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## LG Manoj Sinha to chair high-level security meet in Jammu today

» Sinha to review security in J&K, situation along LoC, winter preparedness » Take briefing on steps taken to destroy terror ecosystem in UT

Ahmad Taimur

Srinagar, Nov 22: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha will chair a high-level security meet in Jammu on Sunday to review the situation following the deadly blast in Delhi last week and oversee winter preparedness by the forces, sources said.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the LG will chair the meeting at 11 am at the Jammu Convention Centre tomorrow. "The meeting will be attended by top Police, Army, CRPF officers, intelligence agencies and top officials of the civil administration," they said.

They said that the LG will review the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Delhi blast last week and also oversee the winter preparedness by the security forces.

Earlier, Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with police



and civil administration on Saturday following the accidental blast at the Nowgam police station that killed nine people and injured other 32.

The blast occurred after a stockpile of explosives seized from Faridabad went off accidentally in the Nowgam police station last Friday when a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team was taking samples from the explosive for further examination.

Sources also said that Sinha would take a review of the situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the situation that emerged after the Delhi blast. "The security forces would be directed to keep a tight vigil along the LoC and in the hinterland to deter any security threat posed by anti-national elements to disturb peace and law and order situation in the Union Territory." | [More on P6](#)

## Indian Army symbol of Bharat's power, parakram: LG Sinha



Praises soldiers for playing major role in establishing peace across J&K

Says neighbouring country continues to foment trouble, need to remain cautious

Yogesh

Udhampur, Nov 22: Asserting that Bharat does not need to prove its strength to the world as the Indian Army itself is the symbol of the country's power and 'parakram', Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that soldiers are an embodiment of the country's resolve and their courage has strengthened the nation's confidence.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the mega eye camp 'Op Drishti' for veterans, veer naris and civilians, organised at Command Hospital Northern Command, here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Army not only safeguards India's sovereignty but has time and again proven its extraordinary capabilities through major operations."

He said that the Indian Army has always stood as the nation's first line of defence, serving its

people with unmatched courage and responding whenever the country calls. "Besides safeguarding the sovereignty of our country, the Indian Army has proven its mettle through Operation Sindoor, Operation Mahadev and several other operations," he said.

"I am proud of selfless service and supreme sacrifices by the Indian Army, the symbol of unity and national integration. The army has contributed in creating a conducive environment for sustainable peace and overall development of the J&K UT as well as the growth of our country," he added.

Recalling the Army's role during the recent floods in Jammu region, the LG said

soldiers displayed exceptional bravery and dedication while saving countless lives. "In the most difficult circumstances, the Army delivers. Their discipline, spirit of sacrifice and commitment to duty inspire the entire nation," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor praised the brave personnel of Indian Armed Forces for their unwavering courage and sacrifices to effectively address the security threats.

"Our great nation remains committed to the values of peaceful coexistence, mutual harmony, and friendship. Today, India does not need to prove its prowess. The nation's valiant Armed Forces stand as a powerful | [More on P6](#)

## PM Modi proposes four initiatives at G20, including one to counter drug-terror nexus

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for a profound rethink of the global development parameters and proposed setting up of a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus and a global healthcare response team.

Addressing the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting here, Modi said the G20 has long shaped global finance and growth, but prevailing models have deprived large populations of resources and driven the over-exploitation of nature – challenges felt acutely in Africa.

Modi also presented the



principle of Integral Humanism – part of India's civilisational values – which he said showed a way forward in striking a balance between development and nature.

The prime minister outlined four path-breaking new initiatives – the Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, the G20-Africa | [More on P6](#)

## Batamaloo man detained in Delhi blast case, being questioned by SIA

NIA probe reveals conspiracy to carry out blasts in Delhi, other cities hatched in 2023

Ahmad Taimur

Srinagar, Nov 22: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday detained a man from the Batamaloo locality of Srinagar in connection with the Red Fort blast case, sources said. Six people, including three doctors, have been arrested so far linked to the blast case.

A top official of the SIA told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man has been detained for questioning as he is linked to the Delhi blast that claimed at least 15 lives and injured many

Explosives, detonators, other devices arranged over past 2 years



others on November 10 near the iconic Red Fort area.

He said that the questioning of the man, identified as Tufail Niyaz Bhat of Batamaloo's Diyarwani locality, is underway to ascertain his role in the blast.

AK-47 rifle recovered from Dr Adil's locker purchased for Rs 6.5 lakh

"More raids and detentions are also expected in the coming days as the investigation into the case is underway," he added.

Tufail was arrested after crucial leads emerged linking him to the November 10 blast, which, investigators believe, was triggered by a suicide bomber - Dr Umar Mohammad - who was driving the explosive laden car in one of Delhi's busiest area.

Earlier, reports quoting sources said that Dr Muzamil, one of the six arrested accused who are believed to be the part of the terror module that conspired to trigger | [More on P6](#)

## CM thanks Union Min for additional 50 days of MGNREGA support

Congratulates Minister Javid Dar

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his gratitude to the Union Minister for Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, for increasing the MGNREGA work limit for Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the enhanced support will play a vital role in helping vulnerable communities overcome economic distress.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, and his team



for successfully pursuing the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to approve an additional 50 days of employment under MGNREGA for rural areas affected by natural calamities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said that this crucial decision will assist thousands | [More on P6](#)

## Over 2,000 HIV cases, 66 deaths reported in J&K since 2019: RTI

Over ₹10 cr allocated to JKACS; NGO awareness funding crosses ₹24 cr

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Nov 22: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 2,071 new HIV cases and 66 deaths between 2019 and June 2025, a Right to Information (RTI) query has revealed. The data was shared by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in response to the RTI.

As per documents accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), new HIV cases stood at 361 in 2019–20, 206 in 2020–21, 272 in 2021–22, 374 in 2022–23, 338 in 2023–24, 403 in 2024–25, and 117 fresh cases between April

and June 2025. Most deaths were reported among patients receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

The RTI further states that over 10 crore has been allocated to JKACS through the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) from 2020–21 to June 2025. The expenditure of the Society has seen a consistent rise – from 1,177.99 lakh in 2020–21 to 2,819.09 lakh in 2024–25.

Meanwhile, NGOs working under JKACS for AIDS prevention and awareness drives received 24 crore+ during the same period. | [More on P6](#)

## Police step up security, audits, anti-terror measures across J&K

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 22: Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday carried out multiple security operations across the region, including industrial audits in Ganderbal, property seizure in Awantipora, heightened security in Chenab Valley, and a multi-agency exercise at Jammu Airport, officials said.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that in Ganderbal, police conducted extensive inspections of industrial estates to audit stocks and usage of industrial chemicals. They said the drive aimed to ensure that no units were handling substances that could be misused for unlawful or anti-national

activities. Officers interacted with managements, reviewed documentation, and inspected storage facilities, stressing the importance of regulatory compliance.

Police said such preventive measures will continue to eliminate potential threats and ensure industrial materials are not diverted for malicious purposes.

Meanwhile, police in Awantipora attached an immovable property at Syedabad Pastoona, Tral, belonging to Mubashir Ahmad, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar, a terror handler linked to Jammu & Kashmir National Operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied | [More on P6](#)

## LG attends 64th Raising Day Celebrations of ITBP at Udhampur



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday attended the 64th Raising Day Celebrations of Indo-Tibetan Border Police

(ITBP) at 15th Battalion, ITBP Udhampur. He interacted with the ITBP personnel and extended his greetings on the occasion.

The event was graced by Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Praveen Kumar, Director General, ITBP; Mukesh Singh. | [More on P6](#)

## DGP reviews functioning of J&K Police Security Wing

KNO

Jammu, Nov 22: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday appreciated the efforts of the J&K Police Security Wing in conducting refresher training courses for the security personnel.

Chairing a meeting to review the functioning of the security wing here, the DGP, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "These courses will enhance the skills and preparedness of the police personnel and help them while discharging their duties."



The DGP also directed the security transport workshop to ensure timely service and repair of escort vehicles, emphasizing the importance of maintaining

a robust security infrastructure. The review meeting of the Security Wing was attended by senior officers, including ADGP Headquarters | [More on P6](#)

## 'Living gallery of Kashmir's soul': 3-day 'Know Your Artisan' carnival concludes

Artisans call it milestone event; visitors hail initiative for reviving direct connect with craftsmen

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 22: The three-day "Know Your Artisan" carnival under the "Soulful Kashmir" initiative came to a graceful close this evening at Sher-e-Kashmir Park, near Polo View, Srinagar, drawing praise from visitors and artisans alike for celebrating the spirit of handmade Kashmir.

Organised by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, the event witnessed heavy footfall throughout its final day, as people gathered to interact with local craftsmen



and explore Kashmir's time-less crafts from papier-mache,

walnut wood carving and sozni embroidery to willow wicker

and pashmina weaving. "This is not just an exhibition, it is a connection of hearts," said Abdul Rashid, a papier-mache artisan, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "For years, we worked behind the scenes. Now people know our faces, our stories and our art. That gives us dignity."

Another artisan, who specialises in sozni embroidery, said the platform gave our work visibility and recognition. "When visitors hear about the hard work behind each piece, they value it more. | [More on P6](#)

# DC Budgam reviews progress of HADP

■ Directs for accelerated implementation, timely deliverables

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

A comprehensive project-wise and department-wise assessment of all twenty approved HADP projects was undertaken during the meeting, covering key sectors including agriculture, horticulture, animal and sheep husbandry, floriculture, fisheries and allied activities.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 16,894 applications have been received across various interventions of HADP in Budgam. Out of these, 15,325 applications have been approved at the District Nodal Officer (DNO) level, while 15,218 have been cleared at the CBO/CEO level, reflecting a high degree of responsiveness and effective scrutiny.

The DC noted that Budgam continues to register encouraging progress, with several interventions exhibiting near-complete saturation at the beneficiary level.

A detailed review of major projects including, Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain, Promotion of Niche Crops,



Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Promotion of Beekeeping, Farm Mechanization, Mushroom Production, Formation of FPOs, Commercial Floriculture, Rainwater Harvesting and Water Management, Soil and Land Resource Development, and Automation and Digital Agriculture look was carried out.

The status of approvals, establishment of beneficiaries, and cumulative achievements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 was thoroughly examined.

The financial progress of all ongoing HADP interventions was also reviewed,

with attention given to funds released, expenditure booked, and the pace of implementation.

During the meeting, the DC stressed that real-time monitoring must be strengthened to verify progress at the grassroots level.

Departments were directed to ensure that pending utilisation certificates to be submitted without delay.

He emphasized on the need for enhanced field inspections, cross-department coordination, and consistent outreach to farmers and stakeholders so that benefits reach all eligible individuals in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Departments were asked to ensure weekly reporting of progress, elimination of pendency at all stages, and strict adherence to project guidelines.

The DC further underlined that HADP represents a major shift in the agricultural development framework of Jammu and Kashmir, and that Budgam should maintain steady progress to ensure timely completion of all set targets.

It was conveyed that departments must reinforce on-ground execution mechanisms, streamline beneficiary facilitation processes, and ensure that each intervention results in measurable improvement across the agriculture and allied sectors.

The DC directed that all departments shall ensure door-to-door facilitation of beneficiaries, particularly in areas where pendency still exists. It was further instructed that field-level officers must intensify inspections to verify the timely establishment of units sanctioned under various HADP components.

The DC stressed that no delay shall be allowed in the procurement and distribution of machinery, planting material, livestock units, or technical equipment approved under the programme. Departments were told to ensure that all procedures follow

a transparent, documented workflow, leaving no scope for ambiguity in beneficiary selection or fund disbursement.

He emphasised that public awareness campaigns must be strengthened, with clear communication of guidelines, timelines and eligibility norms so that farmers and youth can avail benefits without confusion. Directions were issued that village-level awareness camps be conducted on a rotational schedule across all blocks.

The DC instructed that inter-departmental coordination committees must remain fully active, with weekly reviews at the block and sub-divisional levels to prevent overlaps, ensure consistent data reporting and maintain uniformity in implementation.

He directed departments to strictly monitor geotagging, photographic evidence, and progress documentation, ensuring that all beneficiary establishments are updated on the district HADP portal in real time.

The DC further instructed that follow-up with approved beneficiaries be intensified, ensuring that each sanctioned unit is physically established within the stipulated period, with no sanctioned case left unattended.

# DLSA Sgr holds awareness programme



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar in collaboration with School Education Department today organized an impactful awareness programme at Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Rajbagh under the chairmanship of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Srinagar and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir Parry, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The session focused on mental health awareness and prevention of Child abuse, emotional wellbeing, and available legal protections.

