



# Budgam, Nagrota set for high-stakes by-polls today

## Over 2.2 lakh voters to decide fate of 27 candidates

Yogesh/ Sajid Raina

Jammu/Srinagar, Nov 10: Two politically significant assembly constituencies, Budgam in Central Kashmir and Nagrota in Jammu district are set to witness a high stake by-election on Tuesday with over 2.2 lakh voters to cast their ballots for the second time in 13 months to decide the fate of 27 candidates in the fray.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Nagrota, polling will take place across 150 booths, where 97,893 registered voters will cast their ballots between 7 AM and 6 PM.

The bye-poll follows the death of sitting BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana in October 2024. His daughter, Devyani Rana, who



serves as the BJP's J&K BJYM Vice-President, is contesting her maiden election to continue her father's political legacy.

Devyani faces a triangular contest against Shamim Begum of the National Conference and Harsh Dev Singh, President

of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP).

Other contestants from the constituency include Joginder Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bodh Raj of the Apni Party, and several independents

like Anil Sharma, a BJP rebel.

Nagrota, which includes parts of Jammu city and adjoining rural belts, has traditionally leaned towards the BJP, but this election has drawn unusual attention due to a mix of local and emotional factors.

Security agencies, under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Joginder Singh, have made watertight security arrangements at sensitive polling stations.

District Election Officer Rakesh Minhason Monday said that Electronic Voting Machines and polling staff stand dispatched and all the arrangements have been put in place.

He said that each booth has been equipped with assured facilities like [More on P6](#)

## India will bring new revolution through 7 pillars of AI Mission: LG Sinha

Says 89% startups into technological innovation, country emerging as leader

KNO News Desk

Jammu, Nov 10: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday said that India will bring a new revolution in agriculture, health, climate sector and governance through the seven pillars of AI Mission.

Addressing the annual convocation of Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai at Chhattisgarh, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that around 89% startups in the country are into technological innovation. "India emerging as a leader in technology is proving to be a golden period for all graduating students," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that young engineers and scientists must focus on providing new solutions to take the industries and the nation forward, convert scientific and technical principles into real



tools and ensure India leads in innovation. "Our prime objective is improving the lives of people and drive economic growth through cutting-edge innovation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the graduating students to explore new ground,

follow unconventional path, have courage to know the unknown to be an innovator and a pioneer.

"Where there is fearlessness, there is invention. Where there is courage, there is new scientific discovery," he said.

The Lieutenant [More on P6](#)

## Crackdown launched against 'white-collar terror ecosystem'

8 accused, including 3 doctors, held

Arms, explosives recovered; terror module linked to JeM, AGuH

Police from J&K, Haryana, UP foil large-scale attack in coordinated operation

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 10: In a major crackdown against the "white-collar terror ecosystem," Jammu and Kashmir Police in coordination with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police have arrested eight persons, including 3 doctors, recovering huge quantity of explosives, arms and ammunition from them.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Police have unearthed a transnational terror

module linked to proscribed outfits Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH). "The crackdown, spanned multiple states. It led to the arrest of eight accused, the seizure of explosives, arms, and encrypted communication tools," the official said.

He said, "The joint operation led to the recovery of around 2,900 kilograms of explosive material, arms, and ammunition from multiple states." A senior official said, "The busted network could be one of the most significant terror modules exposed this year, indicating that the group might have been planning a major attack. The recovery, among the largest in recent years, may have averted a serious incident in or near Delhi."

"The location of the seizure added to the gravity of the case, as Faridabad lies on the outskirts of the [More on P6](#)

## CM Omar pins hope on Budgam voters for NC

'Govt focused on skilling, research to empower youth for knowledge-driven J&K'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Awantipora, Nov 10: Ahead of the bye-elections for Budgam Assembly Constituency, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday exuded hope that people would vote for the National Conference candidate.

The Chief Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while talking to reporters, said that his party has worked tirelessly on the ground and expects a positive mandate from the people of Budgam.

After inaugurating community Radio Station 91.2 FM of Islamic University of Science



and Technology (IUST), CM Omar said that elections are never fought with a mindset of defeat and every political party contesting polls aspires to emerge victorious.

"No one enters an election battle thinking they will lose. We are contesting to win and

we have put in all the required effort. Now, the final decision lies with the voters," Omar said.

"We have faith in the people. They have seen our work and performance. The rest is up to them," he added.

However, he declined to comment on [More on P6](#)

## Winter chill grips Kashmir



Sgr records season's coldest night

MeT predicts dry weather for next few days

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Nov 10: Amid dry weather conditions, the winter chill has gripped Kashmir with most of the places recording the sub-zero temperature last night.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded the first sub-zero temperature night of the season at minus 0.1 degree on Sunday.

The temperatures below freezing point were also recorded at Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kupwara and Gulmarg.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 3.2 degree Celsius while Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.2 degree.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 0.9 degree and Kupwara's night temperature settled at minus 1.2 degree Celsius.

Amidst the [More on P6](#)

## Health experts urge timely immunisation to protect children from deadly diseases

Say vaccination key to eradicate life-threatening illnesses

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 10: Health experts have termed timely immunisation as a vital public health tool to protect infants and children from deadly, preventable diseases.

Immunisation, also called vaccination, is a process in which a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease by administering vaccines that stimulate the body's own immune system to fight future infections.

Once a vaccine enters the body, it triggers the production of antibodies. These antibodies remain in the body and help recognise and destroy the disease-causing organism if it attacks later.

Dr Murtaza, a general physician at the Directorate of Health



Services (DHSK), speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that due to immunisation, diseases like smallpox were completely eradicated globally, while others such as polio, measles, diphtheria and tetanus have drastically reduced.

"Vaccines save millions of lives every year. A child who receives routine vaccines at the correct schedule gets protection against several fatal illnesses that can otherwise lead

to disability or death," he said.

He added that immunisation not only protects the vaccinated individual but also the community by reducing the spread of infections. This is known as herd immunity — meaning when the majority of people are immunised, the remaining unvaccinated population, such as newborns or those with weak immunity, also gets indirect protection.

Another doctor, Dr Javid Ahmad Mir, said that routine immunisation given under the national programmes covers diseases like polio, Hepatitis-B, tuberculosis (BCG), rotavirus, pneumococcal infection, measles-rubella, DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) and others.

"We request parents not to skip [More on P6](#)

## SC notice to Centre on plea seeking women's reservation in Parliament

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday sought the response of the Centre to examine a plea seeking implementation of the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Act which reserves one-third seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan issued notice to the Centre while observing that women were the largest minority in the country.

"Our Preamble to the Constitution of India says all citizens are entitled to political and social equality. Who is the largest minority in this country? It is the women. It's almost 48 per cent. This is about the political equality of women," Justice Nagarathna said.



Appearing for petitioner Jaya Thakur, senior advocate Shobha Gupta said it is unfortunate that women have to move the court for representation after 75 years of independence of the country.

The bench [More on P6](#)

## Dir Info, DIPR employees condole demise of JD Kashmir's grandmother

Extends sympathies with colleagues

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 10: Director Information, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of paternal grandmother of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari.

In this regard, a brief condolence meeting, presided by Director Information, was held at Media Complex Jammu in which Joint Director Information Headquarters, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information Central, Sunil Kumar; Deputy Director Information PR/AV, Javid Ahmad, other officers

and officials of the department participated.

During the meeting, the Director paid rich tributes to the departed soul and extended heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with Joint Director Information Kashmir and his family. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. The employees of DIPR also expressed deep sympathies with the Joint Director Information Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the participants of condolence meeting also expressed sympathies with Hamid ullah Buchoo, Information Assistant of the department on [More on P6](#)

## DNA testing must be subject to stringent safeguards to protect dignity of individuals: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: DNA testing cannot be ordered in a routine manner and must be subject to stringent safeguards to protect the dignity of individuals and the legitimacy of children born during the wedlock, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Vipul Pancholi said the power to direct such tests must be exercised with utmost circumspection and only when the interests of justice imperatively

demand such an intrusive procedure.

The apex court said forcefully subjecting an individual to DNA testing constitutes a grave intrusion upon privacy and personal liberty.

Such an encroachment can be justified only if it satisfies the threefold test of legality, legitimate State aim, and proportionality, it said.

"DNA testing cannot be ordered as a matter of course and must be subject to stringent safeguards to protect the dignity of individuals and the legitimacy of children born



during the wedlock.

"Courts must remain vigilant against fishing inquiries masquerading as legitimate

requests for scientific evidence, ensuring the sanctity of family relationships is not compromised by speculative

or exploratory investigations," the bench said.

The observations came on a plea filed by a Tamil Nadu-based doctor challenging an order of the Madras High Court which directed him to appear before the Dean, Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai for collection of blood samples for DNA profiling.

In this case, a Muslim woman from Pattukottai had filed a petition contending that poverty forced her to marry a divorcee from the same locality in 2001.

Her husband was suffering

from a skin ailment and, therefore, he approached the appellant, a doctor, for treatment. The appellant successfully treated his condition, which led him to confide in the doctor regarding his lack of progeny.

The husband requested the doctor to refer his wife to his first wife, who was a gynaecologist, for the necessary treatment. However, instead of referring, the doctor developed physical relations with her, resulting in the birth of a child on March 8, 2007.

It resulted in the petitioner's husband abandoning her.

In the meantime, she gave birth to a girl child. The doctor promised to look after her and the child and told her to stay at his house as a tenant. Accordingly, she gave 3 lakh to the doctor's wife and stayed there for a while.

She subsequently asked the doctor to marry her and make their relationship public. Upon his refusal, a quarrel ensued in 2014. Thereafter, the doctor began avoiding her.

Unable to sustain herself, the woman approached a Tamil TV channel and appeared on a programme [More on P6](#)



# CS reviews implementation of Homestay Policy

## Calls for greater digital presence, streamlined promotion

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review and strengthen the implementation of the Homestay Policy of the Tourism Department, aimed at promoting community-based tourism and enhancing the accommodation capacity across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; representatives from J&K Bank; and other senior officers of the Tourism Department.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of leveraging digital platforms to expand the reach and visibility of homestays across J&K. He directed the Department to enhance its presence on social media platforms and to integrate homestays with a dedicated online portal that facilitates real-time booking, detailed information on amenities, and provision for public feedback and ratings.

Emphasizing the need for financial support to promote homestay entrepreneurship, he urged J&K Bank to design and launch an exclusive loan product for homestay



owners, modelled on the lines of the homestay ecosystem, including the introduction of simplified registration processes, user-friendly guidelines, and enhanced marketing support to position homestays as a key component of the tourism experience in J&K.

He also directed the Tourism Department to revisit and revise the existing guidelines in line with Government of India's Homestay Policy, ensuring the inclusion of a transparent and credible grading system for registered establishments.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, apprised the meeting that around 2,500 homestays comprising over 18,500 rooms have been registered with the Department so far. He informed that the Department is taking multiple initiatives

to give a substantial push to the homestay ecosystem, including the introduction of simplified registration processes, user-friendly guidelines, and enhanced marketing support to position homestays as a key component of the tourism experience in J&K.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, suggested incorporating QR code-based payment options and visual content integration including photos and videos on the booking portal to facilitate a seamless experience for customers from browsing to payment.

He further emphasized the need

for streamlined documentation, effective verification mechanisms, and a transparent digital process to ensure the success of the homestay policy and its sustainable contribution to the local tourism economy.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the Department's efforts and called for time-bound implementation of the discussed measures, highlighting that promoting homestays will not only diversify the accommodation landscape of J&K but also empower local communities, generate employment, and strengthen the rural tourism value chain across the UT.

