

Cloudburst-hit Chishoti village will be rebuilt: LG Sinha assures residents

HRDS to construct completely damaged 19 houses free of cost

Army school, petrol pump to come up soon

BSNL to set up new mobile towers

BRO will reconstruct Atholi-Machail Mata Road, build new bridge

Yogesh

Kishtwar, Nov 03: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday assured the people of Chishoti village in Kishtwar district that the hamlet will be rebuilt in a short span of time.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) visited the cloudburst hit village today and laid the foundation stone for construction of new houses for the victims, who lost shelters



on August 14 this year after a cloudburst triggered massive landslides in the area. More than 60 people died in the calamity hit remote village.

It may be recalled that on the ill-fated day large groups of pilgrims were gathered at Chishoti village—a key stop on the pilgrimage to the Machail Mata Mandir — and were collecting food from a langar when flash floods washed them away. Search and rescue operations continued for many days to

trace the missing persons.

LG Sinha during his visit to the village announced that 19 houses that were completely damaged during the disaster will be rebuilt free of cost with support of High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India), a Kerala based Civil Society Organisation.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the citizens and security personnel who lost their lives due to the tragic natural disaster.

“The catastrophic floods swept away precious lives, wiped out several homes and tore through infrastructure. I am hopeful that the three-bedroom pre-fabricated smart houses for which the foundation stone was laid today will help bring the lives of the affected families back on track,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the HRDS India for its noble initiative. “Since SDRF relief is insufficient, I had earlier requested HRDS | [More on P6](#)

Cong’s mistakes cost Kashmir its peace; PM Modi hit terrorism with full force: HM Shah

Says cross-border strikes proof of Modi Govt’s firm anti-terror policy

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 03: Holding the Congress rule responsible for decades of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Narendra Modi-led government follows a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

Addressing election rallies in Sheohar and Sitamarhi areas of Bihar, Shah said that during Congress governments, Pakistani terrorists used to infiltrate into India frequently, but no strong action was taken. “It was the Congress government who is responsible for the decades of terrorism and violence in Kashmir, while the PM Modi government hit back at the terrorism with full force,” he said.

Shah added, “Earlier, Pakistani terrorists used to sneak into India every day. Did Congress and Lalu ever respond to them? They would feed them biryani instead,” he said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The Home Minister said that the present government has changed this approach. “When



Uri was attacked, we conducted a surgical strike. When Pulwama was attacked, we carried out an airstrike. And when Pahalgam was attacked, within ten days we entered Pakistan and eliminated the terrorists through Operation Sindoor,” he said. “If bullets are fired from there, the answer will be with shells from here.”

According to Shah, PM Modi has taken several steps in the last eleven years to eliminate terrorism. “When Congress was in power, terrorist attacks used

to happen every other day, and no firm action was taken. When PM Modi came to power, terrorists were eliminated by entering Pakistan,” he said.

“PM Modi secured this nation and worked for its progress,” he said, adding that the government has zero tolerance against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing a separate gathering, accused the Congress of creating disputes in Kashmir and said the party | [More on P6](#)

Over 94,000 students appear in 10th class exams

BOSE issues revised date sheet amid J&K by-elections

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 03: Over 94,000 students appeared in the annual regular exams of 10th standard that commenced on Monday in Kashmir division.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had set-up 994 examination centres across the Kashmir region.

BOSE has said that 68,804 students enrolled for the annual regular exams of 10th are from ten districts of Kashmir division and 25,224 students are from

eight districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division.

Besides, the board had also informed that at least 660 from Kargil and 95 from Leh district were also enrolled for the examinations.

Earlier, BOSE Secretary had said that nearly 95,000 students are enrolled to appear for 10th class exams and the board has made 994 exam centres for them, 760 centres for 82,000 students of 11th standard and 682 centres for 70,000 students of 12th class respectively.

In the meantime, BOSE Monday issued a revised date sheet for annual regular exams of 10th standard in view of Assembly by-elections.

Joint Secretary Exams of Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

Darbar Move restoration ends injustice done with Jammu, Kashmir regions: CM Omar

Receives warm welcome in summer capital markets

Inspects guard of honour, ceremonial parade; chairs meeting

Says fulfilled promise made in manifesto

Raja Syed Rather/ Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 03: Asserting that restoring historic Darbar Move practice was aimed at correcting injustice done with Jammu and Kashmir regions, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that he has fulfilled the promise made in the party manifesto.

Talking to the reporters, the Chief Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The Darbar Move was stopped for four years; now, it has resumed again.”

“The Move shouldn’t be measured solely in monetary terms. No one can deny that



it benefits Jammu’s economy. It also plays a crucial role in maintaining Jammu and Kashmir’s unity,” he said.

The Chief Minister further said that during the six summer months, many people from Jammu | [More on P6](#)

SBI donates Rs 1.55 crore to CM’s Relief Fund

Omar hails ‘gesture of solidarity, service beyond banking’



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 03: A deputation of the State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and presented a cheque of 1.55

crore as a contribution to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.

The delegation was led by Jayant Mani, Deputy General Manager (Business and Operations) and Controlling Head for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. | [More on P6](#)

Film industry knocks Kashmir again

» Shooting resumes in valley, months after Pahalgam attack » Crew hails ‘safety, hospitality, cooperation’

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Nov 03: Nearly seven months after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which led to widespread cancellations of film shoots across Kashmir, the valley has once again welcomed a film crew, this time from the South Indian film industry, marking a noteworthy revival for cinematic tourism in the region.

The movie, whose title has been kept under wraps for now, is being filmed at various beautiful locations in Srinagar and South Kashmir. The project signals a renewed confidence among filmmakers who had earlier pulled back their schedules following the attack that shook the local film and



tourism ecosystem. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO), a casting Director associated with the project, said the shoot marks a “positive restart”

for film activity in the region.

“After the Pahalgam attack, many production houses had put their Kashmir schedules on hold due to safety concerns. Being from outside the valley, even though we had initial apprehensions, once we came here, the experience has been completely positive. The people are cooperative, the environment feels safe, and the local support has been incredible,” he said, expressing optimism that more crews will soon follow.

The director and lead actors of the film, currently engaged in shooting, said they initially had concerns about the situation in the valley but were “pleasantly surprised” upon arrival.

“We did have some fears before coming | [More on P6](#)

Govt steps in to regulate media operations

‘Only registered media persons to access official events’

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Nov 03: The government has initiated a verification drive to regulate media operations in the valley, making it mandatory for all journalists to register and validate their credentials with the District Information Offices.

The directive, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued by the District Information Officers (DIOs) of Baramulla and Kupwara, follows instructions from the Joint Director Information Kashmir.

It aims to curb the misuse of media identity and ensure that only genuine journalists are allowed to operate in the field.

According to officials, the



move comes amid growing concerns over the presence of unverified individuals posing as journalists. Media persons have been asked to submit their documents and credentials within

seven days for verification.

Only registered and authenticated media persons will be permitted to cover official events, government functions and visits | [More on P6](#)

1999 Fidayeen Attack: Army pays tribute to bravehearts

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 03: Rich tributes were paid on Monday to the bravehearts, who made the supreme sacrifice fighting a Fidayeen attack by terrorists in 1999.

In a solemn and poignant ceremony held at the Public Relations Office, Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar, all ranks of the Public Relations Office, paid rich tributes to Major P Purushottam, Subedar Brahm Dass Sharma and four other soldiers, who were killed fighting terrorists on this day in 1999, a spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Major P Purushottam, who was posted as a Public Relations



Officer (Defence) along with five of his comrades, fought the terrorists who had launched the attack on his office on 03 November 1999. He and his colleagues were | [More on P6](#)

Crackdown on illegal mining: 506 cases lodged, 17,806 vehicles penalised in 3 yrs

IMSS tracks illegal extraction in real time; 22 check posts set up to curb unauthorised mining

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Nov 03: The Jammu and Kashmir government in its intensified crackdown on illegal mining, penalizing 17,806 vehicles and machinery in the past three years and recovered fines worth Rs 46.68 crore besides, 506 FIRs were registered against violators for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals across the region.

Official data, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveals, in 2023–24, authorities penalized 7,018 vehicles, lodged 133 FIRs and realized Rs 19.19 crore in fines.

In 2024–25, 6,219 vehicles



were penalized, 212 FIRs filed and Rs 16.79 crore collected. During the current fiscal year 2025–26, up to September, 4,569 vehicles have been penalized, 161 FIRs lodged besides Rs 10.70 crore recovered.

In an ongoing year,

Kupwara in Kashmir, topped the list with 516 vehicles penalized, 43 FIRs registered and Rs 0.78 crore recovered, marking the highest enforcement count so far this fiscal. Baramulla followed with 393 vehicles penalized and fines

worth Rs 0.75 crore, while Budgam recorded 360 vehicles penalized with Rs 0.60 crore realized.

Similarly, Anantnag reported 334 vehicles seized, recovering Rs 0.57 crore and Kulgam led in total fines with Rs 1.25 crore collected from 270 vehicles.

In the Jammu division, Samba emerged as the top-performing district with 470 vehicles penalized and Rs 0.67 crore recovered. Kathua followed with 445 vehicles penalized and Rs 2.16 crore collected, while Jammu district reported 317 vehicles penalized with Rs 1.24 crore realized.

The department, however, in the recent Assembly

Session said enforcement teams are active across all districts. District-level task forces and flying squads have been formed to monitor mineral transportation, supported by 22 mineral check posts at key locations.

To improve oversight, the department has launched an Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG). The system tracks illegal mining within 500 meters of approved lease boundaries and sends alerts for inspection.

Minister In charge, added that digital | [More on P6](#)

DC Gbl chairs DSC meeting for Green India Mission

KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 03: A meeting of District Steering Committee for Green India Mission (GIM) was held Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore here.

The mission themed 'Climate Resilience through Forest Landscape Restoration' is aimed to increase forest/ tree cover in the division, improving ecosystem services and increasing the forest based livelihood income of households living in and around the forests.

During the meeting, DFO Ganderbal gave a detailed presentation regarding the progress of works under Annual Plan of Operation

(APO) under Green India Mission for the year 2024-2025.

After thorough deliberations, the committee recommended to forward the proposal (APO) under Green India Mission to be executed in Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal 2025-26 to the next steering committee.

During the year 2024-25, the Annual Plan of Operation was approved for an amount of Rs. 36.87 Lakh for Village Forest Committee – Rezan, Kullan and Sonamarg where under 69 Hectares of degraded forest area was tackled with plantation of 40 thousand numbers of plants including 89 thousand numbers of patch sowing and grass slips.

Doda to Jammu Heli-Service takes off

KT NEWS DESK

DODA, NOVEMBER 3: In a significant step towards improving regional connectivity and providing faster travel options to the people here, the much-awaited helicopter service from Doda to Jammu was officially inaugurated Monday. The service aims to bridge the gap between remote mountainous districts and the capital city of Jammu, ensuring affordable, safe and time-efficient travel for the residents.

The inaugural event was attended by the District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal and the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh. They appreciated the initiative, describing it as a milestone that will greatly benefit the people of Doda by enhancing mobility and emergency response. The fare for a one-way ticket has been fixed at 2500 per person, making the service accessible and affordable for all sections of society.

Govt committed to responsive administration: Satish

Inspects departmental offices on opening day of Darbar Move

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: On the first day of opening of the Darbar Move at Civil Secretariat here, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Monday conducted comprehensive inspection of all the offices functioning under his Ministry.