The programme featured informative talks by resource persons including LSUM Member, Deputy LADC who discussed the importance of Mental Health, ways to manage stress, and how students can seek support when needed.

Panel Lawyer DLSA Srinagar highlighted various legal safeguards available for children, stressing the need to identify, prevent, and report any form of child abuse.

Students actively participated in the interactive session and shared their concerns and queries. The initiative aimed to empower young learners with knowledge, promote a safe environment and encourage early reporting of any violation of children's rights.

# Comm Secy reviews functioning of FCS & CA Jammu

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Saurabh Bhagat, Saturday presided over a comprehensive review of the FCSCA Department's functioning in Jammu.

Director FCSCA Jammu, Rifat Kohli besides senior officers of the department including district officers attended the meeting.

The Director apprised the Commissioner of the department's current performance, ongoing projects and future plans aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery.

During the briefing, the Director FCSCA Jammu outlined the current stock and distribution status of food grains. She informed that 100 per cent ration provisioning for winter dumping stations has been achieved, reflecting the department's commitment to timely and reliable supply to the targeted eligible beneficiaries.

The meeting had detailed discussion on various schemes designed to streamline welfare operations. These



included digitization of Migrants' ration cards, SMART-PDS (Smart Public Distribution System) and the Aadhar-enabled Allocation and Supply Chain Management System (AeSCM). Further, deliberations were held on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of a Training-cum-Conference Hall in Jammu under the SASCI scheme, with a focus on timely progress and adherence to quality standards.

The meeting underscored the need for capacity-building of all officials at all levels with emphasis on targeted

workshops and training programs, thereby improving service delivery to consumers.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the importance of prompt and responsive service to the public, directing the officials to complete the digitization of migrants' ration cards within the prescribed timelines in close coordination with the Relief Organization. He was also informed about the ration provisioning for Darbar Move employees at the fair-price shops located near the Darbar Move staff quarters/ accommodations. The discussions concluded with a consensus on continuing capacity-building efforts and maintaining high standards of governance and accountability.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed special UT Schemes where individual beneficiaries of AAY and PHH are provided additional 5 Kg ration, thus increasing the availability to 10 Kg.

Pertinently, the Directorate of FCS&CA, Jammu is providing 10 Kg ration per head to 37,412 number of AAY(S) beneficiaries and 6,30,694 number of PHH beneficiaries under PMFSS.

# DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting

Reviews measures for containing drug abuse

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place by different departments for curbing the drug abuse in the district.

SSP Kupwara, Syed Tahir Al Gee-lani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ASP Handwara, ACR, SDM Lolab, AC Panchayats, CMO, MS District Hospital, were present in the meeting. Besides, Principals of GDCs and Tehsildars attended the meeting virtually.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the agenda points and the officers presented detailed reports on the work done as per their roles and responsibilities.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all the officers to make coordinated efforts and work aggressively for eradication of drug abuse and addiction in the district. He directed the concerned officers to focus on rehabilitation of drug victims by providing them self employment avenues under different schemes.

Reviewing the measures under

Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI), it was given out that awareness programmes are being conducted in schools and colleges against the drug consumption to keep the youth away from the drug addiction. Principals of GDCs were asked to ensure installation of CCTVs at main gate points and around boundary wall of the Colleges so as to keep surveillance over drug related activities.

The Tehsildars along with Police were directed to identify drug hotspots where CCTV's shall be installed to keep close vigil on the drug abuse.

Meanwhile, the CMO informed that 1409 substance abusers have been identified out of which 791 are under treatment at Drug De-Addiction Centre Kupwara, besides, 432 have been recovered so far.

SSP Kupwara also gave feedback about the enforcement measures made by the Police in the district to contain the drug abuse.

Later, the DC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the coordination at district level under NDPS Act. SSP Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, ASP Handwara, ACR and other concerned were present in the meeting.

# Implementation of COTPA-2003 reviewed at Kulgam

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 22: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Gir Saturday chaired a review meeting of District Level Coordination Committee for implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, COTPA-2003 under National Tobacco Control Program, at mini-secretariat Kulgam.

During the meeting, roles and responsibilities of various departments and other stakeholders was presented through a presentation.

The ADC instructed concerned to ensure that no sale of Tobacco products is permitted within 100 meters of institution premises.

In addition officers and heads of institutions were tasked with ensuring that all offices maintain tobacco-free environments.

The ADC urged all stakeholders present to collectively ensure the rigorous implementation of COTPA-2003, which is aimed at combating the tobacco menace within society.

The meeting was attended by SDM, Bashirul Hassan, CMO, BMOs, Tehsildars and a team from Directorate of health services.

# GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION DRUGS & FOOD CONTROL ORGANIZATION , J&K CIVIL SECRETARIAT , J&K, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

## PROHIBITORY ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and in view of the laboratory findings received during a special enforcement sampling drive on Ghee conducted during the month of September 2025, it has been observed that following brands of Ghee have failed to conform to the prescribed quality/safety standards mandated under FSSAI 2006 and have been declared Sub-standard/ Unsafe by the Notified Food Analyst of National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad / M/S FRAC FICCI New Delhi, and Food Testing Laboratory, Srinagar. The details of the non-conforming Ghee Brands/Samples are as follows:

S. NO.	Name of Food Article	Manufacturer/ Packer	Area	Batch No./ Date of Packing, Best Before/ Net Content	Test Report No. & Date	Opinion of Food Analyst	Reason of Failure
1	Shri Godhan Desi Ghee	Substandard	Zone-IV (MLI)	06/June 2025 / Feb 2026 / 500 ml	FRAC/ F/25/1003002/A, 13.10.2025	Substandard	Presence of vegetables / foreign fat, RM value below prescribed limit
2	Eassy Dairy Cow Ghee	M/S Pratham Trading Company Bawani, Near HP Gas Agency, Godown V.P.O Tosham, Distt Bhiwani (Haryana) 127040	Zone-II (MLI)	PTC1016 / 26.05.2025 25.02.2026 / 200 ml	FSSAI/FA/K.2025-26/MR-574, 11.10.2025	Substandard	Adulterated with vegetable/foreign fat; RM value below prescribed limit
3	Dairy Anmol Desi Ghee	M/S Balaji Food Products Plot No. 299, Sector 53 Phase -5 Kundli Industrial Area Sonapat (Haryana)	Akhnoor	08/Aug 2025 / May 2026	JK-439/	Substandard	Adulterated with vegetable/foreign fat; RM value below prescribed limit
4	MFP 56 Bhog A2 Desi Ghee	M/S Mahadev Food Products Plot No. 219, Sector 27-28, Industrial Area, Hissar (Haryana)	Zone-II (MLI)	07 13.07.2025 12.04.2026 / 1 Ltr	FRAC/ F/25/1003003/A, 13.10.2025	Substandard	Adulterated with vegetable/foreign fat; RM value below prescribed limit
5	Avik Ghee	M/S Shiva Milk Foods, 15/06, Industrial Area, SSGT Road, Ghaziabad (U.P.) -201007	Billawar	1309D Sept 2025/ May 2026/500ml	FRAC/	Substandard	Test positive for vegetable/foreign fat; RM value below prescribed limit
6	Vaariya Brand Ghee	M/S Verona Products Pvt. Ltd, Survey No. 05 Plot No. 05, Veraval-Padavala T.A. Kotda Sangani Distt. Rajkot Gujarat	Kathua	UY-005/May 2025/ Jan 2026/ 1Kg	FRAC/ F/25/10010123/A	Substandard	Adulterated with vegetable/foreign fat; RM value below prescribed limit
7	Desi Cow Ghee (GOPI)	M/S Shri Harsh Dairy & Food Products Pvt Ltd, 14-15 Gopi Shri Industrial Estate, B/H Gopal Dharmatvan Taluka Daskori, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Srinagar Zone-I	570 07/2025 04/2026	JK-487/OCT/ 25- JK/629	Unsafe & Substandard	Sample tested positive for Beta Sitosterol; Iodine Value and Saponification Value above prescribed limits; deviations in Fatty Acids
8	Ghee Made from Cows Milk (KRISHNA Brand)	M/S OM Sarthi Dairy Products LTD NO. 88 TO 95, Block 274 & 275, Satyan Industrial Estate Bedlikuwa Najik Taluka Vyara-290065, Gujarat	Srinagar Zone-IV	PC-08-25/21.08.2025 20.08.2028	JK-497/OCT/25- JK/630	Unsafe & Substandard	Sample tested positive for BetaSitosterol; Iodine Value and Saponification Value above prescribed limits; deviations in Fatty Acids
9	Desi Ghee (Daawat Gold)	M/S Shri Food Industries, Sector 27/28, Hissar - 125001, Haryana	Srinagar Zone-I	DG-104/August/ 2025 April 2026	JK-499/OCT/25- JK/618	Unsafe & Substandard	Sample tested positive for BetaSitosterol; Iodine Value and Saponification Value above prescribed limits; deviations in Fatty Acids

Whereas, clause 2.1.8 Standard for Milk Fat Products of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Thirteenth Amendment Regulations, 2017, provides that "Ghee shall be a product derived exclusively from milk or milk products through processes that result in the almost complete removal of water and non-fat milk solids."

Further, Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, under Regulation 2.1, (2.1.1(3)) "Ghee which contains any added matter not exclusively derived from milk fat shall not be sold." and Regulation 2.1.1(10) "Milk or a milk product containing a substance not found in milk, except as provided in these regulations, shall not be sold."

Whereas, all the aforementioned mentioned Ghee brand were tested positive for non-dairy ingredients Beta-Sitosterol, foreign vegetable fat, deviating the quality standards as Iodine Value, Specification Value, RM Value, P Value and mostly deviating the fatty acid standards. The deviation from these quality / Safety norms constitutes a serious violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, posing potential health hazards to consumers.

Accordingly, in exercise of powers mandated under Section 30(2)(a) read with section 18(1) (g) of Food Safety & Standards Act 2006 and in interest public health and consumer safety I, Smita Sethi, Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration, J&K hereby order that the sale, storage, distribution or display of the aforementioned batches of Ghee of the referred brands are strictly prohibited across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir with immediate effect.

All Food Business Operators (FBOs) and wholesalers/retailers shall immediately stop sale and distribution of the said products and declare stock position of the affected batches to the concerned Designated Officer within 48 hours. Also initiate recall of the product from the market without delay.

The Enforcement Officers (Designated Officer Food Safety / Food Safety Officers) shall maintain strict vigil to ensure compliance and prevent further circulation of the said food articles.

This order is issued as an abundant precautionary measure in public interest and does not preclude the concerned Food Business Operators from availing the statutory right of re-analysis through any FSSAI-Notified Referral Laboratory, in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules framed there under.

(Smita Sethi), JKAS  
Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration, J&K

Dated: 21.11.2025

DIPK-8338/25  
DATED: 22-11-2025

# CS reviews PMGS functioning

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of all concerned Administrative Heads to review the status of data layers uploaded on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) Portal across Jammu & Kashmir and to assess progress in leveraging the platform as a comprehensive decision-support system for holistic and evidence-based governance.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of developing innovative and user-oriented analytical tools on the PMGS portal to derive clear insights from the available datasets. He emphasized that accurate, granular and dynamic data is vital for informed policy formulation and efficient service delivery aimed at enhancing public welfare.

He took this occasion to urge all departments to move beyond conventional data uploading and focus on meaningful analytical integration to strengthen planning and monitoring mechanisms. He called for accelerating the creation of polygonal data instead of mapping point data only.

The Chief Secretary directed the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department to take the lead in uploading detailed data layers concerning youth engagement across all districts of the UT. He called for comprehensive datasets covering skilling initiatives, employment trends, entrepreneurial activities, sports participation and educational indicators of youth to facilitate



the formulation of targeted and impactful youth-centric policies.

Highlighting the inter-departmental responsibility in strengthening the PMGS framework, the Chief Secretary urged the Home Department to upload granular data pertaining to drug hotspots, substance abuse patterns and area-wise prevalence of related cases.

He also called upon the Agriculture Production Department to consider integration of data relating to crop production, productivity indicators and animal husbandry statistics to enable data-driven agricultural planning and improved sectoral interventions.

The Health Department was impressed upon to upload comprehensive health-related datasets, particularly concerning

the prevalence of critical diseases such as anaemia and cancer across the UT. He noted that such data would assist authorities in devising focused healthcare interventions and optimizing resource allocation.

Furthermore, departments including Rural Development Department (RDD), Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) and others were advised to maximize their contributions by uploading as many relevant and analytical layers as possible to enhance the overall utility of the portal.