# Dir Info felicitates Gagan Jamwal

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora Monday felicitated Gagan Jamwal an employee of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) for clinching gold medal in District, J&K UT Roller Skates and 2nd J&K Master Games-2025 Championships recently held at MA Stadium Jammu.

Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina was also present on the occasion.

The Director termed the victory of Gagan and his team as phenomenal and applauded them for clinching the Gold medal. He appreciated the talent of Gagan and expressed optimism about his success in the upcoming Roller Hockey Championship.



# JMC intensifies measures to control air pollution levels

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has intensified its efforts to combat air pollution and ensure cleaner, safer air for the city's residents. The Corporation has put in place several on-ground and regulatory measures under the directions of JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav to control dust and particulate emissions, particularly from vehicular movement and construction activities.

The initiatives have been taken in view of the rise in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in Jammu. The AQI is a scientific index that indicates how clean or polluted the air is, along with the potential health risks associated with exposure to polluted air. The AQI level in Jammu has touched 179, which falls in the unhealthy category, making it a

matter of serious concern. Taking note of the situation, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav has issued strict directions to all concerned wings of JMC to implement comprehensive anti-pollution measures. These include night-time sweeping of main roads with modern mechanical sweeping machines to minimize dust dispersion and daytime water sprinkling across key traffic corridors, market areas and construction zones.

The Corporation is also using vehicles equipped with anti-smog guns to spray water mist, which helps to settle airborne dust particles. In an attempt to further reduce dust from construction and demolition activities, Dr. Yadav has ordered that all construction sites must be properly enclosed using green sheets, jute fabric or plastic covers at least three meters high to prevent dust from escaping into the open air.

# DEO reviews final poll arrangements at DCRC

## Urges citizens to participate actively in democratic process

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 10: Ahead of polling for the Bye-Elections to 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency on November 11, the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Monday visited the Distribution cum Collection Centre (DCRC) established at Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam, to review the final arrangements for dispatch of polling parties and election materials.

Besides, General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Police observer Nachiketa Jha; Expenditure observer Ravinder Kumar; SSP budgam Nikhil Borkar, Returning Officer (RO) Budgam, Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), and other senior officers of the district administration were also present.

During the visit, the DEO conducted a detailed inspection of the DCRC facilities, including dispatch areas for EVMs and VVPATs,



parking arrangements, sanitation and washroom facilities, and the availability of drinking water, electricity, and security provisions.

He also reviewed the installation of CCTV cameras and other logistical measures to ensure smooth operations during dispatch and collection. On the occasion, the DEO met with the polling parties who were being dispatched to their respective polling stations

across the constituency. He interacted with the teams, appreciated their dedication, and encouraged them to perform their duties with utmost professionalism, neutrality, and commitment to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process. He emphasized seamless coordination between civil and security agencies to facilitate a peaceful, transparent, and hassle-free polling process, in strict compliance with the guidelines of the

Election Commission of India (ECI).

The DEO reiterated that all arrangements have been meticulously put in place for the smooth conduct of polling, ensuring proper logistics, communication, and safety at all polling stations.

He urged all citizens of the Constituency to come forward and exercise their democratic right to vote, thereby strengthening the foundation of participatory

governance.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO informed that voter slips serve as an important facilitative document, but in cases where a voter slip is not available, voters can establish their identity using any of the 13 documents approved by the Election Commission of India (ECI) viz. Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Aadhaar Card, MNREGA Job Card, Passbook with photograph issued by a bank or post office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the Ministry of Labour scheme, Driving Licence, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension Document with photograph, Service Identity Card with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Government, PSUs or Public Limited Companies, Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and the Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

## GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

### GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- [hakeemmushtaq.75318@jk.gov.in](mailto:hakeemmushtaq.75318@jk.gov.in) Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2<sup>nd</sup>

Subject: This office e-NIT No. 49-JS-PHE/GWDS/ Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 10300-320, dated: 25-10-2025 Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_293157\_3

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 10-11-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	14-11-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	15-11-2025 Up-to 01.00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-7948/25  
DATED: 10-11-2025

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./11742-62  
Dated: 10-11-2025

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (ANANTNAG) SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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MIS code: GR01000003

Correspondence Address : Ashajipora , Anantnag, Kashmir, J&K, India. Pin code : 192101

### ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

In the Light of Hon'ble Chief Minister's Scheme for Introduction of Heritage Courses, this Institution requires the services of Guest Faculty for teaching in the below mentioned trade as such applications on prescribed format are invited from the eligible desirous candidates of domicile of J&K bearing following qualifications for teaching the trainees of said Trade. The applications should reach this office latest by 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 along with self attested Photostat copies of all the testimonials.

S.No	Position Required	Qualification Required
	Guest Faculty for the trade of Hand Embroidery Artisan (Theory-01, Practical-01)	B.Voc/ Degree in Textile Designing from AICTE / UGC recognized university with 1 year experience in relevant field. OR 03 year diploma in Textile Designing from recognized board of education with 2 year experience in relevant field. OR NTC / NAC in Hand Embroidery Artisan with three-year experience in the relevant field OR Registered artisan of handicraft department of Central/ State govt. with 05 years' experience. Essential Qualification: Relevant Regular/ RPL variants of National Craft Instructor Certificate (NCIC) under DGT

Terms and conditions:

- The Guest lecturer/Teacher shall be paid remuneration as per applicable norms of the Department i.e Rs 15000/- For Theory Instructor and Rs 12000/- For Practical Instructor
- The Selection of Faculty Instructors shall be done on academic arrangement/Guest faculty basis through a transparent mode on the analogy of Higher Education department and Medical Education Department UT of J&K after adopting the below criteria:  
"80 Points kept for basic qualification and 10 Points each for Higher Qualification and Experience on pro-rata basis".
- The arrangement is for one academic session only i.e 2025-26 and shall cease automatically once the session is over or regular arrangement/substitute arrangement by way of transfer/ Internal arrangement etc is made whichever is earlier.
- The appointee shall have to execute an agreement at the time of joining that he/she shall not have any preferential claim for regularization or continuation on the basis of this engagement.
- The above advertisement is subject to outcome of any writ petition pending in the court of law.
- The engagement shall be governed by Govt Order No 59-JK(DSD) of 2025 dated 29.10.2025.

No: - ITI/Ang/Estt/786-88  
Date: - 10/11/2025

DIPK-7930/25  
DATED: 10-11-2025

(BILAL AHMAD WANI)  
PRINCIPAL

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## NOTICE

I, Uzair Khan wants to change my daughters name from Nooraine Khan to Mannat Uzair Khan. Now I want to correct my Daughters name in School records and Adhaar card. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact concerned authorities within 7 days after that no claim shall be entertained

Uzair Khan  
F/o: Mannat Uzair Khan  
R/o: Qamarabad, Srinagar  
Class: 7th  
School: Iqbal Memorial Institute, Bemina.

## SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Ghulam Hassan Teli R/o: Pati Brein Nishat Srinagar who passed away on 7th November 2025. May Almighty Allah grant Jannat Ul Firdous to the departed soul. The congregational Fateha Khawani prayer will be held on 11th November 2025 at their ancestral graveyard Patti Brein Srinagar.

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatable items with them.

Bereaved Family

Mohammad Rafiq Teli, Mohammad Hussain Teli



# 32% power deficit in November likely

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Nov 10: Amid winters, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness power deficiency of nearly 32 percent during the peak demand in the ongoing month.

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh during the peak demand will likely have a power deficit of 31.8 percent against the available power position.

The updated anticipated power supply position for November-2025 for both the Union Territories reveals that there will be a peak availability of 2490 Megawatts (MWs) against the requirement of 3653 MWs—keeping a loophole of 1163 MWs.

However, the official documents also said that representatives of HP SLDC, Punjab SLDC and J&K SLDC informed that the shortfall would be met through real-time exchanges and Banking arrangements.

Pertinently, in previous week reported that in Jammu and Kashmir, hydel power generation has reduced by nearly 70 percent from the local generation plants. An official had



informed that the power generation from all the power plants owned by Jammu and Kashmir has decreased by nearly 800-900 Megawatts (MWs).

The official had also said, "The power generation from across local power plants is currently ranging from 330 MWs to 400 MWs."

It also said, "From one of the plants from Baglihar, the power generation is ranging from 250-380 MWs and in

case of another power plant of Baglihar, Kishenpur and New Wanpoh, we are generating a maximum of one MW."

The official further informed that the department is able to generate only 71 MWs from Kashmir based power plants.

About the power load and forced curtailment, the official said that there was a forecast of 1750 MWs for Monday—(KNO)

## Police foil protest in Jammu

YOGESH

Jammu, Nov 10: Police on Monday foiled a protest march by hundreds of daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti Department, who had taken out a rally to gherao the Civil Secretariat here, demanding the regularisation of their services and the release of pending wages.

The protest, which began near Indira Chowk, saw a large gathering of workers from various departments, including the Jal Shakti Department, Power Development Department (PDD), and other civil sector units.

The protesters marched towards the Civil Secretariat but were stopped by police near the main bridge, leading to a brief standoff.

Witnesses said the workers, shouting slogans in support of their demands, blocked parts of the road, causing traffic disruptions in the area. Police had to place barricades to prevent them from proceeding further.

Officials said the protesters were allowed to demonstrate peacefully but were stopped from entering the high-security Civil Secretariat area.

As the protest continued, the traffic movement around Indira Chowk and nearby routes was affected.

Authorities appealed to the protesters to maintain calm and assured that their grievances would be conveyed to the higher authorities.

The daily wagers, however, said they would not call off their agitation until their long-pending demands were met. The protest ended in the evening, with the workers vowing to return if their issues remain unresolved.

Earlier, speaking to KNO, the Daily



Wagers United Front, Jammu, urged the Chief Minister to table the committee report on the regularisation of daily wagers in the Assembly.

The daily wagers said they had been working for several years, in some cases for decades, but their services have not been regularised.

The workers alleged that despite repeated assurances from successive governments, their demands have not been met. They said the rising cost of living has made it difficult to survive on their current wages.

The water supply to the Chief Minister's house and other VIP areas in

Jammu was temporarily shut down by protesting daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti Department but has since been restored.

The employees suspended the supply to draw attention to their demands for the regularization of their jobs and the release of pending wages. They said that disconnected water supply lines to the MLA hostel and the Chief Minister's residence in protest was a symbolic move to highlight their struggle.

Earlier demonstrations were held on October 23 and 27, coinciding with the start of the Assembly session—(KNO)

## Omar-led Govt 'directionless': Mehbooba

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Nov 10: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accusing him of deceiving the public, failing to fulfil pre-poll promises, and running what she termed as a "directionless government".

Addressing a press conference here, Mehbooba said the National Conference (NC) and its leadership have "nothing to tell the people" after one year of governance.

"Today, they (NC) have nothing to say to the public on the by-poll. Omar Abdullah, who had said he would remove smart meters when he came to power, is now advocating for them. He's asking people to install solar panels, saying later he will see about free electricity units," she said. "The cylinders they promised are nowhere to be found, and unemployment and inflation are higher than ever."

The former Chief Minister said that despite the National Conference and Congress alliance securing a strong majority in the last assembly elections, the government had failed to deliver on even a single major promise.

"It's been more than a year since the government was formed. People came out in large numbers, even in areas where there were boycotts, because they were fed up with rising electricity fees,



unemployment, inflation, and bulldozer actions against the poor. They wanted a government that would stand by them. But after a year, people are again asking: what has this government done?" she said.

