



Days after Delhi blast

World must display zero tolerance towards terrorism: Jaishankar at SCO meet

» 3 evils of terrorism, separatism & extremism have become serious threats » India demonstrated right to defend its people against terrorism, will exercise it

KNO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar, Nov 18: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was founded to combat the three evils - terrorism, separatism and extremism. The remarks came days after deadly suicide blast claimed 15 lives and injured others near Delhi's iconic Red Fort.

Addressing the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting at Moscow, Jaishankar, per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that these three evils have become even more serious in the years that have passed.

He said that it is imperative that the world displays zero



tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and that there can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing. "As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism, and will exercise it,"

he said.

Jaishankar said that India believes that the SCO must "adapt to the changing global landscape, develop an expanded agenda, and reform its working methods. We will contribute positively and | More on P6

Investigation started, hope people get answers: CM Omar on Nowgam blast

Home Dept must also come with compensation

Those responsible for Delhi blast must get harshest punishment

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Nov 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that those involved in the Delhi blast should get the harshest of punishment, but innocents must not be looked at with suspicion.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Nowgam blast injured, the CM, per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that



he highlighted the issue of J&K people in yesterday's Northern Zonal Committee meeting that every Muslim should not be looked at with suspicion.

"Those responsible for the Delhi blast should be caught and given the harshest punishment. But, innocents, who have nothing to do with it and have always raised their

voices against the violence, should not be dragged into this," Omar said.

Meanwhile, reacting to the Nowgam blast, the Chief Minister said | More on P6

Remain ready to meet security challenges: Northern Army Commander to soldiers

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 18: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Tuesday asked soldiers to remain ready to meet evolving security challenges.

Addressing the soldiers near Line of Control in North Kashmir, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Continue rigorous training and embrace technological advancements to remain a future ready force capable of meeting evolving security challenges."

Meanwhile, Army's Jammu based spokesman said that the Northern Army Commander today visited North Kashmir to assess the anti-infiltration grid and evaluate the operational



preparedness of formations deployed along the Line of Control (LoC)

"During the visit, the Army Commander interacted with troops stationed in forward areas and lauded their high level of combat readiness, indomitable spirit and consistent professional performance," he added. (KNO)

CM visits families of Nowgam blast, assures full support

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday visited the families of those who lost their lives in the recent accidental explosion at the Nowgam Police Station.

He visited the families of Late Aijaz Afzal Mir at HMT Zainakote, Late Mohammad Amin Mir at Bemina, Late Showkat Ahmad Bhat at Qamarwari, Late Suhail Ahmad Rather at Natipora, and Late Mohd. Shafi Paray at Wanabal.

The Chief Minister expressed his deep sorrow over the irreparable loss and prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace in heaven. He also prayed for strength and forbearance for the families



to bear the loss.

Expressing profound grief, the Chief Minister said, "This tragic incident has taken away dedicated individuals who were serving the people with sincerity and courage. Their loss is a loss for all of Jammu & Kashmir."

He assured the families that the Government stands firmly with them, adding, "We will ensure every possible support to the bereaved families in this hour of unimaginable pain."

Chief Minister assured the families of assistance from the Chief | More on P6

CIK detains couple for 'radicalising' women in Kashmir, 'misusing' professional positions

Conducts raids at 4 locations across 3 districts

Says woman's affiliation with banned outfit DeM under scanner

Seizes multiple digital devices

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 18: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir on Tuesday detained a couple from south Kashmir's Kulgam district for allegedly indulging in online unlawful activities, radicalising local women through curated online and offline engagements, pushing divisive narratives, and influencing vulnerable groups under the pretext of community interaction.

According to a statement, issued to news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said that two accused - Shahzada Akhtar and her husband, Dr Umer Farooq Bhat of Kulgam's Bugam village - were detained during a



search operation in Srinagar. The couple presently resides in Srinagar's Sheerinbagh, the CIK said.

It said that Dr Umer Farooq Bhat, who is presently working

in Super Speciality of SMHS, was found indulging in online unlawful activities, misusing his official position and social legitimacy to engage in behaviour detrimental | More on P6

NIA gets 10-day custody of Delhi suicide bomber's another key aide Jasir Bilal

Ahmad Taimur

Srinagar, Nov 17: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday was granted a 10-custody of the Delhi blast suicide bomber's another aide, Jasir Bilal Wani by the special anti-terrorism agency court in Delhi.

According to details available with news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jasir alias Danish was produced in the Patiala House Court in Delhi by the Anti-Terror Agency today afternoon. Jasir, a resident of Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested by the NIA on Monday in the Delhi blast case.

The court granted 10-day custody of Jasir, another key aide of Delhi suicide bomber

-Dr Umar Mohammad - to the Anti-Terror Agency. At least 15 people were killed and several others were injured after a high-intensity blast ripped through a car near Delhi's iconic Red Fort last week.

On Sunday, the NIA made the first breakthrough in the Delhi blast case by arresting the suicide bomber's key aide - Amir Ali.

"The NIA 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 on Monday.

The NIA had said that he was an active co-conspirator behind the | More on P6

Night temperature improves in Kashmir

MeT says nothing significant expected till Dec 5

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Nov 18: While the night temperature improved across the valley, the weatherman here has predicted dry weather conditions till December 05.

"Nothing significant is expected in Jammu and Kashmir till December 5th," Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Meanwhile, the valley experienced an improvement in the night temperature with the mercury in

Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, settling above freezing point at 2.0 degrees Celsius.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the minimum temperature settled at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, while

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius. In north

Kashmir's Kupwara district, the mercury settled at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag | More on P6

CM reviews progress of works, implementation of schemes in Ganderbal

Inaugurates, lays foundation of multiple road, power, water projects

Sanctions water tankers from CDF, promises decongestion of main market

Calls for developing Sonamarg for winter sports activities & tourism

KT News Desk

Ganderbal, Nov 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on



Tuesday inaugurated and laid foundation stone of a number of vital infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing

civic amenities and accelerating development across District Ganderbal. He inaugurated the

upgradation and widening of the Dak Bungalow Fatehpura-Gadoora road worth 5.2 crore and the upgradation of various link roads in Sherpathri Block costing 8.9 crore. He also inaugurated several major water supply projects, including a 70,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant with allied structures at WSS Gagangar completed at a cost of 119.16 lakh; a 30,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant with reservoirs and treatment units at WSS Fraw Haknar completed with an | More on P6

SKIMS gives new life to 18-yr-old girl after spinal cord surgery

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 18: In a remarkable medical feat, doctors at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) have successfully performed a marathon 11-hour surgery to remove a rare holocord intramedullary spinal cord tumour in an 18-year-old girl, one of the most complex spinal surgeries ever performed in the region.

The entire procedure was carried out free of cost, a statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).



The surgery involved a 17-level laminoplasty followed by the delicate removal of a tumour from within the spinal cord (intramedullary), a technically demanding procedure

rarely attempted even in leading neurosurgical centres.

The operation was led by Dr. Abrar Ahad Wani, Professor & Head of Unit, Department of Neurosurgery, along with his dedicated surgical team.

The Anaesthesia team, headed by Dr. Zulfikar Ali, provided continuous high-risk neuro-anaesthesia support throughout the 11-hour procedure, ensuring complete physiological stability of the young patient during the complex surgery.

Post-surgery, the patient is recovering well and showing encouraging | More on P6

Budgam must set example by breaking drug supply chain: Dr Bilal

Chairs 41st NCORD meeting, urges community-driven fight

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: The 41st District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee Meeting was today convened at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, along with SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar, to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and to formulate fresh strategies for a drug-free Budgam.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, all SDMs, ACD, CMO, DSWO, Medical Superintendent DH Budgam, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, EO of Municipal Committees, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, action taken on previous NCORD decisions was reviewed. It was informed that wild cannabis spread over 77 kanals and 18 marlas of land has been destroyed across the district during the past month, while 55 cases have been registered and 38 challenged for illicit cultivation.

The DC said that drug abuse is not only a law

enforcement challenge but a serious social problem affecting families and communities. He emphasised that the fight against drugs must remain strict and uncompromising toward peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while being supportive and compassionate toward victims who require treatment and rehabilitation.

He said that a multi-pronged approach involving deterrence, enforcement, treatment, and mass awareness is essential. It was stressed that all line departments need to intensify efforts to curb narcotics cultivation and peddling. It was further stated that roads, embankments, and Panchayat areas must be kept free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated efforts.

Regarding drug regulation, the DC underlined the importance of 100% CCTV coverage and Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) in all chemist shops. It was informed that Budgam has 630 retail and 225 wholesale chemist outlets, all under strict monitoring. He said that frequent inspections



must continue and strict action be taken for any violations.

He also said that the Drug Inspector shall ensure wide publicity about actions taken, including cancellation of licenses and other violations, to increase transparency.

It was given out that 117 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, indicating its increasing role in providing psychological support. The DC said that such services must be further publicised so that people can seek help confidentially.

He said that the Excise

Department shall work in close coordination with Revenue and Police authorities for destruction of illicit crops and registration of FIRs.

SDMs were asked to hold meetings with religious scholars and community stakeholders to encourage sermons against substance abuse and promote "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats."

It was also stated that the Rural Development Department must set an example for the rest of the UT by breaking the drug supply chain and protecting the youth through united community action.

Div Com administers 'Nasha Mukt' pledge

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Tuesday reaffirmed the Administration's unwavering commitment to the fight against substance abuse by administering the 'Nasha Mukt' (Drug-Free) Pledge to officers and officials at his office Chamber.

The ceremony was held to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and was attended Additional Commissioners Kashmir, besides other officers and officials of the Div Com office.



CS visits Sujet Mattoo's residence

Offers condolence on mother's demise

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday visited the residence of Sujet Mattoo his PA to express his heartfelt condolences on the passing of his mother, Sharika Mattoo.

The Chief Secretary spent time with the bereaved family, offering words of sympathy and solace during this difficult time. He conveyed his deep sorrow and shared the grief of the family, praying for eternal peace for

the departed soul. Sharika Mattoo, originally a resident of Vicharnag, Srinagar, was a respected member of the community. Her demise has been widely mourned by friends, relatives, and well-wishers.

Dulloo assured the family that he shares this grief and shock the family finds themselves by her sudden departure. He highlighted the importance of standing by one another in moments of personal loss and showed his support to the family in this hour of grief and loss.

Kupwara celebrates 5 years of NMBA

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 18: District Administration Kupwara celebrated five years of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan across all subdivisions, blocks, and tehsils of the district on Tuesday.

As part of the commemoration, a series of pledge ceremonies were organized to strengthen the district-wide commitment to eliminating drug abuse and promoting a healthier, drug-free society.

The main pledge ceremony took place at the Meeting Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Kupwara, presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shrikant Suse. He administered the Nasha Mukt pledge to officers and officials from various departments, reiterating the administration's dedication to ensuring a safer and healthier future for the youth.

In his address, the DC stressed the urgent need to curb the rising challenge of drug addiction and emphasized the responsibility of every individual in promoting awareness and preventive efforts.

A similar pledge event was held at the Sub-District Handwara, where Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi, led officers and employees in reaffirming the district's collective resolve against drug abuse.

Pledge-taking ceremonies were simultaneously conducted across all government offices and educational institutions in the district.

DC B'la inaugurates Recording Studio

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Tuesday inaugurated a newly established Recording Studio at the District Information Office Baramulla, in presence of District Information Officer Iftikhar Naseem.

