

New India won't bow before terrorism, Op Sindoor its biggest example: PM Modi

'Committed to peace, but won't compromise on security'

Ahmad Taimur

Srinagar, Nov 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that new India does not bow against terrorism and that it is committed to peace, but won't compromise on its security.

Addressing a programme on the 350th Martyrdom anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur in Kurukshetra, PM Modi, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that India preaches the message of brotherhood to the world, but at the same time knows how to secure its borders.

"We are committed to peace, but won't compromise on our security. Operation Sindoor is the biggest example of this. The whole world has seen that new India neither fears, nor stops, nor bows down against terrorism," he said.



The Prime Minister said that today's India moves forward with courage, clarity, and full strength.

India launched Operation Sindoor in May this year against Pakistan in response to the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 civilians dead and

many others injured.

It was a targeted and precision strike operation to dismantle terrorist launchpads and facilities belonging to groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied

Young athletes Bharat's 'Bhagya Vidhatas': LG Manoj Sinha

Urges Kashmir youth to oppose radicalisation, extremist groups

Encourages focus on nation-building, excellence, sportsmanship

Predicts J&K youth representing India with pride on international stage

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 25: Calling the young athletes participating in the National School Games as the "Bhagya Vidhatas (destiny writers)" of Bharat, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called upon the J&K youth to step up against organisations and individuals involved in radicalisation in Kashmir.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 69th National School Games- 2025 here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The young athletes reflect unity and the spirit of building a stronger Bharat."

He called upon the J&K youth to stay away from radical influences and instead channel their energy towards nation-building, excellence, and sportsmanship.



The Lieutenant Governor said, "When youth and new ambitions come together, they provide a new direction to society. Athletes, with their skills and hard work, help in writing the destinies of the nation."

He called upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to stay away from radical influences and instead channel their energy towards nation-building, excellence, and sportsmanship.

platforms. "In the coming times, people would like to see the youth of J&K carrying the tricolour and winning medals for the country."

He said players from 34 states and Union Territories participating in the National School Games in Jammu is a matter of pride for the region. "The event stands as a powerful symbol of youth empowerment and aspiration," he added.

Terming sportspersons as the future leaders of India, the LG said they must "lead from the front and drive the nation forward."

He highlighted that athletes promote national integration and embody the true strength of the country's youth power.

"Youth need to dream big and work hard to fulfil their dreams. They have a special role to play in the progress of the nation," he said, adding that

'PM Modi's promised dialogue can open path to statehood, dignity'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 25: Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari Tuesday said the dialogue promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of Jammu and Kashmir must begin without delay.

Speaking to reporters in Handwara, Bukhari, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the promised talks can open a clear path to statehood, dignity and employment opportunities for the youth besides, a roadmap to protect the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who joined India in 1947.

On the power tariff issue, Bukhari said any move to raise power tariffs will face strong resistance. The Chief Minister has

already assured that no proposal for a tariff hike has reached his office, he said.

He added that if the government proceeds with a hike, the Apni Party will take the protest to the streets.

Bukhari called for a complete review of the reservation policy. He said the current system does not reflect merit or population share. He said young people deserve a fair policy that matches ground realities.

Responding to NC leader and Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah's deadline remarks on the issue, Bukhari said the matter is internal to the National Conference and makes no difference.

He rejected claims that his party has any link with the BJP. He said he has clarified this from the start.

Who's to blame if students from SMVDU are shifted, become radicalised, asks CM Omar

» Says why university wasn't granted minority status when established

» 'Automated vehicle testing station to reduce accidents, prevent loss of lives'

Raja Syed Rather

Jammu, Nov 25: Stating that Muslim children must not be pushed to the wall, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday questioned why the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) was not granted minority status at the time of its establishment if the intention was to reserve seats for a particular community.

"Why was the institute not granted minority status when the medical college was established?" Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said while speaking to reporters here after laying the foundation stone for an automated vehicle testing station.

Reacting to the Leader



of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, the CM said, "You were supposed to grant minority status (to SMVDU), but you didn't. Admissions are made

solely on the basis of NEET and other entrance tests. Religion is not considered. Now, if you want Muslims not to study there, then declare it a minority institute."

CM reviews progress in completion of Revenue Dept projects

Calls for early execution of pending works

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the progress of infrastructure projects taken up by the Revenue Department.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (Financial Commissioner Revenue) Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Divisional



Commissioner Kashmir, all Deputy Commissioners, and other senior officials. Officers from various districts joined via video conferencing.

At the outset, Secretary

Revenue delivered a detailed presentation on 18 major building projects—including tehsil and niabat offices, residential quarters, mini secretariats, and revenue

After 5-year break, 4 MPs to represent J&K in Rajya Sabha

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 25: Three recently elected Rajya Sabha members from National Conference will take oath on December 1, the opening day of the Winter Session of the Parliament.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) three MPs, Shammi Oberoi, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, and Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan will be administered the oath by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

The oath ceremony would mark the return of Rajya Sabha representation for Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of nearly five years.

The leaders were elected last month in the maiden Rajya Sabha



polls in the Union Territory since the reorganization of the erstwhile state and the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The polls were held for four seats of which NC won three, while the BJP secured one seat, with its candidate Sat Sharma having already taken the oath.

Chowdhary Mohammad

Ramzan is a former minister and MLA who has served multiple terms in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo is also a former minister from Kishtwar, and Shammi Oberoi, the party treasurer, will join the Upper House representing the NC.

The previous Rajya Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir completed their six-year terms on February 2, 2021. These members included Ghulam Nabi Azad (INC), Nazir Ahmad Laway (PDP), Fayaz Ahmad Mir (PDP), and Shamsheer Singh Manhas (BJP).

Their seats remained vacant as Jammu and Kashmir did not have an elected legislative assembly, which is required under Article 80 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for conducting biennial elections to the Upper House.

The elections and oath-taking mark the significant step in restoring Jammu and Kashmir's representation in Parliament following the changes to its political structure.

The newly elected MPs will now assume

Custodial violence and death a blot on system, country will not tolerate this: Supreme Court

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said custodial violence and death is a "blot" on the system, and the country will not tolerate this.

While hearing a suo motu case concerning lack of functional CCTVs in police stations, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta referred to its order passed in the matter and said 11 deaths were reported in police custody in eight months in Rajasthan.

"Now this country will not tolerate this. This is a blot on the

system. You can't have deaths in custody," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said nobody can even justify or attempt to justify custodial deaths. The bench also questioned the Centre as to why it has not filed compliance affidavit in the matter.

"The Union is taking this court very lightly. Why?" Justice Nath asked.

Mehta said he was not appearing in the suo motu matter but nobody can take the court lightly.

He said the Centre would file the compliance affidavit within



three weeks.

In September, the apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police custody in Rajasthan in the first

eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in the Udaipur division.

In a separate matter, the apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench also heard the submissions of senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who is assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in a separate matter in which the top court had passed an order in December 2020.

In that

DIPR promotes J&K Film policy at IFFI Goa

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government, through Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), participated in 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Goa.

The J&K Government was represented by Commissioner Secretary Information, M Raju; Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr Zahoor Ahmad; Joint Director Information Jammu Deepak Dubey; Nodal Officer, J&K Film Policy Maheer Thakur and Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain at the grand film festival.



During the festival, a grand J&K Pavillion was established in WAVES Film Bazaar to promote J&K Film Policy, lay red carpet for the aspiring filmmakers to

shoot in picturesque Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the festival, Director Information Nitish Rajora said

CS for accountability, speed to achieve power sector reforms

Reviews pace, progress of loss reduction, smart metering works



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday undertook an in-depth review of the reforms being implemented by the Power Development Department (PDD) across Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening infrastructure and substantially reducing power losses under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The review meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, PDD; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers of the Corporations; representatives of NTPC and PESL, besides other senior officers.

Emphasising the need for strict adherence to timelines, the Chief Secretary directed that all ongoing reform works aimed at loss reduction must be completed within the sunset period prescribed under RDSS by the Government of India.

He stressed on fixing daily and weekly targets for all components of loss reduction works, including LT cable replacement, augmentation and replacement of the distribution system, HT line cabling, replacement of HT conductors, feeder segregation and installation of electric poles.

He further underlined the importance of improving feeder-wise billing and revenue collection efficiency and called for stringent action against officials found negligent or lax in discharging their responsibilities. The Chief Secretary instructed

the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to conduct monthly reviews and identify field-level staff failing to perform responsibly.

To prevent delays during the harsh winter season, especially in snow-bound and remote areas, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for advance dumping of essential material in difficult terrains to ensure uninterrupted execution of works despite road closures.

He also directed senior officers and Deputy Commissioners to maintain continuous oversight for timely resolution of bottlenecks and to keep the pace of implementation up to the mark.

The ACS PDD, Shailendra Kumar urged all Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to submit comprehensive action plans for accelerating progress on the ground. He encouraged parallel execution of multiple components immediately after the erection of electric poles and sought detailed information on transportation and delivery of materials to remote areas like Marwah, Wadwan, Gurez and Tanghdar. He also emphasised the need for immediate regularisation of illegal connections to augment government revenue and provide uninterrupted supply to consumers.

Sensitising PESL and NTPC, he called upon them to significantly accelerate their execution pace, assuring them of proportionate funding support once received by the Department from the Ministry of Power. He urged the agencies to clearly define milestones and adhere strictly to committed timelines. MD JPDCL,

Gurpal Singh, in his detailed presentation, outlined the progress of loss reduction, modernisation and smart metering initiatives under Phase-I of RDSS. He informed that works worth 4,709 Cr under loss reduction and 1,053 Cr under smart metering are targeted for completion in this phase across J&K.

He explained that works have been divided into multiple packages and awarded to four PIAs including JPDCL, KPDCL, PESL and NTPC for their completion within stipulated deadlines.

The PIA-wise progress in Loss Reduction and IT/OT works stood at 74% for JPDCL, 73% for KPDCL, 57% and 33% for PESL in Kashmir and Jammu respectively, and 72% and 31% for NTPC in these divisions.

The meeting was further informed that AT&C losses have already been reduced from 58% in 2022 to around 32% at present, with a target to bring them down to 12% by 2028. Similarly, the ACS-ARR gap has been reduced from 3.11 to 1.29, while billing efficiency has improved from 56% to 69% and collection efficiency from 75% to 94%, reflecting significant strides towards financial sustainability and operational efficiency in the power sector.

Regarding smart metering, it was disclosed that out of 7,62,872 meters to be installed by JPDCL, 1,87,894 have been installed so far, while KPDCL has installed 1,93,777 meters out of the targeted 7,27,855, marking steady progress towards a transparent and consumer-friendly power distribution mechanism across the districts of J&K.

DLSA organizes awareness programme

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 25: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized an Awareness Programme on the complete prohibition of manual scavenging and unsafe sewer cleaning at Sheikh ul Alam School Chadoora Tuesday. The programme was conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and supervised by, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat.

The primary objective of the programme was to ensure the

complete prohibition of manual scavenging and all forms of unsafe sewer cleaning, in strict compliance with the statutory mandates. DLSA, Budgam, deputed Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) and assistant LADC as resource persons for the event. They delivered insightful presentations on the scheme and sensitized the participants about its objectives, legal framework, and implementation mechanisms.

In his address, Deputy LADC, emphasized the prohibition of manual scavenging and unsafe sewer cleaning and explained the significance of implementing the Supreme Court's directions.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHOPIAN

JOIN MISSION YUVA BUILD THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN J&K

District Administration, Shopian, invites applications for key contractual roles under the small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) initiative, Positions include:

Name of Posts	Remuneration per month (Lum Sum in ₹)
SBDU Lead 01 post	50,000
SBDU Coordinator (02 posts)	35,000
SBDU Financial expert (01 post)	35,000
SBDU Enterprise development expert (01 post)	35,000
SBDU Marketing expert (01 post)	35,000
BHD Lead (02 posts)	40,000
BHD Coordinator (04 posts)	35,000

Eligibility:

1. 21 –45 years as on the date of notification.

2. Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir.

3. Minimum 3 years graduate degree. The Qualifying degree must be in one of the following disciplines- Business Administration, Management, Commerce, Accounting, Finance, Economics.

At least 50% marks or equivalent CGPA from a UGC-recognized university.

Apply via this form: <https://forms.gle/6RUiopm5GqVzhp8A9>

Deadline: 15 days from the date of Publication of Advertisement.

Guidelines for the detailed selection process, evaluation criteria and role descriptions: <https://shorturl.at/SPMh3>

Yuva Sapne, Nayi Ummeedin- Mission YUVA

Issued By: District Administration, Shopian.

(Note: This is public service advertisement. No fee is required for the application process.)

No: DDCS/PA/2025/3843-46 Dated: 24-11-2025

DIPK-8382/25
DATED: 25-11-2025

Deputy Commissioner
Shopian

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210

Advertisement Notice No. 09 GMCA of 2025

Dated:24-11-2025

Applications through online mode are invited from eligible candidates who are domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and in possession of the prescribed academic/professional qualification and age for the tenure post of Senior Residents/Demonstrators for the following disciplines:

S. No.	Name of Discipline	Eligibility Criteria as per Teachers Eligibility Qualifications in Medical Institutions Regulations, 2025
	Physiology	a) MBBS with MD/DNB in the concerned discipline from an Institution recognized by National Medical Commission and registered with J&K State Medical Council, or b) Post-graduate medical degree in Master of Science with Doctor of Philosophy in the medical subjects of concerned discipline from a recognized medical institution.
	Forensic Medicine	MBBS with MS/MD/DNB in the concerned discipline from an Institution recognized by National Medical Commission and registered with J&K State Medical Council.
	Community Medicine	
	General Medicine	
	Anesthesiology	
	Respiratory Medicine	
	Radiotherapy	
	Radio-Diagnosis	

The selected candidates shall be engaged initially for a period of one year which is extendable up to maximum of three years, however, extension on year-to-year basis shall be granted subject to better performance of the candidates to be certified by the concerned HOD's after completion of each year of their engagement. Candidates interested in applying for the said posts at Government Medical College Anantnag can apply online from 28-11-25 on www.gmc.anantnag.ac.in. The hard copy of the application forms duly signed by the candidate complete in all aspects and accompanied with a non-refundable bank draft for Rs. 500/- pledged to Principal Govt. Medical College Anantnag and payable at JK Bank Dialgam, shall be submitted in the office of Administrative Officer Govt. Medical College Anantnag by or before 17-12-25.

Important Instructions for candidates:

- Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filling in the online application form.
- Candidates are required to upload scanned copies of original certificates. Photocopies of certificates uploaded shall not be entertained.
- The candidate must write his/her name, parentage and date of birth strictly as per the matriculation certificate.
- Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection/inability or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days.
- Applicants are advised to fill all the fields of the online application form with due diligence and after carefully reading the terms and conditions given in the advertisement notification, request for change/correction in any particulars in the application form once submitted, will not be entertained under any circumstances.
- Applications with blurred/illegal photograph/signature will be rejected summarily.
- In case of fake/fabricated application/registration by misusing any dignitaries name/photo such candidate(s) shall be held responsible for the same and liable for suitable legal action under cyber/IT Act/relevant rules.
- Candidates shall ensure that their e-mail ID and phone No's as specified in the online application form are active during the pendency of selection process.
- After the application form is successfully submitted, it will be accepted provisionally, candidate should take the colored printout of the application form(s) and submit hard copy(s) of the same duly signed by the candidate along with xerox copies (self-attested) of all uploaded certificates in the office of Administrative Officer, Government Medical College Anantnag along with non-refundable bank draft for Rs. 500/- pledged to Principal Govt. Medical College Anantnag and payable at JK Bank Dialgam, by or before

Terms & Conditions:

- Pursuant to Government Order No.383-JK(HME) of 2024 Dated: 20.06.2024, the eligibility criteria have been fixed as per Teachers Eligibility Qualification in Medical Institution regulations, 2025 issued vide notification Dated: 30.06.2025.
- The selection of the candidates shall be made on the basis of the performance in MCQ based written test only as prescribed vide Government Order No. 383-JK(HME) of 2024 Dated: 20.06.2024.
- Conditions for Not In-Service/In-Service Candidates:
For (not in-service) Academic Arrangement Basis candidates:
 - Those candidates who are not in-service shall be engaged under S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 (Academic Arrangement Basis)
 - Not in-service doctors shall be paid stipend in accordance with S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated: 27.11.2020.For in-service candidates:
 - The application forms of the in-service eligible candidates shall be entertained only after fulfillment of all pre-requisites, in accordance with relevant rules, as envisaged in the J&K Civil Service Rules 1979 and production of NOC from the parent department as envisaged in the Circular No. 03-HME of 2019 dated 27.05.2019 and guidelines issued by Administrative Department from time to time.
 - The in-service doctor shall be paid salary as per their LPC.
- The application forms should be accompanied with the following self-attested copies of the documents: -
 - MBBS Degree certificate from a recognized University/Institution.
 - Internship completion certificate.
 - MD/MS/DNB/ MSc qualification certificates of the respective specialty.
 - MCI/J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS and MD/MS/DNB.
 - All Mark sheets MBBS/MD/MS/ MSc.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - No Objection Certificate (for In-service candidates only)
 - Screening Test Pass Certificate (in case of FMG's).
- Incomplete application form(s) in any respect or not appended with relevant certificates shall be rejected without further notice.
- The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and modification to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice.
- Candidate may note that their candidature will remain provisional till the genuineness of their character & antecedents/documents relating to educational qualification is verified by the appointing authority.
- Separate application along with requisite fee is to be filed for each post applied.
- In case any declaration by the candidates is found to be false or if the candidate has willfully suppressed any material/information relevant to his/her appointment, his/her selection will be cancelled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the erring candidates.
- The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement as mentioned in S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 and that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of tenure (six months), however abandoning/terminating after six months of the engagement in the specialty will require one-month prior notice on either side failing which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.
- The maximum age for eligibility to apply shall be 45 years as on cutoff date i.e., 17-12-25 for in-service and non-PSC candidates. However, for the disciplines of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Community Medicine, the upper age-limit shall be 50 Years.
- There shall be a waiting list which shall remain in force for a period of 03 months from the date of issue of the selection list.
- In case of a tie in merit secured by two or more candidates in the written test, the candidate(s) with earlier date of birth shall be given preference.
- No selected candidate who joins the institution as Senior Resident/Demonstrator shall be given experience certificate, if he/she fails to serve on such post/position for at least six months.

Dated: 24-11-2025
No: GMCA/Estt/2025/8492-97

DIPK-8374/25
DATED: 25-11-2025

Principal/Dean Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

DC Budgam chairs meeting on SC rulings over stray dog menace

Directs strict safety measures in all educational, health institutions

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday convened a detailed review meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC), to assess the implementation of the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India regarding stray dog menace in educational and health institutions here in the New Conference Hall of DC Office Budgam.

As per the directives of the Supreme Court, the

Court has expressed grave concern over the threat posed by stray dogs to school children and has issued explicit directions to ensure the safety of students and staff within all educational premises.

During the meeting, the DC underscored that compliance with the Court's directions must be ensured in letter and spirit and emphasized that the safety and welfare of children is an absolute administrative priority. He remarked that matters under direct judicial monitoring require strict accountability and

that no delay, negligence, or procedural lapse would be tolerated. The DC reviewed the preparedness of all departments and directed that immediate administrative measures be taken across government and recognized private educational institutions.

Chief Education Officer was directed to nominate a Nodal Officer responsible for the sanitation, upkeep, and cleanliness of the institution.

The DC directed the CEO to ensure that no stray dogs enter or remain within school campuses and

must coordinate with local authorities wherever interventions are required.

During the meeting, the DC also issued a series of specific instructions to further strengthen the district-wide response to stray dog management. He directed the Municipal Committees of Budgam for construction of separate shelter sheds and quarantine centres for dogs and instructed immediate identification of suitable land parcels within one week, ensuring that the locations remain away from populated areas.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.

Subject: Verification of Character & Antecedents of the applicants who have applied for compassionate appointment case under SRO-43 of 1994.
Reference: O.M No. GAD-SRO/197/2025(7695043) dated 13.11.2025 from General Administration Department.

NOTICE

The applicant namely Ms. Afroza Akhter DA) Assad-Ullah Para Wd/o Naseer Ahmad Najar Rio Ranger, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam is hereby informed to submit her email ID and contact details in the office of Secretary to the Government, School Education Department Civil Secretariat Jammu in person, within a period of 21 days positively, for uploading/registering the same on the employees verification system (EVS), for obtaining the Character and Antecedents report from the Criminal Investigation Department, failing which she shall forfeit her right for appointment under Compassionate Appointment rules notified vide SRO-43 of 1994.

Thannaji Bhat Under Secretary to
the Government School Education Department

No. Edu-SROK/44/2024-01(7534539)
Dated: 24.11.2025

DIPK-8411/25
DATED: 25-11-2025

KASHMIR
THUNDER



IS AVAILABLE
AT ALL LEADING
STALLS

CM Omar lays foundation of ATS at Nagrota



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday laid the foundation stone for setting up of an Automated Vehicle Testing Station (ATS) at Khanpur, Nagrota, Jammu, marking a significant stride towards strengthening road safety and modernising transport infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said that the establishment of the state-of-the-art Automated Testing Station will usher in a more transparent, efficient and technology-driven vehicle fitness regime.

He noted that such facilities are

essential for reducing road accidents, ensuring compliance with safety standards and curbing manual irregularities in the fitness certification process.

Omar Abdullah reiterated his government's commitment to adopting modern systems and improving public service delivery across various departments.

The foundation laying ceremony was attended by Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Secretary Transport Avny Lavasa, Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Regional Transport Officer Jammu and other senior officers of the Transport Department.

Peace, progress visible in Lal Chowk: Punjab Governor



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 25 (KNO): The Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday walked through the streets of Lal Chowk in Srinagar, describing the iconic square as a reflection of India's unity and Kashmir's journey from uncertainty to progress.

Recalling the 'Ekta Yatra' led by senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi, as a journey that culminated with the hoisting of the tricolour at the same spot, Kataria said it was an emotional moment to see the flag flying freely at the Clock Tower.

"The tricolour here is not just a piece of cloth. It represents our collective struggle, unity and pride as a nation. I always wanted to stand here, where the symbol of India's integrity waves proudly," he told reporters, at clock tower Lal Chowk.

Kataria, who arrived in Kashmir on a multi-day visit, said Srinagar's transformation into one of India's top tourist destinations was a matter of national pride. "There was

a time when coming here wasn't easy. But today, tourists from all over India are walking freely in Lal Chowk and enjoying the beauty of Kashmir. That is the biggest sign of peace and progress," he said.

The Governor also praised the Valley's cold weather and natural charm, saying both have helped boost winter tourism. "Kashmir's chill carries warmth and it brings people together. The more tourists visit, the stronger our emotional and cultural unity becomes," he added.

Referring directly to the recent Pahalgam incident, Kataria said occasional challenges should not overshadow Kashmir's enduring spirit. "Since 1947, border states have faced many tests. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown unmatched resilience and faith in peace," he said.

As Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Kataria said his office remains open to everyone. "My doors are open. Governance should be accessible, that's the

foundation of trust," he said.

Standing at Lal Chowk, Kataria described the moment as deeply personal and patriotic. "This place reflects India's unity, progress and shared spirit. It fills my heart with pride to see the tricolour flying high here," he said, adding that the scene of tourists, locals and business activity at the city centre was itself "a message of normalcy and confidence."

The Punjab Governor also appreciated the growing tourism sector in the region, noting its role in strengthening emotional and cultural unity across India. "Tourism is not just about destinations; it's about hearts connecting. Kashmir today is connecting India in ways that go beyond geography, through people, stories and shared pride," he said.