Providing an overview of the current status, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh informed the meeting that as many as 640 individual layers have been uploaded by around 40 departments, including 609 additional layers and 26

analytical tools, positioning Jammu & Kashmir among the top three States/UTs in the country in terms of PM Gati Shakti data integration and utilization.

Further, Director, I&C Jammu, Arun Manhas apprised the meeting that 37 infrastructure projects with an estimated value exceeding Rs 5000 crore have been deliberated in Network Planning Group (NPG) meetings following the GAD threshold order of Rs 20 crore.

He also highlighted the implementation of a structured Maker-Checker-Approver mechanism and the circulation of SOPs and a comprehensive Primer on PM Gati Shakti along with practical use cases among user departments. More than 100 capacity-building sessions have been conducted to enhance departmental proficiency

in handling the PMGS platform.

Later, the Chief Secretary formally inaugurated the Advanced GIS Portal and GIS-Based Asset Mapping Mobile Application developed for the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), marking a significant milestone in the modernization of urban infrastructure planning and management in Jammu & Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur highlighted that this future-ready initiative establishes a robust digital framework with real-time integration to the PM Gati Shakti national portal, ensuring seamless synchronization of both legacy datasets and new API-driven integrations. She added that the system hosts more than 90 comprehensive layers with over 600 attributes, covering key developmental schemes including AMRUT 2.0, SBM 2.0, PMAY, Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and 5G street infrastructure.

The mobile application has been designed for versatility, enabling conduct of varied field surveys and uniquely facilitating the mapping of online service portal data through dedicated layers. This comprehensive digital ecosystem is expected to serve as a dynamic and holistic tool for efficient urban governance, strategic planning and sustainable development across J&K.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to strengthen integrated planning through technology-driven platforms, reinforcing the UT's vision of transparent, data-driven and citizen-centric governance.

## Since 2019, JK sees 2,071 HIV cases, 66 deaths

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Nov 22: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 2,071 new HIV cases and 66 deaths between 2019 and June 2025, a Right to Information (RTI) query has revealed. The data was shared by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in response to the RTI.

As per, new HIV cases stood at 361 in 2019-20, 206 in 2020-21, 272 in 2021-22, 374 in 2022-23, 338 in 2023-24, 403 in 2024-25, and 117 fresh cases between April and June 2025. Most deaths were reported among patients receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

The RTI further states that over ₹10 crore has been allocated to JKACS through the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) from 2020-21 to June 2025. The expenditure of the Society has seen a consistent rise — from ₹1,177.99 lakh in 2020-21 to ₹2,819.09 lakh in 2024-25.

Meanwhile, NGOs working under JKACS for AIDS prevention and awareness drives received ₹24 crore+ during the same

period. Annual allocations increased from ₹293.57 lakh in 2020-21 to ₹610.96 lakh in 2024-25, with officials saying most of the funds were utilized.

According to the RTI, JKACS currently operates 48 centres across J&K, including 32 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), 2 State Reference Laboratories, 6 Opioid Substitution Therapy centres, 3 ART centres, and 5 STI clinics. Over 140 personnel, including counsellors, technicians and nurses, are deployed across the Union Territory.

Officials said the budgetary support to JKACS has grown from ₹82.55 lakh in 2019-20 to ₹205.20 lakh in 2024-25, covering awareness initiatives, treatment support and coordination with NGOs.

However, despite increased funding and outreach programmes, the RTI data indicates a sustained rise in HIV cases. Experts warn that the trend highlights the need for stronger community education and targeted interventions for high-risk groups—(KNO)

## Wetland bird watch in action

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Nov 22: With over a million migratory birds having already arrived in Kashmir this winter, the Department of Wildlife Protection has deployed multiple staff teams at Dal Lake and Wular Lake and other key wetlands to monitor the birds during their stay, officials said.

An official said that the teams supervise the birds and ensure human activity in and around the wetlands does not disturb their natural behaviour. As of now,

the highest number of birds has been recorded at Wular and Dal Lake, he added.

"Wular Lake is under strict CCTV surveillance to track bird movements and prevent potential threats," the official said.

He said the facilities for bird observation have been established, including designated ponds and observation points where birds can be fed and monitored.

The arrival of migratory birds coincides with the onset of colder temperatures in the valley. Birds travel from

Europe, Central Asia, and parts of East Asia to spend the winter months in Kashmir, where lakes and marshes provide resting and feeding grounds.

Wetlands, including Dal Lake, Wular, Hokersar, Haigam, and Shalbugh, have begun hosting a wide variety of species, including the Black-headed Gull, Tufted Duck, Brahminy Duck, and Northern Pintail. Officials

said the migratory season began in late October and will continue until March. The wetlands, still holding sufficient

water after autumn rains, provide ideal habitats for the birds. The teams continue to monitor key areas and prevent poaching and habitat degradation. "Night patrols and coordination with local police units have been intensified, and awareness campaigns in surrounding villages aim to discourage illegal trapping," an official said.

The visiting flocks play a role in maintaining the wetlands' ecological balance and contribute to the food chain. Their presence also attracts photographers, bird

watchers, and environmental students documenting species and behavioural patterns. According to the official, the valley's lakes and marshes, combined with conservation measures and surveillance, provide safe environments for the migratory birds.

As already reported by KNO, over a million migratory birds have arrived in Kashmir. The department said the number is likely higher now, and a formal official survey is currently underway—(KNO)

## Sanatnagar flyover nears completion: DC Sgr

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Saturday said that the much-awaited Sanatnagar Flyover is in its final stage, with one tube having completed load testing and the second expected to finish by tomorrow evening.

He said the project will play a vital role in easing movement between Rawalpura, Rambagh and the Airport Road corridor, marking a major step toward decongesting Srinagar's busiest intersections.

"This project connects two major stretches of the city and will significantly help reduce traffic congestion. It is an important milestone for Srinagar and seeing it reach technical completion gives satisfaction to all departments involved," the DC said.

The Deputy Commissioner said that once made operational, the flyover will directly complement recent infrastructure upgrades like the Noor Jahan Bridge at Noorbagh, which was recently opened to traffic. "You have seen the Noor Jahan Bridge completed and now Sanatnagar is almost done. Together, these projects form part of a broader network aimed at providing smoother intra-city connectivity," he said.

He added that the flyover is expected to decongest major routes by diverting peak-hour traffic away from surface roads, allowing better flow.

The DC also said Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), for other major works have also been submitted by the R&B Department in a short span. "Alongside infrastructure, enforcement and regulatory measures are being tightened. Every week, district



administration, traffic police, SMC and Smart City officials jointly review congestion points to identify new interventions," he said.

He also said the issue related to street lighting at Sanatnagar and Bemina have also been flagged and SMC officials have been directed to inspect and resolve them immediately.

Touching upon traffic regulation and e-rickshaw operations, the DC said that Srinagar's decongestion drive is designed to be balanced, as addressing both public convenience and livelihood concerns.

"To decongest a city like Srinagar, we need to enforce certain measures in a balanced manner. While short-term restrictions may seem inconvenient, our approach ensures that every stakeholder is on board," he said.

He said that the administration is identifying 'hungry routes' underutilized stretches that can be opened for e-rickshaw movement to provide last-mile connectivity and employment opportunities simultaneously. "The idea is to make sure regulation doesn't affect livelihoods. We are working to ensure that both mobility and employment are strengthened under this new plan," the DC added.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that once the second tube of the Sanatnagar Flyover completes load testing, the R&B Department will hand over the project to the administration for technical clearance. The government will then take a final decision regarding its inauguration. "As soon as the testing concludes, this long-awaited project will be ready for public use. It's another step toward making Srinagar a smoother, safer and better-connected city," he said.

Meanwhile, the DC assessed the pace and status of the ongoing work on the Rs 30 crore project aimed at decongesting traffic on the City's busy bypass corridor.

SSP Traffic Police, Aijaz Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid; Superintending Engineer R&B, Tetheer Manzoor; Executive Engineer R&B, Nasir Amin; Tehsildar Chanapora and other Officers and official accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the remaining works and inspected the concluding components of the project, which has entered its final stage of completion—(KNO)

## Drung welcomes tourists back

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Nov 22: Drung, a tourist destination in Gulmarg, is all set to reopen for visitors on Sunday (tomorrow) after being closed for several months following security concerns. The closures across multiple key tourist sites, including Drung were primarily due to heightened security threats following a major terrorist attack in Pahalgam in April 2025, which resulted in the loss of 26 lives and severely impacted tourism.

The authorities in response had ordered closure of around 48 tourist spots in Kashmir as precautionary measures to ensure visitor safety.

The reopening of Drung in Tangmarg has been achieved after positive security reports from the civil and police administration.

Officials confirmed that the tourist spot is all set to welcome visitors again, especially with the upcoming winter tourism season, which is a peak time for the region.

Meanwhile, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Gulmarg,, Farooq

Ahmad Shah expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the dedicated Police and civil administration for reopening the Drung tourist destination in Gulmarg. "This reopening marks a significant step towards strengthening the tourism landscape in the region," said MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah.

He expressed hope that other picturesque spots like Gogaldara, Shranz Fall and Botapathri will soon also be accessible to visitors, providing vital opportunities for

local employment and economic growth. He said the government of Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to the revival of tourism is evident, with ongoing efforts to realize the vision of Greater Gulmarg.

The MLA assured the public that every proposal for tourism development is being personally followed up and emphasized the collective effort to pave the way for a vibrant and prosperous Gulmarg, promising a welcoming environment for tourists and locals alike—(KNO)

## CRPF Cricket Cup-2025 opens in Sgr

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 22: The green cricket turf of Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium came alive on Saturday as the 3rd Edition of the CRPF Cricket Cup 2025 kicked-off with a dazzling inaugural ceremony, marking the return of one of Srinagar's most anticipated youth sporting events.

The tournament was declared open by Inspector General (IG) CRPF Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, in presence of senior officers, dignitaries and scores of young cricketers from across the Valley.

In his address, IG Sharma said the event reflects the CRPF's ongoing efforts to connect with Kashmir's youth through sports.

"Kashmir has immense cricketing potential. Through this platform, we aim to strengthen peace, harmony and trust with the younger generation," he said.

He added every possible measure has been taken to ensure peaceful and secure conduct of the event. Notably, the CRPF Cup, which began in 2023, has fast become a flagship initiative blending sports with social outreach. This year saw a record 123 team registrations, of which 16 were shortlisted through a transparent draw.

Moreover, the tournament, held in collaboration with the J&K Cricket Association, University of Kashmir and DPS Pantha Chowk, will see 31 matches played over a week across five venues.—(KNO)

# India’s Labour Reforms: Simplification, Security, And Sustainable Growth

Establishment of the new Labour Codes marks a transformative step in India’s labour landscape- one that balances the welfare of workers with the efficiency of enterprises. They reaffirm India’s commitment to fostering a modern labour ecosystem that empowers both workers and industry, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable progress.

Press Information Bureau

#### Labour at the Core of India’s Growth

The empowerment of labour forms the cornerstone of an empowered, prosperous, and Aatmanirbhar India. Reflecting this vision, employment in India has shown remarkable growth- rising from 47.5 crore in 2017–18 to 64.33 crore in 2023–24, a net addition of 16.83 crore jobs in just six years. During the same period, the unemployment rate declined sharply from 6.0% to 3.2%, and 1.56 crore women entered the formal workforce, underscoring the Government’s emphasis on inclusive and sustained labour empowerment. The positive outlook of the labour market has also led to a broader socio-economic transformation, mirrored by declining proportion of people below the international poverty line. Additionally, India’s social protection system has expanded rapidly to become one of the largest globally.

Labour is a key driver of economic growth and development. In order to simplify and strengthen the framework governing workers’ rights, the Government consolidated 29 labour laws into four comprehensive Labour Codes- namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. This historic reform ensures that workers gain easier access to security, dignity, health, and welfare measures, reinforcing India’s commitment to a fair and future-ready labour ecosystem.

#### Rationale Behind Codification of Existing 29 Labour Laws

Reforms in labour laws are an ongoing process. The Government continuously works to modernize and streamline the legislative framework in line with the evolving economic and industrial landscape of the country. The codification of 29 existing labour laws into four Labour Codes was undertaken to address long-standing challenges and make the system more efficient and contemporary. The codification aims to enhance ease of doing business, promote employment generation, ensure safety, health, social & wage security for every worker.

The key reasons behind this reform include: Simplifying compliance: Multiplicity of laws leads to difficulty in compliance.