The facility marks a significant step towards enhancing public outreach on various Centrally Sponsored and UT Government welfare schemes. Content produced in the studio will be shared across social

media platforms to ensure accurate, accessible, and wider dissemination. To strengthen its communication capabilities, the Information Office has also been upgraded with modern equipment, including a Digital Sound System (Mic System) and other essential broadcasting tools. The improved infrastructure is expected to enhance the department's efficiency in managing routine media activities and major government events. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the new recording studio will greatly strengthen communication



between the government and the public, ensuring that information on welfare schemes reaches every household.

He stressed that awareness is the foundation of empowerment, and well-informed citizens can make better use of government programmes designed for their welfare.

The DC added that the role of the Information Department extends beyond sharing scheme-related information and must also include highlighting developmental works, documenting success stories, and raising awareness on critical issues

such as drug abuse, traffic rules, and other public concerns. He noted that the studio will serve as an important platform for producing meaningful and impactful content through podCast "Jhelum Se Chenab Tak" for the community.

It is pertinent to mention that the Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, recently launched the podcast series "Jhelum Se Chenab Tak" at Dakbanglow Baramulla. The podcast aims to provide citizens with clear and reliable information about government initiatives through conversations with concerned officers.

SMC holds NMBA pledge at headquarters

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Tuesday organised a Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan pledge ceremony at its Headquarters, Karan Nagar, as part of its continued efforts to raise awareness against substance abuse and promote a healthier Srinagar.

The pledge was administered by Joint Commissioner (Adm), Nuzhat Qureshi, alongside Joint Commissioner, Suhail Ul Islam. During the ceremony, both officers

highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in addressing the challenges posed by narcotic substances and stressed the need for sustained public awareness.

Senior officials and central office staff of SMC participated wholeheartedly, reaffirming their commitment to work proactively towards a drug-free and healthy Srinagar. The staff pledged to support the national campaign by spreading awareness, encouraging community participation, and promoting preventive measures across all municipal wards.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION LANGATE

Office Address: Langate, Near Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary Pin Code: 193302

Mr. Nazir Ahmad Malik
S/O Mohd. Mukhtar Malik
R/o: Halmatpora Kupwara.

No: EE/RnB/L/3778-81
Date: 18-11-2025

Final Notice

Subject: Construction of Tile Path, Fencing, Sump repair, Irrigation & Drainage System Repairs, and store room construction at Langate Park.

Reference: Superintending Engineer Kupwara's office Letter No: SE-KUP/3515-16 Dated: 24/10/2025.

- While you were allotted the above-mentioned work vide this office allotment No. EE/RnB/L/3225-27 Dated. 11.12.2024.
- Whereas the work was scheduled to be completed within a period of 60 days from the date of issuance of allotment.
- Whereas, as per the communication of AEE Langate to this office vide above referenced letter, you have stopped the execution of work long ago and the work is incomplete even after a lapse of more than Ten (10) months.
- Whereas you have failed to complete the work within the stipulated time period which as per terms and conditions laid down in the NIT/Allotment and Agreement duly signed by you, you are entitled to penalty up to 10% of the total value of the work, besides, forfeiture of your CDR, debarring from participation in tendering process in future and inviting of fresh tenders on your risk and cost.

In view of the above, you are hereby given a chance to explain your position as why action under rules shall not be initiated against you. Besides, you are directed to start the work within three (03) days from the issuance of this notice and complete the same at an earliest failing which your contract shall be terminated and action shall be initiated without any further notice.

DIPK-8234/25
DATED: 18-11-2025

SD/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Langate.

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

FRESH NIT No- 126 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering DATED 17.11.2025(5th call)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time &Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Surface Drain from H/O Bashir Ahmad Zargar opposite H/O Gh Nabi Kabli to H/O Dr Mohammad Amin Gadayi at Iqbal Nagar Ward No 10 MC Sopore	3.54	200/-	7080/-	30 days	25.11. 2025	DEE	Normal Resources

Project Authority: MC Sopore
Position of funds: Available
Position of TS.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	17.11.2025	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.11.2025	24.11.2025 (upto 4.PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	17.11.2025	
4	Bid submission End date	24.11.2025 (4.00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	25.11.2025(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore	

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority).

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.01 of 2025-26 & NIT No:44 and 45 of 2025-26 & NIT 66 and NIT 103

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No: 7904-13
Dated: 17.11.2025.

DIPK-8213/25
DATED: 18-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

50% surge in power demand likely

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Nov 18: While the power sector continues to function with 'decades old infrastructure', Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness growth in power demand by nearly 50 percent in a decade.

According to the official documents, authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by 49.42 percent by the year 2034-35.

The official further clarified that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to



2034-2035.

Stating the year wise growth rate in power demand, authorities have said that in the year Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a five percent extra demand in the year 2025-26 followed by four percent in the year 2026-27, four percent in 2027-28, three percent in 2028-29.

It also said that in the year 2029-30, the region may experience growth rate in power demand by five percent followed by four percent in 2030-31, four percent in 2031-32, three percent in 2032-33, five percent in 2033-34 and four percent in the year 2034-35 respectively.

"Peak and Energy Demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh has been taken as per the

projections provided by the UT department. The Demand estimation by J&K was higher than projected by 20th Electric Power Survey of India (EPS). Therefore, the studies have been carried out using projections given by the J&K UT department," it reads.

The documents further reveal that the future demand profile for the year 2034-35 has been projected using the demand profile of J&K for the year 2022-23 as the base profile. "The actual solar generation profiles and CUFs have been taken as provided by J&K."

It also said that according to the data provided by J&K, an additional 392 MW of Coal (Shakti Scheme), 620 MW of solar and 1206 MW of hydro is planned till 2030.—(KNO)

Mehbooba rejects collective punishment for Delhi blast

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Nov 18: Stating that Kashmir cannot be punished for the failures that led to the Delhi blast, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday raised concerns over Nowgam Police Station blast, saying that untrained personnel should not have handled the recovered material.

Mehbooba, while speaking to reporters at SIA Inspector Asrar's home said Nowgam blast reflects a larger operational failure that must be investigated. "The decision to store the material inside a police station in a densely populated area needs answers", she said.

PDP Chief said



responsibility should be fixed on those who made critical decisions that led to loss of life, adding that the public should be told the facts in full.

Mehbooba said Kashmir is already under heavy stress and the collective punishment of common people is

not acceptable. She said the administration should avoid measures that add to fear and uncertainty.

She said the families of the victims need complete support. She said the officers who lost their lives should receive the highest honours for their service—(KNO)

Bukhari flags concern over 'educated youth radicalisation'

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 18: Apni Party President and former minister, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday voiced serious concern over the growing trend of educated youth being drawn towards radicalisation and terror-related activities, calling it an "alarming development" that warrants urgent and honest introspection.

"Authorities must investigate why even well-educated youth are being influenced to join terrorist activities," Bukhari said.

He said this trend poses a serious challenge and requires a comprehensive evaluation by all stakeholders.

Bukhari reiterated his party's firm opposition to all forms of violence, saying that those found guilty must face the law, but also cautioned that "innocent individuals should not be harassed in the name of counterterrorism measures."

Expressing sorrow over the 'accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station' near Srinagar, the Apni Party chief urged the government to provide proper compensation to the families of the deceased and to



those whose homes and properties were damaged in the explosion.

"We convey our heartfelt sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones in the Nowgam incident. The victims whose properties were affected must be adequately compensated," he said.

Reading a detailed resolution passed in the party's day-long working committee meeting held at the party office in Srinagar, the Apni Party president said the party expressed deep concern over the recent Delhi car blast and the alleged involvement of well-educated individuals in the incident.

Terming the attack "highly

condemnable," the party demanded the toughest possible punishment for those responsible while urging the central government to explore and address the root causes of "white-collar radicalisation."

"While dealing with terrorism firmly is essential, it is equally important to reach out and win the hearts and minds of people," the party said in a resolution passed unanimously during the meeting chaired by Bukhari. "The causes leading educated individuals towards radicalisation must be investigated and effectively addressed."

The party also observed a two-minute silence to honour the victims of both the Delhi and Nowgam blasts. Apni Party further stressed the need to bridge the "deficit of trust" between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, calling for meaningful public outreach and dialogue to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region.

"The mistrust between New Delhi and the people of J&K must be addressed. Such gaps only create space for violent tendencies to grow," the statement said, urging

the government to fulfil its outreach commitments made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister.

The meeting also discussed pressing public issues including rising unemployment and inflation in the Union Territory, noting that economic distress was feeding into social and security challenges.

Highlighting the party's policy roadmap, the Apni Party leadership underscored its focus on improving governance, reviving traditional economic sectors like horticulture, handicrafts, agriculture, and tourism, and ensuring participatory governance that delivers results on the ground.

The party demanded immediate holding of Panchayat and ULB polls, regularisation of daily wagers, reforms in the reservation system, and the launch of an employment drive for J&K's educated youth.

"Jammu and Kashmir is at a delicate point of transition, politically, economically and socially," the statement said. "What is needed now is sincere, farsighted, and dedicated leadership. We, in Apni Party, will continue our efforts with honesty and commitment to serve the people of J&K."—(KNO)

Doctors issue advisory on unvented gas heaters

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 18: Health professionals in Kashmir have issued a strong advisory against the use of unvented gas heaters in closed and poorly ventilated rooms, cautioning that such devices can lead to severe health complications and even death due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Dr Zahoor Wani, a senior doctor at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said that unvented heaters burn fuel inside the room without a chimney or outlet for harmful gases. This results in the gradual accumulation of toxic substances—particularly carbon monoxide.

"Unvented gas heaters release combustion byproducts directly into the room. When carbon monoxide builds up beyond a certain level, individuals are at high risk of CO poisoning, especially while sleeping," he

explained. He stressed that the safest solution is to avoid these heaters altogether and opt for vented models that channel emissions outside the home.

Dr Wani warned that if residents continue using unvented heaters, they must avoid operating them in bedrooms, bathrooms, or any confined area. "Such heaters should only be used in spaces with sufficient airflow. Using them at night in closed rooms is extremely dangerous," he said.

The doctor described carbon monoxide as particularly dangerous because it gives no warning signs. "You cannot smell it, see it, or taste it. It renders a person helpless without them realising it," he said. "Most victims lose consciousness quietly during sleep, making it especially deadly."

He noted that children, elderly individuals, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses are more

susceptible to poisoning even at lower concentrations.

Another medical expert, Dr Shahid Khan, highlighted the physical indicators and early symptoms of suffocation and CO exposure. "People may experience headaches, dizziness, nausea, and confusion in the initial stages. If exposure continues, it can lead to fainting and eventually death," he said.

Dr Khan added that in cases of severe suffocation, medical examinations may reveal petechial haemorrhages—tiny red or purple spots in the eyes, face, and lungs—indicating oxygen deprivation. "As the victim struggles to breathe, foamy mucus can accumulate in the airways," he noted.

Other symptoms he listed include difficulty breathing, slow heart rate, hoarseness, sore throat, disorientation, nosebleeds, and visual disturbances.

Apart from carbon

monoxide, he pointed out that nitrogen dioxide, another byproduct of unvented heaters, can irritate the respiratory tract and worsen conditions such as asthma or bronchitis.

Healthcare professionals strongly recommend the following safety measures that include ensuring proper ventilation whenever using any heating device, preferring vented gas heaters over unvented ones, installing carbon monoxide detectors at home, regularly servicing and maintaining all heating appliances, limiting the use of gas heaters, especially during nighttime, and never sleeping in a sealed room with a heater running.