The Minister, accompanied by senior officers of the concerned departments, visited various sections and reviewed the working of the administrative units including the offices of FCS&CA, IT, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports. He took stock of the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of official business in the Secretariat and assessed the readiness of staff and infrastructure following the shift to the winter capital.

During the inspection, Satish Sharma interacted with officers and employees, enquired about their requirements, and instructed them to maintain the highest standards of discipline, punctuality, and efficiency. He emphasized on the importance of citizen-centric approach in governance, stating that our focus must always remain on prompt service delivery, accountability, and transparency in every aspect of administration.

He further directed the departmental heads to ensure effective coordination between field offices and the Secretariat so that public grievances are addressed in a time-bound manner. The Minister also



reviewed key ongoing initiatives under each department, particularly digital service expansion under the IT Department, consumer protection measures under FCS&CA, road safety awareness campaigns under the Transport Department, and sports development programs being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the government's commitment to responsive and efficient administration, Satish Sharma said that the reopening of the Secretariat marks the beginning

of another productive session of governance aimed at accelerating the pace of public welfare and infrastructure development. He called upon all officers to rededicate themselves to the mission of good governance and ensure that every government initiative reaches the grassroots level effectively. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made in various offices and assured that all necessary support will be extended to further strengthen departmental functioning.

DC B'pora inaugurates 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan'

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 03: The District Administration Bandipora Monday organised a felicitation ceremony under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to acknowledge the exceptional performance of officers and field functionaries under the Aadi Karmayogi Programme.

The event was held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp', a 15-day campaign being organised across the district to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Sahib. The campaign aims to promote saturation of government welfare schemes, enhance awareness among tribal communities, and strengthen participatory

governance through active community engagement.

During the felicitation ceremony, the DC lauded the district's achievement of national-level recognition for outstanding performance under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative.

The DC urged officers to continue their dedication towards inclusive development and invited innovative suggestions for strengthening the Village Development Programme under Aadi Karmayogi. On the occasion, a presentation by the District Programme Manager, NHM, highlighted how the Aadi Karmayogi Village Development Programme

was compiled reflecting 17 ministries, encompassing vision formulation, situation analysis, village mapping, transect walks, Seva Kendras, painting competitions, gram sabhas, and awareness

activities such as Run for Awareness and Candle Marches. The district's comprehensive and participatory approach, he said, turned the initial vision into a successful model of tribal development.

Similarly, the Block Development Officer, Gurez, presented the block-level progress, showcasing activities like village orientation, wall paintings, Seva Kendras, special gram sabhas, and identification

of infrastructural gaps under the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that each tribal village should have one village map painting displayed prominently and ensured that all tribal populations are included in the fortnight-long campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

Among others, the event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussan Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool; District Programme Officer ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, AD FCS&CA, District Information Officer and other district and sectoral officers, besides representatives from various departments and field functionaries.



Darbar Move: DG reviews rural sanitation initiatives



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: On the first day of the Darbar Move, Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at the Directorate office.

The meeting focused on reviewing the routine functioning of the Directorate and assesses the status of ongoing works under the sanitation initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The DG laid special emphasis on efficiency, transparency and coordination among the district teams to accelerate the pace of implementation of programmes under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). She directed the officers to maintain strict adherence

to timelines, quality standards, and regular reporting mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation.

Malhotra reiterated the Government's commitment to achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus goals, strengthening Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) systems and promoting behavioural change through IEC activities at the grassroots level.

She further stressed upon the need for innovation, convergence with line departments, and active community participation to make sanitation efforts more impactful and sustainable.

The DG appreciated the efforts of field functionaries for their dedication and urged them to continue working with renewed energy.

Nagrota Bye Election EO convenes 2nd account reconciliation meeting

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: In continuation of the Expenditure Register Accounts Reconciliation Inspection, the Expenditure Observer Ashish Yadav, IDAS, in conjunction with the Nodal Officer (Expenditure) Dr. Zafar Iqbal and the Election Expenditure Monitoring Team, Monday convened the second account reconciliation meeting with the contesting candidates/ authorized election agents of 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency at the PWD Guest House, Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting was held as per the notice dated 24.10.2025, issued by the Returning Officer for inspection of expenditure registers.

During the meeting, the expenditure registers of all contesting candidates were thoroughly examined and reconciled. The candidates and their authorized agents were apprised of the prescribed norms and guidelines pertaining to election expenditure and were explicitly advised to avoid cash transactions. They were further instructed to ensure that all financial transactions are routed exclusively through the designated Election Expenditure Bank Account within the prescribed expenditure ceiling. All 10 candidates have reconciled their expenditure registers.

Directions were also issued in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA 1950). The contesting candidates and their agents were advised to ensure their presence in the third reconciliation meeting scheduled for 8th November, 2025, at the same venue.

The Expenditure Observer reiterated the commitment of the Election Commission of India to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and emphasized strict adherence to the expenditure monitoring guidelines.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-NIT No:15 of 2025-26 Dated:01/11/2025

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from eligible and authorized bidders for entering into a Contract for the supply and delivery of refilled 19 Kg commercial LPG cylinders to I&FC Division Srinagar for the financial year 2025-26.

1	Position of Funds	Budgetary Provision for the FY-2025-26.
2	Estimated Total Requirement	176 Cylinders.
3	Earnest Money (₹)	2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only).
4	Tender Doc Fee (₹)	200/- (Rupees Two Hundred Only).
5	Contract Validity	14/11/2025 to 31/03/2026.
6	Bidder Eligibility	Authorized distributor/ dealer of recognized LPG Company (HPCL, BPCL, IOCL)

Scope of Work: Supply and delivery of refilled 19 Kg commercial LPG cylinders to I&FC Srinagar Divisional Store located at GawKadal Maisuma Srinagar, as per requirement during the validity of the contract.

Terms & Conditions

- The basic rate of each refill shall be the Government-approved rate (as notified by the respective oil company or other competent authority) applicable on the date of delivery (inclusive of all carriage/conveyance charges).
- The bidders shall quote a uniform percentage rebate per refill on the said government approved rate and the bidder offering maximum percentage rebate shall be declared as lowest bidder (L1)
- The quoted rebate percentage shall remain firm and unaltered during the entire contract period, irrespective of any revision (increase/decrease) in Government rates.
- The agency shall deliver the required number of cylinders within two days from the issuance of supply order.
- Payment shall be made as per actual verified quantity received, at the applicable Government rate minus the accepted rebate percentage.
- No advance payments will be applicable, payment shall be made only after release of funds by the Government.
- The agency shall ensure supply of authorized and safety-certified LPG cylinders only.
- The department reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity as per requirement.
- Delayed or partial deliveries may invite penalty as per departmental norms or termination of contract.
- The contract shall remain valid from 14.11.2025 to 31.03.2026, unless extended or terminated earlier.
- All disputes, if any, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Hon'ble Courts at Srinagar only.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Submission of Bids: The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, bill of quantities, other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01/11/2025
2.	Bid submission Start Date	01/11/2025 from 18:50 Hrs.
3.	Bid Submission End Date	08/11/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.
4.	Date & time of opening of Bids	08/11/2025 at 15:30 Hrs.

Documents to be Uploaded

- Valid Authorization Certificate from HPCL / BPCL / IOCL.
- GST Registration Certificate and Account Number Linked to it (Payments will be made to this A/C No only).
- Valid Original Treasury Challan / Receipt (MH-0702) as proof of payment of cost of tender document
- Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer I&FC Division Srinagar.
- Contact details of authorized representative.

No: IFCD/CS/4372-75
Dated: 01 / 11 / 2025

DIPK-7722/25
DATED: 03-11-2025

Sd/
Executive Engineer
I&FC Division Srinagar



Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tender.
Ref: This office E-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26.
Due to poor response the above referred e-NIT is hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1	Last date for online submission of bids	08-11-2025 (06:55 pm)
2	Date of online opening of bids	10-11-2025 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/4156-59
Dated: 03-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)

DIPK-7738/25
DATED: 03-11-2025

In the court of Collector/ Addl. Deputy Commissioner Budgam

No: DCB/ADC/Reader/25/F-599-600/697

Dated: 25-10-2025

In the case of:

Mst. Malla W/o Gh. Qadir Rah D/o Gh. Mohammad R/o Bijbehara District Anantnag.
(Appellant/Applicant)

Vs

- Sona-ullah
- Abdul Ahad Sons of Gh. Mohammad.
- Irshad Ahmad S/o Abdul Aziz
- All residents of Ichkoot Tehsil & District Budgam.
- Zaina W/o Mohammad Umer R/o Munpapple Tehsil & District Budgam.
- Rubeena W/o Mohammad Iqbal R/o Yarikahh Tehsil Khansahab.
- Mymoona W/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/o Shivpora Tehsil Chadoora. Respondent No. 4 to 6 are daughters of Abdul Aziz.

(Respondents/ Non-applicants)

In the matter of: Appeals against mutation order No 818 dated 29-06-1978 & mutation order No. 947 dated: 23-04-1982 of village Ichkoot Tehsil Budgam attested in respect of landed estate left behind by the deceased estate holder namely Mohamamd S/o Lassi.

Notice

The above titled two appeal cases are under adjudication before this court, the respondents have been summoned, but they failed to appear before this court on the scheduled date of hearings. Now through the medium of this public notice, they are hereby informed to attend this court on the 08-11-2025 at 10:30 am, failing which ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against them without further intimation.

DIPK-7731/25
DATED: 03-11-2025

Sd/ Collector/
Addl. Deputy Commissioner
Budgam

IHPL cricket cons

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 03: What began as a glittering sporting spectacle in Kashmir featuring global cricket stars has ended in chaos, unpaid bills and a police investigation.

The privately-organised, high-profile Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) T20 in Srinagar has collapsed amid allegations of fraud, unpaid dues and the sudden disappearance of its organisers.

Police have registered a case and initiated a probe after multiple players, service providers and hotel managements accused the organisers of cheating and breach of trust.

The global names associated with the league included Chris Gayle (West Indies), Martin Gup-till (New Zealand) and Jesse Ryder (New Zealand), among other famous names of local and national cricket, announced as part of the line-up and a first for Kashmir cricket. Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) clarified that it had no role beyond ground allotment, stating the event was entirely private. A timeline of major incidents that have unfolded over the past weeks is as follows:

October 2025: A Dream Launch

The IHPL was launched in October as Kashmir's own high-profile T20 league, promising to blend international glamour with local talent.

Backed by a Mohali-based group, Yuva Society, the tournament featured eight teams named after regions such as Pulwama Titans, Gulmarg Royals and Kishtwar Giants and more.

The organisers claimed sponsorship tie-ups and promised significant prize money. Matches were scheduled at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium from October 25 to November 8, among which the



first few matches were held too. Late October: Early Cracks Appear

In the initial matches, players and support staff began complaining of payment delays and a lack of basic facilities. Reports suggest players were promised payments of up to Rs 3 lakh per match, but those payments allegedly never arrived.

Team managers began receiving "technical explanations" for non-payments, even as organisers continued posting promotional videos online showing celebrity arrivals and matches at Bakshi Stadium.

A player, as earlier reported by KNO, said, "They promised match fees, accommodation and travel support. But after two games, everything stopped, no payments, no clarity and no one picking up calls."

November 1-2: Matches Cancelled, Confusion Peaks

The situation deteriorated over the weekend. Matches scheduled for November 1 and 2 were abruptly cancelled, and players were reportedly told not to come to the ground due to "technical issues".

