



Targeted strikes during 'Op Sindoor' compelled Pakistan to announce unilateral ceasefire: Amit Shah

Says Indian forces destroyed 9 key camps of JeM, Hizb, LeT

Attends Diamond Jubilee celebrations of BSF

Praises force for dedication, bravery

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 21: Asserting that strong action and targeted strikes compelled Pakistan to announce a unilateral ceasefire in May this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message that any challenge to India's borders will be met with a decisive response.

Addressing the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bhuj in Gujarat, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The brave BSF personnel have discharged the responsibility of being the first responders with extraordinary valour, skill and many even making the supreme sacrifice of their lives."



Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Shah said, "Pakistan sponsored terrorists carried out a cowardly attack on our tourists in Pahalgam. The attack was avenged through 'Operation Sindoor'."

He said, "We gave only a limited response, yet Pakistan

treated the strike on the terrorists as an attack on itself. The moment the Pakistani Army came into action, BSF jawans gave them a befitting and resounding reply."

"Within just a few days, due to the valour and bravery of the BSF, Army, and Indian Airforce,

Pakistan was forced to announce a unilateral ceasefire. A clear message has gone out to the entire world that no one should dare tamper with India's borders or challenge India's security forces otherwise they will have to face the consequences," Shah added.

"During Operation Sindoor our forces destroyed nine key locations of Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, and Lashkar-e-Taiba, including their headquarters, training camps, and launch pads," he said, adding, "The objective of this operation was the complete elimination of terrorism, the safety of our citizens, and the security of border areas."

Praising BSF for its dedication, Shah said, "Not just the Prime Minister | [More on P6](#)

Poonch's resilience to Pak shelling, terror inspiration for nation: LG Sinha

Gol committed to rehabilitate violence, calamities-hit victims

HRDS to build 133 houses in Poonch, 388 in Rajouri

Under PM Modi, we've tried our best to support sufferers

19 NoKs of terror-hit families in Rajouri, 9 in Poonch provided govt jobs

Yogesh

Poonch, Nov 21: Asserting that Poonch has faced the brunt of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for decades, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the government is committed to rehabilitate the families that were affected due to recent natural calamities and unprovoked Pakistani shelling in May this year.

LG Sinha, according to the



news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) visited Poonch today and laid the foundation stone for construction of new houses for families affected due to recent natural calamities and unprovoked Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor, in Poonch and Rajouri Districts.

Addressing a gathering the Lieutenant Governor said, "The entire country looks at Poonch as an inspiration for its resilience and unwavering spirit in the face of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and repeated ceasefire violations."

He said, "One hundred and thirty-three houses in Poonch

and 388 in Rajouri that were completely damaged will be built free of cost with the help of High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India)."

LG Sinha recalled his visit to the families affected by Pakistani shelling in May this year. "Poonch faced the brunt of Pakistan-shelling. I pay rich tributes to the 14 civilians who lost their lives in May and salute their sacrifices."

LG Sinha said, "No financial help can compensate for the loss of precious human lives, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, we have tried our | [More on P6](#)

Outrage in Kashmir over proposal to hike peak-hour power tariff by 20%

Opp slams ruling party; govt terms it 'unfair', 'ill-timed', vows to oppose

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 21: As the Jammu & Kashmir Government came under fierce criticism from opposition parties over the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited's (KPDCL) proposal to levy a 20 percent surcharge on power consumption during peak hours, the National Conference-led government on Friday said it will not allow the people of J&K to be burdened with any such "unfair" and "ill-timed" proposal.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), NC leader and MLA Zaidil Tanvir Sadiq said the Omar Abdullah-led government has already taken a clear stand against the proposed 20% peak-hour surcharge. "In a harsh Kashmiri winter, power is a necessity, not a luxury. The Omar Abdullah-led government will not allow the people of J&K to be burdened with any such unfair and ill-timed proposal," he wrote.

The NC spokesman clarified the government's stand on the



proposal submitted by KPDCL-a DISCOM to the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission after facing criticism from several opposition parties.

Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari described the proposal as a "grave injustice" to the people of Kashmir. "KPDCL's proposal to impose a 20% surcharge on power tariffs during peak hours is a grave injustice to people who are already struggling to survive an economic crisis. Most of our population depends on tourism and horticulture—sectors that have suffered massive losses this year. Other | [More on P6](#)

Speaker administers oath to newly elected MLAs

Devyani Rana swears in Dogri, Muntazir Mehdi in Urdu

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 21: Two newly elected MLAs were administered oath by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday in Jammu.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi (Budgam) and Devyani Rana were administered oath by the Speaker.

While Devyani Rana recited the oath in Dogri language, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi chose Urdu for his pledge.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Sat Paul Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma,



MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Vikram Rana, Waheed-Ur-Rehman Para, and family members of the legislators.

As per section 24 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation

Act-2019, every member of the Legislative Assembly shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Lieutenant Governor of the said Union | [More on P6](#)

Upgraded ILS system

Dir Sgr airport assures no flight cancellations this winter

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 21: Director, Srinagar International Airport, Javid Anjum, on Friday said the flight cancellations due to weather are 'unlikely this winter' as the airport has been equipped with an upgraded Instrument Landing System (ILS) Category-II.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Director said the upgraded system ensures safer and more reliable landings even under low-visibility conditions.

Anjum said that Srinagar usually records around 1,000 metres of visibility during winters, which allows for

comfortable landings. "Earlier, the threshold was 1,200 meters, but now the system is much improved. This year, we expect no flight cancellations," he said, adding that the upgraded ILS now allows landings with visibility as low as 400 metres.

The Director said the ILS upgrade was already functional last year and that no cancellations occurred due to weather conditions, marking a major improvement in airport reliability during foggy and snowy months.

Highlighting enhanced passenger facilities, he said, "We have improved the heating system, added more seating and also | [More on P6](#)

Shopian higher reaches receive light snow

No significant weather forecast till Dec 9: MeT

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Nov 21: With no forecast of any major wet spell, the higher reaches of Shopian on Friday received a light spell of snow.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a light spell of snow was recorded in the upper reaches of Shopian.

"Pir Ki Gali received light snowfall today. Light spell was recorded for 1-2 hours only," he said.

Meanwhile, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that as per the radar and satellite, nothing significant is expected for the next couple of weeks. He added that dry



weather conditions are expected till December 2.

He, however, added that generally cloudy weather is expected, and towards the night of December 2nd and the morning

of December 3rd, there is a forecast of a brief spell of very light snow over isolated higher reaches. "Overall, nothing is significant till December 09," he said.

Meanwhile, | [More on P6](#)

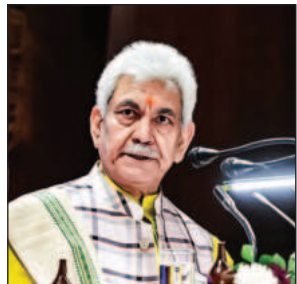
Gol approves 150 person-days for J&K under MGNREGA

This will enhance livelihood security in rural areas: LG

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan for increasing number of person-days provided under MGNREGA to 150 days for J&K to enhance livelihood security in rural areas affected by natural calamity.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "I'm grateful to Hon'ble PM Sh. Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji for increasing number of person-days provided under MGNREGA to 150 days for J&K to enhance livelihood security in rural areas affected by natural calamity. 1962 Panchayats of J&K UT



were declared 'flood affected' and it had caused adverse impact on livelihood. Special relief was sought from Gol and today's decision will ensure stable income to vulnerable rural households, relieve the families from economic distress and create durable assets."

Earlier, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) had recommended extending the benefit of additional employment of 50 days over and above 100 days per household under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the 'flood/cloud burst/landslide' (natural calamity) affected areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir for FY 2025-26. In view of | [More on P6](#)

'It's beautiful, real, original': Foreign visitor praises Kashmir's 'Know Your Artisan' showcase

Hails exhibition for celebrating 'authentic craftsmanship over imported imitations'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 21: A foreign tourist on Friday expressed deep admiration for Kashmir's timeless craft traditions during the ongoing "Know Your Artisan" exhibition at Sher-e-Kashmir Park, Srinagar, calling it a beautiful synthesis of heritage, creativity and authenticity.

The exhibition, organised



by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, offers visitors an opportunity to meet master artisans, witness live demonstrations and experience centuries-old craftsmanship that defines the valley's cultural identity.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the visitor said she found the exhibition "beautiful,

excellent, and amazing."

"This is a synthesis of your country. With all these artisans, you can see what real production and originality of Kashmir mean," she said.

She added that such initiatives highlight the importance of supporting local artisans over imported goods. "It is sad when I see imported items replacing original handmade crafts. | [More on P6](#)

Mitigate any challenge during inclement weather: DC Budgam

■ Reviews winter preparedness

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Friday chaired a meeting of officers to review advance preparations at district level to ensure seamless snow clearance, availability of all essential commodities and services and also to mitigate exigency, if any, in the district.

The DC directed all concerned to execute a joint action plan effectively to ensure that people of Budgam have a smooth, pleasant experience alongside snowing and also mitigate any challenge arising out of inclement weather.

He instructed officers of R&B, Mechanical department to keep their men and machinery in ready gear and keep them stationed at all designated locations for timely snow clearance on all roads/ links to ensure prompt connectivity restoration.

In order to ensure uninterrupted power supply, the DC called for timely restoration of all essential lines and timely installation of affected infrastructure, if any be carried out seamlessly. Similarly,



Executive Engineers from Jal Shakti were instructed to ensure unaffected water supply to all areas. The DC directed that all SDMs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers to take comprehensive rounds within their jurisdiction to review the action on ground. Also, directed them for establishment of control rooms at subdivision level to assist the public during harsh weather conditions. The CMO Budgam was instructed on smooth ambulance service during

any requirement and adequate medical facilities in all upper and low lying areas of the district. The DC also directed for the establishment of 24x7 Control room for the general public at District Headquarters for any assistance during winter season.

The meeting among others was attended by the SE R&B division Budgam, ADC, CPO, ACR, SDMs, CMO, Executive Engineers of different engineering wings, Tehsildars, EOs of MCS.

DC Gbl approves 234 Mission YUVA cases

KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Friday chaired a District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting in his office chamber here for examining cases submitted under Mission YUVA scheme of the government and accord approval to the eligible beneficiaries.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 234 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

It is worth mentioning that, as of now, 1204 applications have been approved by the DLIC out of the total 1772 applications received on the Mission YUVA Portal.

During the meeting, the DC impressed upon the concerned authorities to ensure proper quality check of the applications.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, AD Employment, Cluster Head J&K Bank and other concerned officers and officials.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of Social Security Schemes



KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of key financial inclusion and social security schemes being implemented across the district.

Status of progress made with respect to different schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha

Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), The Building and Other Construction Workers Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojna (PM-SYM) was discussed during the meeting.

The DC directed the concerned departments, banks to intensify awareness cum enrolment drives so that eligible population is covered at the earliest ensuring financial inclusion and social security coverage.

DM Shopian chairs DLSCC meeting

Committee approves 2 cases for ex-gratia relief

KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 21: In continuation of ongoing efforts to swiftly process applications submitted by the next of kins (NoKs) of terror-affected victims for grant of assistance in their favour, a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) was held under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) Shopian, Shishir Gupta here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian Friday.

The Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the cases submitted for compassionate appointment and ex gratia relief, by the next of kins (NoKs) of terror-affected victims in the district.

During the meeting, after thorough scrutiny of submitted cases, 02 eligible cases were approved for ex-gratia relief of Rupees 1 lakh each and 4 cases were recommended for compassionate appointments under SRO 43.

Other cases were advised for further review and completion of necessary pre-requisite norms and re submission before the committee for approval.

DC B'pora reviews functioning of OSC

Stresses accountability, service quality

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review the functioning of the One Stop Centre (OSC) at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora presented a detailed report on the OSC's performance, staff structure, and services being provided under Mission Shakti, including Sambal, Samarthya, Women's Helpline, Nari Adalats, DHEW activities, BBBP, PMMVY, and creche facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the functioning of SAKHI services, including legal support, counselling, and shelter facilities, and discussed pending salary issues for both MOU and non-MOU periods.