The experts reiterated that awareness and caution are critical as winter intensifies. "Preventable tragedies can be avoided if people understand the risks and adopt safe heating practices," they said—(KNO)

Dengue declining in J&K

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 18: After weeks of rising dengue infections across Jammu and Kashmir, health authorities have reported the first signs of decline. However, with 3,248 confirmed cases recorded so far, officials have cautioned that the situation still demands strict preventive efforts from the public.

According to official data, the Jammu division remains at the forefront of the outbreak, reporting 1,384 cases, followed by Kathua with 862, Samba with 459, and Udhampur with 172. Smaller but notable numbers have emerged from Reasi (70), Rajouri (69), Poonch (28), Doda (74), Ramban (43) and Kishtwar (15).

In Kashmir, 31 cases have been confirmed, while 41 infections were detected in individuals from outside the UT.

Health officials told KNO that 26,980 dengue tests have been conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to date. "Only 49 patients required hospital admission, and 46 have been discharged, which is a positive sign," an official said,

adding that one J&K resident died at DMC Ludhiana due to complications linked to the infection.

Experts reiterated that dengue remains a preventable but potentially serious disease, stressing that no specialised vaccine or antiviral medication is currently available in India.

"The only effective way to break the transmission chain is to ensure mosquitoes do not breed. Stagnant water anywhere, even in small amounts, becomes a breeding ground," an official said.

Medical professionals explained that the Aedes aegypti mosquito thrives in everyday household objects. "Even a little clean water collected in pots, tyres, buckets, lids, bottles or tubs is enough for mosquitoes to multiply," they said.

They advised people to use mosquito repellents regularly, wear long-sleeved clothing, keep water tanks and containers tightly sealed, and install window screens or mosquito nets even during daytime hours when dengue mosquitoes are most active.

"These mosquitoes bite mostly early in the morning and late

in the afternoon, so precautions during these hours are particularly important," they said.

Doctors said people should seek immediate medical attention if they notice danger signs, such as persistent vomiting, abdominal pain, bleeding from the nose or gums, blood in vomit or stools, extreme fatigue, or unexplained restlessness, all of which may indicate severe dengue.

Notably, dengue was almost unheard of in the region a decade ago, with just two infections reported in 2009 and zero cases in 2010.

With the disease still circulating, officials have once again urged the public to maintain strict preventive measures. "People should regularly inspect their homes, shops, and surroundings. Eliminating stagnant water is the most powerful tool we have against dengue," they said.

The authorities said that collective efforts from neighbourhoods, community groups, institutions, and local bodies will be crucial in bringing down the case numbers further—(KNO)

KNO Impact...

KU's e-Gov portal online after 270 days

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 18: Days after the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), highlighted the prolonged shutdown of the University of Kashmir's e-Governance portal, dubbed by students as "Digital Hell", the portal has finally been restored, bringing an end to nearly "nine months (around 270 days)" of frustration and offline workarounds.

Students confirmed to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the portal (<https://egov.uok.edu.in/eConduct/>) was now accessible publicly, marking the first time since early February that

services such as registration, admit card downloads and fee payments could be done online.

"It is finally working! We had lost hope after months of inconvenience. The KNO report did what the frequent complaints couldn't," said a relieved B.Tech student.

Last week, KNO had reported that the University's e-Gov portal, intended to streamline access to vital academic services had remained locked behind the University's internal Intranet, forcing thousands of students to physically visit college IT cells for routine tasks.

The report, which triggered a wave of student reactions

across social media, appears to have prompted quick action from the University's IT division.

As of Tuesday evening, students confirmed that the website was functioning smoothly, although some minor lags were reported during logins.

University officials were unavailable for immediate comment. However, students expressed cautious optimism, saying the University must ensure consistent uptime and transparency in digital services. "After 270 days of blackout, this restoration should be the start of accountability, not a temporary patch-up," a student shared—(KNO)

Contaminated water crisis hits Dardpora

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Nov 18: Despite the government's repeated assurances of providing safe drinking water across Jammu and Kashmir, the remote hamlet of Dardpora Lolab in north Kashmir continues to grapple with acute water scarcity and contaminated supplies, placing its vulnerable population—including the elderly and children—at serious health risk.

Local residents said that, despite the establishment of a vital water supply project under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), their village remains deprived of clean water. "We have approached the concerned offices on multiple occasions, but our grievances continue to fall on deaf ears," the inhabitants lamented.



According to the villagers, the little water that does reach them is so dirty and muddy that "even animals would refuse to drink it." They also revealed that the main water tank in the area is left uncovered, allowing monkeys and other animals to drink from it,

further contaminating the water that is later supplied to homes. This, residents say, has led to a rise in waterborne illnesses in the community.

The residents of Dardpora Lolab and nearby hamlets have urgently appealed to authorities for

intervention. They claim that while water from the JJM project has been supplied to distant areas, their own locality was neglected. Instead, water is channeled to them via a pipe running through an open drain, past a small, uncovered bank, leaving it exposed to contamination by rats, monkeys, and other animals.

"We have provided video evidence of these appalling conditions, but no action has been taken so far," the locals said, adding that the area has been without potable water for the last two months. While some farmers from outside the area manage to bring water for irrigation, residents themselves remain deprived of clean drinking water.

Repeated complaints to the Project Implementation

Unit (PIU) and even written submissions over the past four months have yielded no results, with officials citing the need for higher approval before taking any action. "Officials keep making excuses and refuse to take responsibility," the residents alleged.

Now, the villagers are urging senior government officials to visit the area, verify their claims firsthand, and end their ordeal. "If our complaints are unfounded, we will accept responsibility—but if they are true, our misery must come to an end," the residents said, renewing their call for the immediate provision of clean water to Dardpora Lolab.

Despite repeated attempts, the officials of Jal Shakti could not be contacted for comments—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

J&K’s Research Push A Forward-Thinking Investment

The launch of over 515 crore rupees in research projects targeting Kashmir’s most pressing challenges marks a transformative moment in the Union Territory’s development journey. This unprecedented investment through the Sponsored Research and Extension Programme represents a visionary shift from theoretical research to practical problem-solving that directly addresses the needs of Jammu and Kashmir’s people. The strategic clustering of these 37

projects demonstrates remarkable foresight. By focusing on five critical areas, including agriculture, healthcare, food safety, climate resilience, and digital governance, the Science and Technology Department has identified the precise sectors where innovation can yield maximum public benefit. The agriculture cluster alone, with its focus on climate-resilient crops and AI-powered farming solutions, stands to revolutionise Kashmir’s Rs 4,000 crore horticulture economy and support

thousands of farming families. What makes this initiative particularly commendable is its emphasis on implementation and accountability. Secretary Dr Shahid Choudhary’s directive for researchers to establish formal agreements with government departments within 90 days ensures that these projects won’t remain confined to laboratory shelves. The strict timelines for pilot sites, technology demonstrations, and policy briefs create a results-oriented framework that bridges

the traditional gap between academia and governance. The inclusion of diverse institutions, from agricultural universities to medical colleges and engineering institutes, promotes the interdisciplinary approach necessary for solving complex regional challenges. Projects ranging from saffron adulteration detection to IoT-based healthcare solutions and AI-powered manuscript preservation demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Kashmir’s unique needs. This initiative represents the

perfect alignment of scientific capability with public service. By treating research as a tool for social good rather than an academic exercise, the administration has set a new standard for evidence-based governance. If implemented effectively, these projects could not only solve immediate problems but also establish J&K as a model for region-specific research innovation. This is precisely the kind of forward-thinking investment that builds sustainable development from the ground up.

Bihar’s Verdict And The Emerging Grammar Of Indian Politics

Bihar’s voters have signalled that they expect a politics grounded in governance, seriousness and respect for national cohesion



Hardeep Singh Puri

The people of Bihar have delivered a mandate whose weight goes well beyond the arithmetic of seats. The National Democratic Alliance has won 202 of the 243 seats in the Legislative Assembly, while the Bharatiya Janata Party alone has secured 89 seats, its best ever performance in the state. The Mahagathbandhan has fallen to just 34 seats after having dominated Bihar’s politics for decades in various combinations. A turnout of 67.13 per cent out of more than 7.4 crore registered voters makes this one of the most intensely contested elections in the state’s recent history and gives the result real democratic depth.

For years, much of the commentary on Bihar treated the state as if it were frozen in time. Elections were read as exercises in caste arithmetic, with social demography assumed to translate mechanically into political outcomes. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the grammar of Indian politics has shifted decisively towards development, inclusion and state capacity, and Bihar’s electorate has responded to that shift with unusual clarity. The 2025 result reveals a more demanding voter, one who has looked at the contrast between the Bihar of insecurity and paralysis and the Bihar of improved governance. Many citizens have

also expressed, in conversations and turnout patterns, that this election carried a sense of responsibility after the lower-than-expected mobilisation in the 2024 general election. They have drawn their own conclusions about where they want Bihar to stand in the country’s wider journey.

Governance delivery has anchored this transformation. Over the last decade, Bihar has seen more than 55,000 kilometres of rural roads built or upgraded, linking villages to markets, schools and health centres. Millions of households have received electricity, drinking water and social security through a combination of central schemes and state programmes. Under Saubhagya and related initiatives, over 35 lakh households in Bihar were electrified, taking the state close to universal household connectivity. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, more than 57 lakh pucca houses have been sanctioned for Bihar, many registered in the names of women. Such figures speak to concrete change that people can see and touch: an all weather road, a light that stays on, a tap that works, a home that provides dignity.

As these public goods spread, old labels lose some of their hold. Bihar’s society remains diverse and layered, yet those layers no longer behave like watertight containers in electoral terms. Women from different communities now share expectations about safety, mobility and opportunity. Young people from families that once stood at opposite ends of the social hierarchy now find themselves in the same coaching classes and labour markets. Their daily experiences

draw them into a shared space of aspiration. In that space, the questions they ask of politics concern jobs, infrastructure, stability and fairness.

The verdict has also delivered a clear message on dynasty centred politics. Parties that relied on family charisma and inherited networks have seen their legislative space contract sharply. Bihar has observed such formations at close quarters for several decades and understands their limits. The 2025 result suggests that voters are looking at how leaders conduct themselves in government, how they respond in crises, how they engage with institutions and how they use public resources. Where family backgrounds exist within the wider National Democratic Alliance, they are increasingly filtered through demands for hard work, organisational ability and a record of service.

The behaviour of younger voters sits at the heart of this shift. Bihar has one of India’s youngest demographic profiles, and millions of citizens born after 2000 voted in this election. They have grown up in an India where expressways, digital payments, competitive federalism and ambitious welfare schemes shape expectations. They compare states, track announcements and judge leaders on the speed with which promises turn into visible change. For them, the difference between a road laid on time and a road that never leaves the file is not an abstract matter. They experience that difference every day when they commute to colleges, coaching centres or workplaces and when they see families back home benefit from connectivity and welfare.

This generation also brings a sharp instinct for national coherence. Young voters are alert to rhetoric that undermines institutions, flirts with separatist sentiment or trivialises national security. They engage critically with policy debates, including on unemployment and inequality, yet they draw a line between criticism that aims to improve the republic and narratives that appear indifferent to its cohesion. Bihar’s verdict reflects this distinction. Voters have responded to a political formation that speaks the language of both development and national purpose with unusual clarity.

