

## 9 dead in 'accidental' blast in Nowgam Police Station, DGP Prabhat rules out terror angle

SIA Officer, Naib Tehsildar, Tailor among dead, 32 injured

Blast caused after explosives seized from terror module go off

LG orders probe, says govt stands with victims

Mangled body parts found 300 meters away

Police Station reduced to rubble

Ahmad Taimur

Srinagar, Nov 15: Nine persons were killed, including a Naib Tehsildar, State Investigating Agency Officer, and a tailor, while 32 others were injured after a high-intensity blast ripped through Nowgam police station



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

in Srinagar late last night, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the blast occurred when a stockpile of explosives, confiscated from an alleged doctors' terror module busted by Jammu and Kashmir's Faridabad last week, accidentally went off inside the police station late last night.

The blast created panic among the local residents with its intensity such that houses - as far as 300-500 meters away

- suffered extensive damage.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Nalin Prabhat said that during investigation of a case, a huge cache of explosives, chemicals and reagents were recovered from Faridabad on November 9 and 10.

He said that the recovery was transported to Kashmir and kept securely in an open area of the Nowgam police station. "As part of the prescribed procedure, samples of the recovery

had to be forwarded for further forensic and chemical examination. On account of the voluminous nature of the recovery, this procedure was going on since yesterday," he said.

He further said that due to the unstable and sensitive nature of the recovery, it was being handled with utmost caution. "However, unfortunately at 11:20 pm accidental explosion took place,"

The DGP also ruled out any terror angle into the incident, stating that any other speculation into the cause of this incident is unnecessary. "In the incident 9 people were killed, including a State Investigating Agency officer, 3 FSL members, 2 photographers, 2 revenue officials and a tailor. In addition, 27 cops, 2 revenue officials and 3 civilians were injured. The injured were immediately evacuated to the hospital," he added.

The deceased have been identified as Ajaz Ahmad (SGCT) son of Mohammad Afzal Mir of Srinagar's HMT, Arshid Ahmad Shah | [More on P6](#)

## Nowgam PS blast: LG Sinha lays wreath to departed souls, visits injured

Div Com, DC Sgr meet injured, assure assistance; officers monitor treatment



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 15: A day after the powerful explosion ripped through Nowgam Police Station, killing nine people and injuring over 30, Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha on Saturday paid a visit to the injured at SMHS and Ujala Cygnus hospitals in Srinagar.

Moving from one ward to another, the LG interacted with the victims, enquired about their recovery and

directed doctors to ensure the best possible treatment and care.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Lieutenant Governor inquired about | [More on P6](#)

## Govt announces Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia relief for deceased

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Nov 15: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced ex-gratia relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the victims of Nowgam Police Station explosion.

On the instructions of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that Rs 10 lakh will be provided to the families of each deceased person and | [More on P6](#)

## LG Sinha chairs high-level meeting in Srinagar

CS, DGP, Div Com, IGP, other top officials participate

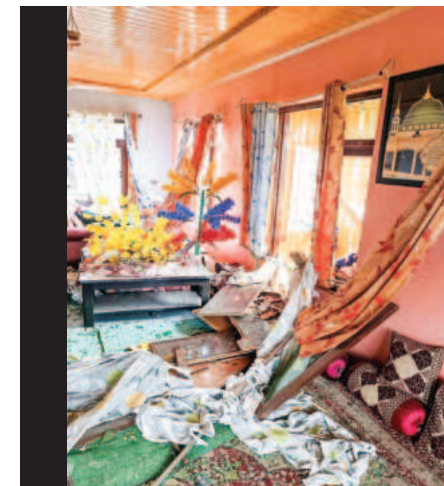


Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 15: Following a massive accidental blast that left nine people dead and 32 injured at Nowgam Police Station here last night, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting

with top police and civil administration officers to assess the situation.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Director General | [More on P6](#)



## Nowgam Police Station blast: Scenes of destruction emerge as area sealed for probe

Visuals show charred vehicles, shattered walls, torn tin roofs; investigators comb debris

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 15: The grim aftermath of Friday night's powerful explosion inside Nowgam Police Station unfolded on Saturday morning, as the area remained sealed off with investigators combing through mangled debris and twisted metal.

The blast, which officials said was caused by the "accidental detonation" of seized explosives, claimed nine lives and left at least 29 others injured.

On-ground visuals accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), showed widespread devastation, charred vehicles, shattered | [More on P6](#)

## Tailor who went to Police Station for brief stitching job couldn't return home



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 15: When the thunderous Nowgam blast shattered Srinagar's quiet night, 50-year-old Mohammad Shafi Parry—a father of three—was thought to be asleep at home. Instead, he was inside Nowgam Police Station, not as an accused or an officer, but as a tailor called in for a brief stitching job.

Shafi, a resident of the adjoining locality, was known across Nowgam for his modest tailoring shop along the

Wanabal-Nowgam road, a small space where school students and shopkeepers often stopped to get their uniforms or trousers altered.

"He was honest and humble. Always busy, always smiling," said a neighbour, standing outside his shuttered shop on Saturday morning, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

According to neighbours, Shafi had visited the police station a day before, for some stitching work | [More on P6](#)

## LG, CM, Rahul Gandhi, LoP Sharma, others grieved over Nowgam explosion

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 15: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, LoP Sunil Sharma and other political leaders on Saturday expressed grief over the loss of lives in an accidental explosion at Nowgam Police Station.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his anguish over the loss of precious lives in the tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Deeply anguished by the loss of precious lives due to extremely tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar. My condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured. The government stands in solidarity with the families,

friends, and loved ones of the departed. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected. I have ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of the accidental explosion".

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor met the injured in the accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station who are undergoing treatment at Ujala Cygnus and SMHS Hospital in Srinagar.

The team of doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of the injured and the medical facilities being extended to them.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Doctors and Hospitals Administration to ensure the best possible treatment for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor laid a wreath and offered his tributes to the Police Personnel, Revenue Officials and a Civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast last night.

He also met the bereaved

families and conveyed his condolences.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Laid a wreath and offered my solemn tributes to the Police Personnel, Revenue Officials and a Civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station last night. The nation will forever remain indebted to their selfless service and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Interacted with the bereaved families and expressed my deep condolences. The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour".

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accidental explosion.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, including those of the police officers, forensic science lab personnel, | [More on P6](#)

## Kangan youth among dead in Red Fort blast

Worked as cart-puller; family member to travel Delhi for DNA test

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Nov 15: A youth from Babanagri Wangath, Kangan, is among the victims killed in the car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort on November 10 evening, which left more than 10 people dead and over 20 injured.

The 32-year Bilal Ahmad Sangoo son of Ghulam Hassan Sangoo had been working as cart-puller in Delhi for the past six years.

Elder brother of the deceased Farooq Ahmad while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) over phone said, "Police have told us that verification is on. His picture is circulating on the social media and we have recognized him. He is my brother."

Farooq said that they lost contact with him soon after the explosion. "His phone has remained switched off since."



SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal told KNO that police received a report from the family that Bilal was indeed working in Delhi at the time of the blast. "A family member will have to travel to Delhi for a DNA test, and the body will be handed over only after a positive DNA match," the SSP added.

According to the reports, Bilal's cart was destroyed in the Red Fort blast.

His brother said that Bilal was unmarried, and he stayed alone, making | [More on P6](#)

## 'If goodness had a face, it was his': Senior cop's death leaves Kupwara village numb with grief

Family shattered as Asrar leaves behind wife, three children, ageing parents

Sajid Raina

Kupwara, Nov 15: Grief spread through this small Kupwara village on Saturday as residents gathered outside their homes and along the narrow lanes to mourn State Investigation Agency (SIA) Inspector of J&K Police, Asrar Ahmad, who was among nine people killed in the accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station on Friday night.

Muqam-e-Shahwali, a village in Kupwara located about 82 km from Srinagar and 7 km from the district headquarters, came to a standstill on Saturday

as hundreds assembled for Inspector Asrar Ahmad's last rites.

Many struggled to absorb the sudden loss of a man widely regarded as one of the most respected figures in the area.

People moved in groups, speaking in hushed voices, stopping occasionally to wipe their eyes. "There is a strange stillness here," said Shabir Ahmad, a resident, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"It feels as if the breath of this whole village has been taken away with Asrar Sahab," Ahmad



said, trying to steady his voice.

For many in this close-knit settlement, Inspector Asrar was not just a government officer;



he was a son of the soil, someone who carried the warmth of the village into his uniform. "He never behaved like he was above

us," recalled Tariq Ahmad. "To us, he was a neighbour first. A friend. Someone who made you feel respected no matter who

you were."

A large crowd, including several government officials, attended the funeral, which drew

hundreds of residents from the area.

Mothers stood at their doorsteps with trembling hands, and young boys who once looked up to him as a symbol of achievement watched silently.

Asrar was laid to rest in the presence of a large crowd, many of whom had grown up with him or known him since childhood.

Another villager, Shakir, remembered how the entire area celebrated when Asrar was selected for the police force in 2010. "We all thought he would rise to great heights. He had that spark," he | [More on P6](#)

Pics: Peerzada Zubair



Youth Engagement & Empowerment Programme

CS assesses plans, preparations in J&K



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review departmental preparedness for the upcoming Youth Engagement & Empowerment Programme, a UT-wide initiative aimed at fostering meaningful participation of young people in cultural, educational, entrepreneurial, and community-oriented activities across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by several senior Administrative Heads, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretaries of Information, Youth Services & Sports, Industries & Commerce, Floriculture, and Rural Development Departments; Divisional

Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director General, Economics & Statistics; Director General, YS&S; DDG, NIC; Director Colleges; and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought detailed inputs from each department on their proposed activity calendars and strategies for the mega youth engagement campaign. He directed all departments to upload their comprehensive action plans on the dedicated portal created for the programme, along with details of nodal officers and date-wise reports of activities to be conducted.

Highlighting the vast potential for cultural enrichment, the Chief Secretary urged the Culture Department to design a vibrant and inclusive programme on the lines

of initiatives by the Youth Services & Sports Department.

He advised launching extensive cultural engagement activities in coordination with educational institutions across the UT, including poetry recitations, painting competitions, quizzes, skits, essay writing contests, and debates in schools and colleges.

The Chief Secretary also took this occasion to highlight the role of departments like Information, YS&S, School Education, Higher Education, Skill Development and that of the Agriculture and Industries departments for making this Youth Engagement programme a huge success here.

He emphasised that the programme should also serve as an opportunity to raise awareness among youth about various government employment schemes, livelihood opportunities, and

welfare programmes across all towns and villages of J&K.

The Chief Secretary directed that the youth engagement portal be integrated with the Government of India's MyGov platform to enhance visibility, access, and public engagement.

He instructed all departments to finalize and submit their activity plans within 15 days, ensuring that the proposed calendar is comprehensive, inclusive, and aligned with the overall objectives of the programme to engage youth productively from start to end of this programme.

Addressing the Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for strong oversight and effective coordination at the district level to ensure timely execution of all action points and to secure maximum participation of youth across the UT.

Sakeena visits Chansar Kulgam

Expresses solidarity with family of Nowgam victim

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday visited Chansar Kulgam to express solidarity with the family members of Arshid Ahmad Shah, killed in Nowgam ac-

cidental blast. Extending heartfelt condolences, Minister Sakeena expressed profound grief over the loss and assured the bereaved family of full support from Government during this difficult time.

She said that on the directions of the Chief Minister, and as a mark of solidarity and immediate succour, the Government has announced ex-gratia relief from the CM's

Relief Fund: 10 lakh for each deceased and 1 lakh for the severely injured.