The DC directed that fresh police verification of all staff be completed prior to salary release and that eligibility criteria including age, be strictly examined. She instructed the

department to submit complete details of cases handled during the one-year non-MOU period and said that case files will be thoroughly scrutinised during the next review. She emphasised the need for transparency and stressed that legal assistance must be provided immediately to affected persons.

The DC further directed the department to conduct a comprehensive physical verification of the OSC within two weeks, covering infrastructure, furnishings, fixtures, and overall functionality. She underscored that women should not suffer due to administrative inefficiency and called for strengthened coordination among all stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan; Secretary, District Legal Services Authority; Chairperson, District Bar Council; Chief Medical Officer Bandipora and other concerned officers.

Workshop on PPV&FRA held

KT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 21: SKUAST-K, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal, convened a State Level Workshop on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA, 2001).

The workshop served as a dynamic platform for scientists, policymakers, farmers, and civil society members to engage in meaningful dialogue on the Act's transformative role in safeguarding the interests of farmers and plant breeders while encouraging the development of new plant varieties.

The event was graced by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, as Chief Guest, and Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, as Guest of Honour.

Heads and scientists from various KVKs of Kashmir, officials from line departments, farm women, and members of civil society were also present. Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, in his address underscored the Act's robust framework for protecting plant varieties, farmers' rights, and breeders' innovations, while lauding the dedicated efforts of KVK Ganderbal in advancing farmer empowerment.

Director Extension SKUAST-K, shared valuable insights on the Act, congratulated the KVK team for their unwavering commitment to farmer welfare, and stressed the importance



of equipping farming communities with knowledge of their rights.

Senior Scientist & Head KVK Ganderbal, Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, emphasized PPV&FRA as a legal safeguard for farmers and highlighted the workshop as a pivotal step in bridging the gap between scientific innovation and practical farm application. Chief Scientist GPB, FoA Wadura, provided a comprehensive overview of

registration procedures and farmers' rights under PPV&FRA, further enriching the discourse.

On the occasion, Savior Farmers from various districts were felicitated, for their outstanding contributions to agricultural innovation and preservation of local plant varieties. Scientific publications authored by scientists of KVK Ganderbal, were also released.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K CAMP OFFICE: MMAB DISTRICT HOSPITAL ANANTNAG)

Phone No: 01932-227624 e-mail: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

e-Tender Notice No: 21 GMCA of 2025

Dated: 21/11/2025

Online Bids through e-tender Portal (www.jktenders.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Reagents required in the Departmental Laboratory of Biochemistry Govt. Medical College, Anantnag as per the schedule for requirements given in Annexure "A" to the tender document and as per the schedule of events given here under:

S.NO	Particulars	Date and Time	
1	Date & Time of floating of bid	21.11.2025	03:30 PM
2	Date & time of online bid submission .(Any query to clear can be done through e-mail id on principal-gmca@jk.gov.in from 21.11.2025 to 22.11.2025	Start Date & Time 21.11.2025 03:30 PM	End Date & Time 15.12.2025 03:30 PM
3	Date & Time of online Technical bid opening	16.12.2025	2:00 PM
4	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 30,000/= (Rupees thirty thousand only)	
5	Cost of tender document	Rupees one thousand only	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Schedule of requirement and terms and conditions are available on the website: (www.jktenders.gov.in and www.gmcnanantnag.ac.in).

Bids must be accompanied with scanned copies of the cost of tender document in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of principal , Govt . Medical College, Anantnag and earnest money deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG/TDR PLEDGED TO THE Principal , Govt . Medical College, Annatnag, J&K.

The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

The items which shall be available with JKMSCL shall not be procured through this tender.

Sd/_
Principal /Dean
Govt Medical College , Anantnag

NO:- GMCA/Pur/2B/3934-39
Dated: 21.11.2025

DIPK-8325/25
DATED: 21-11-2025

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR NOTIFICATION

Under the directions of Hon'ble Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar endorsed by Ms. Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority regarding holding of 4th National Lok Adalat on 13th December 2025, in this regard District Legal Services Authority Srinagar under the supervision of Worthy Chairman DLSA/ Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, Mr. Haq Nawaz Zargar, shall be organising 4th National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar on 13th December 2025 (Saturday), for the following types of cases (pre-Litigation and post Litigation Cases).

Pre-Litigation

- 1 Bank Recovery matters.
- 2 Labour disputes cases.
- 3 Public Utility Services (excluding non-Compoundable).
- 4 Other (Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial, other civil disputes etc).

Pending in Courts

- 1 Criminal Compoundable offence.
- 2 NI Act cases under Section 138.
- 3 Bank Recovery matters.
- 4 MACT cases.
- 5 Labour disputes cases.
- 6 Public Utility Services (excluding non-Compoundable).
- 7 Matrimonial cases (Except Divorce matters)
- 8 Land Acquisition cases.
- 9 Other civil cases (rent, easementary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

Therefore, It is notified that all the concerned parties /advocates who desire to get their cases/ disputes/claims settled through this 4th National Lok Adalat may approach District Legal Services Authority Srinagar/ concerned courts by or before 02/12/2025, so that their cases/claims/ disputes can be settled amicably through the said National Lok Adalat.

By order

DIPK-8336/25
DATED: 21-11-2025

SD/-
SECRETARY
DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
SRINAGAR

Winter plates go modern

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 21: As winter wraps the Valley in its chill, Srinagar's markets are witnessing a quiet shift. Once a must-have in every Kashmiri kitchen, Hogaad (dried fish), Hokh Suen (dried vegetables) and other traditional delicacies are seeing dwindling demand.

Vendors who once struggled to meet crowds now find their stalls nearly empty.

"Earlier, people would stock up weeks before the first snowfall. Now, many youngsters don't even know how to cook these traditional items," says Abdul Majeed, a vendor at Srinagar's Mahraj Bazaar.

He adds that the decline reflects broader changes in Kashmiri eating habits.

"The younger generation prefers fresh vegetables or ready-to-cook items. The culture of

preserved winter foods is slowly fading," said another vendor nearby.

Traditionally, these foods were prepared to last through harsh winters when fresh produce was scarce. Families would soak, sun-dry and preserve vegetables to create meals that were both nutritious and long-lasting. Today, with supermarkets and year-round availability of fresh produce, that necessity has all but disappeared.

Vendors hope the trend reverses but admit the change is generational. "It's not just food; it's a way of life disappearing slowly," says Majeed, glancing at his unsold piles of Hogaad and Hokh Suen. With Srinagar settling into winter, these age-old delicacies, once a symbol of resilience and tradition may soon become rare glimpses of Kashmiri heritage rather than staples on every plate—(KNO)



MP Ruhullah hits back at NC critics

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 21: Member of Parliament (MP) Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday responded sharply to criticism from some National Conference (NC) leaders, saying they should direct their political energy where it is "actually needed".

"Instead of fighting against me, NC leaders should have adopted the same posture while taking on Modi," Ruhullah said while speaking to reporters after visiting Hari Parigam area of Awantipora to express solidarity with the family of the Crime Branch photographer Javid Ahmad, who lost his life in the recent Nowgam blast.

The MP spent time with the bereaved family, offering condolences and assuring them that he would raise the matter at every appropriate platform.

Ruhullah said the Chief Minister should have "kept his ego aside" and fought for the mandate he received from the people. "Omar Abdullah should have set ego aside and instead of making personal attacks, he should fight for what he got votes for," he said.

Calling out those within NC who have been speaking against him, the senior National Conference leader said, "Those leaders who are speaking against me just to keep their boss happy should fight against Modi with the same courage and posture."

The MP demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into



Nowgam blast. He questioned the circumstances under which the ammunition material was being transported, saying that the mishandling appeared to be "highly unprofessional" and required an independent probe.

"The Nowgam blast must be investigated thoroughly. Why was the ammunition material being carried in such an unprofessional manner and kept in a police station, and how were civilians like the tailor and Naib Tehsildar brought there? All angles must be looked into so that the truth comes out," he said.

Ruhullah also urged the government to compensate all victims, including civilians and professionals like Javid Ahmad, who suffered due to the incident.

"Whoever has suffered in any way in this blast deserves compensation. The government must ensure that justice is delivered to every affected family," he added.

Mehdi also rejected the claim that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir was linked to the abrogation of Article 370. "Linking Article 370 with

militancy is nothing but propaganda. Such incidents were happening before 2019, and the same are happening now," he said.

Highlighting the sacrifices made in the fight against terrorism, Mehdi said the people from all communities have contributed, and the death of photographer Javid is also a fight against terrorism.

"In fighting terrorism, people from every sect - Muslims and non-Muslims - have sacrificed. This is not the work of one sect. People like Javid have contributed immensely, and people irrespective of religion or caste will continue to stand against terrorism," he said.

Ruhullah reiterated the importance of restoring democratic rights and empowering states, stating that people in Jammu and Kashmir felt empowered when they had special status and now feel disempowered after its revocation. "There is a dire need to empower states through democratic rights. People in J&K felt empowered with the special status; after its abrogation, they feel disempowered," he said—(KNO)

Security forces bust hideout along LoC

Recover M4 rifles, live rounds

SAJID RAINA

Kupwara, Nov 21: Security forces foiled a potential terror plot on Friday after a cache of arms and ammunition including two M4 assault rifles was recovered from a hideout near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

"Based on specific intelligence, a joint operation was launched by Handwara Police and the Naugam brigade of the Indian Army in the Neeriyam Forest area along the LoC," a police officer said.

During the operation, the team busted a major hideout, leading to the seizure of two M-series rifles with four magazines, two Chinese pistols with three magazines, two hand grenades and several live rounds.

An FIR under number 39/2025 has been registered at Police Station Qalamabad, and further investigations are underway.

A senior police officer said the operation was aimed at preventing potential terror activities in the region and ensuring the safety of the public.

He added that the security forces remain committed to maintaining peace and fostering a terror-free and drug-free environment in the area.

A day before the joint operation in Neeriyam Forest, security forces in Handwara had busted a narco-terror module and arrested a father-son duo in the Qalamabad area.

The father-son duo, as per police, was running an active narco-terror network in the area. Recoveries from the operation, police say included one pistol with seven live rounds and approximately 890 grams of heroin-like contraband—(KNO)

Moving vehicle loudspeakers banned in Zainapora

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Zainapora, Nov 21: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad has issued a stringent public order banning the use of mikes and megaphones on moving vehicles across the sub-division.

The move comes in response to a rising number of complaints about noise pollution caused by vendors using loudspeakers while selling fruits and other consumables.

Officials informed that the administration had been flooded with complaints from residents during public outreach programmes, including the recent Block Diwas held on November 19, where locals highlighted the "unbearable disturbance" caused by frequent loud announcements by mobile vendors.

Invoking Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, the SDM directed that no vendor shall henceforth use loudspeakers or megaphones while moving through streets, lanes, or market areas within Sub-Division Zainapora.

The order states that the

practice has been causing "noise and other pollutions... rendering public spaces congested and susceptible to accidents", and is "injurious to the health and physical comfort of the community".

The notice further warns that any violation will attract strict penal action under the law.

The decision has drawn strong support from residents, many of whom say the problem has been growing unchecked for years.

Speaking to KNO, Mohammad Yousuf, a resident of Zainapora, said the constant loudspeaker announcements had become "a daily nuisance".

"Since early morning till late evening, these vendor vehicles keep roaming with loudspeakers on full volume. It disturbs people, especially students, patients, and elderly persons. This order was much needed," he said.

Another local, Shakeela Bano, said the elderly and sick were the worst affected. "My mother is bedridden, and every time these vendors pass by with loudspeakers, she gets startled. Such noise has no justification. We are thankful the

administration finally listened." Parents also expressed relief, saying the move will help students prepare for exams without any disturbance.