Law and order provide another layer of explanation. Bihar’s elections were once associated with booth capturing and violence. Over recent years, and especially in this electoral cycle, those images have largely receded. Insurgency affected pockets have been pushed back through the combined weight of firm security measures and economic development. Traders now keep their shops open longer, students travel with greater confidence, and families experience public life with less anxiety. An electorate that has seen this improvement does not ignore it when choosing its representatives.

The response of parts of the opposition to these developments has been revealing. Rather than reflecting on the reasons for their loss of support, some leaders have preferred to cast doubt on the Election Commission, on voter lists or on the fairness of the process itself. This posture does little justice to the intelligence and agency of Bihar’s voters. It also ignores the fact that the

same institutional framework has produced outcomes favourable to the opposition in other states. The electorate expects a more serious engagement with its concerns than blanket denunciations of the system that it has just used so enthusiastically.

Placed in a wider national and global context, Bihar’s verdict strengthens an emerging pattern. At a time when several democracies grapple with polarisation, economic drift and institutional fatigue, India continues to register high participation, stable leadership and a policy trajectory centred on growth, inclusion and national strength. The Bihar result adds another layer of democratic endorsement to that trajectory. It suggests that voters in one of India’s most politically conscious states see their own progress intertwined with the country’s larger journey towards a developed and confident Bharat by 2047.

For the National Democratic Alliance, this mandate is both encouragement and instruction. It validates the emphasis on infrastructure, welfare delivery and security, yet it also raises expectations for faster job creation, deeper reforms and continual institutional improvement. For the opposition, the verdict poses serious questions about strategy, leadership and programme. Bihar’s voters have signalled that they expect a politics grounded in governance, seriousness and respect for national cohesion. Those expectations are likely to frame the grammar of Indian politics for years to come.

The author is the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Sound Of Truth In A Noisy World

Rajdeep Pathak

I vividly recall receiving a call many years ago from a musician friend who, after seeing a WhatsApp message, wanted to confirm whether the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar had passed away. The news, coming early in the morning from someone in the field of music, came as a shock. After all, reports at the time had only mentioned that Lata ji had been admitted to hospital for a minor ailment. Yet, within less than an hour, social media platforms – including Facebook, WhatsApp groups, and Twitter – were flooded with tributes, photos, and condolence messages. I immediately contacted legendary singer Suresh Wadkar ji, who quickly reassured me that Lata ji was doing well. Indeed, she continued to grace the world with her presence for many more years before peacefully passing away at the age of 92 on 6 February 2022.

A similar (viral) episode unfolded recently, on 10 and 11 November 2025. Social media platforms and even certain news outlets prematurely announced the death of Bollywood’s “He-Man,” Dharmendra, who was undergoing treatment at Mumbai’s Breach Candy Hospital and has been discharged as I am penning this down. Several prominent personalities also took to the social media platforms to express their grief, only to later delete their posts after his wife, Hema Malini, firmly dismissed rumours and clarified that her husband was responding to treatment and showing improvement. These instances raise a crucial question: how has news, once a pillar of trust and verification, become so vulnerable to distortion in the digital age?

It is with this concern that I reflected on Public Service Broadcasting Day, observed every year on November 12 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi’s historic radio address from Broadcasting House, New Delhi,



in 1947. The day reminds us of radio’s transformative potential and Gandhi’s vision of truth-based communication, a vision that stands in stark contrast to today’s epidemic of misinformation. Speaking from the All India Radio studio (now preserved as the “Bapu Studio”), Mahatma Gandhi addressed millions during a deeply distressing period following Partition. His compassionate Diwali message sought to comfort refugees and inspire unity among a divided people.

The broadcast, arranged at the request of industrialist and Gandhiji’s close associate Ghanshyam Das Birla, transformed the studio into a prayer space, reflecting Gandhi’s sincerity and spiritual approach to communication. The Hindustan Times described Gandhi’s speech the next day as an event that demonstrated the “miraculous power” of radio to unite hearts and minds. Gandhi recognized radio as a revolutionary tool that could transcend barriers of literacy, geography, and class. Yet, he consistently emphasized that such power must be exercised with restraint and moral responsibility. Journalism, he said, should “educate the public mind” and “fearlessly express the truth.”

The day of November 12 has gone by as another calendar date. Fast forward to today, and we are all aware that the media landscape has changed beyond recognition. The emergence of digital platforms has democratized access to information. But it has also given rise to an unprecedented crisis of credibility. Fake news, defined as false or misleading information disseminated under the guise of legitimate journalism, has become one of the gravest challenges of the 21st century. The World Economic Forum has repeatedly listed misinformation among the top global risks to democracy and social cohesion. In India, where over 820 million people use the internet, misinformation spreads rapidly through social media algorithms that prioritize engagement over accuracy.

False reports, morphed videos, and unverified “breaking news” can provoke panic, damage reputations, and even incite violence. It has done so in the past. While the government and independent organizations have established fact-checking portals and awareness campaigns to combat fake news, real progress depends on media literacy and

a revival of the Gandhian ethics of responsibility in journalism. Gandhi’s principles – verification, context, and service to truth – offer enduring guidance amid this digital turbulence. Gandhi had warned against sensationalism and distortion, believing that the press should “restrain itself from running after momentary excitement” and instead “serve the cause of truth and justice.”

His approach to communication was patient, reflective, and profoundly ethical – qualities that need to be harnessed. Unlike Gandhi’s time, when news travelled slowly and was often scrutinized closely, today’s information ecosystem enables the instantaneous spread of falsehoods, making fact-checking and responsible journalism vitally important. In Gandhi’s time, the radio was a miraculous medium of connection – a voice that could travel across invisible waves to reach even the most remote corners of the nation. Over the decades, All India Radio (AIR), now operating under Prasar Bharati, has carried forward that spirit of public service.

Established in 1936 and renamed Akashvani in 1957, AIR emerged as India’s first large-scale medium for national integration, education, and cultural exchange, serving as the cornerstone of Public Service Broadcasting. Radio brought India together in times of joy and crisis – broadcasting independence celebrations, weather warnings, agricultural advice, and music that reflected the nation’s diversity. Gandhi’s own recorded prayer meetings from Birla House, preserved in the Prasar Bharati Archives, stand as a testament to the medium’s historic legacy. Even in the digital era, radio continues to be one of the most reliable and accessible media forms. The Prime Minister’s “Mann Ki Baat” – broadcast from the same “Bapu Studio” – illustrates how radio remains a bridge between the government and the people and the unifying power of sound.

The media landscape has evolved remarkably with the rise of FM radio stations such as Radio Mirchi (98.3 FM), Red FM (93.5), Radio City (91.1), and Big FM (92.7), which have transformed mass communication in India over the past two decades. These private channels introduced localized, youth-centric, and engaging content – music, humour, news, and talk shows in Hindi and regional languages – making radio lively and inclusive. By bridging barriers of class, age, and literacy, FM radio democratized communication and turned “listening” into a shared cultural experience.

From national broadcasts to community stations, radio continues to unite diverse audiences while remaining one of India’s most affordable and powerful media platforms. Entertainment has always been radio’s strength, but in Gandhi’s vision, even entertainment must uplift – it must elevate, not degrade. His engagement with journalism was never driven by profit but by a profound moral duty. For Gandhi, the press was not a business venture but a public trust – an instrument to advance truth (Satya), non-violence (Ahimsa), and the welfare of all (Sarvodaya).

Through journals like Indian Opinion, Young India, Navjivan, and Harijan, he transformed media into a vehicle for moral and social awakening. Seventy-eight years after his voice first echoed across India’s airwaves, Gandhi’s message remains as vital as ever. In an age marked by misinformation, polarization, and declining media trust, Mahatma Gandhi’s ethics of journalism – grounded in truth, humility, and service – offer a timeless moral compass for responsible journalism and re-affirm the transformative power of media in shaping a more enlightened and compassionate society.

The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

Source: The Statesman

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

DC Kupwara chairs revenue officers' meeting

Reviews key departmental matters

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Tuesday convened a meeting of Revenue officers here at D.C Office to review progress on a range of matters pertaining to the functioning of the Revenue Department.

During the meeting, the DC undertook a detailed review of key performance indicators of the Revenue Department, including the digitization and quality check of Jamabandis, progress on online services under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), and other essential revenue-related issues.

The Deputy Commissioner urged officers to work with full zeal, dedication, and a time-bound approach, cautioning against any form of lethargy towards the work. He directed all Tehsildars to prioritize the submission of SRO-43 cases after thorough scrutiny and verification, ensuring swift disposal for further necessary action.

Under the PM Gati Shakti



initiative, the DC instructed officers to ensure timely uploading of maps of their respective areas to facilitate accurate planning and implementation. He highlighted that the programme is instrumental in developing multimodal connectivity infrastructure and enhancing logistics efficiency, which are crucial for the district's economic growth.

Addressing the officers, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, emphasized the need for strict adherence to timelines.

The DC particularly stressed

the importance of timely data uploading on designated portals so that ground-level work is accurately reflected in departmental performance records.

The meeting also discussed the issues pertaining to Migrant land alienation and migrant grievances.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Tehsildars, and other concerned officials, who assured their full cooperation in meeting the targets and improving departmental outcomes.

KU students impress at 17th Nat'l youth parliament

Varsity ranks amongst top 8 teams

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 18: The University of Kashmir (KU) hosted the 17th National Youth Parliament Competition, organised by the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) under the aegis of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, at the University's Convocation Complex.

The event brought together trained student parliamentarians who demonstrated strong knowledge of legislative procedures and parliamentary conduct. The proceedings were attended by faculty members, officers, research scholars and students.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan commended the participants for their confidence, clarity and discipline. She said that the University remains committed to nurturing leadership, critical thinking and democratic values, and that such platforms help students gain deeper insights into parliamentary functioning.

Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, former MP and sitting MLA, appreciated the University's efforts, noting that Youth Parliament initiatives play a vital role in strengthening democracy at the grassroots.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer



Iqbal, said that the Youth Parliament is an important platform for shaping informed and responsible young citizens. He highlighted the commitment and maturity displayed by students during the training and reiterated the University's support for initiatives that broaden students' national exposure.

Sharad Dwivedi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, praised the professionalism with which the University conducted the event and lauded the enthusiasm and preparedness of the

participants.

Earlier, Dean DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, delivered the welcome address and thanked the Ministry for its continued support.

Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer DSW KU, and mentor of the KU's Youth Parliament team, shared insights into the preparation process. He informed that 55 students from the University departments and affiliated colleges underwent an intensive 60-day training covering key aspects of Lok Sabha procedures, Question Hour, legislative

business, and overall parliamentary conduct—enabling them to perform with authenticity and confidence.

Earlier, 51 teams from across India competed at the group level, out of which only eight—including the University of Kashmir—qualified for the national round. These top eight teams will now compete for the final honour, with the winning team earning an opportunity to perform inside the Parliament of India before Members of Parliament and Union Ministers.

GMC Sgr conducts GeM training prog

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Government Medical College Srinagar Tuesday conducted the GeM Training Programme for DDOs, dealing assistants, and officials of the Health and Medical Education Department, Kashmir Division, inaugurated by Principal and Dean, Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah.

On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah appreciated the initiative and added that capacity building improves digital governance in the health sector. She said that GeM adoption is a statutory requirement under GFR 2017 and an essential tool for transparency and financial discipline in procurement. She asked participants to stay attentive, raise questions, and apply these skills in their offices to strengthen procurement and service delivery.

