness may persist intermittently on November 14 and 15. No significant weather activity is expected during this period.The MeT Department has forecast dry weather from November 16 onwards until November 18.

Meanwhile, a considerable drop in temperatures is likely following the precipitation, with day temperatures expected to remain around 5-8 degrees Celsius below normal.In its latest temperature update, the Meteorological Department said minimum night temperatures had remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Jammu division at 4.5 degrees Celsius.In view of the forecast snowfall, particularly over higher reaches, the MeT Department has advised travellers, tourists, transporters and the general public to plan their journeys accordingly, especially around November 12 and 13, and check the status of highways before undertaking travel.Slippery road conditions and possible traffic disruptions are expected over higher-altitude routes and mountain passes, including Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Zojila, Mughal Road and Sinthan Top.

J&K Lok Bhavan...

the Ganga is not merely a river but a symbol of India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and life-giving values. He urged the younger generation to recognise the importance of preserving the purity and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, describing it as both an environmental and moral responsibility.

Highlighting Uttarakhand's inclusive spiritual heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said Hemkund Sahib, Gurudwara Meetha Reetha Sahib and the Mindrolling Monastery are symbols of harmony, coexistence and mutual respect among diverse faiths. He observed that the State's fairs and festivals reflect the vibrancy of its cultural life and folk traditions.

"The proclamation of our ancient Vedic tradition is 'Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti', truth is one and the wise describe it in many ways. I believe that this diversity of Uttarakhand tells us that India's strength lies in the coexistence, mutual respect, and harmony of its diverse faiths. This is the distinctive character of our cultural heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded Uttarakhand's contribution to literature, art, music and national service. Describing the State as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", he expressed gratitude to the armed forces, veterans and families of brave soldiers from the region who have served the nation with distinction.

"In the field of painting, the Garhwal style, which developed in the seventeenth century, and the contribution of its great artists are invaluable chapters of our artistic heritage. In the world of music, Uttarakhand's folk songs are extremely popular both in India and abroad. It is our responsibility to make these traditions part of the creativity, innovation, and life of the new generation," he said.

Commending the developmental progress achieved under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted historic transformation in connectivity, education, healthcare, digital infrastructure and local economic activities such as homestays, organic farming, handicrafts, tourism and start-ups.

"Just as the Ganga and Yamuna, emerging from the soil of Uttarakhand, connect many regions and nourish India's public life, in the same way the cultural consciousness of "Devbhoomi" binds the entire nation in a thread of emotional unity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Revised MRPs of...

an estimated Rs 3,540.38 crore annually, according to an official release.The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), functioning under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, capped trade margins on the MRP of 137 anti-cancer drugs based on recommendations submitted on October 17, 2026, by an Expert Committee constituted by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

According to the ministry, 85 pharmaceutical companies have reported revised MRPs for 1,364 anti-cancer formulations across 121 drugs as of November 8, 2026.Price reductions of over 50 per cent have been reported for 679 brands, with the highest price cut recorded at 96.45 per cent, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers: Department of Pharmaceuticals said in the release.The ministry stated that no chemist or hospital pharmacy is permitted to charge more than the revised MRP.

Consumers can verify medicine rates via the revised MRP printed on packs, the 'Pharma Sahi Daam' mobile application, or the official NPPA website (nppa.gov.in), it said. Consumers can lodge complaints against instances of overcharging or other pricing-related issues through the Pharma Jan Samadhan portal or contact the NPPA helpline at 1800-111-255, the release added.

Two killed, six...

officials said.Khalid Muzamil Wani, a teacher, and his father Ghulam Mohammad, a retired lecturer, lost their lives when their private car hit a roadside wall near Kharpora in Banihal late this afternoon, the officials said.