Rameez Ahmad, a college student, said that during exam season, the noise becomes unbearable. "I hope this order is implemented strictly, and other areas also follow the same," he said.

Several residents from neighbouring villages have called for similar orders across Kashmir.

"The issue is not limited to Zainapora. Almost every town and village faces this problem," said Imran Mir, a shopkeeper from Shopian. "Authorities across Kashmir should impose a uniform ban on these unnecessary loudspeakers. Public comfort must be prioritised."

Officials said the move aims not just to curb noise pollution but also to reduce road congestion and accident risks caused by randomly parked vendor vehicles. An official told KNO that enforcement teams have already been instructed to monitor the movement of such vehicles and take action wherever violations are noticed—(KNO)

G N Itoo appointed to Good Governance Role at IUST

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 21: Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora Friday designated G N Itoo as Director of Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis.

Deputy Registrar (Establishment) in an order further said the Dr Itoo shall also look after the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) engagement with the corporate sector for various initiatives of the University.

"In the interest of the administration, Dr Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Professor of Practice, School of

World Fisheries Day

‘Illegal fishing tightly controlled in Wular’



WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Nov 21: Fisheries Department on Friday said the illegal fishing in Wular Lake is now limited to a few cases and remains tightly controlled through regular enforcement.

"The department is committed to protecting the livelihoods of local fishermen and cracking down on illegal fishing across the region," Assistant Director of Fisheries, Baramulla, Showkat Ahmed, said on World Fisheries Day.

Showkat said that in the Sopore stretch of Wular Lake and the Jehlum river running through Sopore, no cases of illegal electric

fishing have been reported this year. The credit goes to vigilant field officials and proactive enforcement, he said.

The officer, however, acknowledged that in the Bandipora sector of Wular Lake, a few cases of unauthorised electric fishing were detected. Field teams responded swiftly, confiscating the material linked to these illegal activities, he said.

The Assistant Director said that patrols of sensitive zones remain frequent to ensure compliance and deter future violations. He said enforcement teams remain on high alert and the department is strengthening

patrols in hotspot zones, especially around Wular Lake.

Anjuman called for regular awareness programmes with fishing communities to educate them about sustainable fishing, legal tools and how illicit methods jeopardise both fish populations and long-term livelihoods.

The Wular Lake, as per the government data, contributes around 60 per cent of the total fish consumed in the Kashmir Valley, while it supports thousands of fishermen.

According to officials, over 5,200 registered fishermen depend on it—(KNO)

Startling gap in Lok Adalat's list

KNO

Bandipora, Nov 21: A day ahead of the Special Lok Adalat, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has identified a startling lapse of not a single compoundable criminal case been listed for settlement in the Lok Adalat.

The lapse has prompted a swift directive from the DLSA, pulling up judicial officers and ordering an urgent identification of all eligible matters before tomorrow's proceedings.

In a communication, issued by ADR Centre of DLSA Bandipora, Chairman and Additional District and Sessions Judge Bandipora, Mir Wajahat has expressed concern over the issue and directed all the judicial officers to identify compoundable criminal cases and refer the same to the Lok Adalat tomorrow.

He has also warned the judicial officers about such administrative lapses in future. "All compoundable criminal matters listed in tomorrow's regular cause list are to be taken up with 'due seriousness' with efforts to explore reconciliation during the court proceedings," he remarked.

He asked Judicial officers to immediately identify cases from upcoming weekly cause lists that fall within the

compoundable category — including Section 138 NI Act cases, Domestic Violence Act matters, maintenance petitions, Istighasa complaints, and other eligible criminal matters.

"A screened list of all such cases must be submitted by 4 PM today for consolidation. Any litigant wishing to include a compoundable matter in Saturday's Lok Adalat must be allowed to do so — even orally and without any procedural delay," the communique reads.

The DLSA has also emphasised that all statutory requirements and referral formalities must be completed before or at the time of sending a matter to the Lok Adalat, so that the eventual settlement or award does not suffer from any procedural irregularity or curable defect.

The President of the Bar Association Bandipora has been formally asked to issue public announcements informing litigants and lawyers that compoundable cases will be entertained for settlement on simple motion during the Special Lok Adalat.

The DLSA has urged all officers to conduct meaningful conciliation and ensure that tomorrow's Lok Adalat achieves maximum settlements in the spirit of restorative justice—(KNO)

Industrial Estate Sopore elects new president

WARIS FAYAZ

Sopore, Nov 21: Industrial Estate Sopore in north Kashmir on Friday saw a major leadership shift after unit holders elected Junaid Mehraj Janwari as the new president, ending more than 25 years of continuous control by the previous head.

Majority of the Estate Unit holders gathered at the oath ceremony and endorsed Janwari's election. They said the estate needs a more active leadership structure that can address issues faced by industries in Sopore.

Meanwhile, former president Javaid Bhat questioned the legality of the process. He said the move was unconstitutional and added that he had already

announced his resignation a day earlier.

However, he asked unit holders to extend support to the newly elected president for the sake of the estate.

Unit holders said they expect the former president to work with the new leadership for the stability of the estate. The newly elected President, Junaid, while speaking to reporters said he will work for transparent functioning and quicker decision making in the estate.

He said the association is entirely out of politics and will focus only on industrial issues, Janwari, however, asked all unit holders for full support.

The newly elect thanked the former president for his long tenure and said the estate can move forward only through collective effort—(KNO)

Man assaulted in Noorbagh, hospitalised

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 21: A 32-year-old man from Noorbagh area of Srinagar was hospitalized on Friday after sustaining multiple injuries in an alleged assault by some individuals, officials said.

An official said that the man was allegedly assaulted by some persons at Guzarbal Noorbagh area this afternoon, leaving him critically wounded.

He said the injured was immediately shifted to the hospital for treatment, where his

condition was stated to be critical.

The injured was later identified as Showkat Ahmad Khan (32), son of Abdul Rashid Khan, a resident of Noorbagh, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

The ‘Know Your Artisan’ Carnival Weaves Magic

The inauguration of the three-day ‘Know Your Artisan’ Craft Carnival at Sher-e-Kashmir Park marks a visionary step in preserving Jammu and Kashmir’s cultural soul while building sustainable economic futures. This initiative, emerging from Srinagar’s recent UNESCO and World Crafts Council recognitions, demonstrates how cultural preservation and economic empowerment can beautifully converge

when approached with creativity and commitment. By transforming a public park into a vibrant marketplace of ideas and artistry, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom has created an immersive experience that bridges the gap between creators and consumers. The live demonstrations and ‘Try Your Hand’ zones offer something rare in today’s digital age: the opportunity to witness the painstaking skill, patience, and passion that

transform raw materials into exquisite art. When visitors attempt chain-stitch embroidery or watch a Pashmina shawl take shape, they don’t just see products—they understand value. The timing of this carnival is particularly significant. As Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg noted, handicraft exports have doubled over four years, demonstrating how traditional skills can drive modern economic growth. This initiative perfect-

ly aligns with the ‘Vocal for Local’ movement, creating direct market linkages that ensure artisans receive fair compensation while customers gain access to authentic, GI-certified products. What makes this approach truly transformative is its holistic nature of combining GI protection, skill development, and now, public engagement. By bringing artisans from workshops to public parks, the government is not just selling crafts;

it’s building a cultural movement where citizens become stakeholders in preserving their heritage. This is a new spring for Kashmir’s crafts, where ancient skills meet contemporary marketing, where economic needs meet cultural pride, and where every purchase becomes an investment in preserving a legacy. This is exactly the kind of innovative governance that can turn heritage into hope for future generations.

Defence Atmanirbharta: Record Production And Exports

Press Information Bureau

India’s indigenous defence production hit a record 1,27,434 crore in FY 2023-24, a 174% surge from 46,429 crore in 2014-15, fueled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s Atmanirbharta policies. The upward trajectory in defence production is the result of continued government support over the past decade in the form of huge allocation and policy level support extended to India’s military industrial base. The rise in the defence budget, from 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to 6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26, underlines the government’s determination to strengthen country’s military infrastructure. In order to reduce dependency on foreign countries, both public and private segments of the industry have demonstrated consistent year-on-year growth, attributed to far-reaching policy reforms, enhanced ease of doing business, and a strategic focus on indigenisation over the past decade. India now exports to over 100 nations, including to United States, France and Armenia. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other PSUs accounted for approx. 77% of total production, while the private sector contributed 23%. The share of the private sector, which increased from 21% in FY 2023-24 to 23% in FY 2024-25, reflects the sector’s growing role in the defence ecosystem of the country. As a result, exports too saw a growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04% over the exports figures of FY 2023-24. The government aims to achieve defence manufacturing worth Rs. 3 lakh crore and 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029, reinforcing India’s role as a global defence manufacturing hub while boosting economic growth. Therefore, India’s defence production sector is poised for continued acceleration in the years ahead, making the country Atmanirbhar.

Challenges Before Policy Reforms
Prior to the policy reforms initiated under the government of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the last decade, India’s defence sector faced significant bottlenecks. Procurement processes were slow, resulting in critical capability gaps. Dependence on imports was high, straining foreign exchange reserves and exposing vulnerabilities during global disruptions. Earlier, private sector participation was limited due to restrictive policies, dominance of defence PSUs, and lack of technology access. Defence exports were not that high, valued at only 686 crore in FY 2013-14, positioning India primarily as an importer rather than a producer in the global defence market. To meet these challenges, the Ministry of Defence’s draft Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) sets the compass for making India a top global defence manufacturer by encouraging R&D, rewarding innovation and IP creation, promoting industry-academia linkages, supporting MSMEs and setting export ambitions. The policy stitches together production, technology, and market access into one roadmap.

Objectives of Reforms

Anchored in the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Government launched a series of reforms to build a self-reliant, globally competitive defence industry. The key objectives include:
Faster procurement through streamlined Defence Acquisition Procedures (DAP), followed by DAC (Defence Acquisition Council), giving nod for acquisitions.
Promoting indigenous production via Positive Indigenisation Lists, liberalised FDI norms for automatic route up to 74% and up to 100% through the government route, and the 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, fostering collaboration among DPSUs, private companies, MSMEs, and startups.
Boosting defence exports with simplified licensing, covering platforms such as bulletproof jackets, Dornier aircraft, Chetak Helicopters, and fast interceptor boats, and lightweight torpedoes.
Declared as the Year of Reforms in 2025, the initiatives aim to transform the Armed Forces into a technologically advanced, combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations, while expanding defence production to 3 lakh crore and achieving export targets of 50,000 crore

by 2029.

Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) Reforms

Anchored in the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Government of India has undertaken a series of landmark reforms to transform the defence procurement ecosystem. The twin frameworks, the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 and the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025, together form the backbone of this transformation, ensuring speed, transparency, innovation, and self-reliance across both capital and revenue procurements.

DAP 2020: The Strategic Roadmap for Self-Reliant Acquisition

The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 represents a transformative policy framework that serves as both a rulebook and a strategic roadmap for modernising the acquisition process while fostering a globally competitive domestic defence industry. Designed to overcome legacy challenges such as delays and import dependence, it embeds clarity, and indigenous innovation into every stage of acquisition.

Key features that redefine acquisition include:

Indian First Approach: The policy gives top priority to the Buy (Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)) category, promoting systems designed, developed, and manufactured indigenously, thereby making the country self-reliant.
Speed with Transparency: Simplified approval processes and digital integration have accelerated procurement timelines while enhancing accountability.
Technology of Tomorrow: The DAP 2020 includes dedicated provisions for acquiring cutting-edge technologies like AI, robotics, cyber, space, and advanced warfare system to enable multi-domain operations.
Industry as Partner: It promotes a collaborative ecosystem involving private sector companies, start-ups, and MSMEs through initiatives such as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and relaxed licensing norms.
Ease of Approvals: Procedural bottlenecks have been removed through streamlined frameworks and empowered acquisition wings, ensuring timely decision-making.