Chief Accounts Officer, GMC Srinagar, highlighted dynamic pricing, e bidding, reverse auctions, standard catalogues, automated contracts, secure payments, and vendor rating. She

added that officials must understand the bid life cycle, product category codes, procurement modes, demand creation, purchase preferences, BoQ based and custom bidding, OEM mapping, and GARTIS.

Resource Person from Government e Marketplace, Ministry of Commerce, covered user role assignment, profile validation, demand creation, bid creation, direct purchases, BoQ based and custom bidding, reverse auctions, bid evaluation, OEM and seller mapping, contract generation, consignee activities, CRAC issuance, PFMS linked invoice processing, dashboard analytics, MIS reporting, and audit trails. Rule 149 of GFR 2017 was explained and the role of GARTIS in market analysis. Participants asked technical questions on workflow, documentation, and compliance. He addressed each question with clarity.

The programme was attended by Administrator GMC Srinagar, Personnel Officer GMC Srinagar, Deputy Director Planning GMC Srinagar and officials from different departments.

Mass awareness rally organized in Kulgam



KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 18: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a rally was Tuesday organised at Kulgam, flagged off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam.

The rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat (DC Office) Kulgam and culminated at the Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, aiming to spread awareness against drug abuse and encourage youth to stay away from substance addiction.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, staff members, and representatives of various institutions.

Participants carried placards and raised slogans promoting a drug-free society. The rally moved through the main market areas of Kulgam, drawing public attention and reinforcing the message of "Say No to Drugs."

The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, District Social Welfare Officer

(DSWO) Kulgam, Sonabar Altaf and other officers also participated in the event and appreciated the collective efforts of students, teachers, and staff in combating the menace of drug abuse.

Alongside the rally, an awareness programme was organised at the Conference-cum-Auditorium Hall of the Mini Secretariat, where students, teachers, and staff members participated actively.

A pledge-taking ceremony was also held, reaffirming commitment towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, the officers stressed the importance of community-based awareness, early intervention, counselling, and cooperation from all sections of society to realise the vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

They highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping a healthier and more responsible society.

The rally concluded at the Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, where participants were briefed about the available facilities for counselling, rehabilitation, and support for individuals affected by substance abuse.

KVIB organizes awareness camp at ITI Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB), District Office Budgam Tuesday successfully organized an Awareness Camp-cum-Interaction Programme at ITI District Budgam.

The event was attended by Principal ITI, Officers/representatives from office of Lead District Manager Budgam, JKRSETI Budgam, Cluster Head J&K Bank Budgam, various rural Bank Branch Heads, representatives from various Blocks and officers from other line departments.

The programme was aimed at creating awareness among unemployed educated youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, artisans with a special focus on the passing out students of the institution. The event featured informative sessions and discussions on self-employment opportunities and various schemes viz. PMEGP and JKREGP implemented by the Board.

Speaking on the event, District Officer KVIB Budgam highlighted the Self-employment opportunities in

Khadi and village industries sector, financial assistance schemes (PMEGP/JKREGP) and employment generation programs offered by J&K KVIB, Technical training and skill development initiatives, marketing support and linkages for entrepreneurs.

The interactive session enabled direct dialogue between KVIB officials and local participants, addressing queries related to loan applications, project formulation, and accessing government support schemes. On-spot in the programme, many applications from the participants under various activities under JKREGP/PMEGP scheme were received and it was assured to them that the same shall be processed/sponsored as early as possible after prior approval from the DTFC.

It was informed that the KVIB is committed to generating employment opportunities in rural and urban areas through promotion of Khadi and village industries, during the year 2024-25 under PMEGP scheme, 498 cases were disbursed involving Margin Money of Rs 1379.92 lakh generating

employment to 2988 persons and under JKREGP scheme 15 rural cases stand disbursed involving Margin Money of Rs 48.30 lakh thereby creating employment to 120 rural persons.

The initiative received an enthusiastic response from participants, who actively engaged in discussions about entrepreneurship opportunities and government support mechanisms.

The awareness camp represents J&K KVIB's continued commitment to empowering rural entrepreneurship and fostering sustainable economic development in the block. By focusing on traditional industries alongside other village industries, the Board aims to strengthen local economies while preserving indigenous skills and practices.

The programme marks another significant step in the Board's ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between government schemes and grassroots beneficiaries, ensuring that rural communities have access to the resources and knowledge necessary for economic self-reliance.

Budgam admin commemorates 5th anniversary of NMBA

DC administers anti-drug pledge

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: The District Administration Budgam, in partnership with the District Social Welfare Office, organized an awareness programme at the DC Office

Budgam to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a nationwide initiative to combat substance abuse.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, inaugurated the event, administered an anti-drug pledge and led a public signature campaign symbolizing commitment toward a drug-free

society.

While addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the growing menace of substance abuse among youth and stressed collaborative interventions, preventive awareness, and counselling outreach. He emphasized that sustained awareness in schools, colleges, Panchayat bodies, and community areas is critical for long-term success.

The event concluded with a detailed awareness session wherein participants were educated about the social, mental, economic, and health-related impacts of drug addiction.

The DC also directed officials and institutions to conduct regular awareness activities across Budgam under the framework of NMBA.

All educational institutions

across the district also enthusiastically participated in the pledge ceremony, reaffirming collective responsibility and solidarity toward eradicating substance abuse.

The programme witnessed active participation from government officials, staff members, and volunteers, reflecting strong community-level support for the anti-drug mission.

UF Division Sgr organises drawing competition

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Urban Forestry (UF) Division, Srinagar Tuesday organised a Plantation-cum-Drawing Competition for students from various schools at Bal Van, Zeethyar Srinagar.

The event witnessed participation of around 100 students, who actively took part in plantation activities and expressed their creativity through nature-themed drawings.

On the occasion, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Urban Forestry Srinagar, Dr. Sheikh Mehraj delivered an insightful lecture on the importance of environment and forests. He highlighted the vital role forests play in maintaining ecological balance, mitigating climate change, and enhancing the overall quality of life.



The students were encouraged to become ambassadors of environmental conservation by adopting eco-friendly habits and spreading awareness in their communities.

Speaking at the event, Chairman National Society for Protection of Water Resources, Forests and Wetlands, appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to develop a deeper connection with nature and contribute actively to conservation efforts.

Multiple activities mark 5th anniversary of NMBA

Participants reaffirm resolve to fight drug abuse

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 18: Multiple activities including pledge ceremonies, rallies, awareness sessions, and debates marked the 5th anniversary of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) across Anantnag district on Tuesday.

These programmes were organised by the District Administration and witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers, officials, students, youth, and civil society members, who reaffirmed their resolve to fighting the menace of drug abuse.

The main event, held at Town Hall Anantnag, was presided over by Additional District Magistrate, Tariq Ahmad Malik and attended by the DEPO, DIO, CPOs, TSWOs, and field officials from the Social Welfare,



Health, ICDS, Education, MCA, and other departments.

Administering the NMBA pledge, the ADM urged participants to create community-led mass awareness against drug abuse by engaging officials, youth, civil society members, and other stakeholders so the menace is eradicated from society. He said the district scheduled events has been designed

to enhance awareness and participation at the grassroots level, adding that departments are conducting activities in tune with it.

On the occasion, officials from the Social Welfare Department delivered key lectures highlighting the measures being taken to disseminate mass awareness against drug abuse under NMBA.

Chief Secy reviews efforts under 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'

Directs formation of Rehabilitation Task Force, training of counsellors across J&K

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to thoroughly assess the multi-departmental efforts and progress under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting concluded with several critical directives aimed at intensifying the campaign, streamlining coordination, and establishing a robust mechanism for the rehabilitation of addiction-affected individuals.

Highlighting the urgency of tackling the drug menace, the Chief Secretary issued a slew of instructions including constitution of a dedicated Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Home, with Administrative Heads from the Information, Social Welfare, and Skill Development Departments as members. This force will focus on formulating comprehensive, age-group-wise rehabilitation proposals for treated individuals.

Chief Secretary underscored the vital need for training counsellors for every Panchayat, Health Center, High/Higher Secondary School, and College across J&K. He asked for training of Master Trainers at IMHANS Srinagar/Jammu, who will then be utilized to conduct decentralized training sessions in their respective districts. Videography of these training sessions was suggested for clarity and wider dissemination across tehsils and blocks.



The Information Department was designated as the nodal agency for coordinating the NMBA activities across all departments and was directed to explore the possibility of seeking financial assistance from the Department of Revenue (DoR), Government of India, under the National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse (NFCDA).

All departments were instructed to meticulously dovetail their NMBA-related activities and ensure their coordinated upload onto the single reporting portal managed by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez, presented a detailed overview of the achievements under the Abhiyan, showcasing widespread outreach and collective departmental efforts.

Sarmad Hafeez, highlighted

the comprehensive outreach of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). He added that cumulatively, the campaign has successfully reached 1,09,78,171 people across J&K through 12,565 activities. This extensive outreach included covering 24,166 educational institutions and 8,203 villages.

Additionally, he apprised that the efforts focused significantly on vulnerable groups, reaching over 11 lakh youth and nearly 98.63 lakh women. Furthermore, a special three-month campaign recently held by the Ministry of Social Justice saw the UT conducting 1,020 events, engaging an additional 2,22,565 people.

Commissioner Secretary further noted that during a special three-month campaign run by the Ministry of Social Justice, the UT conducted 1,020 events, reaching 2,22,565 people,

including over 1.20 lakh youth.

The success of the Abhiyan was said to stem out from the joint efforts of several departments. The Information Department played a crucial role in awareness generation by conducting 5,361 events, reaching 3,83,259 persons. The Rural Development Department (RDD) also contributed significantly with 4,881 outreach events, engaging 3,08,841 participants.

Alongside efforts by Urban Local Bodies, the Health & Medical Education Department has focused on intervention and rehabilitation, registering 33,205 patients for treatment. Supplementing this, Drug Deaddiction Centres across the UT have provided substantial support by holding 1,12,884 counselling sessions.

On the strategy for the days ahead, the meeting emphasized

awareness generation, rehabilitation of victims, imparting vocational training, education, and sustainable livelihoods as key tasks to combat the addiction menace.

The Health Department apprised the meeting that the training of Master Trainers would commence immediately at both GMC Srinagar and Jammu, with an initial batch of 30 from each district. The process is slated to continue for the next six months, aiming to create a comprehensive pool of approximately 4,000 counsellors covering every Panchayat, school, and health center.

The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by administering a pledge to all participants, committing them to help achieve a drug-free India by abstaining from and preventing the use of narcotic substances.

CS for giving push to green energy, innovations, research across J&K

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday reviewed the functioning of the Science & Technology Department and called for accelerated efforts to advance J&K's transition to green energy, expand renewable infrastructure, and strengthen science education and research among students.

The meeting was attended by Secretary S&T, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO JAKEDA P.N. Dhar, and senior departmental officers.

The Chief Secretary assessed the progress on small and mini hydropower projects and reviewed key renewable initiatives including the solarization of government buildings and the implementation of the PM-KUSUM scheme along with dozens of other initiatives taken by the department to promote clean energy and innovation across the UT.

The Secretary S&T, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that JAKEDA is working toward solarizing more than 8,000 government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 245 MW. It includes 70 MW under CAPEX across 30 departments and 175 MW under the RESCO model. He added that work orders for 1,300 buildings have been issued, while completed installations include the 10 kW system at TRC Kupwara and the 3 MW plant at the University of Kashmir.