Wani's daughter Toyba Nabi, uncle Abdul Qayoom and Nephew Mohd Hussain were injured in the accident and shifted to hospital, they said.The officials said they were returning to their Gund Adalkoot village in Banihal when the accident occurred, apparently after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Earlier during the day, a car travelling from Delhi to Srinagar rolled down into a deep gorge at Shagaldi near Chamalwas, resulting in injuries to three persons travelling in the vehicle.A police team led by Banihal SHO Ashiq Hussain Lone, along with volunteers of the NGO Banihal headed by its president Mohammad Idress Wani, launched a rescue operation and successfully evacuated all three occupants from the gorge and shifted them to Banihal hospital, the officials said.Police identified the injured as Mohdmammd Javaid and Rohit of Delhi and Adnan Sami of Uttar Pradesh.

Cannabis Research Project...

Project at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, with a particular focus on its potential medical applications.Cannabis is sought to be developed as export quality painkillers, sending out a message that a substance infamous for drug addiction, could also bring relief to mankind, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Describing the initiative as India's first-of-its-kind cannabis research project, Dr Singh said it is expected to pave the way for the development of export-quality medicines for neuropathies, cancer, epilepsy and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). He said the project has been undertaken through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with the participation of a French company, and is aimed exclusively at exploring the medicinal and life-science applications of cannabis. Highlighting the therapeutic potential of cannabis, particularly its use in pain management, the Minister said appropriate regulatory provisions have been put in place to ensure its cultivation and utilisation strictly for scientific research and medical purposes.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that permission for cannabis cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir had been secured after sustained efforts, marking an important step towards advancing scientific research in this emerging field.Emphasising the collaborative framework underpinning the initiative, Dr Singh said the project reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach. It brings together the Government of India, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and private-sector partners in a coordinated effort to harness scientific innovation for societal benefit. He described it as a Whole-of-Nation initiative aimed at ensuring that the benefits of scientific research reach society at large.

The Minister said the initiative holds considerable potential to deliver both economic and medicinal dividends. Besides facilitating the development of promising therapeutic products, the project is expected to strengthen India's position in global scientific research, innovation and the development of high-quality medicines for international markets.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the project is now moving towards pre-clinical trials, for which engagement has been established with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, one of India's leading institutions in cancer treatment and research. He said that following successful completion of the pre-clinical studies and requisite regulatory processes, the project would move towards drug production.

Earlier, presenting an overview of the project's progress, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, briefed the Minister on the scientific work undertaken by the institute and the progress made in identifying potential cannabis-based drug candidates. He further informed that the institute had submitted an application to the J&K Excise Department seeking permission for GMP-compliant manufacturing and transportation of cannabis material exclusively for scientific purposes. The permission is required to manufacture research material for mandatory pre-clinical regulatory studies and to advance promising drug candidates towards clinical evaluation, he added.

The review meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Babila Rakwal; Commissioner, Excise, J&K, Vaibhav Kohli; scientists and senior officers of the concerned departments and CSIR-IIIM.

The Cannabis Research Project, which received permission from the Jammu and Kashmir Government in 2017 for scientific cultivation and research, is among the pioneering initiatives in the country to examine the medicinal properties of cannabis. CSIR-IIIM has established protected cultivation facilities and developed a repository of more than 500 cannabis accessions to support research and identify varieties with potential therapeutic applications.

Indian Navy to...

Coast Guard on November 13," the defence ministry said in a statement.The parade will mark the successful completion of 16 weeks of ab initio training of more than 3,300 trainees, making it the largest batch to pass out from INS Chilka, it said.

It will also mark the culmination of an intensive training programme designed to transform young recruits into disciplined, physically agile, mentally resilient and professionally competent sea warriors, the officials said.The training curriculum integrates academics, physical conditioning, swimming, outdoor activities and camp, and parade training, providing a holistic foundation for the trainees' professional journey.

Equal emphasis is laid on character building, leadership, discipline, camaraderie and teamwork, while instilling the core naval values of duty, honour and courage, the statement said.The passing out parade will be a moment of pride and accomplishment for the trainees, as their families witness the culmination of training journey and beginning of a new career, it said.

Naval veterans and distinguished guests will also be present on the occasion.The valedictory function will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command.Awards will be presented to meritorious trainees, the champion division and best instructor in recognition of their exemplary performance and contribution to training, the statement said.