Moreover, Kataria also interacted briefly with residents and security personnel stationed in the area. He said the people of Kashmir have always been the region's greatest ambassadors of hospitality and peace—(KNO)

Govt announces winter vacation for Kashmir schools

- Pre-Primary: Nov-26
- Middle Classes: Dec-01
- Higher classes: Dec-11

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Nov 25: School Education Department (SED) Tuesday announced winter break in a phased manner for Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division.

SED Secretary Ram Niwas Sharma in an order said that the vacations for Pre-primary (Balvatika) classes shall commence from November-26 to February-28-2026.

In case of middle classes upto 8th standard, Sharma said that the vacations shall be observed from December-01 to February-28.

It also said that the winter break for 9th to 12th standard shall commence from December-11 to February-22. SED also said that all Teaching faculty shall remain available for any academic activity during the vacation period.

"The Teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools on February-20-2026 for making arrangements regarding opening of schools," reads the order. SED



said that any default on the part of the Heads of Institutions or Teaching staff in observance of the above schedule shall attract strict action under the Rules.

Pertinently, two weeks back KNO reported that the School Education Department had tentatively decided to announce the winter vacations in a phased manner from the first week of December for the winter zone of Kashmir division. Sources

had informed KNO that Education Minister Sakina Itoo in a review meeting had informed the officials of the department that the government will likely announce winter vacation for primary level classes from the first week of December.

The official sources had further informed that in case of other classes upto 12th standard, the vacations are likely from the second week of December—(KNO)

Resolution of reservation soon: Sakina Itoo

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Nov 25: Cabinet Minister Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said the government is working on the reservation issue in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The matter will be resolved soon, as the sub-committee formed by the Chief Minister has already submitted its report, and it is under process in the Law Department," she said.

Itoo said the reservation issue has been in the public domain since the formation of the government. Several representatives from different parties had submitted their concerns, which the government examined. "The Chief Minister formed a sub-committee. I am a member along with Satish Sharma and Javid Dar. We held several meetings with the Law Secretary and Social Welfare Secretary and submitted our report within six months," she said.

The health, education



and social welfare minister clarified that after submission, the Law Department raised some queries, which required time to address. "People say it took time, but it did not. The report was submitted two days before the six-month deadline. The queries had to be answered. Everything has been examined. The report has been submitted and is under process," she said.

On youth concerns and potential agitation, she said, "The youth are intelligent and understand the situation. They are worried about resources,

education, and jobs. Drug addiction among youth has risen because of unemployment and the lack of private sector opportunities. Those who have merit will be supported."

Sakeena advised the youth to stay focused and not be misled by political forces. "Opponents who now raise this issue did not act on it before. Today, they are criticising the government for political purposes. But our young brothers understand the government has formed a sub-committee to handle this issue. It will be brought to the cabinet

soon," she said.

Regarding the Mata Vaishnavi Shrine Board controversy, the minister said, "Politics should not be done on children or religion. Students admitted to the medical university have been selected based on merit. Muslim students study there, and there is no restriction. Doctors treat patients without considering religion."

Itoo also spoke on her departments, citing work done in health, education, and social welfare. "Hospitals were opened during the COVID-19 without proper equipment or sanctions. Doctors and teachers have been made accountable. Promotions and DPCs have been completed. We appointed 509 doctors who have been sent to hard-to-reach areas," she said.

The minister said the government continues to focus on youth, education, and health-care, and is addressing long-standing issues systematically—(KNO)

Dy CM advises MP Ruhullah to avoid street politics



OWAIS GUL

Srinagar, Nov 25: Advising Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi to raise issues in the Parliament and not on streets, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday said the senior leader should focus on working for people rather than looking for opportunities to remain in the limelight.

Talking to reporters, the Deputy CM said that the Chief Minister has made it clear that there is no proposal to hike the electricity tariff. "Nobody has stopped Aga Sahab from protesting. He is an Honorable Member Parliament and should raise issues there," he said.

Choudhary added that the MP has his own protocol. "He should speak to the Chief Minister. He should speak to the Prime Minister. But, it doesn't suit an MP to speak on the streets to be in the limelight," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the media should avoid giving hype to the people who are trying to be in the limelight.

Replying to a query on Ruhullah's resignation, Choudhary said if he has tendered the resignation, let him show the copy of his resignation. "If he (Ruhullah) wants to serve the people then he should meet the honourable Chief Minister to discuss the issues, rather than speaking on the streets," he added.

Pertinently, the estranged National Conference Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has asked his party-led government in Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the reservation issue before the winter session of Parliament ends, saying he will join the quota protests if no action is taken.

Moreover, Choudhary stated that there are no plans to increase the electricity tariff, saying that the rumours are media creation and far from the truth.

The Deputy Chief Minister while reacting to the controversy over the enrolment of Muslim community students in SMVDU, said, "The education must be kept away from politics, religion and other things. Students must get admissions on the basis of merit irrespective of the caste and religion."—(KNO)

Row over medical seats pits BJP against J&K minister

SAJID RAINA

Jammu, Nov 25: Amid the controversy over admissions to the first MBBS batch at Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College, Jammu and Kashmir unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President and newly elected Rajya Sabha member, Sat Sharma Tuesday said those supporting the Shrine Board should get seats, while the Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo said that Muslim students face no restrictions and doctors treat all patients regardless of religion. Sharma said the BJP believes that those who contribute to Hinduism through donations to the Shrine Board should be considered for admissions.

"The institute is being run on the donations and contribution of the Shrine Board. Therefore, those having faith in the religion should get admission there," Sharma said. Sharma added that mistakes may have occurred in the admissions process but discussions with officials are ongoing. "Through Sunil ji, I also spoke to LG sir. This issue has come to his attention and I believe that soon a decision will be made so that the problems that our common people, our common society is facing, we can get rid of," he said. On the religious aspect



of the college, Sharma said, "The people who have faith in their mind, because that institution is a symbol of faith, the people who come there for the darshan of Mata Vaishno Devi, majority are those people from Hindu religion who have faith in Mata Vaishno Devi. Similarly, people should get admission in this."

The controversy erupted after the first MBBS batch admissions allocated 42 of 50 seats to Muslim students purely based on merit.

Hindu groups have demanded minority status for the Shrine Board-run college, arguing that most donations come from Hindu pilgrims and should be reflected in seat allocation.

The administration has not yet announced any formal response regarding the demand for minority status or any revision of admission procedures. Meanwhile,

Kashmir-based politicians strongly opposed the move, saying that admissions should not be based on religion. Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo said, "Politics should not be done on children or religion. Students admitted to the medical university have been selected based on merit. Muslim students study there and there is no restriction. Doctors treat patients without considering religion."

Itoo also spoke on her departments, citing work done in health, education, and social welfare. "Hospitals were opened during Covid without proper equipment or sanctions. Doctors and teachers have been made accountable. Promotions and DPCs have been completed. We appointed 509 doctors who have been sent to hard-to-reach areas," she said—(KNO)



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 25: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Tuesday issued a public advisory, urging residents and community representatives to ensure the humane feeding and care of street and community animals across the city, in line with the revised Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 notified by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. According to the notice, issued by the Municipal Veterinary Officer, the duty of arranging feeding spots and schedules now rests with Resident Welfare Associations, Mohalla Committees, Apartment Associations and recognized animal welfare activists.

The notice states the civic

body said such spots must be designated through mutual understanding and kept away from areas frequented by children or senior citizens, such as playgrounds, staircases and main entry or exit points.

The notice further reads that feeders must ensure no littering occurs at feeding locations and all activity should remain in conformity with guidelines framed by local committees.

Moreover, the designated feeders have been permitted to assist SMC teams in vaccination drives, animal catching and release operations under the Animal Birth Control programme. Calling upon citizens to extend voluntary support, the notice also said feeding community animals should be seen as "an act of compassion and shared civic responsibility."—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Limestone Block Auction Will Unlock J&K's Economic Potential

The launch of Jammu and Kashmir's first-ever limestone block auction marks a transformative moment in the Union Territory's economic journey. This carefully structured initiative, bringing together the Central government and J&K administration, represents precisely the kind of coordinated development effort that can translate mineral wealth into sustainable prosperity. The auction of seven blocks across Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch districts is a strategic approach to unlocking economic potential in

regions that have historically remained underdeveloped. The significance of this initiative extends far beyond immediate revenue generation. By establishing a transparent, technology-driven auction process under the MMDR Act, the government has created a template for responsible resource management that balances economic growth with environmental considerations. The commitment that all premiums and royalties will flow directly to the state fund, coupled with the utilisation of the District Mineral

Fund for local welfare, ensures that mining benefits will genuinely reach the communities where extraction occurs. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's vision of reducing J&K's financial dependency on the Centre through responsible resource utilisation reflects forward-looking governance. Similarly, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy's characterisation of J&K as a future "mineral powerhouse" signals the region's strategic importance in national development plans. The identification of lithium and sapphire as future auction

targets suggests this is merely the beginning of a comprehensive mineral development strategy. What makes this initiative particularly commendable is its alignment with larger national goals while addressing local needs. The potential for job creation in cement production, construction, and ancillary industries could transform local economies while contributing to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The emphasis on cooperative federalism ensures that development proceeds without the Centre-State tensions that have

often hampered such projects in the past. This is a significant step toward economic self-reliance, and the administration must maintain its commitment to transparency, environmental responsibility, and community benefit. If implemented with the same diligence with which it has been conceived, this initiative could become a model for mineral development across India, proving that natural resources can indeed become engines of inclusive growth rather than sources of conflict.

Industrial Relations Code, 2020: Promoting Harmony And Ease Of Doing Business

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 empowers workers with uniform definitions while granting employers greater flexibility in operations. It fosters industrial peace, boosts productivity, and supports a balanced, growth-oriented work environment.

Press Information Bureau

The success of workers and industries are deeply connected; one cannot thrive without the other. When industries grow, they create stable jobs, fair wages, and social security for workers. Likewise, a motivated and secure workforce drives productivity and innovation, ensuring the industry's long-term survival.

National Commission on Labour highlighted a need to rationalise and simplify the exiting labour laws with an aim to protect interests of the workers. Consolidation of three existing laws viz i.e. Industrial Disputes Act 1947, Trade Unions Act 1926 And Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946 into The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 is a step in this direction.

Integrated Law: Industrial Relations Code, 2020
The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 is designed to consolidate & amend the laws regarding trade Unions, retrenchment, industrial disputes and simplifying compliance by providing uniform definitions. The Code seeks to promote industrial harmony by balancing worker protection with business flexibility and facilitating ease of Doing Business.

With the introduction of The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 the number of rules has been reduced from 105 to 51, number of forms from 37 to 18 and number of registers from 3 to zero, thereby reducing the overall compliance burden to spur employment.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 creates a balanced and progressive framework that benefits workers, employers, and the economy alike. It is pro-labour, ensuring fair representation, job security, and quicker dispute resolution. At the same time, it is pro-employment, simplifying compliance and promoting flexible hiring. With pro-women measures encouraging equal representation and working flexibility, it fosters inclusive participation. Overall, the Code is pro-growth, by focusing on uniform, faster, and efficient system.

Uniform Definitions to Simplify Compliance
Definitions of "Worker" has been expanded
To ensure that more workers have access to basic labour rights, inclusive definition of 'worker' has been established. Pursuant to Section 2(zr) of Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the definition of 'worker' has been expanded to include sales promotion employees, working journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to 18,000 per month, thereby extending statutory labour protections to a wider segment of the workforce.

Pro-Labour Benefits
It helps create policies that recognize their contribution and ensure fair treatment
Improved economic resilience at both individual and societal levels.

Reduction in income inequality.
Access to benefits like healthcare and sick leave.

Expansion of the definition of "Industry"
As per Section 2(p) of Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the term "industry" now encompasses any systematic activity carried on by cooperation between employer and worker, regardless of whether capital is invested or profit is intended, thereby bringing non-profit and low-capital activities within its ambit.

