



32ND NORTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Amit Shah's stern message on Delhi blast: 'Will hunt down culprits from depths of netherworld'

» 'Eliminating terrorism from its roots Modi Govt's collective commitment' » NIA gets 10-day custody of accused arrested in blast case » Accused to be brought to Kashmir; another key conspirator arrested



Ahmad Taimur

New Delhi, Nov 17: In a strong message, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on Monday said that the government will hunt down the culprits of the Delhi bomb blast even from the depths of the netherworld and ensure they receive the strictest possible punishment.

At least 15 people were killed and 20 others injured after a blast ripped through a car near the iconic Red Fort in Delhi last week. The suicide bomber, later identified as Dr Umar Mohammad, also died in the explosion. The investigators believe Dr Umar triggered the blast.

According to details available

with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Amit Shah made the remark at the 32nd meeting of Northern Zonal Council (NZC) in Haryana's Faridabad today.

He also paid tributes to those who lost their lives in the bomb and the explosion at Nowgam Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir, while two minutes

of silence was observed in the meeting.

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 the Nowgam police station in Srinagar late Friday night.

The blast occurred when a

stockpile of explosives, confiscated from an alleged doctors' terror module busted by Jammu and Kashmir in Haryana's Faridabad, accidentally went off inside the police station.

The Home Minister said that eliminating terrorism from its roots under the leadership of PM Modi is collective commitment of the | [More on P6](#)

'Zero tolerance to terrorism' ended violence, stone pelting, strikes, terror recruitment: LG Sinha



KNO/KT File Pic by Jahangir Shah

Under PM Modi, HM Shah, J&K scaling new heights

After Art-370 abrogation, UT witnessed historic transformation

Security situation improved significantly

KNO NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 17: Asserting that not just terrorists but the entire ecosystem of terrorism is being dismantled, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the policy of "Zero Tolerance to Terrorism" has curbed violence, stone pelting, strikes, and local recruitment in terror outfits.

Addressing the 32nd meeting of Northern Zonal

Council chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Faridabad, Haryana, LG Sinha, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said,

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with continuous guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu Kashmir has been achieving greater and new heights on the development and security front since August 2019." He said, "The policy of Zero Tolerance to Terrorism has curbed violence, stone pelting, strikes, and local recruitment. Not just terrorists but the entire ecosystem of terrorism is being dismantled." He highlighted the recent meticulous investigation by Jammu Kashmir Police to unearth and dismantle | [More on P6](#)

'Op Sindoor just a trailer': Army Chief warns Pakistan 'India not afraid of any blackmail; blood & water can't flow together'

Ahmad Taimur

New Delhi, Nov 17: In a strong message to Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said that Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, which was over in 88 hours, stating that if someone wants to blackmail us, India is not afraid of any blackmail.

Speaking at the curtain raiser event of the 'Chanakya Defence Dialogues' in New Delhi, the Army Chief, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that terrorism emanating from Pakistan is a matter of grave concern for India.

He stated that India will no longer tolerate terrorism at any



cost and the country is ready for a protracted war of all kinds. "India's 'new normal' is very clear, blood and water cannot flow together. Negotiation and terror cannot go together.

He warned that India is fully prepared to give a befitting reply to anyone who promotes state-sponsored | [More on P6](#)

J&K people peace-loving, aspire to Viksit Bharat & Viksit Jammu & Kashmir: CM

Highlights region's development vision at 32nd NZC meeting

KT News Desk

Faridabad, Nov 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday attended the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) held in Faridabad, Haryana. The meeting was chaired by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah.

The Northern Zonal Council comprises the States and Union Territories of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Chandigarh.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted the launch of Mission YUVA, the government's focused push



KNO/KT File Pic by Jahangir Shah

on strengthening the education sector, expanding sports infrastructure, and fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Centre for its continued financial support, including the extension of the SASCI Scheme to J&K.

He said the NZC serves as an important platform to enhance cooperation among States and UTs, reaffirming that J&K remains fully committed to national growth with firm faith in democratic institutions.

Referring to the recent terror attacks, the Chief Minister stressed the need to fight terrorism with determination while ensuring that innocent people are not subjected to undue suspicion. "Every resident of J&K should not be seen with doubt. The people of J&K are peace-loving and aspire for Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu & Kashmir. They want to be part of India's growth story, and the recent enthusiastic participation | [More on P6](#)

Police apprehend 2 long-evading offenders

Pulwama, Nov 17: Continuing its sustained efforts to bring absconders and proclaimed offenders to justice, Police in Pulwama on Monday said to have arrested two individuals who had been evading the law for prolonged periods.

"Acting on specific inputs, Police Station Kakapora arrested Nazir Ahmad Dar @ Rustum son of Abdul Salam Dar resident of Katibugh Kakpora. He had been declared a proclaimed offender by the Hon'ble Court of JMFC Pulwama in a case under the Negotiable Instruments Act. After remaining at large for an extended period, he was apprehended and produced before the Hon'ble Court," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to | [More on P6](#)

Red Fort Blast Aftermath

Security forces increase vigil around railway stations, markets, highways

Conduct frisking, vehicle checking, CASOs to ensure public safety

Yogesh/ Sajid Raina

Jammu, Srinagar Nov 17: Following the November 10, Red Fort blast in New Delhi, that left more than 10 persons dead, security forces in Jammu and Kashmir regions have increased the vigil by launching extensive search and combing operations to ensure public safety.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that security forces are on high alert. "Frisking has been intensified in markets, railway stations, and other public places, and CASOs are being launched to ensure



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

public safety," he added. The official described the ongoing operation as the

"largest-ever non-kinetic crackdown." "Hundreds of additional | [More on P6](#)

CM sanctions Rs 30.14 crore for welfare of construction workers

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also serves as the Chairman of the J&K Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (JKBOCWBB), Monday sanctioned and released 30.14 crore for direct online transfer to eligible beneficiaries under key welfare schemes of the Board.

The amount has been disbursed to all Assistant Labour Commissioners for immediate transfer into the bank accounts of registered workers.

The sanctioned assistance covers a range of flagship schemes aimed at supporting construction workers and their families. These include education support, disability

assistance, aid for chronic illness, support for next of kin of deceased labourers, marriage assistance and meritorious awards for children of registered workers.

Recalling the directions issued during the 22nd meeting of the JKBOCWBB held in July this year, the Chief Minister reiterated the need for a broader and more inclusive definition of "construction worker" to ensure that all vulnerable and unorganised sector labourers are brought under the ambit of welfare measures.

He had also emphasized the importance of exploring innovative policy mechanisms to expand coverage, strengthen financial security for workers, and align the Board's functioning with | [More on P6](#)

Omar mourns death of Indian pilgrims in Saudi bus tragedy

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound sorrow over the tragic accident involving a bus carrying Indian Umrah pilgrims in Medina, Saudi Arabia, early this morning.

He extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the mishap.

According to initial reports, the accident occurred when a bus carrying 46 pilgrims collided with a tanker while travelling from Mecca to Medina. The reports indicate that the | [More on P6](#)

J&K Police stand with families of Nowgam blast victims: DGP Prabhat

Top officers visit families of deceased personnel

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 17: Asserting that J&K Police shares grief and stands firmly with families of Nowgam blast victims, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday said that force is committed to provide all possible help to the NOKs of the deceased and assistance to the injured.

According to the details available with the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), DGP Prabhat, along with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V K Birdi and other top officials visited Hariparigam village in Tral, Gazaliabad HMT in Srinagar,

and Chansar in Kulgam to offer condolences to the families of Crime Branch photographer Javid Mansoor Rather, senior grade constable Ajaz Ahmad Mir, and policeman Arshid Ahmad Shah.

During the visits, the DGP and IGP assured the families of full support from the J&K Police and said the sacrifices of the personnel would always be remembered.

Talking to the reporters DGP Prabhat said, "We will never forget them. All necessary assistance will be extended to all the affected families." | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt forms panel to identify land for Army in place of Tattoo Ground

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a Joint Board of Officers to identify the balance equal value of land to be transferred to the Ministry of Defence in lieu of 139.04 acres of land at Tattoo Ground, according to a Government Order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Monday.

As per the government order, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the eight-member board will be chaired by the Colonel, HQ



31 Siberia, while the Station Commander, Haft Chinari, will serve as a member. Other members include

the Assistant Commissioner (Central) with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Assistant Commissioner Revenue

of Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla, the Defence Estates Officer, Kashmir Circle Srinagar, and the Assistant Defence Estates Officer, Baramulla.

The terms of reference for the Board include ascertaining the quantum of land handed over by the Army to the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Union Territory of J&K and ascertaining the quantum of land handed over by the Union Territory of J&K to the Army.

"Assess the value of the land transferred. Determine the balance equal value of land required to be | [More on P6](#)

Women breaking barriers: Sakeena Itoo

Addresses 3-day National Workshop at KU



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo addressed the three-day National Workshop on “Leadership Programme for Women Managers in Higher Education: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies” at University of Kashmir here Monday.

The workshop is being organised by the varsity’s Centre for Women’s Studies and Research (CWSR) in collaboration with the Institute of Home Science KU.

In her inaugural address, Minister Sakeena, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, said that institutions must work collectively to ensure that women feel respected and supported. “Women are stepping into roles that were once inaccessible but their growth depends on environments where they feel safe, heard and valued,” Minister Sakeena stated.

She added that women must be recognised for their talent and work and encouraged to take on leadership responsibilities with confidence.

The Minister further highlighted the pivotal role of women in shaping the future of higher education and emphasized the need to create institutional environments where women leaders can thrive. She noted that expanding women’s participation in academic governance is not only a matter of equity but also a prerequisite for strengthening the nation’s intellectual and administrative capacity.

Commending the University of Kashmir for organizing the

workshop, Minister Sakeena said that such platforms enable meaningful dialogue on structural barriers faced by women in academia, besides offering practical pathways for capacity building, mentorship and policy innovation. She encouraged participants, drawn from universities and colleges across the country, to use the workshop as an opportunity to collaborate, share experiences and develop actionable leadership strategies.

The Minister reaffirmed the government’s commitment to promoting gender-responsive policies in education, including enhanced leadership training, professional development schemes and institutional support systems for women faculty and administrators.

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan in her address said that the University has been working steadily to strengthen gender-sensitive academic practices and leadership pathways.

“Our aim is to create systems where women academics and administrators can participate fully in decision-making and lead without barriers,” she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the importance of building institutional mechanisms that recognise women’s work and leadership potential in higher education.

Prof. Pam Rajput (Prof. Emeritus), Panjab University, noted that strengthening women’s leadership requires both structural support and everyday institutional sensitivity. Dr. Ashima Mangla, Joint Secretary, Women’s Studies, UGC, in her keynote address, said that the

initiative corresponds with the NEP 2020 which emphasises inclusion, equity and leadership development.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Dr. Roshan Ara, Coordinator, CWSR KU, said that the workshop aims to bring stakeholders together to discuss the current realities and practical strategies for supporting women administrators and faculty.

Pertinently, the workshop aims to strengthen leadership capacities among women managers in higher education by addressing gender disparities, enhancing strategic and administrative skills, and tackling intersectional challenges.

The three-day programme includes thematic sessions by eminent resource persons of the country, group discussions, and training modules designed to address institutional challenges, leadership skills and policy perspectives.

On the occasion, Minister Sakeena also released first-ever Coffee Table Book 2025 of Kashmir University that showcases the evolution, milestones and growth of the varsity as a leading academic institution in the region and other vital publication Statistical Digest.

Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir; Dean, School of Medicine & Allied Medical Sciences KU and Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan; College principals, senior faculty members from various colleges of J&K, deans of various schools of KU, administrative officers, heads of departments, faculty members, scholars and students, besides 50 participants from various universities across the north-west region of the country were present on the occasion.

DST awards 37 research projects under JKSTIC's SREP

Secretary reviews Kashmir Province Projects

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Monday chaired a workshop with 37 Principal Investigators from leading academic and research institutions of Kashmir Province at Srinagar.

The meeting featured detailed presentations by selected Project Investigators under Round 1 of the Sponsored Research and Extension Programme (SREP) 2025, implemented by the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

The 37 approved projects for Kashmir Province, representing an investment of more than ₹515.00 lakhs, span five strategic research clusters designed to address critical challenges facing the region while improving public service delivery. Principal Investigators from 16 premier institutions presented their research methodologies, pilot demonstration strategies, and anticipated community impact to the Secretary.

Participating institutions from Kashmir Province included Islamic University of Science & Technology Awantipora (IUST) with 6 projects, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) with 8 projects, National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) with 5 projects, Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Kashmir University (KU), NIELIT Srinagar, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC-S), ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Cluster University Srinagar, Government College for Women Srinagar, Islamia College of Science & Commerce Srinagar, and JKSTIC itself, besides the government departments.

Smart Agriculture & Food Security emerged as the largest cluster with 9 projects. Researchers presented innovations in climate-resilient indigenous rice varieties through photosynthetic and biochemical modeling (CUK), smart blueberry farming establishment (SKUAST-K), stress-priming kits for climate-smart vegetable production, paprika and colored capsicum production systems for local seed self-reliance, tomato genetic interventions for water-deficit stress mitigation, AI-powered research data banks for sustainable agriculture, integrated forage production strategies for fodder security (IGFRI), and AI-enabled IoT weather stations for precision horticulture (JKSTIC), collectively benefiting over 200,000 farmers and supporting Kashmir’s ₹4,000+

crore horticulture economy.

Under Healthcare Innovation & Public Health (7 projects), Principal Investigators presented cutting-edge research including IoT-enabled smart IV infusion systems for patient safety in resource-constrained district hospitals (IUST), genomic analysis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and sudden cardiac death prevalent in Kashmir’s population (SKIMS), longitudinal studies on opioid dependence mortality addressing the addiction crisis (SKIMS), Delphi-derived organophosphate poisoning severity scales for improved toxicology management (GMC-Srinagar), exploration of anti-breast cancer compounds from indigenous Himalayan flora Lagotis cashmeriana (CUK), biodegradable hydrogel wound dressing materials from Himalayan flora (JCSC), and isolation of exosomes from subclinical mastitis for novel veterinary diagnostics (Cluster University).

The Food Safety & Quality cluster (4 projects) featured presentations on groundbreaking consumer protection research: quantitative assessment of microplastic contamination in packaged food products with migration dynamics simulation (IUST), UV-C LED treatment combined with AI-driven risk modeling for microbial safety of fresh produce (IUST), AI-based geographical discrimination of honey to protect 30,000+ marginal bee farmers in the sub-Himalayan region (IUST), and deep learning-powered Kashmiri saffron adulteration detection systems safeguarding the ₹300+ crore GI-tagged saffron industry (NIELIT Srinagar).

Sustainable Infrastructure & Climate Action presentations (8 projects) covered technology-enabled corrosion monitoring for water supply pipelines preventing ₹100+ crore annual losses (NIT), WEAP-CORDEX ensemble and machine learning approaches for assessing climate change effects on J&K’s 3,500+ MW hydropower potential (NIT), AI-driven optimization of hydro-solar power integration for weak grid regions (NIT), solar-driven hydrogen-based heating systems for sustainable housing in Kashmir Valley (NIT), integrated driver risk profiling using VBOX and physiological monitoring for road safety addressing 400+ annual traffic fatalities (NIT), hydrogel-based eco-innovations for reviving Dal Lake’s water quality (KU), geospatial real-time monitoring of construction activities around Dal-Nageen-Khushalsar-Brarinambal water bodies (IUST), and standardization of hazelnut propagation techniques under temperate conditions (CITH).

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER PULWAMA

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K, sealed tenders are invited from registered commercial Gas dealers from District Pulwama for supply of refilled commercial gas cylinders for Medical Block Pulwama falling under the jurisdiction of Block Medical Officer Pulwama for winter season of 2025-26. The sealed tenders/ rate quotations along with CDR of Rs 5,000= pledged to Block Medical Officer Pulwama must reach the office of the undersigned by or before 23-11-2025 up to 02:00 PM.

Terms & Conditions:

01. The dealers must submit registration certificate.
02. Latest Tax Return proof.
03. GST registration certificate.

No:

Dated:

Block Medical Officer
Pulwama.

DIPK-8194/25

DATED: 17-11-2025



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM

Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531@jk.gov.in
e-NIT.No. 14 of 11/2025

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Performance security @ 3%	Time of complete-on	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Head of account
1	Restoration of Saida khul by way of crate protection work to supply channel, main canal and removal of accumulated shoal.	3.95	11850/-	20 Days	DEE	400/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
2	Restoration of offtake/ supply channel and main Ringer canal by way of crate protection and removal of accumulated shoal/ shingle	2.00	6000/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
3	Restoration of Kanir canal by way of providing crates to supply channel and removal of accumulated silt/ shoal	2.00	6000/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
4	Restoration of Batiwudar canal by way of crate protection wall	3.54	10620/-	20 Days	DEE	400/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
5	Restoration of Badipora Gam khul by way of crate protection work and removal of accumulated silt/ shoal	2.01	6030/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
6	Restoration of Chattergam canal by way of crate protection work and removal of accumulated silt/ shoal	2.00	6000/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
7	Restoration of Wathora canal by way of providing crates and removal of accumulated shoal	2.03	6090/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
8	Restoration of off take and supply channel of Humhama canal at Kokeranger by way of crate work	2.00	6000/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
9	Restoration of Harval canal at Banderpora by way of crate protection works	2.00	6000/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
10	Restoration by way of crate protection work resectioning on main Khanchi canal d/s of Karpura Dam at RD 11000mtrs.	2.05	6150/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
11	Restoration of escape channel by way of crate protection work on main Khanchi canal at Nagbal RD 0 m	2.00	6000/-	20 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
12	Restoration of spillway channel of Yourmarg Reservoir by way of RCC bed treatment.	4.93	14790/-	30 Days	DEE	500/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)
13	Restoration of breached spot on Lani canal in village Dooru at Rd 10800 mtr by way of crate protection work and shoal clearance	2.03	6090/-	10 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)

No of works Advertised: 13 (Thirteen)

Position of Funds (Budgetary provision).

Position of Technical Sanction Approved.

Position of Administrative Approval Approved.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

1.	Publishing date	15-11-2025 (4 PM)
2.	Download date start	15-11-2025 (4 PM)
3.	Bid submission date starts	15-11-2025 (4 PM)
4.	Bid submission date ends	20-11-2025 upto (6 PM)
5.	Bid Opening date	21-11-2025 at (11 AM)

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website.

General terms and conditions:-

1. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website jktenders.gov.in from 15-11-2025 to 20-11-2025 upto 6 PM. The Bids will be opened on 21-11-2025 at 11Am . Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the website.
- i) The complete bidding process will be online.
- ii) Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.
2. Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.
3. Any item /Items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K SSR 2022.
4. Any omission / Typographic error shall be read as per the J&K SSR 2022, and as per the corrigendum / errata issued to J&K SSR 2022 in vogue.
5. The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.
6. The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids/ submission of tender.
7. If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/ 26 double.
8. During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract.
9. Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual working drawing.
10. The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests, gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge. All testing charges/ expenses etc shall be borne by the contractor.
11. The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design by the contractor.
- Bid Security/ Performance and cost of Tender Document/ Declaration form
 1. Bid must be accompanied with Bid performance in shape of CDR/ FDR and to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora and must be uploaded online and released after completion of DLP.
 2. The selected bidder must submit Additional Security Performance in case of abnormal Low Bid Price as per the instructions issued by the Finance Department through Circular vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 before issuance of formal contract as per the details given below:-
 - a. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of project cost put to bid, the Additional Performance Guarantee/ Security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the Additional Bid Performance Guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - b. Where the bid price is 20% of more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 3. Earnest Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Single cover.The intending tenderers must ensure to upload the following necessary documents/ certificates with the online tender otherwise online tender will not be accepted / opened.
 - i) copy of valid registration card, PAN, & latest GST return and latest income tax return with seal and signature with the bid.
 - ii) The cost of tender document fee should be deposited in treasuries under MH-0702 in favor of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora and necessary treasury Challan must be uploaded online. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan/ receipt).
 - iii) The tenderer whose tender is declared 1st lowest after opening of the price bid, the hard copy, of all uploaded online shall have to be produced in original in the divisional office within seven days.
 4. a) The tenderer should quote his rate in such a way that the total amount of work amounts without any fractional amount.
 5. The bidder must upload bank account No. linked with GST as per the circular/ instruction issued by Finance Department J&K vide No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 dated 08-07-2025 issued under No. FD-ST/ 75/2025-03 dated 08-07-2025(Details Annexed)
- b) Other terms and conditions shall be same as laid down in detailed tender document of the work and form of contract (Agreement form-25).
7. The Quantities given in the estimate shall be Subject to change as per the design within the allotted cost.
8. Un-balanced tender shall be rejected without assigning any reason.

Instructions / Terms / Conditions to Bidders regarding e- tendering.

- 1) The interested bidders can download the NIT / Bidding documents from the website jktenders.gov.in.
- 2) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) i.e Digital Signature Certificate as per information technology Act 2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendor. The bidders, who already possess valid (DSC), need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the E-NIT.
- 3) Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- 4) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids for whatsoever, reasons.
- 5) All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
- 6) The original instrument of cost of document, and declaration form specified in the NIT should be the same as submitted online (Scanned copies) otherwise, bid will not be accepted.
- 7) Bidders can contact for any guidance for getting (DSC) or any other relevant details in respect of e-Tendering process.
- 8) The guide lines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in and are advised to use * My Document* area in their user on Irrigation e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

- 1) The tenderer should in his own interest thoroughly, inspect and examine the site, its surroundings, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility
- 2) and other relevant parameters for deciding suitable specification of the machinery/ hydraulic excavators to be used and also to decide the strategy to be
- 3) adopted for successful execution/ completion of the work at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work.
- 4) The tenderer should carefully study the document and prepare his tender with consideration of all provisions of the document. He
- 5) should fully acquaint himself with site conditions and all other factors which may influence preparation of his tender.

No:-4150-64

Date:-15-11-2025.

DIPK-8204/25

DATED: 17-11-2025

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Ompora Budgam.

Vacant Posts, Vacant Futures

The silence in Kulgam schools

UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 17: Hundreds of teaching and non-teaching posts continue to lie vacant in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir, crippling the education system and leaving students to bear the consequences of official apathy.

The situation in South Kashmir's Kulgam district paints a grim picture.

Scores of primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools are functioning without adequate staff, depriving students of the attention and guidance that parents expect when they send their children to school.

Official data reveals that Kulgam has 540 educational institutions, including 26 higher secondary schools, 56 high schools, 308 middle schools and 150 primary schools.