During the visit, the Minister interacted closely with the family, offering words of comfort and called the incident deeply unfortunate and shocking. The Minister also prayed for peace for the departed soul and courage for family to bear this irreparable loss.

DC Baramulla chairs DLRC Meeting

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Saturday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26 and to assess progress under various government-sponsored schemes.

During the meeting, sector-wise achievements were presented, covering Agriculture, MSME, Education, Housing, and Non-Priority sectors. The DC was informed that the district has achieved 1430.11 crore under the Priority Sector and 1,323.69 crore under the Non-Priority Sector as on 30 September 2025. Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, 24,687 cards have been issued during the current financial year, with more than 1,05,118 active KCC accounts and an outstanding balance of

913.66 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner issued several important directions to banks and line departments. He called for regular awareness camps at block and panchayat levels to educate farmers, youth, Self-Help Groups, and small entrepreneurs about various credit schemes including KCC, PMEGP, JKREGP, MISSION YUVA, PM Surya Ghar and other government initiatives. He also stressed early clearance of pending KCC applications to ensure 100% saturation at the district level.

The DC emphasised the need to narrow the gap between loan sanction and disbursement, particularly in Agriculture and MSME sectors. Banks and line departments were directed to strengthen coordination through joint camps, timely sharing of beneficiary lists, and close monitoring of scheme implementation to ensure timely support to the public.

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CONDOLENCE  
MESSAGE

Management, Teaching, and Non-Teaching Staff of Vitasta School of Law and Humanities, Nowgam Srinagar, express profound grief on the untimely demise of Ms. Tahmeena, a BA LLB (Batch 2017) pass-out student of our institution.

Tahmeena was a humble, dedicated, and noble soul who left a lasting impression on everyone she interacted with. During her academic journey at Vitasta, she was known for her sincerity, discipline, and exemplary conduct. As a student, she performed commendably well, and as a young lawyer, she was already making remarkable strides in the legal profession. Her contributions, character, and commitment will always be remembered with great respect and affection.

In this moment of immense sorrow, we extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May Almighty Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Vitasta School of Law and  
Humanities  
Nowgam, Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT AMT SCHOOL  
DEEWAN BAGH SRINAGAR

Subject: Merit cum selection list of candidates for admission to General Nursing & Midwifery and General Nursing & Midwifery- Lateral Entry courses for left over seats at Govt. AMT School Srinagar.

Ref: JKNC-25/157/3006-3014 Dated: 08.10.2025

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, in pursuance to the Admission Notification No: AMTS/2025/632-37 dated: 09.10.2025, wherein applications were invited for filling of left over seats in General Nursing & Midwifery and General Nursing & Midwifery- Lateral Entry courses at Govt. AMT School Srinagar.

Whereas, the fulfilment of eligibility criteria is, as determined by the J&K. Nursing Council vide Notification No: JK-NC-25/157/3006-3014 Dated: 08.10.2025.

Whereas, after scrutinizing all the applications, considering their eligibility and marks obtained in 12<sup>th</sup> examination and FMPIW/ MMPI 1W respectively. The list of the Candidates who have been provisionally selected as per merit list for admission to the said courses in Govt. AMT School Srinagar is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to this office notice. Whereas the provisionally selected candidates shall be allowed to complete their admission formalities by or before 19.11.2025 till 4.00 PM along with the following documents in original and three (03) set of photocopies.

1. Marks sheet of 12th class
2. Date of Birth Certificate
3. Domicile certificate
4. Category Certificate if any
5. Provisional/ Character Certificate
6. Affidavit by 1st class Magistrate.
7. Medical Fitness Certificate
8. Four (04) recent passport size photograph
9. FMPI1W/ MMPIW Marks sheets for GNM-LE

Note:-

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and if upon verification, by institution/council at any point of time, candidate is found ineligible, his/her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.
2. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in c-information Brochure 2025/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the JKBOPEE form time to time this regard.

No: AMTS/2025/520-31  
Dated: 15/11/2025

Principal  
Govt. AMT School Srinagar

Selection list of Left over seats in Govt. AMT School Deewan Bagh Srinagar vide  
Admission Notification No. AMTS/2025/632-37 Dated: 09.10.2025 selected for  
GNM 3 Years course.

Reference: S.O 333 of 2024 Dated: 13.06.2024.

Reference: JKNC-25/157/3006-3014 Dated: 08.10.2025.

S.no	Name	Parentage	Address	Category	Marks	% age
Selection List Under open Merit Category						
1	Arbeen Rozy Rather	Parvaze Ahmad Rather	Natipora Srinagar	OM	486/500	97.2
1	Mehvish Mohi Ud Din	Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Shalla	Sarai Dangerpora Bandipora	OM	476/500	95.2
2	Mudasirah Javid	Javid Ahmad Dar	Umer colony Kanispora Baramulla	OM	459/500	91.8
3	Aiman Qayoom	Abdul Qayoom	Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar	OM	453/500	90.6
4	Irtiga	Mohammad Shafi	Nowshera Srinagar	OM	452/500	90.4
5	Myaser Jan	Khurshed Ahmad Khanday	Amiar Trail Pulwama	OM	448/500	89.6
6	Abroo Sultan	Mohammad Sultan Bhat	Taki Sultan Baramulla	OM	444/500	88.8
7	Selvisch Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Rather	Wagam Chadoora Budgam	RBA	443/500	88.6
8	Aayat Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Bhat Mohalla Handwara	OM	441/500	88.2
9	Bazila Ali	Ali Mohammad Hakim	Habba Kadal Srinagar	OM	440/500	88
10	Huzira Hilal	Hilal Ahmad Khan	Rajpora Pulwama	OM	439/500	87.8
11	Mohammad Salim Lone	Fayaz Ahmad Lone	Iqbal Abad Kangan Ganderbal	PWD	347/500	69.4
Waiting List Under Open Merit Category						
1	Nazira	Ghulam Rasool Anchari	Rainawari Srinagar	OM	438/500	87.6
2	Rabia Rasool	Ghulam Rasool Safay	Shah Hamdan Colony Baramulla	OM	433/500	86.6
3	Omeega Javid	Javald Ahmad Bhat	Bomal sopore	OM	428/500	85.6
4	Saba Azad	Mohammad And Rather	Akijpora Yarpjora Kulgam	OM	426/500	85.2

Selection List Under RBA Category					
1	Saima Rasool	Ghulam Rasool Chopan	Warapora Tangmarg Baramulla	RBA	433/500 86.6
2	Seerat ul Nissa	Zahoor Ahmad Bhat	Punzwa Trehgam Kupwara	RBA	410/500 82
Waiting List Under RBA Category					
1	Talib Rashid Bhat	Abdul Rashid Bhat	Khiram Talikchand Handwara	RBA	410/500 82
Selection List under SC Category					
1.	Ananya	Sh Harvinder Kumar	Old Satwari Jammu	SC	305/500 61
Selection List Under OBC Category					
	Aabroo Hassan	Ghulam Hassan Teli	Mustafa abad Pahroo Budgam	OBC	422/500 84.4
Waiting List Under OBC Category					
	Uifat Akbar	Mohammad Akbar Ahanger	Gambora Magam budgam	OBC	334/500 66.8
Selection List Under ST-I Category					
1	Jameel Ahmad Gojar Turk	Late Mumtaz Gojar Turk	Aloosa Bandipora	ST-I	402/500 80.4
2	Arifa Rashid	Ab Rashid Dar	Dawar Gurez	ST-I	383/500 76.6
Waiting List ST-I Category					
1.	Firdous Saleem	Mohammad Saleem Durani Gojar	Aloosa Bandipora	ST-I	376/500 75.2
Waiting List ST-II Category					
1	Afeena Ali	Ali Mohammad Khan	Diver Andar Bugh Kupwara	ST-II	393/500 78.6
2	Rizwan Khan	Mohd Shakeel	Chack Bonafa Mander Poonch	ST-II	384/500 76.8
Waiting List Under ST-II Category					
1	Samara Sarfaraz	Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan	Harni Mender Poonch	ST-II	370/500 74
Selection List under ALC Category					
1	Mohammad Aamir Lone	Gh Mohd Lone	Budnambal Kralpora Kupwara	ALC	331/500 66.2
Waiting List under ALC Category					
1	Mehroza Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Keran Kupwara	ST-II/ALC	310/500 62
Selection list for GNM-LE					
1	Ruqiya Rehman	Abdul Rehman Ganle	Onagam Bandipora	OM	655/700 93.5
2	Mehnaz Akther	Bashir Ahmed Gunar	Sumber Ramban	ST-I	503/700 71.8
3	Sayedada Mohammad	Ghulam Mohammad lone	Budnambal Kupwara	ALC	436/700 62.2

Principal  
Govt. AMT School Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)  
DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR  
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARASRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./ FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 3<sup>rd</sup>

Subject: This office e-NIT No. 48-JS-PHE/GWDS/ Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 9465-85, dated: 17-09-2025 Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_293028\_30 & 31.

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 14-11-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	19-11-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	20-11-2025 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 endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./12076-96  
Dated: 15-11-2025

DIPK-8167/2025  
Dated: 15-11-2025

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

DIPK-8148/25

DATED: 15-11-2025



## Nowgam PS Blast...

# The Camera Stops



Pic: Jahangeer Shah (KNO/KT)

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Nov 15: In a tragic incident that has plunged an entire Pulwama village into mourning, Javaid Ahmad Rather, popularly known as Mubashir, a photographer with the Jammu & Kashmir Crime Branch, lost his life in the Nowgam Police Station blast last night. Javaid, son of Mansoor Ahmad

Rather and a resident of Hari Parigam in Tral, was among the officials present at the police station when the explosion occurred. The sudden loss of the 32-year-old has left his family and community shattered.

Married just a few years ago, Javaid leaves behind his wife, his elderly parents, and a three-year-old daughter, who, villagers say, was the centre of

his world.

Locals remembered Javaid as "a soft-spoken, honest, and hardworking man who carried out his duties with dedication".

"He was extremely sober and humble. Everyone here respected him for his nature and sincerity," said a neighbour in Hari Parigam, struggling to hold back tears. The news of his death sent a wave of grief across the area, with people from neighbouring villages gathering to express solidarity with the bereaved family.

Senior officials, including the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, SSP Awantipora, and several other officers, visited the village and attended the funeral.

Javaid was laid to rest amid heart-rending scenes, with emotional relatives and villagers participating in the last rites.

The air echoed with sobs as his coffin was lowered into the grave, marking a painful farewell to a young man whose life was cut cruelly short.

Elderly locals said that they have been witnessing killings and other things for the last 40 years and now want to see "full-time peace" without killings before their death—(KNO)

# Sobs, salutes for NT Muzaffar Ahmad



Pic: Jahangeer Shah (KNO/KT)

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Budgam, Nov 15: Amid tears and sobs, thousands of mourners on Saturday attended the funeral prayers of Naib Tehsildar, Muzaffar Ahmad, who was killed in an accidental explosion at Nowgam Police Station. The officer was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Soibugh, where heartbreaking moments unfolded as relatives and locals bid a

final farewell.

Senior officials, including Deputy Commissioner Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar and several officers from the police and revenue departments participated in the funeral and offered condolences to the family.

Newly elected MLA Budgam, Aga Muntazir Mehdi also attended the last rites, standing with the bereaved family during

the burial. The body was carried through the village amid emotional sloganeering, with mourners chanting, "Shaheed ki jou maut hai, woh ghum ki hayat hai," as they prayed for the departed soul. Ahmad was among those killed in the high-intensity blast at the Nowgam Police Station on Friday evening, which authorities have described as an accidental detonation of seized explosive material—(KNO)

# Dr Farooq extends solidarity, condolences

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 15 Nov: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah has expressed deep anguish over the tragic explosion at the Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar, which claimed nine lives and left several others injured.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed profound sorrow over the loss of precious lives. He also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of all those injured in the incident.