Pro-Labour Benefits
Extends labour rights to employees in non-profit and non-capital-based organisations.

Expands access to formal dispute resolution through Conciliation Officers and Industrial Tribunals.

Broadens collective bargaining rights to more workers

Statutory benefits (like notice for change of service conditions, retrenchment compensation, and grievance redressal mechanisms) to be given to workers in newly included sectors.

Change in definition of "Wages"

A single, consistent definition of wages has been applicable across all labour codes. The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 provides the 50% ceiling on exclusions to ensure that statutory benefits such as gratuity, retrenchment compensation, and social security contributions are calculated on a fair and substantial portion of actual earnings, preventing employers from artificially splitting wages to reduce obligations. Legally, this aligns with the principle of beneficial construction in social welfare legislation, giving courts a



clear statutory basis to protect workers' entitlements and reducing ambiguity that previously led to disputes.

Pro-Labour Benefits
Establishes a uniform definition of "wages" across all labour codes.
Increases social security benefits with a larger wage base.

Ensures higher lay-off and retrenchment compensation, ensuring higher payouts
Prevents wage manipulation through inflated allowances and reduced benefits
Promotes transparency and reduces wage-related disputes.

Statutory recognition to the Trade Unions
Trade unions that previously lacked formal recognition now have a clear pathway to legal recognition. A union with 51% membership in an establishment can be categorised as a Negotiating Union with exclusive rights to represent workers in collective bargaining and grievance redressal. In case this threshold is not met, Negotiating Council shall be constituted comprising representatives of all trade unions with at least 20% membership.

Pro-Labour Benefits
Grant formal recognition to unions, empowering them to represent workers officially.
Gives statutory collective bargaining rights over wages, service conditions and workplace policies.

Protects recognised unions from employer interference or victimization.
Involves worker representatives in internal grievance committees.
Strengthens industrial democracy through structured dialogue and negotiation.

Enhances job security by preventing arbitrary layoffs and unfair practices.

Pro-Growth Benefits
Legal backing to negotiating unions.
Single majority unions/councils to deal with the employer.

Introduction of Fixed-term Employment
The concept of Fixed Term Employment (FTE) has been introduced, which allows engagement of workers through a direct written contract between the employer and the employee for a specified duration. Such workers are entitled to all benefits, including working hours, wages, allowances, and statutory benefits, on par with permanent employees.

It is a win-win situation for employee and employer as this provision is expected to reduce excessive contractualization and offer cost efficiency to employers.

Pro-Labour Benefits
FTE Shall be provided safe and healthy working

conditions equal to permanent staff.

FTEs shall be made eligible for all statutory benefits equivalent to a permanent staff.
FTEs shall be eligible for gratuity on completion of 1 year of service.

Freshers can gain experience in a short span of time and enhance specialized skill.
Pro Employment Benefits

It encourages more flexible hiring, especially in sectors with seasonal or project-based work, leading to greater overall employment opportunities.
This provision is expected to reduce excessive contractualization and offer cost efficiency to employers.

Pro-Growth Benefits
Universal applicability for all establishments.
No restriction on tenures, time period or nature of work.

It will provide flexibility to the employer for hiring FTEs directly for all nature of work.
Amended Definition of "Strike"

To discourage flash strike and to promote industrial harmony, the definition of strike has been amended. It includes "mass casual leave also within the ambit", which comprises of cases where casual leave has been taken by more than fifty percent of the workers on a given day.

Pro-Growth Benefits
Pave the way for Ease of Doing Business
It protects workers' rights by ensuring that collective action occurs through lawful procedures
Encourages negotiation rather than abrupt protest

Simplified Dispute Resolution Process
Decriminalization and compounding of offences

Under the Chapter XII of Industrial Relations Code, 2020, several minor offences that previously attracted imprisonment or criminal liability have been decriminalized, and certain contraventions can now be compounded by paying a specified penalty (in case of first-time convictions):

Pro-Growth Benefits
For an offence punishable with fine only, with payment of 50% of the maximum fine provided for that offence.

For an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which is not more than one year and also with fine, with payment of 75% of the maximum fine provided for that offence.

Once an offence is compounded, no prosecution will be instituted against the offender for that offence.

Pro-Labour Benefits
Reduces legal harassment for workers and employers.

Promotes quicker resolution of disputes.
Ensures that minor procedural breaches do not

jeopardize employment or subject workers to criminal proceedings

Create a more worker-friendly and less adversarial enforcement environment, balancing compliance with protection of labour rights.

Pro-Growth Benefits
Shifts focus from imprisonment to monetary penalties, making compliance easier for employers.

Employers are more likely to comply when penalties are fair, predictable, and non-criminal in nature.

Compounding avoids lengthy court trials, saving time and resources for employer.

Reduces fear of criminal prosecution, thereby encouraging investment and smoother industrial operations.

Streamlined Dispute Resolution Mechanism
Time-bound adjudication of disputes has been introduced to ensure speedy disposal of the dispute.

Industrial tribunals will now have 2 members (judicial and administrative member). This mechanism is in line with other tribunals and widens the experience of members. Two members Industrial Tribunal will help in speedy disposal of labour disputes. The move is pro-growth as it creates a uniform, faster, and efficient system for resolving industrial conflicts.

Direct Access Mechanism to Approach the Tribunal

The concerned party may make application directly to the tribunal in the matters not settled by the conciliation officer within 90 days from the date of receipt of failure of conciliation by the party. Disputes no longer require discretionary reference by government officials, which was a time-consuming process. This reduces delays in the resolution of the industrial disputes and litigations.

Regulation of Strikes and Lockouts
For speedy resolution of disputes, to reduce conflict and to avoid abrupt stoppage of work. The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 states mandatory provisions before strike for all establishment with 14 days prior notice. Strikes are restricted during conciliation or tribunal proceedings

Pro-Growth Benefits
By requiring 14 days' prior notice, it prevents sudden strikes or lockouts that disrupt production.

Fair Opportunity for Resolution – Gives time for conciliation or negotiations before disputes escalate.

Reduces Losses – Protects both workers and employers from economic losses due to abrupt stoppages of work. Prevents loss of man days or work.

Encourages Responsible Action – Ensures strikes and lockouts are not misused and are exercised in a disciplined manner.

Balances Rights of Workers & Employers – Protects the workers' right to strike while ensuring industries are not destabilized.

Strengthens Government Role – Allows authorities to intervene during the notice period to mediate and prevent escalation.

Prevents loss of man days or work.

Pro Employment Benefits
Gives employers confidence to expand operations and hire more workers, knowing productivity will be stable.

Provisions on Retrenchment Process
Worker Re Skillng Fund

In case of any retrenchment of a worker by an employer, the employer will need to contribute equivalent to 15 days' last drawn wages of the retrenched worker, within 45 days of retrenchment.

Pro-Labour Benefits
Provides short term relief and helps worker upgrade skills to match current industry requirement.

Increases chances for retrenched workers to secure new jobs quickly.

Expands protection for workers beyond traditional severance, supporting long-term economic stability.

Increased Threshold for Lay-off, Retrenchment & Closure

The code establishes that the industrial establishment, employing 300 or more workers, shall require prior permission from the appropriate Government, for lay-off, retrenchment, or closing down its industrial establishment. The threshold has been increased from 100 to 300, with flexibility for States to enhance this limit further.

Pro Growth Benefits
Reduces procedural hurdles and simplifies compliance requirements attracting investments and supporting expansion of industries.

Quick adoption of economic situations by employer without waiting for government approvals
Small and medium enterprises gain operational freedom, ensuring both regulation and flexibility to expand or restructure without heavy approvals.

Easier compliance encourages sustainability of smaller industries.

Pro Employment Benefits
It will encourage formalisation of employment

Increased flexibility to manage workforce efficiently, without fear of lengthy government procedures if business conditions change.

Advancing Gender Equity at Work
Representation of women in the Grievance Redressal Committee

The Code provides for adequate representation of women in the Grievance Redressal Committee, not less than in proportion to their presence in the workforce in the industrial establishment. Thus, ensuring gender-sensitive dispute resolution and promoting equality and safety at the workplace.

Pro Women Benefits
Ensures women workers have a fair voice in workplace dispute resolution.

Women's perspectives help address issues more comprehensively and sensitively.

Women employees feel more secure raising concerns when represented by peers.

Matters such as workplace harassment, maternity rights, and safety can be better handled.

Balanced representation fosters fairness, reducing discrimination and conflicts.

Work From Home Provision
Model Standing Orders in service sectors now explicitly allow work from home subject to mutual agreement between employee and employer.

This improves flexibility, particularly benefiting women.

Other Pro-Growth Provisions
Threshold for Applicability of Standing Orders

To reduce the compliance burden for the establishments, the provisions relating to the requirement of certified standing orders shall apply only to industrial establishments employing 300 or more workers (previously 100) on any day in the preceding 12 months.

Pro Growth Benefits
Smaller industries can manage workforce rules without rigid formalities, enabling adaptability
Clear applicability threshold avoids unnecessary disputes for small industries.

Workers and employers can mutually agree on service conditions without being bound by rigid certified standing orders.

Workers in smaller units enjoy more adaptability compared to rigid formal orders due to flexible practices (work timings, leave, job roles).

In small and medium industries, workers have a more personal say as decisions are often made through direct communication.

Flexible conditions make it easier for workers to shift roles or negotiate terms informally.

Digital Systems
The Code enables electronic record-keeping, registration, and communication. Digital filings and records reduce chances of manipulation and corruption, which results in transparency. Faster processing of registrations, returns, and compliance submissions improves efficiency and reduction in paper work, administrative costs, and delays, saves cost.

Conclusion

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 revolutionizes labour laws by simplifying compliance and promoting harmonious employer and employee relations. It strengthens collective bargaining, dispute resolution, and job security through clearer, uniform provisions. The Code empowers workers with uniform definitions while granting employers greater flexibility in operations. Overall, it fosters industrial peace, boosts productivity, and supports a balanced, growth-oriented work environment.

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38 Master Craftsmen honoured for preserving handicraft legacy

Dy CM pledges sector revival under CM Omar Abdullah’s leadership

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday honoured 38 outstanding craftsmen and artisans with the UT-Level Artisan and Weaver Awards–2024 for their exemplary contribution to preserving and innovating Jammu and Kashmir’s celebrated handicraft traditions.

The awards conferred by Handicrafts and Handloom Department were presented at a grand ceremony held at SKICC, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kashmir, Mussarat ul Islam, senior government officials, dignitaries, and members of the artisan and business community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is fully committed to transforming the Handicrafts and Handloom sector into a vibrant economic pillar.

He noted that these awards not only celebrate craftsmanship but also motivate artisans to push creative boundaries and continue their invaluable service to society.

“The Artisan Awards reinforce



the profound cultural and economic significance of J&K’s craft traditions, which sustain livelihoods and shape our identity on the global stage,” he said.

Appreciating the department for its efforts, the Deputy Chief Minister added, “This event reflects our dedication to giving artisans the respect and recognition they truly deserve. They are our pride, the custodians of our heritage and traditions. Under the able leadership of

Hon’ble Chief Minister, Jenab Omar Abdullah Sahib, we will leave no stone unturned in addressing sectoral challenges and elevating this backbone of our economy to new heights.”

Of the 38 awardees, 20 belong to Kashmir Division and 18 to Jammu Division, selected through a rigorous evaluation across ten notified craft categories. Each category carried three awards, with winners receiving citations, certificates, and cash

prizes of ₹50,000, ₹30,000, and ₹20,000, enabling them to further enhance their craft.

Delivering the inaugural address, Vikramjit Singh highlighted the department’s ongoing initiatives to strengthen the sector.

“The Industries and Commerce Department is extending comprehensive support for the upliftment of our artisan community. We are intensifying efforts to revive the sector, showcase the brilliance of our artisans, and connect them with global markets.”

A departmental spokesperson noted that the sector supports over 3.80 lakh artisans and weavers, contributing more than ₹1500 crore annually to J&K’s economy. He added that artisans from the UT have earned prestigious national honours such as the Padma Shri and Shilp Guru Awards, and have captivated global audiences from Paris to New York.