On agricultural empowerment through PM-KUSUM, the Chief Secretary was informed that the scheme has recorded

near-total success with all 4,224 applications allotted and 3,586 solar pumps installed, achieving an 85% completion rate. The intervention has enhanced irrigation reliability, replaced nearly 8.5 million litres of diesel annually, and enabled savings of Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 per farmer per year.

With respect to the Small/Mini hydro initiative the Secretary apprised the meeting that the department is also expanding the initiative rapidly, with 35.25 MW operational in IPP mode and a total portfolio of 188.75 MW. The same includes 153.5 MW under development across 81 projects.

Upcoming projects include 4.65 MW scheduled for commissioning in 2026 and 49.70 MW in 2027-28. At full capacity, the hydro portfolio is expected to generate more than Rs110 Cr annually in revenue and create over 1,200 direct and indirect jobs.

The Department is further advancing decentralized renewable solutions, including 15,000 biomass cook stoves, 25,000 solar streetlights, a 100 kW floating solar pilot, and EV charging stations.

Moreover a strict 120-day roadmap has been formulated to retender the remaining 152.75 MW RESCO capacity across 6,700 buildings and to complete installation of the remaining 638 pumps under PM-KUSUM to achieve 100% saturation.

Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary was briefed on major initiatives to strengthen the research ecosystem and scientific infrastructure.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

World must display

fully to these objectives".
"We assess the global economic situation to be particularly uncertain and volatile currently. Supply side risks have been aggravated by demand side complexities. There is consequently an urgent requirement to de-risk and diversify. This is best done by as many of us, forging the widest possible economic links," he said. "For that to happen, it is essential that this process be fair, transparent and equitable."

"India's endeavours to conclude free trade agreements with many of us here are relevant. And, India's long-standing ties with SCO members makes it particularly pertinent," he said.

He further said that as a civilisational state, India strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship. "Facilitating greater interaction between our intellectuals, artists, sports people and cultural icons will pave the way for greater understanding across the SCO," he said. (KNO)

Investigation started

that the people expect full clarity. He said the investigation has started to ascertain how and why the blast occurred. "I hope the people will get the answers. This should not have happened. A large amount of explosives was brought here. We will start getting the answers on how it was brought here and how it was handled," he added.

On a query, Omar said the compensation has been provided through the CM's Relief Fund. "But since the blast occurred in the Police Station, the Home Department should also come forward to help the victims," he said.

"The compensation for jobs will also be provided to the affected. I will direct the officers to complete the necessary formalities so that the job compensation is provided to the victim's family," the CM said while reacting to a query over the tailor's death.

Moreover, the Chief Minister lauded the Ujala Hospital staff for their prompt and committed response. (KNO)

CM visits families

Minister's Relief Fund.
Later, the Chief Minister visited Ujala Cygnus hospital in Nowgam to meet the injured persons. He reviewed their medical condition and interacted with the doctors and attendants. Calling for the best possible treatment, he said, "Every injured individual must receive the utmost care. Their wellbeing is our immediate priority."

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Chanapora Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo and other concerned.

After Srinagar, admin

and UP Police had recovered a major cache of explosives, nearly 2,900 kg during a raid in Faridabad. Initially two Kashmiri-origin doctors were detained from Al Falah University in connection with that operation. "Dr Umar was associated with those arrested and may have gone ahead with the attack fearing imminent arrest," an official had said.

On November 14, the National Medical Commission (NMC) removed four doctors from the Indian Medical Register (IMR) and National Medical Register (NMR) with immediate effect

following their involvement in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The doctors removed includes Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad (Reg. No. 14680/2017), Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather (Reg. No. 15892/2019), Dr. Muzamil Shakeel (Reg. No. 15130/2018), and Dr. Shaheen Saeed (Reg. No. 45961/2022).

The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council had already cancelled the registrations of Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Rather, and Dr. Shakeel based on evidence shared by investigating agencies.

Dr. Saeed, registered with the Uttar Pradesh Medical Council, was removed through a separate NMC order. The removal followed FIR No. 162/2025, lodged at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar on October 19, under multiple sections of the UAPA, including provisions relating to unlawful activities, terrorist acts, raising funds, recruitment, and harbouring.

The NMC said the conduct of the doctors was "prima facie inconsistent with the standards of ethical propriety, integrity and public trust" required under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

The order states that the four individuals "shall cease to practice medicine or hold any medical appointment till further orders". All State Medical Councils have been instructed to enforce the directive. (KNO)

CIK detains couple

to public order and national security.

The CIK earlier today conducted coordinated searches at four locations in Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag in connection with a case FIR No. 05/2025 under Sections 196, 152, 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Police Station CIK.

It said that the searches are part of an ongoing crackdown against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in furthering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas.

It further said that by leveraging their professional status and societal standing, the involved individuals were allegedly using social media platforms to spread disinformation, radicalise youth, incite violence and disturb public order, posing a serious threat to the peace and sovereignty of the Union of India.

"During the operation, two accused: Shahzada Akhtar and her husband Dr Umer were detained. Multiple digital devices and incriminating material having direct relevance to the investigation were also seized. The recoveries include five mobile phones, five SIM cards, a tablet device, and additional digital and documentary evidence and literature," it said.

The CIK said that during the course of the investigation, it has also emerged that the detained individuals were misusing their positions and social standing to mask unlawful activities.

"The female suspect, Shahzada Akhtar, in particular, is alleged to have been involved in radicalising local women through curated online and offline engagements, pushing divisive narratives, and influencing vulnerable groups under the pretext of community interaction," it added.

It stated that her affiliation with banned terrorist organisation 'Dukhtar-e-Milat', is currently under investigation. "This dimension of the case highlights a concerning trend of the exploitation of social roles and professional facades to advance disruptive agendas".

It said that all recovered devices are undergoing detailed forensic analysis, which is expected to unravel a broader digital network linked to organised propaganda efforts. "Early leads indicate the possibility of a wider ecosystem of collaborators and sympathisers, whose activities were aimed at amplifying extremist content and manipulating public perception," it said. (KNO)

NIA gets 10-day

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 had said. (KNO)

Night temperature

recorded a night temperature of 0.6 degrees. (KNO)

SKIMS gives new

signs of neurological improvement.

A family member expressed heartfelt gratitude, saying: "We are from a humble background and could not afford treatment outside. SKIMS did everything for our daughter free of cost. She was in unbearable pain and losing strength day by day. Today, she has hope again. We are deeply thankful to Prof. Abrar Ahad Wani and the entire SKIMS team for saving our child's life."

Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, lauded the team for their exceptional achievement, stating:

"This 11-hour surgery reflects the highest level of skill, dedication, and teamwork by our Neurosurgery and Anaesthesia Departments. I congratulate the team for bringing laurels to SKIMS. This embodies what SKIMS stands for — advanced, compassionate, and equitable healthcare for the people of Jammu & Kashmir."

The successful outcome once again reaffirms SKIMS as the Valley's premier centre for advanced neurosurgical procedures and high-end tertiary care, setting new benchmarks in medical excellence and patient service.

CM reviews progress

investment of 108.09 lakh; and a 60,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant at WSS Rezan along with its pipe network and related infrastructure completed at a cost of 121.20 lakh.

The Chief Minister later laid foundation stone for multiple upcoming projects. These include a 4 MGD common pre-settling tank along with the revamping of the water treatment plant in Ganderbal Town with an estimated outlay of 384 lakh; the construction of a 33/11 KV, 1x6.3 MVA receiving station at Wangath, Kangan costing 417 lakh; the upgradation of the road connecting Spring Naga Mohallah Shallar to Dab at Batpora, Lar with

a budget of 181.06 lakh; the establishment of a Model Floriculture Centre at Nunrar (FPO Park) costing 172 lakh; and the upgradation of earthen ponds at NFSF Manasbal with a total investment of 308.12 lakh.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Health & Medical Education, Higher Education, School Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmed Dar, Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ganderbal, heads of departments, district officers and other concerned officials.

These projects are being executed by Jal Shakti RWS Division Ganderbal, KPDCL Ganderbal and Public Works (R&B) Department, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and public welfare.

Later, the Chief Minister chaired a comprehensive district review meeting and DC Ganderbal presented a detailed overview of progress across various sectors. CM gave instructions to ensure adequate awareness among farmers about Fasal Bima Yojana and other government schemes. CM exhorted that dropout rate at primary school level should be brought to nil and that teachers be deployed in such cases to understand the problem. He also asked for an assessment of whether the introduction of smart classrooms has led to qualitative improvement in the education being imparted in schools. He instructed the health authorities to immediately complete registration of the already procured ambulance through the hospital development fund and make it operational without delay. Similarly, he directed the concerned Health and R&B Electric wing to ensure early operationalization of the procured CT Scan machine by completing the pending civil and electrical works.

He also emphasized the urgency of addressing traffic congestion in Ganderbal and directed the Deputy Commissioner to prepare an ideal long-term solution in consultation with the R&B Department. He further stressed expediting utilization of funds, avoiding lapses and cutting down non-essential expenditure. Regarding the SASCI scheme, he directed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct fortnightly reviews to ensure that 80 percent expenditure by end of December is achieved, which is mandatory to secure the next instalment.

The Chief Minister instructed the concerned departments to make all necessary efforts to develop Sonamarg as another major winter tourism destination in Kashmir, saying that this year would serve as a learning experience as winter tourism expands beyond Gulmarg and Pahalgam. He also directed CEO Sonamarg Development Authority to check and stop any illegal construction in the eco-fragile zone of Sonamarg.

Responding to local demand for water tankers in the district, he sanctioned two tankers from his CDF for Ganderbal.

MLA Mian Mehar Ali raised several issues such as the establishment of a degree college at Gund, road connectivity improvements, drinking water coverage upgradation of schools

and other public concerns. The Chief Minister asked the concerned ministers to resolve these issues in a timely manner.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore delivered a detailed presentation on recent developments and ongoing projects in the district as of November 2025. The presentation highlighted progress in urban planning, road, water and power infrastructure, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, education, social welfare and winter tourism development. It emphasized the modernization of Ganderbal town, the implementation of a 24.10 crore municipal work plan, significant upgrades in public amenities, expansion of health and educational institutions, improvements in the power and road sectors, and agriculture schemes benefiting thousands of farmers. The DC also gave details of steps being taken to enhance winter sports infrastructure and informed that Sonamarg would now function as a year-round destination. He further outlined progress under social security schemes, employment initiatives, industrial development and preparedness for winter operations and emergencies.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected a series of stalls showcasing departmental achievements and beneficiary schemes. These included the PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana stall of Electric Subdivision Tulamulla (KPDCL), PM Awas Yojana by MC Ganderbal, J&K KVIB, and stalls by the Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments. He also viewed displays by Safawi Foods under the PMFME scheme, innovations presented by students under Atal Tinkering Labs, awareness stalls by Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, a Bio-Floc demonstration by the Fisheries Department, capacity-building initiatives under Mission YUVA, local sozni and crewel art by NRLM-UMED, and an exhibition by the J&K Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

The Chief Minister also distributed welfare benefits including ten individual cheques and one grand cheque under BOCW welfare schemes amounting to 3,62,72,562 benefiting a total of 5,424 workers and beneficiaries. He handed over sanction letters to two beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and presented two scooters under the Social Welfare Department. He also issued an approval letter sanctioning 6 lakh as grant-in-aid assistance to a Self-Help Group under HADP. Under PMAY-I, he handed over a cheque of 2,20,326 to one beneficiary and issued a sanction letter to another under PMAY-U 2.0. He also distributed orders for the regularization of CPW/LFW workers as MTS in favour of 14 beneficiaries.