On the directions of the Chief Minister, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Dar visited the injured at the hospital to assess their condition. They enquired about the line of treatment being administered and instructed the medical staff to ensure the best possible care for the injured.

They also assured the families that the government remains fully committed to providing all necessary support, reaffirming that the entire administration stands in solidarity with the victims during this difficult time. Javed Dar was accompanied by Mushtaq Guroo, MLA, Chanapora, who also interacted with the families and hospital authorities.



Dr. Farooq urged the administration to extend every possible assistance to the affected families and ensure that comprehensive support reaches them without delay. He expressed hope that the injured recover soon and that the families of the deceased find strength in this moment of immense grief.

Among others, Party's General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, party Treasurer Shammi Oberoi, Advisor to HCM Nasir Aslam Wani and Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq have also expressed deep anguish over the unfortunate incident.

They extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to all those who lost their loved ones and prayed for the speedy recovery of those undergoing treatment.

# Incident site becomes 'media epicenter'

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 15: The morning after the deadly explosion inside Nowgam Police Station turned the usually quiet Wanbal stretch into a makeshift newsroom, a blur of cameras, tripods and satellite vans lined bumper to bumper as journalists waited through the cold morning for official word and a glimpse of inside from behind sealed cordons.

The blast site remained completely out of bounds, fortified by multiple layers of police barricades. All lanes leading toward the Nowgam Police Station stayed shut through the day, forcing reporters and photojournalists to set up camp hundreds of meters away, near the main Wanbal junction. By noon, the scene, resembled a full-fledged outdoor newsroom: reporters live-streaming from roadside spots, photographers climbing embankments for distant visuals and stringers pacing between parked OB vans, chasing every minor update. For many, it was the continuation of a sleepless assignment that had begun the



Representational Image

previous night. Several media teams had been on the ground from Friday midnight, when the powerful blast ripped through the Nowgam Police Station, working through the freezing night, filling updates and visuals until 3 AM, before returning early in the morning to resume coverage.

"Most of us haven't slept. We have been here since last night," said a video journalist, resting his

camera against a tripod near the barricade. "The lanes are sealed; we can only report from this stretch. Still, we can't leave, every small movement matters."

Another senior journalist said he had been working on the Nowgam story till late night and sent his copy to the office around 1:30 a.m. "I was working till around 1:30 in the night and early in the morning I had to file another

story. My head was literally spinning, I had to take a 'paracetamol' before I could return to the site again," he told KNO with a smile while his eyes were full of sleep.

Officials present at Nowgam, said the access to the Nowgam Police Station remained restricted as police, CRPF and forensic teams continued examination and collection of evidence throughout the day.

As evening fell, the glow of camera lights and OB van flood-lamps still lit up the Wanbal road, reflecting the fatigue and persistence of field journalists.

The area turned chaotic again when the lifeless body of deceased tailor Mohammad Shafi Parry reached Nowgam, drawing hundreds of locals, mourners and reporters rushing to capture the emotional scenes.

When the body entered Wanbal lane, it was met with cries, grief and a surge of cameras. Locals, relatives and journalists surrounded the coffin, some climbing walls and rooftops to cover the farewell of the man whose death had torn everyone in entire Nowgam locality—(KNO)

# Academic session 2024-25 short by over 30%



RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Nov 15: In the recently concluded academic session, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded deficit academic days by more than 30 percent.

An official informed that in the academic year 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded below 150 working academic days against the mandated 220 days.

It also said that there shall be a minimum of at least 180 academic days in a year. "In one academic year, at least 180 working academic days are considered fairly good but unfortunately, there were less than 150 academic days due to the inclement weather, flood like situation and extended summer vacations."

"Although, almost all the government schools complete their syllabi but there were time

constraints that burdened the kids," the official said.

In September, Education Minister Sakina Itoo had said that 'students studies got badly affected, initially due to a war-like situation, heatwave and then a flood-like situation in Jammu and Kashmir.'

In view of the situation, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had announced syllabus relaxation of 15 percent for 10th, 11th and 12th standard examination.

BOSE in a notification had said that the decision was taken upon the recommendations received from the DSEK and DSEJ and pleas received from other stakeholders regarding reduction in syllabus due to delayed commencement of academic session this year coupled with disruptions in academic calendar due to heat wave, torrential rains, cloudbursts and floods—(KNO)

# Ruhullah MP because of NC: Dr Farooq

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Srinagar, Nov 15: National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah Saturday said that the Member Parliament from Srinagar constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi is answerable to the party for whatever he has done.

Talking to reporters here Abdullah said, "Ruhullah is an MP because of the 'plough' (NC). He should love this plough and strengthen it. Our workers have done a good job, we have got a good number of votes but the winning and losing are part of life," he said.

Abdullah while reacting to the party's defeat in Budgam Assembly by-election, said the outcome should be taken as a "lesson" rather than a setback, and that the party will work on its shortcomings.

He said the party must reflect on the reasons behind the loss. "We should be happy; it gives us a lesson. We should not panic. Defeat teaches us a lesson, and wherever there are shortcomings, we will try to improve them," he said.

Pertinently, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) registered a historic win in



Budgam for the first time, defeating the National Conference candidate by a margin of 4,478 votes. The Budgam seat, long considered a stronghold of NC, slipped from the party's grip in the by-election held after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated the constituency to retain Ganderbal.

Meanwhile, speaking about the massive blast in Nowgam Police Station, Abdullah said: "This is our mistake; those who understand this explosive better should have been consulted first about how to deal with it instead of trying to handle it ourselves. It has resulted in

the loss of 9 lives, besides causing extensive damage to the houses nearby," he said.

He added that such a situation is being witnessed at a time when the people have not come out of the crisis in Delhi where fingers are being pointed at every Kashmiri. "When will that day come when they will accept that we are Indians and we are not responsible for this? Ask those who are responsible why these doctors had to take this path? What was the reason? There is a need for a thorough study and investigation," he added—(KNO)

# See Budgam by-poll result in wider context: Speaker Rather

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Nov 15: Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker and senior National Conference (NC) leader Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday said the party's defeat in the Budgam by-election should not be viewed in isolation, but in a broader political context. He asserted that the votes secured by the winning PDP candidate were not entirely the party's own.

Speaking to reporters, Rather said the outcome was "unfortunate" and called for a thorough investigation into alleged malpractices. "This should be investigated thoroughly, and legal action must be taken against whoever is involved," he said.

Commenting on the NC's loss in Budgam for the first



time, Rather said elections naturally involve victories and defeats. "We must accept the people's verdict. Winning and losing are part of democracy," he said.

The Speaker, who clarified that he is no longer active in politics, analysed the vote pattern of the by-election. "In 2024, PDP secured 17,500 votes. At that time, neither Maulvi Sahib nor Maulvi

Iftikhar Sahib's supporters were with them. Today, all those votes have come together, reaching around 21,000. They have only gained 3,500 votes. These are not PDP votes; these belong to their candidates and their families," he said.

On the alleged harassment of doctors during the poll process, the senior NC leader said the matter should be left to legal authorities. "Courts should investigate and determine who was involved and who was not. No innocent person should be harassed," he said. When asked whether NC leaders would be able to address public grievances, he said the turnout at public meetings demonstrated the expectations people have from their representatives—(KNO)

# Industrial Estate Sopore unit holders call on MLA

KNO

Sopore, Nov 15: Unit holders at the Industrial Estate Sopore on Saturday called on MLA Irshad Rasool Kar and sought immediate action on long pending issues that affect daily operations at the estate. The unit holders flagged problems in water supply, electricity, the need for a working dispensary and the demand for an ATM inside the estate.

The MLA, while speaking to reporters, said he has asked the concerned departments for reports on the recently installed lights and the status of water supply. He promised timely intervention on all raised points. Meanwhile,

Estates President, Javaid Bhat said the interaction with the MLA Kar was productive. "The estate is among the most active in the valley. It provides livelihood to more than 400 people. Almost 200 of them are workers from outside the region", Bhat said, adding this scale of livelihood makes the estate a crucial economic hub for the area.

He urged the MLA to ensure that the government delivers stable electricity and upgrades the transformer without delay. President Bhat said that the unit operations depend on uninterrupted power and added that the livelihood of hundreds of workers rests on it—(KNO)



# Mamdani's Big Bet

The United States is transforming from a two-party political system into one comprising establishment Republicans, establishment Democrats, alt-right populists, and democratic socialists. In confronting all those who will try to derail him, New York's mayor-elect will need to keep this big picture in mind.

Slavoj Žižek

Emancipatory movements around the world rightly rejoiced at Zohran Mamdani's victory in the New York City mayoral race. Clearly, today's populist right has no monopoly on the ability to mobilize crowds and attract new or disillusioned voters. Democratic socialists can do it, too.

But as Mamdani well knows, his victory will be met by attempts at economic and financial sabotage. The US political establishment – both the Republican and Democratic “deep state” – has a fundamental interest in seeing his mayoralty become a fiasco. US President Donald Trump himself appealed to New Yorkers to vote for Mamdani's leading challenger, the former Democratic governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo. With Mamdani in power, Trumpian populists and mainstream Democrats will suddenly be speaking the same language. They will do everything they can to make Mamdani appear a failure. In Trump's case, that may even involve another “emergency” declaration to justify sending in the National Guard.

For the left, then, this is not only a moment to act, but also a time to think about the bigger picture. The United States is transforming from a two-party political system into one comprising establishment Republicans, establishment Democrats, alt-right populists, and democratic socialists. One can already see the makings of new coalitions stretching across the old party lines. Back in 2020, Joe Biden hinted that he might nominate a moderate Republican as vice president, while Steve Bannon, Trump's former chief strategist, urged supporters of Bernie Sanders, the independent democratic socialist US senator from Vermont, to vote for Trump after the Democratic Party nominated Biden.

The big difference is that while Trump's brand of populism easily achieved hegemony over the Republican establishment (clear proof, if any were needed, that his



concern for ordinary workers was a sham), the split within the Democratic party is getting stronger and stronger. Indeed, the struggle between the Democratic establishment and the Sanders wing is the only true political battle in the United States today. As The Guardian's Emma Brockes put it: “Mamdani's biggest threat is not Donald Trump, it's the Democratic old guard.”

We are dealing with two antagonisms (“contradictions”): one between Trump and the liberal establishment, and the other between the Sanders wing of the Democratic Party and all other political forces. The impeachment proceedings against Trump during his first term were desperate attempts by the establishment to reclaim moral leadership and credibility; but it all amounted to a comic exercise in hypocrisy, since the establishment's own deficiencies have also been laid bare. Trump's open obscenity

simply brought out what was already there.

The Sanders camp sees this clearly. It knows there is no way back, that American political life must be radically reinvented. Mamdani won because he did for the left what Trump did for the right. He clearly articulated his radical position without worrying about losing the center.

But the four forces that now exist within US politics are not at the same level. The two dying parties (the old mainstream Republicans and the Democrats) are trapped by inertia, lacking any serious vision for the country, while the Trumpian populists and the democratic socialists represent actual political movements. In this context, the only truly meaningful election would be one between Trump and a democratic socialist.

So, should democratic socialists officially split from the Democratic Party? I

would advise a principled pragmatism: focus on the central goals that concern your survival, and then permit everything that shows promise in advancing those goals. That means embracing electoral democracy when electoral democracy works, but also popular mobilization or even more radical methods when circumstances demand.