Streamlining enforcement: Multiplicity of authorities in different labour laws led to complexity and difficulty in enforcement.

Modernizing outdated laws: Most labour legislations were framed during the pre-Independence era, necessitating alignment with today’s economic realities and technological advancements.

#### Formulation of 4 Labour Codes

An important reason of rationalizing labour laws via codification was to simplify the registration, licensing framework by introducing the concept of a Single Registration, Single License, and Single Return, thereby reducing the overall compliance burden to spur employment.

The second National Commission on Labour had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four/ five Labour Codes on functional basis. Accordingly, the Ministry of Labour & Employment started the exercise to rationalize, simplify and amalgamate the relevant provisions of the labour laws in four codes. The four Labour Codes were enacted after the deliberations held in the tripartite meeting of the Government, employers’, industry representatives and various trade unions during 2015 to 2019. The Code on Wages, 2019 was notified on 8th August, 2019 and the remaining three Codes were notified on 29th September, 2020.

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#### Code 1: The Code of Wages, 2019

The Code on Wages, 2019 seeks to simplify, consolidate, and rationalize the provisions of four existing laws- The Payment of Wages Act, 1936; The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. It aims to strengthen workers’ rights while promoting simplicity and uniformity in wage-related compliance for employers.

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Universal Minimum Wages: The Code establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors. Earlier, the Minimum Wages Act applied only to scheduled employments covering ~30% of workers.

Introduction of Floor Wage: A statutory floor wage shall be set by the Government based on minimum living standards, with scope for regional variation. No state can fix minimum wages below this level, ensuring uniformity and adequacy nationwide.

Criteria for Wage Fixation: Appropriate Governments will determine minimum wages considering workers’ skill levels (unskilled, skilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled), geographic areas, and job conditions such as temperature, humidity, or hazardous environments.

Gender Equality in Employment: Employers shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, including transgender identity, in recruitment, wages, and employment conditions for similar work.

Universal Coverage for Wage Payment: Provisions ensuring timely payment and preventing un-authorized deductions will apply to all employees, irrespective of wage limits (currently applicable only to employees earning up to 24,000/month).

Overtime Compensation: Employers must pay all employees overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for any work done beyond the regular working hours.

Responsibility for Wage Payment: Employers, including companies, firms, or associations, shall pay wages to employees employed by them. Failure to do so makes the proprietor/ entity liable for unpaid wages.

Inspector-cum-Facilitator: The traditional role of “Inspector” is replaced with “Inspector-cum-Facilitator,” emphasizing guidance, awareness, and advisory roles alongside enforcement to improve compliance.

Compounding of Offences: First-time, non-imprisonable offences can be compounded by paying a penalty. Repeat offences within five years, however, cannot be compounded.

Decriminalization of Offences: The Code replaces imprisonment for certain first-time offences with monetary fines (up to 50% of the maximum fine), making the framework less punitive and more compliance-oriented.

#### Code 2: The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

The Industrial Relations Code (IR Code) has been prepared after amalgamating, simplifying and rationalizing the relevant provisions of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Code acknowledges the fact that survival of worker depends upon survival of industry. In this backdrop, it simplifies laws related to trade unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Fixed Term Employment (FTE): Allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits; gratuity eligibility after one year. The provision reduces excessive contractualization and offers cost efficiency to employers.

Re-skilling Fund: To train retrenched employees, this fund has been set up from the contribution to be made by an industrial establishment for an amount equal to 15 days’ wages for every worker retrenched. This is in addition to retrenchment compensation. The amount will be credited to the workers account within 45 days of retrenchment.

Trade Union Recognition: Unions with 51% membership get recognition as the Negotiating Union; otherwise, a Negotiating Council is formed from unions, not less than 20% membership of trade union. Such an arrangement strengthens collective bargaining.

Expanded Worker Definition: Covers sales promotion staff, journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to 18,000/month.

Broader Definition of Industry: Includes all systematic employer-employee activities, regardless of profit or capital, widening access to labour protections.

Higher Threshold for Lay-off/ Retrenchment/Closure: Approval limit raised from 100 to 300 workers; States may enhance the limit further. The provision will simplify compliance and contribute to formalization.

Women’s Representation: Ensures proportional representation of women in grievance committees for gender-sensitive redressal.

Standing Orders Threshold: Raised from 100 to 300 employees, easing compliance and enabling flexible workforce management.

Work-from-Home Provision: Permitted in service sectors by mutual consent, improving flexibility.

Industrial Tribunals: Two-member tribunals consisting of judicial and administrative member for quicker dispute resolution.

Direct Tribunal Access: Parties may approach tribunals directly after failed conciliation within 90 days.

Notice for Strikes/Lockouts: Mandatory

14-day notice for all establishments to promote dialogue and minimize disruptions.

Expanded Definition of Strike: Includes “mass casual leave also within its ambit” to prevent flash strikes and ensure lawful action.

Decriminalization & Compounding: Minor offences made compoundable with monetary penalties, promoting compliance over prosecution.

Digital Processes: Enables electronic record-keeping, registration, and communication for transparency and efficiency.

#### Code 3: The Code on Social Security, 2020

The Code on Social Security incorporates existing nine Social Security Acts viz; The Employee’s Compensation Act, 1923; The Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948; The Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959; The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; The Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981; The Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Cess Act, 1996 and; The Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008. The Code extends social security to all workers- including unorganized, gig, and platform workers-covering life, health, maternity, and provident fund benefits, while introducing digital systems and facilitator-based compliance for greater efficiency.

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded ESIC (Employees’ State Insurance) Coverage: ESIC now applies pan-India, eliminating the criteria of “notified areas.” Establishments with fewer than 10 employees may voluntarily opt in with mutual consent of employers and employees. Coverage would be mandated for hazardous occupation and extended to plantation workers.

Time-bound EPF (Employees’ Provident Fund) Inquiries: A five-year limit has been set for initiating EPF inquiries and recovery proceedings, to be completed within two years (extendable by one). Suo-moto reopening of cases has been abolished, ensuring timely resolution.

Reduced EPF Appeal Deposit: Employers appealing EPFO orders now need to deposit only 25% of the assessed amount (down from 40–70%), reducing financial burden and ensuring ease of business and access to justice.

Self-assessment for Construction Cess: Employers can now self-assess cess liabilities in respect to Building and Other Construction Work, previously assessed by the notified Government authority. It reduces procedural delays and official intervention.

Inclusion of Gig and Platform Workers: New definitions are included- “aggregator,” “gig worker,” and “platform worker” to enable social security coverage. Aggregators to contribute 1- 2% of annual turnover (capped at 5% of payments to such workers).

Social Security Fund: A dedicated fund to finance schemes for unorganised, gig, and platform workers, covering life, disability, health, and old-age benefits has been proposed. The amount collected through the compounding of offences will be credited to this Fund and used by the Government.

Expanded Definition of Dependents: Coverage extended to maternal grandparents and in case of female employees it also includes dependent parents-in-law, broadening family benefit access.

Uniform Definition of Wages: “Wages” now include basic pay, dearness allowance, and retaining allowance; 50% of the total remuneration (or such percentage as may be notified) shall be added back to compute wages, ensuring consistency in calculating gratuity, pension, and social security benefits.

Commuting Accidents Covered: Accidents during travel between home and workplace are now deemed employment-related, qualifying for compensation.

Gratuity for Fixed-Term Employees: Fixed-term employees become eligible for gratuity after one year of continuous service (earlier five years).

Inspector-cum-Facilitator System: Introduces randomized web-based, algorithm-driven inspections for transparency and wider compliance. Inspectors now act as facilitators to support adherence and reduce harassment.

Decriminalization & Monetary Fines: The code has replaced imprisonment with monetary fines for certain offences. The employer will be given mandatory 30 days’ notice for compliance before taking any legal action.

Compounding of Offences: First-time offences punishable with fines are compoundable- for fine-only: 50% of maximum fine and for fine/imprisonment cases: 75% of maximum fine- reducing litigation and improving

ease of doing business.

Digitization of Compliance: Mandates electronic maintenance of records, registers, and returns, cutting costs and improving efficiency.

Vacancy Reporting: Employers shall report vacancies to specified career centres before recruitment, promoting transparency in employment opportunities.

#### Code 4: The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020

The Code has been drafted after amalgamation, simplification and rationalization of the relevant provisions of the 13 Central Labour Acts- The Factories Act, 1948; The Plantations Labour Act, 1951; The Mines Act, 1952; The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955; The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958; The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; The Cine-Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981; The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and; The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

The Code balances the twin objectives of safeguarding worker rights and safe working conditions, and creating a business-friendly regulatory environment. This will spur economic growth and employment thereby, making India’s labour market more efficient, fair, and future-ready.

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Unified Registration: A uniform threshold of 10 employees is set for electronic registration. One registration for an establishment has been envisaged in place of 6 registrations in the Acts. This will create a centralised database and promote ease of doing business.

Extension to Hazardous Work: The Government can extend the Code’s provisions to any establishment, even with one employee, engaged in hazardous or life-threatening occupations.

Simplified Compliance: Introduces one license, one registration, one return framework for the establishments, reducing redundancy and compliance burden.

Wider Definition of Migrant Workers: The definition of inter-state migrant workers (ISMW) now covers workers employed directly, through contractors, or migrate on their own. Establishments must declare the number of ISMW. Benefits include: a lump-sum annual travel allowance to native place once in 12 months and portability of public distribution system and social security benefits across states along with access to a toll-free helpline.

Health and Formalization: Free annual health check-ups for employees.

Formalization via appointment letters: Appointment letters specifying job details, wages, and social security will be given to enhance transparency and accountability.

Women’s Employment: Women can work in all types of establishments and during night hours (before 6AM, beyond 7PM) with consent and safety measures, fostering equality and inclusion.

Expanded Media Worker Definition: “Working journalists” and “cine workers” now include employees in electronic media and all forms of audio-visual production.

National Database for Unorganised Workers: A national database to be developed for unorganized workers including migrants to help migrant workers get jobs, map their skills and provide other social security benefits.

Victim Compensation: Courts can direct at least 50% of fines imposed on offenders to be paid as compensation to victims or their legal heirs in case of injury or death.

Contract Labour Reform: Applicability threshold has been raised from 20 to 50 contract workers. All India license valid for 5 years against work-order based license to be provided to the contractor. For contract labour, beedi and cigar manufacturing and factory: a common license is envisaged and provision of deemed license after expiry of prescribe period is introduced. Moreover, the license shall be auto-generated. Provision of contract labour board has been done away with and provision for appointment of designated authority to advise matters on core and non-core activities is introduced.

Safety Committees: Establishments with 500 or more workers will form safety committees with employer-worker representation, enhancing workplace safety and shared

accountability.

National Occupational Safety & Health Advisory Board: A single tripartite advisory board replaces six earlier boards to set national safety and health standards across sectors, ensuring uniformity and quality.

Decriminalisation & Compounding of Offences: Offences punishable by fine only to be compounded by paying 50% of the maximum fine; those involving imprisonment or fine or both by 75%. Criminal penalties (imprisonment) replaced by civil penalties like monetary fines, promoting compliance over punishment.

Revised Factory Thresholds: Applicability increased from 10 to 20 workers (with power) and 20 to 40 workers (without power), reducing compliance burden for small units.

Social Security Fund: Establishes a fund for unorganised workers, financed through penalties and compounding fees, for their welfare and benefit delivery.

Contract Labour- Welfare & Wages: Principal employers to provide welfare facilities like health and safety measures to contract workers. If the contractor fails to pay wages, the principal employer has to pay unpaid wages to the contract labour.

Working Hours & Overtime: Normal working hours capped at 8 hours/day and 48 hours/ week. Overtime allowed only with worker consent and paid at twice the regular rate.

Inspector-cum-Facilitator System: Inspectors will now act as facilitators with an objective to help employers comply with law, rules and regulations rather than merely policing them.

#### The Transformative Power of Labour Codes

India’s new Labour Codes make labour laws simpler, fairer, and more in tune with today’s work environment. They protect workers’ rights, improve safety and social security, make it easier for businesses to comply with rules, and create more job opportunities in a growing economy. The enacted Labour Codes bring out following transformations in the labour market:

Align labour laws with the current economic scenario by modernizing regulations in accordance with evolving work patterns, technological advancements, and economic realities.

Ensure the safety, health, social security, and wage security of every worker through a unified and comprehensive framework encompassing all categories of workers.

Enhance employment opportunities by simplifying procedures and fostering a business-friendly environment that promotes investment and economic growth.

Facilitate easier compliance by introducing uniform definitions, single registration, single return, and simplified online systems for seamless adherence.