Mufti accused Omar of deflecting public questions by repeatedly bringing up the PDP-BJP alliance. "Instead of answering people about his own performance, Omar Sahib has only one thing to say — PDP, BJP, PDP, BJP — as if that will solve the people's problems. This shows his frustration and lack of substance," she remarked.

The PDP chief said the CM's change of stance on electricity meters "exposed his inconsistency". "The same Omar Sahib who once said, 'I will throw smart meters into the river as soon as I become Chief Minister', is now promoting those very meters. People are being told that if they don't install them, they are power thieves. Is this the governance people voted for?" she asked.

On the issue of gas cylinders, Mehbooba said prices have soared while promised relief remains missing.

"He (Omar) promised to provide free cylinders to the poor. Today, the prices have doubled, and the poor can't afford even one. The promises have turned to dust," she said.

The former CM lashed out at the NC government for failing to bring back under-trial prisoners from outside jails, a commitment Omar Abdullah had made to the people of Kashmir. "They said they would bring back our youth jailed outside J&K or at least ensure their cases were expedited. Nothing was done. We were forced to approach the Home Minister, Chief Secretary, and even the court for justice," she said. "I personally know families suffering, like one where the father is blind and the only son has been in jail for seven or eight years without his crime being proven."

Touching on the land rights issue, Mehbooba said the government's "bulldozer policy" has targeted poor families. "They had promised ownership rights to people living on state land for decades. Instead, they are now being labelled as land grabbers. If you visit flood-hit areas or drainage

colonies in the city, you will see people living in dire conditions, not land mafias. The poor cannot grab land — they can barely survive," she said.

Taking a direct dig at Omar Abdullah, she said, "If he truly wants to talk about land grabbing, he should explain who built mansions on forest land in Batandi and whose names appeared on those lists. Why is he silent on that? The poor build single-storey homes, not multi-storey buildings, on government land. If you want to see real land grabbing, go see Gupta Road," she added.

Mehbooba said the government's focus has shifted from governance to "propaganda". "Despite such a huge mandate, they have failed to provide even basic facilities. Inflation is crippling people, unemployment is at its peak, electricity and gas prices are unbearable, and people are being harassed in the name of land laws and meters. Yet, Omar Sahib continues to blame PDP and BJP for everything. This shows how disconnected they are from the ground reality," she said.

The PDP chief said her party will continue to speak up for the people despite being in opposition. "The PDP is carrying the burden of both opposition and government failure on its shoulders. But we will not be silent spectators. We will continue to fight for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, inside and outside the Assembly," she asserted—(KNO)

## No fixed deadline for Panchayat elections: Javid Dar

‘NC to emerge victorious in Budgam bye-elections’

WARIS FAYAZ

Tangmarg, Nov 10: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar on Monday said that there was no fixed deadline for Panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also said that the National Conference (NC) is confident of victory in Budgam bye-elections and will celebrate the win on November 14.

Speaking to reporters in Tangmarg, Dar said the party is fully prepared for polling tomorrow. "The National



Conference will celebrate its win on the 14th," he said.

Responding to allegations of unfulfilled promises in the NC manifesto, Dar said the party remains committed

to its pledges. "People have given us a five-year mandate. We have repeatedly stated at every platform that our promises will be fulfilled before the tenure ends," he said.

Dar said the overwhelming support shown to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who won from two seats, reflects the people's trust in NC's leadership. "We expect the same support for Aga Mehmood in Budgam," he added.

About Panchayat elections, the Minister said there is no fixed deadline. "After completing pending procedures, the dates will be announced," he said—(KNO)

## DEO Budgam urges voters to participate in By-elections



NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Budgam, Nov 10: District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Monday urged the people of Budgam Constituency to actively participate in the upcoming bye-elections, scheduled for tomorrow (November 11).

Dr. Bilal said that all arrangements have been put in place for the smooth conduct of polls. "The Government Higher Secondary School, Budgam, is a collection and distribution centre where poll parties are dispatched with EVMs. There are 173 polling stations in total," he said. The DEO informed

that voting will begin at 7 AM and continue till 6 PM. He added that a campaign for electoral literacy has also been carried out across the district to encourage voter participation.

"All polling stations are equipped with webcasting facilities and the live feed will be monitored in our district control room," Dr. Bhat said, adding that booth awareness groups, BLOs and Anganwadi workers will be present at polling booths to assist voters.

He appealed to the residents of Budgam to turn out in large numbers and exercise their democratic right peacefully—(KNO)

## PM Surya Ghar Scheme

### 5400 households receive zero electricity bills

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting deliberated on the district-wise performance, challenges, and strategies to accelerate the implementation of this flagship rooftop solar (RTS) initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and affordable household energy solutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Science & Technology (S&T); Director General, Budget; Managing Directors of JPDCL, KPDC, and JAKEDA, besides other senior officers. All Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, it was informed that 5,413 consumers out of the total 13,579 rooftop solar installations under the scheme have already received zero electricity bills, reflecting tangible progress on the ground. The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of the scheme in transforming

the energy landscape of J&K, noting that as an energy-deficit region, the Union Territory stands to benefit immensely from the adoption of clean and reliable solar power. He called upon the Divisional and District Administrations to ensure smooth and time-bound implementation of the scheme in every district.

Emphasizing on public outreach, Sh. Dulloo directed both power distribution companies (DISCOMs) to intensify awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the multiple benefits of the scheme, assist consumers in vendor selection, and facilitate speedy installations. He further stressed on robust monitoring and regular evaluation of district-level progress to achieve the set targets.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also took a detailed district-wise appraisal from the Deputy Commissioners, seeking insights on implementation challenges and local innovations. He urged the banks to enhance the rate of loan disbursement under the scheme, enabling better and faster uptake by eligible households.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS PDD, Shailendra Kumar, highlighted the need for enhanced coordination between banks, vendors, and district administrations,

urging financial institutions to actively publicize the lowest interest rates and subsidies available under the scheme. He stressed on maintaining transparency in vendor selection and prompt signing of consumer agreements.

He also called for stringent monitoring of call centre performance and consumer feedback mechanisms, besides taking corrective action against underperforming vendors. He directed that the ongoing IEC campaign be further intensified across districts to generate awareness about the scheme's economic and environmental benefits.

The MD JPDCL, Guralp Singh further informed that J&K has set a target of covering 83,500 households under the scheme. He added that as of date, 76,000 applications have been received, of which 37,500 consumers have selected vendors and 17,151 have signed agreements. Additionally, 13,615 rooftop solar systems have been installed, and Central Financial Assistance (CFA) amounting to Rs96.68 Cr has been released in favour of 11,297 beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary later reviewed the progress made under the solarization of government buildings being undertaken by the Energy

Development Agency of the Science & Technology Department and the Model Solar Village initiative. He directed the concerned departments to expedite implementation to ensure timely completion across all 20 districts.

About its implementation the Secretary, Science & Technology, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, apprised the meeting that J&K has made notable strides in the solarization of government infrastructure, with 6,716 buildings already solarized out of the 22,494 proposed, achieving a total installed capacity of 64.67 MW.

He further informed that under the 70 MW Rooftop Solar (RTS) Project, work orders for 47.45 MW capacity covering 4,338 buildings have been issued. Material delivery has been completed at 2,806 sites (35.88 MW), while 1,987 sites (25.50 MW) have been fully installed. An additional 5 MW capacity is currently in transit and expected to be delivered by November 30.

Concluding the meeting, the Chief Secretary reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to advancing the goals of clean energy transition and self-reliant power generation in Jammu and Kashmir through the effective implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

## Lift at GMC Baramulla out of order

WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Nov 10: A malfunctioning lift at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla on Monday caused severe inconvenience to patients and attendants, prompting outrage after video clips of the scene went viral on social media.

Visuals from the hospital showed attendants struggling to push wheelchairs and carry patients on stretchers up the stairs, drawing sharp criticism from locals and netizens. Netizens expressed strong resentment over the incident at North Kashmir's only tertiary care hospital, calling it a reflection of poor maintenance and weak accountability in the health sector.

"It is unfortunate. Such incidents show how poor maintenance can risk patient safety. Authorities must ensure constant monitoring," a user wrote.

Another user commented, "Every week we hear promises of better healthcare, but on ground, even a lift repair becomes a crisis", adding "If this is the condition of a government medical college, what can we expect from smaller hospitals?"

Meanwhile, despite repeated attempts from KNO, the GMC Principal could not be contacted as the official did not answer phone calls. However, GMC authorities, taking to their social media handle, acknowledged that the lift had gone out of order due to a technical fault and that repair work was underway. "The lift was rendered non-operational because of a technical issue. Repair work has already started and services will be restored soon", it stated. The incident in the meantime has renewed public criticism over poor infrastructure upkeep in major hospitals, with many online users demanding immediate action and a permanent maintenance system to avoid such lapses in the future—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

## J&K Health Department’s Regressive Step

The Jammu and Kashmir Health Department’s recent order denying pay and allowances to employees on maternity or paternity leave represents a shocking regression in workers’ rights and gender equality. This punitive directive, which claims staff are “not executing their assignment” during legally sanctioned leave, not only violates fundamental ethical principles but also undermines decades of progress in protecting women’s rights in the workplace. The order is particularly egregious, coming from the healthcare

sector, an institution meant to champion wellbeing. To suggest that maternity leave is a period of inactivity rather than essential recovery and childcare is both medically ignorant and socially regressive. This move disproportionately affects women doctors, forcing them to choose between financial stability and starting a family, effectively penalising them for motherhood. The department’s contradictory stance of granting leave but withholding pay creates a dangerous precedent that could extend to other essential leave types. It reflects

a disturbing mindset that values employees only for their immediate productivity while disregarding their fundamental rights and dignity. As rightly pointed out by doctors, this violates both the spirit of labour laws and constitutional guarantees of gender equality. This decision comes at a time when healthcare systems globally are struggling to retain qualified professionals. Such punitive measures will only accelerate brain drain and demoralise an already overburdened workforce. The Resident Doctors Association’s condemnation

highlights how this move threatens the very foundation of doctor welfare and patient care. The administration must immediately withdraw this discriminatory order and reinstate full pay and allowances during maternity leave. A society’s progress is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable, including new parents. By reversing this decision, the government can demonstrate that it values both its healthcare workers and the fundamental principles of justice and equality that form the bedrock of our democracy.

# India’s Soft Power Needs A Reset

We have still not tapped into the full potential of our tourism opportunities and have remained mired in bureaucratic ineptitude or partisanship, which sullies international perceptions

Bhopinder Singh

For long, the civilisational land of culturality and wisdom, India, has invoked its Soft Power. However, that projection got a fillip with the positing of the term “Vishwaguru,” implying that the land was the teacher to the world. Packaging of elements like the intellectual-spiritual-philosophical past of the ancient land, along with the global fronting of Yoga and traditions of Ayurveda, were actively presented to suggest its timeless spirit.

Initially, the world was dazzled with the assertion of India as an overdue idea, whose time had come. The results started showing positively in various global indexes, and Delhi became the “must-go” capital for global leaders, conferences, and eyes rolled more welcomingly for India and Indians.

But, did it overlay that underlying Soft Power to lose its sheen of inclusivity, gentility, and humility, to then start looking more patronising, preachy, and even partisan? The murmurs in its neighbourhood (beyond Islamabad and Beijing) started whispering about what they thought was becoming an increasingly intrusive, paternalistic, and exclusivist reflection of the “Big Brother” syndrome. The Indian Government has seemingly read the tea leaves and started recalibrating the apparently condescending term “Vishwaguru” to a friendlier and more accommodating “Vishwamitra” — a friend of the world! It was a telling shift in outlook, as relations for Delhi had started deteriorating with Washington DC, Ottawa, Ankara, Tehran et al.