In a major overhaul of the military recruitment scheme, the government on November 4 announced that Agniveers set to exit the military at the end of their four-year tenure will be given a two-year extension and subsequent permanent recruitment subject to meeting specific eligibility criteria.

In a separate statement, the defence ministry said INS Surat reached Muscat, Oman, on Sunday to participate in the 15th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise Naseem Al Bahr (Sea Breeze), followed by a coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.

The exercise will comprise professional activities during the harbour and sea phases, including cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting events.The activities will provide opportunities for personnel of both navies to exchange experiences and best practices, enhance interoperability and foster greater mutual understanding, the statement said.

The port call underscores the strong and enduring maritime partnership between India and Oman, founded on longstanding ties between the two nations, it said.It is in consonance with the government's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) and provides an opportunity to build upon the momentum generated during the 13th Joint Military Cooperation Committee meeting held in November 2025, the ministry said.

L-G Sinha reviews...

heartfelt sympathies to all those affected.

The Chief Minister directed the district administration to ensure immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to the affected persons. He also instructed the administration to conduct a thorough assessment of the damage caused by the fire and take appropriate measures to address the requirements of the affected traders and other persons.

According to reports, the massive fire broke out at the Warehouse near Bikram Chowk on Sunday evening and rapidly spread to several adjoining structures, including business establishments, causing extensive damage.The latest incident is the second major fire in Jammu in a little over a fortnight, resulting in extensive damage to two important commercial marketplaces in the winter capital.

Earlier, a massive fire had broken out at Shiv Market on the night of October 25 and continued till the morning of October 26. The blaze engulfed at least 40 shops and destroyed property worth crores of rupees, leaving several traders facing heavy financial losses.The back-to-back fire incidents have raised concerns among the business community over fire safety arrangements and the need for effective preventive measures to protect commercial establishments and traders' livelihoods.

Dr Jitendra visits...

Kamla Market in the Warehouse area of Jammu, where several shops were gutted in a fire that broke out on Sunday night during Diwali celebrations.

The Minister visited the affected premises, inspected the extent of damage and took stock of the situation following the incident. He interacted with traders whose shops were damaged in the blaze and heard their concerns regarding the losses suffered.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was briefed by the district administration, led by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Ms. Anusiya Jamwal, on the circumstances surrounding the incident and the measures taken by the administration and Fire and Emergency Services to contain the fire.Members of the Ware House Traders' Association, led by Deepak Gupta, apprised the Minister of the sequence of events and the difficulties faced during the incident. They also acknowledged the prompt response of the Fire and Emergency Services, stating that timely intervention helped prevent loss of life.

Expressing relief that no casualties were reported despite the scale of the fire, Dr. Singh said that the incident underlined the need for greater preparedness and effective preventive mechanisms, particularly in crowded commercial establishments and fire-sensitive locations.

The Minister urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to explore the possibility of providing compensation to traders who suffered material losses in the fire. He said the matter should be examined by the concerned authorities to assess the scope for extending financial relief to the affected traders, who have suffered losses to their business establishments and merchandise. Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasised the need to strengthen institutional preparedness to deal with fire emergencies in commercial areas, where closely located shops and business establishments can pose challenges for emergency response teams. He called for devising a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) specifically for fire-sensitive locations to ensure a swift, coordinated and effective response in the event of such incidents.

Dr Jitendra Singh suggested that the Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu and Kashmir, convene a meeting with the Traders' Federation to jointly formulate a comprehensive SOPs. The proposed exercise, he said, should bring together the concerned departments and representatives of the trading community to identify potential fire hazards, strengthen preventive arrangements and improve emergency preparedness.

The Minister further stressed that the SOP should focus not only on response mechanisms during an emergency but also on preventive measures to minimise the risk of fire incidents. Regular coordination between the Fire and Emergency Services and traders, along with greater awareness of safety protocols, could help reduce vulnerabilities in busy commercial establishments.Dr. Jitendra Singh said that lessons from the Nehru Market incident should be utilised to strengthen fire-safety preparedness in similar locations and ensure that traders and emergency services are better equipped to deal with unforeseen situations.