Encourage the use of technology in the administration of labour laws through digital registration, licensing, and inspections for improved efficiency and transparency.

Strengthen transparency and accountability in enforcement through online, risk-based inspection mechanisms and objective implementation processes.

Achieve simplification, harmonization, and rationalization of the regulatory framework by consolidating multiple labour laws into four comprehensive Codes, ensuring consistency and reducing administrative burden.

#### Conclusion

Establishment of the new Labour Codes marks a transformative step in India’s labour landscape- one that balances the welfare of workers with the efficiency of enterprises. These provisions simplify compliance, promote safety, and ensure fairness in wages. Moreover, these reforms lay the foundation for a more equitable, transparent, and growth-oriented economy. They reaffirm India’s commitment to fostering a modern labour ecosystem that empowers both workers and industry, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable progress.

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# DC Sgr reviews functioning of KKGs

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: To review the progress in functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars of District Srinagar established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a comprehensive meeting of line departments was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office, here Saturday.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the status of farmer and farm registrations on the KKG App, daily reporting mechanisms of Krishi Udyamis (KUs), and the readiness of KKGs for the Phase-II launch. He also reviewed the KYC verification status of farmers visiting KKGs and the availability of IT and non-IT infrastructure, including PoS machines.

Further, the DC evaluated the status of seed, fertilizer, and pesticide license, along with the progress of CSC onboarding across the district. The meeting also discussed the engagement of Krishi Udyamis for Faqir Gujri Panchayat.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to accelerate the pace of service delivery through Kissan



Khidmat Ghars to ensure efficient implementation of HADP initiatives aimed at farmer welfare. He directed officers to ensure 100 percent coverage and saturation of farmer registrations on the KKG App by next week. He further instructed that Krishi Udyamis, through CSCs, must provide agriculture and allied sector services at the farmer's doorstep, enabling KUs to emerge as capable agri-entrepreneurs.

The DC also emphasized substantially increasing farm registrations and KYC completion, directing the District CSC Coordinator to ensure timely provision of login credentials to all KUs for seamless updates

and reporting.

Earlier, the meeting was informed that over 8,700 farmers have so far visited KKGs in the district and registered themselves on the KKG App to avail the services being offered.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, the meeting was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Agriculture Officer, District Officer Sericulture, Srinagar, Assistant Director, Fisheries, District Coordinator, CSC and Krishi Udaymis of District Srinagar and other concerned.

## DC Budgam chairs DLAMC meeting

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday chaired the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) meeting and reviewed the district's overall Aadhaar performance, including saturation across age groups, functionality of enrolment centres, Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs), and verification pendency on the State Aadhaar Portal.

As per the status presented during the meeting, the DC directed all departments to prepare a comprehensive action plan to cover the left-out population from projected population figures for 2024-25. He emphasised ensuring 100% Aadhaar enrolment and update across all categories.

He instructed PO ICDS to ensure full Aadhaar coverage of children aged 0-5 years, including newborns, and to fully operationalise CELC tablets to expedite enrolment at Anganwadi Centres.

The DC directed CMO Budgam to conduct regular inspections in hospitals for on-the-spot Aadhaar enrolment and timely issuance of Birth Certificates through CRS.

Reviewing the status of operational stations, the DC directed all departments to immediately make all Aadhaar Enrolment Stations fully functional and



identify additional high-foot-fall government premises for opening new centres or holding special mega camps.

The DC instructed CEO Budgam to hold mega Aadhaar enrolment and update camps in all Higher Secondary Schools, High Schools and Colleges. He also directed the CEO to ensure completion of Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs) at 5 and 15 years of age, in line with UIDAI guidelines.

The chair was informed that the district has an MBU pendency of 24,489 cases. To address the pendency, the DC directed the School Education Department to launch awareness drives, mobilise students through class teachers, and ensure matching of school records with Aadhaar details including name, date of birth, mobile number and email, which are essential for board exams, scholarships and competitive examinations.

to update their Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) at the nearest enrolment centre as most of the residents have not updated their Aadhaar for over 10 years. He instructed to conduct awareness programs on Aadhaar update across villages, towns and schools, and promote the mAadhaar mobile app for easy access and verification.

During the meeting, the DC reiterated the importance of achieving complete Aadhaar saturation across all age groups, operationalising all Aadhaar centres, clearing the MBU pendency, ensuring timely verification on the State Aadhaar Portal for both 18+ and 100+ categories, running awareness campaigns in schools, Anganwadi centres and public spaces, and ensuring accurate demographic data for all school-going children.

The DC stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination, stringent monitoring and a time-bound strategy to achieve complete Aadhaar saturation in Budgam. He highlighted that updated Aadhaar information is essential for access to government schemes, welfare benefits, scholarships, pensions and other essential public services.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, PO ICDS, CPO Budgam, ACD, all SDMs, all Tehsildars, all Executive Officers, BDOs and representatives of UIDAI.

## Athar flags off group of girls for trekking expedition



KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan Saturday flagged off a group of 90 Girls on trekking expedition from the Mini Secretariat Kulgam.

The camp, organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Kulgam, will be held at Pahalgam from 22nd to 26th November 2025. The

girl trekkers from 6 education zones of the district, accompanied by female teacher escorts, are participating in the camp.

The Annual Trekking Camp aims to promote outdoor learning, build resilience, and provide enriching experiential opportunities for girl students across the district. Present on the occasion were Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Shabir Ahmad, Dy CEO and other officers.

## SHEW Shopian organises awareness prog

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 22: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian, organized an awareness programme at Doompura Shopian Saturday to sensitize women about various government welfare schemes and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign.

During the programme, detailed information was provided on several women-centric initiatives including Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, pension schemes State

Marriage Assistance Scheme, Women in Distress Scheme, Sponsorship Scheme, Labour Card Registration, Artisanship Registration, Credit Card Scheme and Self Help Group (SHG) Scheme.

The event aimed to empower women by disseminating knowledge about financial assistance, social security and self-employment opportunities available under Mission Shakti. Local women actively participated and expressed keen interest in availing the benefits of these welfare programmes.

## J&K Judicial Academy Sgr organises workshop

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), organised a workshop on Wildlife Protection Laws for Judicial Officers of the Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh at the Academy premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

During the programme, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, lighted the constitutional mandates enshrined in Article 48A and Article 51A(g), underscoring the duty of the State and every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment and safeguard wildlife. He reflected on the unique ecological sensitivity of Jammu & Kashmir and the growing challenges related to illegal wildlife trade and habitat threats, stressing the urgent need for stronger enforcement and judicial awareness.

Senior Manager and Head, J&K WTI, Dr. Tanushree Srivastava, while speaking during the program outlined the scope and objectives of the



workshop and emphasized the importance of enhancing institutional capacities to address wildlife crimes effectively.

Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, in his keynote address, emphasized Jammu & Kashmir is not immune to the threats posed by wildlife crimes. He stressed the need for the judiciary to remain proactive and sensitive in enforcing wildlife protection laws and called for consistency and rigor in adjudicating such offences to preserve the region's fragile ecological balance.

Chief of Enforcement & CEO, WTI, Jose Louies, led Technical Session by tracing India's long cultural legacy of wildlife protection, symbolized famously by the Ashokan Lion Capital, reflecting the country's inherent commitment to coexistence with nature. He outlined the primary drivers of illegal wildlife trade including demand for pets, cultural and traditional practices. Highlighting that poachers have increasingly become aware of enforcement

## Director Agriculture Kashmir chairs review meeting



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: In a bid to assess the physical and financial progress of key agricultural initiatives across the Kashmir Division, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Saturday convened a high-level review meeting at the Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The session focused on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)-funded projects.

All Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and District Development Officers (DDOs) from the division were present, ensuring a thorough district-wise evaluation.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation highlighted scheme-wise and component-wise expenditures, physical achievements, and progress against set targets under HADP projects, CSS, CAPEX, and

NABARD.

The Director emphasized the critical importance of expeditious and judicious utilization of allocated funds to deliver maximum benefits to the farming community. He urged officers to maintain utmost transparency and accountability in all financial transactions while accelerating project implementation to prevent any lapses.

"Strengthening agricultural infrastructure, integrating technological interventions, and ensuring seamless scheme delivery are pivotal to enhancing productivity and uplifting the socio-economic status of our farmers," said the Director. He directed the officers to intensify outreach efforts, actively engage with farmer communities, and promote awareness about HADP initiatives and modern farming techniques for grassroots-level success.

Reiterating the department's commitment, the Director affirmed that Agriculture department remains dedicated to fostering resilient agriculture and sustainable farmer welfare across Jammu & Kashmir.

## KVIB holds awareness programme in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22: The Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), District Office Budgam, organized an Awareness-cum-Interaction Programme Saturday at Government Polytechnic College, Nagaam Chadoora Budgam.

The event was attended by representatives from DIC Budgam, senior officials from J&K KVIB, representatives from Block office, and other officials from line departments.

The programme aimed to inform and sensitize the rural unemployed educated youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, artisans, beekeepers and other stakeholders from Block Nagaam Chadoora and adjoining areas about self-employment opportunities and schemes such as PMEGP and JKREGP. Participants received guidance on project formulation, loan procedures, and available government support.

Addressing the gathering, the District Officer KVIB Budgam, highlighted financial assistance



schemes, employment generation programs, technical training and marketing support available to rural as well as urban entrepreneurs from J&K KVIB.

District Officer KVIB Budgam also shared performance highlighted that in 2024-25, 498 PMEGP cases were disbursed involving Rs 1379.92 lakh in margin money, generating 2988 jobs, while 15 JKREGP cases were disbursed with Rs 48.30 lakh in margin money, creating 120 rural employment opportunities.

The event witnessed active participation from locals interested in modernizing and expanding their livelihoods/entrepreneurship.

The initiative reaffirms J&K KVIB's commitment to promoting

rural entrepreneurship, strengthening village industries, and supporting sustainable economic development.

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

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

## DLSA B'pora holds Special Lok Adalat

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 22: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora, conducted a Special Lok Adalat Saturday, exclusively dedicated to the disposal of criminal compoundable cases across the District Court Bandipora and the Munsiff Courts of the district.

The initiative underscores the continuing institutional commitment to conciliatory justice, timely dispute resolution, and augmentation of accessible legal redressal mechanisms.

The Special Lok Adalat was organized under the leadership of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority).

The proceedings were supervised by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, and Mir Wajahat, Principal District & Sessions Judge, In-charge Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora, with operational guidance by Sheikh Babar

Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora.

For the expeditious and amicable settlement of the listed matters, three benches were constituted which included first Bench at District Court Bandipora, Presided over by Mir Wajahat, Principal District & Sessions Judge with Bench Member Advocate Malik Mushtaq. The Second Bench was presided over by Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC) Bandipora, with Bench Member, Mehak Mehboob, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Bandipora. The Third Bench was presided over by Mushtaq Ahmad Hurra, President, Bar Association Sumbal with Bench Member, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Public Prosecutor, Munsiff Court Sumbal.

A total of 814 criminal compoundable cases were taken up before these benches, out of which 704 matters stood amicably settled, and an amount of 19,71,187 was realized as settlement amount.

The District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora, reaffirms its resolve to promote participatory justice, reduce pendency through lawful conciliation, and strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system.

## DLSA Sgr organizes Special Lok Adalat

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: In accordance with the calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority for the month of November 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat on "Criminal Compoundable Cases" at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Criminal Compoundable Cases, was held Under the directions of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the supervision of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. and Sessions Judge) Srinagar.

To ensure smooth and effective settlement, two benches were constituted for the proceedings. The first bench was presided over by Fida Hussain Nayek, Municipal Magistrate Srinagar and Junaid Imtiyaz Mir, Sub Judge/Judge Small Causes Srinagar, while the second bench was presided over by Vikas Bhardwaj, 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar and Zirgham Hamid, 1st Additional Munsiff Srinagar.

# Solidarity, equality and sustainability key pillars of inclusive growth, says G20 Declaration

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 22: Acknowledging the impact of rising geopolitical and geo-economic competition, a Declaration adopted at the G20 Leaders' Summit here on Saturday confirmed that solidarity, equality and sustainability are key pillars of inclusive growth.

Energy security, climate action and disaster resilience and response too was prominently mentioned in the text of the Declaration that was adopted by the heads of state attending the Summit by consensus despite US attempts to stop it.

"We understand our inter-connectedness as a global community of nations and reaffirm our commitment to ensure that no one is left behind through multilateral cooperation, macro policy coordination, global partnerships for sustainable development and solidarity," the Declaration read.