Hotel staff and transport contractors also began complaining about unpaid bills.

A local cricketer told KNO their manager said not to report to the stadium, citing "technical issues". "No one knew what was

going on," he said. Several international and outstation players left Srinagar, while others were stranded at the Radisson Collection Hotel, unsure whether to leave or stay. Some were even asked to vacate their rooms.

November 2: Organisers Vanish Overnight

On the morning of November 2, it emerged that the organisers had fled Srinagar overnight, leaving behind unpaid dues estimated between Rs 80-90 lakh. Reports said hotel managements were owed large sums for room bookings, catering and logistics. Bus drivers and event workers also claimed they had not been paid.

Staff at one Srinagar hotel told media outlets that "calls to the organisers went unanswered and the remaining event managers quietly disappeared".

One player also told KNO that catering vendors and transporters contacted them directly seeking clarity. "They thought we were part of the organising team. Everyone was in panic; no one from management was around," he said.

November 3: FIR Registered, Probe Launched

On November 3, the Jammu & Kashmir Police confirmed to KNO that a case has been registered under relevant sections of law at Rajbagh Police Station. A senior police officer told

BJP reacts

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 03: Moments after police registered a case and initiated a probe into the controversy surrounding the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) T20 in Srinagar, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday sought answers from the government, terming the episode a "set-back" for budding cricketers in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur, speaking to reporters said that the recent controversy has once again highlighted the dismal state of cricket affairs in the region, alleging that "frequent irregularities and mismanagement" have become common since political changes in the region.

"Following recent political transitions, cricket in Jammu and Kashmir has suffered repeated setbacks, particularly under the National Conference government," Thakur said while speaking to the media.

He added that they want

to ask the Sports Minister of J&K about the current situation of cricket in the Union Territory. "It directly concerns the future of our local youth who are turning to the sport with hope. The government's actions are putting their future at risk," he said.

He urged the administration to ensure a transparent investigation into the IHPL matter, stressing that accountability must be fixed "to restore confidence among young players and the sports community."

Commenting on the Darbar Move to Jammu, Thakur said, "The Chief Minister alone cannot move the Darbar unless the Lieutenant Governor permits it. The National Conference has a habit of taking credit for administrative decisions such as this move."

Earlier, a senior police officer told KNO that an FIR has been registered in connection with the IHPL controversy after players complained of unpaid dues and abrupt cancellations—(KNO)

KNO that an FIR has been lodged and a detailed probe is underway to trace the organisers and verify financial transactions to better understand the situation.

November 3, Evening: Political Reaction and Fallout

Soon after the case was filed, political leaders demanded accountability. The BJP's Kashmir unit sought answers from the government, calling the IHPL a "fraud that has embarrassed Kashmir". It is believed the IHPL's downfall is a setback

for Kashmir's growing sports ecosystem, especially at a time when the valley was emerging as a promising venue for national and international sporting events.

Notably, as the IHPL stands unrecognised by the BCCI or the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), questions are being raised over accountability, financial transparency and player safety in such privately-run tournaments, while no official statement has yet been issued on the matter—(KNO)

Staff shortage hits GMC Baramulla



JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 03: Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla's associated hospital — the largest tertiary care facility in north Kashmir — continues to operate without two critical diagnostic and emergency care services: an MRI unit and a cardiac catheterisation laboratory (Cath Lab). Alongside this, nearly 200 key posts remain vacant, severely affecting day-to-day functioning, sources said.

Officials said that the absence of these services not only delays treatment but forces hundreds of patients daily to travel to Srinagar, losing crucial time during emergencies.

"Due to the staff shortage, the institution is struggling to manage routine functioning. Departments are overstretched and patients are bearing the brunt," they said.

Doctors said that although a cardiology unit is functional at GMC Baramulla, patients experiencing chest pain or heart attacks have to be shifted to Srinagar — to SMHS or SKIMS — for angiography and angioplasty.

"The first hour after a heart attack is known as the golden hour. A delay of even 30-40 minutes can decide life or death," said a doctor. According to CDC data, nearly 47% of deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest occur before a patient even reaches a hospital.

Doctors added that a fully functional cath lab at Baramulla could save dozens of lives every year.

Locals from Baramulla and Kupwara districts

said the absence of an MRI facility at the government hospital has pushed patients to private diagnostic centres, where rates are unaffordable for many.

Zameer Ahmad, a patient from Baramulla, said he recently had to spend nearly Rs 6,000.

"Doctors advised an MRI. But since GMC doesn't have one, I had no choice. Not everyone can afford private diagnostic centres," he said.

Residents said there are around 700 health facilities in three districts of north Kashmir — but not a single government hospital has an MRI facility. "We are left with no option but to travel to Srinagar or go to private labs. This is unjust," they said. Senior health officials said that the government has already taken up the matter of filling vacant posts.

They also confirmed that MRI procurement and Cath Lab installation have been included in this year's budgeted works.

"Provision for an MRI machine at GMC Baramulla has been taken up during the current financial year. JKMSCL has been authorised to procure it. Installation will begin once the rate contract is finalised and funds are released," an official told KNO.

He added: "In the first phase, four new GMCs are being covered; the remaining three will be taken up next financial year."

Regarding the Cath Lab, the official said that the Cath Lab project at GMC Baramulla has been sanctioned at Rs 12.50 crore this year. Funds worth Rs 9.37 crore have already been released to JKMSCL.—(KNO)

Police arrest absconder after 19 years

KNO

Ganderbal, Nov 03: Continuing its special drive against absconders, Police in Ganderbal on Monday said to have achieved another success by arresting one more absconder who had been evading arrest for 19 years.

The arrested individual has been identified as Mohammad Iqbal Zargar son of Gulam Mohammad Zargar resident of Gulab Bagh Zakura, Srinagar, who was wanted in Case FIR No. 33/2006 U/S 420 RPC of Police Station Kangan, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Acting on specific information, a police team from Police Station Kangan apprehended the said absconder from Srinagar. After completing all legal formalities, the accused was produced before the Court of JMFC Kangan, wherefrom he has been sent to Subsidiary Jail Dignibul, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, J&K Police reiterated its resolve to continue its relentless pursuit against all offenders and absconders in the interest of justice and public safety—(KNO)

DSEK vows fair exams across Kashmir

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 03: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to ensuring the smooth, fair, and student-friendly conduct of the ongoing examinations across the Kashmir Division.

In a proactive move to uphold transparency and excellence, Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, today personally led a comprehensive monitoring exercise in Srinagar.

He was accompanied by Chief Accounts Officer, Syed Mubashirah, and Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Gh. Mohi-ud-din Bhat.

The Director visited several key examination centres including GHSS Kothibagh, Presentation Convent Higher

Secondary School Rajbagh, High School Natipora, and High School Hyderpora, where he interacted with students and staff, reviewed arrangements on the ground, and extended his best wishes for a smooth and stress-free examination experience.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said, "We are here to assure our students that the administration is fully dedicated to their success. Our top priority is to maintain a fair, transparent, and supportive environment. I appeal to all concerned staff to ensure a smooth and stress-free examination in every nook and corner of the Kashmir Division."

Meanwhile, under the supervision of DSEK, multiple teams from the Directorate fanned out across all districts of the Kashmir Division to maintain strict vigilance and

uphold uniform standards of conduct. Joint Directors visited several examination centres, including those in remote and far-flung areas of Kupwara and Anantnag districts, ensuring consistency and adherence to established protocols.

Additionally, Personnel Officer DSEK, Dr. Iqbal Hussain Mir, conducted a detailed review of arrangements across various centres in District Budgam, expressing satisfaction over the effective and disciplined conduct of the examinations.

The Directorate remains resolutely committed to maintaining transparency, discipline, and a student-centric atmosphere throughout the examination processes, ensuring that every student is provided a fair opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities.

Terrorists hideout busted in Kulgam

KNO

Kulgam, Nov 03: Security forces busted two old terrorist hideouts during a joint search operation in the forest area of Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the operation was launched jointly by the 9 Rashtriya Rifles and the police following specific intelligence inputs.

"Two old hideouts were traced and subsequently busted between Ahmadabad and Nengripora forest areas," the official said.

He said that some items, including gas cylinders and clothes, were recovered from the hideouts while further investigation is underway—(KNO)

Fireman injured in Hawal blaze

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 03: A fire broke out in Kathi Mohalla area of Hawal in Srinagar on Monday evening, damaging two residential houses and injuring a firefighter, officials said.

An official said that the fire erupted in a single residential building jointly owned by two brothers, causing extensive damage before it was brought under control by the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) personnel.

He said during the operation, one fireman identified as Nasir Hossain sustained injuries while dousing the flames and was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment.

He said the cause of the fire is being ascertained while cognizance of the investigations have been taken up—(KNO)

GCOE Jammu organises anti-tobacco awareness campaign

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 03: NCORD Committee of Government College of Education Jammu, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Psychological Counseling Cell organized an Anti-Tobacco Campaign aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar. She commended the organisers and students and ensured that such initiatives will be a part of curriculum.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members who carried placards, banners and slogans highlighting the message of "Say No to Tobacco" and "Health is Wealth." The event sought to sensitize the community about the physical, mental and social hazards of tobacco use, aligning with national efforts to achieve a tobacco-free India. The

program was organized under the convensorship of Dr. Ramzan Ali (Convener NCORD) Dr. Subhra Jamwal (NSS PO) and Dr. Ambica. (Convener Psychological Counselling Cell), who coordinated the efforts of the students and volunteers to ensure the event's success. The convenors emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping responsible citizens who contribute positively to society. Speaking on the occasion, the convenors applauded the active participation of students and highlighted the role of educational institutions in nurturing awareness and behavioral change. The rally concluded with an interactive session where students shared their reflections and pledged to advocate for a tobacco-free environment. The event formed part of the college's ongoing commitment to community outreach, mental health promotion and holistic education. The college administration appreciated the collaborative efforts of NCORD, NSS and Psychological Counselling Cell for making the initiative impactful and engaging.

DDC Doda reviews ICDS performance

KT NEWS DESK

Doda, Nov 03: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh Monday conducted a detailed review of the working of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), with a focus on accelerating service delivery, improving nutritional outcomes and enhancing field-level accountability. The review meeting was held at the mini meeting hall, DC Office Complex.

The DDC Doda reviewed key performance areas including nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women, growth monitoring of children, early childhood education and operational status of Anganwadi Centres across all blocks. He emphasized measurable improvements in child nutrition indicators and directed officials to bridge service gaps through proactive field engagement.

Progress under Poshan Abhiyaan, Aadhaar saturation of beneficiaries and timely disbursement under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) were assessed. The DDC Doda instructed officers to ensure seamless and timely



supply of nutrition to all eligible beneficiaries and maintain strict transparency in distribution mechanisms.

DDC Doda stressed door-to-door outreach to trace left-out beneficiaries and directed immediate corrective measures where gaps were observed. He further encouraged ICDS teams to intensify community mobilisation and awareness activities to

strengthen maternal and child care practices at the grassroots level. The DDC also called for regular monitoring visits by field officers, updated progress reporting and technology-based tracking to ensure scheme saturation and accountability.

The meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS Akhter Qazi; Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) from all blocks and other concerned officials.

Horticulture innovation at Jhiri Mela-2025

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 03: The Department of Horticulture Jammu and Kashmir Monday announced its active participation in the upcoming Jhiri Mela 2025, a revered cultural and spiritual fair held annually in honour of farmer saint Baba Jitto.