Recent interventions, including skill enhancement workshops, Know Your Artisan initiative, digital marketplaces, and GI tagging, have significantly strengthened market outreach, contributing to a ₹500 crore boost in exports through participation in multiple global trade fairs this year.

J&K Pavilion steals show at IITF 2025

KT News Desk

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, presented the region’s vibrant cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 with the theme ‘EK BHARAT, SHRESHTHA BHARAT’.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, inaugurated the event.

The J&K Pavilion, located on the 1st Floor of Hall No. 3 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from November 14 to 27. The Pavilion offers a dynamic platform for around 140 exhibitors, including women entrepreneurs, specially-abled business owners and cooperative societies, to showcase their diverse range of products. It highlights Jammu and Kashmir’s world-renowned Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products such as Saffron, Pashmina Shawls, Kani Shawls, Sozni Embroidery, Basohli Paintings, Kashmiri Carpets and Paper Maché crafts, each reflecting the region’s authenticity and artistic excellence.

A special celebration, ‘Jammu and Kashmir Day,’ was held on November 22, 2025, at Amphitheatre One, featuring the cultural performances dedicated to celebrate the culture, craft and heritage of J&K.



The event strengthened J&K’s presence on the national stage while celebrating its artistic richness and entrepreneurial excellence.

JKTPO continues to uphold transparency and inclusivity in promoting the local enterprises. With participation of key organizations such as J&K Industries Limited and the State Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation, the Pavilion exemplifies the seamless harmony of tradition and innovation that defines Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the past three years, JKTPO has significantly expanded the participation of artisans, farmers and entrepreneurs in national exhibitions and trade fairs, including IITF. The number of exhibitors has grown remarkably from fewer than 30 participants a few years ago to over 140 in 2025.

During the previous edition, in 2024, approximately 110 exhibitors represented J&K at IITF. This consistent growth reflects rising enthusiasm among the J&K’s business community to present their products on

prestigious national platforms. The participants have not only gained extensive exposure but secured valuable business leads and confirmed orders, fostering long-term and sustainable trade relationships. On-the-spot sales have risen significantly, offering direct financial gains and enhancing exhibitors’ confidence. This strong buyer interest, coupled with the overwhelming footfall at the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion, further underscored its growing national appeal.

The Pavilion remained consistently crowded with the visitors eager to experience the region’s rich craft heritage, authentic GI-tagged products and vibrant cultural presentations. The enthusiastic public response not only amplified sales and business opportunities but also reinforced the Pavilion’s standing as one of the most sought-after attractions at IITF 2025. This continued success reaffirms the Government’s commitment to empowering local talent and nurturing a sustainable ecosystem that champions heritage, innovation and enterprise.

Ensure quality infra development across J&K: Dy CM

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday called for expeditious and quality infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while chairing a high level review meeting at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, assessed progress on ongoing works being executed under Capex Budget 2025–26 of the PWD (R&B) Kashmir Division. He emphasised timely completion of all ongoing developmental projects in the region.

Senior officers including the Chief Engineer PMGSY Kashmir, Chief Engineer PWD Central/South/North Kashmir, Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering & Hospitality Department Kashmir, Superintending Engineers of PMGSY, PWD, MEHD Kashmir and Executive Engineers of the concerned wings attended the meeting while officers based in Jammu participated virtually.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a comprehensive review of roads, bridges, PMGSY and other connectivity-related works presently underway

across Kashmir Division.

He issued strict directions for speeding up execution of all ongoing projects, ensuring timely clearance of bottlenecks to achieve the targets within the stipulated timelines. He asserted that timely completion of projects must remain the top priority, underscoring that infrastructure development plays a pivotal role in boosting connectivity, improving public convenience and enhancing overall socio-economic growth.

He directed all the engineering wings to intensify monitoring, maintain strict adherence to technical standards and ensure that ongoing works are executed in a transparent, efficient and result-oriented manner.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that the government is keenly focused on accelerating development, with special emphasis on high-quality public infrastructure.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the need for early completion of rural connectivity works under PMGSY, timely maintenance of road infrastructure before winter intensifies and efficient functioning of mechanical engineering services.

Sakeena conducts assessment of winter preparedness in South Kashmir

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday conducted a comprehensive assessment of winter preparedness of various departments across South Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian, in a virtual meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena directed the officers of concerned districts to ensure that essential services and supplies are in place well before the peak winter season sets in. She emphasized on the importance of advance stocking of medicines, ration and other critical supplies, especially in remote and heavy snow prone areas to avoid any disruption during harsh weather conditions. She called for coordinated efforts between civil administration, health authorities, and public works departments to secure uninterrupted mobility and healthcare access for residents.



The Minister also underscored that people living in far-flung pockets must not face any hardship due to delayed supplies or administrative gaps. “Winter preparedness is not merely a routine exercise, it is commitment to public safety and well-being”, she asserted.

Sakeena Itoo instructed the officers to maintain buffer stocks, activate control rooms, and keep rapid-response teams on standby. She also stressed on the need for regular monitoring to ensure the availability of essential drugs, ambulance services, and functional health

centres throughout the winter period.

She urged departments to identify vulnerable habitations and prioritize them for supply mobilization, particularly in higher reaches that often remain cut off for extended periods due to heavy snowfall.

During the meeting, the officers of concerned districts briefed the Minister about the winter preparedness plan of their respective districts. They assured the Minister that the winter arrangements have been fully stabilized and any exigency due to weather eventuality will be addressed promptly.

Nizam-ud-Din chairs Privileges Committee meeting

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly held here on Tuesday at Assembly Complex Jammu to discuss the matter related to constitutional privileges and protocol of Legislators.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by the members of the Committee including Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Javid Iqbal and Narinder Singh.

The committee underscored the importance of legislators and their constitutional rights and privileges. It was also stressed for maintaining protocol to safeguard the dignity, autonomy and effective functioning of the elected representatives.

The Committee directed the senior officers of Hospitality and Protocol department to ask the GAD and Law departments to compile a detailed report on issues related to privileges and Protocol of legislators and submit the same



to the Committee before its next meeting.

The Chairman emphasized the significance of their constitutional rights and privileges on all appropriate platforms. He also stressed the need for a well defined strategy to safeguard the dignity and effective functioning of elected representatives.

Under Secretary, Assembly Secretariat besides officers and officials of Hospitality and Protocol Department and Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

CS adds J&K’s maiden digital Land Bank to PMGS platform

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday launched the Land Bank layer on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Secretary, Information Technology and other Heads of Departments of the Forest Department.

The Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated in the programme through video conferencing from their respective offices.

This pioneering initiative marks the first such exercise in the UT, wherein land parcels exclusively defined as ‘State Land’ were jointly surveyed by the Forest and Revenue Departments. Only those parcels verified to be free from all encumbrances have been mapped and integrated into the PM Gati Shakti portal, ensuring accuracy and reliability in land identification for developmental purposes.

Terming the initiative as a highly useful and forward-looking exercise, the Chief Secretary said that the availability of clearly identified and geo-tagged land on a single digital platform would significantly smoothen and expedite the development process across the



districts. He urged the Deputy Commissioners to take proactive measures to safeguard these identified patches from any encroachment and misuse.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Remote Sensing Wing of the Forest Department to institutionalize a mechanism for continuous and regular monitoring of these land parcels. He emphasized that any change in occupancy status should be immediately detected and acted upon to maintain the integrity of the land bank.

He also asked for capacity-building sessions to be organized with district administrations to ensure comprehensive understanding and effective utilisation of the system on the PMGS portal for varied administrative and planning purposes. Additionally, he impressed upon the DCs to identify and add any left-out ‘State Land’

parcels, making the portal a one-stop solution for meeting land requirements for key developmental projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda highlighted that the Forest Department was tasked with GIS mapping of identified land parcels in close coordination with the Revenue Department to ensure precision and efficiency.

She informed that a joint ground-truthing exercise was conducted by officers of both departments to validate the suitability of land and confirm that all selected parcels were free from encumbrances before being included in the land bank.

Elaborating on the details of the land bank, PCCF Suresh Kumar Gupta informed that an initial scrutiny of 668 land parcels, covering an area of 6,221.30

hectares, was conducted to assess any overlap with forest lands including GairMumkinJangal, Jhar, Berune line forests, etc. Following rigorous verification and ground-truthing, 462 land parcels measuring 2,406 hectares were found encumbrance-free and suitable for the creation of critical government infrastructure, he added.

Providing the district-wise breakup, he stated that the parcels uploaded on the portal includes 10 from Anantnag totaling an area of 12.43 hectares of land, Baramulla 7 parcels (74.44 ha), Budgam 15 (28.99 ha), Doda44 (332.52 ha), Ganderbal26 (30.45 ha), Jammu3 (4.55 ha), Kathua 154 (750.47 ha), Kishtwar 45 (513.90 ha), Kulgam10 (17.44 ha), Kupwara15 (74.24 ha), Poonch60 (135.35 ha), Pulwama 1 (4.10 ha), Rajouri 12 (55 ha), Ramban 16 (56 ha), Reasi 20 (150 ha), Samba 5 (12.85

ha), Shopian 1 (2.02 ha) and Udhampur 18 parcels with 152.08 hectares of land stands marked and added to the portal.

The meeting was also briefed on the systematic, multi-departmental process adopted for creation of this comprehensive digital inventory. It was divulged that initially the Divisional Commissioners compiled information on various categories of revenue lands by seeking inputs from all Deputy Commissioners. This was followed by joint verification on the ground by Forest and Revenue officials to confirm feasibility and ensure that the lands were free from any legal or physical encumbrances.

Subsequently, KML files of the finalized land parcels were prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment and Remote Sensing, which completed the digitization process as per prescribed protocols. The validated data was then uploaded on the PM Gati Shakti portal, integrating it into the national framework for coordinated and data-driven infrastructure planning.

The launch of the Land Bank Layer is expected to significantly enhance evidence-based decision-making, inter-departmental coordination and efficient utilization of state land for development projects across Jammu and Kashmir.



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: A meeting of the Committee on Environment of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held Tuesday under the Chairmanship of MLA, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, to discuss the environmental issue.

Threadbare discussions were held on environment related issues pertaining to illegal Mining, conservation and preservation of wetland areas, rising threats of cancer disease due to pesticides in Kashmir particular south Kashmir besides other various issues pertaining to save environment.

Legislators, Rajiv Jasrotia, Sajjad Shafi, Zafar Ali Khatana, Irshad Rasool Kar and Yudhvir Sethi attended the meeting. They gave their valuable suggestions regarding various environment issues in respect of protection of environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee also discussed various issues on environment challenges and steps needed to mitigate the

problems. It deliberated on measures to restore ecological balance of the environment in the Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman, JK Pollution Control Board (JK PCB), Vasu Yadav briefed the Committee about the functioning of Pollution Control Board besides the progress on measures being undertaken to minimize the pollution level in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman of the Committee directed the Chairman PCB to submit a comprehensive report on the issues raised in the meeting besides action taken before the next meeting of the committee.

Tarigami proposed a one day environment conference be held under the chairmanship of Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to discuss various issues including environmental degradation issues.

Among others, Deputy Secretary, Assembly Secretariat, Ruksana Mirza; Under Secretary, Assembly Secretariat, Shabir Ahmad Wani and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

Volcanic ash plumes impact flight services; Air India cancels flights, inspects aircraft

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Flight operations were impacted on Tuesday, with at least seven international flight cancellations and nearly a dozen overseas services getting delayed due to the ash plumes from the volcanic eruption in Ethiopia.

Air India cancelled 13 flights since Monday as seven of its aircraft that had flown through regions affected by the volcanic ash plumes were subject to precautionary checks. These planes were cleared for operations on Tuesday, according to a source.

Ash clouds from the recent eruption of the Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia impacted flight operations and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said the ash plumes are drifting towards China and will move away from India.