To see what I mean, consider a recent example. In July, after dramatically falling out with Trump, Elon Musk announced that he would be launching the “America Party.” Musk, who was not born in the US and thus cannot run for president, tried to outperform Trump, prioritizing techno-feudalism over populism. Ultimately, the project never got off the ground.

By contrast, Zarah Sultana and Jeremy Corbyn's new leftist party in the United Kingdom does show promise, with some polls showing that around one-third of

young people and Labour voters are ready to transfer their allegiance to it. Uncertainty remains, though, and as befits a leftist party, the two leaders immediately ended up in a public feud.

A truly meaningful election in the UK, then, would be between Nigel Farage's far-right Reform UK and the new left, with an inert Labour Party joining the eccentrically moribund Conservatives on the margins. True, one could safely predict that in such a direct confrontation, Farage would win, just as Boris Johnson prevailed over Corbyn in 2019. Nonetheless, Corbyn did succeed in taking control of Labour for a time, making the entire establishment tremble.

Ultimately, there is no principled answer when it comes to deciding on the best strategy. Sometimes, one should try to take over a big leading party; sometimes, a split is necessary. I think Mamdani was right to remain within the Democratic Party for the time being, since that allowed him to mobilize its popular base against the establishment. Had he tried taking on the three other political forces alone, he would have lost.

Now that he has won, Mamdani should move firmly and deliberately to take over the New York State Democratic Party, while also establishing a network of links with democratic socialists around the US and – following Sanders's advice – subtly appealing to disappointed lower-income workers and farmers who voted for Trump. The future of the project Mamdani embodies lies in peeling away disappointed Trump voters, not winning the inert center. Only a radical leftist can win over working-class Trumpians – a constituency whose distrust of the establishment remains entirely justified.

Slavoj Žižek, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is the author, most recently, of *Christian Atheism: How to Be a Real Materialist* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024).

Source: Project Syndicate

# Why Emerging Economies Are Embracing AI

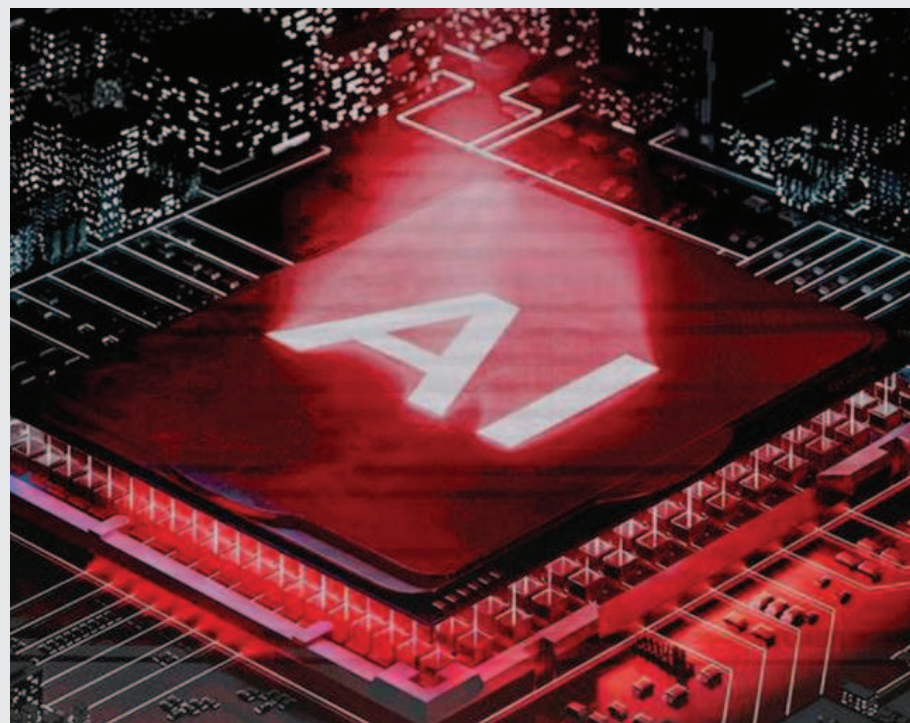
Emerging-economy populations are more optimistic about the technology than their developed-economy counterparts. AI can support and accelerate the acquisition of knowledge and skills, such as through digital learning assistants

Michael Spence

During a recent trip to Kazakhstan, I was struck by people's enthusiasm for artificial intelligence. Virtually everyone I encountered – including academics, policymakers and entrepreneurs – seemed convinced that the technology will help solve thorny challenges, from diversifying the economy away from dependence on natural resources to expanding access to critical services, particularly for remote populations. I had expected the diffusion of knowledge about AI to be slower, but perhaps their positivity should not have surprised me. After all, the rapid development of AI implies important opportunities for emerging economies.

As the latest UN Human Development Report showed, emerging-economy populations are not only well aware of these opportunities but are also more optimistic about the technology than their developed-economy counterparts. In advanced economies, conversations about AI tend to turn immediately to fears of excessive automation, job losses and labor market disruption. Emerging-economy populations also worry that AI will bring a wave of automation, but they anticipate even more augmentation and human-machine collaboration.

One might be tempted to highlight the risk of an “AI digital divide,” with high-income countries benefiting disproportionately from the technology and low- and middle-income countries falling further behind. But such concerns focus on one dimension of the AI revolution: the development of an expanding set of powerful tools to be deployed, say, to advance scientific discovery, increase productivity, generate new products and services or automate (via agents) complex tasks that



involve planning, sequencing and integration of steps. Since few countries can fulfill the associated requirements regarding scale, investment and infrastructure, such activities are currently taking place largely in the US and China.

But model-building is not the only game in town. The AI revolution also entails the querying, adaptation, fine-tuning and deployment of existing tools to solve context-specific problems and accelerate learning. The costs of these activities are much lower and, with

the expansion of open-source models – many developed in China – they will continue to decline. As a result, the field is wide open for innovation across a broad range of countries.

While this dimension of the AI revolution is far more accessible, it does require some basic infrastructure, especially a reliable electricity supply and mobile internet connectivity. Accessibility is key: you need fast internet and affordable data plans, not least to ensure that you are generating the data that fuels many of the most significant AI

applications and use cases. To make a difference, this data must be mobile and shared, so well-designed regulatory structures, which allow for secure data mobility (subject to individual permission or control), are also essential. India's Unified Payments Interface, which facilitates secure payments and financial data exchanges, offers a useful model.

Once these conditions are in place – and, in many emerging economies, they already are – the possibilities for implementing digital and AI-powered solutions are virtually endless. Such solutions include, for starters, financial services for previously underserved people and businesses.

For people with limited assets, virtually no accessible financial or commercial track record and, in some cases, limited documentation, accessing financing through traditional channels is prohibitively expensive or simply impossible. But digital tools now offer affordable means to close these information gaps. As the cash economy gives way to digital payment systems and households and small businesses acquire bank accounts and wallets, the accumulation of data, if well-managed, will solve the anonymity problem.

AI-driven credit assessment can then underpin sustainable, scalable and profitable versions of microcredit, enabling businesses to grow and hire more people. Meanwhile, e-commerce platforms give small businesses access to a larger and, with the help of AI, more addressable market, thereby supporting yet more growth, dynamism and, potentially, innovation.

Such opportunities are not limited to finance and commerce. In healthcare and education, digital applications, many powered by AI, are used to expand access to services, particularly for those who do not live in or

near high-density service areas.

AI can also support and accelerate the acquisition of knowledge and skills – the basis of human capital – such as through digital learning assistants. Sustained improvement in human capital is a key ingredient in all successful development stories. Not everyone can access a classroom or tutor but, with the right infrastructure, anyone can talk to a generative AI model that has read and, on some level, understood the vast digital literature that exists in every field and language. This would have direct effects on productivity, growth and development.

Moreover, in certain workplaces, AI can cut down on training time and increase worker productivity. Consider customer service: AI assistants can deliver curated guidance, based on accumulated experience, to inexperienced human agents, thereby accelerating the learning process and enabling agents to deliver better support earlier. This effect can be achieved in a wide range of jobs and sectors, from nursing to software development.

Emerging economies might not lead the way in building AI models but they can use the technology to advance their economic and social development goals. Fortunately, this is not lost on them. It is exactly what they intend to do.

Michael Spence, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Emeritus Professor of Economics and a former dean of the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University and a co-author (with Mohamed A. El-Erian, Gordon Brown and Reid Lifow) of *Permacrisis: A Plan to Fix a Fractured World* (Simon & Schuster, 2023). Copyright: Project Syndicate

Source: Arab News

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# Govt to bridge developmental gaps on priority: Sakeena

## Inaugurates, lays foundation stones of key projects across Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday undertook an extensive developmental tour of Kulgam district, during which she inaugurated series of developmental projects and also laid foundation stones for multiple public utility facilities aimed at strengthening the district's health, education and rural infrastructure.

At Government Degree College, Kulgam, Sakeena Itoo laid the foundation of Multipurpose Sports Complex in presence of MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami and MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Director School Education Kashmir, Principal GDC Kulgam, ADC Kulgam, CEO Kulgam, CMO Kulgam, other senior officers of district administration, faculty members of College and students were also present on the occasion.

Afterwards, the Minister inaugurated a health and wellness centre at Chamgund Kulgam.



After inauguration, she inspected the health facility and toured different sections of the centre.

Interacting with the officers on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the significance of these centres in far-flung and rural areas. She asked the officers to provide the best possible medical care to the locals.

Meanwhile, the Minister also inaugurated the Library Block, Computer Lab, Art and Craft lab at Government Higher Secondary School D.K Marg Noorabad Kulgam.

On the occasion, the Minister interacted with faculty and students. She highlighted that

the Government led by Omar Abdullah is giving priority to the education sector with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas. She asked the students to make best use of these facilities for their overall development.

Meanwhile, the Minister also laid foundation stones for Girls Common room at GDC D.H Pora as well as Teachers Quarters near the same college.

Later, the Minister also laid foundation stones of key road projects like Pahlipora Wattoo road and Kutamarg-Zaindar-Thokerpora road.

At Kutamarg, the Minister addressed a massive Public Darbar.

In her address, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that these developmental initiatives reflect the Government's priority to bridge developmental gaps in rural belts while ensuring equitable access to essential services. She reiterated that improvements in health and education form the backbone of sustainable development and long-term community empowerment.

"The Government is fully committed to delivering transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance. Our continuous focus is on improving public services, upgrading infrastructure and ensuring that every citizen,

irrespective of location, benefits from developmental initiatives of the Government", Sakeena Itoo stated.

She reaffirmed that the Government is working tirelessly to elevate the standards of health services, modernize educational infrastructure and enhance rural development across J&K.

The Minister also encouraged citizens to actively participate in developmental processes and maintain close cooperation with local authorities for their developmental needs. She assured the public that the Government remains steadfast in its mission to ensure quality governance, efficient service delivery, and inclusive development across Jammu & Kashmir.

The locals gathered on the occasion, expressed gratitude to the Minister for accelerated development in the region. The locals highlighted that these Public Darbars play a critical role in bridging the gap between the Government and the people by giving them a direct platform for grievance resolution.

## Javid Dar addresses ONE Health Conference



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Elections Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar addressed the ONE Health Conference, organised by Jammu and Kashmir Veterinary Doctors Association-Kashmir (JKVDA-K) at SKUAST-K here Saturday.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Director SKIMS, Director of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments, eminent scientists, researchers, academics and members from the veterinary fraternity to share their collective vision for collaboration to protect Human, Animal and Environmental Health.

The conference featured a series of insightful presentations and a panel discussion on the concept of One Health, highlighting the need for collaboration and support in dealing with pressing issues such as antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases etc.