It became even more urgent to frame the



sovereign moorings towards a more practical and less ideological stance, as Delhi has to trapeze nimbly (often contradictorily) between unlikely powers and multilateral forums. It simply needs to win more friends globally than what is believed to be the truth domestically, but isn’t. The inevitable worms of winning in domestic politics have started coming out in the woodwork of global perceptions.

The internationally recognised Henley Passport Index for 2025 has reconfirmed that subtle slide in global perceptions with

the weakened reflection of India’s passport strength, as it fell five positions in a year to 85th globally. Tellingly, it was ranked 76th on the same index in 2014.

While calculation of the index is predicated on the verifiable number of countries that a citizen of a country can access without a prior visa, that number for Indians has actually increased from 52 countries in 2014 to 57 countries in 2025 — it simply isn’t enough growth. More countries are entering into partnerships with each other than India is warming up to the rest of the world.

The global average of visa-free access has doubled from 58 in 2006 to 109 in 2025, and India has simply not kept pace with global integration and the war of perceptions. Even China, with all its taints of expansionism and belligerence, has rapidly increased visa-free access for its citizens from 50 to 82, all within a decade. Unsurprisingly, China’s rank on the Henley Passport Index has moved in the opposite direction — from 94th to 60th within the last ten years.

The same retreating undercurrents are witnessed for US passport holders, as it dropped out of the top ten list for the first time. Its own restrictive policies, entry conditions, and reciprocal reactions by countries have led to a situation where the US passport is now tied with Malaysia at a joint 12th spot!

This shift in global mobility indexes and Soft Power dynamics is indicative of countries that either embrace openness and cooperation or don’t. For example, Brazil and Vietnam ended visa-free travel for US citizens, citing a lack of reciprocity. Chickens borne out of Trump’s isolationist, unilateral, and discriminatory policies are coming home to roost, as questionable legal barriers, sudden increases in entry fees, or threats of mass deportation are raising several “red flags” across capitals in the world. Collaterally, there has been an inexplicable surge in US citizens seeking alternative global residences or even citizenship options, forsaking the once powerful passport.

Meanwhile, China’s charm offensives have included rapid expansion of visa exemptions, especially to many European countries, to drive traffic towards itself. India has

to introspect deeply about its own falling strength of passport beyond the passions of domestic politics that lead to unreasonable suggestions of our perceptions being either too rosy or too dismal in the eyes of the world.

We have still not tapped into the full potential of our tourism opportunities and have remained mired in bureaucratic ineptitude or partisanship, which sullies international perceptions. Goa is losing out increasingly to Sharm El-Sheikh, East Asian spots, and even the Turkish coastline as far more amenable, efficient, and affordable options.

The largest international draw to India, i.e. the Taj Mahal, remains diminished by the authorities for their own partisan reasons. The stranglehold of various local mafias, unbridled exploitation of natural resources, and garish new alternatives pushed as new tourism spots do not make India as attractive as it ought to.

We are perhaps developing too slowly and hence losing out in the battle of global perceptions — the domestic chorus to the contrary notwithstanding. It is imperative that we invoke our embarrassment of riches in culture, diversity, and varied topography, albeit with the befitting dignity, maturity, and confidence that befit a 5,000-year-old civilisation. Thus, the sublime concept of “Vishwamitra” is certainly timely, practical, and transformative — the recent drop in Indian passport strength is a wake-up call.

*The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry*  
Source: The Pioneer

# Sometimes It’s Good To Be Embarrassed

## How certain types of embarrassment can fuel moral growth

Matthew Clemente

Nobody likes to feel embarrassed. Indeed, our most painful and vivid memories are often of experiences in which we were humiliated by or in front of others. Embarrassment can lead to shame and self-loathing. It can diminish our confidence, shake us from our sense of certainty, and cause the kind of repression that expresses itself in all types of neuroses. When we feel embarrassed, we want to avoid others and conceal that of which we are ashamed. More than this, we want to escape our embarrassment and ensure that whatever gave rise to it in the first place does not happen again. We tend to view embarrassment as an unqualified evil. To be embarrassed, we think, is a fate that must be avoided at all costs.

And yet, there are times when embarrassment has salutary effects. In some circumstances, feeling embarrassed is not only necessary but good. It helps us to see where we have gone wrong and teaches us to want to do otherwise. It is a corrective for behavior that needs correcting and reminds us of the fact that we are not infallible, but vulnerable, broken creatures who need one another’s mercy, forgiveness, and love.

An example from a little-remarked-upon scene in Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov* may help to serve the point. Dmitri, the oldest of the Karamazov brothers, is a drunkard and a rogue. He is notorious for throwing lavish parties, typically funded with other people’s money, and gorging himself on sweets, champagne, vodka, and women. He flies into fits of anger and lashes out at anyone unfortunate enough to be in his vicinity at the time. He wallows in depravity. His debauched lifestyle knows no limits.

After beating his father and stealing a fistful of the old man’s money, he blows every cent of it on a carnivalesque night of partying and excess. In the early hours of the next morning, as he makes plans to run off with one of his mistresses, the police arrive and arrest him for his father’s murder. The patriarch of the Karamazov family, it seems, had not simply been beaten but was eventually killed, and Dmitri is the prime suspect.



At first, Dmitri is obstinate, refusing to go along with the investigation. He is proud and even condescending in his own defense. But then the arresting officers ask him to strip so they can search his clothes for clues and weapons, and Dmitri’s demeanor undergoes a profound change. He feels disgraced to have to sit undressed in a room full of people wearing clothes and is even more embarrassed when he is asked to remove his socks—“they were not very clean, nor were his underclothes, and now everyone could see it.”

How, one might ask, could such a degrading circumstance be considered good? In what way can so humiliating a situation be

beneficial? And yet there is no doubt that Dmitri benefits from it.

Sitting undressed before the men investigating him for murder reveals his vulnerability. More than that, it shows him how disorderly his life has become. His dirty undergarments attest to the disgraceful way he has been conducting himself. Confronted with his own weakness, mortified by the uncleanness in which he has chosen to live, Dmitri lets go of his conceit and expresses remorse for his boorish behavior. His embarrassment has helped him to become self-aware and provided him with the opportunity to reform his ways.

The 20th-century rabbi and theologian

Abraham Joshua Heschel had a similar notion of the humility gained through humiliation in mind when he asserted that “What the world needs is a sense of embarrassment.” For Heschel, the virtue of embarrassment is that it robs us of our certainty and self-satisfaction. The gravest danger, he argued, is to believe oneself morally justified, especially in a world in which oppression and injustice reign supreme.

“The end of embarrassment,” Heschel wrote, “would be the end of humanity.” For humanity and humility go hand in hand.

I am afraid of people who are never embarrassed at their own pettiness, prejudices, envy, and conceit, never embarrassed at the

profanation of life. A world full of grandeur has been converted into a carnival. There are slums, disease, and starvation all over the world, and we are building more luxurious hotels in Las Vegas. Social dynamics is no substitute for moral responsibility.

According to Heschel, feeling embarrassed not only keeps our worst impulses in check; it also opens us to the wonder of existence by reminding us of how small we are in relation to a life that is always more than we expected. When we become aware of just how mysterious and uncertain life really is, we grow in our appreciation for that which transcends us.

Insisting that embarrassment is a protection “against arrogance, hybris, self-deification,” Heschel suggests that humility is the true path to fulfillment. When we learn to feel embarrassed by our shortcomings, we begin to see the world, and ourselves, more clearly. And it is only then that we can live in love and harmony with one another.

Throughout the rest of *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dmitri is confronted by countless hardships, including being put on trial for a murder he did not commit. And yet, from the time of his arrest on, he remains one of the most honest, faithful characters in the book. His embarrassment has changed him. He has grown in the face of it. Would that we all respond to embarrassment in the same way.

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Source: Psychology Today

*The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper*



# Govt nurturing sports culture across J&K: Satish Sharma

## Lays foundation for upgradation of playfields in Sgr

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: In a major push towards strengthening sports infrastructure in the heart of Srinagar, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma Monday laid the foundation stone for upgradation of playfield at Radpora and other adjoining playfields by way of seating tiers at an estimated project cost of Rs 100.00 lakh.

The foundation stone was laid by the Minister in presence of MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar; MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, other senior officers from the Youth Services & Sports department and local representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the government is committed towards nurturing sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that every aspiring athlete, especially from urban and downtown areas, has access to modern



sporting infrastructure and facilities.

He highlighted that the upgradation works, like construction of seating tiers, levelling, and allied amenities, will provide better avenues for local youth to engage in sports activities and develop their talent in a structured environment.

The Minister further assured that the department of Youth Services & Sports will continue to extend full support to the region's sports aspirants through

upgraded infrastructure, coaching programs, and tournaments aimed at encouraging participation at both grassroots and professional levels.

Local residents, Sports persons and youth from Radpora and adjoining areas hailed the efforts of the Minister and the government for the much-needed developmental initiative, terming it a major step toward transforming downtown Srinagar into a vibrant hub of sports activity.

# CS visits Tawi Barrage, River front

## Assesses its pace of completion

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday visited the Tawi Barrage project site to assess the progress of the ongoing works on the Tawi Barrage and the Riverfront development project. The visit was part of a comprehensive assessment of major infrastructure projects under implementation along the Tawi River.

Accompanying the Chief Secretary during the visit were Additional Chief Secretary Shaleen Kabra, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and CEO Jammu Smart City Limited Dr Devansh Yadav, and Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas, along with senior officers of the concerned departments and executing agencies.

During the field inspection, the Chief Secretary assessed the current status of both the barrage structures and chaired a detailed meeting on site to review project milestones. He was informed that all gates of the Tawi Barrage have been installed and are functional and that the



hydro mechanical works have reached an advanced stage.

The officers also briefed the Chief Secretary about the ongoing rectification works necessitated by recent flood damages. The flood events had impacted some of the mechanical and civil components, for which restoration and reinforcement activities are presently underway.

The meeting also reviewed the Tawi Riverfront Development Project, which is progressing simultaneously on both the left and right banks of the river. The Chief Secretary stressed adherence to project timelines and emphasised the need for strict monitoring of execution

schedules and quality standards. He directed the concerned departments to expedite works, particularly on the right bank. He reiterated that timely completion of both the barrage and riverfront components is essential for the integrated rejuvenation of the river corridor and the enhancement of Jammu's urban landscape.

Officers apprised the Chief Secretary that the twin barrage system, covering both Nikki and Waddi Tawi channels, will enable better regulation of river flow, interception and diversion of multiple nallahs and creation of a controlled water body that will support the beautification and

flood management components of the project. The project also aims to strengthen the city's resilience against future flooding while providing recreational and tourism benefits to residents and visitors.

The Chief Secretary noted that the Tawi Barrage and Riverfront projects are flagship initiatives under the Jammu Smart City Mission and represent a major step toward transforming Jammu into a modern, sustainable and environmentally balanced urban center. He directed all executing agencies to maintain close coordination, ensure strict compliance with safety and environmental standards.

# DC Kulgam reviews progress under CDF



KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Monday chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to assess the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The meeting was attended by key officers and sectoral heads who reviewed physical and financial progress, discussed bottlenecks, and examined the status of works under execution across various departments.