Although these institutions are shown as "fully functional" on paper, the reality on the ground tells a different story. At least 360 teaching posts remain vacant across these



schools, severely affecting classroom learning and overall school functioning. Kulgam district is divided into six

education zones, but half of them have been functioning without Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) for an extended

period. The absence of administrative heads has weakened school supervision, planning, and day-to-day management, directly affecting teaching quality and student performance.

At the higher secondary level, the crisis runs deeper. Out of 26 higher secondary schools, four continue to operate without permanent principals. Institutions like Government Higher Secondary School D.H. Pora and others remain headless, making it difficult to maintain discipline or ensure smooth academic functioning.

The situation is no better in the high schools, many of which have been without headmasters for years. The absence of headmasters has hit both academic and administrative aspects of these schools, lowering teaching standards and hampering student progress.

Adding to the crisis, over 313 non-teaching posts, including clerks and support staff, remain unfilled across the district.

The shortage has disrupted vital functions such as cleanliness, record-keeping, examination preparation, and maintenance of laboratories and libraries.

Educationists and parents alike express concern over the prolonged neglect, warning that if the vacancies are not filled urgently, Kulgam's entire education system could face a serious breakdown. "These are not just numbers but reflect the future of our children. The government must address this on a priority basis," a local teacher told KNO.

Officials from the education department have so far maintained that efforts are underway to streamline staffing, but the ground reality continues to show otherwise. With each passing year, students in government schools, particularly those from poor families, face the brunt of this administrative vacuum with their education, discipline and future prospects hanging in the balance—(KNO)

GMC Jammu records 9,427 cancer cases since 2020

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 17: Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu has registered 9,427 cancer cases over the last five years (2020-2024), revealing a worrying rise in cancer incidence across the region.

The data paints a concerning picture, particularly about late-stage diagnoses and the prevalence of certain cancers in specific demographics.

Of the total 9,427 cases reported at GMC Jammu, 3,671 patients were from Jammu district, the highest among all districts; 943 hailed from Udhampur, 855 from Kathua, 694 from Doda, 580 from Samba, 532 from Reasi, 424 from Poonch, 292 from Kishtwar, 222 from Ramban and 539 belonged to other regions.

Of the total patients, 5,351 were males while 4,076 were



females, indicating a higher burden among men.

According to the data, lung cancer is the most prevalent cancer reported at GMC Jammu, followed by: Head and neck cancers, Breast cancer, hepatobiliary cancers, genito-urinary cancers, oesophageal cancers, oral cancers, cervical cancers and intestinal cancers.

Gender-wise trends show a clear difference in cancer patterns, as among men, the most common cancers are: lung, head and neck, genito-urinary, oral and haematological cancers and among women, the leading cancers include breast, cervix, hepatobiliary, ovarian and lung cancer.

The data raises significant concern regarding late

detection. Of all diagnosed cases, 7% were detected at Stage 1, 21% at Stage 2, 29% at Stage 3 and a staggering 43% at Stage 4.

Doctors say this trend highlights the urgent need for increased screening, awareness, and timely medical intervention, as late-stage cancers are often more difficult to treat and result in poorer outcomes.

Health experts believe that the rising number of cases, along with the high percentage of late-stage diagnoses, underscores the need for strengthening preventive measures, early diagnosis, and better healthcare accessibility across the Jammu division. They also emphasise lifestyle factors, such as tobacco use, air pollution, poor diet, and lack of regular screenings, that significantly contribute to rising cancer numbers—(KNO)

J&K panel flags gaps in town planning Act-1963

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 17: A committee constituted by the Jammu & Kashmir Government has pointed out that the Jammu & Kashmir Town Planning Act 1963 lacks key provisions for the formulation of Town Planning Schemes (TPS).

The committee, headed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and comprising senior officials from the administration, Housing & Urban Development Department, and Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Department, has observed that the J&K Town Planning Act is deficient in terms of critical provisions necessary for formulation and implementation of Town Planning Schemes.

"The Jammu & Kashmir Town Planning Act, 1963 and the Rules framed thereunder in 1974 is the only legislation governing the formulation and implementation of TP Schemes in Jammu & Kashmir. The legislation is deficient in terms of critical provisions necessary for formulation and implementation of TP Schemes," reads the report.

The committee, headed by

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, comprised the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority; Vice Chairman, J&K Lakes Conservation & Management Authority; Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organisation; and Representative of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs. The committee, constituted on June 17 this year, was mandated to undertake a short term review of Master Plan Srinagar 2035. Its terms of reference include examination of the feasibility of TPS areas and identifying any TPS area(s), if necessary, for removal of the precondition with respect to issuing of building permissions in such area(s).

In its report, the committee observed that the J&K Town Planning Act 1963 propagates the formulation of Town Planning Schemes through compulsory land acquisition instead of land pooling, which is against the essence of TPS. "Land pooling is the cornerstone of a TP Scheme," reads the report.

The committee recommended that the Government may review the

existing Town Planning legislation to incorporate missing legal provisions necessary for the formulation of Town Planning Schemes in J&K. It also recommended removal of a pre condition prohibiting the grant of individual construction permission in areas earmarked for Town Planning Schemes.

"The committee is of the opinion that while planned expansion of urban areas is in the interests of the city, however, holding building permissions in these areas arbitrarily amounts to unjust public inconvenience, discouragement to genuine building permission seekers, and loss to the public exchequer. It has been observed that due to poor enforcement, a lot of unauthorized constructions have come up in these areas, making implementation of Town Planning Schemes more challenging," reads the report.

The report states that, on account of an inadequate legal framework and lack of professional manpower in Srinagar Development Authority and Srinagar Municipal Corporation, the agencies couldn't take up Town Planning Schemes for execution till date—(KNO)

Sanat Nagar flyover misses another deadline



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 17: The much-delayed Sanat Nagar flyover project in Srinagar has missed yet another completion deadline, with officials indicating that the timeline is likely to be extended by about a week to allow finishing works to be completed.

Officials said that the government officers heading the project and overseeing the inauguration are currently in Delhi, while another cause of delay was the Nowgam blast.

"A brief extension of around a week has been sought to wrap up the pending work. Officials have also conveyed that this should be the final one," an official said.

The latest delay has, however, prompted discussions within the administration about possible action in case of further lapses. "A detailed review might be held once the officials return, and all aspects, including

accountability, will be looked into," the official added.

Earlier, in August, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary had cautioned that the contractor would face strict action, including possible black-listing, if the project was not completed by November 15. He had also ordered a "probe into Rs 23 crore" in payments reportedly cleared despite incomplete work on the ground.

Sanctioned at Rs 29 crore under the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) decongestion plan, the Sanat Nagar flyover was originally scheduled for completion in June 2024.

Officials said most of the structural work has been completed, with only finishing and safety checks pending.

Locals, meanwhile, hope this will finally be the last extension. "We just want to see it open for the public now," said Javid Ahmad, a commuter from Hyderpora—(KNO)

J&K Police face high operational risks: LoP Sharma

WARIS FAYAZ

Kupwara, Nov 17: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Legislative Assembly and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Monday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police face higher operational risks and need stronger support from the government, saying that the force requires updated welfare measures and enhanced risk allowance.

LoP Sharma, who visited the family of SIA Inspector Asrar Ul Haq, killed in the Nowgam Police Station blast said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police is engaged in counter insurgency operations and fights terrorism daily.

He said the Centre stands with every affected family. He said he was directed by the Home Minister to meet the households hit by the explosion and convey that the nation shares their loss.

LoP Sharma said Inspector Asrar was a capable and upright officer, saying the loss is a blow for the entire country. He assured that the family will receive employment support, adding that the assistance is a right for the family because the officer gave his life in service.

The Leader of Opposition also said the government has ordered a transparent investigation into any negligence that may have contributed to the blast. He said the inquiry will move ahead without political interference.

LoP Sharma, in the meanwhile, asked the National Conference government to show what they can deliver. He said people expect the ruling party to offer clear support



to the families. He said the families deserve additional help and the government in power should demonstrate its capability.

Earlier in the day, the LoP inquired about the health and wellbeing of those injured in the Nowgam blast. Accompanied by senior party leaders, Sharma visited Ujala Cygnus hospital to meet the injured persons.

Sharma conveyed his heartfelt sympathies, and assured them of all possible support during this difficult time. He expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident and prayed for their swift and complete recovery.

Sharma, who was accompanied by former MLA Nowshera Ravinder Raina and senior leader Anwar Khan, expressed solidarity with the families of the victims on behalf of the BJP and called for immediate relief and comprehensive medical care for those affected.

As per a statement issued here, Sharma appreciated the

dedicated efforts of the doctors, nurses, and staff who are working tirelessly to provide the best possible care.

Sharma conveyed heartfelt wishes for the swift and complete recovery of all the injured. He emphasized that the administration and public representatives must stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected families and ensure that they receive every necessary assistance.

He assured the families and hospital authorities that he would closely follow up on the treatment and ensure that all required support is provided without delay. He reiterated that the safety and welfare of the people remain the top priority and that such unfortunate incidents must be prevented in the future through better safety protocols and preparedness.

The LoP reaffirmed the party's commitment to stand with the victims and their families during this hour of distress—(KNO)

Bullets, grenades brought no justice: Raina

WARIS FAYAZ

Kupwara, Nov 17: Bullets and grenades have brought no justice and have destroyed families across the Valley, said Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Ravinder Raina on Monday. He also called for an end to the bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir.

Raina, while speaking to reporters during his visit to the home of SIA Inspector Asrar Ul Haq said the people in Jammu and Kashmir have lived through forty years of conflict. He said almost every family in the Valley has suffered due to continuous violence, adding that the cycle of killings has only produced loss and grief.

The BJP's senior leader said the neighbouring country has



harmed its own population and has pushed Kashmir into more suffering. He said violence has taken lives and has not helped any community. "Killing of innocent people must stop, while the use of guns, grenades and bombs must end at the earliest".

He said Inspector Asrar's sacrifice should inspire the youth to choose service and discipline. Raina praised the Jammu and Kashmir

Police, saying the force has shown bravery for decades.

Raina said it is among the top police forces in India because of its role in maintaining order during difficult periods. He said the nation salutes Inspector Asrar and all those who laid down their lives in the Nowgam blast. He said the country owes their sacrifice and stands with their families—(KNO)

Power troubles in Kangan to ease with new facility

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal, Nov 17: Kangan is all set to get its first dedicated electricity transformer repair facility, which is expected to significantly ease the burden on both residents and Power Development Department (PDD) employees.

The project, which is in its final stages, is likely to be completed by the end of December, officials said.

For years, Ganderbal district has relied on a single PDD workshop

where damaged transformers, mostly affected during winters due to heavy load in villages, were repaired.

With only one facility catering to the entire district, the workshop in Ganderbal often came under immense pressure. Mechanics reportedly handled dozens of faulty transformers at a time, causing delays of up to a week and leaving many areas without electricity for extended periods.—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Modernise Homestay Revolution For Sustainable Tourism Future

The Jammu and Kashmir administration's initiative to modernise its homestay ecosystem through a comprehensive digital portal, grading system, and financial support marks a visionary step toward sustainable, community-led tourism. This transformative approach recognises that the true soul of Kashmir resides not in impersonal hotels, but in the warmth of its homes and the richness of its cultural traditions. By creating a structured

platform that connects travellers directly with authentic Kashmiri hospitality, the government is building economic bridges that empower local communities while preserving cultural heritage. The potential of this initiative is immense. With 2,500 registered homestays already offering over 18,500 rooms, the foundation is strong. The proposed digital portal will democratise access to tourism revenue, enabling families in remote, picturesque villages to showcase their hospitality

without intermediaries. This direct connection benefits both hosts and guests: locals gain sustainable livelihoods while visitors experience the genuine Kashmir beyond commercial tourist circuits. The integration of digital payments and transparent rating systems will build trust and ensure quality, addressing key concerns that have previously hindered the sector's growth. Particularly commendable is the collaboration with J&K Bank to provide accessible loans at

lower interest rates. This financial inclusion component enables families to transform traditional homes into tourist-ready spaces without bearing prohibitive costs. Combined with the planned grading system for cleanliness and safety, these measures create an ecosystem where quality is rewarded and standards are maintained organically. The success of this initiative will depend on robust digital infrastructure, continuous capacity building for

homestay operators, and effective marketing to position Kashmir as a destination for immersive cultural experiences. If implemented with sensitivity and sustained commitment, this homestay revolution could become a model for community-based tourism across India, proving that economic development and cultural preservation can beautifully coexist when local communities become the true stakeholders in tourism growth.