This yearly event will be held from November 4 to November 12 at Jhiri village and is expected to draw thousands of devotees and visitors from across the region.

The Horticulture Department will set up a dedicated exhibition stall to highlight the rich diversity of horticultural produce from Jammu and Kashmir. The stall will feature fresh fruits from local orchards and farms;

demonstrations on high-density plantation techniques and expert guidance on government schemes and subsidies.

Speaking about the initiative, the Director of Horticulture, Jammu said, "Jhiri Mela is not only a spiritual gathering but also a platform to connect with our farming community. Through this exhibition, we aim to educate and empower growers with modern horticultural practices and promote horticulture entrepreneurship."

The department has invited the public, especially farmers and agriculture enthusiasts to visit the stall and interact with horticulture experts, extension officers and progressive growers.

EDITORIAL

‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ Shines Through ISRO’s Triumph

The successful launch of India's heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03, aboard the indigenously developed LVM3 rocket, affectionately dubbed 'Bahubali', marks a watershed moment in the nation's space journey. This achievement represents India's decisive leap toward self-reliance in launching heavy payloads, ending decades of dependency on foreign launch facilities and establishing the nation as a formidable force in the global space arena. The significance of this mission extends far beyond its technical parameters. By mastering the complex cryogenic technology required for such heavy-lift capabilities,

the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has demonstrated that Indian innovation can compete with global space powers. The satellite's multi-band communication capabilities will enhance connectivity across the Indian landmass and oceanic region, strengthening both national security and digital infrastructure while providing crucial services for maritime domain awareness. This success story is a testament to the government's sustained commitment to space technology as a pillar of national development. The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision finds its perfect expression in ISRO's achievement, showcasing how

strategic investment in research and development can yield world-class results. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acknowledgement that these successes "further national progress and empower countless lives" correctly identifies space technology as an enabler of broader socio-economic development. The timing of this achievement is particularly significant as ISRO prepares for seven more missions by March 2026, including the ambitious Gaganyaan program. The space agency's transition from a periodic launch schedule to a rapid-fire mission calendar reflects a new era of ambition and capability. The planned 50 launches over

five years demonstrate unprecedented momentum in India's space programme. As India positions itself as a leading space-faring nation, the Bahubali launch serves as both a milestone and a springboard. It proves that with visionary leadership, scientific prowess, and institutional dedication, no technological frontier is beyond reach. The nation stands united in celebrating this remarkable feat while eagerly anticipating the next chapter in India's space odyssey, particularly the upcoming crewed missions that will further cement India's position among the world's elite space-faring nations.

Sustaining Life, Celebrating Nature: India’s Biosphere Reserves

Press Information Bureau

On November 3, the world observes the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, celebrating regions where nature and communities coexist in harmony. These reserves serve as living laboratories that demonstrate practical models of sustainable development, environmental conservation, and community well-being. Designated by UNESCO, the day underscores the importance of biosphere reserves as vital platforms for advancing scientific research, preserving ecological and cultural diversity, and fostering a balanced relationship between people and the planet.

India celebrates this day alongside the world, highlighting its strong network of biosphere reserves that stretch across diverse terrains: mountains, forests, coasts, and islands. These areas demonstrate India's commitment to conserving biodiversity and fostering harmonious living between people and nature through both national initiatives and international frameworks like the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

The Government of India's ongoing efforts reinforce the potential of biosphere reserves to protect ecological riches and promote the well-being of present and future generations. These reserves continue to prove that sustainable living and conservation can go hand in hand.

What are Biosphere Reserves?

Biosphere reserves are areas identified by national governments for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. They have been described as 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

BRs are thus special environments for both people and the nature and are living examples of how human beings and nature can co-exist while respecting each other's needs.

Did you know?

More than 260 million (26 Crore) people live in biosphere reserves across the world. Altogether, these sites protect more than 7 million km2, an expanse roughly equal to the size of Australia.

UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial, coastal or ecosystems internationally recognized under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. These reserves must meet specific criteria and conditions before being included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) designated by UNESCO. The network represents the world's major ecosystem types and landscapes, dedicated to conserving biodiversity, promoting research and monitoring, and providing models of sustainable development.

It combines the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

By focusing on sites internationally recognized within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the MAB Programme strives to



Identify and assess the changes in the biosphere resulting from human and natural activities and the effects of these changes on humans and the environment, in particular in the context of climate change.

Study the interrelationships between ecosystems and socio-economic processes amid loss of biological & cultural diversity that hinders ecosystems provision of services for human well-being

Ensure basic human welfare and a liveable environment in the context of rapid urbanization and energy consumption as drivers of environmental change.

Promote the exchange and transfer of knowledge on environmental problems and solutions, and to foster environmental education for sustainable development.

The WNBR forms a dynamic network of sites of excellence that encourages collaboration across regions and fosters international cooperation through exchange of experiences, capacity-building, and promotion of best practices among Biosphere Reserves.

The MAB Programme operates under the guidance of UNESCO Member States.

Its main governing body is the International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC), also known as MAB Council, which is composed of 34 Member States

Biosphere Reserves in India

India has 18 notified Biosphere Reserves covering approximately 91,425 sq. km, of which 13 are recognized by UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). These reserves span diverse landscapes, from mountains and forests to coasts and islands, showcasing India's ecological richness and commitment to conserving biodiversity while supporting local communities.

The Biosphere Reserve Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Biodiversity Conservation, which operates as a sub-scheme under the broader Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems (CNRE) programme.

The scheme provides financial assistance to states for targeted conservation and development activities, with implementation primarily handled by State Forest Departments.

The scheme follows a cost-sharing model: 60:40 (Central: State) and 90:10 for the North Eastern and Himalayan states.

The budget allocation for biodiversity conservation under CNRE has doubled from

5 crore in 2024-25 to 10 crore in 2025-26, highlighting the government's increasing commitment to sustainable ecosystem management.

What sets this scheme apart is its focus on local communities, particularly those living in and around Biosphere Reserves. By promoting alternative livelihoods, eco-development activities, and sustainable resource management, the scheme helps reduce biotic pressure on core biodiversity zones.

Special emphasis is placed on buffer and transition zones, providing supplementary support to minimize dependence on critical ecosystems and ensure long-term sustainability.

India's Biosphere Reserves not only conserve biodiversity but also serve as living laboratories for sustainable development, integrating ecological protection with community welfare. They complement other national initiatives, such as Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Green India Mission, and the National Biodiversity Action Plan, creating a holistic framework for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

In essence, India's Biosphere Reserve programme exemplifies the balance between nature and human development, demonstrating how environmental stewardship, scientific research, and socio-economic support can coexist to secure ecological and community well-being.

In September 2025, India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Impact of Conservation Efforts

The establishment of Biosphere Reserves in India reflects a long-term national vision for conservation and sustainable development aligned with global environmental goals under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. India is at the forefront of promoting and managing Biosphere Reserves, showcasing its dedication to conserving biodiversity, empowering local communities, and advancing sustainable ecosystem practices.

Biosphere Reserves have significantly contributed to maintaining ecosystem balance, enabling conservation of biodiversity, and strengthening climate resilience in fragile habitats. They serve as demonstration sites for sustainable practices and provide economic and livelihood security to forest-dependent populations through alternate livelihood measures.

India's implementation of the Biosphere Reserve Programme has also

supported measurable improvements in forest health indicators. As of October 2025, India ranked 9th globally in total forest area and 3rd in annual forest gain, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025.

Continuous monitoring, enhanced community participation, and expansion of the Biosphere Reserve network have collectively strengthened India's position among global leaders in forest and biodiversity conservation.

Biosphere Reserves complement India's broader conservation framework by linking habitat protection with sustainable community development. These reserves act as living laboratories where integrated approaches from converge to strengthen ecosystem resilience and conserve species across diverse landscapes.

Several national schemes operate in alignment with the objectives of Biosphere Reserves, contributing collectively to habitat conservation, sustainable resource use, and community development. Some of these are as follows:

Project Tiger– Initiated in 1973, has been India's flagship conservation initiative, successfully completing 50 years in 2023. Focused on tiger conservation through dedicated reserves and strict protection measures, it has played a crucial role in re-viving tiger populations.

Project Elephant – India, home to over 60% of the global Asian elephant population, has undertaken significant measures to protect and conserve these majestic animals. Project Elephant is a flagship initiative aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of elephants in their natural habitats. This program focuses on habitat preservation, human-elephant conflict mitigation, and the welfare of captive elephants, reflecting India's deep-rooted cultural and ecological commitment to elephant conservation.

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) Scheme –This centrally sponsored scheme provides financial and technical assistance to state and union territory governments for wildlife conservation activities.

National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) – The NBA, established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, is entrusted with the crucial responsibility of regulating access to India's vast biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) and Wildlife Corridors – Eco-sensitive Zones around Protected Areas i.e. National Parks and

Key Takeaways

- Nearly 95% of India's trade by volume and about 70% by value moves through maritime routes, underlining the sector's centrality to India's economy and competitiveness.
- The Maritime India Vision 2030 charts 150+ initiatives with projected investments of 3–3.5 lakh crore, supported by a recent 69,725 crore package for shipbuilding.
- In FY 2024–25, major ports handled ~855 million tonnes of cargo, signaling robust growth in maritime trade and port efficiency.

Wildlife Sanctuaries. The purpose of declaring ESZ is to create some kind of “Shock Absorber” for the specialized Ecosystem, such as Protected Areas or other natural sites and is meant to act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Green India Mission- The mission aims to protect, restore, and enhance India's forest cover while tackling climate change. GIM focuses on improving biodiversity, water resources, and ecosystems like mangroves and wetlands, all while helping absorb carbon.

Conclusion

India's observance of the International Day for Biosphere Reserves highlights the country's enduring commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. By integrating ecological protection with community empowerment, India's biosphere reserves function as living examples of harmony between nature and people, supported by national policies and international partnerships like UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme. With a growing network of reserves, increased forest cover, and active collaboration for innovative and inclusive approaches, India continues to set benchmarks in global conservation. These efforts ensure that both ecological treasures and local communities thrive, strengthening India's role as a leader in sustainable living for present and future generations.

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Education foundation of any progressive society: Sakeena

Reviews performance, functioning of SED across Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of School Education department across Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakwal; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Chief Education Officers of all districts of Jammu and other concerned officers of School Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure development projects, academic reforms, and digital learning initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education across government schools.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the efficient and transparent utilisation of public funds to strengthen the education ecosystem. She stressed that every rupee allocated for the education sector must be spent judiciously and with measurable outcomes.

She directed officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects, particularly those



related to school infrastructure, ICT labs, teacher training, and learning enhancement programmes. She asked them to address bottlenecks on priority and submit regular progress reports to the department.

The Minister called for the adoption of transparent monitoring mechanisms and periodic audits to prevent fund lapses and ensure that benefits reach the grassroots level. She further instructed officers to strengthen community participation through School Management committees and promote accountability at every administrative tier.

Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive and equitable education, the Minister also

underscored the importance of bridging learning gaps, enhancing the teaching-learning process, and improving student learning outcomes, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to transforming the education sector, the Minister assured that the government would continue to support initiatives that empower teachers, modernize classrooms, and create a robust learning environment for all students.

"Education is the foundation of any progressive society. Transparent utilisation of funds and effective monitoring of schemes will ensure schools becoming centres of excellence,"

the Minister stated.