The DC directed officers to ensure 100% utilization of available funds, timely completion of ongoing projects, and proper utilization of the working season to achieve maximum progress on the ground.

He instructed the RDD and other departments to speed up execution and complete all tendering and allotment of works within three days.

Emphasizing transparency, quality, and adherence to timelines, the DC said that effective resource utilization and strict monitoring are vital for the timely creation of public assets.

He also directed departments lagging behind, to expedite work, focus on people-centric projects, and ensure third-party quality checks for accountability.

A block-wise review of CDF works was also conducted with respective BDOs, along with an assessment of financial and physical progress under the Capex Budget.

The DC added that no compromise on quality will be tolerated and directed all executing agencies to make full use of the current working season and complete all pending projects within set timelines.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Malik Suheel; Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, and officers from Agriculture, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, and other departments.

# KU begins 3-day workshop on 'Graphic Narratives'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 10: The Department of English, University of Kashmir (KU) on Monday commenced a three-day workshop on 'Graphic Narratives' at the Main Campus.

The event aims to explore the growing relevance of graphic storytelling as a hybrid medium of literature and art, encouraging students and scholars to engage with visual forms of expression in academic and creative contexts.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her presidential address said that workshops like these open new avenues of creativity and interdisciplinary learning for students.

"Engaging with visual and literary art forms not only nurtures imagination but also helps students think critically and empathetically about the world around them," she said, adding that such initiatives reflect the University's commitment to promoting holistic and innovative education.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Sharieffuddin Pirzada, highlighted the need to integrate contemporary literary and visual studies into the academic framework to keep pace with global pedagogical trends.



In her keynote address, Ikroop Sandhu, graphic novelist, illustrator, and animator, highlighted how graphic novels enhance visual literacy and allow readers to interpret narratives through art and emotion. Sarnath Banerjee, a renowned visual artist and author of graphic literature, said that the workshop provides a platform to critically engage with the evolving form of graphic narratives and encourage participants to explore how art and literature shape contemporary cultural discourses.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Head, Department of English KU, Prof. Iffat Maqbool, said that the

workshop aims to inspire young researchers and students to experiment with diverse modes of storytelling and cultural representation.

The three-day workshop includes expert sessions on both theory and practice, featuring interactive exercises, demonstrations, and discussions on the evolution, techniques, and narrative power of graphic storytelling.

The event is being attended by research scholars and students from the Main and Satellite Campuses. The event proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Prof. Mufti Mudassir, faculty member, Department of English, KU.

# Javid Dar inaugurates 6th branch of KMCO bank at Kunzer

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 10: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the sixth branch of Kashmir Mercantile Co-Operative Bank Limited (KMCO) at Kunzer here Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the crucial role of cooperative banks in strengthening the rural economy, stating that the fully computerized KMCO branch will provide comprehensive financial services to local residents, benefiting the farming community and facilitating government welfare schemes.

Javid Dar highlighted KMCO's pioneering digital

initiatives, including the implementation of Core Banking System (CBS) in 2012, enabling real-time 24x7 access, and issuance of customized RuPay Debit Cards for seamless transactions nationwide.

The Minister announced that the Omar Abdullah government will also open branches of KMCO in other districts of the Union Territory, expanding the bank's reach and services to more areas. He added that this move aims to further strengthen the rural economy and provide accessible financial services to a wider population, aligning with the government's focus on rural development and cooperative growth.

MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officials of KMCO were also present on the occasion.

# Vibrant celebrations mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: As part of the nationwide commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride 'Vande Mataram', special programmes and activities were Monday organized across Government Degree Colleges and all schools of District Shopian, including GDC Shopian and GDC Zainapora.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and staff from Government and Private Institutions. The celebrations included special morning assemblies, collective singing of Vande Mataram and a series of competitions such as essay

writing, debates, quizzes, painting and slogan writing on the themes of patriotism and national unity. The programme was coordinated by Principal GDC Shopian/Zainapora and CEO Shopian, ensuring vibrant participation at all educational institutions.

As part of monitoring and supervision, all Tehsildars visited the schools within their respective jurisdictions actively participating in the celebrations and ensuring smooth conduct of events. The day's activities reflected the collective spirit of unity and pride, reinforcing the timeless message of "Vande Mataram" and celebrating the nation's glorious heritage.

# DC Pulwama reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the District Administrative Complex to assess the progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

At the outset, detailed presentations were presented outlining the overall progress, achievements, and present status of the scheme in Pulwama and Awantipora Divisions. The presentations covered various aspects, including the status of vendor-consumer agreements, installed capacity, processing of bank loans for beneficiaries, and disbursement of subsidies to eligible applicants.

While reviewing the subdivision-wise progress of rooftop solar installations against allocated targets, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and vendors to expedite the physical installation of Rooftop Solar systems. He emphasized the need to minimize the time gap



between application approval and actual installation.

Reviewing the status of cases pending at various stages of bank loan sanction, Dr. Qayoom instructed KPDCL officials to work in close coordination with banking partners to simplify and fast-track the loan approval process, ensuring timely financial support to the beneficiaries. He further directed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to closely monitor the progress of loan disbursement and address bottlenecks in coordination with the concerned financial institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner also took detailed feedback from empanelled vendors regarding challenges being faced in executing pending installations and directed KPDCL to provide necessary support

for early resolution of issues. He stressed the importance of active coordination among KPDCL, empanelled vendors, and banking partners to bridge the gap between applications received and installations completed.

Dr. Qayoom further called for an intensified public outreach campaign to raise awareness among citizens about the long-term benefits of the PM Surya Ghar initiative, which aims to ensure substantial savings on electricity bills while promoting the adoption of clean and renewable energy.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of KPDCL Electric Divisions Pulwama and Awantipora, along with concerned Assistant Executive Engineers and empanelled vendors.

# 350th Urs of Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) observed

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 10: The 350th annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) was observed with immense devotion in Kishtwar Monday, drawing devotees from across the District and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib, one of Kishtwar's most venerated saints, symbolizes the area's shared cultural heritage and interfaith harmony. Every year, thousands of devotees from diverse backgrounds and regions gather at his shrine in Kishtwar to pay homage and seek blessings.

The district administration in collaboration with the Auqaf Islamia Kishtwar, made seamless arrangements to ensure a peaceful congregation. A significant number of devotees visited the shrine, facilitated by provisions made by the district administration and Auqaf Islamia.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma extended his heartfelt greetings to the

people on the auspicious occasion of the Urs.

In his message, he prayed for enduring peace, prosperity, and communal harmony in the District. He also emphasized the importance of preserving the region's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, which continues to inspire unity and devotion among its people.

The DC had also directed all relevant departments to provide necessary facilities, including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, essential supplies, security, transport and sanitation for the devotees.

Additionally, a control room was set up by the district administration, in coordination with the Police Department and District Information Centre, to assist pilgrims during the Urs. A help desk was also established by the District Administration for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Besides, duty magistrates were deployed at various locations and at the venue to ensure a hassle-free, smooth and safe celebration of the Urs.

# SHEW Shopian holds awareness camp

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: Mission Shakti Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (MSEW), Shopian, under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Monday organised an awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora.

The event was graced by SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the sincere efforts of Mission Shakti for conducting such awareness programmes aimed at promoting the education and empowerment of girls. He emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring that every girl child receives equal opportunities in education and personal growth.

The Principal of Government Higher Secondary School,

Zainapora, Farooq Ahmad Shah, who was the Guest of Honour on the occasion, lauded the initiative and encouraged students to become ambassadors of change in society.

Several resource persons and speakers highlighted the significance of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, discussing women's rights, gender equality, and the need to nurture the potential of young girls for a stronger and more inclusive future.

As part of the programme, a painting competition was also organised, where students showcased their creativity and ideas on the theme of "Empowered Girls, Empowered Nation."

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where participants and winners were honoured with certificates and mementos.



## Dr. Bharti Nair becomes first scholar of J&K to achieve PhD in Forensic Science



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 10: Dr. Bharti Nair has achieved a distinct feat of becoming first scholar from Jammu and Kashmir to be awarded Degree of PhD in Forensic Science, marking a unique and significant academic milestone in the region.

Dr. Nair is a distinguished legal academic and researcher specializing in Criminal Law, with a strong command over both substantive and procedural laws of India. She has been awarded the Ph.D. Degree for her doctoral research titled "Relevance and Applicability of Forensic Science in the Administration of Criminal Justice System in India: Prospects and Challenges."

Dr. Nair has obtained her LL.B. from The Law School, University of Jammu, and pursued her LL.M. in Criminal Law from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, where she was awarded the Gold Medal for outstanding academic performance.

Dr. Nair is presently working as an Assistant Professor

(Senior Scale) at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun, where she contributes to teaching, research, and curriculum development in the domains of criminal law, forensic science, and evidence law.

Her research work significantly contributes to advancing the understanding of the role of forensic science in ensuring accuracy, transparency, and efficiency within the Indian criminal justice system. She focuses on bridging the gap between legal principles and scientific practices, while emphasizing the need for institutional reforms, capacity building, and policy frameworks to enhance the admissibility and credibility of forensic evidence.

She has published several research papers in reputed national and international journals, contributing valuable insights to the fields of criminal jurisprudence, forensic evidence, legal reforms, and judicial accountability.

Through her scholarship and teaching, Dr. Nair continues to advocate for a more scientific,

## Study finds patients of chronic fatigue may tend to have abnormal breathing

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: Researchers have found that people with chronic fatigue syndrome tend to experience shortness of breath, which offers a target for treatment and may bring relief from symptoms.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is marked by exhaustion that persists despite rest and cognitive problems, including brain fog and difficulty concentrating.

The researchers from the US' Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai monitored 57 patients diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome while performing physical activity.

Results published in the journal *Frontiers in Medicine* show dysfunctional breathing can look like a deep sigh while breathing ordinarily, overly rapid breathing or shallow breathing so that lungs are never properly breathing.

A loss in coordination between chest and abdomen could also prevent the varied muscles that help one breathe from working together, they said.

"While we know the symptoms generated by hyperventilation, we remain unsure what symptoms may be worse with dysfunctional breathing," author Dr Donna Mancini from the Icahn School of Medicine said.

"But we are sure patients can have dysfunctional breathing without being aware of it.



Dysfunctional breathing can occur in a resting state," Dr Mancini said.

The authors wrote, "Dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation are common in patients with ME/CFS (chronic fatigue syndrome) and could present a new therapeutic target for these patients."

Heart rate and blood pressure of the participants, which also included 25 healthy ones, were measured along with oxygen saturation of blood, while doing cardiopulmonary exercises over two days.

How fast, hard or effectively the participants breathed to get oxygen and patterns in breathing were observed to differentiate hyperventilation and dysfunctional breathing, the researchers said.

While participants having chronic fatigue were seen to take in the same amount of

oxygen as the healthy ones, 71 per cent were seen to experience breathing problems -- either hyperventilation, dysfunctional breathing, or both.

Both dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation can cause symptoms similar to chronic fatigue, such as dizziness, difficulty focussing, a shortness of breath and exhaustion, the researchers said.

Combining the two -- nine patients of chronic fatigue showed dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation. It can also cause people to experience heart palpitations, chest pain, fatigue, and anxiety, they said.

The team suggested that breathing problems could worsen or even directly contribute to post-exertional malaise, in which symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome get worse following mental or physical exercise.

## Defence of satire by web-series makers not absolute: Wankhede counsel to Delhi HC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: The counsel for IRS officer Sameer Wankhede in a defamation suit relating to the series 'The Ba'ds of Bollywood' on Monday told the Delhi High Court that the makers of the web-series were hiding behind a disclaimer, and their defence of satire was not absolute.