DPM 2025: Streamlining Revenue Procurement

Building upon the DAP framework, the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 was launched by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on October 2025, representing a major leap towards simplifying the procedures, bring uniformity in functioning. It will be helpful in providing goods and services required by the Armed Forces for operational preparedness, worth approximately 1 lakh crore. Effective, 1 November 2025, DPM 2025 introduces industry-friendly reforms aimed at ensuring fairness, transparency, accountability in procurement and participation from domestic enterprises.
Key highlights include: Ease of Doing Business, which entails standardized procedures across all Armed Forces and MoD organizations to reduce delays; Support for Innovation and Indigenisation, fostering collaboration with industry and academia; Industry-friendly provisions, such as lower liquidated damages (0.1% per week for indigenisation projects), guaranteed orders for indigenous products for up to five years, and the removal of the outdated No Objection Certificate from erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board; and Digital Integration and Transparency, which have led to improved e-procurement systems and data-driven monitoring, ensuring accountability and efficiency in procurement processes.
An Integrated Procurement Framework for the Future
Together, DAP 2020 and DPM 2025 represent a unified, forward-looking procurement architecture that aligns India’s defence acquisition process with the twin goals of

operational readiness and industrial self-reliance. The integration of capital and revenue procurement ensures faster delivery of critical systems to the Armed Forces while empowering Indian industry to scale up innovation, manufacturing, and exports.

This comprehensive procurement ecosystem marks a decisive shift towards making India a global hub for defence production and innovation, driving the realisation of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the strategic domain.

BOOSTING DOMESTIC DEFENCE PRODUCTION

1. From Dependence to Dominance:

The country recorded its highest-ever defence production of 1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, a testament to the strength of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in action. India is on track to achieve a target of 1.75 lakh crore in defence production in the current fiscal year, while it aims to reach 3 lakh crore in defence production by 2029, further establishing itself as a global defence manufacturing hub.
A graph of a graph showing the growth of a number of peopleAI-generated content may be incorrect.

2. Defence Industrial Corridors - The New Growth Arteries:

Two corridors, Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) and Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), are the lifelines of this transformation. Together, they have attracted investments worth over 9,145 crore, with 289 MoUs signed, unlocking 66,423 crore in potential opportunities, as of October 2025.

3. Expanding the Defence Ecosystem:

DRDO has become a frontline institution that is driving India’s defence revolution. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh grant has approved a Corpus of Rs 500 crore to cater for deep-tech and cutting-edge projects as separate verticals under Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme, Technology Transfers, and 15 Defence Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs), it is directly linking academia, start-ups, and industries in defence innovation. The restructuring of Ordnance Factories and creation of seven defence companies, was undertaken to enhance functional autonomy, improve efficiency, and increase self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country. The private sector is no longer a silent observer. From drones to avionics to cutting-edge electronics, companies both big and small are stepping up, while 16,000 MSMEs are emerging as the game-changers, proving that India’s defence manufacturing is no longer just about the giants, it’s an ecosystem where every innovator has a role to play.

4. Opening New Horizons - Investment Opportunities:

India has emerged as one of the most attractive destinations for defence investment. With 788 industrial licenses issued to 462 companies, the participation of Indian industry in defence manufacturing is growing rapidly. The Department of Defence Production has streamlined business through a fully digital portal for export authorizations, leading to 1,762 approvals in FY 2024-25, compared to 1,507 in FY 2023-24, marking a 16.92% year-on-year growth and a 17.4% increase in the number of exporters. Combined with liberalized FDI norms, the PLI scheme, and modern defence corridors, India offers a compelling opportunity for both domestic innovators and global investors.
In 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence signed a record 193 contracts valued at 2,09,050 crore, marking the highest ever in a single financial year. Of these, 177 contracts, worth 1,68,922 crore, were awarded to the domestic industry, reflecting a decisive shift toward Indian manufacturers and a strengthened indigenous defence ecosystem. This emphasis on local procurement has also spurred employment generation and technological innovation across the sector.

Defence Acquisitions: Accelerating Self-Reliance

India’s defence acquisition landscape has seen transformative growth under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with record budgetary allocations, streamlined procedures, and a renewed focus on indigenisation across the Services. At least 65% of defence equipment is now manufactured domestically, a significant shift from the earlier 65-70% import dependency, showcasing India’s self-reliance in defence. India’s approach ensures that every procurement strengthens national industry, reduces import dependency, and enhances operational preparedness.

Rising Acquisition Budget and Decadal Growth

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Raksha Mantri, has approved record volumes of indigenous procurements in recent years. Modernisation and indigenization of the Armed Forces remain a key priority of the Government. In the Union Budget 2024-25, an allocation of 1.72 lakh crore has been made under the Capital Head for the Defence Services, reflecting a 20.33% increase over the actual expenditure of FY 2022-23 and a 9.40% compared to the Revised Estimates of FY 2023-24.
In March 2025, the DAC approved eight capital acquisition proposals worth over 54,000 crore, including the 1,350 HP engines for T-90 tanks and indigenously developed Varunastra torpedoes and Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) systems.
In July 2025, the DAC cleared 10 capital acquisition proposals valued at approximately 1.05 lakh crore including Armoured Recovery Vehicles, Electronic Warfare System, Integrated Common Inventory Management System for the Tri-Services, Surface-to-Air Missiles, Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Super Rapid Gun Mount, and Submersible Autonomous Vessels. All items approved are indigenous under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, emphasizing indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured systems.
In August 2025, the DAC approved proposals worth 67,000 crore to enhance the operational capabilities of the Armed Forces. Key approvals included Thermal Imager-based Night Sights for BMPs for the Army, Compact Autonomous Surface Craft, BrahMos Fire Control Systems, and BARAK-1 upgrades for the Navy, and Mountain Radars along with SAKSHAM/SPYDER upgrades for the Air Force. The DAC also cleared indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) RPAs for all three Services, and maintenance support for C-17, C-130J, and S-400 systems.
Continuing the momentum, in October 2025, the DAC approved procurement proposals worth approximately 79,000 crore for the Army, Navy, and Air Force, reinforcing the Government’s sustained commitment to capability enhancement and self-reliance across all domains of national defence. A key indigenous highlight being the Advanced Light Weight Torpedoes (ALWT) developed by DRDO’s Naval Science & Technological Laboratory for the Navy. The other approvals include the Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), Ground Based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES), and High Mobility Vehicles (HMs) for the Army; Landing Platform Docks, and 30mm Naval Surface Guns for the Navy; and the Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/ Destruction System for the Air Force.

A New Export Story: Numbers That Speak

What was once a trickle is now a steady stream: India’s defence exports reached a record 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25 registering a 12.04% growth over FY 2023-24’s 21,083 crore. Private sector exports contributed 15,233 crore, while DPSUs accounted for 8,389 crore, whereas the corresponding figures for FY 2023-24 were Rs 15,209 crore and Rs 5,874 crore respectively. In a major boost to defence exports, India has supplied a wide spectrum of products - including ammunition, arms, sub-systems, complete systems, and critical components - to around 80 countries during the 2024-25, reaffirming its role as a reliable partner in the global defence supply chain. The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) have shown a

Key Takeaways

- India recorded its highest-ever defence production of ₹1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25
- Indigenous defence production hit a record ₹1,27,434 crore in FY 2023-24, a 174% surge from ₹46,429 crore in 2014-15
- 16,000 MSMEs are emerging as the game-changers, strengthening indigenous defence capabilities
- 788 industrial licenses have been issued to 462 companies.
- India’s defence exports reached a record ₹23,622 crore in FY 2024-25 from less than ₹1,000 crore in 2014.

significant increase of 42.85% in their exports in the FY 2024-25 reflecting the growing acceptability of Indian products in the global market and the ability of the Indian defence industry to be a part of the global supply chain.

Faster, Simpler, Digital Policies that Open Doors

The Government has actively simplified the export pathway, standard operating procedures for the export of Munitions List items have been rationalised, and a fully end-to-end online portal now processes export authorisations digitally, cutting time and paperwork for exporters. Open General Export Licences (OGEL) and a digital authorisation system have further eased routine exports.

Defence Exports as Diplomacy

Exports are more than commerce: they build trust, interoperability and long-term partnerships. India’s expanding export basket, supplied to friendly countries, is an instrument of outreach, seen in defence cooperation, logistics support, training and spares packages that accompany sales. The widening list of importers signals growing global confidence in Indian platforms.

Successful Indigenous Platforms & the Export Basket

India’s exports today are broad and practical, from bulletproof jackets, patrol boats and helicopters, to radars and lightweight torpedoes, showcasing the depth and diversity of India’s defence manufacturing. While combat aircraft programmes like Tejas continue on the path to operational maturity and export discussions, India’s current strength lies in a wide range of proven, operational systems and components.

Conclusion

India’s strategic collaborations and bold policy initiatives are not just reforms; they represent the foundation of a new era in defence self-reliance and technological sovereignty. With domestic production and exports poised for remarkable growth, and cutting-edge technologies steadily integrating into the industrial ecosystem, the vision of India as a global defence manufacturing hub is no longer a distant aspiration, it is unfolding before us.
India has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms, reflecting the success of government initiatives such as the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, positive indigenisation lists, and strategic partnerships with the private sector. The emphasis on Make in India and the creation of a robust R&D and start-up ecosystem have further accelerated this transformation.
From the establishment of Defence Industrial Corridors to the expansion of export facilitation, every measure underscores India’s commitment to reducing import dependency and promoting indigenous capabilities. Together, these efforts are shaping a resilient, technology-driven defence ecosystem that not only strengthens national security but also positions India as a trusted global partner in defence manufacturing and innovation.

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

Bengaluru Tech Summit-2025

J&K EDI Startups draw global attention

KT News Desk

BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 21: Startups supported by the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) participated in the prestigious Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025, held in Bangalore from November 18 to 20, 2025.

This year's edition was one of the largest ever, with organisers reporting participation from more than 10,000 startups representing 60 countries. The J&K startups began their showcase with a high-energy Day 1, marked by strong engagement with industry leaders, potential partners and sector experts.

The summit, featuring international exhibitors from Italy, Russia, Israel, Germany, Australia and Korea, offered unmatched exposure, learning and global networking opportunities for the participating entrepreneurs from J&K. The J&K pavilion attracted a huge crowd, drawing praise, curiosity and appreciation from the visitors and global participants.

Seven J&K startups supported by JKEDI participated in the 3-day long Tech Summit.

A key highlight was the visit of Ari Gargir, CEO and Founder



of RED C Biotech, who interacted with the J&K startup founders and showed keen interest in their innovative solutions. Besides, interactions with the Industry Leaders were the spotlight of the event where Sheenmart E-Com, a JKEDI-sponsored startup, held promising discussions with AutoL Korea, a global leader in compact long-range LiDAR technology. The dialogue focused on exploring collaborative opportunities

in advanced sensing and smart mobility solutions.

Entrepreneur Sheikh Yameen of Curv Electric (Heaventure Adventures Limited) engaged with Micheal Nenner, CEO of Charge, on technology integration aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of electric vehicles. SCANIMO Technologies, a promising startup from J&K established a technical connect with Jio Mart Retail Stores who evinced

interest to integrate the former's technology in their stores.

Throughout the summit, the startups from J&K attracted the visitors and potential partners, establishing meaningful connections and working to translate these engagements into tangible collaborations. Parallel meetings and networking sessions took place as the J&K delegation proactively explored opportunities for growth and strategic partnerships.

Officials from the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modelling (CIIBM) a program vertical of JKEDI including Faheem ul Din Malik, Associate Project Manager (APM), JKEDI and Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager (F&A), JKEDI attended the summit, facilitating the interaction between startups and the industry leaders, under the overall supervision of the Secretary Industries and Commerce Department and Director, JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir. They also discussed the prospective knowledge sharing and collaborations with counterparts like Startup Tamil Nadu in the future.

The startups, supported by Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) shared their experiences and key takeaways. They applauded the role of JKEDI for being the prospective enabler between the vast startup market place and the aspiring entrepreneurs of the UT of J&K.