An official said seven international flights, including arrivals and departures, were cancelled and 12 international flights were delayed at the Delhi airport due to the impact of the volcanic ash plumes.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital is the country's largest airport, handling over 1,500 flight movements daily.



In the afternoon, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said there was no cause for concern at the moment and that the situation is being monitored closely.

"Following the 23 Nov volcanic eruption in Ethiopia and the eastward movement of the ash cloud, MoCA -- along with ATC, IMD, airlines and international aviation agencies -- is ensuring seamless coordination.

"AAI has issued the necessary NOTAM and all affected flights have been kept informed. Operations

across India remain smooth, with only a few flights rerouted or descended as a precaution," the ministry said in a post on X.

AAI refers to the Airports Authority of India and NOTAM is Notice to Airmen.

On Tuesday, Air India said it has cancelled 13 flights since Monday and was carrying out precautionary checks on those planes that had flown over locations that had ash plumes due to the volcanic activity in Ethiopia.

Air India said it has cancelled

four flights on Tuesday -- AI 2822 (Chennai-Mumbai), AI 2466 (Hyderabad-Delhi), AI 2444 / 2445 (Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai) and AI 2471/2472 (Mumbai-Kolkata-Mumbai).

On Monday, it had cancelled seven international flights, including AI 106 (Newark-Delhi), AI 102 (New York (JFK)-Delhi) and AI 2204 (Dubai-Hyderabad) and AI 2290 (Doha-Mumbai).

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at the IMD, said the impact was

limited to higher skies.

"The volcanic ash is being seen only in the upper troposphere and it is affecting flight operations. It has no impact on air quality or weather. The ash cloud is drifting towards China and will move away from Indian skies by 7.30 pm," Mohapatra said.

Volcanic ash reached the skies over Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana on Tuesday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday asked airlines to strictly avoid published volcanic ash affected areas and flight levels, adjust flight planning, routing, and fuel considerations based on the latest advisories.

In a detailed advisory, the regulator had also asked airlines to immediately report any suspected ash encounter, including engine performance anomalies or cabin smoke/odour.

If volcanic ash affects airport operations, then the operator concerned must immediately inspect runways, taxiways, and aprons. Depending on the contamination, the operations may be restricted, and cleaning procedures have to be completed before resuming movements, the watchdog had said.

Profits from cricket betting constitute proceeds of crime under PMLA: Delhi HC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Delhi High Court has held that profits from cricket betting would constitute "proceeds of crime" under the anti-money laundering law.

The high court said this is because the taint attached to the property at its very inception, originated from a criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence, persists throughout its subsequent use.

A bench of justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar said even if cricket betting is not a separate predicate offence, non-availability of the Super Master IDs, which was a culmination of a series of criminal activities related to a scheduled offence, would have made the international cricket betting racket non-functional.

"For instance, if a person acquires any immovable property through acts of forgery, cheating and criminal conspiracy and thereafter utilises such property for a downstream activity, such as conducting an unlicensed real-estate business which is not a scheduled offence, the proceeds generated from the latter activity

nonetheless constitute 'proceeds of crime' under the PMLA," the court said in its judgement passed on Monday.

The high court passed the verdict dismissing a batch of petitions filed by several persons in an alleged Rs 2,400 crore international cricket betting racket from 2015, challenging the provisional attachment orders (PAOs) made over a decade ago by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

In September 2015, ED issued a PAO, attaching moveable and immovable properties valued at approximately Rs 20 crore of the accused, and also issued a show-cause notice in October 2015 for money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The petitioners challenged the PAO orders as well as show cause notice before the high court.

The action was initiated by the ED against the petitioners in connection with large scale hawala transactions and illegal international cricket betting operations conducted through a UK-based website Betfair.com.

According to the ED, the operations were stated to have been carried out from a farmhouse situated in a village in Vadodara.

World Heritage Week concludes with grand felicitation ceremony

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: World Heritage Week 2025 concluded on Tuesday with a grand felicitation ceremony held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

The event marked the completion of a week-long celebration of heritage, culture and community engagement organized by the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums under the supervision of Director, K.K. Sidha.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, attended the event as chief guest.

Also present were Deepika Sharma, Secretary in Culture Department; Dr. Rubina Kaunser, Director General Libraries; Harwinder Kaur, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Parvez Ahmed, Special Secretary Culture; Dr. Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNCA; renowned veteran journalist O.P. Sharma and Principal of Rajouri Higher Secondary School.

Throughout the week, a variety of activities were organized including online essay competitions, seminars, workshops, heritage walks and visit to



heritage sites such as Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi and the historic Octroi Post at Suchetgarh. The

workshops in Wood Carving and Calligraphy drew special attention.

In his address, Director Sidha shared that the celebrations focused on inclusivity, bringing together the students, women, ex-servicemen, specially-abled individuals, Kashmiri migrants and orphans. He proudly declared every participant a "Heritage Warrior."

On the occasion, awards were presented to winners of the Online Essay Competition. Advaita (Presentation Convent) and Advay Singh (BVM) were winners in the junior category

while Riya Sharma (GGMHSS Rajouri) and Aradhya Gupta (Jodhamal Public School) secured the senior title. Besides, members of the women's Bike Rally from Shakti Udghosh Foundation were also felicitated.

Addressing the gathering, B M Sharma said that Heritage Week 2025 was a remarkable success, largely because of its inclusive and diverse range of activities.

The evening ended on a cultural note, celebrating Jammu & Kashmir's living heritage with pride and warmth.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

New India won't

Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)

The operation involved precise, non-escalatory, and proportionate military action, targeting terrorist infrastructure and avoiding Pakistan's military or public installations.

On April 22 this year, a group of terrorists targeted tourists at the Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, killing at least 26 civilians and injuring many others.

Meanwhile, speaking about the drug menace, the PM said that the government is also making all efforts to eradicate the problem of drug addiction from its roots. "But this is also a fight of society, and of the family. Drug addiction has pushed the dreams of many of our youth into deep challenges," he said. (KNO)

Young athletes

athletes, through sacrifice and dedication, set benchmarks of excellence that inspire millions.

LG Sinha also urged sportspersons to act responsibly, stating that youngsters often follow them blindly. "J&K sportspersons are role models for our youth. At a time when some people are trying to radicalize young minds and disturb peace, athletes must stand up against such elements," he said.

He added that sports teach discipline, strengthen resolve, and help individuals overcome challenges. "Sports has a lot of strength. It provides a clear message of unity, determination, and resilience," he noted.

Expressing confidence in the young athletes, the LG said he sees them as a "powerful democratic force--innovative, idealistic, and capable of resolving challenges."

He said participants of the National School Games will return home not just with medals but also with the experience of witnessing a Naya Jammu and Kashmir--a Union Territory that is not only beautiful but also capable of becoming a key driver of India's growth engine. "You represent the spirit of a modern India. Your achievements today will shape the India of tomorrow," the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the winners and participants. He also extended his felicitations to the teams' management, coaches, and officials for the successful conduct of the National School Games.

"Dream big and have the courage to make those dreams come true. As role models, you hold a special place in society and have a huge responsibility to inspire the coming generations, both on and off the field. From the sports field to the grassroots level, you must continuously strive for progressive policies and social transformation through sports," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor handed over trophies to the winners and other top performing teams and the players who excelled in the different games' disciplines. He also released a

Compendium of Department of Youth Services and Sports.

The Games successfully featured four disciplines: Football, Wushu, Taekwondo, and Table Tennis.

Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports; Anuradha Gupta, Director General Youth Services and Sports; senior officials, prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number attended the closing ceremony. (KNO)

'PM Modi's promised

He added those who raise such allegations expose their own positions. "We believe that whosoever is governing Jammu and Kashmir needs Delhi's support. The time has proven, as several leaders are now admitting that they are unable to deliver," he said.

Bukhari said Muslim students will not face any denial of admission at Mata Vaishno Devi University. He said the law protects every student.

He also responded to attacks from political rivals, saying people already know who is honest and who is not. He said he does not need to label anyone because the public has already formed an opinion.

Bukhari said many groups push a wider national narrative, but Jammu and Kashmir is different. He said political messaging that works in Jammu does not work in Kashmir.

People rejected that narrative by giving fifty seats to a single party, yet that party has not delivered, he added. (KNO)

Who's to blame

and the Muslim and Sikh children enrolled there will leave and seek admission elsewhere."

Omar said these children secured admission based on merit and should be enrolled elsewhere. "But no finger should be pointed at Muslims, calling them communal, sectarian, or intolerant of others. If something happens to their children, don't blame the entire community," he said.

The Chief Minister added, "Why do they go to places where they become radicalised? When students are willing to attend a medical college like Mata Vaishno Devi, they don't care about the name of Mata Vaishno Devi or the institution's funding. They are all about education. They want to become doctors. Now you want to deny them admission based on their religion. If tomorrow they go to another institution and become radicalised again, who will be to blame? Will Sunil Sharma say he's to blame?"

Abdullah urged not to push Muslim children like this. "Our children will get admission elsewhere. They will go to Bangladesh, Turkey, or somewhere else," he added.

Meanwhile, speaking about the automated vehicle testing station, the CM said, "If even one accident is prevented and a precious life is

saved, I would say we have fully benefited from this centre."

He added that many people lose their lives due to road accidents, and it has often been found that complaints about unfit vehicles surface only after accidents.

"Therefore, we have come up with two automated testing centres, one for Pampore and one for Nagrota. Currently, their foundation stones have been laid, and both are being operated on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with private parties. It is expected that both will be operational within six months," he said.

Omar said vehicle testing will be conducted through computers, and any vehicle failing the test will never be on the road again. He further said that the centre at Nagrota may not be sufficient for Jammu to cover Doda, Kishtwar, or Rajouri-Poonch.

"Our effort now will be to open two more centres, one in Pir Panchal and one in Chenab, to ensure more vehicles can be tested and road accidents reduced," CM Abdullah said. (KNO)

After 5-year break

responsibilities in the Rajya Sabha and participate in the legislative work of the Winter Session. (KNO)

CM reviews progress

complexes--currently being executed across Jammu and Kashmir. These projects are located in Ramban, Kathua, Poonch, Doda, Udhampur, Reasi, Bandipora, Anantnag, Pulwama, and Srinagar, form a critical part of the administration's efforts to strengthen building infrastructure and grassroots governance. The review highlighted certain bottlenecks, including delays in funds disbursement, pending administrative approvals, and legal issues at a few locations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasised the need to fast-track the remaining projects. He directed officials to adopt a coordinated approach to clear pending approvals, resolve legal impediments, and synchronize financial planning with project timelines to avoid cost escalation. Reiterating the government's focus on building a modern and efficient revenue administration, the Chief Minister said that timely completion of these infrastructure projects is essential for improving citizen-centric service delivery. He called for enhanced monitoring, proactive inter-departmental coordination, and strict adherence to deadlines.

The Chief Minister assured that the government will extend full support to ensure smooth execution of the pending works, underscoring that strengthening administrative infrastructure remains a top priority for the overall development and governance reforms in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

DIPR promotes

that the DIPR particularly promoted the J&K

Film Policy 2024 during the festival, with the main purpose of promoting Jammu & Kashmir as a premier film shooting destination in the country and across the globe. He highlighted that the New Film Policy 2024 aims to promote large-scale Bollywood and international shoots in Kashmir.

The Director further said that the DIPR also utilised this platform to promote Art, Culture, Cuisines, as well as famed tourist destinations of Jammu and Kashmir during the festival. He added that more than 500 visitors interacted with the officers of DIPR at J&K Pavillion of WAVES Film Bazaar and enquired about various aspects of film shootings in J&K. He added that the visitors exchanged contacts with the representatives of DIPR and expressed their willingness to visit J&K for film shootings.

During the knowledge series session on the sidelines of IFFI 2025, the Director Information also interacted with the filmmakers and gave a presentation on J&K Film Policy 2024, to promote Film Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, through J&K Film Policy 2024, the government is promoting the UT as a prime shooting destination and wooing the filmmakers to visit J&K for film shooting.