Later in the day, the Chief Minister visited District Hospital Ganderbal where he inaugurated a high-end USG machine procured under CDF and dedicated it to the public. The machine will become operational from Monday. Several issues concerning the hospital, including the establishment of a CATH lab, deployment of a cardiologist and the need for a PG Hostel facility, were raised during the visit. The Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner to incorporate the PG Hostel project under the CAPEX Plan. He also carried out a plantation drive within the hospital premises.

Multiple courts, CRPF schools in Delhi receive bomb threat; all found to be hoax

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 18: Multiple courts in Delhi, Saket, Dwarka and Patiala House, along with two CRPF-run schools, received bomb threats on Tuesday morning, prompting large-scale security checks across the national capital, officials said.

Police said an email warning of explosives planted on court premises was received early morning, following which security teams were alerted to inspect the premises of these district courts. Nothing suspicious was found after the security checks.

Around the same time, an unidentified man called the Police Control Room (PCR) around 9 am, claiming that bombs had been placed inside CRPF schools located in Prashant Vihar and Dwarka. The threat triggered immediate mobilisation of local police, bomb disposal squads and the Delhi Fire Services at all



locations.

"After receiving the call, teams were rushed to both schools and the buildings were evacuated as a precaution," a senior police officer said.

He said the caller's phone switched off soon after issuing the threat, and efforts are underway to trace him. Parallel checks were carried out at the three court complexes based on the email alert. "We thoroughly

inspected the schools, and nothing suspicious was found. The threat was declared a hoax," a Delhi Fire Services official said. Police sources said similar inspections at the courts are underway, but nothing suspicious has been found so far.

Dhir Singh Kasana, former secretary of the Saket Court Bar Association, said that court proceedings had been suspended for around two hours and would

resume after lunch.

Navneet Panwar, vice president of the New Delhi Bar Association in Patiala House courts, confirmed that a bomb threat had been received by email, following which a sanitisation exercise was conducted.

"The court proceedings are on. There was only a brief halt," Panwar said.

Meanwhile, there was heavy security in Patiala House courts as Jasir Bilal Wani, NIA's second arrest in the Red Fort bomb blast probe, was to be produced here.

These hoax calls come in the wake of the recent Red Fort blast.

A car carrying an improvised explosive device exploded near the historical monument on November 10, claiming 15 lives and injuring several others.

Investigators have found the alleged links of the incident with the terror module security agencies busted in Faridabad, Haryana, before the blast.

Treat water as a sacred, finite resource: President Murmu

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 18: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday urged the private persons and public bodies to treat water as a sacred and finite national resource, as she conferred the sixth National Water Awards.

She said sustainable management and community participation were essential to ensure long-term water security, as she cautioned that India faces growing stress on its limited freshwater reserves.

"Thousands of years ago, our forefathers said in the Rig Veda, apsu antah amritam," the president said, according to a statement. "Water is life. A person can live a few days without food, but not without water. We must remember that we are using a very valuable resource," she said. She urged citizens, institutions and governments to treat water as a "sacred and finite national resource."

The president congratulated the 46 awardees across 10 categories for their work in conservation, innovation, and efficient water use. "I congratulate all the



individuals and organisations who have received this award today. You are working hard for water, and your efforts are crucial for our nation," she said. Murmu said climate change is disrupting the water cycle, intensifying pressure on already limited water resources.

"In such a situation, the government and the people should work together to ensure water availability and water security," she said, and underlined the need to preserve groundwater,

promote a circular water economy, and strengthen reuse and recycling across industries.

Murmu cited the Jal Jeevan Mission's expansion of household tap water connections as a major shift in India's water landscape.

"In 2019, less than 17 per cent of homes had tap water. Today, that number has increased to 81 per cent. Women and girls have benefited the most, with nearly 9 crore women relieved from the daily burden of fetching water," she added.

Serious issue: SC on cases of missing children

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court on Tuesday voiced concern over a news report that claimed that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country, and described it as a serious issue.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said the adoption process in the country is complicated and asked the Centre to streamline the mechanism.

"I have read in a newspaper that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country. I don't know if this is true or not. But this is a serious issue," Justice Nagarathna observed orally.

The top court remarked that as the adoption process is rigorous, it is bound to be flouted and people go for illegal means to have children.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, sought six weeks time for appointing a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children.

The apex court, however, refused to grant six weeks and asked the ASG to complete the process by December 9.

On October 14, the bench had directed the Union government to instruct all States and Union territories to depute a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children and to provide their names and contact details



for publication on the Mission Vatsalya portal operated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It had directed that whenever a complaint regarding a missing child is received on the portal, the information should be simultaneously shared with the respective nodal officers.

The top court had earlier asked the Centre to create a dedicated online portal under the aegis of the home ministry to trace missing children and investigate such cases.

It had underlined the lack of coordination among police authorities entrusted with the job of tracing missing children in States and Union territories in the country.

The court had said the portal

could have a dedicated officer from each state who could be the in-charge of missing complaints besides disseminate information.

NGO Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan had moved the top court and highlighted unresolved cases of kidnapping or missing children besides the actions required to be taken on the basis of information available with the Khoya/Paya portal monitored by the government of India.

The petition illustrated its argument with five cases registered in Uttar Pradesh last year in which minor boys and girls were kidnapped and trafficked through a network of middlemen to states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

ED raids against Al Falah University, linked persons in Red Fort blast case

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted simultaneous searches in Delhi-NCR against the trustees and promoters of Al Falah University of Faridabad, the varsity central to the Red Fort area car blast case, officials said.

Multiple teams of the federal probe agency raided at least 25 premises of the Al Falah trust and University establishment since 5:15 am, they said.

Teams of the agency raided an office location in Delhi's Okhla area with a security cordon being provided by the police and paramilitary forces.

Fifteen persons have been killed in the blast that took place on November 10 near the iconic monument in Delhi and the role of a number of doctors linked to the University and in Kashmir is under the scanner of the anti-terror probe agencies.

"The operation forms part of an ongoing investigation into financial irregularities, use of shell companies, accommodation entities and money laundering. The role of Al-Falah Trust and related entities is under investigation," an ED official said.

The official said "key" personnel overseeing finance and administration of the trust and the University have also been covered in the raids.

The agency has taken cognisance of the first information reports filed by the NIA and the Delhi Police in the case. Till now, the NIA has arrested two persons, stated to be the alleged close aides of "suicide bomber" Dr Umar Nabi.

At least nine shell (dummy) companies



linked to the group, all registered at a single address, are under the examination of the ED, according to the officials.

Preliminary findings point to multiple "risk" indicators consistent with shell-company behaviour like no physical presence or meaningful utility consumption at declared places of business and common mobile number and email across various companies and accounts.

The ED investigators have also found absence of EPFO/ESIC filings inconsistent with reported scale of operations and overlapping of directors/signatories and weak KYC trails across entities.

Instances of minimal salary disbursement through banking channels and absence of HR (human resource) records part from synchronised incorporation patterns and common contact coordinates across firms have been detected at the varsity, the officials said.

In addition, prima facie discrepancies have been noted in claims regarding UGC and NAAC recognition which indicate alleged non-compliance to norms established for educational institutions, the officials said.

6 Maoists killed in encounter in Andhra Pradesh



PTI

Maredumilli (AP), Nov 18: Six Maoists were killed in an encounter with security personnel here in Alluri Sitaramaraju district on Tuesday, a police official said.

According to reports, Madvi Hidma, an alleged mastermind behind several attacks on police, was also suspected to be among the dead.

However, there was no immediate confirmation either from the police or the state government on Hidma's death.

District superintendent of police (SP) Amit Bardar said the encounter happened between 6:30 am and 7 am in the forested area of Maredumilli mandal.

"Yes, six Maoists were killed in an encounter in Alluri district today," Bardar told PTI.

Two women and four men were killed in the exchange of fire.

According to the SP, it was a joint operation carried out by various wings of the police department.

SC notices to Centre, CBI, ED, Anil Ambani on PIL alleging massive banking, corporate fraud

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Centre, CBI, ED, Anil Ambani and others on a PIL seeking a court-monitored probe into alleged massive banking and corporate fraud involving Reliance Communications (RCOM), its group companies and their promoter.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for PIL petitioner and former Union secretary E A S Sarma, and sought the replies within three weeks.

The bench has now posted the PIL for further hearing after three weeks.

Bhushan alleged that the probe agencies are not investigating the alleged complicity of banks and their officials in the huge banking fraud.

He sought a direction to the CBI and the ED to file respective status reports

with regard to the probe against banks and their officials in the case.

"Issue notice returnable in three weeks. Let them file their replies," the CJ said.

The PIL alleged systematic diversion of public funds, fabrication of financial statements and institutional complicity across multiple entities of the Anil Ambani led Reliance ADA Group.

It said the FIR registered by the CBI on August 21, along with connected Enforcement Directorate (ED) proceedings, addresses merely a small segment of the alleged fraud.

Despite detailed forensic audits flagging serious irregularities, the petition claims that neither agency is probing the role of bank officials, auditors or regulators, which he calls a "critical failure".

The plea also said the findings of systematic fraud and diversion of funds have been judicially "recognised" in a decision of the Bombay High Court.

IAF, French Air Force launch Exercise Garuda-25 to boost joint op capabilities

ANI

Mont de Marsan, (France), Nov 18: The Indian Air Force (IAF) announced the beginning of Exercise Garuda-25, a bilateral air exercise with the French Air and Space Force (FASF), marking another step in the growing defence partnership between the two nations. IAF wrote on Monday on X, "#ExerciseGaruda25 takes off. Indian Air Force Su-30MKI and French Air and Space Force Rafale aircraft soared into the skies, commencing coordinated missions as part of the bilateral air exercise. The engagement reinforces strong interoperability and deep defence cooperation between the two Air Forces," said the Indian Air Force.

The 8th edition of Exercise Garuda is being held at Mont-de-Marsan, France, from November 16 to 27, as confirmed by the Ministry of Defence in an official statement. The airlift support provided by the C-17 Globemaster III, for the induction and de-induction phases of the exercise, while the IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tankers are utilised for extending the range and endurance of the participating fighters.

According to the ministry, the exercise features the IAF's



Su-30MKI fighters operating alongside French multirole aircraft in complex simulated air combat scenarios. The missions focus on air-to-air engagements, air defence operations and coordinated strike missions. This exercise aims to refine tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment, enabling mutual learning and fostering interoperability between the IAF and the FASF.

Exercise Garuda 25 also provides an opportunity for professional interaction, exchange of operational knowledge and sharing of best practices between the two Air Forces. Participation in this exercise underscores the IAF's commitment to engage constructively with friendly foreign Air Forces through multi-lateral exercises, promoting mutual

understanding and cooperation in the field of air operations, the statement added.

India and France have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations, sharing a deep and enduring Strategic Partnership (SP) that encompasses all aspects of bilateral cooperation, with a strategic component. Launched on January 26, 1998, India's first-ever Strategic Partnership embodied the core vision of both countries to enhance their respective strategic independence by drawing upon a strong and enhanced bilateral cooperation. Defence and security, civil nuclear matters and space constitute the principal pillars of the strategic cooperation between India and France, which now includes a strong Indo-Pacific component.

‘Depression, inflammation due to chronic pain increases risk of high blood pressure’

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 17: Depression and inflammation resulting from chronic pain, persisting for longer than three months, could increase the chances of high blood pressure in adults, according to an analysis.