The presence of JKEDI-supported startups at BTS 2025 reflects the growing innovation capability and entrepreneurial drive emerging from Jammu & Kashmir. The JKEDI remains committed towards empowering startups and helping them compete, collaborate and grow on national and global platforms.

MLA Gulmarg, DC inaugurate Mega Sports Festival



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 21: A Mega Sports Festival was inaugurated at the Mini Stadium Kunzer by MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

As part of the programme, the District Administration inaugurated the new floodlight facility at the stadium, allowing sports activities to be conducted during evening hours as well. The installation of

floodlights fulfils a long-pending demand of local sports-persons and represents an important step in improving sports facilities in the area.

A cricket match was organised under the newly installed lights, which drew a large number of people from the surrounding areas. Residents and sportspersons expressed their appreciation to the MLA and the DC for making this facility available.

Later, the MLA and DC distributed Cricket kits among

DC Baramulla chairs NRLM review meeting



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), with a special focus on Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their bank linkage achievements.

During the meeting, banks were directed to clear all pending SHGs credit cases within 15 days, while NRLM officials were instructed to sponsor additional

cases to further strengthen financial inclusion and livelihood support.

Enhanced coordination between banks and NRLM teams was emphasized to ensure seamless SHGs credit linkages and achievement of targets. All concerned officers were also directed to submit weekly progress reports to monitor timely implementation.

The DC stressed the importance of collective effort in empowering SHGs and accelerating the district's progress under the NRLM initiative.

PMAY-U 2.0

DC Budgam distributes sanction letters
Calls for timely start of all newly approved houses

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Friday distributed sanction letters to newly approved beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-Urban) 2.0, at a function held in the New Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Budgam.

During the event, the DC handed over 16 sanction letters to beneficiaries of Municipal Committee Chadoora and 14 sanction letters to beneficiaries of Municipal Committee Budgam, formally enabling them to begin the construction of their houses under the flagship housing scheme.

Congratulating the beneficiaries, the DC reiterated the



District administration's commitment to ensuring dignified housing for all eligible urban households. He directed the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure immediate grounding of all sanctioned houses, timely issuance of permissions, and continuous handholding support to beneficiaries.

He instructed officers to maintain close coordination with beneficiaries, resolve field-level issues on priority,

and regularly monitor progress for seamless implementation of PMAY-U 2.0, adding that no delay in initiating construction work will be tolerated.

On the occasion, CPO Budgam, CEO MC Budgam, EO MC Chadoora, and other concerned officers were present.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the district administration for the transparent and timely issuance of sanction letters.

PMAY (U) 2.0

DC Kupwara hands over sanction letters to beneficiaries



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Friday handed over 31 sanction letters under PMAY (Urban) 2.0 for the construction of houses across 13 wards of Kupwara town.

The aim of the scheme is for improving urban housing facilities and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive

timely support under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme. The Deputy Commissioner congratulated all beneficiaries and reiterated the administration's commitment to facilitating the smooth implementation of housing and development schemes in the district.

ACR Kupwara and Executive Officer, MC Kupwara were also present on the occasion.

Bandipora admin intensifies crackdown on illegal mining

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21: The district administration Bandipora, in coordination with Police and the Mining Department, has tightened enforcement against illegal mining and unauthorized mineral transportation across the district, resulting in multiple seizures and strict legal action.

Enforcement teams conducted coordinated operations along various stretches of Madhumati Nallah, including the Athwato and Sonarwani belts, where several hundred metric tonnes of River Bed Material (RBM) extracted in

violation of regulations were seized and subsequently destroyed. Multiple individuals involved in illegal extraction and transportation were apprehended, and an FIR has been registered against five offenders as part of the ongoing crackdown.

Regular surveillance and intensified checking at vulnerable points have led to significant district-wide action. More than 140 seizures have been made in recent operations, reflecting the Administration's sustained focus on curbing illegal extraction.

The cumulative penalty imposed has reached

approximately 12 lakh. Within the Athwato and adjoining areas alone, more than twenty vehicles were intercepted, resulting in penalties amounting to approximately 1.80 lakh.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to protecting natural resources, ensuring compliance with mining and environmental regulations, and maintaining strict vigilance across all vulnerable locations.

Citizens have been urged to cooperate by reporting any illegal mining activities to help safeguard the district's fragile riverine ecosystem.

Audit Diwas 2025 observed at IASE Sgr

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: As part of the ongoing 11-day Audit Diwas celebrations, the Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), J&K, organised a comprehensive awareness programme titled "Leveraging e-Office, OIOS Toolkits, and Data Analytics for Efficiency" at the auditorium of the Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The programme was aimed to enhance coordination between Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), Treasury officials, and Pension authorities. A special focus was laid on equipping employees, particularly those nearing superannuation, with the knowledge required for digital submission and



processing of pension papers, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and ease of workflow.

The event was presided over by Principal of the institution, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naaz, as the Chief Guest, and Deputy Accountant General, Pawan Kumar Rathi, as the Special

Guest.

In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naaz emphasized the importance of such initiatives in strengthening employee preparedness in an era of rapidly evolving digital governance systems. She stated that awareness programmes of this nature

significantly contribute to enhancing institutional efficiency and employee welfare.

Pawan Kumar Rathi, in his remarks, appreciated the initiative, highlighting its role in improving financial literacy, streamlining administrative processes, and promoting digitally empowered treasury and pension operations.

A large number of DDOs and prospective retirees attended the event, making the session highly interactive and informative.

Technical experts delivered an in-depth session on Pension Procedures, digitization, transition to e-office systems and paperless, latest practices in Accounts Reconciliation, digital submission and verification mechanisms.

NCSC guides Women ITI Jammu trainees

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 21: National Career Service Center for SC/ST Jammu organised a Confidence Building Programme for the Trainees of Government Women ITI, Jammu here Friday.

The topic of the programme was "Hope Creates Approach". The Speaker/Counsellor of the programme was Sub-Regional Employment Officer Jammu, Gopal Sharan.

The objective of the programme was to motivate students and participants to develop a positive mindset, build Self Confidence and understand the importance of hope as the foundation for personal growth and success. The students were also made aware about the career counselling/Guidance activities, free coaching and training programme offered by NCSC for SC/ST jobseekers of J&K and Ladakh.

The students described the session as meaningful and impactful. Principal Women ITI, Jammu was also present at the programme.

4th National Lok Adalat on Dec 13

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: Under the directions of Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum, regarding holding of 4th National Lok Adalat on 13th December 2025, in this regard District Legal Services Authority Srinagar under the supervision of Chairman DLSA/ Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, Haq Nawaz Zargar, shall be organising 4th National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar on 13th December 2025 (Saturday).

The National Lok Adalat will take up a wide range of pre-litigation and post-litigation cases, including Bank Recovery matters, Labour disputes cases, Public Utility Services (excluding non-Compoundable), other (Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial, other civil disputes etc), Pending in Courts, Criminal Compoundable offence, NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery



matters, MACT cases, Labour disputes cases, Public Utility Services (excluding non-Compoundable), Matrimonial cases (Except Divorce matters), Land Acquisition cases, other civil cases (rent, easementary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

All interested parties, litigants, and advocates wishing to settle their cases, disputes, or claims through this National Lok Adalat are advised to approach the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar or the concerned courts by or before 02-12-2025, so that their matters can be listed and amicably resolved during the Lok Adalat.

DC Ramban finalises arrangements for District-level Padyatra

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alys Khan Friday chaired a meeting and finalized the arrangements for the forthcoming District level Padyatra to be organized on November 25, 2025 as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Celebrations.

The meeting was attended by ACD, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Deputy Director MY Bharat Doda/Ramban, Khushal Gupta; Tehsildar, Deep Kumar; Dy SP Headquarter, Waqar Butt; CMO, Executive Engineer JPDCL, PWD, CEO, MC Ramban and other concerned officers.

The meeting discussed in detail the necessary preparations,



logistical requirements, route plan, security arrangements and coordination among the stakeholder departments to ensure the smooth conduct of the event. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination for smooth conduct of Padyatra being held as a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and promoting the message of national

unity and integrity.

The DC issued instructions to concerned departments for making adequate arrangements for traffic management, medical facilities, participation of youth and students, stage, seating plan and publicity besides overall event management. He stressed timely execution of all assigned responsibilities and directed officers to remain in close coordination throughout the event.

PM Modi arrives in South Africa to attend G20 summit

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Johannesburg on Friday to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit being held under South Africa's Presidency. Modi arrived at Waterkloof Air Force Base (AFB) in Gauteng, where he was accorded a traditional welcome. He was greeted by artists who performed cultural song and dances.

"Landed in Johannesburg for the G20 Summit related engagements. Look forward to productive discussions with world leaders on key global issues. Our focus will be on strengthening cooperation, advancing development priorities and ensuring a better future for all," Modi said in a social media post. This is the first G20 Summit being held in Africa. The African Union became a member of the G20 during India's presidency in 2023. On the margins of the summit, the prime minister is expected to hold bilateral meetings with some of the leaders present in Johannesburg. He will also attend the 6th summit of IBSA - a trilateral grouping of India, Brazil and South Africa. "Will be attending the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is a particularly special Summit as it is being held in Africa. Various global issues



will be discussed there. Will be meeting various world leaders during the Summit," Modi posted on social media before departure. "I will present India's perspective at the Summit in line with our vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'One earth, One Family and One Future,'" Modi said. The Summit will be an opportunity to discuss key global issues. The theme of this year's G20 has been 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability', by which South Africa has carried forward the outcomes from the previous Summits held in New

Delhi and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he added. "I look forward to my interactions with leaders of the partner countries, and participation in the 6th IBSA Summit scheduled on the sidelines of the Summit," Modi said. "During the visit, I also look forward to my interaction with the Indian diaspora in South Africa, which is one of the largest outside India," he added. Prime Minister Modi is expected to speak in all three sessions of the G20 Summit. The three sessions of the Summit include 'Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth

Leaving No One Behind: Building our economies, the role of trade, financing for development and the debt burden". The other two sessions are "A Resilient World - the G20's Contribution: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, Just Energy Transitions, Food Systems"; and "A Fair and a Just Future for All: Critical Minerals, Decent Work, Artificial Intelligence". This will be the fourth consecutive summit of the grouping that will be held in the Global South. US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are not attending the summit.