Under the J&K Film Policy, 2024, Film Permissions are being given through the online single window portal. The J&K Government provides a 5-10% subsidy for Films, a 10-15% subsidy for Documentary/Web-Series and Extra Incentives for Films/Documents/Web-Series which promote Jammu and Kashmir or are of a patriotic theme.

Custodial violence

order, the top court had directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the National Investigation Agency.

Dave told the bench on Tuesday that he has filed a report in the case in which order was passed in December 2020.

"On the last date, we had made certain specific queries from all the states and Union Territories (UTs). Have they responded?" the bench asked.

The bench was informed that in the suo motu case, only 11 states have filed their compliance affidavits.

Dave said in the earlier case also, many of the states have not filed their compliance affidavits.

The bench observed that Madhya Pradesh has given a positive response and each police station and outpost in the state is connected to centralised work station at district control room.

"That is something remarkable," the bench said.

Dave said CCTVs were installed in three central probe agencies but the other three are yet to comply with the apex court's direction.

"It's a judgement of the court, we are bound. But having CCTV inside the police stations also is something which can be counter productive to investigation. Now there is a judgement, we can't argue," Mehta said.

The bench observed that in America, they have live streaming of the footage.

"America has even private jails where you can get almost resort level facilities," the solicitor general said.

He said there was a suggestion from one of the benches that "why don't you persuade the industrialists, who are suppose to spent some money of CSR (corporate social responsibility), to create private jails".

The bench said it is already seized of a matter concerning open air prison.

"You don't need any other system. That is one of the best resolutions to so many problems of overcrowding and regular complaint of violence in jails," the bench said, adding it would also help in reducing the financial burden.

Dave flagged that there was no budgetary allocation done for installation of CCTVs for three central agencies.

"We find that only 11 states have filed their compliance affidavits in the suo motu writ petition. The remaining states and Union territories have not filed their compliance affidavits which includes the Union of India also," the bench noted in its order.

It granted three weeks time to the states and UTs, which have not yet filed their compliance affidavits, to do so and posted the matter for hearing on December 16.

The bench said if by the said date, the compliance affidavits are not filed by the remaining states and UTs, their principal secretary in the department of home will remain present before the court along with their respective explanations for not complying with the orders.

Mehta said the Union home secretary is not involved in the entire process as no police station is under his control.

The bench said the apex court's earlier direction was for the central probe agencies.

It said if the compliance affidavits will not be filed, then the respective directors of the central probe agencies may have to come to the court.

The bench said Dave would assist it as amicus in the suo motu case also.

On September 15, the apex court flagged the issue of oversight and said it was thinking of having a control room without any human intervention for monitoring of feeds of CCTV cameras installed at police stations.

In December 2020, the top court had said states and UTs should ensure CCTV cameras were installed at each police station, at all entry and exit points, main gate, lock-ups, corridors, lobby and reception as also areas outside the lock-up rooms so that no part was left uncovered.

PM Modi hoists saffron flag atop Ayodhya Ram temple, says centuries-old wounds healing today

PTI

Ayodhya (UP), Nov 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the "wounds and pain" of centuries are healing as a 500-year-old resolve is finally being fulfilled with the formal completion of the Ram temple here.

Modi made the remarks after ceremonially hoisting a saffron flag atop the Ram temple in Ayodhya, an event marking the official completion of the shrine.

He was joined by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Calling the moment "epochal," the prime minister said Ayodhya was witnessing another historic milestone and added that "the entire country and the world are immersed in Ram."

Modi said the sacred flag would stand



as a testament that "truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood," and congratulated Ram 'bhakts' along with all those who contributed to the construction of the temple.

According to officials, the flag hoisting marked the formal completion of the Ram temple complex, nearly six years after the Supreme Court's landmark 2019 verdict that allotted the entire 2.77-acre disputed site for the Ram Mandir.

According to an official statement, the saffron flag measuring 22 feet x 11 feet is made of parachute-grade cloth with a thick nylon hoisting rope, and is mounted atop a 161-foot spire.

The flag bears symbols of the Sun, representing Lord Ram's Surya Vansh, Om, and the Kovidara tree, described as the state tree of Ram Rajya.

Temple officials said the idol of Ram Lalla

is located in the 'Garbhagriha' on the ground floor, a climb of 32 steps from the Singh Dwar on the eastern side.

The complex includes five mandaps – Nritya, Rang, Sabha, Prarthana and Kirtan – and features restored heritage structures such as the ancient Shiv Mandir at Kuber Tila and the historic Sita Koop.

The Ram temple project began after the Supreme Court's unanimous judgment dated November 9, 2019.

Following the ruling, the Centre constituted the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, announced by Prime Minister Modi on February 5, 2020.

The foundation stone for the temple was laid on August 5, 2020, and the 'Pran Pratishtha' of the Ram Lalla idol took place on January 22, 2022.

The Ram Darbar was opened to devotees on June 14, 2025.

‘Those who sacrificed must be in peace today’: RSS chief

PTI

Ayodhya, Nov 25: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said those who sacrificed their life for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya must be in peace today as the hoisting of the saffron flag atop the shrine marked the formal completion of its construction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially hoisted the saffron flag atop the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Speaking at the flag-hoisting ceremony at the temple, Bhagwat said a flag is always a symbol, and the installation of



such a towering flag at the temple had taken considerable time, just as the construction of the temple did.

He noted that many people had dreamt of this day and several sacrificed their lives for it. "Their souls must have found peace today," Bhagwat said, recalling the names of some.

"Those who worked in the background everyday also dreamt of Ram Mandir, now today that the ritualistic completion is over; the flag of 'Ram Rajya' has been hoisted," he added.

"It has taken long to hoist such a tall flag. You all know how long it took to build

the temple - even if we leave aside 500 years, it took 30 years," he said.

He added that through this flag, certain fundamental values had been elevated.

"These are the values that will guide the world - from individual life to family life and the life of the entire creation. Dharma is what ensures well-being for all," Bhagwat said.

He said the saffron colour of the flag represents dharma and is therefore referred to as the 'dharma dhvaj'. The flag also bears the symbol of the Raghu dynasty - the kovidar (mandar) tree, he added.

Tax collection should be smooth process with minimum discomfort to taxpayer: President

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that the tax collection should be a smooth process with minimum discomfort to the taxpayer.

Addressing the officer trainees of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes), who had called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she asked them to create systems that are transparent, accountable, and technology-driven.

Murmu said collection of revenue is critical for nation-building.

"This is the revenue that funds infrastructure, education, health, and social welfare. You are, therefore, active participants in India's nation-building process. But, the tax collection should be a smooth process with minimum discomfort to the taxpayer," the President said.

Please remember what Chanakya in the Arthashastra said about tax collection



- "a government should collect taxes like a honey-bee, which collects just the right amount of honey from the flower so that both can survive", she said while addressing them.

The President said that the recent Goods and Services Tax reforms introduced in September this year represent a landmark step in reshaping India's taxation system. "These reforms are designed to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship,

job creation, and affordable living. These reforms strengthen India's vision of inclusive growth, sustainability, and empowerment of the next generation," Murmu said. She asked the officers to ensure that taxation serves as a bridge of trust and fairness, and not as a barrier.

"As revenue service officer, you will perform multiple roles — as administrators, investigators, facilitators of trade, and enforcers of law. You are the sentinels

of India's economic frontiers, protecting the country against smuggling, financial fraud, and illicit trade, while simultaneously facilitating legitimate commerce and global trade partnerships," Murmu said.

The President said that their role demands a delicate balance between enforcement and facilitation; between upholding the law and enabling economic growth.

She asked them to create

systems that are transparent, accountable, and technology-driven.

"Integrity and fairness must remain the cornerstone of your professional conduct. The young officers are expected to be innovative, analytical, and technologically adept. I urge you to embrace data-driven decision-making, automation, and digital governance to make tax administration more efficient and citizen-friendly," Murmu said.

She also asked them to constantly upgrade their knowledge and adapt to rapid changes in global trade, technology, and economics.

"You are an important part of our ongoing journey toward making India, a developed nation by 2047. You have an integral role to play in realising the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by providing a stable, fair, and facilitative tax ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, compliance, and investment," the President added.

PM honors Guru Teg Bahadur's 350th martyrdom anniversary



UNI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid a profound tribute to Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, marking the occasion of his 350th martyrdom anniversary (Shaheedi Diwas).

In a post on X, the Prime Minister remembered the Guru's "unmatched courage and sacrifice for the protection of faith and humanity."

"On the 350th Shaheedi Diwas of Sri

Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, we bow in reverence to his unmatched courage and sacrifice. His martyrdom for the protection of faith and humanity will forever illuminate our society," PM Modi stated. Guru Teg Bahadur was martyred on November 24, 1675, after refusing to convert to Islam and for courageously standing up for the rights of the persecuted Kashmiri Pandits. He remains revered as a champion of human rights and an eternal symbol of courage and selfless sacrifice

Indian economy to cross USD 4 trillion in FY26: Nageswaran

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said the size of Indian economy is expected to cross USD 4 trillion in current fiscal.

He said with the geopolitics in a "huge state of flux", economic growth is very vital prerequisite to maintain India's standing and leverage in the global scheme of things.

India currently is the fifth largest economy in the world with a GDP of around USD 3.9 trillion.

Speaking at the IVCA Green Returns Summit 2025, Nageswaran said the Indian economy is already sort of crossing the USD 4 trillion mark, in the course of the current financial year, from USD 3.9 trillion at the end of March 2025. "So, whatever we do with respect to greening the economy, energy transition, environment, dealing with climate change and climate volatility have to be aligned with our priorities, both in the near term and the medium term," he said.



Nageswaran said the country is well aware of the potential consequences of global warming and climate change and more generally for agriculture environment, and coastlines, etc.

"That is why we as a country are committed to achieving net zero by 2070," Nageswaran said.

Not just a headache: 5 signs of early brain cancer that go unnoticed

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 25: The initial symptoms of brain cancer develop as mild signs, which patients frequently identify as ordinary health problems. The combination of headaches with additional warning signs, appears before headaches become the primary symptom of brain tumors. The identification of these warning signs at their onset leads to better treatment results. Here are some early signs of brain cancer that extend or can be accompanied by a headache, though they can occur due to other reasons as well...

Nausea and vomiting

The growing tumor inside your skull creates pressure that disrupts brain operations, and produces multiple symptoms. The first indicators of brain tumors include headaches, together with nausea, vomiting, fatigue and vision problems that cause blurred or double vision. The tumor creates these symptoms by applying pressure to brain



areas, which control these body functions. Medical professionals fail to identify these symptoms, because they resemble typical health problems, which results in delayed diagnosis. Research indicates that brain tumor patients experience headaches together with nausea and vision problems, which should lead them to seek medical care.

Cognitive issues

The first few indicators of brain cancer, include memory problems, concentration issues, mood changes and irritability. This occurs because the tumor creates these cognitive changes by pressing against brain areas which control thinking, and emotional processes. The brain shows signs of confusion, while patients

experience word-finding difficulties, and their behavior becomes unrecognisable. People tend to ignore these minor changes, and attribute them to stress and ageing, because they develop slowly. However, research indicates that brain tumor patients develop cognitive changes before their neurological symptoms become apparent, which makes these changes vital for early tumor detection.

Seizures and unexplained muscle weakness

Adults who never experienced seizures before, should seek immediate medical help when they develop new seizure activity because it indicates brain tumor activity. A tumor located in motor areas of the brain will cause

unexplained weakness or numbness, to appear in specific body parts. Medical staff will conduct urgent tests to detect tumors, after patients show these symptoms. Medical experts state that brain tumor patients should receive immediate medical tests when they experience either seizures, or muscle weakness.

Sudden appearance of vision problems

The brain's visual processing centers and optic nerves become affected by tumors, which result in vision problems including blurred vision, double vision, flashing lights and peripheral vision loss. These symptoms differ from typical eye strain, because they progress or appear without any apparent reason. Research shows that brain cancer patients who experience vision problems, together with neurological symptoms need immediate medical evaluation.