Wankhede has filed a defamation suit against Red Chillies and Netflix for allegedly maligning his reputation in their series and sought Rs 2 crore in damages, which he wants donated to the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for cancer patients.

On October 8, the high court issued notices and summons to defendants Red Chillies Entertainment Private Limited, Netflix, X Corp (formerly Twitter), Google LLC, Meta Platforms, RPSG Lifestyle Media Private Limited and John Doe in the defamation suit and asked them to file their replies within seven days.

In the last hearing, Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav had granted time to Wankhede, actor Shah Rukh Khan-owned Red Chillies Entertainment and OTT platform Netflix to file their written submissions.

During the proceedings on Monday, Wankhede's counsel said that the makers of the web series were hiding behind a disclaimer and had taken a "sly approach."

"Disclaimer is of no consequence. The proof of pudding is how people consume it," the advocate said.



"The defence of satire is not absolute. You have taken potshots at me in my professional capacity," he added.

The counsel said that the spoof and innuendos on the officer were because of malice and vendetta.

"This is vendetta passing off as fiction," Wankhede's counsel said.

The court then posed questions about artistic freedom to the production house.

The arguments by Red Chillies will commence on November 17.

In interim relief, Wankhede has sought removal of the alleged defamatory content from several websites.

His plea states that the series disseminates a misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies, eroding public confidence in law enforcement institutions.

Wankhede said the series has been deliberately conceptualised and executed with the intent to malign his reputation in a colourable and prejudicial manner, especially when the case involving the officer and Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan is pending and sub judice before the Bombay High Court and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Special Court in Mumbai.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Budgam, Nagrota

electricity, ramps and sanitation. Counting of the votes will be held on November 14.

**BUDGAM**

In Budgam, the bye-poll has evolved into a major political event, widely seen as a referendum on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's leadership and the NC government's performance since taking office last year.

The seat fell vacant after Omar Abdullah vacated it in 2024, choosing to retain Ganderbal.

Seventeen candidates are contesting from Budgam, which has 1,26,025 registered voters and 173 polling stations. The main contest is between NC's Aga Syed Mehmood and PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi.

BJP's Aga Syed Mohsin, AIP's Nazir Ahmad Khan and independent candidate Muntazir Mohiuddin are also in the fray, making the election a multi-cornered battle.

Budgam has long been considered NC's citadel, having elected the party's candidates in nearly every election since 1962, except in 1972 when the Congress won.

Former MLA and now NC MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi had earlier represented the constituency three times before Omar Abdullah's 2024 victory. However, Ruhullah's public disagreement with the party leadership over the reservation policy and other governance issues led to him distancing himself from the campaign, a setback the NC is trying to offset with its full organizational machinery.

The ruling party deployed top leaders, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Singh and MLAs from across Jammu and Kashmir to campaign for Aga Mehmood.

Omar Abdullah personally led roadshows and gatherings over the past three days, urging voters to back his party's candidate.

The opposition, led by the PDP, mounted a sharp attack accusing the government of failing to deliver on key promises such as job creation, 200 units of free electricity, and a fair reservation policy.

The ruling NC has countered these attacks by reviving the issue of Articles 370 and 35-A, with Omar accusing the PDP of enabling the abrogation through its past alliance with the BJP in 2014.

With an estimated 30-35% Shia population, Budgam's voting pattern will likely be shaped by intra-community competition, as both major candidates belong to influential Aga families.

Ruhullah's absence complicated the NC's campaign strategy, but Omar Abdullah's personal involvement may have helped the party to consolidate the support.

Election officials said all polling stations in Budgam are equipped with essential facilities, including power, ramps and drinking water, with CCTV and webcasting in place for monitoring. Polling will begin at 7 am and continue until 6 pm.

Analysts are of the opinion that the results in both Budgam and Nagrota will indicate where do the ruling NC government and the opposition BJP stand as on date. (KNO)

**India will bring**

Governor said that cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation are still in relatively early stages and we are entering a new phase of acceleration which will drive the future growth and development.

"India is a global leader in key areas of innovation and we have succeeded in creating

a dynamic technology ecosystem and will lead the deep-tech ventures of the world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted new opportunities for young engineers and science graduates.

He said that the demand for generative design and predictive maintenance professionals will increase in the future. Software engineering and development has registered a growth of more than 5% and considering the global demand, millions of professionals will be required every year. Due to climate change, the renewable energy and green technology sector has brought new opportunities. Defence technology, Aerospace, Biotechnology, automation, robotics and healthcare are other high growth areas for young professionals, he further added.

"Scientists and Engineers across the world are competing with each other to discover new frontiers of technology and making efforts to invent better, faster and more efficient technology than before. You need to create your own space in this exploration and leave a positive impact."

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the rich contribution of Bhillai in the nation's industrial development. He said the IIT Bhillai must carry forward the legacy and act as a powerful force to shape the technical education landscape. (KNO)

**Crackdown launched**

national capital and may have been used as a base for preparations," he said, adding, "The timely and coordinated operation by police teams from J&K, Haryana, and UP is believed to have prevented a potential large-scale strike."

According to officials, the arrests followed coordinated raids in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. "Two Kashmiri doctors identified as Dr. Aadil Ahmad Rather and Dr. Muzammil Shakeel were apprehended in separate operations in Saharanpur and Faridabad. Later, a woman doctor from Lucknow, Dr. Shaheen Shahid, was also detained after her car was found used in the transport of arms and ammunition," officials said.

Faridabad Commissioner of Police Satender Kumar Gupta said the operation began after the interrogation of Dr. Aadil Ahmad Rather, who was earlier arrested by J&K Police from Saharanpur for allegedly putting up Jaish-e-Mohammad posters in Srinagar on October 27.

Based on his inputs, another accused, Dr. Muzammil Shakeel, a faculty member at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, was arrested.

During a search at his rented accommodation, police recovered 360 kg of suspected ammonium nitrate, arms, and other materials.

Gupta said the recovered items included an assault rifle with three magazines and 83 live rounds, a pistol with eight rounds, 20 electronic timers, 24 remotes, walkie-talkie sets, batteries, electric wires, and several bags containing inflammable chemicals.

He clarified that the rifle recovered was not an AK-47 but a similar assault weapon and that the explosive material was not RDX but inflammable chemicals likely used for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

A cleric from the locality was also detained for questioning, and forensic analysis of the recovered materials is underway.

The Commissioner said the accused are being jointly interrogated by J&K Police, Haryana Police, and central agencies.

Later in the day, Jammu and Kashmir Police

issued a statement confirming the arrests of seven individuals connected to the same network.

The police said the case relates to an FIR registered in Srinagar on October 19, 2025, after Jaish-e-Mohammad posters appeared in the Nowgam area, threatening police and security forces.

The arrested individuals include Arif Nisar Dar, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, Maqsood Ahmad Dar, Molvi Irfan Ahmad, Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, Dr. Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, and Dr. Adeel.

Police said more individuals have been identified and will be arrested as the probe expands.

The police statement said the investigation uncovered a "white-collar" terror ecosystem involving radicalised professionals and students linked with handlers based in Pakistan and other countries. The group allegedly used encrypted channels for communication, coordination, and fund transfer under the guise of charitable and academic activities.

Police said the accused were engaged in radicalising individuals, raising funds, and arranging logistics and materials for IED preparation.

During searches across multiple districts, police recovered two pistols (Chinese Star and Beretta models), an AK-56 rifle, an AK Krinkov rifle, and approximately 2,900 kilograms of IED-making material, including explosives, chemicals, electronic circuits, remotes, and metal sheets.

A separate case has been registered under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Arms Act, and the Explosive Substances Act.

Financial investigations are underway to trace the flow of funds and identify additional links within and outside the country.

Officials said further searches and arrests are likely as the investigation continues to determine how such large quantities of explosive material were transported and stored near the national capital without detection. (KNO)

**CM Omar pins**

the arrest of doctors and others with explosive materials.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister inaugurated community Radio Station 91.2 FM of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). He also released the University's Annual Report.

Omar reiterated that his government's focus is on strengthening higher education, skilling and research. He said that the focus is aimed at empowering youth for a knowledge-driven J&K.

"Inaugurated the 20th Foundation Day of Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora. Reiterated our Government's focus on strengthening higher education, skilling & research to empower youth for a knowledge-driven J&K. Also released the University's Annual Report, witnessed exchange of 6 MoUs & felicitated national-level sportspersons from J&K," Omar wrote on X. (KNO)

**Winter chill grips**

winter chill, the weather is expected to remain dry for the next few days. The weatherman has predicted that the night temperature may plummet further in coming days. (KNO)

**Dir Info, DIPR employees**

the sad demise of his father-in-law and Iqbal Singh, Chauffeur of the department on the passing away of his mother. The officers and officials prayed for peace to the departed

souls and conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and officials of the department.

**SC notice to Centre**

said enforcement of the law is the prerogative of the executive and no mandamus can be issued in these matters.

"The courts have limitations when interfering with such policy matters," Justice Nagarathna said.

Jaya Thakur, in her plea filed through advocate Varun Thakur, has sought the implementation of the Act without waiting for the conduct of a fresh delimitation exercise.

She said in her plea, "The petitioner herein prefers the present writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for the mandamus direction to declare the clog i.e. after delimitation is undertaken for this purposes after the relevant figures for the first census of 'One Hundred and Sixth Amendment Act 2023' as 'void-ab-initio' for immediate implementation of the 33 per cent Women Reservation, as per the constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eight Amendment) Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) in its true letter and spirit."

The plea said all corners of society's representation are required in the democratic process, but there has been no adequate representation of women for the last 75 years in Parliament as well as in the state legislatures.

"This is a long-pending demand for decades and Parliament rightly passed the above Act for 33 per cent reservation but putting the clog that the said Act will be implemented 'after the delimitation is undertaken for this purposes after the relevant figures for the first census' which may kindly be declared as 'void-ab-initio' for immediate implementation of the 33 per cent women reservation," it said.

The plea further said that the constitutional amendment cannot be put on hold for an uncertain period. In fact, a special session was convened to amend the law for implementing reservations in Parliament as well as in the state legislatures. Both Houses passed this Bill unanimously, the President of India also gave the assent and the Act was notified thereafter on September 28, 2023.

Interestingly, on January 10, the top court refused to examine the pleas challenging the delimitation clause in the 2023 Act.

The top court was not inclined to entertain the petition filed by Jaya Thakur and the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) under Article 32 of the Constitution.

The bench pointed out that Jaya Thakur's petition challenged the Bill, which has now become an Act, whereas the NFIW challenged the delimitation clause of the law.

While Thakur's plea was dismissed as infructuous, the court was not inclined to examine NFIW's plea under Article 32, saying it could move the high court or any other appropriate forum.

The NFIW challenged the constitutional validity of Article 334A (1) or Clause 5 of the 2023 Act, which rendered delimitation of constituencies a prerequisite for the implementation of the Act.

While hearing Jaya Thakur's plea on November 3, 2023, the top court said it would be "very difficult" for the court to strike down a part of the women's reservation law which would come into effect after the Census.

It refused to issue a notice on her plea and asked her counsel to serve the copy to the lawyer representing the Centre.

On September 21, 2023, the watershed Bill to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the parliamentary nod.

The constitutional amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity. On September 28, 2023, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill.