Experts from medical, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, SKIMS, GMC Srinagar, Wild life department and SKUAST-K participated in the panel discussion, emphasizing the importance of close coordination between different departments at various levels to tackle these burning issues.

Gilani and President JKVDA-K Dr Riyaz Nazir Reshi also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance of the event. They emphasized the imperative need for close coordination among departments to achieve the shared objectives.

The conference provided a platform for eminent scientists, researchers, academics and members from the veterinary fraternity to share their collective vision for collaboration to protect Human, Animal and Environmental Health.

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## Javid Dar grieved on loss in Nowgam accidental blast

### Visits injured persons, assures full assistance

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar has expressed profound grief over the tragic accident that occurred at Nowgam Police Station last night, claiming precious lives and also injuring several persons.

In his message, the Minister said he is deeply saddened by this heart-breaking incident. "My heart goes out to the bereaved families. The pain of losing loved ones in the line of duty is immeasurable," he stated.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and conveyed his solidarity with the families during this hour of immense grief. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured in the accident.

Dar also visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Srinagar to enquire about the condition of those



injured in the Nowgam Police Station accidental blast.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the attending doctors to obtain firsthand information regarding the medical treatment being provided to the injured. He also met with the families of the victims and assured them of all possible assistance and support from the government.

Minister Javid Dar expressed deep concern over the incident and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring the best possible medical care for the injured.

MLA, Channpora, Mushtaq Guroo accompanied the Minister during the visit.

## JJGV Pakhwada concludes with mega event in Kulgam



KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: The Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada concluded Saturday with a mega function held at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the tribal community, public representatives, officers, and students.

As part of the nationwide commemoration, the District Administration also facilitated the live streaming of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address.

The programme was presided over by DDC Chairperson Kulgam, Mohd Afzal Parrey, and attended by DDC Members including Jameela Chowdhary, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Sheikh Gulzar Ahmad, Gh.

Mohi-Ud-Din lone, along with the ADC Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ADC, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar and other district officers. A large gathering from the tribal community was present as well.

On the occasion, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the inspiring life and legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, recalling his pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and his relentless efforts to safeguard tribal rights.

He also spoke about various government schemes aimed at tribal welfare and appreciated the District Administration for their effective implementation at the grassroots level.

Speaking during the event, DDC Member Manzgam, Jameela Chowdhary paid heartfelt tributes on the birth

anniversary of Birsa Munda. She described his life as a symbol of courage and resistance and emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting Gori culture, an integral part of cultural identity.

Addressing the gathering, ADC highlighted Birsa Munda's significant contribution to India's freedom movement and his role in advancing the rights of tribal communities.

Other speakers also reflected on the enduring legacy of Birsa Munda and the importance of sustained efforts toward tribal welfare, empowerment.

Students from Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) presented a compelling skit portraying the life, struggle, and contributions of Birsa Munda.

## Sakeena enquires injured at Ujala Cygnus Hospital

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15: On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday evening visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital Nowgam here to enquire about the well-being of injured persons of Nowgam explosion incident and also assess medical treatment and care being extended to them.

During the visit, Minister Sakeena interacted with the attending doctors to gather first-hand assessment of medical care being extended to Nowgam explosion injured persons. She asked the doctors and medical staff to provide best treatment to the injured persons and also take consultations from other established Government Medical institutions like SKIMS and SMHS if any need may arise.

The Health Minister also met the injured persons as well their attending family members and took feedback from them about the medical care provided. She assured them all possible assistance and support from the government, offering words of comfort and called the incident deeply unfortunate and shocking.

## Workshop on FRA held at KFT School Chitternar



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 15: The Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, in collaboration with the Kashmir Forest Training School Chitternar Saturday organised a one-day Training Workshop on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and its implementation at Kashmir Forest Training (KFT) School Chitternar.

The workshop witnessed participation from Range Officers of various ranges of Kashmir Division and Block Officers from multiple forest divisions. Speaking on the occasion, Principal, KFT School, Davinder Pal Singh, emphasised the importance of capacity building for strengthening grassroots forest governance. He highlighted the critical role of field officers in implementing the Forest Rights Act with sensitivity and responsibility.

The technical sessions were led by Divisional Forest Officer Bandipora, Waseem Farooq Mir and Divisional Forest Officer Awantipora,

Mudasir Mehmood Malik, who served as the resource person for the workshop. Both officers delivered comprehensive and insightful presentations, explaining the provisions, procedures, and practical aspects of the Forest Rights Act. Their lectures provided officers with clarity on legal frameworks, community rights, and field-level implementation challenges.

The workshop created a platform for open interaction, experience sharing, and strengthening coordination among field officers.

Participants expressed that the training not only enhanced their understanding of the Act but also deepened their commitment to ensuring fair and transparent execution of forest rights at the grassroots level.

At the conclusion of the programme, certificates were distributed among all participating officers and officials, acknowledging their dedication and successful completion of the training.

## Mission Director reviews implementation of key HADP components

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15: Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Sandeep Kumar Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the HADP components. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo.

The meeting was attended by Project Grounding and Monitoring Committees; Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed; along with senior officers and representatives from the Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture and Sheep Husbandry Departments (Jammu Division). Technical staff of the Mission Directorate HADP, representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Jammu were also present. HoDs and Officers from Kashmir Division and SKUAST-Kashmir joined the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Mission Director reviewed



the physical and financial achievements under various HADP projects implemented in both the public and private sectors. Major agenda points included action taken on decisions of previous meetings, submission of training calendars, status of farmer training programmes and progress made under the Kisan Sathi initiative.

Sandeep Kumar directed all departments to fast-track implementation, strengthen inter-departmental coordination and ensure effective execution of developmental activities under HADP. He conducted a detailed review of ongoing projects and instructed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to project timelines and objectives, with emphasis on improved project tracking mechanisms.

The Mission Director also stressed the importance of

Research and Development (R&D) for developing improved seed varieties aimed at enhancing yield and productivity across the UT. He further highlighted the need for documenting success stories, which would serve as motivational examples for the broader farming community.

Earlier, the Mission Director visited the Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming at the Vegetable Improvement Scheme, Krishi Bhawan, Jammu, to review the progress of ongoing works. He inspected key facilities under development, assessed the implementation of project components and emphasized timely completion to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in precision farming.

## Narco smuggler's property demolished

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 15: In a major crackdown on narco-criminals, the District Administration Udhampur, in close coordination with District Police Saturday demolished illegally raised properties worth crores belonging to notorious drug peddler Makhan Din, son of Hakim Din, resident of Narsoo, Tehsil Chenani.

A joint team of the Revenue Department and Police carried out the demolition drive, targeting structures allegedly constructed on government land. The action comes as part of the district's intensified efforts to curb drug trafficking and dismantle the financial networks of habitual offenders.

Makhan Din, a habitual offender, has been found involved in FIR No. 188/2024 registered at Police Station Rehambal. Owing to his persistent involvement in drug trafficking, he was also detained under the PIT NDPS Act and is currently lodged at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

During the investigation, the Investigating Officer established that the accused had illegally encroached upon state land and constructed five commercial properties and one residential property worth crores along NH-44 at Narsoo, Chenani. These structures, raised through proceeds of the narco trade, were demolished as part of the ongoing district-wide campaign against drug peddlers.



# PM hails tribal community's contribution to freedom struggle; accuses Congress of neglecting them

PTI

Dediapada (Gujarat), Nov 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the tribal community's contribution to the country's freedom struggle was significant, but the Congress did not acknowledge the same and neglected the community during its 60-year rule.

The contribution of tribal freedom fighters was ignored so that the credit could be given to a "few families", he said, speaking at a large gathering at Dediapada town in Gujarat's Narmada district to mark the birth anniversary of tribal icon Bhagwan Birs Munda on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

Before his speech, the prime minister inaugurated or laid the foundation stone of infrastructure and development projects costing more than Rs 9,700 crore.

"Whenever the nation's honor, self-respect and freedom were concerned, our tribal community stood at the forefront. Our freedom struggle is the greatest example of this. Numerous freedom fighters emerged from the tribal community and they carried forward the torch of freedom," Modi said.

Citing the tribal freedom fighters such as Govind Guru,

Rupsingh Nayak and Motilal Tejawat from Gujarat, the PM said countless chapters of the freedom struggle are filled with examples of manifestation of tribal pride and bravery.

The tribal community shed its blood for freedom, but its contribution was "ignored" so that the credit could be given to a "few families", Modi claimed.

"We cannot forget the contribution of tribal communities in the freedom movement, and this work (of recognising the same) should have been done after Independence. But in the pursuit of giving credit for independence to a few families, the sacrifices and dedication of my tribal brothers and sisters were ignored," he said.

Due to this attitude, no one remembered Bhagwan Birs Munda before 2014, Modi added.

Family members of Birs Munda were with him on stage, and he was the first prime minister to visit Munda's house, he informed.

The celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas provides an opportunity to remember the "injustice done to tribal brothers and sisters", Modi further said.

"The Congress party, which ruled the country for six decades, left the tribals to their fate. Though the tribals were



facing several issues such as malnutrition and lack of healthcare, education and connectivity, the Congress governments remained idle," he alleged.

"Tribals are also associated with Lord Ram. They come from that era. But those who ruled for six decades did not realize

that something was needed to be done for the development of such a large tribal community. Tribal welfare has been the BJP's top priority, and we have resolved to end this injustice," the PM added.

It was former prime minister and late BJP stalwart Atal Bihari

Vajpayee who established a separate ministry for the tribal community at the Centre, Modi said. "But, when Congress came back to power after Vajpayee, they neglected the tribal community for the next 10 years and completely forgot about it," he alleged.

Referring to acclaimed sportspersons like Mary Kom, Dutee Chand and Baichung Bhutia, the PM said tribal youths have made a significant contribution to bringing glory for India on the global stage.

"Similarly, new players from tribal areas are emerging in every major competition. Recently, India's cricket team won the Women's World Cup, and a daughter from our tribal community played a key role in that. Our government is continuously working to discover new talent in tribal areas and encourage them to progress," said the PM.

His government works with the vision of providing equal opportunities to the underprivileged, Modi said, adding that in the last five years, the Union government has spent more than Rs 18,000 crore on building model tribal schools in the country.

"Essential facilities have been provided to the students. As a result, the number of tribal children enrolled in these schools has increased by 60 per cent," he said.

Earlier, the PM inaugurated or laid the foundation stones of multiple development projects aimed at uplifting tribal communities and improving infrastructure in rural and remote areas of the region.

He also witnessed the 'Grih Pravesh' ceremony (marking a family taking possession of a new dwelling) for 1,00,000 houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JAGUA).

The prime minister also inaugurated 42 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students, built at a cost of around Rs 1,900 crore; 228 Multi-Purpose Centres to act as hubs for community-led activities; Centre of Competence in Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, and Tribal Research Institute building in Imphal, Manipur for the preservation of tribal culture and heritage.

In addition, the PM flagged off 250 buses for 14 tribal districts of Gujarat, laid the foundation stone for 748 km of new roads in tribal areas and 14 Tribal Multi-Marketing Centres under DA-JAGUA to serve as community hubs.

He also laid the foundation stone of 50 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools, to be built at a cost of over Rs 2,320 crore.

Earlier in the day, Modi offered prayers to Pandori Mata, a deity of the tribal community, at a temple in Devmogra village of Gujarat's tribal-dominated Narmada district.

## CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

### 9 dead in 'accidental'

(Photographer) son of Nazir Ahmad Shah of Kulgam, Mohammad Amin (Head Constable) son of Mohd Maqbool Mir of Bemina, Javid Mansoor Rather (Photographer) son of Mansoor Ahmad Rather of Tral, Suhail Ahmad Rather (Chowkidar) son of Mohd Shafi Rather of Natipora, Muzaffar Ahmad Khan (Naib Tehsildar) son of Mohd Ramzan Khan of Soibugh, Showkat Ahmad (Lab Assistant) son of Gh Nabi Sheikh of Qamarwari, Srinagar, Mohd Shafi Parry (Tailor) son of Mohd Sideeq Parry of Wanabal, and Asrar Ahmad Shah (SIA Officer) of Habibullah Shah fo Drugmullah, Kupwara.

The injured have admitted to different hospitals, including Army's 92 Base hospital in Srinagar, SMHS and a private hospital, based on the gravity of their injuries. Over 50 residential houses and nearby structures have also been damaged severely.

The DGP added also said that the building of the police station has been severely damaged, and adjacent buildings too have been affected, while the extent of damage is being ascertained.

The blast turned the police station into a rubble with charred remains of vehicles and other material scattered all around, showed several videos that have gone viral on social media since.

"The cause for the unfortunate incident is being inquired into. J&K police stands in solidarity with the families in this hour of grief," the DGP said.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs also briefed the media about the incident, sharing the same details.

The intensity of the blast was such that bodies were scattered all over with some found around 200-300 meters away from the police station and were recovered from the nearby residential houses.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the incident, stating that he has ordered a probe into the matter.

He also said that the government stands in solidarity with the families, friends, and loved ones of the departed, while all possible assistance is being provided to those affected. (KNO)

### Nowgam PS blast:

the condition of the injured and directed the doctors to ensure timely medical attention and all necessary facilities. He assured the victims and their families of the government's full assistance.

The team of doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the nature of injuries and the treatment being provided.

Later, the LG visited the Police Control Room (PCR) headquarters, where he laid a wreath and offered floral tributes to the police personnel, revenue officials and a civilian who lost their lives in the tragic blast.

In a post on X, LG Sinha said: "Laid a wreath and offered my solemn tributes to the Police Personnel, Revenue Officials and a Civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station last night. The nation will forever remain indebted to their selfless service and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Interacted with the bereaved families and expressed my deep condolences. The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour."

The LG arrived in Srinagar this afternoon from Jammu following the incident that claimed nine lives, including a State Investigation Agency (SIA) officer, a Naib Tehsildar and a civilian tailor, while 31 others were wounded after a stockpile of explosives seized from a terror module in Faridabad went off accidentally inside the police station.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner

Kashmir Anshul Garg and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo also visited SMHS Hospital and Ujala Hospital to enquire about the well-being of the injured.

During the visit, the medical officers briefed them about the treatment and recovery progress. The Divisional Commissioner directed hospital administrations to provide quality healthcare, timely medication, and all necessary facilities to the victims. Moreover, both officers interacted with the patients and assured them that the district administration will extend every possible support for their recovery.

It is worth mentioning that officials said the blast occurred while a forensic team was handling a cache of 'ammonium nitrate-based material' seized earlier this month from Faridabad and stored in the Nowgam Police Station yard. Police have stated that the explosion was accidental and took place during the inspection process. (KNO)

### Scenes of destruction

walls, broken windowpanes and roofs ripped apart by the blast wave.

Piles of concrete chunks, twisted tin sheets and scattered belongings, including burnt documents and torn shoes, lay strewn around the compound as shown in videos accessed by KNO.

Locals said the force of the explosion was so intense that it sent debris flying several hundred meters away from the police station. Eyewitnesses from nearby localities said fragments of the blast reached areas close to the main Nowgam bridge, nearly 500-600 meters from the police station.

"We saw blood marks and debris even near the bridge walls," said a resident, pointing to stains that locals believe were from those caught in the blast's impact radius.

Throughout Saturday, all approach lanes and inner bylanes leading to the Nowgam Police Station remained sealed. Police and security forces erected multiple barricades, with media personnel and civilians stopped at a considerable distance.

Only forensic experts and senior officers were allowed inside the restricted zone, as the search for evidence and possible traces of explosives continued.

"The whole area is under technical examination. Entry has been prohibited for safety reasons," an officer monitoring the entry told KNO. The footage and spot visuals show that several vehicles, including motorbikes and cars parked in and around the police station, were completely gutted.

A water storage tank within the premises was ripped open, while parts of the boundary wall were blown off, exposing the inner compound. The windows and glasses of the nearby houses also got broken with the impact of the explosion.

A resident living across the road described the terrifying moments of the blast: "We thought it was an earthquake. Our walls shook violently and windows rattled. The sound was deafening as it felt like the ground was lifted for a moment," he said.

The explosion, which occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday, was heard several kilometres away, jolting residents awake across Nowgam, Natipora, Lal Chowk, Barzulla and adjacent localities.

By morning, top officials, including DGP J&K Nalin Prabhat, IGP Kashmir VK Birdi, IG CRPF Pawan Kumar and other senior officials visited the spot to take stock of the situation firsthand and oversee the ongoing investigation.

The officials have launched a detailed probe into the cause of the detonation and handling of the recovered material. The area will remain sealed until forensic and technical teams complete their examination. (KNO)

### Govt announces

Rs 1 lakh to every injured individual. Speaking to reporters after visiting the injured at Ujala Hospital, she said the tragic incident claimed nine lives last night, while around 30 others sustained injuries.

"Some injured were admitted at SMHS and have been discharged, while around 20 are still under treatment at Ujala Hospital. Thank God their condition is improving. One or two remain in the ICU, but all are stable," she said.

Itoo praised the medical teams for their swift response. "The Ujala Hospital team has done a tremendous job. All doctors, including those from CMO and SMHS, reached immediately and worked throughout the night. Their timely efforts ensured proper treatment for all injured."

She added that she also visited the homes of several deceased victims. "On the instructions of the Chief Minister, Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia will be given to the families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to each injured person," she said. (KNO)

### LG Sinha chairs

of Police Nalin Prabhat, ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar, ADGP SJM Gilani, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir, V K Birdi and other top officials.

The Lieutenant Governor, sources said, reviewed the security and asked the top brass to maintain a tight vigil so that anti-peace elements are kept at bay. "LG Sinha expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives, including policemen, officials and a civilian tailor."

"LG Sinha directed the top officials of the civil administration to make sure that injured get the best possible healthcare facilities. He also asked them to reach out to the families of the deceased persons," sources added.

They said the officials provided feedback to LG Sinha about the emerging situation and steps that were taken after the unfortunate blast.

Perthently, an accidental explosion occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from a large and "unstable" cache of explosives confiscated in connection with an ongoing 'white-collar' terror module investigation.

The blast left nine people dead among the deceased were six policemen -- State Investigation Agency Inspector Israr Ahmad Shah, Selection Grade Constables Javid Mansoor Rather and Arshid Ahmad Shah (both Crime Branch photographers), Selection Grade Constable Aijaz Afzal Mir and Constables Mohammad Amin Mir and Showkat Ahmad Bhat (all three working with the Forensic Science Laboratory).

Naib Tehsildar Muzaffar Ahmed Khan, Chowkidar of the area Suhail Ahmad Rather, and Mohammad Shafi Parry, a tailor. (KNO)

### LG, CM, Rahul Gandhi,

revenue department officials, and other associated team members who lost their lives in this heartbreaking incident. He also prayed for the swift recovery of all the injured.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar also expressed profound grief over the tragic accident.

In his message, the Minister said he is deeply saddened by this heart-breaking incident. "My heart goes out to the bereaved families. The pain of losing loved ones in the line of duty is immeasurable," he stated.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and conveyed his solidarity with the families during this hour of immense grief. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured in the accident.

Dar also visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Srinagar to enquire about the condition of the injured. During the visit, the Minister

interacted with the attending doctors to obtain firsthand information regarding the medical treatment being provided to the injured. He also met with the families of the victims and assured them of all possible assistance and support from the government.

The Minister expressed deep concern over the incident and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring the best possible medical care for the injured. MLA, Channpora, Mushtaq Guroo accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Moreover, on the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo visited Chansar Kulgam to express solidarity with the family members of Arshid Ahmad Shah, killed in Nowgam accidental blast.

Extending heartfelt condolences, Minister Sakeena expressed profound grief over the loss and assured the bereaved family of full support from the Government during this difficult time.

She said that on the directions of the Chief Minister, and as a mark of solidarity and immediate succour, the Government has announced ex-gratia relief from the CM's Relief Fund: 10 lakh for each deceased and 1 lakh for the severely injured.

During the visit, the Minister interacted closely with the family, offering words of comfort and called the incident deeply unfortunate and shocking.

The Minister also prayed for peace for the departed soul and courage for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi in a post on X, said that the explosion is extremely painful and worrying.

He said that it is reported that this severe accident took place during the examination of explosives linked to the Red Fort attack. "I pay my humble tributes to the martyrs and wish the injured a speedy recovery," he said.

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma in a post on X, said, "Deeply saddened by the explosion at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar. My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti wrote, "Deeply anguished by the tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station that claimed 9 precious lives and left many injured. This heartbreaking incident lays bare the risks and difficult conditions under which our police personnel serve to keep the rest of us safe. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for strength and swift recovery for the injured."

MLA Kulgam, M Y Tarigami, wrote, "Deeply pained by the loss of precious lives in the Nowgam accidental blast. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish for the swift recovery of the injured. Unnecessary risks could have been avoided had the chemical examination and sampling been done at Faridabad."

Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, wrote, "The accidental blast at the Naugam police station is heartbreaking. Heartfelt condolences to families of those who lost their lives. In this distressing moment may they muster the courage to bear this loss."

Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari, said, "Shocked and deeply grieved to hear that at least nine people—mostly policemen and a Naib Tehsildar—have died and 29 others have been injured in an accidental blast inside the Nowgam police station. Such a loss of life is truly devastating. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured."

### Kangan youth among

a living by loading, unloading, and ferrying goods in his cart in the national capital. (KNO)

### Tailor who went

and returned home briefly.

On Friday night, he was again called for a similar task, but this time, he never made it back.

"He told us he would return in half an hour or so," recalled his mother, her voice trembling. "We waited and waited. Then we heard the blast. Shafiyoo... Shafiyoo... kutei goukk (where did you go)," she wailed, as she remembered their last conversation.

Moments after the explosion, a fire engulfed the police station building. When rescuers reached the site, they found 'charred debris' and body parts among it, the remains of Shafi Parry.

The blast, which killed nine people including police officials, forensic experts and revenue officers, was described by police as "accidental." Officials said it occurred during the inspection of a cache of seized explosives, suspected to be 'ammonium nitrate' brought from Faridabad, Haryana earlier this month.

"The explosion happened during sampling of the seized material," said DGP Nalin Prabhat, confirming the blast was accidental.

The explosion's intensity shattered windows across Nowgam and sent debris flying hundreds of meters. Locals described scenes of panic and disbelief. "We saw smoke rising from the police station and heard cries for help. The sound was louder than anything we have ever heard," said one resident who rushed to the spot minutes after the blast.

At Shafi's home, grief hung heavy. His two sons and daughter sat quietly beside their mother as relatives and neighbours offered condolences. The verandah of their modest home had turned into a mourning space.

"He was a simple man earning a simple living," said one of his relatives. "He had nothing to do with explosives or police work. He was just doing his job."

As investigations continue into how a routine forensic process turned deadly, Shafi's unfinished stitching job remains folded on his wooden table at "Parray Tailors" a silent reminder of a man who went to mend fabric and instead, lost his life to a blast that tore through the city's calm. (KNO)

### 'If goodness had a

said. "No one imagined we would be preparing his grave this early."