DPDP RULES, 2025 NOTIFIED

A Citizen-Centric Framework For Privacy Protection And Responsible Data Use

DPDP Rules notified on 14 November 2025 after nationwide consultations

Consultation process received 6,915 inputs shaping the final Rules

Rules give full effect to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Press Information Bureau

The Government of India notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025 on 14 November 2025. This marks the full operationalisation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act). Together, the Act and the Rules form a clear and citizen-centred framework for the responsible use of digital personal data. They place equal weight on individual rights and lawful data processing.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology invited public comments on the draft Rules before finalising them. Consultations were held in Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. A wide range of participants took part in these discussions. Startups, MSMEs, industry bodies, civil society groups and government departments all offered detailed suggestions. Citizens also shared their views. In total, 6,915 inputs were received during the consultation process. These contributions played a key role in shaping the final Rules.

With the notification of the Rules, India now has a practical and innovation-friendly system for data protection. It supports ease of understanding, encourages compliance and strengthens trust in the country's growing digital ecosystem.

Understanding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Parliament enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act on 11 August 2023. The law creates a full framework for the protection of digital personal data in India. It explains what organisations must do when they collect or use such data. The Act follows the SARAL approach. This means it is Simple, Accessible, Rational and Actionable. The text uses plain language and clear illustrations so that people and businesses can understand the rules without difficulty.

Key Terms Under the DPDP Act, 2023

Data Fiduciary: An entity that decides why and how personal data is processed, either alone or with others.

Data Principal: The individual to whom the personal data relates. In the case of a child, this includes a parent or lawful guardian. For a person with a disability who cannot act independently, this includes the lawful guardian acting on their behalf.

Data Processor: Any entity that processes personal data on behalf of a Data Fiduciary.

Consent Manager: An entity that provides a single, transparent and interoperable platform through which a Data Principal may give, manage, review or withdraw consent.

Appellate Tribunal: The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), which hears appeals against decisions of the Data Protection Board.

The law rests on seven core principles. These include consent and transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, security safeguards and accountability. These principles guide every stage of data processing. They also ensure that personal data is used only for lawful and specific purposes.

A central feature of the Act is the creation of the Data Protection Board of India. The Board functions as an independent body that oversees compliance, inquires into breaches and ensures that corrective measures are taken. It plays a key role in enforcing the rights granted under the Act and maintaining trust in the system.

Penalties Under the DPDP Act, 2023

The DPDP Act imposes substantial financial penalties for non-compliance by Data Fiduciaries. The highest penalty up to 250



crore applies to failure of a Data Fiduciary to maintain reasonable security safeguards. Not notifying the Board or affected individuals of a personal data breach as well as violations of obligations relating to children can each attract penalties of up to 200 crore. Any other violation of the Act or Rules by a Data Fiduciary may attract penalties up to 50 crore.

The Act places clear responsibilities on Data Fiduciaries to keep personal data safe and to stay accountable for its use. It also gives Data Principals the right to know how their data is handled and the right to seek correction or removal when needed.

Together, the Act and the Rules create a strong and balanced system. They strengthen privacy, build public trust and support responsible innovation. They also help India's digital economy grow in a secure and globally competitive way.

Overview of the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025

The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 give full effect to the DPDP Act, 2023. They build a clear and practical system to protect personal data in a fast-expanding digital environment. The Rules focus on the rights of citizens and on responsible data use by organisations. The Rules aim to curb unauthorised commercial use of data, reduce digital harms and create a safe space for innovation. They will also help India maintain a strong and trusted digital economy.

In carrying this vision forward, the Rules outline several core provisions that follow:

Phased and Practical Implementation

The Rules introduce an eighteen-month period for phased compliance. This gives organisations enough time to adjust their systems and adopt responsible data practices. Every Data Fiduciary must issue a separate consent notice that is clear and easy to understand. The notice must explain the specific purpose for which personal data is collected and used. Consent Managers, who help people manage their permissions, must be companies based in India.

Clear Protocols for Personal Data Breach Notification

The Rules set out a simple and timely process for reporting personal data breaches. When a breach takes place, the Data Fiduciary must inform all affected individuals without delay. The message must be in plain language and must explain what happened, the possible impact and the steps taken to address the issue. It must also include contact details for help.

Transparency and Accountability Measures

The Rules require every Data Fiduciary to display clear contact information for queries related to personal data. This may be the contact of a designated officer or a Data Protection Officer. Significant Data Fiduciaries face stronger duties. They must conduct independent audits and carry out impact assessments. They must also follow stricter checks while using new or sensitive technologies. In some cases, they must follow government directions on restricted categories of data, including local storage where needed.

Strengthening Rights of Data Principals

The Rules reinforce the rights already provided under the Act. Individuals can ask to access their personal data or seek corrections and updates. They may also request the removal of data in certain situations. They can choose someone else to exercise these rights on their behalf. Data Fiduciaries must respond to such requests within ninety days.

Digital-First Data Protection Board

The Rules establish a fully digital Data Protection Board of India, which will consist of four members. Citizens will be able to file complaints online and track their cases through a dedicated portal and mobile application. This digital system supports quicker decisions and simplifies grievance redressal. Appeals against the Board's decisions will be heard by the Appellate Tribunal, TDSAT.

How the DPDP Rules Empower Individuals

The DPDP framework places the individual at the centre of India's data protection system. It aims to give every citizen clear control over personal data and confidence that it is being handled with care. The rules are written in plain language so that people can understand their rights without difficulty. They also ensure that organisations act responsibly and remain accountable for how they use personal data.

Rights and protections for citizens include:

Right to Give or Refuse Consent

Every person has the choice to allow or deny the use of their personal data. Consent must be clear, informed and easy to understand. Individuals may withdraw their consent at any time.

Right to Know How Data is Used

Citizens can seek information on what personal data has been collected, why it has been collected and how it is being used. Organisations must provide this information in a simple form.

Right to Access Personal Data

Individuals can ask for a copy of their personal data that is held by a Data Fiduciary.

Right to Correct Personal Data

People may request corrections to personal data that is inaccurate or incomplete.

Right to Update Personal Data

Citizens can ask for changes when their details have altered, such as a new address or updated contact number.

Right to Erase Personal Data

Individuals may request the removal of personal data in certain situations. The Data Fiduciary must consider and act on this request within the permitted time.

Right to Nominate Another Person

Every individual can appoint someone to exercise their data rights on their behalf. This is helpful in cases of illness or other limitations.

Mandatory Response within Ninety Days

Data Fiduciaries are required to address all requests related to access, correction, updating or erasure within a maximum of ninety days, ensuring timely action and accountability.

Protection During Personal Data Breaches

If a breach takes place, citizens must be informed at the earliest. The message must explain what happened and what steps they can take. This helps people act quickly to reduce harm.

Clear Contact for Queries and Complaints

Data Fiduciaries must provide a point of contact for questions relating to personal data. This may be a designated officer or a Data Protection Officer.

Special Protection for Children

When a child's personal data is involved, verifiable consent from a parent or guardian is required. This consent is needed unless

the processing relates to essential services such as healthcare, education or real-time safety.

Special Protection for Persons with Disabilities

If a person with a disability cannot make legal decisions even with support, their lawful guardian must give consent. This guardian must be verified under the relevant laws.

How DPDP Aligns with the RTI Act

Since the DPDP Act and the DPDP Rules expand citizens' privacy rights, they also clarify how these rights work alongside the access to information guaranteed by the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The changes introduced through the DPDP Act revise Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act in a way that respects both rights without diminishing either. The amendment reflects the Supreme Court's affirmation of privacy as a fundamental right in the Puttaswamy judgment. It brings the law in line with the reasoning already followed by courts, which have long applied reasonable restrictions to safeguard personal information. By codifying this approach, the amendment prevents uncertainty and avoids any conflict between the transparency regime of the RTI Act and the privacy safeguards introduced under the DPDP framework.

The revision does not prevent the disclosure of personal information. It simply requires that such information be assessed with care and shared only after considering the privacy interests involved. At the same time, Section 8(2) of the RTI Act remains fully operative. This provision allows a public authority to release information when the public interest in disclosure is strong enough to outweigh any possible harm. This ensures that the essence of the RTI Act, which is to promote openness and accountability in public life, continues to guide decision making.

Conclusion

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act and the DPDP Rules mark an important step in building a trustworthy and future-ready digital environment for the country. They bring clarity to how personal data must be handled, strengthen the rights of individuals and create firm responsibilities for organisations. The framework is practical in design and backed by wide public consultation, which makes it both inclusive and responsive to real needs. It supports the growth of India's digital economy while ensuring that privacy remains central to its progress. With these measures now in place, India moves towards a safer, more transparent and innovation-friendly data ecosystem that serves citizens and strengthens public confidence in digital governance.

References:

Full DPDP Rules, 2025: <https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/53450e6e5dc0bfa85ebd78686cad39.pdf>
Full DPDP Act, 2023 <https://www.meity.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/jan/doc202515481101.pdf>
MEITY: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2190014>
<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/jan/doc202515481101.pdf>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2090271>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2148944>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2158506>

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

Govt committed to equitable development of remote areas: Rana Inaugurates, lays foundation stones of key projects

KT News Desk

MENDHAR, NOVEMBER 17: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Monday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several key development works aimed at strengthening civic infrastructure, boosting connectivity and promoting eco-tourism in the Mendhar region.

The Minister launched the first phase of the Mendhar Town Drainage Upgradation Project worth ₹ 50 lakh, part of a larger ₹ 10.15 crore plan under the UT CAPEX budget. He said the project will modernise the town's drainage network, improve sanitation, enhance flood resilience and raise public health standards, reflecting the Government's commitment to timely and high-quality execution of public utilities.

He also inaugurated the newly constructed road from KM 12th to Mohalla Phamra Ziyarat, developed under NABARD funding at a cost of ₹ 319.91 lakh. The



Minister said the road will ease travel for residents, improve access to remote habitations, and strengthen connectivity to the revered Ziyarat. He appreciated the executing agency and directed officers to ensure proper maintenance for long-term durability.

Rana reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is committed to ensure that far-flung areas receive their due

share of development.

Later, the Minister also laid the foundation stone for Rest House at Jaranwali Gali, to be developed at an estimated cost of ₹ 45 lakh, in presence of MLA Surankote, Choudhary Muhammad Akram. The upcoming facility will support eco-tourism, offer improved accommodation for visitors and enhance the operational capacity of the Forest Department.

He said the Government is focused on promoting sustainable tourism while protecting vital natural resources. The Minister urged officers to maintain high technical standards in all ongoing works, ensuring durability and long-term public benefit.