While reviewing other aspects of the department, the Minister strictly instructed the CEOs that school children shouldn't be sent to Government functions, particularly during peak academic and examination session, without prior approval and permission of respective Directors.

The Education Minister further asked the CEOs to take reviews in their respective districts from the Assembly Constituency level and prepare all data accordingly so that the MLAs are provided timely information. She also asked them to take MLAs on board while initiating any new developmental projects in their respective districts.

DC Bandipora approves 82 Mission YUVA cases

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review and approve cases under Mission YUVA at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

During the meeting, 106 cases were presented, out of which 82 were approved by the Committee after detailed scrutiny. The rest of the cases were ordered to be reconsidered and referred back to the concerned departments for detailed feasibility reports before resubmission.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that DLIC meetings shall be held every Monday to ensure regular monitoring and timely disposal of cases. The meeting also reviewed the overall progress of Mission YUVA in the district, including cases forwarded to banks, sanctioned, disbursed, and rejected, to evaluate the implementation status.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for an in-depth analysis to identify areas with fewer or no applications and areas with maximum participation. She directed the Cluster Head J&K Bank to submit branch-wise data and the Employment Officer was directed to furnish village-wise details to ensure uniform



growth and coverage across all blocks and branches.

Nodal Officer JKEDI was instructed to explore sectors and sub-sectors showing higher participation so that targeted interventions can be made to achieve block and branch saturation.

During the meeting, the DC further directed officers to verify every case in detail, ensuring transparency and accountability. She underscored that Mission YUVA should not be limited to trading activities and stressed the need to sensitize and guide youth toward diverse entrepreneurial fields.

The Pollution Control Officer

was directed to monitor cases where environmental violations are likely, ensuring compliance with statutory norms. She further reiterated the directions of the Chief Secretary, stating that rehabilitated youth and terror victims should be actively engaged under Mission YUVA to provide them with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; Lead Bank Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank Bandipora; District Officer PCB and other concerned officers.

Fisheries Deptt Kupwara stocks Brown Trout Fingerlings



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: The Department of Fisheries Kupwara has undertaken a significant initiative by stocking Brown Trout fingerlings in the upper reaches of Mawar, Dringyari, and Kalaroose streams, which have been officially declared as trout streams under the J&K Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2018.

The genetically improved eyed ova of Brown Trout were imported from Denmark under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY) 2024-25 and were reared to fingerling size at the departmental hatchery in Kulgam before being released into the natural streams.

This milestone initiative aims to replenish and enrich natural trout habitats, ensuring the

sustenance of fish biodiversity and promoting sport fishing in the region.

Pertinently, Brown Trout, a globally renowned sport fish, attracts anglers from across the world. Kashmir, known as the "Angler's Paradise," continues to host thousands of fishing enthusiasts every year.

In Kupwara, several anglers have already started visiting these streams to enjoy trout fishing in the pristine waters. Apart from recreation, trout angling contributes significantly to eco-tourism promotion and environmental conservation, while also encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

The Department of Fisheries has reiterated its commitment to strengthen sustainable fisheries management and promote angling-based tourism in the district.

Budgam Bye-Elections

Voter awareness programme held at Ompora

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 3: Under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, the District Administration Monday organised a series of voter awareness activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

The initiative was spearheaded by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP (Chief Education Officer Budgam) with the aim to enhance voter turnout in polling stations identified with lower participation rates in the Ompora area.

The programme witnessed the presence of the General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha, and Expenditure Observer Ravinder Kumar, appointed by ECI for upcoming bye-elections to 27-AC Budgam who along with Chief Education Officer Budgam, Rifat Irfan Qadri, observed the proceedings and appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants.



As part of the campaign, a range of engaging activities were conducted including Nukkad Natak (street plays), rallies, distribution of voter awareness pamphlets, and display of informative hoardings. These activities were designed to sensitize and motivate the local populace, especially first-time voters, about the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents took part in the awareness rally, which commenced from Ibni Sina

Paramedical College, passed through various streets of Ompora, and culminated at Eid Gah Ompora. The vibrant and energetic participation of the community reflected a collective commitment towards ensuring greater electoral participation in the forthcoming bye-elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam.

The district administration Budgam reiterated its commitment to continue such awareness programmes across different areas of the district to promote informed, ethical, and inclusive voting.

Kupwara admin designates Nodal Officers

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: To ensure smooth and hassle-free operation of subsidized helicopter services to the remote and snowbound areas of Karnah, Keran, and Machil, the District Administration Kupwara has designated Nodal Officers for each location.

As per an order issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, the officers who have been appointed as Nodal Officers for the smooth coordination and operation of helicopter services in their respective jurisdictions include Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Kupwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat, Nodal Officer for District Police Lines Kupwara (Contact: 9906518530), Tehsildar Karnah, Mohammad Amin Bhat, for Karnah (Contact: 7006248450), Tehsildar Keran, Idris Sidiq Sofi, for Keran (Contact: 9906532260), Tehsildar Machil,

Saqib Saleem, for Machil (Contact: 7006878772).

Similarly, the ACP Office Kupwara, SDM Office Karnah, and Tehsil Offices of Keran and Machil have been designated as ticketing counters for their respective areas to facilitate the general public.

Furthermore, The ALC Office Kupwara has also been directed to hand over previous records to the ACP Office Kupwara under proper acknowledgement, with a copy to be furnished to the DC Office.

The designated Nodal Officers have been instructed to ensure proper maintenance of daily records, smooth coordination of helicopter operations, and timely submission of reports to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner's Office. This initiative aims to streamline helicopter services and ensure better winter connectivity for the residents of the far-flung and snow-bound areas of Kupwara district.

Sensitization workshop held at Samba

KT News Desk

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 3: A one-day sensitization workshop on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act was organized Monday under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jagdish Singh in the presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Vidhi Bhatial; Assistant Director DHS Jammu, Dr. Summi Thakur; Law Officer, Shivali Gupta; Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Nodal Officers and public and private sonologists, gynecologists, pediatricians, proprietors and NGO representatives.

The workshop aimed to enhance awareness and understanding among medical practitioners, health officials and other stakeholders regarding the provisions, rules and regulations of the PCPNDT Act. The Act seeks to prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques and curb the practice of sex selection, thereby promoting gender equality and protecting the rights of the girl child.

Addressing the participants, ADC Jagdish Singh emphasized the importance of strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act and called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards eradicating gender-based discrimination. He highlighted

that effective monitoring and compliance at every level are crucial to uphold the spirit of the Act.

CMO Dr. Vidhi Bhatial elaborated the key objectives of the Act, including the regulation of diagnostic techniques, ensuring accountability of registered medical practitioners and promoting awareness about gender-sensitive practices in healthcare. She urged the medical fraternity to maintain transparency in record-keeping and adhere to the legal provisions to prevent any violations.

Dr Simmi Thakur presented a Powerpoint presentation on the importance of this act, while Shivali Gupta conducted detailed sessions on the legal framework, reporting procedures and responsibilities of clinics and ultrasound centers under the PCPNDT Act.

The workshop also featured interactive session and case-based learning to help participants understand the practical aspects of its implementation.

The workshop concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen coordination between the health department and enforcement agencies to ensure the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act in the district and to uphold the objective of safeguarding the girl child.

Mission Director HADP reviews programme implementation

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Mission Director HADP/JKCIP Sandeep Kumar Monday chaired a meeting to take a comprehensive review of the progress of the programme in the Union Territory. The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture- Krishi Bhawan.

The Mission Director reviewed the physical and financial achievements under different HADP projects being implemented in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed; Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand and Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning) Jammu Priyanka Parihar, along with Technical Officers HADP (Agriculture and Horticulture) Jammu, technical staff of Mission Directorate HADP, representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Jammu.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah;



Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief Horticulture Officers of all districts of Jammu and Kashmir; Technical Officers HADP Kashmir; representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Kashmir and other officers from Kashmir attended the meeting through video conferencing (VC).

During the deliberations, Sandeep Kumar emphasized the need to achieve 100 percent expenditure targets by

the end of the current month to ensure timely implementation of project activities. While reviewing the progress under the Promotion of Nutri-Cereals (Millets) component, he directed to establish millet mills in those areas where millet cultivation is expanding and the beneficiaries have an actual need.

He also took a detailed review of the Kisan Sathi Portal activities and instructed to clear all pending approvals immediately.

He further directed to remove inactive applications systematically and register those genuinely in need of support. The Mission Director also stressed the importance of regular photo documentation with GPS coordinates to be shared with the Mission Directorate for real-time monitoring.

Highlighting the importance of GI tagging of indigenous millet varieties, he urged SKUAST to expedite the process. SKUAST-Jammu

informed that work is already underway on seven such millet varieties. The Mission Director also emphasized the development and sharing of Packages of Practices (PoP) and technology transfer by SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir with their respective Directorates for wider farmer adoption.

Sandeep Kumar further underscored the need to establish canning units under HADP to enhance the shelf life of agriculture and horticulture produce, thereby increasing farmers' income. He also highlighted the significance of exposure visits of farmers at the national level, enabling them to learn about new technologies and innovative practices. He directed that consolidated reports of such exposure visits be submitted to the Mission Directorate in a timely manner.

The Mission Director laid special emphasis on strengthening Research and Development (R&D) efforts to ensure the availability of improved seed varieties, which would enhance yield and productivity across the UT.

Jammu rail staff commended for swift assistance in reuniting lost boy on train



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 03: The ticket checking staff of the Jammu Division, apart from performing many commendable tasks during their duties, are always ready to assist passengers. With this same diligence, the ticket checking staff of Train No. 26404 performed an excellent job while on duty on Monday, November 03, 2025.

This incident occurred on Train No. 26404, running from Srinagar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. While checking the train, ticket checking staff, Mr Aqib Ahmed (Headquarters Budgam) and Mrs. Romana Rauf (Headquarters Srinagar), found an unidentified boy in coach No. C/4. He is estimated to be approximately 15 years old.

Upon questioning by the train's checking staff, the boy revealed that he was traveling with his parents on the train from Srinagar Railway Station,

but accidentally got separated from them and boarded another train.

Following further investigation, the ticket checking staff informed the Railway Protection Force (RPF) on board. Upon receiving the information, the RPF took the boy under their protection and questioned him, and later reunited him with his parents.

After speaking with their son and finding him safe, the family thanked the railway and ticket checking staff.

Upon arrival of train number 26404 at Katra, the child was handed over to the RPF post in Katra for verification.

Highlighting this incident, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singhal, said, "This is an excellent example of how diligently and efficiently railway employees perform their duties." He praised the ticket checking staff for their work.



Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu Chapter called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday

13 dead as dumper truck ploughs into multiple vehicles in Rajasthan

PTI

Jaipur/New Delhi, Nov 03: A rashly driven dumper truck ploughed into at least 17 vehicles, leaving 13 people dead and 10 injured in Harmada area in Jaipur in Rajasthan on Monday afternoon.

Bodies were strewn across the road; mangled cars lined the highway; and several motorbikes were crushed under the dumper's wheels following the horrific chain collision that occurred near Loha Mandi when the truck, whose driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, ploughed into these vehicles on a 300-metre stretch before crashing into a trailer.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, his deputies Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa and former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the loss of lives.

"The road accident that occurred in the Lohamandi area of Harmada in Jaipur, resulting in loss of life, is extremely tragic and heart-wrenching. Officials concerned have been directed to ensure proper treatment for the injured," Mr. Sharma posted on X.

Eyewitnesses described the scene as nothing short of a massacre.