Overwhelmed CJI Gavai bids adieu, says he is leaving SC with full sense of satisfaction

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: Overwhelmed by rich tributes on his last working day, Chief Justice of India Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai on Friday said he was leaving the institution "with a full sense of satisfaction and contentment" and as a "student of justice" on concluding four decades of journey as a lawyer and a judge. In another farewell function held by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in the evening, the 52nd CJI recalled the ire that he faced from his own community for one of his judgments in which it was held that the creamy layers among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) can also be denied the reservation benefits in admissions and jobs. "Being an ardent student of the Constitution, the virtues of equality, justice, liberty and fraternity were always close to my heart," he said. The CJI, who would demit office on November 23, a Sunday, justified his recent landmark verdict quashing key provisions of the 2021 Tribunals Reforms law saying independence of the judiciary is the basic structure of the Constitution and freedom of tribunals cannot be compromised. Recalling his journey from a humble background and lesser-known place at Amravati to the top court, CJI Gavai, the first Buddhist and second Dalit head of the Indian judiciary after K

G Balakrishnan said that the Constitution and the values of his parents made it possible. "I am very satisfied with the journey which started 40 years ago," the CJI said, while recalling the incidents and cases which he dealt with in his career. "I made an example of how a son of a senior IAS officer studying in Delhi at a premier school can be made to compete with the son of an agriculturist. My law clerk, whose father is a senior IAS officer, said from now on he will not take any benefit given to the Scheduled Castes. That young boy understood what politicians fail to understand for reasons best known to him," he said. CJI-designate Justice Surya Kant will succeed Justice Gavai on November 24. Justice Surya Kant was effusive in his praise for the outgoing CJI and termed him "more than a colleague" and "brother". "He was more than a colleague... he was my brother and a confidant, and a man of immense integrity," Justice Surya Kant said in the forenoon in the proceedings of the ceremonial bench. "He handled cases with patience and dignity. He encouraged young lawyers. His firmness was always laced with humour... Not a single day went by when he didn't threaten an insistent lawyer with costs but he never imposed one," he said. During the farewell proceedings in the forenoon before

the ceremonial bench that also comprised CJI-designate Surya Kant and Justice K Vinod Chandran, the CJI said, "After listening to all of you, and particularly the poems of Attorney General (R Venkataramani) and Kapil Sibal and the warm sentiments expressed by all of you, my voice is choking with emotions." "When I leave this courtroom for the last time... I leave this court all with full sense of satisfaction, the full sense of contentment that I have done whatever which I could have done for this country... Thank you. Thank you very much," a visibly emotional Gavai said in the courtroom packed with law officers, senior advocates and young lawyers. The proceedings saw colleagues reminiscing the imprint Justice Gavai, the second Dalit after K G Balakrishnan and the first Buddhist CJI, left on the judiciary. "I always believe that everybody, every judge, every lawyer, is governed by the principles on which our Constitution works that is equality, justice, liberty and fraternity and I tried to discharge my duties within the four corners of the Constitution that is so dear to all of us," he said. Justice Gavai, who was sworn in on May 14 for over a six-month tenure as the CJI, would demit office on November 23, a Sunday, and Friday was his last working day.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Targeted strikes

and the Home Minister, but the entire nation salutes their bravery. All of us have unwavering faith in the strength and competence of BSF jawans. Country sleeps peacefully because of their unbreakable resolve to protect us," Shah said. The Home Minister said, "Till date 2013 BSF soldiers have laid down their lives to ensure that the country's borders remain inviolable and secure." Shah said that ever since establishment of the Border Security Force (BSF) on December 1, 1965, the paramilitary force has successfully scaled every pinnacle of excellence. He stated that among all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the BSF is the only force dedicated to guarding the nation on land, water, and air frontiers. "Whether it is our air borders, the most inaccessible land borders, or water borders amidst countless obstacles, BSF personnel remain deployed on all three," Shah said. He said that the courage and skill with which BSF jawans have adapted to these diverse challenges and the harshest forces of nature to secure India's borders is truly commendable. "On water, land, and sky, the BSF has always had only one goal i.e. the security of India," Shah added. He expressed pride that today, with the strength of 193 battalions and over 2.76 lakh personnel, the BSF is fully protecting and monitoring the entire 2,279 km border with Pakistan and the 4,096 km border with Bangladesh. He also said that the coming year will be fully dedicated to the complete modernization of the BSF, and the year after that will be entirely devoted to the welfare of our brave jawans and their families. "During this period, the BSF and the Ministry of Home Affairs will launch numerous schemes and take concrete steps towards the welfare of the personnel and their families," Shah said. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has resolved to transform the BSF into the world's most modern and most capable border security force within the next five years. Shah added that many new initiatives will be rolled out in the coming days. "I assure the families of jawans posted in difficult conditions along the borders that in PM Modi's rule no stone will be left unturned for their welfare," he said. HAILS BSF FOR PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS He said that the BSF has launched numerous operations against the infiltration of narcotics into the country and achieved tremendous success. The Union Home Minister said that BSF has seized more than 18,000 kilograms of drugs so far in 2025—this is a historic achievement. He said that the BSF remains fully engaged in preventing infiltration along all our borders. Preventing infiltration is not only essential for the country's security but also crucial to protect our democratic system from being polluted. "In the coming days, we are bringing the new revolutionary concept of 'e-Border Security'. The BSF has the biggest role in implementing this concept on the ground, and the initial initiative has also been taken by the BSF itself. Every possible effort will be made to fully roll it out on the ground within the next one year, and I am fully confident that within the next five years, the entire land border of our country will be securely covered under this e-security shield," he added. ONLY INDIANS WILL DECIDE WHO WILL BECOME CM AND PM He said, "Unfortunately, some political parties are actively trying to weaken the 'Ghuspathiyya Hataao' campaign. These parties

are opposing the voter list purification process being carried out by the Election Commission under the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) exercise." He declared with firm resolve that it is our pledge that we will identify and deport every single infiltrator from this country, one by one. The Home Minister said that in this country, only Indian citizens will decide who the Chief Minister of any state becomes or who becomes the Prime Minister of India. No infiltrator has the right to pollute our democratic system or influence our democratic decisions. The Union Home Minister said that in the past few years, we have rapidly strengthened and made the border fencing impenetrable. Most of the trials related to fencing have now been completed. (KNO) Poonch's resilience best to support the victims." He reaffirmed Gol's commitment towards complete rehabilitation of affected families and to improve the life of every resident of Poonch and Rajouri. "Earlier, ex-gratia relief and employment to Next of Kins (NoKs) of the deceased were provided and compensation paid to the families affected by flash floods and Pakistani shelling in both the districts. Under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) and Central Schemes relief of more than Rs. 10 Cr was already provided to other house owners in Poonch. It is being ensured that not a single family is deprived of their rights and fundamental needs," the Lieutenant Governor said. The LG said the government has provided jobs to the next of kin of deceased civilians, in addition to monetary assistance. Injured persons have also been extended financial relief. LG Sinha noted that a natural calamity that struck Poonch shortly after the shelling further compounded the hardships of local residents. To ensure dignified rehabilitation, the government has approved the construction of 1,500 new houses for affected families—1,250 in the Jammu region and 250 in Kashmir. "This is not a fixed number. As many houses as needed will be built. A total of 13.80 crore will be spent on constructing these smart, three-bedroom houses, with a deadline of six months," the LG said. "These new three-bedroom prefabricated Smart Houses are designed to help families quickly get their lives back on track," he said. "These houses will have specific facilities such as cowsheds. The maintenance for the next 5 years will be done by HRDS India. In the second phase, solar panels will also be installed in these houses. The houses being constructed at Poonch and Rajouri will cost around Rs.51 Crore, which will be borne by the HRDS India." The Lieutenant Governor directed the district administration for inclusion of the genuine beneficiaries. He said that there is no cap on the number of houses to be built. "This project is specifically designed for those who are economically weak. Their welfare is the greatest service," the Lieutenant Governor said. He said, "The people of Poonch and Rajouri faced neglect for decades and suffered from terrorism perpetrated by the neighbouring country. Today, a new ray of development has replaced that dark phase, and false promises. For the first time since independence, the people of these two districts are reaping the benefits of the development they have been entitled to. I assure that this process will continue unabated." Reiterating the government's commitment to border security, LG Sinha said, "Over the past few years, 1,125 bunkers have been completed in Poonch and a proposal to build 5,693 additional bunkers has been submitted for

approval. In Rajouri, 2,923 bunkers were constructed in five years, providing relief to a large population living along the border." "We are fully aware of the designs of the enemy. Safety of our border population is a top priority," he added. The Lieutenant Governor observed that 19 NoKs of terror affected families in Rajouri and 9 in Poonch were provided with government jobs. He also instructed the District and Police Administration to identify the left-out terror victim families and forward their job-appointment related cases to the Government Administration Department. Highlighting the development push in Poonch and Rajouri, the LG said the region had suffered decades of neglect in road connectivity and higher education. "There was no major higher education campus in Poonch, but now the Jammu University Institute of Science and Technology is coming up. Road infrastructure has also seen transformative change. With Rs 173 crore funding from NABARD, 29 road projects and 9 bridges have been completed in recent years," he said. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), several houses have also been constructed for deserving families, the LG added. Calling the upcoming National Highway and tunnel projects "game changers," LG Sinha said they will redefine Poonch's socio-economic landscape. He also noted that several government higher secondary schools had been upgraded, giving a major boost to the education sector. "Progress of Poonch has always been a priority for the government. Despite challenges, the people of this region have displayed unmatched courage, and the nation salutes them," he said. Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Tejinder Singh, DIG Rajouri Poonch Range; Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; Ashok Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Poonch; Krishnakumar S. Devan, CEO, HRDS India, Ravinder Raina, former MLA and senior BJP Leader; senior officials of police and civil administration, prominent citizens and people from all walks of life attended the foundation laying ceremony. (KNO) Outrage in Kashmir businesses are also in decline. In such times, increasing electricity charges for mornings and evenings-when families rely on power the most in freezing cold-cannot be justified," he wrote. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also termed the proposal a grave injustice, saying that people are already struggling to survive an economic crisis as businesses decline. He said that instead of easing people's problems, the government is adding to their woes. "Rather than fulfilling the commitment of providing 200 units of free electricity to the poor, new burdens are being placed on people. I urge the government to immediately withdraw this anti-people proposal," an official handout quoted him as saying. Peoples Conference general secretary Imran Reza Ansari questioned the rationale behind the hike, demanding clarity on who within the Power Development Department authorized the "magical midnight-thought tariff ideas." "So just wondering, before we all get shocked with this proposed 20% peak-hour surcharge, can someone politely remind me who exactly is the Minister for Power Development Department approving these magical midnight-thought tariff ideas in Kashmir?" Ansari asked. He added that despite a promise of 200 units

of free electricity, Kashmiris are instead facing a 20% extra bill during the hours when people are freezing and desperately need electricity. Peoples Democratic Party MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para termed the proposal "cruel" and "catastrophic." "J&K government must do a real ground assessment before hiking electricity charges. People in posh areas may not feel it, but for ordinary Kashmiris, winter is a battle for survival. In Kashmir, electricity is not a luxury, it is life support. At a time when families are already struggling, raising tariffs on the poor and middle class will be cruel and catastrophic. Policies that ignore human suffering have no place in a just administration," Para wrote on X. The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) also voiced strong opposition to the proposal. In a statement, KTA President Aijaz Shahdhar termed the proposal "arbitrary" and "unjustified," warning that such a move would severely impact the business community and the general public. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) also opposed the proposal, calling it unjustified, punitive, and an attempt to shift the burden of systemic failures onto the people of Kashmir. Kashmir News Observer (KNO) had exclusively reported last evening that KPDCL has proposed levying a 20 percent surcharge on electricity consumption during peak hours in the Valley. (KNO) Speaker administers territory, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Fourth Schedule of this Act. While Mehdi was elected from the Budgam Assembly segment, Devyani Rana won from Nagrota -a constituency everlier represented twice by her late father, Devinder Singh Rana. Post abrogation of Article 370 and repeal of J&K Constitution, all MLAs have to be administered oath under the Constitution of India. With the filling of these two vacancies, the strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has risen to 90 members. In the House, the National Conference holds 41 MLAs, the BJP 29, Congress six, PDP four, while the Peoples Conference, CPI (M) and Aam Aadmi Party have one MLA each. Besides, there are seven independent MLAs. The Lieutenant Governor is also empowered to nominate five members to the Assembly -two women, two representatives of migrants, and one member representing refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO) Police intensify transparency," he said, adding that police teams emphasised the importance of following regulatory requirements and informed proprietors that inspection drives would continue regularly to prevent misuse of chemicals. Simultaneously, car dealerships were inspected to ensure compliance with legal norms, proper record-keeping, verification of buyer identities, and adherence to security protocols. "Teams checked registration documents, sale agreements, and inventory records. Dealers were reminded to update records promptly and report any unusual transactions," the officials said. They said these measures aim to prevent vehicles from being used for unlawful activities. "In coordination with medical institutions, Srinagar Police also inspected lockers used by doctors and hospital staff in district and private hospitals, medical colleges, PHCs, and other health facilities," they added. The officials said that lockers were checked for unauthorised storage of hazardous or prohibited materials. Staff were instructed to maintain records and ensure lockers are used strictly for official purposes, they said.