Unusual fatigue and balance issues

The exhaustion experienced by cancer patients exceeds typical fatigue,

because it persists strongly and does not respond to rest. People with brain tumors experience extreme tiredness which makes it hard to perform daily activities and stay awake. The brain's ability to control movement becomes disrupted when patients experience balance and coordination issues. Research shows that brain tumor patients experience two underreported symptoms, which include fatigue and balance problems, that need medical evaluation.

These warning signs frequently emerge before or together with headaches, which however, do not reliably indicate brain tumors. Research indicates that doctors should identify multiple symptoms at their onset, because this approach leads to better treatment results. Medical help should be sought immediately when you or someone you know, shows these warning signs.

Disclaimer: This article is informational only and not a substitute for medical advice

President Trump has ‘nuanced, commonsense opinion’ on H-1B visas: White House

PTI

New York/Washington, Nov 25: U.S. President Donald Trump has a “very nuanced and commonsense opinion” on the issue of H-1B visas and does not support American workers being replaced, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

To a question on American workers being replaced with H-1B visa holders and Mr. Trump’s position on it, Ms. Leavitt said the President’s stance on the issue has been mischaracterized.

On the H-1B visa issue, Ms. Leavitt said Mr. Trump “has a very nuanced and commonsense opinion on this issue. He wants to see if foreign companies are investing trillions of dollars in the United States of America, and they’re bringing foreign workers with them to create very niche things like batteries, he wants to see that at the beginning to get those manufacturing facilities and those factories up and running.”

She said that ultimately, Mr. Trump always wants to see American workers in those jobs, and he’s told foreign companies investing in the country that they “better be hiring my people if you’re going to be doing business in the United States. So there’s been a lot of misunderstanding of the President’s position.” Ms. Leavitt added that the President wants to see the American manufacturing industry revitalised better than ever before. “That’s part of what he’s doing with his effective use of tariffs and cutting good trade deals around the



world. That’s why he’s recruited trillions and trillions of dollars in investments into our country. Those are creating good-paying American jobs right here at home,” she said.

Amid backlash over the H-1B visas by Mr. Trump’s MAGA (Make America Great Again) supporters, the President has said that he would “welcome” skilled immigrants into the country who will then “teach” American workers to develop complex products like chips and missiles, acknowledging that he may take a “little heat” over this from his base which supports restrictions on immigration.

Mr. Trump has said that a large number of plants, including “extremely complex” ones, are being built in the U.S. now that will contribute significantly to

the country’s economic growth. He added that given the complex nature of products that will be manufactured in these plants, companies will have to bring in skilled workers from abroad who can then share their knowledge and teach American workers.

“But if you have to bring people to get those plants opened, we want you to do that, and we want those people to teach our people how to make computer chips and how to make other things,” Mr. Trump has said. Mr. Trump explained that the companies, which are building massive computer chip factories for billions of dollars, can’t just “hire people off an unemployment line to run it.” “They’re going to have to bring thousands of people with them, and I’m going to welcome those people,” Mr. Trump added.

Mr. Trump has said that a company cannot open up a big computer chip plant “with people that don’t even know what a chip looks like.” He had defended the H-1B visa programme, saying America has to bring in talent from around the world as it does not have “certain talents” in the country.

Companies use visas such as H-1B and L1 to hire skilled foreign workers for speciality occupations in the U.S. The Trump administration has launched an intense crackdown on illegal immigration, and the President’s supporters have also called for cracking down on H-1B visas, citing widespread abuse and fraud in the programme amid allegations that H-1B visa holders are rendering Americans unemployed.

‘US pressed Ukraine to accept deal at Geneva talks’

AFP

Kyiv, Nov 25: The United States pressed Ukraine to accept its proposals to end the war with Russia during talks in Geneva on Sunday, a senior official told AFP, despite Kyiv protests that the plan conceded too much to Moscow.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington did not directly threaten to cut off aid if Kyiv rejected its proposals, but that Ukraine understood this was a distinct possibility.

The US plan, originally made up of 28 points, would see Ukraine effectively cede its eastern Donetsk and Lugansk regions to Russia and slash the size of its army — demands that Kyiv has decried as unacceptable.

Ukrainian, US and European officials met in Switzerland on Sunday to draft an “updated” version of the plan, but the Kremlin said Monday that it would not accept European amendments. Although US pressure on Ukraine eased during the meeting in Geneva, “overall pressure” remained, a senior official briefed on the talks said.

The source said they did not understand why Washington was hurrying toward a deal, but that “everyone” was for an end to the war if there was a real opportunity to do so.

Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Kyiv and its European allies say the war, the largest and deadliest on European soil since World War II, is an unprovoked and illegal land grab that has resulted in a tidal wave of violence and destruction. Tens of thousands of civilians and military personnel have been



killed since the invasion began, while millions of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes. - ‘Critical moment’ -

US President Donald Trump initially gave Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy until Thursday to respond to the first version of the plan.

But German Chancellor Friedrich Merz threw doubt on Trump’s deadline, saying at an EU-Africa summit in Angola that discussions would be a “lengthy, long-lasting process.”

A new version of a draft worked on in Geneva has not been published but all sides agreed that any deal must “uphold Ukraine’s sovereignty.” Countries supporting Kyiv — part of the “coalition of the willing” — are due to hold a video call Tuesday following the Geneva talks.

Zelenskyy said Monday his country was at a “critical moment,” after last week warning Ukraine risked losing either its “dignity” or Washington as an ally. Russian President Vladimir Putin had welcomed the original US plan, saying it could be a basis for a deal.

But in Ukraine’s southern city of Zaporizhzhia, residents balked at the idea of ceding land to Russia. “We cannot give

up any territory. What did our soldiers give their lives for? How will we look their families in the eye?” asked Tetiana, a worker at a local metal firm. “I understand that it is very difficult for our boys, but give them an inch and they will take a mile.”

As talks continued, the war ground on. A Russian strike on the northeastern city of Kharkiv late Sunday killed four people, local officials said.

- Trump optimistic - In Washington, Trump appeared hopeful of a breakthrough.

“Don’t believe it until you see it, but something good just may be happening,” Trump said on social media. In Geneva on Sunday, the Ukrainian delegation said a new draft of the plan “already reflects most of Ukraine’s key priorities.”

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said “tremendous” progress had been made at the talks. “I honestly believe we’ll get there,” Rubio said, adding: “Obviously, the Russians get a vote.”

Moscow has captured and occupies large swathes of southern and eastern Ukraine, since it invaded claiming to have annexed five Ukrainian regions, including Crimea which it seized in 2014.

Raina backs Gambhir, says India's failures not coach's fault

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Former India batter Suresh Raina has backed under-fire national head coach Gautam Gambhir, saying the team’s recent poor run in home Tests cannot be attributed to the support staff as players must shoulder responsibility for the results.

India, after being shockingly whitewashed at home by New Zealand last year, are staring at another disastrous outcome in the ongoing series against South Africa, having lost the opening game of the two-match series.

“Gauti bhaiya (Gautam Gambhir) has worked really hard and he is not at all at fault. The players have to work really hard and play

well. Under him we have been doing great in the white-ball format where we just won the ICC Champions Trophy and Asia Cup in Dubai earlier this year,” Raina told ‘PTI Videos’.

“The players have to score, the coach can only guide, advise and give support to the players,” he said on the sidelines of the Indian Softball Cricket League’s jersey launch here. He was unveiled as the event’s brand ambassador.

Raina dismissed suggestions that Gambhir’s future as head coach is at risk due to the recent poor home Test record.

“If they (the players) are facing any issues, they must be communicating to the coach that this is the issue. If



the players do well then the coach will be also applauded. But if the team is not doing well, it should not be that the coach should be sacked from his post,” he said.

“I have played with Gautam

bhaiya, he loves Indian cricket team, he loves cricket, I have played and won the World Cup with him. So, he has done really well for the country and it is the players’ responsibility to do well,” he added.

On the criticism of India’s selection calls in the ongoing series, Raina said performances in domestic cricket should remain the benchmark.

“They should play domestic cricket regularly and do well there, if they do well that will automatically reflect in their performances at the international level,” he said.

He also highlighted the challenges of modern cricket, including three different formats and hectic scheduling, which affect performance.

Trump says he will visit China in April after ‘very good’ call with Xi Jinping

IANs

Washington, Nov 25: US President Donald Trump said that he will travel to China in April at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, announcing the visit in a social media post, following a “very good” phone conversation between the two leaders earlier in the day.

In his post on Truth Social, Trump said on Monday, that the call covered Ukraine, Russia,entanyl, soybeans and “other farm products,” adding that the two sides had “done a good, and very important, deal for our Great Farmers — and it will only get better.”

He said the conversation followed their “highly



successful” meeting in South Korea three weeks earlier and that both sides had made “significant progress” in keeping recent agreements “current and accurate.” Trump also announced that he would host the Chinese leader for a state visit in the United

States later next year.

Chinese news agency Xinhua also confirmed the call and said Xi used the conversation to outline Beijing’s “principled position” on Taiwan, emphasising that Taiwan’s return to China is “an integral part of the post-war

international order.”

It stated that Xi underlined that “China and the US fought side by side against fascism and militarism” and “should jointly safeguard the victorious outcomes of World War II.”

China is currently engaged in an escalating diplomatic row with Japan following comments by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on the Taiwan Strait. According to the statement, Xi and Trump also discussed the war in Ukraine. Xi reiterated China’s support for “all efforts conducive to peace” and expressed hope that parties involved in the conflict would narrow differences and work toward a “fair, lasting and binding peace agreement.”

Man United loses to Everton at home for first time in 12 years

REUTERS

Manchester, Nov 25: Everton enjoyed its first Premier League win at Manchester United in 12 years despite playing the entire game virtually with 10 men after midfielder Idrissa Gueye was sent off for slapping his own teammate, Michael Keane, on Monday.

Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall’s superb first-half goal sealed a 1-0 win for the visiting side, which shrugged off the 13th-minute incident that had Gueye and Keane square up. United, which could have moved up to fifth with a win, dominated possession, especially in the second half, but Everton defended superbly to repel the host, which looked blunt in attack.

Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford made several fine saves to preserve his side’s lead, the pick of them to claw away a Joshua Zirkzee header with 10 minutes remaining.

A second away win of the season lifted Everton above city rival and champion Liverpool into 11th place, level on 18 points with United, which is above it on goal



difference. Everton manager David Moyes had failed to win in 17 previous Premier League matches as an opposition manager at Old Trafford, and Everton’s most recent win there, in 2013, came when Moyes was in the home dug-out during his brief United reign. That miserable run had looked like continuing as Everton made a horrible start when defender Seamus Coleman was forced off with

an injury after 10 minutes.

Worse was to follow shortly after in a bizarre incident. After Bruno Fernandes’s shot flashed just wide after a misunderstanding in the Everton defence, a heated argument flared up between Gueye and Keane.

After Keane shoved his teammate, Gueye responded with a slap to the face of the defender, prompting referee Tony Harrington to show him a straight red card, the

decision being checked and verified by VAR.

It was the first time a Premier League player had been sent off for an altercation with a teammate since Stoke City’s Ricardo Fuller was dismissed for slapping Andy Griffin during a match at West Ham United in 2008.

At that stage, the omens looked bleak for Everton, with United never having lost a Premier League game at Old Trafford against opponents who had a player sent off.

Everton responded with the right kind of fight, though, and took the lead in stunning fashion with Dewsbury-Hall cutting in to send a powerful shot from the edge of the penalty area past the dive of the slow-to-react Senne Lammens in the 29th minute. United struggled to make its numerical supremacy count and, except for a Fernandes’ long-range effort that was saved by Pickford, it offered little in attack before half-time.

The host cranked up the pressure after the break as Everton retreated, and Bryan Mbeumo was denied by Pickford before Mason Mount flashed a low shot just wide.



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