"We saw people pulling out one body after another from the wrecked cars. Some were trapped inside, others were lying on the road. It was chaos, screams and blood everywhere," said Mahesh Sharma, a local shopkeeper.

Speeding dumper According to Jaipur District Collector Jitendra Soni, the dumper came from Road No. 14 towards the Loha Mandi petrol pump at high speed, hitting vehicles in its path.

"Thirteen people died and 10 are injured. The injured are being treated at SMS Hospital's

trauma centre, and several are in critical condition," Mr. Soni told PTI.

Additional Police Commissioner Rajiv Pachar, who was present at the scene, said that the dumper was being driven recklessly.

The driver hit a car, prompting locals to chase him. He accelerated further, hitting pedestrians and bikers along the road. He then stopped after colliding with a trailer truck and a car on the Delhi-Ajmer Highway.

Locals managed to nab the driver and handed him over to the police.

On whether the driver was intoxicated, Mr. Pachar said, "Since the accused driver is injured, the situation will become clear only after a medical examination. However, the nature of the accident indicates it could certainly be due to intoxication or medical factors." CCTV footage showed the dumper truck speeding at over 100 kmph,

Fugitive Mehul Choksi challenges extradition order in Belgium Supreme Court

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: Fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi has challenged before the Supreme Court of Belgium the October 17 order of the Antwerp Court of Appeals, which had termed India's request seeking his extradition "enforceable", officials said Monday.

In response to queries sent by the PTI, the public prosecutor at the Court of Appeal in Antwerp said Choksi filed an appeal in the Court of Cassation on October 30.

"This appeal is strictly limited to legal merits and will be judged by the Court of Cassation. During this procedure, the execution of the extradition is suspended," Ken Witpas said.

The Court of Cassation is the

Supreme Court of Belgium.

On October 17, a four-member indictment chamber at the Court of Appeals in Antwerp found no infirmity in the orders issued by the pre-trial chamber of the district court on November 29, 2024, terming the arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai special court in May 2018 and June 2021 as "enforceable", allowing Choksi's extradition.

The Court of Appeals ruled that fugitive Choksi, the main accused in a Rs-13,000 crore PNB scam, faces "no risk" of being denied a fair trial or subjected to ill-treatment if he is extradited to India.

Of the Rs 13,000-crore scam, Choksi alone has siphoned off Rs 6,400 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged in its chargesheet.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Cloudburst-hit Chishoti

India to rebuild 1,500 fully damaged houses across the UT under Operation Sindoor and in the aftermath of August floods, to which they had agreed. This initiative will provide huge relief to the affected families," he said.

An official said, "Each house will feature a concrete foundation utilizing prefabricated technology, including fiber cement boards, powder-coated GI sheets, and a steel structural framework with C-channel sections. These materials have been selected for their strength, durability, and ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions, ensuring long-term resilience and suitability to the region's environment."

"Every reconstructed unit will be developed as a Smart House incorporating modern design elements for comfort, safety, and functionality," the official added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to all the emergency responders, district administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, Police, armed forces, local community, youth and voluntary organizations for saving precious lives, evacuating Machail Mata devotees to safety and providing timely medical care.

"I must commend the profound resilience of the people of Chishoti. Nature has tested them severely, but this strong community met the challenge head-on," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for complete rehabilitation of the flood-affected families and meeting the development needs of the people of Kishtwar.

"In a boost to our efforts to provide modern infrastructure to Paddar Kishtwar, Government of India has sanctioned an Army Goodwill School and One Petrol Pump at Paddar," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also announced that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will reconstruct Atholi to Machail Mata Road and build a new bridge in Chishoti.

He said that all the black spots in Mobile Network Connection have been identified and land has been transferred to BSNL to set up new 4G towers.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and demands. He directed the district administration to connect the youth with self-employment opportunities through Mission Yuva.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ongoing works for the augmentation of facilities for the pilgrims at Machail Mata will be completed by the month of May, 2026.

He also assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the demand for construction of Yatri Niwas at Paddar.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who lost their lives in Chishoti on August 14, 2025.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition

(LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Paddar- Nagseni; Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar; Shrimath Swami Atma Nambi, President, HRDS India; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG DKR Range; Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Aji Krishnan; Founder – Secretary and representatives of HRDS India; senior officials, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the foundation stone laying ceremony. (KNO)

Cong's mistakes

was responsible for the implementation of Article 370 in the erstwhile state. "Who caused disputes in Kashmir? It was Congress," he said.

Yogi Adityanath said that under Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah, Kashmir had been freed from terrorism and extremism.

"What was the compulsion that the Kashmir Valley became devoid of Hindus? It was Congress's sin that Article 370 was implemented in Kashmir. Pakistanis were settling there, while the rest of the Indians were being asked to vacate Kashmir," he said.

Both leaders said that the current government had brought a change in India's approach to national security and would continue to act firmly against terrorism. (KNO)

SBI donates Rs 1.55

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his gratitude to the SBI employees for their generous contribution, describing it as "a noble gesture of solidarity and service beyond banking."

He said the donation reflects SBI's continued commitment to social responsibility and its deep bond with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Darbar Move restoration

come to Srinagar to work, and during the six winter months, people from Srinagar come to Jammu to live. "This flow of people between the two provinces benefits Jammu and Kashmir immensely," he said.

Omar said, "The decision to scrap off Darbar Move shouldn't have been taken. Now, I won't go into what compulsions were there at the time, or the circumstances under which it was done. But, I have repeatedly said that this Darbar Move is not Sheikh Abdullah's or Farooq Abdullah's or my legacy. This was a practice that began long before the country gained independence. We have just restarted it," he added.

Notably, the Darbar Move, was initiated in 1872 by Maharaja Gulab Singh and the practice continued till 2021. It was halted for four years, now it has recommenced.

ON RESERVATION

Regarding reservation, Omar said that there

is nothing to be kept hidden. "What's there to hide? If we had wanted to hide it, we would not have included it in our manifesto. The discussion in this regard began only when the National Conference included it in its manifesto. Otherwise, nobody was discussing it? Those who today are posing as great sympathizers of those with open merit? Where were they until the National Conference included it in its manifesto?," he said.

Omar said that the cabinet subcommittee has submitted its report. "It is our full intention to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling that reservations should not exceed 50%. If there was a point in hiding the reservation level for Jammu and Kashmir, why would we do it?"

About bye-elections in Budgam and Nagrota, the Chief Minister said that they are putting in all efforts to emerge victorious. "One was our own seat. We lost one a year ago. But we hope we will perform well in Nagrota this time too. Because the BJP has proven one thing, which I say again and again: the BJP has no objection to dynastic rule. They absolutely love dynastic rule, but only their own families. The families that are against the BJP see dynastic rule only in them, and thankfully, this was proven again in Nagrota," he said.

ON STATEHOOD RESOLUTION

Asked about statehood resolution, Omar said that as the Darbar Move was done today, they will do more. "Before that, under the Assembly Resolution, we addressed the political issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the Cabinet Resolution, we addressed statehood. In the budget, we made some important announcements for Jammu and Kashmir. Now, the budget will be presented again in February. There will be more in it. The process will continue. No government is formed for a week, a month or a year. A government comes to power with the intention of spending the entire five years presenting its agenda to the people. We have completed one year, and four years remain. Now, we stand firm that we will fulfill the promises we made to the people," he said.

ON MEHBOOBA MUFTI'S PIL OVER SHIFTING OF PRISONERS

Reacting to the PDP Chief, Mehbooba Mufti's move filing PIL in court over shifting of prisoners, he said that now, the matter is before the court. "Nothing will happen until the court delivers its verdict. You can't even debate it in the Assembly. You have now pushed this issue beyond the scope of discussion. Now, when these same people try to raise a question or a resolution in the Assembly, the Speaker will say that this matter is subjudice. We will have to see. But, they thought maybe they could achieve something through the courts," he added.

GETS ROUSING RECEPTION

Pertinently, the Chief Minister received a rousing reception on his arrival at the Civil Secretariat Jammu as the traditional Darbar Move resumed for the winter session. The bi-annual Darbar Move, to be followed now onwards, marks the formal opening of offices in

the winter capital.

As per the day's schedule, the Chief Minister arrived at Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu at 9:15 AM, where he was warmly received and felicitated by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce, Residency Road and Rajinder Bazar Associations.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister walked towards Raghunath Bazar Chowk via Residency Road, greeting traders and citizens who lined the route to extend greetings and best wishes on his arrival.

At Raghunath Bazar Chowk, Omar Abdullah was felicitated by the Raghunath Bazar Association before proceeding on foot towards City Chowk, where he was received by members of the City Chowk Bazar and Kanak Mandi Bazar Associations.

INSPECTS GUARD OF HONOUR, CEREMONIAL PARADE

Later, the Chief Minister was received at the Civil Secretariat, where he was presented with a Guard of Honour, marking the opening of offices as part of the traditional Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister inspected the ceremonial parade and interacted with officers and staff on the occasion.

Following the ceremonial reception, Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting with the Council of Ministers and Administrative Secretaries to get an update on the functioning of various departments and assess the administrative preparedness following the move.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister described the restoration of the Darbar in Jammu after a gap of four years as "a welcome experience" that has infused a wave of enthusiasm and happiness across the city and its adjoining areas.

He, however, underlined the challenges ahead, noting that the government is now at a crucial juncture where "actual ground delivery is expected."

"All planning and discussion phases have been completed. It is now time to translate the decisions into tangible outcomes on the ground," Omar Abdullah emphasised.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to focus on the timely implementation of projects already sanctioned and approved, ensuring visible progress at the grassroots level.

Acknowledging the financial constraints being faced, Omar Abdullah assured that the matter of limited resources "will be appropriately addressed." He called for a balanced approach, urging officers to "ensure effective delivery while simultaneously curbing unnecessary expenditure."

The Chief Minister also informed that a series of district-level review meetings have already been conducted in the Kashmir province and that similar interactions will now be initiated across the Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah commended all departments for their coordinated efforts

in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the recently concluded Assembly session. (KNO)

Over 94,000 students

division said. "It is notified for information of all the stakeholders in general and the students of Class 10th in particular that the date-sheet for Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) annual, regular, 2025 has been revised in view of assembly by-elections."

The board however clarified that the timing and centres notified earlier for the examination shall remain unchanged. (KNO)

Film industry knocks

here, given what had happened earlier this year. But once we arrived, we found the place to be safe and welcoming. The people are very cooperative, the security arrangements are good, and we were able to work freely in a positive atmosphere," they told KNO.

Notably, the return of the film crew comes as a morale booster for local facilitators, tourism operators and artists associated with the Kashmir film industry. The valley has long been a favourite destination for filmmakers, from classic Bollywood hits to contemporary web productions, owing to its breathtaking landscapes and unique cultural charm.

Officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department welcomed the development, calling it "a positive sign of regained confidence".

Sources said more film projects, including from Bollywood and regional industries, are in the pipeline for the coming months of late November and December. (KNO)

Govt steps in to

of dignitaries. Unauthorized individuals will be denied entry to such engagements, officials said.

The administration said the verification exercise is part of a wider effort to maintain professionalism, transparency and accountability within the media fraternity. It also seeks to safeguard the credibility of legitimate journalists and prevent misuse of press privileges. (KNO)

Crackdown on illegal

penalty collection through Point of Sale (POS) machines has reduced revenue leakage, while environmental committees are monitoring compliance at the district level to ensure responsible mineral extraction. (KNO)

1999 Fidayeen Attack

killed while trying to save the journalists who were present in the PRO's office at the time of the attack.