He also interacted with locals and assured them that development initiatives aimed at public welfare and regional growth will continue to be prioritised.

Handicrafts Deptt to host 3-day Artisan Carnival

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Continuing its vigorous 'Know Your Artisan' campaign, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, is set to host a 3-day 'Artisan Carnival', a vibrant celebration of Kashmir's timeless crafts and cultural legacy at the Chinar-draped Sher-e-Kashmir Park, here, from November 20 to 22.

As a flagship event under the 'Soulful Kashmir' branding initiative, the three-day event will bring together over 30 master artisans from across the valley, showcasing the finest of Kashmiri handicrafts and handlooms under one roof.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that visitors will be treated to niche handicrafts and Handloom products made by the 'Golden Hands' of Kashmir artisans, including Shilp Gurus, Padma Shris, and National & UT Awardees. "LIVE demos of iconic crafts like Sozni & Crewel embroidery, Pashmina & Kani Weaving, Papier-Mâché, Copperware (Kandkari), Willow Work, Tweed making, shall be



on display," he said, adding that 'Meet the Masters' interactive sessions will be another highlight of the event.

The Artisan Carnival is part of the larger 'Soulful Kashmir' campaign which aims to revive, promote, and provide sustainable market linkages to the region's legendary artisans

while offering visitors an immersive experience. "Kashmir's crafts are not just products, but Centuries-old stories woven by the golden hands. This carnival is our tribute to the artisans who keep these traditions alive and an invitation to all craft lovers to discover the real soul of Kashmir," he added.

AFF Day Observance: Dr Bilal reviews preparations

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Monday chaired a meeting to review preparations and awareness activities regarding Armed Forces Flag Day, observed every year on 07 December.

The day holds national significance as it honours the supreme sacrifices, courage, and dedicated service of the Armed Forces personnel, while also mobilising public contributions for their welfare.

During the meeting, the DC highlighted that Armed Forces Flag Day serves as a collective opportunity for citizens to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF), which extends essential support to disabled ex-servicemen, war widows, and the children of martyrs. He urged all departments and the general public to actively participate in the campaign and uphold

the spirit of gratitude towards the nation's defenders.

The DC appreciated the Zila Sainik Welfare Board Budgam for its tremendous efforts and continued commitment towards the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families.

He acknowledged the Board's role in facilitating assistance, awareness, and fund raising initiatives across the district.

Further, the DC instructed the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam to formulate a District Welfare Board to coordinate voluntary contributions and streamline welfare-related activities in connection with the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. He emphasised that a dedicated district-level mechanism will help strengthen outreach and ensure sustained public participation.

Besides, ADC Budgam, ACD, DTO, all SDMs, DIO informatics, representatives of welfare board and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

DLSA Sgr organizes awareness programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Monday organized an Awareness Programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWVPS) Act, 2007 at Ahat-e-Waqar, Chanapora, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services

Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the chairmanship of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief and under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary, Ahat-e-Waqar, Er. Khazir Mohammad Trag, highlighted the importance of creating a supportive environment for senior citizens and ensuring their dignity and safety.

District Capex Budget DDC Budgam reviews progress Exhorts for timely completion of all works

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 17: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and the UT Sector.

The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, was attended by senior officers, sectoral heads and engineers of all departments.

During the meeting, detailed sector-wise progress was presented. The R&B sector informed that 100 ongoing works had been taken up, out of which 94 have been completed, while 80 new works stand approved, 76 tendered, 70 allotted, and 57 started, with 50 already completed.

Financially, more than ₹1574 lakh has been released for execution across multiple heads.

The Hydraulic (Jal Shakti) Circle Budgam informed that all 8 ongoing works have been completed. Under new works, 21 projects have been approved, all are tendered, 20 allotted, and 13 started. An expenditure of over ₹26 lakh has been incurred on new works, while nearly ₹15 lakh has been utilised under ongoing schemes.

The Rural Development Department highlighted one of the highest workloads in the district with 2694 works



approved under District Capex. It was informed that out of these, 2586 have been tendered, 2264 allotted, 2070 works have started, and 1591 stand completed, supported by financial releases exceeding 2455 lakh.

Similarly, a block-wise review across Beerwah, BK Pora, Budgam, Chadoora, Charar-e-Sharief, Khag, Khansahib, Nagam, Narbal, Pakherpora, Parnawa, Rathsun, SK Pora, Soibugh, Sukhnag, Surasay and Waterhail revealed that 1780 ongoing works had been undertaken and 1772 completed, with expenditure surpassing ₹506 lakh out of ₹646 lakh released.

While reviewing the overall progress, the DDC emphasised that the pace of work must be further accelerated.

He said that timely execution is critical for ensuring service delivery at the grassroots level, and delays must be avoided at all stages.

The DDC stressed that both physical and financial targets must be met within the stipulated timelines, particularly in view of the current working season.

He said that all departments should maintain strict coordination, ensure quality adherence, and resolve bottlenecks without delay. It was further directed that officers must ensure optimum utilisation of funds released under District Capex, CSS and UT Sector schemes.

He insisted that regular field monitoring, prompt reporting, and timely tendering/allotment remain essential for improving overall developmental outcomes in the district.

The DDC also remarked that departments must maintain transparency and accountability in every stage of project execution, adding that citizens expect efficient delivery of infrastructural and public welfare works.

He also directed officers to keep him regularly updated regarding progress and ensure that pendency is removed through focused intervention.

Besides JD planning budgam, SE Hydraulics circle budgam, SE R&B Budgam, ACD/ACP budgam, CEO MC budgam, all District officers, all BDOs, EOs of all MCs were present in the meeting.

DC Bandipora reviews ODOP with Deptts



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to review the district's preparedness under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised review of current ODOP to explore other unique and high-potential products which may better represent the district's economic strengths and noted that the previously communicated ODOP crewal based shawl was not actually practiced in Bandipora.

On the occasion, the DC observed that Sheep emerged as a strong contender for ODOP, given Bandipora's sizeable livestock base, comprising more than three lakh sheep, 7200 registered breeders and nearly half of local mutton consumption being met within the district.

During the meeting, Officers also highlighted the ongoing SKUAST initiatives aimed at strengthening the Gurezi sheep breed, the inclusion of sheep as ODOP under PMFME, and the year-round demand for mutton, which provides avenues for processing, branding and marketing. While acknowledging labour-related

challenges and sustainability concerns, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that infrastructure development remained central to any successful ODOP strategy.

During the meeting, the DC issued directions to concerned departments regarding raw material support, processing facilities, market linkage, skill development, employment generation and policy alignment needed for finalising the district's ODOP proposal. She also directed the departments to obtain the relevant rules from the Pollution Control Committee to facilitate compliance for future processing units.

The meeting further discussed additional potential products including honey, water chestnuts, lotus stem and Gurezi potato, along with the need to promote local produce in line with the "Vocal for Local" vision.

The DC underscored that coordination between all concerned departments would be crucial for ensuring meaningful value addition and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, GM DIC Bandipora, DSHO Bandipora, CHO Bandipora, CAO Bandipora, representatives from Handicrafts, Handloom, Employment, Revenue and ITIs.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas-2025 concludes

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 17: The Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas-2025 celebrations, held from 01 to 15 November, concluded on Saturday in Anantnag with a district-level valedictory event attended by district officers and sectoral heads, who listened to the livestreaming of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address from Dediypada, Gujarat.

Organised by the District Administration under the aegis of Rural Development Department (Nodal Agency), the outreach program witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal community leaders and members besides other stakeholders across the district.

The celebrations featured a meaningful mix of awareness programmes, cultural activities, educational events and environmental initiatives. The efforts aimed to honour the contributions of tribal freedom fighters while enrolling eligible tribal community members under various government welfare schemes related to health,



education and social security.

Joint teams conducted extensive awareness drives in various blocks, enabling many tribal beneficiaries to register on the spot. A notable achievement was the participation of 1309 women, who received direct support and guidance.

Traditional Gujar-Bakerwal folk dances, cultural attire displays, poetry, storytelling and community performances held at various places brought local heritage to the forefront and provided a vibrant platform for tribal children and youth to showcase their traditions and creativity.

Taking a leading role, Eklavya Model Residential School

(EMRS) Salia organised a wide range of programmes, including painting and essay competitions, quizzes, poem recitations and storytelling sessions on tribal history and freedom fighters, in addition to national anthem singing and sports activities.

Students paid rich tributes to tribal icons, deepening their understanding and pride in national and tribal heritage.

To promote awareness about hygiene and environmental protection, community-led cleanliness and tree plantation drives were held in tribal pockets such as Lehendajan and other areas.

Student Start-up from SKUAST-K secures Rs 5 Lakh ICAR grant

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: A student-led start-up "M/s FaimFarms P Ltd" mentored under the SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre Shalimar Srinagar has been awarded a Rs 5 lakh grant-in-aid by ICAR-Pusa, New Delhi, in recognition of its promising and disruptive innovation in the Agriculture sector.

The grant, sanctioned under ICAR's support for youth-led agricultural innovations, will be used to advance the start-up's ongoing work on a Ready to Eat/Serve centric innovation developed at SKUAST-K Innovation Centre in support with Division of Food Sciences & Technology.

The Funding will support prototype refinement, field validation, and early-stage commercialization activities, enabling the team to translate



research into practice and benefit farmers and other stakeholders in the region.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST K, Prof Nazir A Ganai Congratulated the Young Student led Startup Founders of M/s FaimFarms P Ltd setting their goals and achieving the feat and for taking the mission and vision of SKUAST K forward. He also congratulated the Director and Team SKIIE Centre and all mentors across faculties and different labs of University.

Chief Executive Officer/Head, SKIIE Centre, said that the success of the student start-up reflects SKUAST-K's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among our students and researchers.

DC B'pora clears 74 Mission YUVA cases

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the Mini Secretariat to review and approve cases under Mission YUVA.

During the meeting, 98 cases were placed before the Committee for consideration. After detailed scrutiny, 74 cases were approved, while the remaining cases were returned to the respective departments for further verification and submission of complete feasibility reports.

The meeting also took a comprehensive review of the district's overall progress under Mission YUVA, including the status of cases recommended to banks, sanctioned, disbursed and rejected, to assess the

programme's implementation at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure rigorous verification of all cases to uphold transparency and accountability in the approval process. She reiterated the instructions of the Chief Secretary, underscoring the need to prioritise rehabilitated youth and victims of terror under Mission YUVA to enable sustainable livelihood generation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the bank authorities to analyse all rejected cases along with the reasons for rejection and to ensure timely resolution wherever feasible.

The meeting was attended by officers from DIC Bandipora, DSWO Bandipora, ARTO Bandipora, PCB Bandipora, JKEDI Bandipora and other concerned officers.

Commitment to development helps us win elections: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Bihar election results have sent a clear message to all state governments that their development policies will determine the future of their parties, whether they belong to "left, right or centre".

Delivering the sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture, Modi also took a dig at those calling him and the BJP of being perpetually in "election mode" and said that it is being in "emotional mode" with commitment to development and people's sentiment 24x7 that wins elections for the BJP.

"I strongly encourage state governments to foster a spirit of healthy competition by attracting investments and promoting growth," he said.

Modi also lashed out at the Congress, contending that forces supporting Naxalism and Maoist terrorism were losing ground in the country but gaining traction in the main opposition party.

"For the past five decades, almost every state in India has been affected by Maoist terror. Unfortunately, the Congress chose to nurture those who do not believe in the Indian Constitution," he said.