The study, published in the Hypertension journal, reviewed data of over two lakh adults from the UK Biobank. Nearly 10 per cent of the individuals were found to have developed a high blood pressure after an average follow-up period of 13.5 years.

People with widespread chronic pain had the highest risk of developing high blood pressure -- a 75 per cent increased risk compared to those without pain.

Short-term pain was associated with a 10 per cent higher risk and localised chronic pain was linked with a 20 per cent higher risk, the study said.

"The more widespread their pain, the higher their risk of developing high blood pressure," lead author Jill Pell, professor of public health at the University of Glasgow, UK, said.

According to Pell, part of the explanation for this finding was that chronic pain made people more likely to suffer from depression, and having depression made people more likely to develop high blood pressure.

"This suggests that early detection



and treatment of depression, among people with pain, may help to reduce their risk of developing high blood pressure," Pell said.

Over 35 per cent of the participants reported experiencing chronic musculo-skeletal pain, 62.2 per cent reported chronic pain at one site of the body, while 34.9 per cent reported chronic pain at two to three musculo-skeletal sites.

"Over a median follow-up of 13.5 years, 19,911 (9.62 per cent) participants developed hypertension. Compared with no pain, those with short-term pain, chronic localised pain, and chronic widespread pain had an increased risk of hypertension," the study read.

While inflammation and depression are both known to raise the risk of high blood pressure, no prior studies have looked at the extent to which these factors mediate the link between pain and high blood pressure, Pell said.

"Together, depression (11.3 per cent) and inflammation (0.4 per cent), as

US warned others to avoid loans from Chinese state banks, but it's biggest recipient of all

AP

Washington, Nov 18: For years, Washington has been warning others not to trust loans from Chinese state banks fuelling its rise as a superpower. But a new report reveals an ironic twist: The United States is the biggest recipient of all — by far. And the security and technology implications have yet to be fully understood.

China's state lenders have funnelled \$200 billion into US businesses for a quarter of a century, but many of the loans have been kept secret because the money was first routed through shell companies in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Delaware and elsewhere that helped obscure their origins, according to AidData, a research lab at the College of William & Mary in Virginia.

More alarming, much of the lending was to help Chinese companies buy stakes in US businesses, many tied to critical technology and national security, including a robotics maker, a semiconductor company and a biotech firm.

The report found a far more widespread and sophisticated lending network than previously thought — a web of financial obligations extending beyond developing countries to rich ones, including the UK, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands and other US allies.

"China was playing chess while the rest of us were playing checkers," said former White House investment adviser William Henagan, who worries the hidden lending has given China a chokehold on technologies. "Wars will be won or lost based on

whether you can control products critical to running an economy."

While the US still welcomes most foreign investment — and President Donald Trump has courted it — money from China has drawn particular scrutiny as the world's two biggest economies with opposing ideologies battle for global supremacy.

Deals financed by China's state-owned banks, the ones studied in the AidData report, are especially problematic.

The lenders are controlled by China's central government and the Communist Party's Central Financial Commission, and they are directed to advance China's strategic goals.

In total, the AidData report found China lent more than \$2 trillion from 2000 through 2023 around the world, double the highest previous estimates and a surprise to even longtime analysts of China's rise.

And much of the lending to wealthy countries was focused on critical minerals and high-tech assets — rare earths and semiconductors needed for fighter jets, submarines, radar systems, precision-guided missiles and telecom networks.

"The US, under both (former President Joe) Biden and Trump, have been beating this drum for more than a decade that Beijing is a predatory lender," said Brad Parks, executive director of AidData. "The irony is very rich."

Until now, a full accounting of China's state lending has never been published because much of the financing is buried beneath layers of secrecy, masked by Western-sounding shell companies and mislabelled



by international databases as ordinary private financing.

"There is a complete lack of transparency that speaks to the lengths to which China goes, whether through shell companies or confidentiality agreements or redactions, to make it extremely difficult to come up with this full picture," said Scott Nathan, the former head of the US International Development Finance Corp, an agency set up in the first Trump term to invest in foreign projects deemed in the US national interest.

Since the report's last documented loan in 2023, US scrutiny has gotten better. Screening mechanisms, such as the interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the US, got beefed up in 2020 to protect sensitive sectors in the economy.

But China has gotten better, too, in part by setting up banks and branches overseas — more than 100

in recent years — that then lend to offshore entities, further clouding the origins of the money.

"In places where there are more cops on the beat," Parks said, "it has found ways to work around barriers to entry." Chinese state bank financing has touched projects across the US, particularly in the Northeast, the Great Lakes region, the West Coast and along the Gulf of Mexico, which Trump has renamed the Gulf of America. Many loans targeted critical high-tech industries, according to the report.

— In 2015, for instance, Chinese state-owned banks lent \$1.2 billion to a private Chinese business to buy an 80% stake in Ironshore, a US insurer whose clients included the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation officials and undercover agents who might need help paying legal bills in case they got

into trouble in their jobs.

US regulators were unaware of the Chinese government involvement because the financing was funnelled through a Cayman Island business with no obvious ties to China, according to the report.

US officials later realised the Chinese government could access information and ordered the Chinese buyer to divest. — That same year, the Chinese government published "Made in China 2025," a list of 10 high-tech areas, such as semiconductors, biotechnology and robotics, where it wanted to reach 70% self-sufficiency within a decade. The next year, in 2016, the Export-Import Bank of China, a policy bank, provided \$150 million in loans to help a Chinese company buy a robotics equipment company in Michigan.

After China's adoption of the manufacturing master plan, the percentage of projects targeting sensitive sectors such as robotics, defence, quantum computing and biotechnology rose from 46% to 88% of China's portfolio for cross-border acquisition lending, according to AidData. — In 2017, a Delaware private equity firm using a Cayman Islands company tried to buy a US chip maker; the deal was blocked when investigators discovered both companies were owned by a Chinese state-owned enterprise.

That same Delaware company successfully bought a UK semiconductor maker that had to be divested when British authorities found out.

— And in 2022, the UK forced a Chinese company to divest another sensitive British firm in the industry,

a designer of chips in Apple phones but potentially adaptable for military systems. The Chinese company had bought it through a company in the Netherlands that they owned.

That Dutch firm is now accused of withholding semiconductors vital to automakers in the US-China trade war. To trace China's hidden lending, AidData dug through regulatory filings, private contracts and stock exchange disclosures in more than 200 countries written in multiple languages.

The effort to track China's state loans and investment started more than a decade ago when Beijing launched its Belt & Road Initiative to build infrastructure in developing countries.

The project expanded sharply three years ago when the AidData team, which eventually grew to 140 researchers, realised many of the loans were landing in advanced economies such as the US, Australia, the Netherlands and Portugal, where acquisitions could allow it to access technology that Beijing considers essential to its global rise.

The report says the findings show a shift in the use of state credit from promoting economic development and social welfare to gaining geo-economic advantages.

"There's global concern that this is part of a concerted effort to gain control over economic chokepoints and use this leverage," said Brad Setser, an adviser to the US Trade Representative in the Biden administration. "It's important that we understand what they're doing, and they don't make it easy."

UN Security Council adopts US resolution on Gaza peace plan

Hamas rejects approval of international force

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: The UN Security Council on Monday (November 17, 2025) voted to adopt a US-drafted resolution endorsing US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza and authorising an international stabilisation force for the Palestinian enclave.

Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas agreed last month to the first phase of Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza — a ceasefire in their two-year war and a hostage-release deal — but the UN resolution is seen as vital to legitimising a transitional governance body and reassuring countries that are considering sending troops to Gaza.

The text of the resolution says member states can take part in the Board of Peace envisioned as a transitional authority that would oversee reconstruction



and economic recovery of Gaza. It also authorises the international stabilisation force, which would ensure a process of demilitarising Gaza, including by decommissioning weapons and destroying military infrastructure.

Trump's 20-point plan is included as an annex to the resolution.

Russia, which holds a veto on the Security Council, earlier

signalled potential opposition to the resolution but abstained from the vote, allowing the resolution to pass.

The Palestinian Authority issued a statement on Friday (November 14, 2025) backing the US-drafted resolution.

The resolution has proved controversial in Israel because it references a future possibility of statehood for the Palestinians.

Gill not to travel with team to Guwahati, doubtful for second Test

PTI

Kolkata, Nov 18: Indian skipper Shubman Gill is unlikely to feature in the second Test against South Africa, with Cricket Association of Bengal sources confirming that he is not travelling to Guwahati with the team on Wednesday.

The team will have an optional training session on Tuesday.

"He has acute neck pain, and we're not allowed to further go to details about the injury. He has to keep continuing wearing the neck collar," the source said.

"He has been advised three to four days of rest and not to take flight. In this situation, he is not advised to travel to Guwahati. But we are monitoring his progress on a daily basis and the picture will be clearer by Tuesday," the sources added.

The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Guwahati on Wednesday for the second and final Test, starting Saturday.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir said at the post-match press conference that Gill



was "still being assessed", with another round of evaluations to be carried out by the physio and medical staff.

Gill's absence in the fourth innings left India a batter short as they slumped to a 30-run defeat chasing 124.

If Gill is ruled out, India have options in B Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal. Sudharsan, who scored 87 against West Indies in Delhi, managed a top score of 32 in four innings for India A recently against South Africa A.

'WPL 2026 could start from early Jan, final call on venues to come soon'

IANs

New Delhi, Nov 18: The 2026 season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) is likely to begin in early January, with a final decision on venues set to come soon, sources close to the development said to IANs on Monday. Lucknow, Bengaluru, Vadodara, and Mumbai hosted WPL 2025, which was won by Harmanpreet Kaur-led Mumbai Indians (MI) for the second time at the Brabourne Stadium earlier this year.

For WPL 2026, IANs understands that the start date of the competition could be January 7, with January 6 and 8 also in discussion. The final could be held in the February 1-3 window, and will be firmed up once the dates of the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup are out.

It is understood that the WPL 2026 final date will be fixed five days before the men's global event in the shortest format begins in India and Sri Lanka. This will be the first time WPL



will be held in the January window, as per the ICC Future Tours Programme (FTP), after being previously held in February and March.

In terms of the venues, IANs understands that two options were in discussion when the BCCI officials had an informal meeting

before the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup final, which India won by 52 runs at the DY Patil Stadium to win their first-ever title in senior women's cricket.

"One option is to host the tournament at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, which is now a venue forever etched in the women's

Indian team's memory, and the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai. Another option is to host the first half of the competition in Navi Mumbai and take the second leg to the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara," said a WPL insider to IANs.

The rationale behind keeping the second half of WPL 2026 in Vadodara is also due to the stadium set to host the men's ODI series opener between India and New Zealand on January 11. It is also understood that an official word on dates and venues could come during the WPL 2026 mega auction, to be held in New Delhi on November 27.

"Chances are very good for Vadodara to be the additional venue for WPL 2026. Everyone is just waiting for the confirmation and the schedule. So we are just keeping our fingers crossed and waiting for the official confirmation. Many people are calling, including the WPL team owners," said a senior Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) official to IANs.

Movies Watch List

Wednesday, 19th November

THAMMA (UA16+)
HINDI - 06:10 PM

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

DE DE PYAAR DE 2 (U/A13+)
HINDI ATMOS - 11:25 AM, 02:30 PM, 05:40 PM
HINDI - 12:45 PM, 04:00 PM

SPIDERMAN 2 - RE RELEASE (U)
ENGLISH - 03:00 PM

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