The 39-page document acknowledges the impact of rising geopolitical and geo-economic competition and instability, heightened conflicts and wars, and deepening inequality increasing global economic uncertainty and fragmentation.

"In the face of this challenging political and socio-economic environment, we underscore our belief in multilateral cooperation to collectively address shared challenges," it said as it reaffirmed "unwavering commitment to act in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and the Charter of the



United Nations and its principle of peaceful settlement of disputes."

In a clear reference to Russia, Israel and Myanmar without naming them, the Declaration said that in line with the UN Charter, "all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state ...

"... and that states should develop friendly relations among nations, including by promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

Disaster resilience and response came under the spotlight as well in the text.

"We highlight the need to pay special attention to those

already disproportionately impacted by disasters and that cannot afford the costs of adaptation, disaster mitigation, preparedness and recovery in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)," it said.

With the high level of debt as one of the obstacles to inclusive growth, the Declaration said: "In many developing economies, (this) limits their ability to invest in infrastructure, disaster resilience, healthcare, education and other development needs."

The G20 acknowledged that energy security remains fundamental to national sovereignty, economic development, stability, and global prosperity. "We commend the G20 South Africa Presidency's Voluntary Energy Security Toolkit as a practical resource for countries to strengthen

their national systems.

"The Toolkit has been developed to support countries in adopting integrated approaches to energy technologies and innovation, risk identification, regional interconnectivity, infrastructure resilience, energy deficiency, emergency preparedness, and workforce development, with particular relevance for developing countries."

The Declaration emphasised that sustainable industrialisation is a cornerstone of sustainable development and energy transitions as it noted the High-Level Voluntary Principles for Sustainable Industrialisation Hubs to support the equitable sharing of the benefits of industrialisation.

It also welcomed the G20 Critical Minerals Framework, which is a voluntary, non-binding blueprint to ensure that

critical mineral resources become a driver of prosperity and sustainable development.

On food security, the G20 recognised the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger as it affirmed that political will to create the conditions to expand access and affordability to safe, healthy and nutritious food is needed.

The potential of digital and emerging technologies, including AI, for good and for all; needed to be unlocked and shared equitably, the Declaration said.

The critical role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in driving poverty reduction, economic growth, and development across client countries was acknowledged.

Other major issues highlighted in the Declaration include climate change actions; preventing and fighting corruption and enhancing whistleblower protection mechanisms; and supporting migrant workers and refugees.

The Declaration lauded the decision to convene the G20 Social Summit in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the G20 as an initiative that provided non-government stakeholders a unique opportunity to voice their views on fundamental issues of the international agenda.

The Declaration ended with a reiterated commitment to the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and its continued operation in the spirit of multilateralism, on the basis of consensus, with all members participating on an equal footing in all its events, including Summits, in accordance with international obligations.

## LoP Sharma, MP Sharma call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 22: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He was accompanied

by Members of Legislative Assembly – Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal and Ranbir Singh Pathania.

Member of Parliament (MP), Jugal Kishore Sharma, also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

## PM Modi proposes critical minerals circularity initiative, satellite data partnership at G20

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 22: India on Saturday proposed a G20 critical minerals circularity initiative to promote recycling, urban mining, second-life batteries and related innovations, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the country is fully committed to sustainability and clean energy.

In his address at the second session at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, he also proposed setting up of a G20 Open Satellite Data Partnership whereby satellite data and analysis from G20 space agencies can be made "more accessible for countries of

the Global South".

He shared the broader points from his speech, in a series of posts on X.

The second session was on "A Resilient World — the G20's Contribution: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, Just Energy Transitions, Food Systems".

"The second session at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg focussed on building a resilient world in the face of disasters, climate change and ensuring energy transitions that are just as well as robust food systems. India has been actively working on all these fronts, building a future that is human centric and inclusive," Modi said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### LG Manoj Sinha

they said.

They added that the LG would be briefed about the steps taken to destroy the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

At least 15 persons were killed and many others were injured a blast ripped through an explosive laden car near Delhi's iconic Red Fort area on November 10.

Following the blast, security measures have been heightened with frisking and regular patrolling by various security agencies being intensified at vital locations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Security personnel have been deployed at strategic locations along highways, including the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in Pulwama and the Qazigund gateway, to monitor vehicle movement and maintain public order.

Police have also intensified inspections of shops and establishments dealing with chemicals, fertilisers, explosives, hardware, and automobile workshops across Jammu and Kashmir. The blast occurred hours after Jammu and Kashmir police and Faridabad police busted a doctors' module and recovered 2,900 kg of ammonium nitrate along with other arms and ammunition on their revelation.

So far, six persons, including Dr Muzamil, Dr Shaheen, Dr Adil, Molvi Irfan, Amir Ali and Jasir Bilal, have been arrested so far in connection with the Delhi blast case.

The NIA has said that they all had played a key role in the terror attack, with Amir Rashid Ali arrested after probe revealed that the car used in the blast was registered in his name, while Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish had provided technical support to the suicide bomber.

The investigation of case was handed over to the NIA by the Home Ministry, soon after the attack. The Anti-Terror Agency has said it is working closely with various state police forces to track and arrest every member of the terrorist module involved in the carnage. (KNO)

### Indian Army

testament to its valour," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised that the Armed Forces should continually adapt to and remain vigilant against the rapidly changing security environment.

He also cautioned that the neighbouring country continues to make attempts to disrupt peace in India, especially in Jammu & Kashmir. Referring to the recent breakthrough by J&K Police, the LG said, "The police recently busted a pan-India terror module that wanted to target innocent people across the country. This is a clear indication that our security forces are vigilant and determined to protect every citizen."

"In such a situation, we must remain alert to protect the nation's honour, protect our borders, and preserve our unity and integrity," he added.

The LG praised the synergy among the Army, J&K Police and other security agencies, asserting that their collective efforts remain crucial in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Northern Command, Armed Forces Medical Services, Army Hospital Research & Referral, Delhi and the professional medical team associated with the camp for setting the highest example of humanitarian ideals before the nation. He also lauded Brig. Dr. Sanjay Mishra, a renowned eye specialist at Army Hospital Research & Referral, Delhi for his selfless

service to society.

"Leadership qualities are important for making a fearless soldier and dedicated officer, who leads from the front and lives by example. This camp is testament to such leadership who are inspiring the communities and building a healthy society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed to everyone to participate in eye donation and inspire others for the noble cause.

He said the camp significantly raises awareness about vision-related diseases and offers vital guidance on necessary eye care. Such camps in remote areas reach vulnerable population who are often unaware of their eye conditions or lack the necessary income and resources for treatment, bringing critical care directly to those in need, he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi also extended their felicitations, through video messages, to the Northern Command, Armed Forces Medical Services and everyone associated for their noble endeavour. An educational handbook on quality eye care was also released on the occasion.

The camp provided medical support to residents from the far-flung districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, and Ramban, with over 1,000 persons screened and more than 300 surgeries performed.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, GOC-in-C, Northern Command; Surgeon Vice Admiral Aarti Sarin, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services; Lt Gen CG Muralidharan, Director General, Medical Services (Army); Brig. Dr. Sanjay Mishra; Ms Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, senior officials, veterans, veer naris, and people from different walks of life were present. (KNO)

### Batamaloo man

the Delhi blast, has told the NIA investigators that he had purchased an AK-47 for Rs 6.5 lakh, which was later recovered from Dr Adil's lock in GMC Anantnag.

They said that Muzamil also revealed that he along with Dr Adil and Dr Muzaffar went to Turkey in 2022 on the instructions of their handlers and they were supposed to be sent to Afghanistan from there. "After 5-6 days, their expected contact refused to meet and he could not send them to Afghanistan".

He has also revealed that Dr Umar, who triggered the blast, used to watch bomb-making videos and read related literature online. "He purchased explosive materials from Nuh, while electronic components were bought from Bhagirath Palace and the NIT market in Faridabad," Muzamil reportedly told the investigators.

It has also been revealed that Dr Umar had purchased a deep freezer, and he was storing chemicals and explosive materials inside it, where a chemical bomb was being prepared.

Muzamil has also revealed that the conspiracy to carry out blasts in Delhi and several other cities was hatched in 2023. "Explosives had been arranged for the blasts over the past two years. For two years, they had been collecting explosives, remotes, and other devices."

Probed has further revealed that Muzammil was responsible for purchasing ammonium nitrate and urea. "Muzammil bought 26 quintals of NPK fertiliser from Gurugram and Nuh. The responsibility of converting this fertiliser into explosives was given to Dr Umar. He was also

tasked with arranging chemicals, remotes, and devices for the explosions," it revealed.

It has revealed that Muzammil bought the fertilizer for 3 lakh. "They had contributed funds for these things themselves with Muzamil contributing Rs 5lakh, Dr Adil contributing Ra 8 lakh, Dr Muzafar Rs 6 lakh, Dr Umar Rs 2 lakh and Dr Shaheen Shahid contributing Rs 5 lakh. A total of Rs 26 lakh in cash was collected and handed over to Dr Umar," the probe has revealed.

At least 15 persons were killed and many others were injured a blast ripped through an explosive laden car near Delhi's iconic Red Fort area on November 10.

The blast occurred hours after Jammu and Kashmir police and Faridabad police busted a doctors' module and recovered 2,900 kg of ammonium nitrate along with other arms and ammunition on their revelation. So far, six persons, including Dr Muzamil, Dr Shaheen, Dr Adil, Molvi Irfan, Amir Ali and Jasir Bilal, have been arrested so far in connection with the Delhi blast case.

As already reported by KNO, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay was arrested on 21 October, while Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather and Dr Shaheen Saeed were arrested on October 22 and 23 by the J&K police.

The NIA said that they all had played a key role in the terror attack, with Amir Rashid Ali arrested after probe revealed that the car used in the blast was registered in his name, while Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish had provided technical support to the suicide bomber.

The investigation of case was handed over to the NIA by the Home Ministry, soon after the attack. The Anti-Terror Agency has said it is working closely with various state police forces to track and arrest every member of the terrorist module involved in the carnage. (KNO)

### CM thanks

of households impacted by recent floods and landslides by ensuring enhanced livelihood opportunities and timely relief. He expressed appreciation for the Government of India's swift support to J&K.

The Government of India has formally raised the MGNREGA work limit from 100 to 150 days for affected households in Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2025-26. This decision follows the declaration of 1,962 Panchayats as flood-affected, after the UT administration sought special relief to address the adverse impacts on agricultural activities and rural livelihoods. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had recommended this extension, which will directly benefit the most vulnerable families by creating stable incomes, reducing economic hardships, and enabling the creation of durable community assets.

The additional employment support will be implemented with revised management protocols and enhanced monitoring through NREGASoft, the national MIS system, which is being updated to record the extra workdays.

### LG attends 64th

Additional Director General, ITBP, and other senior officials attended the Raising Day celebrations.

### Police step up

Kashmir (JKNOP).

Investigations revealed that Mubashir Ahmad had been actively involved in promoting terrorism, supplying arms and ammunition, and activating local terror networks, an official said.

Meanwhile, security has been heightened in Doda and Kishtwar following the Delhi blast.

DIG DKR Range Shridhar Patil chaired a high-level review with police, army, SSB, and intelligence agencies to focus on patrolling, checkpoints, and intelligence monitoring.

"Coordinated anti-terror operations are ongoing, and the public has been urged to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity," an official part of the meeting said.

Furthermore, a coordinated multi-agency mock drill was carried out at Jammu Airport to assess operational readiness and emergency response capabilities.

"Agencies that participated included CISF, Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police, Indian Air Force, Airports Authority of India (AAI), J&K Fire & Emergency Services, GMC medical team, AAI Fire Services, and CISF BDDS & Dog Squad," the officials said.

They said the exercise aimed to strengthen inter-agency coordination, evaluate standard procedures, and enhance preparedness for real-time emergencies.

Meanwhile, police remain alert across other districts of Kashmir, conducting CASOs, vehicle checks, and frisking to ensure public safety and maintain law and order. (KNO)

### Over 2,000 HIV

Annual allocations increased from 293.57 lakh in 2020-21 to 610.96 lakh in 2024-25, with officials saying most of the funds were utilized.

According to the RTI, JKACS currently operates 48 centres across J&K, including 32 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), 2 State Reference Laboratories, 6 Opioid Substitution Therapy centres, 3 ART centres, and 5 STI clinics. Over 140 personnel, including counsellors, technicians and nurses, are deployed across the Union Territory.