The prime minister said the Congress went on to embed 'Urban Naxals' within major institutions.

"The Urban Naxal-Maoist ecosystem that had taken root in the Congress 10-15 years ago has now transformed into the 'Muslimleegi Maowadi Congress (MMC)'. And today, I say with full responsibility that the MMC has sidelined national interest for its own political gain," Modi said.

The prime minister said be it the central government or state governments led by regional parties, the primary focus should be development.

"The results of the Bihar elections have once again taught a lesson on the high aspirations and ambitions of the people of India. The people of India today trust those political parties who have good intentions and fulfil the aspirations of the people and prioritise development,"



Modi said.

Modi said the BJP wins elections because it is committed to the development and welfare of the people 24x7.

He said crores of BJP workers have nurtured the party with their sweat, and they continue to do so even today.

"In states like Kerala, Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir, hundreds of our workers have also nurtured the party with their blood. For a party that has such dedicated workers, winning elections is not the only goal; rather, they continuously work with a spirit of service to win the hearts of the people," he said.

Modi said the RJD government was given 15 years by the people of Bihar and Lalu Prasad Yadav could have done much for the state.

"But he chose 'jungle raj' and betrayed the mandate of the people," he said.

Modi said the recent Bihar elections also highlighted the trend of rising participation of the people in the electoral process.

"This time, Bihar recorded the highest voter turnout in its history. Women's turnout has been nearly nine per cent higher than men's. This, too, is a victory for democracy," the prime minister said.

Modi said the fruits of development must reach every section of society, but over the past decades, some parties have focused only on serving their own interests.

"Our priority should be development, development and only

development," he said.

The prime minister said his government's efforts went beyond merely expanding the reach of social security.

"We are steadfast in our mission of saturation, ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left out of any scheme. In such an inclusive framework, there is no room for discrimination," he said.

"As a result of these sustained efforts over the past 11 years, 25 crore people have successfully risen out of poverty. This transformation is a testament to the effectiveness of these initiatives, underscoring why the world acknowledges – Democracy Delivers," Modi said.

The prime minister said approximately 94 crore people in India are now covered under the umbrella of social security.

"A decade ago, this number stood at just 25 crore, signifying that only 25 crore individuals benefited from government welfare schemes at the time. Today, that figure has risen to an impressive 94 crore, representing a remarkable expansion of social welfare coverage and a true example of social justice in action," the prime minister said.

Modi said the world was looking at India's growth model as "a model of hope".

"Our GDP is growing at nearly seven per cent despite global instabilities; India is not just an emerging market but an emerging model too," he said.

Modi said India is restless to become a developed nation; it is growing fast despite global challenges.

NC leaders visit families of Nowgam tragedy victims

Express solidarity, pray for recovery of injured

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 17: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, led by the Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Monday visited the families affected by the tragic Nowgam incident, conveying profound solidarity and heartfelt condolences on behalf of the party leadership. The delegation included the party's Provincial President (Kashmir) and the MLA Channapora Mushtaq Guroo.

The leaders visited the Natipora residence of the slain tailor who lost his life in the devastating incident. They then travelled to the Housing Colony, Bemina, to offer condolences at the home of the martyred police officer.

Later, the delegation visited



the Soibugh residence of the Naib Tehsildar who also tragically lost his life. At all three locations, the leaders offered fatiha and conveyed the deepest sympathies of the National Conference rank and file, particularly the Party President and the Vice President & Chief Minister. They assured the

bereaved families of the party's unwavering support in this hour of immense grief.

In the afternoon, the delegation proceeded to Ujala Hospital to meet the 20 injured victims, including five admitted to the ICU. They prayed for the swift and complete recovery of all those wounded and

interacted with the attending families and medical teams to assess the ongoing treatment and any additional assistance required.

The leaders affirmed that the party stands firmly with all affected families and continues to pray for peace, healing, and strength for everyone impacted by this tragic event.

Separately, an NC delegation led by the Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister along with the Provincial President (Kashmir) Showkat Mir and the District President Peer Afaz visited the residences of the two police personnel in Qamarwari and HMT who lost their lives in the Nowgam blast. The delegation offered fatiha for the departed souls and prayed for strength and solace for the bereaved families.

India committed to best interests of people of Bangladesh: MEA on Hasina verdict

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17 Hours after a special tribunal in Bangladesh sentenced ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death, India on Monday said it noted the verdict and that it will engage constructively with all stakeholders considering peace, democracy and stability in the neighbouring country.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India remains committed to the best interests of people of Bangladesh.

Hasina was found guilty of crimes against humanity by the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) and it sentenced her to death. Hasina's aide and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was also given a death sentence on similar charges.

Hasina, the Awami League leader, has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests.

"India has noted the verdict announced by the 'International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh' concerning former prime minister Sheikh Hasina," the MEA said.

"As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country," it said.

"We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," the MEA added.

However, it did not comment on Dhaka's call to extradite Hasina.

Following the verdict, Bangladesh's foreign ministry demanded that Hasina be immediately handed over under an extradition treaty in view of her sentencing.

"This is also a duty for India, as per the extradition treaty existing between the two countries," it said.

In her reaction, Hasina said the judgement has been made by a "rigged

tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate".

"They are biased and politically motivated. In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected prime minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," she said in a statement.

Hasina said she was not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly. "That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague."

The verdict comes months before parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Hasina's Awami League party has been barred from contesting the elections scheduled to be held in February.

Dr Farooq, Omar pay tribute to Sufi Ghulam Mohammad

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President & Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid heartfelt tributes to the founder-editor of the Srinagar Times and renowned short story writer, Sufi Ghulam Mohammad, on his death anniversary.

In their message, they remembered Sufi Sahib's cheerful and generous nature and lauded his remarkable contributions to journalism and literature. Recognized for his integrity and amiable personality, they described him as a true pioneer who laid the foundation for impartial and unbiased reporting in the vernacular press, championing the rights of the common man for more than five decades. They prayed to Almighty Allah to grant his soul the highest place in Jannat.

Among others, the party's General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Additional General Secretary Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Provincial President Showkat Ahmad Mir, State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, Media, and Social Media wing functionaries and office bearers have also paid rich tributes to Sufi Sahib on his 16th death anniversary.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

Amit Shah's stern

government. "We will hunt down the culprits of the Delhi bomb blast even from the depths of the netherworld (patal) and ensure they receive the strictest possible punishment," he remarked.

He also said that Zonal Councils are very important for dialogue, cooperation, coordination, and policy synergy. "They play a very important role in translating PM Modi's vision of 'strong states alone create a strong nation' into reality."

NIA Gets 10-Day Custody Of Suicide Bomber's Aide

Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday was granted a 10-custody of the Delhi blast suicide bomber's aide, Amir Rashid Ali by the special anti-terror agency court in Delhi.

Amir, according to the anti-terror agency, was arrested for conspiring with the suicide bomber - Dr Umar - to carry out the terror attack which claimed 10 lives and left 32 others injured near Delhi's historic Red Fort.

Amir was produced in the court today. The court granted 10-day custody of Amir to the NIA. "He has been found involved in providing assistance to the Delhi blast accused Dr Umar. He also provided logistical support and procurement to Umar and assisted him to make IED and explosives used in the blast," the Anti-Terror Agency said.

It added the accused was found involved in terrorist related activities and was found to have visited the safe house arranged by Dr Umar. "Amir will now be brought to the Kashmir Valley to probe further links into the Delhi blast case".

Amir had come to Delhi to facilitate the purchase of the car which was eventually used as a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to trigger the blast, the NIA had said on Sunday.

One More Key Associate Of Suicide Bomber Arrested

Continuing with its probe in the Red Fort blast, case, the Anti-Terror Agency today said that it has arrested another key associate of the terrorist involved in the blast. He has been identified as Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish of Qazigund.

It said that investigations have revealed that Jasir had allegedly provided technical support

for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly blast.

The NIA said that he was an active co-conspirator behind the attack and had worked closely with the terrorist, Umar un Nabi, to plan the terror carnage.

"The NIA continues to explore various angles to unravel the conspiracy behind the bombing. Several teams of the anti-terror agency are pursuing multiple leads, and are conducting searches across states to identify every person involved in the terror attack," it said. (KNO)

'Zero tolerance to

Pan-India terror network.

He also observed that in the first phase of the 150th year commemoration of 'Vande Mataram', Jammu Kashmir has achieved first place in the entire country in event participation and out of top 10 districts, 9 are from J&K UT.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Home Minister for resolving various issues concerning Jammu Kashmir and guiding its all-around development. He said after abrogation of Article 370, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed historic transformation in terms of economic growth, investment, infrastructure, connectivity, strengthening of grassroots democracy and better opportunities for youth and women. The security situation has significantly improved.

"The 360-degree security mechanism has been strengthened. Seamless coordination between intelligence and security agencies has been enhanced to foil nefarious designs of adversary," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting was attended by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, and Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta. (KNO)

'Op Sindoor just

terrorism. "Even if we receive a letter that is

redundant, we know who to reply to.

The Army chief said that India wants peace but Pakistan has to understand that terrorism cannot be used to influence India. "We are saying that by adopting the process of peace, action will be necessary against those who obstruct our work," he said.

He also mentioned how India needs to ensure that proper supplies for food, and ammunition are maintained for even long drawn out battles, even for as long as four years if need be.

"We also cannot say how long a battle will last even today. This time we fought for 88 hours, next time it could be four months too or even four years. Looking at that, do we have enough supplies and weapons to fight that? If we do not have then we need to prepare for that," he added.

He said that in today's era, security challenges are changing and India has to be prepared for all kinds of protracted battles. "India's strategy is clear: peace initiatives will continue and necessary action will also be taken" (KNO)

J&K people

of voters in the Nagrota and Budgam by-elections is a testament to our unwavering faith in democracy," he said.

Kashmir peak

On Monday, power generation plants in Baglihar, PDC Jammu and other Independent Power Producers (IPP) in Kashmir were ranging from 300-380 MWs.

Earlier, during the peak season, Jammu and Kashmir was generating over 1,100 MWs of power from the total generation capacity of 1197.4 MW.

In the last week of October, the official had informed KNO that there were additional 800 MWs allocated from the centre. "From this year, we have 1,300 MW from the central pool. We have started banking with other states."

Pertinently, till the third week of February,-2025 an official had said that Jammu and Kashmir was relying on more than 85 percent of coal and solar power amid acute deficit of hydro power generation.

Officials of PDD department had claimed that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90

percent.

An official had informed that "At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation." (KNO)

CM sanctions

national best practices in labour welfare.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of the labour force, noting that construction workers are the backbone of infrastructural growth and deserve comprehensive and timely welfare support.

Omar mourns

collision resulted in the death of 45 Indian pilgrims. (KNO)

Security forces increase

personnel from multiple security wings have been deployed at Jammu Railway Station to ensure that no untoward incident takes place," he added.

A witness told KNO that all travellers at the Jammu Railway Station are being subjected to thorough checks before entering the premises. "Security teams equipped with advanced scanning devices and supported by canine units are frisking passengers, inspecting luggage, and verifying identities in real time," he said.

Meanwhile, officials said that security forces in other parts of the Jammu region, including border areas, are on high alert and searches are being conducted along key highways and roads.

From Kathua to the Jammu region, the officials said police alertness remains intact, with vehicle checks in both directions and the frisking of civilian vehicles as part of the larger security operations.

In the Kashmir region, officials said security personnel are conducting vehicle checks, carrying out frisking, and launching CASOs at multiple locations amid the heightened alert.