Similar inspections were conducted in Ganderbal, with police advising hospital personnel to cooperate fully and maintain compliance with security procedures. In Anantnag, vehicle dealerships were checked for proper documentation, adherence to the Motor Vehicles Act, and verification of stock and buyer details. "Teams ensured that no unregistered or suspicious vehicles were being stored or traded," the officials said. Dealers were instructed to maintain records accurately and submit sale and purchase information to authorities, they said. In other parts of the valley, similar operations were conducted by the police to ensure public safety and to prevent anti-national activities. The police said that these inspection drives are part of ongoing efforts to maintain public safety, uphold security standards, and ensure transparency in commercial and institutional activities. They further said that similar operations will continue across the region and urged citizens, shopkeepers, dealers, and medical staff to cooperate and follow regulations to support these measures. (KNO) Dir Sgr airport introduced free Wi-Fi for passengers. The airport has also seen the addition of 22 new retail shops and nine food & beverage outlets, with three more expected to open soon." On flight operations, Anjum said the number of daily flights has dropped mainly due to lower passenger turnout, not operational constraints. "We had around 54 flights per day before the Pahalgam episode, but now we are operating about 30. Passenger traffic has declined from around 19,500 daily to 8,000-10,000, though we expect a rise with the onset of winter tourism," he said. Regarding international operations, the Director said the airport has "ample infrastructure" to handle international flights and that a formal request has already been made to the ministry. "We are ready, and it now depends on the airlines to come forward," he added. (KNO) Shopian higher except Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, all stations across the valley, including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded sub-zero temperatures. In Srinagar, the mercury settled at minus 0.5 degrees while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded minus 2.5 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded minus 1.4 degrees Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius. Similarly, the minimum temperature settled at 1.2 degrees Celsius in Kokernag, while Gulmarg recorded 1.0 degrees. (KNO) 'It's beautiful, real, Anyone coming here can see the difference, the people, their skills and their creations. It's beautiful," she said, while touring stalls displaying papier-mache, walnut wood carving and hand embroidery. Meanwhile, the 'Know Your Artisan' showcase continues to attract both locals and visitors, serving as a bridge between Kashmir's traditional craftsmen and the world, reaffirming the valley's place as a cradle of artistic excellence. (KNO) Gol approves 150 the likelihood of increased demand for employment on public works due to the natural calamity, it has been decided, under Section 3(4) of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, to provide up to 50 days of additional employment over and above 100 days per household in the affected rural areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir for the Financial Year 2025-26.

Delhi blast: LG Saxena issues slew of directions

Cops to maintain record of ammonium nitrate buyers, sellers

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: Delhi LG V K Saxena has directed police to maintain a digital record of entities purchasing and selling ammonium nitrate beyond a certain limit and to undertake rigorous security audits of busy markets and ISBTs, days after a blast near the Red Fort claimed 15 lives.

The directions, which were issued in separate written communications to the police commissioner and the chief secretary on November 19, are part of a slew of "precautionary and preventive" measures ordered by the Lt Governor.

Saxena asked the police to maintain a digital record of entities purchasing and selling ammonium nitrate beyond a certain threshold.

The record should include photographs of buyers and sellers, apart from other relevant details.

Police have also been instructed to hold a consultation exercise with heads of social media platforms, including Meta and X, for a scientific tracking of radicalised content aimed at brainwashing citizens.

"The police commissioner has also been asked to strengthen human and technical intelligence with a focus on vulnerable areas prone to radicalisation.



Community outreach and citizen engagement should also be enhanced for more robust preventive policing," a Raj Niwas official said, citing the communications.

Saxena also directed police to conduct a rigorous security audit of busy markets and ISBTs to track CCTV camera coverage and deployment of security personnel.

The administration has been asked to create a central data repository, containing records of doctors and para-medical staff engaged by hospitals, especially private facilities,

along with details of their medical degrees.

"In cases where medical professionals have secured degrees from foreign countries, information should also be shared with the police department for secondary background checks," the official said.

They have also been asked to hold a consultation exercise with all digital platforms and financiers engaged in sale and purchase of vehicles, especially second-hand vehicles.

"Clear directions should be given that under no

circumstance will vehicles be allowed to ply where actual owner is different from the registered owner.

This problem is reportedly most acute in cases of autorickshaws, where the permit holder is different from actual owner," the official said.

The November 10 blast, which was triggered by a "suicide bomber", came shortly after an interstate "white-collar" terror module was uncovered with the recovery of a huge cache of explosives mainly from Faridabad in Haryana.

Nearly 30 pc women in India subject to intimate partner violence during lifetime: WHO

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: Over a fifth of women in India aged 15-49 were subjected to intimate partner violence in 2023, while nearly 30 per cent have been affected during their lifetime, according to a new global report by the World Health Organisation.

Nearly one in three around the world, or 840 million, have suffered partner or sexual violence during their lifetime a figure that has barely changed since 2000, it said. Estimates also suggest that around the world, 8.4 per cent of women aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual violence from a non-partner.

In India, about four per cent of women aged 15 and above are estimated to have suffered sexual violence from a non-partner.

"Violence against women is one of humanity's oldest and most pervasive injustices, yet still one of the least acted upon," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"No society can call itself fair, safe or healthy while half its population lives in fear. Ending this violence is not only a matter of policy; it is a matter of dignity, equality and human rights. Behind every statistic is a woman or girl whose life has been forever altered," Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. He also noted that empowering women and girls is not optional, it's a prerequisite for peace, development and health. A safer world for women is a better



world for everyone.

"The estimates presented in this report demonstrate unequivocally that violence against women remains pervasive globally, affecting women across all countries and regions," authors said in the report published ahead of the "International day for the elimination of violence against women and girls" observed on 25 November. Progress is too slow and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030 "remains elusive", they said. Looking at 168 countries, the report is a "comprehensive review of prevalence data from surveys and studies conducted between 2000 and 2023". It updates the 2018 estimates released in 2021.

The report also noted a decline in funds allocated for initiatives aimed to prevent violence against

women, at a time when humanitarian crises and environmental disasters such as extreme weather events are increasing risks of violence against women.

For instance, in 2022, only 0.2 per cent of the global development aid was allocated to programmes focused on the prevention of violence against women, and funding has further fallen in 2025, it said.

The authors urged the world to accelerate progress and deliver a meaningful change through decisive government action and funding. They called for a scale-up of evidence-based prevention programmes and strengthening of survivor-centred health, legal and social services.

The team also suggested an investment in data systems to track progress and reach the most at-risk groups, and enforcing laws and policies that empower women and girls.

SC seeks EC's response on fresh pleas challenging SIR exercise in Kerala, other states



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear a batch of pleas challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and other states.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, SVN Bhatti and Joydalya Bagchi issued notice to the Election Commission on all the fresh petitions filed by different political leaders, challenging SIR exercises in different states on different grounds.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for a petitioner challenging SIR exercise in Kerala, submitted that local body elections are also scheduled to be

held in the state and, therefore, there is some urgency involved in the matter.

The bench directed the pleas challenging SIR exercise in Kerala will be listed on November 26 and rest of the petitions challenging electoral roll revision exercise in other states will be taken up for hearing in the first or second week of December. The top court is already hearing a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the Election Commission's decision to conduct pan-India SIR exercise. On November 11, the top court sought separate responses of the poll panel on pleas filed by DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the SIR of the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal respectively.

India looking at collaborating with Israeli startups to boost innovation: Goyal

PTI

Tel Aviv, Nov 21: India and Israeli startups can collaborate in areas such as cybersecurity and medical devices to boost innovation ecosystem, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

He said one of the key elements of the proposed trade agreement between the two countries will be technology and innovation collaboration.

"We can collaborate with Israel to promote our own startup ecosystem, which we are aspiring to take it to the levels of deep tech and high quality innovation at competitive prices, given the economies of scale that India has to offer," Goyal told reporters here.

The minister is here to hold bilateral trade talks with his Israeli counterpart Nir Barkat. Goyal is leading a 60-member business delegation here.

"We are looking at deep partnership with Israel who has one startup with every 1,000 people," he said.

Israel has converted adversity into opportunity and their



agriculture requirements and modern technologies developed in the field for health and climate change are innovative, he said.

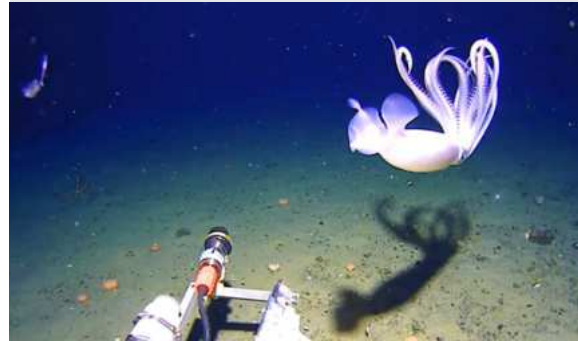
The collaboration will be important as India aspires to become the startup capital of the world in the years ahead, the minister added.

"There is a lot of interest here

to work with Indian startups as the country provides scale and opportunities for the future," he said, adding startups of the two countries can work in areas such as cybersecurity, mobility and producing steel with less carbon, and medtech devices.

The two countries can also look at setting up a startup bridge, he said.

New deep-sea 'Octopus Squid' discovered in Arabian Sea



PTI

Kochi, Nov 21: Scientists from the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have discovered a new species of deep-sea squid from the Arabian Sea.

This marks the second confirmed species of the globally rare genus Taningia.

The species, scientifically named Taningia silasii (Indian octopus squid), has been formally described in the international journal Marine Biodiversity, a CMFRI statement said here on Friday.

The specimen was collected from nearly 390 metres depth off the Kollam coast.

Measuring 45 cm in length (dorsal mantle length), the squid belongs to the family Octopoteuthidae, whose adults are known for their distinctive absence of tentacles, though they are true deep-sea squids, it said.

The research was led by Dr Geetha Sasikumar, Principal Scientist and Dr Sajikumar K K, Technical Officer.

"We have been studying cephalopods in the Arabian Sea for more than a decade, and this 'octopus squid' was something we had never encountered," said Dr Geetha Sasikumar.

Until now, Taningia danae—found in Atlantic waters—was the only known species in this genus.

"Previously, squids of the genus Taningia were considered monotypic. DNA barcoding showed more than 11% genetic divergence from the Atlantic species, confirming the specimen as a distinct species", she added.

Explaining the unusual features of this genus, Dr Sajikumar said, although called the 'octopus squid', it is in fact a squid that possesses only eight arms and lacks the two long tentacles typically seen in other squid species.

"Members of this family can also attain large sizes, with the Atlantic species growing up to 2.3 metres (7.5 feet) in length and weighing approximately 61.4 kg," he said.

The species has been named in honour of legendary marine biologist Dr E G Silas, former Director of CMFRI and former Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agriculture University and a pioneer of cephalopod research in India, the statement explained.

The research scholars, Dr Shijin Ameri and Toji Thomas of CMFRI, were also part of the team.

Nearly 400 different species of squids have been described worldwide, inhabiting a wide range of oceanic environments—from shallow coastal regions to deep-sea trenches, the statement added.

5 warning signs of a stroke that can occur a month before

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 21: A stroke occurs when oxygen supply to the brain is partially blocked. Death or paralysis can occur in minutes, if medical help is not provided, which is why strokes are a medical emergency, that require immediate attention. However, while some strokes strike out of the blue, most of them build up over a period of months, and come with some warning symptoms. Early detection of these warning signs enables patients to receive preventive treatment for stroke development, and prevent paralysis, or even death. Here are 5 warning signs that can occur a month or months before a stroke...

Severe and persistent headaches

The first indicator of stroke development, includes unusual headaches which differ from your typical headaches. These headaches will either appear without warning, or will become more severe and longer-lasting, than your typical headaches. The headaches persist beyond standard



pain medication treatment, while patients experience dizziness, nausea and even vision problems. This occurs because the brain shows signs of pressure changes and bleeding, which need immediate medical intervention.

When you experience headaches that differ from your previous experiences (or are new headaches), and they persist for extended periods of time, you should seek immediate medical help. Your brain sends these headaches as warning signals which indicate potential stroke risk, when left untreated. Research indicates that stroke patients frequently experience headaches during the time period leading up to their stroke occurrence.