Locals described him as someone who was always the first to stand with the needy. Whether it was arranging medicines, helping with paperwork, or simply sitting with an elder for company, he was known for small acts that left deep marks. "He lived with such decency," said an elderly resident. "If goodness had a face in our village, it was his."

The grief in the Muqam-e-Shahwali neighbourhood was amplified by the sight of his father, retired headmaster Haji Habibullah Shah, walking behind his son's coffin.

"A father waits all his life for his son to support him," said Nazir Ahmad, a relative. "But today he carried his son on his shoulders. That image will haunt us forever."

Inspector Asrar leaves behind his wife, three young children, his parents, siblings, and an entire village that repeatedly called him its "pride".

Meanwhile, SSP Imtiyaz Hussain shared an old post Asrar had written in 2020, a poem in which he asked to be remembered for his smile, his good deeds and "only my best". Reacting to it after the tragedy, Hussain wrote that Asrar had served with honour and lived with grace, adding that his memories would remain with colleagues and that he was "gone too soon." (KNO)



# Bihar polls: All 25 ministers in fray won except one

Patna, Nov 15: As the ruling NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar to retain power, all but one of the 25 state ministers in the fray won their respective seats. Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, both from the BJP, won Tarapur and Lakhisarai assembly seats.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has been a member of the legislative council (MLC), did not contest the assembly elections.

Altogether 15 ministers from the BJP had contested the polls and emerged victorious.

Agriculture minister Prem Kumar, a BJP veteran, retained Gaya Town for an eighth consecutive term, a record equalled by his JD(U) cabinet colleague Bijendra Yadav (Supaul).

Another minister Raju Kumar Singh, who had been elected from Sahebganj in 2020 on a ticket of Vikasheel Insan Party and



later defected to the BJP, retained the seat.

He contested the assembly segment this time on a saffron party's ticket.

Sanjay Saraogi (Darbhanga) and Nitin Nabin (Bankipur) retained their seats for a fifth consecutive term. Other BJP ministers, who emerged victorious, were Renu Devi (Bettiah), Nitish Mishra (Jhanjharpur), Neeraj Kumar Singh 'Bablu' (Chhatapur), Kedar Prasad

Gupta (Kurhani), Jibesh Kumar (Jale), Krishnanandan Paswan (Harsidhi), Vijay Kumar Mandal and Krishna Kumar Mantoo (Amnour) and Sunil Kumar (Bihar Sharif).

However, Sumit Kumar Singh, who had been elected in 2020 as an independent candidate and inducted into the state cabinet, failed to retain the Chakai assembly seat when he sought reelection on a JD(U) ticket. Singh

lost by a margin of nearly 13,000 votes to RJD candidate Savitri Devi, whom he had defeated five years ago from Chakai in Jamui district. Son of late Narendra Singh, a former state minister and a close aide of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Sumit had held the science, technology and technical education portfolio in the outgoing government.

Victorious JD(U) ministers included Sheela

Kumari (Phulparas), Leshi Singh (Dhamdaha), Ratnesh Sada (Sonbarsha), Madan Sahni (Bahadurpur), Vijay Kumar Choudhary (Sarairanjan), Jayant Raj (Amarpur), Shrawon Kumar (Nalanda) and Mohd. Zama Khan (Chainpur).

The ruling NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Friday to retain power, reaffirming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's enduring appeal and dealing a body blow to the Congress and ally RJD. The massive scale of the victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) can be gauged from the fact that its two main constituents--BJP and JD(U) -- clocked a nearly 85 per cent strike rate in 101 seats each they had contested.

The alliance secured a "200 paar" win for a three-fourths majority in the 243-member Bihar assembly with the BJP emerging as the single largest party.

## After Bihar, NDA will script victory in TN, says BJP state chief

PTI

Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Nov 15: After Bihar, the NDA will script a resounding win in the 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election, BJP state chief Nainar Nagendran said on Saturday.

The results of the Bihar

election was a recognition of the good governance of the BJP government at the Centre, and JD (U), and rejection of those who had spread a misinformation campaign on SIR, he said.

"We did not expect a landslide victory in Bihar. This is a huge victory for our alliance. Following the NDA's

landslide victory there, our alliance in Tamil Nadu will ensure a resounding win in the Assembly election next year," Nagendran told reporters here.

He played Chief Minister M K Stalin for opposing centrally sponsored schemes like the PM SHRI and said the people

would benefit if the state government pondered and acted in the interest of the people.

"When the neighbouring Kerala has accepted the PM SHRI in the well-being of its people, what is preventing the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister from accepting this scheme?" Nagendran asked.

## Instructions on using Aadhaar as proof of identity, not citizenship, already issued: EC to SC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Election Commission of India has told the Supreme Court that it had already issued instructions for using the Aadhaar card as proof of identity and not of citizenship, for inclusion or exclusion in the revised voter list of Bihar.

In a reply filed in the top court, the poll panel said that the court on September 8 had already clarified the usage of Aadhaar for updating the voter list.

It said the court had stated that the Aadhaar card was to be used for the purpose of establishing identity in view of Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950.

Section 23 of the RPA deals with the inclusion of names in electoral rolls.

"... by following the aforesaid order, the commission has already issued instructions dated September 9, 2025, to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Bihar for usage of Aadhaar card as proof of identity and not as proof of citizenship... for the purpose of inclusion or exclusion in the revised



voter list of the state of Bihar," the poll panel said.

The Election Commission (EC) filed its reply on an interlocutory application by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who sought a direction that Aadhaar be used only for the purpose of establishing identity and authentication in the spirit of Section 23(4) of the RPA, 1950.

The poll panel said the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), in an office memorandum (OM) in August 2023, had clarified that Aadhaar was not proof of citizenship, residence, or date of birth.

It said the OM was referred to by the Bombay High Court in a matter, holding that it was indeed not proof of date of birth,

and the burden of proof rests upon the Aadhaar holder.

"It is also important to highlight that this court vide its order dated September 8, 2025... has already clarified the usage of Aadhaar for the purpose of inclusion and exclusion in the voter list," the EC said.

On October 7, the top court issued notice on Upadhyay's application.

The bench had observed that the apex court had already said Aadhaar was not the proof of citizenship and domicile.

The application was filed in a pending plea seeking a direction to the EC to conduct Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout the country.

## SC to hear plea for mechanism to ensure no PG medical seats remain vacant

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking direction to the National Medical Commission to devise a mechanism so that no postgraduate seats go vacant in pre-clinical and para-clinical branches across medical colleges in India. The petition has also sought a direction to the commission to produce data of how many seats have remained vacant in the last five years in the postgraduate pre-clinical and para-clinical branches.

The plea would be heard by a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria.

While hearing a separate plea in January this year, the apex court had observed that seats in medical courses cannot remain vacant. It had asked the Centre to hold a meeting with relevant stakeholders, including the states, to address the issue.

In April 2023, the top court flagged the issue of super-speciality seats in medical courses remaining unfilled. The Centre had then proposed to appoint a committee, consisting of all the stakeholders including representatives of states and private medical colleges, under the chairmanship of the director general of health services to resolve the issue.

## What does colour of your urine say about your health

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 15: Urine is more than just a bodily waste product; it provides an informative window into an individual's health, reflecting hydration status, dietary habits, and potential medical conditions. While most people pay little attention to the hue of their urine, subtle variations in colour can indicate physiological changes or the presence of underlying disease processes. From pale yellow to deep amber, green or even blue tints, each shade carries a biological significance that may warrant closer attention. Recent research, including a detailed case study on blue-green urine published in Cureus, highlights how clinicians use colour as a diagnostic clue, linking it to infections, metabolic imbalances, medication effects, and rare medical syndromes.

Normal urine colour and hydration status: Why pale yellow is ideal

Typically, urine ranges from pale yellow to light amber, a shade primarily determined by urochrome, a pigment produced during the breakdown of haemoglobin. Pale yellow urine usually reflects adequate hydration, while darker urine suggests concentrated fluids, which may indicate insufficient water intake. Seasonal variations, physical activity, and dietary factors influence hydration status, making urine colour a simple, non-invasive method to monitor fluid balance.

Observing urine hue can help individuals optimise water intake and prevent complications associated with chronic dehydration, such as kidney stones or urinary tract disorders.

Typical urine ranges from pale yellow to light amber.

Colour is primarily determined by urochrome from haemoglobin breakdown.

Pale yellow urine usually indicates proper hydration.

Darker urine can suggest concentrated fluids and potential dehydration.

How diet and medications affect the colour of your urine

Dietary components and pharmaceuticals can dramatically modify urine colour. Foods like beets, blackberries, or asparagus can temporarily produce red, pink, or green hues, usually harmless and transient. Water-soluble vitamins, particularly B-complex supplements, may cause bright yellow or fluorescent urine due to excess being excreted. Medications including rifampicin, phenazopyridine, and certain chemotherapeutic agents are well-documented for inducing unusual tints, ranging from orange to deep red. The Diagnostic Approach to Abnormal Urine Colors study emphasises the importance of recognising medication-induced colour changes to avoid misinterpretation as a pathological event.

Persistent or unusual urine colours often indicate underlying medical conditions. Red or pink urine may result from haematuria, which can signal urinary tract infections, kidney stones, or renal pathology. Brown or cola-coloured urine can suggest liver dysfunction, as seen in bilirubinuria, or severe muscle breakdown releasing myoglobin. Green or blue urine, though rare, may arise from urinary tract infections caused by Pseudomonas species, certain medications, or metabolic disorders such as familial hypercalcaemia or porphyria. The blue-green urine case study illustrates how abnormal colours provide crucial diagnostic clues.

Red or pink urine may indicate haematuria, urinary tract infections, or kidney stones.

Brown urine can suggest liver dysfunction or severe muscle breakdown.

Green or blue urine may arise from infections, medications, or rare metabolic disorders.

Persistent abnormal colours often require further medical investigation.

What foamy or cloudy urine could reveal about your kidneys

The texture and clarity of urine, alongside colour, reveal additional health information. Foamy urine often indicates elevated protein levels, known as proteinuria, which may signal kidney damage or chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension affecting renal function. Cloudy urine can be a marker of urinary tract infections, where white blood cells, bacteria, or crystals create turbidity. Observing these physical changes in combination with colour variations can provide early warning signs of systemic health issues.

Foamy urine can indicate elevated protein levels (proteinuria).

Proteinuria may result from kidney damage or chronic diseases like diabetes.

Cloudy urine can signify urinary tract infections or the presence of crystals.

Texture and clarity, combined with colour, provide diagnostic clues. Persistent urine colour changes: When should you see a doctor

While transient urine colour changes are generally harmless, persistent or unexplained alterations warrant professional evaluation. Symptoms such as pain, dysuria, fatigue, or systemic illness accompanying abnormal colours strengthen the case for seeking medical advice. Urinalysis, imaging, and metabolic studies may be performed to identify underlying conditions, ranging from infections to liver, kidney, or metabolic disorders. The blue-green urine study demonstrates that even rare colour changes

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

## India says 'all possibilities on table' as Canada FTA talks wait for reset

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 15: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said all possibilities are on the table regarding the resumption of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with Canada.

Goyal said he has held two rounds of discussions with Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development Maninder Sidhu and both are exploring ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation and the strategic partnership.

"All possibilities are on the table. We have had two rounds of discussions now - we met in Delhi for a high-level ministerial meeting. We met (here) briefly to discuss the way forward to strengthen bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership," Goyal said here.

He was replying to a question whether there are any expectations of resumption of FTA talks between the two countries in the coming days in the wake of increasing engagements. Sidhu was here



to participate in the CII Partnership Summit 2025.

Both the ministers co-chaired the India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) meeting in New Delhi this week.

In that meeting, both held discussions on ways to promote bilateral trade and investments besides advancing collaborations in areas, including supply chain resilience, and health sectors.