NGT seeks fresh...

before it. The Tribunal noted that while the J&KPCC had disclosed the revenue area of the wetlands, it had failed to provide details of their actual existing area. It directed the Pollution Control Committee to obtain the missing information and present a comparative position of the revenue area and the existing area of each wetland.The directions came while the NGT was hearing a matter concerning the protection of wetlands in Kashmir, including a news item-based case relating to the shrinking and disappearance of lakes and wetlands in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, along with Expert Members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, directed the J&KPCC to file the fresh report at least one day before the next hearing, scheduled for February 26, 2027.The Tribunal noted that the J&KPCC had filed a report on October 1, 2026, providing details of 27 wetlands measuring more than one hectare and situated outside forest areas. However, the disclosure was found to be incomplete, as information from some districts was still awaited.

According to the report placed before the Tribunal, information regarding the wetlands was still awaited from the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kupwara. The Member Secretary of the J&KPCC informed the Tribunal that a fresh updated report would be filed after obtaining the pending information from the two districts.

The report also revealed concerns over the water quality of several identified wetlands. Of the samples collected from Jammu, none of the three samples met the Class B primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing. In Samba, only two out of nine identified samples met the prescribed Class B criteria, while the sample from Kathua met the standard.

In Kashmir, the report stated that four out of six wetlands tested in Kupwara did not conform to the Class B primary water quality criteria, mainly in relation to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The Rakhi Duslipora wetland in Baramulla was also found not to conform to the prescribed criteria concerning BOD and dissolved oxygen.

The J&KPCC had also sought details of the persons, agencies or departments responsible for violations of environmental norms in wetlands that failed to meet the prescribed water quality standards, with a view to taking corrective, remedial and punitive action.

The report further recorded that the Rakh-i-Daslipora wetland was not found to be existing on the spot and that proprietary land in the estate was being used for paddy cultivation. Meanwhile, the Mawasar wetland in Samba was reported to have domestic effluent as a source of pollution.Emphasising the need for complete and accurate data, the Tribunal said the J&KPCC must now provide details of the actual existing area of the wetlands and compare it with their recorded revenue area before the matter is taken up again.

J&K Govt assures...

fire on Sunday night at the historic market, one of the oldest commercial hubs of Jammu, known for its wholesale trade in foodgrains and other essential commodities, in the Bikram Chowk area. The fire reportedly originated in one of the shops and spread rapidly to adjoining establishments, with the presence of large quantities of edible oil adding to the intensity of the blaze. The government representatives assured the affected people that the incident would be investigated, including the alleged delay in the arrival of fire and emergency services, while the losses would be assessed to determine the assistance to be provided to the victims.

The visit also witnessed tense moments as some angry shopkeepers raised slogans, saying they have no expectations from the government as the visits by political representatives are limited to assurances, statements and photographs, without any concrete action on the ground.

They also cited the delay in disbursement of relief for the victims of the Shiv Market fire incident near Jammu railway station on October 25.The deputy chief minister later interacted with the affected shopkeepers along with Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rana, and said he would apprise the chief minister of their grievances. Warehouse association president Deepak Gupta was also present during the interaction. "The losses are enormous and the situation cannot be taken lightly or addressed through mere statements," Choudhary said.

Gupta alleged that the delayed response of the Fire and Emergency Services Department allowed the blaze to spread, engulfing around 15 shops.Claiming that only two fire tenders arrived nearly 90 minutes after the fire broke out despite the fire station being barely five minutes away, he termed it gross negligence and demanded accountability, including the suspension of officials concerned.

Responding to the concerns, Rana said, "The government may not be able to compensate people for the entire extent of their losses, but assistance will certainly be provided according to the prescribed criteria. We want people to feel that the government stands with them in this difficult hour."The minister also assured that a detailed investigation would be conducted into the circumstances leading to the fire and also the alleged delay in the arrival of fire and emergency services.

The minister also said the government had relaxed rules to facilitate construction, repairs and renovation work at Shiv Market, adding that the work was underway following official approval.A BJP delegation, comprising Jammu Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, MLA Vikram Randhawa and former J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, also visited the market and demanded adequate compensation for the affected traders.The leaders also stressed the need for timely assistance to ensure that the affected shopkeepers are not left struggling to recover from the massive losses.