The law would take some time before implementation as the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise, redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies, would ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies would continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

There were efforts to pass the Bill in Parliament since 1996 and a last such attempt was made in 2010, when the Rajya Sabha approved a Bill for women's reservation, but it could not be passed in the Lok Sabha.

Data showed women MPs account for nearly 15 per cent of the Lok Sabha strength whereas their representation was below 10 per cent in many state assemblies. PTI

**Health experts urge**

immunisation doses. Delays or gaps can expose children to serious risk because many diseases circulate silently. Prevention through a vaccine is always better and safer than treatment after infection," he said.

Experts say vaccines undergo rigorous safety trials before being approved, and side effects, if any, are mostly mild, like a slight fever or pain at the injection site.

They added that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the effectiveness of vaccination once again proved how immunisation can help the world deal with life-threatening outbreaks.

Full coverage, awareness, and timely vaccination are crucial to ensure healthier communities, according to doctors. (KNO)

**DNA testing must**

publicly narrating her complaint which led to registration of an FIR under Sections 417 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Women Harassment Act against the doctor.

The top court in its judgement set aside the high court order saying it rests upon the fundamental misapprehension of both statutory framework and constitutional safeguards.

"The offences alleged, falling under Sections 417 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Women Harassment Act, are neither of nature nor of a circumstance that warrant recourse to DNA analysis.

"The High Court's invocation of Sections 53 and 53A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, rests on a misconstruction of their contextual ambit; these provisions contemplate medical examination only where such an examination may directly yield evidence relating to commission of the alleged offence," the bench said.

The top court said compulsion of a DNA test transforms a lawful investigative power into an intrusive measure devoid of necessity, trenching upon the individual's bodily autonomy and privacy.

"Scientific procedures, however advanced, cannot be employed as instruments of speculation; they must be anchored in demonstrable relevance to the charge and justified by compelling investigative need," it said.



Bihar polls phase 2

3.7 crore voters to decide electoral fate of 1,302 candidates in 122 seats

PTI

Patna, Nov 10: Electoral fortunes of 1,302 candidates, including over half a dozen ministers in the Nitish Kumar government, will be sealed on Tuesday with 3.70 crore voters eligible to exercise their franchise across 122 assembly segments in the second and final phase of the Bihar polls.

The districts going to polls on November 11 include West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria and Kishanganj, and all these share borders with Nepal.

Security has been beefed up across Bihar for the second phase of the assembly polls with over 4 lakh personnel engaged in election duties, officials said.

Most of these districts fall in the Seemanchal region, which has a high concentration of Muslim population, making it a high-stakes battle for both the INDIA bloc, which banks on the support of the minority community, as well as the ruling NDA, which alleges that the opposition is "protecting infiltrators".

Prominent candidates include Bijendra Prasad Yadav, a veteran JD(U) leader and the most senior member of the state cabinet, who seeks to retain his Supaul seat for a record eighth term. Similar is the case of his cabinet colleague Prem Kumar, who belongs to the BJP and is trying his luck from Gaya Town,



which he has won seven times, on the trot, since 1990.

Other ministers whose electoral fates are on stake include BJP's Renu Devi (Bettiah) and Neeraj Kumar Singh "Bablu" (Chhatapur), and JD(U)'s Leshi Singh (Dhamdaha), Sheela Mandal (Phulparas) and Zama Khan (Chainpur).

Another prominent BJP leader who is in the fray is former deputy chief minister Tarkishore Prasad, who seeks to retain the Katihar

seat for a fifth consecutive term.

Katihar district is also home to Balrampur and Kadwa assembly seats, where a hat-trick is being aimed at by Mehboob Alam and Shakeel Ahmed Khan, respectively, the legislative party leaders of CPI(ML) Liberation and the Congress.

The second and final phase is also being seen as a veritable test of strength for minor NDA partners Hindustani Awam Morcha,

headed by Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha, both of which have got six seats each.

All six seats contested by HAM are going to the polls in the second phase. Four of these, Imamganj, Barachatti, Tikari and Sikandra, are currently held by the party, and the sitting MLAs have been given the chance to try their luck again.

Notably, Manjhi held the Imamganj seat till he got elected to the Lok Sabha from Gaya last year, and it was retained, in the ensuing by-poll, by his daughter-in-law Dipa. Barachatti is held by Dipa's mother Jyoti Devi.

Candidates of the RLM, which was floated barely a couple of years ago and has no representation in the state legislature, include Kushwaha's wife Snehlata and his most trusted aide Madhaw Anand, who are making their debut from Sasaram and Madhubani, respectively. Four of the six candidates fielded by the party are going to the polls in the second phase. Another important candidate in the fray is state Congress president Rajesh Kumar, who hopes to retain the reserved seat of Kutumba for a second consecutive term.

Votes will be cast at 45,399 polling stations, of which 40,073 fall in rural areas.

A number of turncoats are also in the fray. These include Mohania MLA Sangita Kumari, who won the seat as an RJD candidate in 2020 but is now contesting on a

BJP ticket, and Vibha Devi, the MLA from Nawada, who recently quit the opposition and joined the JD(U).

Similar is the case of Murari Gautam, who was a minister from the Congress quota in the 'Mahagathbandhan' government, crossed over to the NDA when Nitish Kumar realigned with the BJP last year.

He is now in the fray from his sitting seat of Chenari on the ticket of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), headed by Union minister Chirag Paswan. Another keenly watched candidate will be Chanakya Prakash Ranjan, whose father is a former state minister and second term JD(U) MP from Banka, who raised many eyebrows by joining the RJD ahead of the assembly polls. He is contesting the Belhar seat on the opposition party's symbol.

Voting, in the second phase, will take place across 45,399 polling stations, of which 40,073 fall in rural areas. More than half of the electorate (2.28 crore) is aged between 30 and 60 years. Only 7.69 lakh are in the 18-19 years age group.

The total number of women voters in the 122 constituencies is 1.75 crore.

The Hisua seat in Nawada district has the largest electorate (3.67 lakh), while Lauria, Champatia, Raxaul, Triveniganj, Sugauli and Banmakhi have the most number of candidates (22 each).

Bihar recorded the "highest ever" voter turnout of over 65 per cent in the polling across 121 constituencies in the first phase

Proactive policing, EC initiatives help achieve historic voter turnout in phase 1: DGP

PTI

Patna, Nov 10: Bihar DGP Vinay Kumar said proactive policing, improved community connect, and initiatives taken by the Election Commission are the main reasons behind the "historic" voter turnout in the first phase of the assembly polls.

The identification of potential criminals and their areas of operation in advance, adequate deployment of forces, and prompt action have not only helped the police build up strong relations with people, but also instilled confidence among voters, he said.

Bihar recorded the "highest ever" voter turnout of over 65 per cent in the polling across 121 constituencies in the first phase of the assembly elections.

Talking to PTI, the director general of police said, "Proactive policing, improved police-community relations, developmental works carried out by the state government, and the initiatives taken by the EC are the main reasons behind the historic turnout".

No violence took place during the first round of polling on November 6, he asserted.

"Now we are fully prepared for the second phase of polls, which will take place on Tuesday. Adequate security personnel have been deployed in all 122 assembly seats to ensure free and fair elections," Kumar said.

Besides, sufficient security personnel have been deployed in areas where the first phase of polling took place to ensure



"law and order and foolproof poll-related security arrangements".

"Altogether, around 4 lakh security personnel have been deployed across the state

to ensure violence-free, smooth and fair assembly polls," the DGP said.

The districts going to polls on November 11 are West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria and Kishanganj, and all these share borders with Nepal.

"Strict vigil is being maintained in districts bordering Nepal. We will not allow anyone to take the law into their hands. Law enforcement agencies are ensuring that EC's guidelines are strictly followed in the state," said the DGP.

Kumar said that no personnel have been dropped by helicopters in polling booths for the first time in Bihar.

"Since the road infrastructure has remarkably improved in the state,

especially in rural areas, we decided to send security personnel, who are engaged in poll duty, to remote areas by road. They are reaching their centres of deployment by road," he said.

Besides, there is no requirement to relocate polling booths, for the first time in Bihar, as Maoist activities have "substantially declined" in the state, the DGP said.

"We are ensuring full safety and security of the electorates in sensitive areas. The Quick Response Teams (QRTs) of Bihar Police, comprising commandos of Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Special Task Force (STF), are also on stand-by to deal with emergencies, security breaches, and other critical incidents," he added.

FM Sitharaman meets leading economists on FY27 Budget



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: Ahead of the Union Budget 2026-27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday met leading economists to elicit their views on the forthcoming Budget.

Those present at the meeting include Sajjid Chinoy, Neelkanth Misra, Dharmakirti Joshi, Ridham Desai, Sonal Varma and Indira Rajaraman. "Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt @nsitharaman chairs the

first Pre-Budget Consultation with leading economists in connection with the upcoming Union Budget 2026-27, in New Delhi, today," the Ministry of Finance said in a social media post on X.

"The meeting was also attended by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) @FinMinIndia; and Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, besides senior officers from the DEA," it added. Sitharaman is likely to present the Budget

on February 1. She will present the Budget in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties and the steep US tariff of 50 per cent imposed on shipments from India.

The Budget for the next fiscal year will have to address issues of boosting demand, job creation and putting the economy on a sustained 8 per cent-plus growth path. The government estimates the Indian economy to grow in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent during the current financial year.

SC seeks Centre's reply on plea for implementation of 2023 women reservation Act

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court on Monday sought the response of the Centre to examine a plea seeking implementation of the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Act which reserves one-third seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan issued notice to the Centre while observing that women were the largest minority in the country.

"Our Preamble to the Constitution of India says all citizens are entitled to political and social equality. Who is the largest minority in this country? It is the women. It's almost 48 per cent. This is about the political equality of women," Justice Nagarathna said.

Appearing for petitioner Jaya Thakur, senior advocate Shobha Gupta said it is unfortunate that women have to move the court for representation after 75 years of independence of the country.

She submitted that the Act reserves one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies based on data. The bench said enforcement of the law is the prerogative of the executive and no mandamus can be issued in these matters.

"The courts have limitations when interfering with such policy matters,"



Justice Nagarathna said.

Jaya Thakur, in her plea filed through advocate Varun Thakur, has sought the implementation of the Act without waiting for the conduct of a fresh delimitation exercise. She said in her plea, "The petitioner herein prefers the present writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for the mandamus direction to declare the clog i.e. after delimitation is undertaken for this purposes after the relevant figures for the first census of 'One Hundred and Sixth Amendment Act 2023' as 'void-ab-initio' for immediate implementation of the 33 per cent Women Reservation, as per the constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eight Amendment) Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) in its true letter and spirit."

Air quality very poor in Delhi



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: A layer of toxic haze blanketed the national capital on Monday morning, with the air quality remaining in the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

At 9 am, Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 345, CPCB data showed. Visuals from across the city showed a thick layer of haze reducing visibility in several areas. According to the Sameer

app, Bawana recorded 'severe' air quality with an AQI of 411, followed by Wazirpur at 397. Out of 38 monitoring stations, one station (Bawana) reported 'severe' air quality, while 33 others remained in the 'very poor' range.

The city's air quality had deteriorated sharply on Sunday morning, reaching this season's worst level of 391 before slightly improving later in the day. At 4 pm, the overall AQI stood at 370, placing Delhi in the 'red zone', CPCB data showed.

Vitamin E & eye health: 8 best foods to eat for stronger vision, long-term protection

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 10: When it comes to eye health, the focus falls on vitamin A or omega-3 fats. But studies from the American Academy of Ophthalmology show that vitamin E plays a crucial role in reducing the risk of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cataracts. It works as a shield against free radicals, unstable molecules that damage eye tissue over time.