Officials said the budgetary support to JKACS has grown from 82.55 lakh in 2019-20 to 205.20 lakh in 2024-25, covering awareness initiatives, treatment support and coordination with NGOs.

However, despite increased funding and outreach programmes, the RTI data indicates a sustained rise in HIV cases. Experts warn that the trend highlights the need for stronger community education and targeted interventions for high-risk groups. (KNO)

### PM Modi proposes

Skills Multiplier Initiative, the G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and the G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus.

Acknowledging that the G20 Leaders Summit was being held in Africa for the first time, Modi said the focus on striking a balance between development and environment was more appropriate, given that the continent has been a victim of overexploitation of natural resources.

"Now is the right moment for us to revisit our development parameters and focus on growth that is inclusive and sustainable. India's civilisational values, especially the principle of Integral Humanism offers a way forward," Modi told the session on 'Inclusive and sustainable economic growth leaving no one behind.'

Recognising that many communities across the world preserve eco-balanced, culturally rich, and socially cohesive ways of living, the prime minister proposed the creation of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository under the G20.

India's Indian Knowledge Systems initiative

# Delhi Police bust ISI-linked drone arms supply chain

■ 4 held, 10 foreign-made pistols seized

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 22: An international arms trafficking network allegedly linked to Pakistan's ISI-backed suppliers has been busted with the arrest of four key operatives involved in supplying high-end foreign-made weapons to organised crime groups across north India, police said on Saturday.

According to the police, the network sourced foreign-made weapons smuggled from Pakistan using drones and supplied them to gangsters in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Investigations revealed that weapons were being smuggled from Pakistan using customised drones capable of low-altitude flights to evade radar.

Traffickers based across the border allegedly dropped consignments at pre-marked GPS locations along vulnerable stretches of the international border in Punjab late at night.

Local receivers retrieved the packages, transported them to safe houses, and supplied them to crime networks across India. The module used encrypted communication and changed drop locations frequently to avoid surveillance, police said.

The traffickers wrapped weapons in carbon-coated material to evade scanning, and payments were made through hawala and proxy accounts.

Ten sophisticated pistols,



including Turkiye-made PX-5.7 models used only by special forces, along with 92 live cartridges, were seized in the operation, police said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mandeep Singh and Dalvinder Kumar, both from Punjab, and Rohan Tomar and Ajay alias Monu, residents of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh.

Intelligence was received on November 19 about an ISI-backed supply chain linked to the gang of Punjab-origin gangster Sonu Khatri alias Rajesh Kumar, who is currently based in the United States and is

wanted in over 45 criminal cases, police said.

A trap was laid near Khatu Shyam Temple on the Bawana Road stretch in Rohini. A white car arrived at the spot as indicated by the input, and two suspects were intercepted.

A duffel bag concealed inside the vehicle's speaker box was found containing eight foreign-made pistols and 84 live cartridges, officials said. The two men, Mandeep and Dalvinder, were arrested at the spot.

Their interrogation led police to two more associates, Rohan Tomar and Ajay alias Monu, from whose possession two

additional pistols and eight cartridges were recovered.

Police informed that Mandeep and Dalvinder were childhood friends and joined the arms syndicate through Jaspreet alias Jas, a close associate of gangster Sonu Khatri. Jas, currently abroad, is suspected of being connected with ISI-linked suppliers who arranged drone-based deliveries.

Rohan and Ajay were long associated with gangs in Delhi-NCR, including the Gogi gang, Bhaugang and Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu gang, and were involved in distributing sophisticated arms to contract killers

and extortion modules.

A total of 10 pistols, including three Turkiye-made PX-5.7 pistols and five China-made PX-3 pistols, have been seized, along with 92 live cartridges and a white car.

Police said Mandeep, also known as Pita or Manpreet, has an extensive criminal history involving murder, attempted murder, the Gangsters Act and NDPS Act cases. He frequently used fake identities to evade the law.

Dalvinder, who once worked in Dubai, resorted to criminal activities due to financial distress, officials noted.

Rohan and Ajay were allegedly close to the Anil Baliyan-Sanjeev Jeeva syndicate and previously supplied large quantities of weapons to multiple gangs in the region.

Meanwhile, a Red Corner Notice has been issued against foreign-based gangster Sonu Khatri, who police believe is coordinating with ISI-linked arms suppliers.

A senior police officer said the recovery of Turkiye-made PX-5.7 pistols, typically used only by special forces, indicates a "highly sophisticated and well-organised cross-border supply chain."

Further investigation is underway to identify more modules involved in the network, the officer added.

## Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired millions to follow path of service: President



PTI

Puttaparthi (AP), Nov 22: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said that revered spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired millions of people to follow the path of service.

Addressing the birth centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathyasai district, the President said Sathya Sai Baba propagated the belief that 'Service to Mankind is Service to God'.

"Sri Sathya Sai Baba emphasised on the belief 'service to mankind is service to God'...He linked spirituality with selfless service and personal transformation. Sai Baba inspired millions to follow the path of service," said Murmu.

According to the President, Sathya Sai Baba urged his followers to align spirituality with public welfare.

It is a matter of satisfaction that

his devotees in so many countries are serving the underprivileged, she said, adding that Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message of selfless love through selfless service is inspiring the Sri Sathya Sai organisation to volunteer for service.

"Sathya Sai Baba's message of love all and serve all and help ever and hurt never are eternal and universal. Sathya Sai Baba believed that the world is our school and the five human values of truth, good conduct, peace, love and non-violence are our curriculum," said the President.

Earlier, she arrived at Sri Sathya Sai airport in Puttaparthi around 11 am and was received by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and other dignitaries.

Later, they attended the special programme together held as part of the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Poornachandra Auditorium.

## MP HC grants interim stay on action against ancestral house of Al-Falah group chairperson

PTI

Indore, Nov 22: The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has temporarily stayed the Mhow Cantonment Board's notice to remove "unauthorised construction" at the ancestral house of Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, the chancellor of Al-Falah University, which is at the focus of the Delhi blast probe.

The high court passed the interim order on Thursday and disposed of the petition filed by a resident of the house who challenged the Board's notice.

Siddiqui was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on November 18 after the agency conducted searches against the group, linked persons and the Faridabad-based university.

The Board issued a notice on November 19, stating the "unauthorised construction" must be removed within three days, failing which it would remove it under the relevant legal provisions and recover the cost from the occupant or the legal heirs of the property owner.

Abdul Majid, who lives in



the house, challenged the notice in the High Court.

Majid, who identified himself as a farmer, stated in his petition that Siddiqui gave him the property in 2021 under hiba- Islamic gift- after his father Hammad Ahmed's death, and that he owns it based on the hibanama.

Majid's lawyer, Ajay Bagadia, argued in the High Court that the Cantonment Board issued a notice without giving him a client a hearing and issued a direct order to demolish the house. He argued that the petitioner should be given an opportunity to be heard.

Cantonment Board's lawyer Ashutosh Ningaonkar contended that notices had been

issued regarding this house previously, but no response was submitted, and therefore, the petitioner should not be given time to submit a response. The high court passed the interim order on Thursday while allowing a plea filed by Majid.

"From a perusal of the impugned notice, it appears that though earlier notices were issued to the petitioner but they were in the year 1996/1997 i.e. almost 30 years ago, and thereafter, now the impugned notice has been issued", Justice Pranay Verma said after hearing the petitioner and the board. "If any action was to be taken against the petitioner after a period of

almost 30 years from the date of issuance of the previous notice, he ought to have been afforded an opportunity of hearing. Thus, in the available facts of the case, it is directed that the petitioner should file his reply along with all relevant documents before the respondents/competent authority within a period of 15 days from today", the HC said.

Thereafter, the petitioner shall be afforded due opportunity of hearing, and a reasoned and speaking order in the matter shall be passed.

"Till the said exercise is completed and for a period of ten days thereafter, in case the order is against the petitioner, no coercive action shall be taken against him. Without expressing any opinion on merits, the petition stands disposed of," the high court said. According to officials, Siddiqui hails from Mhow. His father, Hammad Ahmed, who served as the town qazi for many years, died long ago.

They said the Cantonment Board's records list house number 1371 in Mukeri Mohalla, Mhow, in the name of the late Hammad Ahmed.

## Lobbying intensified for post of Bihar assembly Speaker

PTI

Patna, Nov 22: A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar allocated the portfolios among the state ministers, lobbying has intensified for the post of Speaker in the assembly, sources in the ruling NDA said on Saturday. BJP MLA Prem Kumar, who has been elected for the ninth consecutive term from the Gaya Town assembly seat, is considered the frontrunner for the Speaker's post as he is one of the senior-most leaders of the party, they said.

The name of Jhajha MLA Damodar Rawat of the JD(U) was also doing the rounds, they said.

A special session of the assembly will soon be convened so that all 243 elected members can take the oath and elect a Speaker, the sources said.

The date for the commencement of the special assembly session will be decided at a state Cabinet meeting, which will be held on November 25, they said.

"The governor will first appoint a Protem Speaker who will administer the oath to the newly elected members. After the members take the oath, the election of the Speaker will be held," said a senior leader of an NDA constituent.

The two main NDA constituents - the BJP and JD(U) - are eying the post

of Speaker, the sources said.

"Now lobbying has intensified for the post of Speaker among the alliance partners," a JD(U) leader said.

Echoing him, a BJP insider said, "The lobbying is underway. Our senior-most MLA Prem Kumar is the frontrunner for the Speaker's post."

Prem Kumar, who was the cooperative minister in the previous NDA government, defeated Congress candidate Akhauri Onkar Nath by a margin of 26,423 votes this time.

He was also the leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly between 2015 and 2017.

Sources in the JD(U) said Jhajha MLA Damodar Rawat is also in discussion for the post.

In the outgoing assembly, BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav served as the Speaker, while JD(U)'s Narendra Narayan Yadav held the position of Deputy Speaker.

"A section of JD(U) leaders believe since Awadhesh Narain Singh of the BJP holds the position of chairman of the state legislative council, the assembly Speaker should go to Nitish Kumar's party," the sources said.

The BJP may take the Deputy Speaker's post, they said.

JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar was on Thursday sworn in as the Bihar chief minister for a record 10th term here at a grand ceremony.

## Labour code implementation provides flexibility simplification to export firms

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 22: The implementation of labour codes will help strengthen the country's export ecosystem as it provides flexibility, simplification, and predictability, which are essential to compete in volatile global markets while meeting international compliance requirements, an official said on Saturday.

The commerce ministry official said that for workers, the same provisions ensure fair wages, social security, safety, equality, and avenues for upskilling and dignity of labour.

In a landmark move, the government on Friday implemented the four labour codes, pending since 2020, introducing worker-friendly measures like a timely minimum wage for all and universal social security, including gig and platform workers, while allowing longer work hours, broader fixed-term employment, and employer-friendly retrenchment rules.

The commerce ministry official said that each of these provisions under the codes contributes in a distinct yet interconnected manner to the strengthening of India's export ecosystem.

"For export-oriented industries, the codes provide flexibility, simplification, and predictability essential to compete in volatile global markets while meeting international compliance expectations," the official said.

Introduction of a uniform definition of "wages" across all labour codes would eliminate the ambiguity created by multiple, inconsistent definitions in earlier laws, the official said adding for export-oriented industries operating in multiple states, it simplifies payroll administration and compliance, ensuring uniformity in wage calculations for social security contributions, bonus, and gratuity.

For export industries functioning across states, national floor wage and minimum wage rationalisation offer predictability in labour cost structures and eliminates regional disparities.

"The prohibition of gender-based discrimination in recruitment and wages ensures equal remuneration for equal work. For export industries, this aligns domestic practices with international labour and human rights standards, particularly those demanded by global retail and sourcing partners," the official said.

## Delhi: RWAs, security staff to receive electric heaters to curb pollution from 'wood, coal fires'

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 22: In a bid to curb pollution caused by the burning of coal and wood during winter, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday announced that the government will distribute 10,000 electric heaters to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and security personnel across the city. Speaking at an event at the Open Amphitheatre, Delhi Haat, Pitampura, where she launched the initiative along with Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the chief minister said the move is part of the government's broader efforts to reduce local emissions during peak winter months.

"In Delhi's war against pollution, the government has taken another positive step. Coal and wood combustion are among the sources of Delhi's pollution. To reduce that, we have decided to



distribute 10,000 electric heaters to RWAs and will request people not to burn wood and cause pollution," Gupta said.

She emphasised that public participation is crucial for the success of the initiative. "Every resident of Delhi has to contribute to this effort. We will connect every RWA with this initiative and felicitate those who perform well," she said. Gupta added that the government will encourage RWAs and residents across all blocks to adopt cleaner heating practices and ensure that wood burning is discouraged.