The gallant act of these bravehearts saved civilian lives while they made the supreme sacrifice. Their selfless and gallant act continues to inspire and motivate all of us constantly. Indian Army proudly remembers the war heroes and pays its tribute.

India backing high risk, high impact R&D projects: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India was backing high risk and high impact research and development projects, and fostering private investments in this domain to emerge as a science and technology powerhouse.

Inaugurating the first ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, he said his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country.

At the Conclave, the prime minister also launched the Rs one lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund to spur private sector investment in research and development.

"This significant investment is aimed at benefiting the public and unlocking new avenues of opportunity," he said.

Modi said the government's goal was to foster a culture of research and development within the private



sector as well.

"For the first time, capital is being allocated specifically for high-risk, high-impact projects, ensuring support for ground-breaking endeavours," he said, adding the government was focusing on 'Ease of Doing Research' so that a modern ecosystem of innovation can flourish in India.

"To achieve this vision, our government has introduced significant reforms in financial regulations and procurement policies. Additionally, we have streamlined incentives and supply chain frameworks to

accelerate the transition of prototypes from the lab to the market," he said.

The prime minister said over the past decade, India's R&D expenditure has doubled, demonstrating commitment to innovation.

"The number of registered patents has grown an impressive 17-fold. In the start up landscape, India has emerged as the third-largest ecosystem globally," he said.

Modi said the government has established the Anusandhan Research Foundation to elevate research and innovation across

universities, creating new opportunities for growth and advancement.

The prime minister said when innovation is inclusive, its leaders emerge as the greatest beneficiaries and Indian women serve as a prime example of this.

"Their contributions are widely recognised, particularly in discussions about India's advancements in space exploration. A decade ago, the number of patents filed by women in India was less than 100 annually. Today, that number has surged to over 5,000 each year," he said.

The prime minister said women make up 43 per cent of those pursuing STEM education in India – well above the global average.

Modi said the foundation for great achievements is laid when science meets scale, innovation becomes inclusive and technology drives transformation.

"Over the past 10–11 years, India has exemplified this vision in action. India is no longer just a consumer of technology. It has become a pioneer of transformation through technology," he added.

IRF welcomes highways ministry's move to install QR code on road projects

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: International Road Federation (IRF) on Monday welcomed highways minister Nitin Gadkari's recent announcement to install QR code on every major road project for improving the quality of roads, and termed it as a bold new transparency push and a major step towards participatory governance.

IRF is a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide. IRF president emeritus K K Kapila said the bold new transparency and visionary initiative to introduce QR codes for improving the quality and monitoring of Indian roads marks a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards creating a more transparent, accountable, and technology-driven infrastructure management system.

"By enabling real-time



tracking of road construction quality and maintenance, this initiative will go a long way in ensuring durability, safety, and long-term sustainability of India's road network," Kapila said.

He added that this innovative step by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways truly reflects the government of India's

dedication to enhancing the quality, transparency, and efficiency of road infrastructure development -- a move that will greatly benefit citizens and the economy alike. IRF also appreciated Uma Shankar, Secretary, MoRTH, for reiterating the importance of this initiative and for his assurance of close monitoring of its implementation.

ED attaches assets worth over Rs 3,000 cr in money laundering case against Anil Ambani

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 03: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth more than Rs 3,000 crore linked to Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani as part of a money laundering investigation against his group companies, official sources said on Monday.

The federal probe agency has issued four provisional orders under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for attaching the properties, including the 66-year-old Ambani's house in Pali Hill, Mumbai, apart from other residential and commercial properties of his group companies, they said.

A plot of land belonging to Reliance Centre on Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg in Delhi and multiple other assets in the national capital, Noida, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Hyderabad, Chennai and East Godavari have also been attached.

According to the sources, the total value of the attached assets is Rs 3,084 crore. The case pertains

to alleged diversion and laundering of public funds raised by Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. (RCFL).

During 2017-2019, Yes Bank invested Rs 2,965 crore in RHFL instruments and Rs 2,045 crore in RCFL instruments.

These turned into "non-performing" investments by December 2019, with Rs 1,353.50 crore then outstanding for RHFL and Rs 1,984 crore for RCFL, according to the ED.

The action against Ambani pertains to alleged financial irregularities and collective loan "diversion" pegged at more than Rs 17,000 crore by multiple group companies, including Reliance Infrastructure.

The businessman was questioned in the case by the ED in August.

This came after the agency searched 35 premises of 50 companies and 25 people, including executives of his business group, in Mumbai on July 24.

The ED's money laundering case stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation FIR.

SC to issue directions on Nov 7 with respect to feeding of stray dogs in institutions

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: SC to issue directions on Nov 7 with respect to feeding of stray dogs in institutionsThe Supreme Court on Monday said it will issue directions on November 7 with respect to the stray dogs menace being faced in institutions, including government and public sector ones, where employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging the canines.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria was hearing the matter. "Apart from recording the appearance and affidavits and everything, we will also be issuing some directions with respect to institutional menace which is being faced in government institutions, public sector institutions and other institutions where the employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging dogs in that area. For that, we will definitely be issuing some directions," Justice Nath said.

One of the advocates appearing in the matter urged the bench that they be heard prior to passing of directions on the issue.

"For institutional matters, we are not going to hear any arguments at all. Sorry," Justice Mehta said. The bench



noted that chief secretaries of most of the states and Union Territories were present before it.

It allowed the exemption application filed by the chief secretary of Kerala and noted that a principal secretary of the state was present in the court.

The bench said the Animal Welfare Board of India be made a party in the matter.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that most of the states and UTs have filed their compliance affidavit in the matter.

"List for orders on November 7," the bench said.

It said personal presence of the chief secretaries of states and UTs would no longer be required. However, the bench said their presence would again become necessary in case there was any default

in compliance of the orders passed by the court.

While hearing the matter on October 27, the top court had directed the chief secretaries of states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

The apex court on August 22 asked the states and UTs about the steps being taken for compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

The bench had expressed displeasure over the non-compliance of its order and observed that by October 27, compliance affidavits were not filed by the states and UTs, except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

It had made clear that the chief secretaries would have

to appear in the court and explain as to why no compliance affidavits were filed by them.

On October 27, the top court had slammed the states and UTs, which had not filed their compliance affidavits in the matter, and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being "shown as down" in foreign nations.

The apex court had earlier expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It had directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the ABC Rules.

The bench had also impleaded the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

The apex court is hearing a suo motu case which was initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

SC junks Jamiat's plea to pay compensation to victims of mob lynching



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 03: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeking direction to the Uttar Pradesh government to pay compensation to the victims of mob lynching.

A bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi refused to interfere with the Allahabad High Court order which asked the petitioner to approach the state government.

The plea filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others had sought extensive directions concerning the implementation of the apex court's guidelines in

the Tehseen Poonawalla case.

The plea highlighted the alleged failure of the State government in implementing the preventive, remedial, and punitive measures prescribed by the apex court in this judgment.

While disposing of a PIL filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeking compliance with apex court's guidelines for checking incidents of mob lynching, the high court on July 15 had observed that every incident of mob lynching/mob violence is a separate incident and it cannot be monitored in a public interest litigation.

Side effects of high blood pressure: How it affects your heart, brain, kidneys

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 03: High blood pressure, or hypertension, is often known as the "silent killer" because it usually shows no clear symptoms until it causes serious internal damage. When blood pressure remains high for an extended period, it exerts a continuous force on the artery walls, causing the heart and other vital organs to work harder than normal. This strain gradually weakens blood vessels, leading to severe health complications such as heart disease, kidney damage, vision loss, and brain disorders. Since hypertension often develops unnoticed, many people remain unaware until a major problem arises. Regular blood pressure monitoring and early lifestyle changes are crucial in preventing the long-term, life-threatening effects of high blood pressure.

Know how hypertension impacts your body

1. Heart damage and cardiovascular complications

The heart is one of the first organs affected by high blood pressure. The constant force of blood against arterial walls makes the heart work harder, leading to thickened muscles and reduced efficiency over time. This condition, known as left ventricular hypertrophy, increases the risk of heart failure and coronary artery disease.



High blood pressure can also cause irregular heart rhythms (arrhythmias) and raise the likelihood of heart attacks.

2. Stroke and brain-related disorders

Hypertension is one of the leading causes of stroke, which occurs when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked or bursts. Continuous high pressure weakens brain arteries, making them more susceptible to rupture or clot formation. It can also reduce oxygen flow to brain tissues, increasing the risk of vascular dementia and cognitive decline. A study published in the Hypertension Journal found that even moderate elevations in blood pressure significantly raise the risk of small-vessel disease and memory impairment

later in life. Maintaining optimal blood pressure levels can therefore help preserve brain function and reduce the risk of stroke.

3. Kidney damage and renal disease

The kidneys play a key role in filtering waste and balancing fluids, but hypertension can damage the small blood vessels within them. This leads to reduced kidney function, chronic kidney disease (CKD), or even kidney failure in severe cases. Early warning signs may include protein in the urine or swelling in the feet and ankles. Over time, the combination of high blood pressure and impaired kidney function can form a dangerous cycle, as each condition worsens the other.

4. Vision problems and eye damage

High blood pressure can harm the delicate blood vessels in the eyes, leading to hypertensive retinopathy. This condition can cause blurred vision, eye strain, or in extreme cases, permanent vision loss. Hypertension also raises the risk of glaucoma and optic nerve damage, both of which can severely affect sight.

5. Artery damage and atherosclerosis

Persistent high blood pressure damages the inner lining of arteries, causing them to harden and narrow. This process, known as atherosclerosis, reduces blood flow and oxygen supply to vital organs. Over time, it may result in aneurysms, dangerous bulges in artery walls that can rupture. According to a study in the European Heart Journal, people with untreated hypertension are nearly twice as likely to develop major arterial complications compared to those with controlled blood pressure. Adopting a balanced diet rich in fibre, avoiding smoking, and maintaining a healthy weight are key preventive measures.

6. Sexual dysfunction

Hypertension can interfere with normal blood flow to reproductive organs, leading to sexual health issues. In men, this often manifests as erectile dysfunction, while in women, it can cause reduced libido or difficulty achieving arousal. Since sexual function relies heavily on vascular health,

controlling blood pressure through lifestyle adjustments and medical care can significantly improve sexual well-being and overall confidence.

7. Weakened bones and metabolic issues

Emerging research suggests a connection between high blood pressure and increased calcium loss through urine, which may weaken bones over time. This can contribute to osteoporosis, particularly in older adults. Hypertension is also linked to metabolic syndrome, a combination of obesity, high cholesterol, and insulin resistance, all of which heighten cardiovascular risks.

8. Complications during pregnancy

High blood pressure during pregnancy can lead to preeclampsia, a dangerous condition involving high blood pressure and organ dysfunction, especially in the liver and kidneys. This can result in premature birth, low birth weight, or other serious complications for both mother and baby. Expectant mothers with hypertension require close monitoring, a nutritious diet, and medical supervision to ensure a safe pregnancy and delivery.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice. Please consult a healthcare professional before making any changes to your diet, medication, or lifestyle.

Three Bangladeshis convicted for illegal stay in country

PTI

Thane, Nov 03: A Thane court convicted three Bangladeshi nationals for illegal stay in India and sentenced them to the period of stay in jail after being caught in January this year.