Almonds

Just a small handful of almonds can meet nearly half of your daily vitamin E needs. They contain alpha-tocopherol, the most active form of vitamin E, which helps prevent oxidative stress in the retina. Soaking almonds overnight may make them easier to digest and absorb.

Sunflower seeds

Sunflower seeds pack about 7 mg of vitamin E in 30grams. Their antioxidants help maintain good blood circulation in the eyes, which supports the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to retinal cells. Toast them lightly instead of deep roasting to retain their nutrient value.

Spinach

Spinach is unique, it offers both vitamin E and lutein. Together, these compounds reduce the damage caused by UV exposure and high-energy blue light from screens. Lightly sautéing spinach in olive oil enhances vitamin E absorption, making it a great combo for digital-age eyes.

Avocados

Avocados are among the few fruits rich in both healthy fats and vitamin E. The fats help our body absorb other eye-protective nutrients like carotenoids. Research in Nutrients Journal



suggests that regular avocado consumption may support macular pigment density, improving visual performance.

Olive oil

Cold-pressed olive oil is not only heart-healthy but also eye-protective. It contains a form of vitamin E that combats oxidative stress in ocular tissues. Use it raw over salads or cooked

vegetables to keep the antioxidants intact.

Hazelnuts

Hazelnuts have one of the highest vitamin E contents among nuts, over 4 mg per serving. Their compounds may help slow down age-related eye disorders by strengthening cell membranes and reducing inflammation around the optic nerve.

Sweet red peppers

Bright red peppers are not just high in vitamin C, they also contain small but meaningful amounts of vitamin E. The mix of both vitamins works synergistically to protect eye cells from oxidative damage, helping maintain clear lenses as you age.

Wheat germ oil

Just one tablespoon of wheat germ oil offers more than 100% of the daily vitamin E requirement. Studies link it to improved

microcirculation in the eyes, which supports healthy retinal function. Drizzle it over cooked grains or vegetables, but never heat it, as it loses potency at high temperatures.

Long-term vision starts on your plate

Eye health doesn't depend on one food or supplement; it's a lifestyle choice built meal by meal. A diet rich in vitamin E and other antioxidants can help your eyes cope with daily stress from screens, sunlight, and ageing. Combine these foods with regular eye check-ups, proper hydration, and screen breaks for lasting protection.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational purposes only. It does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always consult an eye specialist or nutritionist before making significant dietary changes.



## Vast opportunities for India, Angola to deepen economic ties: Prez Murmu

PTI

Luanda (Angola), Nov 10: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said India and Angola have extensive opportunities to deepen their economic ties by exploring avenues in various sectors, including digital technology, defence, agriculture and food processing.

Addressing members of the Angolan Parliament on the third day of her state visit to the African country, Murmu said trade and economic co-operation are an "important pillar" of the bilateral ties between the two countries.

"There are vast opportunities available for cooperation between the two countries in digital technology, defence, agriculture and food



processing. "Going forward, we are committed to take benefit of these possibilities to deepen our economic relations," she said. The President added that the collaboration of the two nations in the energy sector is "continuously" making our economic ties stronger.

Murmu is the first Indian

President to visit the energy-rich country located along the Atlantic Ocean.

She said the relations between India and Angola are based on "mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit" for the people of the two nations. Murmu said she was happy to note that the Angolan Parliament has 39

per cent women members, which is a true example of gender equality and inclusive governance.

She recalled that India too has enacted a historic law providing one-third reservation to women in the Parliament and state assemblies.

The President, before the visit to the Parliament, paid floral tributes at the memorial of Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, the first President of the country, who played a prominent role in Angola's struggle for independence.

She also visited the National Museum of military history located in the city.

The President is on a four-day state visit to Angola, followed by a similar tour to Botswana between November 11-13.

### China protests to Japan over PM Takaichi's Taiwan remarks



REUTERS

Beijing, Nov 10: China lodged serious representations and protests to Japan over Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's recent remarks about Taiwan, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Monday.

Takaichi on Friday told Japanese lawmakers that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be an "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, the Kyodo news agency reported.

Japanese officials' attempt to "meddle on cross-strait affairs" would cause serious damage to China-Japan relations, Lin said during a regular press briefing, urging Japan to stop making provocations.

## From fitness point of view, we're still not where we want to be: Gambhir on T20 WC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Indian cricket team is not where it "wants to be" in terms of its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup yet but head coach Gautam Gambhir says there is enough time in hand to get there.

In an interview with 'bcc. tv', Gambhir said the players needed to take their fitness to the next level as India prepare to defend the title at home.

"It has been a very transparent dressing room, it has been a very honest dressing room and that is how we want this dressing room to be. I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup," he said.

"From the fitness point of view, I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup. And that is exactly the conversation that we've had with the boys as well. We want to be absolutely sharp. We want to be fit. We want to move quicker. "The fitter we are,



the more mentally strong we are. Because come the pressure games come the pressure situation, the more physically strong you are, the more mentally strong you are. We still have three months to be where we want to be," said the former India opener.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in February-March next year.

Bumrah bowling three overs in powerplay is a very aggressive move

Gambhir also spoke about

the logic behind using trump card Jasprit Bumrah for three overs in the power-play during the recent Asia Cup that India won.

"A lot of people relate to this T20 side as a very aggressive batting lineup. For me I think bowling Jassi 3 in the first six was an even more aggressive option with the ball. We don't want to be a side which is only known as an aggressive batting order, we want to be a side which should be known as an aggressive side overall," he said.

## BBC chairman Samir Shah apologises for 'error of judgment' over Trump speech edit

PTI

London, Nov 10 (PTI) The BBC's Indian-origin chairman, Samir Shah, on Monday apologised on behalf of Britain's public broadcaster for an "error of judgment" in the way a speech by US President Donald Trump was edited for a documentary.

Shah's apology came in a letter addressed to the chair of the UK Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee following days of raging controversy, which led to the resignation of BBC director-general Tim Davie and BBC News CEO Deborah Turness on Sunday night.

The documentary in question involved an episode of BBC's 'Panorama' programme aired last year, which appeared to show Trump make a direct call to his supporters to storm the Capitol in Washington DC on January 6, 2021.

"The BBC would like to apologise for that error of judgement," said Shah, in his letter addressed to the House of Commons committee. It was a leaked memo written by former adviser Michael Prescott that the splicing together of separate parts of Trump's speech was first criticised.

The BBC confirmed that it has received a letter from Trump threatening legal action against the broadcaster over the issue.

On his Truth Social platform, the US president had reacted to the resignation of Davie and Turness by dubbing them "very dishonest people who tried to step on the scales of a presidential election".

"Since the publication of



Prescott's memo, this issue has led to over 500 complaints. These are now being dealt with in the normal way. It has also prompted further reflection by the BBC. The conclusion of that deliberation is that we accept that the way the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action," Shah's letter states.

In the same leaked memo, Prescott had also claimed there was an "anti-Israel bias" in BBC Arabic's coverage.

"The board will commit to revisiting each and every item set out in Michael Prescott's note, and take further action where appropriate. We will be transparent about the conclusions we reach and the actions taken," Shah informed Parliament.

"I would like to assure you and the Committee that I am absolutely clear that the BBC must champion impartiality," he said, in the letter addressed to the Committee chair, Conservative Party MP Caroline Dinenage.

"I will personally ensure that the BBC continues to take the necessary actions in the future

to ensure the BBC retains the trust and confidence of the public we serve. I'd like to conclude by restating the importance of high quality, independent journalism in today's polarised society," he said.

Shah added that he saw the BBC's "sacred job" as meeting an increasing need for the public to be informed in a way that's "impartial, truthful and based on evidence they can trust".

As Chair, Shah is responsible for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) board upholding and protecting the independence of the broadcaster and making its decisions in the public interest.

He took charge as the first Indian-origin media executive in the 160,000-pounds a year role in March this year for a four-year term.

Born in Aurangabad, Shah came to England in 1960 and has previously been the head of current affairs and political programmes at the BBC. He was honoured with a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage.

## Nepal to seek logistic support from India for upcoming general election

PTI

Kathmandu, Nov 10: Nepal's electoral body on Monday said that it will approach neighbouring countries, mainly India, to seek logistic support for the upcoming general election.

"The Election Commission has sent its demand list to the government to be handed over to the neighbouring countries, India and China, through diplomatic channels," acting Chief Election Commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari said, talking to PTI. During a meeting with government officials and the commission staff, the representatives from the two countries have expressed their willingness to extend logistic support for elections scheduled for March

5, 2026.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a meeting between the government and representatives of diplomatic missions and development partners, in which Prime Minister Sushila Kaki had sought their support for the upcoming elections. India had provided 200 vehicles as logistic support to the Nepalese government during the general election in 2022, which were utilised by the Election Commission and the various security agencies.

However, during the September Gen Z movement, nearly 600 government vehicles were either vandalised or burnt, hence, more vehicles are needed this time. It has been estimated that at least 400 vehicles are required to conduct the elections.

## Sourav Ganguly backs fit-again Shami

Says he should play for India across formats

PTI

Kolkata, Nov 10: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly wants to see Mohammed Shami back in the Indian team across formats, as he reckons the skillful pacer is 'fit and is bowling exceptionally well'.

The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee, however, appears to have moved on from the 35-year-old pacer, who has been ignored for the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa and last played in the Champions Trophy in March.

"Shami is bowling exceptionally well. He is fit and we saw in the three Ranji Trophy matches, where he's won Bengal on his own," Ganguly said on Monday after being announced as the global brand ambassador of Kabuni, a UK-based AI-driven sports coaching platform.

Shami has so far claimed 15 wickets to help Bengal to successive wins in their first two Ranji Trophy matches before going wicketless against Tripura. He has bowled 91 overs in three matches this season.

The veteran pacer underwent ankle surgery following the 2023 World Cup, where he finished as the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 24 scalps at an



average of 10.70.

"I'm sure the selectors are watching and there is a communication between Mohammad Shami and the selectors. But if you ask me, in terms of fitness and skill, it's the Mohammad Shami we know of. So, I really don't see any reason why he can't keep playing Test matches, One-day cricket and T20 cricket for India. Because that skill is enormous," Ganguly said.

With no red-ball assignments

for India over the next six months, it remains to be seen if Shami has already played his last Test - the World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval in June 2023.

In the longer format, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep have become an integral part of the pace attack. For the 2027 ODI World Cup still two years away, Shami's recurring injury concerns could influence the selectors.



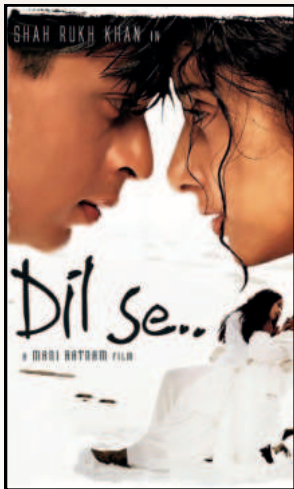
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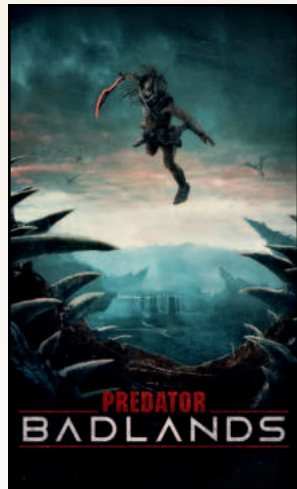
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