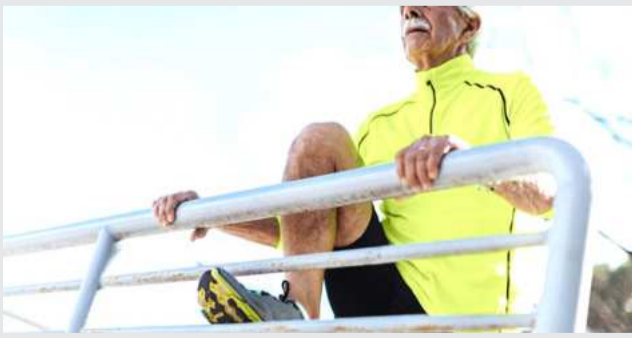
## US study finds physical activity in mid-life could lower dementia risk by 45 pc

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 22: Regular physical activity during mid-life years and later could lower one's risk of developing dementia by up to 45 per cent, compared to those who are less active during the period, found an analysis of over 4,300 adults in a US town.

The findings, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), could help develop strategies that are timed to the most relevant stages of adult life, researchers said.

Dementia is an ageing-related condition in which one's memory, thought processes and speech are steadily impacted over time, and can eventually interfere with daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. Researchers from



Boston University School of Medicine looked at data from the 'Framingham Heart Study', which began in 1948 and recruited men and women from the town of Framingham in the US state of Massachusetts. The participants were followed up for a period of up to 37 years.

"Individuals with the highest levels of physical activity at mid-life and late-life had 41 per

cent and 45 per cent lower risk of all-cause dementia, respectively, compared with those with the lowest levels of physical activity," authors wrote.

Among the participants -- 1,526 young adults, 1,943 in mid-life and 855 in late years -- 567 cases of dementia were noted at the end of the follow-up period.

Moderate levels of physical activity was associated with

35-38 per cent lower risk of dementia, compared to the least physically active ones.

The researchers also looked at how carrying the 'APOE e4' gene variant -- considered among the strongest factors for developing Alzheimer's disease -- impacted the link between physical activity and dementia risk.

For those not carrying the gene variant, highest levels of physical activity during mid-life were linked to a nearly 50-60 per cent lower risk of dementia, while highest levels during late-life resulted in a 46 per cent lower risk, compared to lowest levels of activity.

However, for those carrying the gene variant, highest levels of physical activity in late-life was related with a 66 per cent lower dementia risk, compared to lowest levels.

# Takeaways from the Trump-Mamdani White House meeting

REUTERS

New York/Washington, Nov 21: President Donald Trump hosted New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani at the White House on Friday for a meeting that took place without apparent conflict despite their radically different worldviews.

Here are some takeaways from their closely watched encounter:

Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here.

## CHANGING THE SUBJECT

What was the biggest victory for Trump? He changed the subject by changing his rhetoric on Mamdani, who he previously blasted as a "100% Communist Lunatic."

"We agree on a lot more than I would have thought," the president said, his occasional scowl replaced with a wide smile as he praised Mamdani, referred to him as "Mr. Mayor," and predicted success for his tenure leading New York. Trump's warm welcome of Mamdani and their televised tete-a-tete in the Oval Office captivated political enthusiasts and moved the headlines into more positive territory for the president after weeks of politically damaging coverage of files related to the late Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex offender who was once a friend of Trump.

With Trump's poll numbers sinking and some of his policies failing to gain traction, shifting the focus to a different topic is just what Trump needed — and may be a reason for him not to turn on Mamdani again anytime soon.

## AFFORDABILITY AGENDA

Trump and Mamdani said they focused their private discussion on the cost of living and affordability, issues at the heart of Mamdani's mayoral victory. Trump talked at length about bringing down the price of groceries and housing.

"Some of his ideas are the same ideas I have," said Trump, who opined that some of his supporters voted for Mamdani.

A former real estate developer, Trump brightened at



Mamdani's call for more housing in New York and Mamdani made a point of saying his campaign had reached out to Trump's base.

"When we spoke to those voters who voted for President Trump, we heard them speak of the cost of living," he said.

By emphasizing pocket-book issues, the two men largely dodged topics of disagreement such as immigration policy and the war in Gaza. But their economic focus also represented smart politics for Trump as polls show affordability remains the number one concern for voters nationwide.

The White House indicated that the cost of living will be a top priority for Trump's next year, ahead of the midterm elections that will determine whether the president's Republican party retains control of Congress.

## HOLDING HIS OWN

Mamdani, a Democrat, appeared comfortable and confident standing in the Oval Office. He spoke respectfully of Trump while sticking to the themes of his political campaign.

While the president praised him, Mamdani did not really praise the president, and he did not shy away from critical subjects, such as his views about Trump's immigration policies and how they impact New York.

Both answered questions, though Mamdani deferred to Trump to choose which journalists to acknowledge from the press pool, which included New York-focused and right-leaning reporters.

At one point, Trump weighed in to support Mamdani as the mayor-elect fielded a question about why he flew to Washington instead of taking a train.

"I'll stick up for you," Trump said, adding that a flight was the fastest way to get to D.C. from New York City.

## Warmth, familiarity, even fraternity.

In what could have been a contentious meeting between political polar opposites, Trump and Mamdani exuded friendliness in their first get-together since the democratic socialist became New York City's mayor-elect after beating establishment party figures in the Democratic primary, notably former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Unlike aggressive meetings Trump has had with some foreign leaders in the same space, the president appeared calm, supportive and even enthusiastic about Mamdani as the two men appeared before cameras.

They displayed amiable body language. Trump shook Mamdani's hand more than once, patting it with his other in apparent affection, and touched or playfully punched his arm at other times, almost paternally, while they took questions together from the press. Trump, appearing like an elder statesman, sat at his desk, while Mamdani, the younger upstart, stood next to him, his hands clasped. Trump wore a wide red power tie, Mamdani wore a narrower blue one, both colors corresponding to their

respective political party affiliations.

## TRUMP LIKES WINNERS

Some expected fireworks between the volatile conservative president and the mayor-elect who reaffirmed his embrace of the "democratic socialist" label. Yet the aftermath of the meeting was surprisingly cordial.

Trump suggested that Mamdani might "change his mind" about some policies. "I think he's going to surprise some conservative people," the president said.

Trump, who praised Mamdani's performance during the mayoral primaries and general election, has always liked winners.

Bringing Mamdani to the White House was not considerably different than inviting a championship sports team — a presidential tradition that Trump relishes.

And as a fellow New Yorker, Trump may have a level of respect for someone who successfully navigated the city's stormy politics. "Being the mayor of New York City is a big deal," Trump said.

At times Trump acted as if he were meeting with a fellow head of state. He remarked about the media attention the two had drawn, saying it exceeded the scrutiny attracted by some leaders of other countries.

Trump grew up in Queens, where Mamdani resides now, making him the city's first mayor from that borough. It is possible both men saw themselves as somewhat kindred spirits.

"I love New York City," the president said.

## PM Modi announces new trilateral tech, innovation partnership with Aus, Canada

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 22: A new trilateral technology and innovation partnership was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (November 22, 2025) after a meeting with his Australian and Canadian counterparts on the sidelines of the G-20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg.

"We are delighted to announce an Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership today," Mr. Modi said in a social media post after meeting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Canada's Mark Carney.

"The initiative will deepen collaboration between democratic partners across three continents and three



oceans in emerging technologies, support diversification of supply chains, clean energy and mass adoption of AI," he said.

Separately, Mr. Modi on Saturday (November 22) met his British counterpart Keir Starmer and UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "It was wonderful meeting Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Johannesburg. This year has brought new energy to the India-UK partnership and we will keep driving it forward

across many domains," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

The Prime Minister said he had a "very productive" conversation with UN chief Guterres. Addressing the opening session of the G-20 Leaders' Meeting, Mr. Modi called for a profound rethink of the global development parameters and proposed setting up of a G-20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus and a global healthcare response team.

## Ukraine facing 'one of most difficult moments' amid US peace push: Zelensky

IANIS

Kyiv, Nov 22: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that his country is facing "one of the most difficult moments" in its history as it considers the US-proposed 28-point peace plan. "We are now in one of the most difficult moments in our history. The pressure on Ukraine is at its heaviest. Ukraine could now face a very difficult choice: either the loss of dignity, or the risk of losing a key partner. Either the difficult 28 points, or an extremely difficult winter," Zelensky said in his address to the nation.

The next week will be very challenging and full of events, Zelensky said, noting that he plans to propose alternatives to amend the US plan and that Ukraine's interests must be taken into account in the document. Xinhua news agency reported. Zelensky stressed that he will present arguments, persuade, and offer alternatives but will not give the enemy any reason to claim that Ukraine does not want peace.

On Thursday, Zelensky announced that the US side presented him with a plan aimed at ending the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

## UN chief Guterres urges G20 to use power to ease global suffering

PTI

Johannesburg, Nov 22: The G20 nations hold enormous potential to ease suffering and set the world on a more peaceful course, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, urging the bloc to lead the action required.

Guterres made the remarks at a media briefing shortly after arriving in Johannesburg on Friday to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit for the next two days.

"My message to G20 leaders over the next two days is simple. Now is the time for leadership and vision," Guterres said as he cited conflicts, climate chaos, economic uncertainty, inequality and a collapse in global aid as causes of inflicting massive suffering around the world. He added that rising military spending is drawing resources away from development.

"As the world's largest economies, the G20 nations can hold enormous influence to ease suffering, ensure that economic growth is widely shared, and set our world on a better, more peaceful course for the future," he said.

Guterres said that during the Summit, he would call on G20 members to use their leverage to lead the required action needed.

"Developing countries — in particular in Africa — are suffering from a perfect storm of shrinking fiscal space, crushing debt burdens, and a global financial architecture that is failing to support — or even represent — them adequately."

## IND v SA, 2nd Test

## Stubbs says not easy to be shifted up and down batting order



PTI

Guwahati, Nov 22: South African batter Tristan Stubbs, who scored 49 off 113 balls on day 1 of the second Test against India in Guwahati on Saturday, said a mental adjustment was needed to adjust to his promotion up the order. A specialist middle-order batter, Stubbs was promoted to No. 3 by head coach Shukri Conrad.

"It's not the easiest thing moving around but whatever the coach asks, I'm just happy to be in the team. I have worked a lot on my defence as I had been a white ball player."

"....and then being asked to

go about at number three, so I grafted hard on the defence and because I find that at number three, you can afford to be a little bit more defensive," he added. "The change is not so much technical, but mental. (It's) probably (about) tightening your game plan, especially if it's doing a bit up front and maybe checking your scoring options."

Better wicket for survival After the degree of difficulty faced by batters in Kolkata, the Barsapara Stadium seems like a better track for surviving, although it is not one where a batter can play free-flowing strokes.

## India to face Nepal in first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup final



AFP

Colombo, Nov 22: India beat Australia on Saturday to enter the final of the first Blind Women's T20 World Cup against Nepal, winner of the other semifinal against Pakistan in Colombo. India won the first semifinal by nine wickets while Nepal cruised into Sunday's final at Colombo's P. Saravanamuttu Stadium after beating Pakistan by seven wickets.

Australia's Chanakan

Buakhao top-scored with 34 to take its total to 109 for nine in 20 overs. India's Simranjeet Kour took 1-6, having bowled two overs. Australia suffered six runouts. Basanti Hansda top-scored for India with 45 while Ganga Kadam (41) and K. Karuna (16) were not out when they took India into the finals with 112 for one in 11.5 overs.

In the second match for the day, India won by seven wickets after restricting Pakistan to 169 for six in 20 overs. Nepal

lost two quick wickets, but managed to coast to a comfortable victory.

Pakistan's poor bowling helped, conceding 47 extras, making it the highest score for Nepal.

Nepal's Binita Pun scored 46 off 23 balls before being ruled out hit wicket. Susma Tamang was not out on 36.

Pakistan's Shumaila Kiran, with 1-10, was the best bowler while Mehreen Ali ended up with 1-45.



MASTII 4 (A)  
HINDI - 10:20 AM, 01:50 PM, 06:45 PM



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



DE DE PYAAR DE 2 (U/A13+)  
HINDI - 01:15 PM, 07:10 PM



120 BAHADUR (UA 13+)  
HINDI ATMOS - 12:30 PM, 06:45 PM  
HINDI - 04:15 PM



WICKED: FOR GOOD (UA 16+)  
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 10:55 AM  
3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
05:50 PM

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