Shutdown, protest called...

a gathering, representatives expressed concern that conducting elections in December would cause inconvenience to voters, as a large section of the population migrates to warmer areas during winter due to extreme weather conditions.Sajad Kargili said the proposed schedule could affect public participation and urged the authorities to take the region's geographical and climatic conditions into consideration before finalising the election dates.

Hanifa Jan also opposed holding the elections during the winter months.A candle march will also be taken out after Maghrib prayers on November 10 to register opposition to the proposed schedule.The political parties, KDA and various unions have appealed to the people to participate in the shutdown and protest.

BJP demands compensation...

and despite Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his ministers visiting the affected area, no compensation had been announced so far, leaving the affected traders without relief. He said the fire that broke out in the warehouse area last night had also caused heavy losses to the business community and demanded that the chief minister announce immediate compensation instead of merely visiting the site.Seth further demanded constitution of a special assessment team to conduct a survey of the affected shops, business establishments and properties. He also called for the immediate release of interim relief to enable the traders to resume their business activities.

Emphasising the need to prevent such incidents, he called for strengthening fire safety arrangements in commercial areas, including adequate firefighting infrastructure, accessible emergency routes, functional fire hydrants and regular safety inspections.

"The affected traders should not be left to face this crisis alone. The government must stand firmly with them, ensure transparent assessment of their losses and provide immediate and adequate compensation. Their rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods must be treated as a priority," Seth said.He also urged the administration to coordinate with the Fire and Emergency Services Department and other concerned agencies to identify any lapses and take necessary corrective measures.

Centre, J-K govt...

Several shops were gutted in the fire on Sunday night at the historic market, one of the oldest commercial hubs of Jammu, known for its wholesale trade in foodgrains and other essential commodities, in the Bikram Chowk area. The fire reportedly originated in one of the shops and spread rapidly to adjoining establishments, with the presence of large quantities of edible oil adding to the intensity of the blaze.

"I estimate the losses to be at least Rs 200-300 crore, as the warehouse area is one of the main commercial hubs of Jammu", she told reporters at the party headquarters here.She said that the central and the Jammu and Kashmir governments should jointly formulate a plan or special package to help revive these markets, including Shiv Market and Warehouse, so that traders can restart their businesses.

"I appeal to the governments, without any politics, to extend all possible assistance to these traders so that they can restart their businesses and support their families," she said.The former CM said many traders had established their businesses by taking loans and selling family jewellery and expressed concern that insurance might not be sufficient to compensate for the losses.

"I do not know how such massive losses will be compensated. People start businesses by taking loans and even selling their family jewellery. Not everyone has insurance, and even where insurance exists, it may not be sufficient to cover losses of this magnitude", she said.

Earlier in the day, she visited the fire-affected area and described it as a horrifying experience. She said Diwali had turned into a dark and terrifying night for the traders, and said adequate arrangements should have been made at markets during the festive season, keeping in view the possibility of fire incidents.

"These are ordinary people, not big businessmen..." she had said.During the press conference at the party headquarters, Mufti also referred to the fire incident at Shiva railway market on October 25. She said the affected traders were still awaiting government assistance and urged the authorities to ensure that those hit by the latest blaze received timely support.

Mufti also raised concerns over the firefighting arrangements, alleging that fire tenders arrived late and that the initial vehicles were inadequate to deal with a fire of such magnitude. She further claimed that insufficient water pressure in the firefighting pipes affected the response.

The PDP chief said the damage had affected not only shopkeepers but also workers employed in these establishments. She pointed out that around 10 to 12 people worked in some shops and had lost their livelihoods following the incident."Jammu is already facing high unemployment. The people working in these shops have also become unemployed, and their families depend on their earnings," she said.

The fire at Nehru Market warehouse is the second major fire incident in Jammu in a little over a fortnight, resulting in the gutting of two major marketplaces in the winter capital.A massive fire broke out at Shiv Market on the night of October 25 and continued till the morning of October 26, engulfing at least 40 shops and destroying property worth crores of rupees.