These deliberations are important as in 2023, Canada had paused negotiations for a free trade agreement with

India.

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India had dismissed Trudeau's accusation as "absurd".

In March 2022, the two countries had re-launched negotiations for an interim agreement, officially dubbed as Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA). Over half a dozen rounds of talks have been held on the trade pact so far.

Normally in a trade

agreement, two countries significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also liberalise norms for promoting trade in services and attract investments.

India's exports to Canada rose 9.8 per cent to USD 4.22 billion in 2024-25 from USD 3.84 billion in 2023-24. Imports, however, dipped 2.33 per cent to USD 4.44 billion in the last fiscal year from USD 4.55 billion in 2023-24.

The renewed vibrancy in ties between the two countries followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 summit at Canada's Kananaskis in June.

Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Canada stood at USD 18.38 billion in 2023.

There are about 2.9 million Indian diaspora and over 427,000 Indian students in Canada.

The two ministers also held talks in October this year.

## Adopt AI, or get replaced by it: Nara Lokesh highlights Andhra Pradesh's AI upcoming framework

ANI

Visakhapatnam, Nov 15: Nara Lokesh, Minister for Human Resources Development; IT Electronics and Communication, Andhra Pradesh, has asserted that people must either embrace AI or risk being replaced by it. He made this remark during the session titled "AI and the Future of Jobs: Turning Disruption into Opportunity" at the 30th Partnership Summit being held in Visakhapatnam.

The Andhra Pradesh Minister emphasised that on the employment front, the need of the hour is to reskill, redefine and reimagine.

He mentioned that the state government is in the process of releasing a framework in which conversational AI is used to assess skill levels of the workforce,



across all levels, from carpenters to highly skilled AI engineers for the purpose of enhancing skills.

The Minister also urged that creativity should not be outsourced to AI.

Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and Chief Architect, NITI Frontier Tech Hub, in a virtual address, replied to the fundamental question of whether

AI is going to take away jobs or create it.

"Job disruption is only half the story, and jobs of repetitive nature, and are like software, data entry are likely to be replaced", she noted. However, a new universe of new jobs will be created, including highly specialised jobs like AI engineers, AI architects, etc.

Work will change, workers will change and the workforce pyramid will change -- hyper-specialised jobs are the future with deeply specialised jobs on the frontier, she opined. Presenting a global perspective, Joe Depa, Global Chief Innovation Officer, Ernst & Young, USA said that the world needs India to be successful on the AI front. He said that India, as prospective AI powerhouse is 'ripe', with young workforce, digital infrastructure and AI usage base.



## Have seen that last ball at least 1000 times: Harmanpreet on life after World Cup

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 15: It's a moment that changed her life and the trajectory of Indian women's cricket for the foreseeable future. Little wonder then that Harmanpreet Kaur has viewed her full-length diving catch of Nadine de Klerk in the World Cup final at least a 1000 times so far.

The catch by the skipper sealed India's 52-run victory over the South African Women's team for a historic first ever World Cup trophy.

"My life has completely changed. I have seen that last ball at least a thousand times, not only me, our team had been waiting for this moment for many years. I feel like watching that moment



again and again," the 36-year-old history-maker said in an exclusive interview during her visit to the PTI headquarters here. "I really don't know what I was thinking when I

was taking that last catch. It is hard to express in words, it means the world to me because I always dreamt of winning the World Cup, and finally we did that and now

it has been two weeks and it is very special feeling and hard to express," she added. Harmanpreet deserved a long break after the World Cup victory, which was a result of years of hard work. However, her off-the-field schedule has been busier than ever and she has not even got the time to go back home since she took that winning catch in the final.

The campaign itself had its fair share of ups and downs and perhaps the biggest challenge was the three consecutive losses that the team endured in the league stage, triggering a social media backlash that bordered on misogyny.

Harmanpreet made light of the offensive online comments, saying the harsh criticism showed that better

was expected from her team. "We took all the criticism in a positive way. People were criticising us because we could have played well. Fans were expecting a lot from us. We had a meeting... our head coach (Amol Muzumdar) talked to us... he said, 'we are better than this'," she recollected.

"If people were trolling us, it was because we were not playing cricket at the level we could, we could do better than this....We had another meeting after reaching Mumbai that now we only have one way that is to win all the matches.

"It was not to prove the critics wrong but we were also feeling that we were not playing our best cricket, and our best was yet to come," she added.

## Trump's support for H-1B reignites debate over skilled-worker visas



IANs

Washington, Nov 15: Days after US President Donald Trump defended the H-1B visa programme, leading Republican and conservative leaders have opposed it, calling for its scrapping. However, leading researchers and lawyers argue that the crackdown would only hurt the US economy and its interests.

On Friday, Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene posted on X, reiterating her plans to introduce a bill to "ban H1B visas in all sectors" except the medical profession.

"Ending H1B visas will also help the housing market. Ending H1B visas mean more jobs available for Americans and more homes available for Americans...When Americans have good paying jobs they will be able to buy homes as long as they don't have to compete with legally imported labor on visas and rich powerful asset management companies," she added. In a video post on Thursday, Greene announced her bill proposals, allowing only 10,000 visas annually, down from the current 85,000 cap.

She asserted that even the carve-out could be phased out over the next decade. Her bill would also take away from the citizenship path, forcing visa holders to return home.

"These visas were intended to fill a speciality occupational need at a given time. People should not be allowed to come and live here forever. We thank them for their expertise, but we also wish them well so they may return to their own country," she said in the video.

Another Republican House member, Andy Ogles, also posted on X on Friday, "No more H1-Bs is a no-brainer. Let's get it done." The developments come days after US President

Donald Trump defended the programme, saying it's needed to import talent.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump was asked if his administration planned to deprioritise H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent."

When Ingraham countered, "we have plenty of talent," Trump responded, "No you don't."

"You don't have certain talents....And people have to learn, you can't take people off an unemployment line and say, I'm going to put you into a factory. We're going to make missiles," he added.

Laura Ingraham, posted on X on Friday, responding to a CNN debate over the issue.

"America's survival depends on its importing an endless stream of foreign workers—supposedly all geniuses?" she asked.

The White House clarified on Wednesday that it's committed to cracking down on alleged abuses in the visa system, not scrapping the entire program.

The White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt posted the clarification to Daily Wire, a news outlet, on X. In a statement to the publication, White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said that the administration was committed to "reforming the immigration system." "In record time, President Trump has done more than any president in modern history to tighten our immigration laws and put American workers first," Rogers said.

"The \$100,000 payment required to supplement new H-1B visa applications is a significant first step to stop abuses of the system and ensure American workers are no longer replaced by lower-paid foreign labor."

## Left alliance accuses Yunus of driving Bangladesh towards crisis

IANs

Dhaka, Nov 15: As political conflict continues to mount in Bangladesh, the Democratic Left Alliance (LDA) accused the interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus of pushing the nation towards a long-term crisis in an attempt to appease the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP), local media reported.

The remarks came after Yunus, in a recent address to the nation, announced that national elections and a referendum would be held simultaneously in the first half of February 2026. In a statement, the LDA—an alliance of six leftist parties—alleged that Yunus' announcement regarding the implementation order of the July Charter, the referendum, and the Constitution Reform Council was "one-sided and unconstitutional".

"There is no provision in the constitution for issuing such an order [July charter order] or holding a referendum. The president can only issue ordinances," Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star quoted the LDA as saying. The alliance said Yunus' speech also failed to mention the parties' notes of dissent and argued that his claim of consensus among all political parties on 30 out of 48 proposals related to the constitution during dialogues



with the consensus commission was inaccurate.

"There are no more than 11 proposals on which all political parties have reached consensus. If consensus among BNP, Jamaat, and NCP is considered as consensus of all, then the entire series of meetings of the consensus commission becomes questionable," the LDA stated.

According to the statement, such an order issued in the name of the country's President falls outside the mandate and authority of an interim government. Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rab warned that any fresh political crisis over the implementation of the July charter could plunge Bangladesh into disaster. "At this critical juncture for the nation, political divisions, antagonism, and rivalries must be avoided. For the sake of national security and stability, a balance of constitutional, political, and social safeguards must be established through dialogue and understanding," the JSD leader stated.

## UN reacts after heavy rains flood displaced families in Gaza

IANs

New York, Nov 15: Humanitarians are working to provide shelter support and have deployed rapid response teams after heavy rains flooded thousands of displaced families in Gaza, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The rains had a harsh impact on people across the Gaza Strip, with damage to personal belongings and thousands of displaced families left fully exposed to the harsh weather, increasing health and protection concerns, especially for older people, those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, said OCHA.

Partners reported that proper flood prevention requires equipment that is not available in Gaza, including tools to drain water away from tents and to clear solid waste and rubble. Millions of urgently needed shelter items remain stuck in Jordan, Egypt and Israel, awaiting approvals to enter Gaza, the office said.

OCHA said that since the October 10 ceasefire, the Israeli authorities have rejected 23 requests from nine partners to bring into Gaza nearly 4,000



pallets of critical supplies, including tents, sealing and framing kits, bedding, kitchen sets and blankets, Xinhua news agency reported.

Shelter partners said that the main barrier remains restrictive registration rules for non-governmental organizations. In all but two of the 23 rejections, the reason given was that the submitting organizations were not authorized to deliver humanitarian aid into Gaza.

OCHA said that about 1,000 tents were distributed to families in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis on Thursday. Between Sunday and

Wednesday, partners provided about 7,000 blankets to more than 1,800 households, some 15,000 tarpaulins to more than 3,700 households, and winter clothing to more than 500 households.

"The dire living conditions are also increasing people's exposure to explosive ordnance, with children among those most at risk," the humanitarian office said.

"Some people have been injured while collecting firewood; others are having to pitch tents near areas suspected of containing unexploded remnants simply because they have no safer options," it said.

## ICC launches eight-team Women's Emerging Nations Trophy



PTI

Dubai, Nov 15: Following the resounding success of the Women's World Cup in India, the ICC on Saturday launched a new eight-team global tournament to "promote and expand women's cricket around the world".

The inaugural edition, to be held in Bangkok from November 20 till 30, will be called the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy and will be part of a new three-tier development pathway designed to offer high-performance exposure to upcoming cricketers.

The eight competing teams are: Thailand, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, the United Arab Emirates, Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Women's ODI World Cup, which concluded recently with India lifting its maiden trophy by defeating South African in the final

set a new benchmark in women's cricket with the tournament reaching more than 500 million viewers across the country and a significant growth in viewership across the globe.

"Nearly 300,000 fans attended matches across India and (co-host) Sri Lanka, and the event concluded with India becoming the first Asian team to lift the Women's Cricket World Cup, a watershed moment in the evolution of the sport and the socio-cultural context of gender roles," ICC said in a statement.

"Building on the extraordinary impetus provided by the marquee event, the ICC continues to invest in creating a sustainable future for women's cricket. The Women's Emerging Nations Trophy is part of a new three-tier development pathway designed to offer high-performance exposure to emerging nations," it added. ICC Chief Executive,

Sanjog Gupta said the new tournament will provide emerging nations more opportunities to play at the highest level.

"It is the ICC and the Chair's vision to sustainably expand cricket's footprint across the world and grow the women's game. Providing elite athletes from emerging nations more opportunities to play at the highest level is aimed at fast-tracking their development and improving the competitiveness of their teams.

"It also drives the visibility of the sport in participant nations, serving as a driver of girls' involvement in the sport and inspires women from other nations to stay committed to the development pathways," said Gupta.

The tournament will begin with hosts Thailand taking on the Netherlands and Papua New Guinea playing against UAE.

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