In his order of October 30, the details of which were made available on Monday, Additional Sessions Judge AS Bhagwat held Mohamad Babul Shamsuddin Mulla (43), Mohamad Tuhin Mohamad Mijanul Mulla (24) and Rana Abdul Malik Shaikh (24) guilty under Passport (Entry into India) Rules and Foreigners Order.

The three, hailing from Nodain district of Bangladesh, were held by Shil Daighar police from Uttarshiv Naka in Padale area of Thane on January 26.

On October 30, the charges were framed, following which the three pleaded guilty and sought a lenient sentence.

Considering the fact that the accused are in jail from more than nine months, leniency in sentencing is required to be done, the court said in its order.

While the offences they have been charged with carry a maximum punishment of five years, the court sentenced them to the time they had already spent in jail, which was nine months and four days.

22 yards and new song of glory: 'Rahega sab se upar, hamara Tiranga!'

PTI

Navi Mumbai, Nov 03: Team songs have long been a part of Australian men's cricket team culture and after any major victories be it Ashes or World Cup, the Steve Waugh's, Ricky Pontings and Steven Smiths have always made it a point to sing "Under the Southern Cross".

Indian cricket never had Team Anthem as such and "Chak De India" and "Suno Ghaure Duniya waalo" blaring from those bazooka music systems at the stadiums across the globe after nearly two decades has become a bit jarring, bordering on monotonous after being played a zillion times.

So when the sprightly Jemimah Rodrigues and the victorious World Cup winning team along with coaches and support staff gathered to form a huddle around the 22-yard strip, there was 'Victory Anthem' that was sung, it sounded refreshing.

"Rahega sab se upar, hamara Tiranga! ham hai Team India, ham hai Team India!" (Our tri-colour would fly high) echoed deep into the triumphant night as the squad sung their hearts out.

They were in sync for the six hours spent on 22 yards, and no one cared if they were in tune or not.

Head coach and domestic stalwart Amol Muzumdar's voice was among the prominent ones singing the song that was heard from



a distance.

"Saath mein challenge, saath mein uthenge. ham hai Team India, saath me jeetenge." (We will walk together, we will rise together, we will win together, we are Team India) they sang boisterously after winning the first global trophy.

Long after their passionate fans, who revelled in celebrations on every occasion the Indian team did well, had left, the winning side emerged to sing the team song, which

was perhaps never heard before.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who set the record for most runs for any Indian in a World Cup (434), held the trophy in both her hands as she walked out to the middle with her teammates and every single member of the coaching staff.

Diminutive Jemimah Rodrigues, whose incredible 127 not out against Australia here in the semifinal added another seminal moment in women's cricket history, was a

clear crowd favourite with her family in tow.

The crowd had kept breaking into chants of Jemi Jemi! to keep on cheering for India's pocket dynamite from Bandra, who has made DY Patil Stadium her bonafide home ground in recent years with the venue hosting plenty of India's fixtures.

With families and friends around, there was hardly a moment to sit back and reflect on their achievements but Indian players did not miss out in mingling with their South African counterparts till they were at the venue, hugging and consoling them.

The venerable Marizanne Kapp's eyes were obviously moist but Jemimah and Radha Yadav embraced her in bear hugs, while the tournament's two best batters - Mandhana and South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt (a record 571 runs) - kept chatting for a long duration before they received their respective awards.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, whose legacy will be defined by being the first woman ever in more than half a century to lead India to a World Cup win, said she was "numb" before offering the members of the media the chance to hold that elusive trophy which hardly anyone did out of respect.

For sometime, the waiting media had more fan boys and fan girls the moment Harmanpreet asked for their phones to take selfies. There was a mini-stampede like situation.

While several players had their families

around them, Smriti Mandhana was seen with her partner Palash Muchal and some time later, the two emerged from the team's dressing room with the latter holding the Indian superstar's helmet.

As players began retreating to their hotel adjacent to the stadium, a cheerful Harmanpreet, finally free from her customary duties and routines including the mandatory media interaction, emerged in a totally different avatar.

With a portable music player in hand playing Punjabi hits and sporting sunglasses, Harmanpreet's joy resembled to that of a little girl who finally had laid hands on an elusive toy.

A hoodie dangling from her head, the Indian skipper walked out from the dressing room to the beats of dhol in the team hotel surrounded by security personnel but also the indomitable young volunteers at DY Patil, mostly students, who carry heavy workloads of studying and managing events here which also help them gain experience.

As the players passed by, India's most visible fan of digital era, the tri-coloured Sudhir Kumar Chaudhary, kept blowing the conk and waving the national flag.

The players are believed to have had some celebratory moments inside the confines of their team hotel, before retiring for whatever was left of the night, for a well-deserved rest.

Afghanistan earthquake kills at least 20, injures over 300

AFP

Kabul, Nov 03: A strong earthquake killed at least 20 people in northern Afghanistan, authorities said Monday, just months after another deadly tremor that left the country reeling.

The 6.3-magnitude quake struck overnight at a depth of 28 kilometers (17 miles) with the epicentre near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

More than 20 people were killed and around 320 were injured in the provinces of Balkh and Samangan, health ministry spokesman Sharafat Zaman told journalists on Monday morning, stressing that this was a preliminary toll. He did not provide a province-wide breakdown of the casualties.

Residents of Mazar-i-Sharif, one of Afghanistan's largest northern cities, scrambled into the streets due to fears their homes would collapse, an AFP correspondent observed.

The city's famed Blue Mosque, a 15th-century landmark known



for its vibrant tiles, was also damaged, an AFP journalist witnessed. Pieces of the structure, particularly from one of its minarets, broke off and lay scattered across the mosque's grounds, one of the country's few remaining tourist spots.

Correspondents in the capital Kabul, around 420 kilometres to the south, also said they felt shaking.

Poor communication networks and infrastructure in mountainous Afghanistan have hampered disaster responses in the past, preventing authorities

for hours or even days from reaching far-flung villages to assess the extent of the damage.

It is the latest natural disaster for the Taliban government, which has faced three major deadly earthquakes since taking over Afghanistan in 2021, even as the foreign aid that formed the backbone of the country's economy has dramatically dropped.

In August, a shallow 6.0-magnitude quake in the country's east wiped out mountainside villages and killed more than 2,200 people. Large tremors in western

Herat, near the Iranian border, in 2023, and in eastern Nangarhar province in 2022 killed hundreds and destroyed thousands of homes.

The United Nations and aid agencies have warned hunger is rising among the Afghan population.

The isolated country is suffering from a humanitarian crisis compounded by drought, economic restrictions on the banking sector, and the push-back of millions of Afghan citizens from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan.

Earthquakes are common in Afghanistan, particularly along the Hindu Kush mountain range, near where the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates meet.

Many homes in the predominantly rural country - devastated by decades of war - are shoddily built.

It often takes hours or days to travel by steep roads and paths to remote villages, which are often cut off from help during disasters or poor weather.

Mamdani leads dramatic NY mayoral race going into voting day

AFP

New York, Nov 03: New Yorkers will pick a new mayor on Tuesday after an unpredictable race that has drawn attention from far beyond the largest city in the United States, with President Donald Trump branding frontrunner Zohran Mamdani "a communist."

Breakout Democratic Party candidate Mamdani, a naturalized Muslim American who represents Queens in the state legislature, leads former governor and sex assault-accused Andrew Cuomo, running as an independent after losing his party's primary contest to Mamdani.

The Republican party candidate polling in third place is Curtis Sliwa, 71, who has a colorful past as founder of the Guardian Angels vigilante group, a prolific broadcaster and cat lover. The latest Quinnipiac University poll conducted October 23 to 27 gives Mamdani 43 percent of the vote, followed by Cuomo on 33 percent and Sliwa on 14 percent.

The race has centered on cost



of living, crime and how each candidate would handle Trump, who has threatened to withhold federal funds from the city.

"Mamdani is an unusual political figure and really captures the spirit of the moment. This is a moment where a loud anti-Trump voice in America's biggest city is going to get news," Lincoln Mitchell, a politics professor at Columbia University, told AFP.

"Frankly, a Muslim candidate for mayor of New York is an enormous story."

Mamdani, 34, has attacked his opponents for Islamophobic

rhetoric and smears, calling out both Republicans and Democrats for "anti-Muslim sentiment that has grown so endemic in our city."

NYC Board of Elections data showed 275,006 registered Democrats had cast ballots, as had 46,115 Republicans, along with 42,383 voters unaffiliated with any party in the first five days of early voting, which ends November 2.

Mamdani's ascent has highlighted the gulf between the left and center-right of the Democratic Party.

Trump says no Tomahawks for Ukraine, for now

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 03: US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that, for now, he is not considering a deal that would allow Ukraine to obtain long-range Tomahawk missiles for use against Russia.

Trump has been cool to a plan for the United States to sell Tomahawks to NATO nations that would transfer them to Ukraine, saying he does not want to escalate the war.

His latest comments to reporters aboard Air Force One indicate that he remains reluctant.

"No, not really," Trump told reporters as he flew to Washington from Palm Beach, Florida, when asked whether he was considering a deal to sell the missiles. He added, however, that he could change his mind.

Trump and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte discussed the Tomahawk idea when they met at the White House on October 22. Rutte said on Friday that the issue was under review and that it was up to the United States to decide.

Tomahawk missiles have a range of 2,500 km (1,550 miles), long enough to strike deep inside Russia, including Moscow.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has requested the missiles, but the Kremlin has warned against any provision of Tomahawks to Ukraine.

Women's ODI World Cup Destiny's child Shafali Verma thrives in 'God's Plan'

PTI

Navi Mumbai, Nov 03: If Shafali Verma decides to sport a tattoo that reads 'God's Plan', no one can possibly disagree that it is an apt messaging.

Destiny's child Shafali Verma found her way back into the Indian women's ODI side in unfortunate circumstances but left an indelible mark on the team's victorious World Cup campaign, thriving in 'God's Plan' which can work in mysterious ways. On a rainy August afternoon in Mumbai, former chairperson of selectors Neetu David had assured the media that Shafali will get her chance to play for India after she confirmed the exclusion of the 21-year-old from India's World Cup squad, despite having played five of those events across formats.

Shafali had blown hot and cold in the opportunities that she got but more importantly, her absence



from the ODI side was met with Pratika Rawal's impressive rise, and the selectors had kept the decision on the former for another day.

But as it panned out, an unfortunate injury to in-form opener Pratika sent India back to ensuring Shafali, who was busy representing Haryana in the Senior Women's T20 Tournament in Surat, joined the Indian squad ahead of their World Cup semifinal against Australia as soon as she could.

Shafali had no spare time to waste as she clocked in two separate one-hour batting sessions here at the

DY Patil Stadium and it's University Ground ahead of the semifinal.

"What happened with Pratika, as a sportsperson, it wasn't a good thing. No one wants any sportsperson to sustain such an injury. But God has sent me here to do something good," Shafali told the media after the match.

While her promising comeback lasted only five balls, including two fours for 10 runs against Australia, it was in the final where Shafali played a knock akin to a seasoned player with several years of experience behind her.

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HINDI - 11:00 AM, 03:30 PM, 06:20 PM

BAAHUBALI - THE EPIC (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:15 AM, 02:00 PM

THAMMA (UA16+)
Hindi - 11:45 AM, 06:30 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 06:40 PM

OM SHANTI OM - RE RELEASE (U/A)
HINDI - 02:50 PM

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