Sudden weakness or numbness that affects one side of the body

A warning sign that requires

immediate attention is when you experience weakness or numbness in your face, arms or legs which affects only one side of your body. The weakness in your body may start slowly, or it may appear and disappear at random times. This occurs because the brain area responsible for movement and sensation experiences decreased blood flow, which results in this condition. The weakness symptoms might be so faint that you fail to recognise their severity.

Speech difficulties

Stroke patients experience speech difficulties and word comprehension problems, as their first signs before the actual stroke occurs. Your speech becomes unclear while you struggle to choose words, and you experience difficulty understanding basic sentences. This occurs because the brain area which handles language functions, does not receive sufficient oxygen supply.

Sudden vision problems or complete vision loss

The occurrence of sudden vision problems including blurred vision,

double vision and partial vision loss indicates a possible stroke. This occurs because the brain area which controls vision, becomes affected when a stroke occurs. Sometimes you might see flashing lights, lose part of your visual field, or have difficulty focusing with one or both eyes.

Any unexplained vision changes that persist for more than a few hours or days, require you to seek medical help immediately. The symptoms you are experiencing might be related to transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) or mini-strokes, which occur before a full stroke. Research indicates that vision problems serve as a frequent early indicator of stroke.

Dizziness and loss of balance

Brain problems that occur before a stroke will cause dizziness, balance issues and walking difficulties. The brain regions which control balance and coordination, experience reduced blood flow and small blockages that produce these symptoms. Your body becomes unstable while you experience vertigo, and your foot movement

becomes difficult during walking.

Prevention tips for stroke

The prevention of many strokes depends on basic health maintenance practices. Keeping your Blood Pressure in control, stands as the primary prevention measure, because regular medical check-ups and prescribed medications work to reduce your chances of getting a stroke. Your heart and brain stay protected through the consumption of healthy foods, which include fruits, vegetables, fish and whole grains, that are low in salt and fats. Your blood vessels will become healthier when you exercise for at least 30 minutes daily, and stop smoking, and reduce your alcohol consumption.

People with diabetes and high cholesterol are at a high risk for stroke, and hence they should not miss out on their medical treatment, and make lifestyle adjustments accordingly. The control of stress levels matters because elevated blood pressure and unhealthy behaviors can result from high stress levels.

S Africa says not to hand over G20 baton to ‘junior official’ amid spat with US

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 21: South Africa has decided not to hand over the annual G20 Presidency to a “junior” US official at the end of the leaders’ summit, even as a White House official cautions Cyril Ramaphosa over “running his mouth” against the US and President Donald Trump.

South African President Ramaphosa adopted a reconciliatory approach on Thursday evening after the US requested accreditation for an eight-member team led by US chargé d’affaires, Marc Dillard, to receive the baton on Sunday.

However, late on Thursday evening, Ramaphosa’s spokesman, Vincent Magwenya, posted a message on social media, saying the president will not hand over the G20 Presidency to a junior official. “The President will not hand over to a chargé d’affaires. It’s a breach of established



protocol. No head of state and government anywhere in the world would do it,” Magwenya told local media.

There was also anger in South Africa about remarks by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, which analysts said was a breach of protocol in insulting the President.

“I saw the South African president running his mouth a little bit against the United States and Donald Trump earlier today, and that language is not appreciated by the

president or his team,” Leavitt said in a media briefing on Thursday after Ramaphosa had taken a hard line at the US absence without naming Trump directly.

There is also dissatisfaction in South Africa about Trump continuing his claims of alleged genocide against white farmers in South Africa, which have been disproved by both the South African government and local white leaders.

“I’m not going to South Africa for the G20 because

I think their policies on the extermination of people are unacceptable. So I’m not going. South Africa has behaved extremely badly,” Trump said after a meeting with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia at the White House on Tuesday.

Leavitt confirmed in her briefing on Thursday that the delegation would be present only to receive the G20 Presidency from South Africa at the end of the summit. She also reaffirmed that the US would not be participating in the deliberations at the G20.

But the South African view now is that the US is trying to save face to avoid Ramaphosa’s earlier suggestion that, in the absence of any US representative, he would hand over the Presidency to an empty chair.

Many world leaders have started arriving in South Africa since yesterday to attend the two-day Summit.

Singapore imposes sanctions, entry bans on four Israeli West Bank settlers

REUTERS

Singapore, Nov 21: Singapore will impose financial sanctions on four Israelis and bar them from entering the city-state, its foreign affairs ministry announced on Friday, accusing them of “egregious acts of extreme violence” against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The ministry said actions committed in the West Bank by Meir Mordechai Ettinger, Elisha Yered, Ben-Zion Gopstein and Baruch Marzel were unlawful and had jeopardized the prospects for a two-state solution in Palestine. “As a firm supporter of international law and the two-state solution, Singapore opposes any unilateral attempts to change facts on the ground through acts which are illegal under international law,” it said.

All four individuals have been previously sanctioned by the European Union.

Foreign Minister Vivian



Balakrishnan announced in parliament in September that leaders of Israeli settler groups would be sanctioned.

He also chided Israeli politicians who had spoken about annexing parts of the West Bank or Gaza, the two Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, and said the so-called E1 settlement project would fragment the West Bank. Apart from imposing sanctions, Balakrishnan said Singapore would also recognize a Palestine state under the right

conditions. Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal under international law. Israel disputes this, citing historical and biblical ties to the area and saying the settlements provide security.

While Singapore and Israel have shared close diplomatic and military ties since the former gained independence in 1965, the city-state in 2024 voted in favor of numerous resolutions expressing support for the UN recognition of a Palestinian state.

Death toll in Bangladesh earthquake rises to 6



PTI

Dhaka, Nov 21: At least six people were killed and several injured as a massive earthquake of magnitude 5.7 jolted Dhaka and parts of the country on Friday, damaging buildings, causing fires at several places and sending panic among residents.

Three people were killed in Dhaka, while the fourth died in the suburban river port town of Narayanganj, officials said, as local media reported injuries to at least 50 people across the country.

The other two deaths were reported from Narsingdi, where the epicentre was located some 10 kilometres beneath the surface.

The epicentre of the quake that struck at 10:38 am (local time) was at Narsigndi on the

northeastern outskirts of Dhaka at a depth of 10 kilometres, Bangladesh’s meteorology department said. The place is around 13 kilometres east of the seismic centre in Dhaka’s Agar-gaon area. Dhaka’s deputy police commissioner Mallik Ahsan Uddin Sami said, quoting the fire service, that at least three people were killed after a railing, bamboo scaffolding and debris of a five-storey building fell on them at Old Dhaka’s Armanitola area.

A bystander was critically wounded at the scene in the crowded neighbourhood, he said.

Sami confirmed that one of the deceased was a medical student who was there to buy meat along with his mother. She is critically wounded, requiring an emergency surgery, he added.

BCCI invites application for head of education post at COE

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: The BCCI on Friday invited applications for the post of head of cricket education at the board’s Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru after former India opener Sujith Somasunder relinquished the position to contest in the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) polls.

The full-time position is central to BCCI’s long-term vision of developing a world-class cricket education system that supports coaches, athletes, state academies and high-performance programs across the country. The head of cricket education will oversee the design, delivery and continuous advancement of cricket and sports-science education at the COE.

Somasunder, who was holding the same position at the erstwhile National Cricket Academy (NCA) since his appointment in 2019, quit recently to contest in the upcoming KSCA elections as part of the faction led by former India seamer Venkatesh Prasad. Both Prasad and Somasunder



were earlier part of the KSCA administration when the legendary Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath had served as president and secretary.

The head of cricket education is responsible for administering all aspects of coach education, accreditation and curriculum development at the COE, including planning, implementing and reviewing all coaching courses, including Level A, B and C programmes, and conducting and coordinating nationwide refresher courses for coaches.

The role will also involve using modern performance-analysis tools such as athlete-management systems, video analytics, GPS and wearable technology to derive actionable game insights,

collaborating with the head of cricket, COE on online education initiatives and the development of advanced coaching modules.

It also entails managing the re-accreditation process for coaches and ensuring world-class documentation of coaching content, working with BCCI’s umpires panel and head curator on educational seminars, examinations and specialised training interventions.

The new appointee will also be responsible for supporting coach-intake processes for COE, Zonal Cricket Academies and specialist camps, assessing suspect bowling actions referred to the COE and presenting findings to relevant committees.

Security Council recommends army deployment during general polls in Nepal



PTI

Kathmandu, Nov 21: The National Security Council of Nepal has recommended mobilising army personnel to ensure security during the general election scheduled for March 5, 2026.

The National Security Council (NSC) reviewed the country’s security situation on Thursday and advised the Cabinet to deploy the army under the provisions of Nepal’s Constitution.

Recommendations were made with an aim to conduct the upcoming election in a “free, fair and fearless manner,” according to a statement by Defence Secretary Suman Raj Aryal, who is also a member secretary of the NSC.

The Ministry of Home Affairs

has already approved an integrated security plan for the elections and circulated it to all 77 district administration offices for implementation.

Under the plan, each district will prepare its own security strategy, deploying personnel from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department and temporary police at every polling location.

The elections have been necessitated following the ouster of prime minister K P Sharma Oli on September 9, after demonstrations by Gen Z protesting corruption and demanding lifting of a ban on social media turned violent, leading to the death of 76 people in two days.

One-off Test ‘not best scenario’ for captaincy: Pant

PTI

Guwahati, Nov 21: Rishabh Pant admitted that leading India in a one-off Test is “not the best scenario”, but the wicketkeeper-batter said he does not want to “over-think” the challenge and instead focus on combining conventional captaincy with “out-of-the-box” ideas as he prepares to debut as India’s 38th Test skipper in the second match against South Africa starting here on Saturday.

Pant will lead the side after regular captain Shubman Gill was ruled out with a neck injury.

“Definitely, one-off match is not the best scenario as a captain. But at the same time, I’m really proud that BCCI has given me this opportunity. You know, whenever you’re leading your country, it’s the proudest moment,” he said at the pre-match press conference.

As the discussion turned to his leadership style, the player from Roorkee said he wants a mix of the old and the new. “I think being conventional also helps. And also adding that outside (out-of) the box thinking definitely works out. So, you’re going to find, for me, it’s all about finding that balance between a conventional and out-of-the-box thinking,” Pant said as he braced for a tough battle against the Proteas, who already hold an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

A key task, he said, would be giving players the freedom to express



themselves. “To generalise, I want to be someone who gives that freedom and I want people and players to learn around and make the right decision for the team eventually,” he explained. “That’s the real goal and obviously whatever my knowledge is, that’s going to help them on the field.” Asked whether he could retain his free-spirited nature while taking big decisions, Pant said it was not particularly difficult.

“And for the free spirit part of the thing, see, I personally don’t think about that. I just want to give my 100 per cent in whatever I’m doing and enjoy the game,” he said emphatically.

Pant revealed that he was officially asked to take over the captaincy on Thursday night. When asked if he had spoken to Gill, he responded with a trademark cheeky line, “I speak to Gill every day,” he laughed. ‘Comebacks

are tough’

Pant conceded that bouncing back in a two-match series is difficult.

“It is always good to have more matches because you can come back from it. When you have a two-match series, it’s harder because the pressure is all the more if you lose the first match. But at the same time, you know, these are the things which we can’t control as a team,” he said.

Captaincy, Pant agreed, is never a bed of roses. He faced probing questions about his tactical calls on the third day of the first Test when he stood in for an injured Gill. On a deteriorating pitch with variable bounce, he did not use Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah early on, opting instead for spinners — a phase in which Temba Bavuma scored a crucial fifty and South Africa added significant runs.

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HINDI - 10:00 AM, 01:00 PM, 06:45 PM

SISUR ROAD TO REVENGE (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
04:45 PM

WICKED: FOR GOOD (UA 16+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 10:55 AM
3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
03:50 PM

120 BAHADUR (UA 13+)
HINDI ATMOS - 10:10 AM, 01:00 PM, 06:45 PM
HINDI - 03:55 PM

DE DE PYAAR DE 2 (UA/A13+)
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