From North to South Kashmir, officials said, Police and the CRPF personnel are thoroughly checking vehicles and verifying registration documents.

"The Army and BSF remain on alert along the International Border and the Line of Control across both regions, maintaining high vigil to

prevent any threat," the officials added. (KNO)

Police apprehend

the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In another action, Police Station Rajpora apprehended Shabir Ahmad Gorsi son of Balya Gorsi resident of Zampathri Keller, Shopian. He was wanted in FIR No. 31/1996 under Sections 7/25 Arms Act and had been absconding for nearly 25 years. After his arrest, he too was produced before the Hon'ble Court as per legal procedure, police said.

These timely arrests reaffirm J&K Police's firm resolve to uphold the rule of law and take decisive action against individuals attempting to evade the legal process. Police will continue their efforts to ensure that such offenders are brought before the law without fail, the statement added. (KNO)

J&K Police stand

He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and assured them that the J&K Police would remain connected with them.

The DGP said that support measures for the families of all nine persons killed in the explosion are being coordinated.

He issued directions for completing all formalities and ensuring timely support and welfare measures for the families of the martyrs.

Meanwhile, IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi said the police department stands with the bereaved families and expressed condolences on behalf of the force. (KNO)

J&K Govt forms

transferred to the Army in lieu of the 139.04 acres at Tattoo Ground. Identify suitable parcels of land feasible for such transfer to both the Union Territory and the Army," it reads.

Pertinently, the Tattoo Ground land issue concerns a long-pending dispute over nearly 139.04 acres (around 700 kanals) of land in Srinagar's Batamaloo area. The site, historically used by the Army as a garrison and parade ground, has remained under military control for decades.

Successful governments have sought its return for public purposes, including tourism, recreation, and urban development, while the Army maintained that the land was required for operational and security needs. (KNO)

45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad killed in Saudi Arabia bus accident

PTI

Hyderabad, Nov 17: At least 45 people, most of them from Hyderabad, were killed in a bus accident in Saudi Arabia, the city police chief said on Monday, citing preliminary information.

Addressing reporters here, Hyderabad police commissioner VC Sajjanar said a total of 54 people travelled to Jeddah from here on November 9. They were scheduled to return on November 23.

Of the 54, four people travelled separately by car to Madina on Sunday, while another four stayed back in Mecca, he said.

Taking to X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "deeply saddened" by the accident in Madinah involving Indian nationals.

The PM also said Indian officials are in close contact with Saudi Arabian authorities.

According to the police commissioner, 46 people were travelling in the bus, which collided with an oil tanker about 25 km from Madina.

Only one person survived the accident and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. "We are getting information that 45 people died. They were supposed to return to Hyderabad on 23rd



(of November)," he added.

Citing information received by him, Telangana Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammad Azharuddin said the toll is said to be about 47-48 people.

The bodies are understood to be charred beyond recognition. The pilgrims used the services of four different travel agents, he said.

He said the state government has pledged to help the family members of the victims travel to Saudi Arabia, including facilitating passports and visas.

One person from each family would be sent, the minister said. Speaking to PTI Videos, Mufti Asif, a resident of

Hyderabad, said seven members of his family travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. He confirmed receiving photos of the accident and urged the Telangana government to facilitate his travel to Saudi Arabia to take care of his family members.

Mohammad Salman, another city resident, whose six family members were in the bus, said his last contact with them indicated that they two hours away from Madinah before all communication ceased. According to Mohammad Burhan, another city resident, the sole survivor, Shoaib managed to escape by

jumping out of the bus after breaking the window, sustaining burns to his hands in the process.

Burhan said he called AIM-IM leader Asaduddin Owaisi and informed him about the incident.

Tafseer Iqbal, Joint Commissioner of Police, quoting preliminary information, said out of the 46 who were in the bus, 43 are from Hyderabad limits, 2 from Cyberabad and one has the address of Hubli in Karnataka. The police official further said there were 18 men and an equal number of women and 10 children in the ill-fated bus. AIMIM MLA

Majid Hussain said, "We have received information that over 40 people died in the accident, and we are coordinating with the families."

The Consulate General of India in Jeddah, in a statement, said it and the Embassy in Riyadh are extending full support. "Officials of the Embassy and the consulate are also in touch with the concerned officials of the state of Telangana to coordinate with the concerned families," it said.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to gather details about the bus accident in Saudi Arabia involving some residents from the city.

The accident occurred when the bus was proceeding from Makkah to Madinah in the Gulf nation, according to a CMO release. The government provided phone numbers of the Control Room set up in the Secretariat here to provide information to the families of those involved in the accident.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi expressed anguish over the deaths of several Hyderabad residents in the mishap.

He urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to help bring back the bodies of those who died and provide treatment to those injured, the AIMIM said in a post on X.

Swearing-in of new Bihar govt likely on Nov 20

PM Modi expected to attend



PTI

Patna, Nov 17: The swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Bihar is likely to take place in Patna on November 20, official sources said on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other top leaders of the NDA, including union ministers, are expected to take part in the oath-taking event, they said.

Earlier in the day, Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal told reporters that the newly elected

legislators will meet on Tuesday to elect their legislature party leader.

Most likely, the oath-taking ceremony will take place either on November 20 or November 21, he said.

Preparations are underway at Patna's Gandhi Maidan for the swearing-in event.

Meanwhile, the last cabinet meeting of the outgoing NDA government in Bihar on Monday authorised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to recommend dissolution of the

assembly, a state minister said. The CM met Governor Arif Mohammad Khan soon after the meeting to apprise him about the decision of the cabinet. The cabinet in its meeting, passed a resolution to recommend the dissolution of the assembly on November 19, he said. In the recent assembly polls, the NDA bagged more than 200 seats in the 243-member House, with the BJP winning the maximum number of 89 seats, followed by the JD(U)'s tally of 85.

SC issues notice to Rajasthan govt on plea challenging validity of anti-conversion law

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Rajasthan government and others on a petition challenging the validity of the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2025. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the state and others, seeking their replies on the plea filed by the Jaipur Catholic Welfare Society.

"We have raised issues of legislative competence as well as excessiveness in terms of constitutional limitations," senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the petitioner, said.

The bench observed that petitions raising similar issue were pending consideration before the top court.

"We have raised an entirely different question," Dhavan said.

"We will issue notice and call the other side and then we will hear you,"

Justice Nath said, as the bench issued notice on the plea and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

It also tagged the plea with the pending petitions raising similar issue.

On November 3, the top court agreed to hear two petitions challenging the validity of several provisions of the law against illegal religious conversions that came into force in Rajasthan.

It issued notice to the Rajasthan government seeking its response within four weeks on the pleas against the 2025 Act that was passed by the state Assembly in September.

Also in September, another bench of the apex court sought the stand of several states on separate pleas seeking a stay on their respective anti-conversion laws.

The top court had then made it clear that it would consider the prayer for staying the operation of such laws once the replies were filed.

Bihar poll drubbing Tejashwi likely to hold meeting with RJD MLAs to discuss future course of action

PTI

Patna, Nov 17: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav is likely to hold a meeting with the newly elected MLAs of his party on Monday to discuss the future course of action for the party following its drubbing in the recent Bihar assembly elections, sources said.

They said he will "discuss the poor performance of the INDIA bloc in the 2025 Bihar polls" and decide on the "future course of action for the party" after the formation of the new NDA government.

The INDIA bloc faced a crushing defeat at the hands of the NDA in the Bihar polls, which managed to secure 202 seats in the 243-member assembly. The RJD, which won merely 25 of the 143 seats it contested, is also witnessing a family feud in the residence of its founder Lalu Prasad.

Claiming that she was "cursed at" for donating a "dirty kidney" to her father Lalu Prasad in exchange for money and a party ticket, Rohini Acharya on Sunday said "she has been made an orphan", and advised all married women to refrain from saving "your God-like father



if he has a son".

In an emotional outburst, 47-year-old Acharya, in a series of posts on X, said that "may no household give birth to a girl with a fate like that of Rohini".

The posts came a day after her announcement that she was quitting the party and disowning her family, while putting the blame for the RJD's debacle in the recent Bihar polls on her brother Tejashwi Yadav's close aides - RJD's MP Sanjay Yadav, who hails from Haryana, and Rameez, who is from a political family in Uttar Pradesh.

NDA leaders on Monday condemned RJD's Tejashwi Yadav for "disrespecting the female members" of his

family, and questioned the credibility of his claims to build a better Bihar.

Speaking to reporters here, Bihar JD(U) chief Umesh Kushwaha said, "This is a family matter and I wish they could live united. But you see,

recently, the daughter-in-law of that family came out in public as well. If a person wants to rule Bihar but cannot maintain the respect of female members of his family, it is before the people to judge." He was ostensibly referring to Aishwarya Rai, the estranged wife of Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap, who accused the Yadav family of inflicting physical and emotional abuse on her.

BJP state president Dilip

Jaiswal said, "This disrespect of a daughter is very unfortunate. If the daughter of Lalu Yadav has to come on the streets and speak about this, I don't think he will tolerate this. If Lalu Yadav or Rohini Acharya are disrespected, even people will not tolerate it." "If people know Tejashwi's name today, it is because of Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi," he added.

Lalu Prasad and other big whips of the party are tight-lipped about the issue.

While the mood in the NDA bloc is upbeat after the Bihar poll results, the official residence of former chief minister Rabri Devi wore a deserted look on Monday.

Usually buzzing with political activity, her residence was bereft of party workers and supporters amid the party being caught in the double imbroglio of electoral defeat and family tensions.

After Rohini Acharya's exit, a video of three other daughters of Lalu Prasad -- Rajlakshmi, Ragini and Chanda -- departing Patna airport to take a flight to Delhi went viral on social media. None of the three daughters spoke to the media.

Anil Ambani skips ED summons in Fema case

Says ready to depose virtually



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17: Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani refused to appear before the Enforcement Directorate in a Foreign Exchange Management Act (Fema) case for the second time on Monday.

The businessman said he was ready to depose before the federal probe agency via "virtual appearance/recorded video", a statement he made when he skipped the summons the first time on November 14.

The ED had rejected Ambani's offer and issued him a fresh summons for Monday. It was not clear if the agency would issue a third summons now.

Proceedings under the Fema are civil in nature, as against the criminal processes under the anti-money laundering law.

In a statement, a spokesperson of the 66-year-old businessman said, "Mr Anil D. Ambani has offered to make himself available for the recording of his statement, at any date and time suitable to ED, via virtual appearance/recorded video."

According to sources, the agency had asked Ambani to appear before it in person on Friday and record his statement under the Fema.

The investigation pertains to the Jaipur-Reengus highway project. In an earlier statement, the ED said that after recently attaching assets worth Rs 7,500 crore belonging to Ambani and his companies under the anti-money laundering law, a search carried out against Reliance Infrastructure Ltd.

found that Rs 40 crore was allegedly "siphoned" from the highway project.

"Funds moved through Surat-based shell companies to Dubai. The trail has unearthed a wider international hawala network exceeding Rs 600 crore," the agency said.

The ED has recorded the statement of various persons, including some alleged hawala dealers, following which they decided to summon Ambani, the sources said.

Hawala denotes illegal movement of funds, largely in cash.

"The matter (Fema case) is 15 years old, dates to 2010. It concerns issues associated with a road contractor," the statement said.

In 2010, Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. awarded an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contract to build the JR Toll Road (Jaipur-Reengus highway), it said. "This was a purely domestic contract with no foreign exchange component involved whatsoever. The JR Toll Road has been fully completed and, from 2021 onwards, has been with the National Highways Authority of India," the statement said.

Ambani is not a member of the Board of Reliance Infrastructure.

"He served the company for about 15 years, from April 2007 to March 2022, only as a non-executive director, and was never involved in day-to-day management of the company," it said.

The businessman has been questioned once by the ED in a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 17,000-crore bank fraud against his group companies.

Top doctor reveals 6 signs you have high amount of cortisol & what should one do

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 17: Cortisol, known as the stress hormone, in small quantities, prepares our body for the 'fight or flight' response. However, when there is too much cortisol in the body, it can lead to various health issues and inflammation. Not many know that chronic stress can affect each and every part of your body, including stomach, skin, even the heart and the brain! Dr Kunal Sood, a Double Board Certified MD, reveals 6 signs of high cortisol, followed by some tips on what can you can do to manage it...

Weight gain around the abdomen, face, and neck

While weight gain in general is a cause of concern, weight gain on the face, belly, and the back of the neck, often means cortisol, says Dr Sood. Weight gain, in that spot looks different from overall weight gain, because the arms and the legs stay mostly the same. High cortisol shows this pattern in people who have long-term stress, or who have "Cushing syndrome", a condition where cortisol is too high.

High cortisol can also cause a condition called 'moon face' and a fat lump on the neck, called a 'buffalo hump'. This storage is usually a sign of excess cortisol, that can lead to blood pressure and blood sugar problems.

Skin issues

The skin can show symptoms of high cortisol as well. This occurs because high cortisol levels break down proteins in the skin, which makes the skin thin and fragile. The thin skin bruises easily, and heals slowly. Not only that, high cortisol raises oil production in the skin, that can make acne worse. High cortisol can also cause red stretch marks, where fat builds up such as the abdomen or thighs, along with eczema, psoriasis or rosacea flare up. Stress can also speed up ageing, which can lead to dryness and wrinkles.

Digestive problems

Your stomach is one of the first organs that gets affected by stress. High cortisol, over time, can make the gut leakier, that can cause bloating and discomfort. Not only that, the brain-gut connection also



messes up the balance of bacteria in the tract. When the balance of bacteria is off, the brain-gut connection can bring on problems such as irregular bowel syndrome (IBS), or irregular digestion. This occurs because higher inflammation that comes from cortisol, hurts gut health, by changing gut motility and gut secretion.

Muscle and joint pain

Cortisol breaks down muscle tissue for energy, when the body is stressed. Over time, cortisol can

leave muscles feeling weak, and the joints vulnerable to aches, according to Dr Sood. This occurs because high cortisol reduces bone density, and muscle mass. This reduced bone density and reduced muscle mass cause muscle pain, fatigue or even osteoporosis, if left unchecked. A lot of people think that fatigue and pain is a natural part of ageing, but chronic fatigue should never be overlooked.

Frequent colds or infections

Cortisol is tied to the strength of the immune system, and while short bursts of inflammation help the body fight off infections, when cortisol stays high for a long time, it can lower the system defenses. A weak immune system lets colds and other infections get in easily, and the immune system recovers slowly. High cortisol hurts T-cell activity, and also cuts down the production of cytokines, thus leaving the body open to viruses and bacteria.

Irregular menstrual periods in women

In women, cortisol has an adverse effect on hormones too, says Dr Sood. When cortisol stays high for a long time, it can disrupt

the signals from the brain to the ovaries. This break can cause periods that are irregular, missed or absent completely. The reason is that stress hormones such as cortisol, lower the production of estrogen and other sex hormone, leading to a drop in libido.

To lower cortisol naturally:

- Put sleep first. Poor sleep keeps the cortisol high. Try to get seven to nine hours of sleep each night.

- Regular exercise helps lower the stress. However, do not go overboard, as excessive exercise can increase cortisol as well.

- Skip the processed foods/high-sugar foods, that can raise cortisol. Instead, focus on wholesome foods, and enough protein.

- Practice relaxation by doing breathing, yoga or mindfulness meditation, since they directly lower stress symptoms.

- Try to limit caffeine and alcohol. Both can increase stress hormones if consumed excessively.

- Build meaningful relationships: Supportive relationships keep stress down and cortisol low, over time.

Ousted Bangladesh PM Hasina sentenced to death for 'crimes against humanity'

PTI

Dhaka, Nov 17: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

In its verdict that followed a months-long trial, the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described the 78-year-old Awami League leader as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters.

Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court. In her reaction, Hasina said the judgement has been made by a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate." "They are biased and politically motivated. In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures



within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected prime minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," she said in a statement.

Hasina said she was not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly.

"That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague."

The verdict comes months before parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Hasina's Awami

League party has been barred from contesting the elections scheduled to be held in February.

Reading out the judgment before a heavily guarded courtroom in Dhaka, the ICT said the prosecution proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Hasina was behind the deadly crackdown on student-led protests in July-August last year.

A UN rights office report had earlier estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during the month-long agitation, known as the July Uprising.

Hasina was handed the death

penalty for ordering the use of deadly force against unarmed protesters, making inflammatory statements and authorising operations that led to the killing of several students in Dhaka and surrounding areas.

In recent media interviews, Hasina described the ICT as a "kangaroo court" run by her opponents.

The ICT, originally set up to try hardened collaborators of Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War, was amended by the current administration to bring leaders of the past regime, including Hasina, under its jurisdiction.

Most Awami League leaders have either been arrested or have fled the country since the collapse of the Hasina regime.

By inciting violence through provocative statements and taking no punitive measures against the perpetrators who attacked protesting students, Hasina committed crimes against humanity, the ICT said.

She also ordered the use of helicopters and lethal weapons on protestors, it said.

US flights to return to normal after restrictions lifted

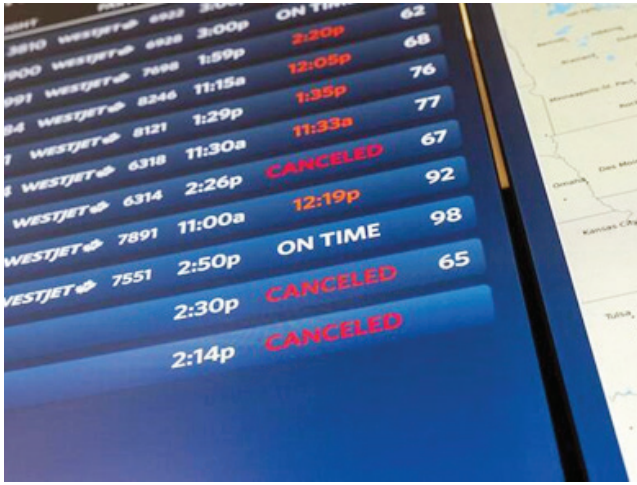
AFP

Washington, Nov 17: US flights will return to normal schedules on Monday after reductions imposed during a government shutdown were lifted, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

The FAA said Sunday evening that restrictions would be lifted and "normal operations can resume" across the country from 6:00 a.m. Washington time (1100 GMT) on Monday.

Thousands of flights were canceled due to understaffing during the shutdown, which stretched into a record 43 days.

Ten percent of domestic flights were cut at 40 of the busiest US airports due to a shortage of control tower staff, who were asked to work without pay as the budget stalemate dragged on. The aviation industry was further strained after President Donald Trump threatened to dock pay for air traffic controllers who called



in sick during the shutdown, accusing them of being unpatriotic. Flights were still reduced by three percent over the weekend despite the shutdown ending on Wednesday, though the FAA said some airlines had not complied with the restrictions.

"Now we can refocus our efforts on surging controller

hiring and building the brand new, state of the art air traffic control system," Transport Secretary Sean Duffy said in a statement.

The easing of restrictions comes days before a surge in passengers traveling around the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday on November 27.

Japan seeks to calm escalating row with China over Taiwan

REUTERS

Tokyo/Beijing, Nov 17: Japan on Monday moved to tamp down an escalating row with China over Taiwan that has prompted Beijing to urge its citizens to stay away from its East Asian neighbor.

The dispute erupted after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told Japanese lawmakers earlier this month that a Chinese attack on Taiwan threatening Japan's survival could trigger a military response, a scenario previous administrations have avoided discussing in public to avoid provoking Beijing, which claims the self-ruled island.

Masaaki Kanai, the director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia and Oceania bureau, will meet his Chinese counterpart, Liu Jinsong, in Beijing this week, Japanese media reported on Monday. Kanai is expected to explain that Takaichi's comment does not signal a shift in Japan's security policy and urge China to refrain from actions that further damage ties, they said.

They've completely destroyed Test cricket': Harbhajan Singh on underprepared home pitches

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17: Calling it "the destruction of Test cricket", former India spinner Harbhajan Singh says underprepared and excessively bowler-friendly surfaces like the one used at Eden Gardens, prevent the genuine development of players.

India slipped to a 30-run defeat while chasing 124 in the first Test against South Africa as the game ended inside three days. "They have completely destroyed Test cricket. Rest in peace Test cricket," Singh, said on his YouTube channel.

"The kind of work they have done, the kind of pitches that have been made for so many years now, I have been seeing it. No one talks about it because it is fine, the team is winning, someone is taking wickets,



someone is becoming great by taking those wickets," he said.

"So everyone feels everything is going well. But I feel that this practice has not started today. It has been going on for many years, and I feel it is the wrong way of playing," added Singh who had taken 13 wickets at same venue in India's famous 2001 win over

Australia. Singh said it was time to reflect on the issue as such pitches do not contribute to the development of players.

"You are not moving forward in any way, you are just going around in circles like an ox tied to a mill. You are winning, but there is no real benefit. As a cricketer, you are not growing," he said.



Norway beats Italy to qualify for first FIFA World Cup since 1998

REUTERS

Milan, Nov 17: Norway qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Sunday after a 4-1 win away to Italy in its final qualifying match, condemning the host, which has missed out on the last two editions of the tournament, to the playoffs.

Norway ended the qualifying campaign with a perfect record of eight wins, finishing six points ahead of four-time World Cup winner Italy, which will compete in the playoffs for the third consecutive occasion.

Needing a nine-goal win because of Norway's superior goal difference, the Italians came out full of aggression and made the early breakthrough just after the 10-minute mark, as Francesco Pio Esposito swept in a close-range finish.

The host was dominant until

Norway ended the qualifying campaign with a perfect record of eight wins, finishing six points ahead of four-time World Cup winner Italy, which will compete in the playoffs for the third consecutive occasion.

the last minutes of the first half and went close to a second goal several times, with Norway having only a half-chance when a shot from Antonio Nusa went over the bar.

However, it was a completely different Norway in the second half and Nusa equalised in the 63rd minute with a left-foot finish from inside the box.

With Norway in control in the closing stages, Italy paid the price for leaving Erling Haaland unmarked in the box in the 78th minute as he met a cross and volleyed home with ease.

Haaland then wrapped up the match with a second goal a minute later, taking his tally for the campaign to 16.

THAMMA (U/A16+)
HINDI - 06:10 PM

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)
HINDI - 12:00 PM

DE DE PYAAR DE 2 (U/A15+)
HINDI ATMOS - 11:25 AM, 02:30 PM, 05:40 PM
HINDI - 12:45 PM, 04:00 PM

SPIDER-MAN - RE RELEASE (U)
ENGLISH - 03:00 PM

BLOCK BUSTER
TUESDAYS

TICKETS AT FLAT

₹92 / ₹199
Recliner/Royale Club

MOVIES SCHEDULE
Tuesday, 18th November

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS