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SCAN TO VISIT

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Combat terror networks, radicalisation: LG Sinha directs officials

Calls for unified coordination mechanism between Police, Prisons Dept, intel agencies

Yogesh



Jammu, Nov 05: Directing officials to combat terror networks, radicalization, and law and order threats, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called for a unified coordination mechanism between the Police, Prisons Department, and intelligence agencies.

Chairing a high-level review meeting of the Prisons Department at the Lok Bhavan here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), discussed ways to strengthen prison security and management protocols across Jammu Kashmir.

Emphasizing robust jail administration, the Lieutenant Governor called for a unified coordination mechanism between the Police, Prisons Department, and intelligence agencies. He instructed for regular review meetings and intelligence sharing between the Police, Prisons Department, and intelligence agencies to combat terror networks, radicalization, and law and order threats.

The Lieutenant Governor directed surprise checks of prison premises and surrounding areas, as well as forensic analysis of any seized electronic devices.

The meeting was attended by DGP Nalin Prabhat; DGP, Prisons J&K, Deepak Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Special DG Coordination PHQ, S.J.M.Gillani; ADG CID, M. K. Sinha; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant | More on P6

AIIMS Awantipora OPD before Dec 2026, IPD from Jul 2027: Nadda

Sets March 2027 deadline for remaining works; 652 personnel cleared for rollout

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 05: Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Thursday reviewed the progress of the under-construction All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora, and directed agencies to expedite the remaining work to ensure early operationalisation of the institute.

During the review meeting, Nadda was informed that all major buildings had been completed, while the remaining infrastructure and operational arrangements were being taken up in phases.

He, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), directed the concerned agencies to complete the pending construction works by March 2027, describing AIIMS Awantipora as a priority project that will significantly strengthen specialised healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, OPD services are planned to begin before December 2026, while IPD services are proposed to start in July 2027, subject to the availability of infrastructure, equipment and manpower. Academic activities, including MBBS classes, are expected to commence in the 2027-28 academic session.

The minister reviewed infrastructure development, procurement of medical equipment and furniture, recruitment of faculty and staff, and preparedness for launching healthcare and academic services.

He also appreciated the efforts of | More on P6

100 MBBS seats to boost medical education: Sakeena Itoo

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 05: Jammu and Kashmir Health Minister Sakeena Itoo on Thursday welcomed Union Health Minister J P Nadda's visit to Kashmir and said AIIMS Awantipora is set to begin academic activities with 100 MBBS seats, double the 50 seats announced earlier.

Speaking after Nadda's visit to the institute in Pulwama district, Itoo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Union Minister reviewed the progress of the project and its preparedness for launching academic and healthcare services.

"Earlier, 50 MBBS seats had been announced, | More on P6

NC leadership steps in to defuse MLA 'revolt' over cabinet reshuffle

CM Omar, Dr. Farooq to meet legislators today

16 MLAs hold 5-hour strategy session at Masoodi's residence

Umer Maqbool

Srinagar, Nov 05: With discontent continuing to simmer within the National Conference over the recent cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah are set to hold a meeting with the aggrieved legislators in Srinagar on Friday morning. Ahead of tomorrow's meeting, the NC legislators held a nearly five-hour meeting that continued till late evening at MLA Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi's residence.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Omar Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah are scheduled to meet the disgruntled legislators on Friday morning at the latter's Gupkar residence.

"Both the Chief Minister and Dr Farooq Abdullah arrived in Srinagar on Thursday afternoon. While Omar Abdullah flew in from Jammu, Dr Farooq Abdullah returned to the Valley from New Delhi," sources disclosed.

The meeting is being viewed as an attempt by the NC leadership | More on P6

Education must produce responsible citizens, not just toppers: CM Omar

» Says questioning generation will make us answerable, shape better J&K

» Urges students to think independently, use AI ethically, develop reading habits

Raja Syed Rather



Jammu, Nov 05: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said education must go beyond academic achievements and focus on producing responsible citizens equipped with independent thinking, strong moral values and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

Addressing the annual 'Honour and Excellence Awards' ceremony at the Convention Centre in Jammu, the Chief Minister urged students to question fearlessly, think independently and use Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly and ethically.

The ceremony recognised meritorious students for their outstanding performance in the Class X and XII board examinations, honoured employees completing 25 years of dedicated service and celebrated distinguished alumni of the Society's educational institutions.

The Chief | More on P6

Local terrorist behind two South Kmr attacks, foreign ultras being tracked: Police

Security threats persist along NH-44: IGP Sujit Kumar

Warns against misuse of photos with officers to wield influence

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 05: A local terrorist was involved in two recent attacks in south Kashmir, while a small number of foreign terrorists continue to operate in the Valley with local support, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference at the Police Control Room in Srinagar, Kumar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said it was difficult to determine the exact number of foreign terrorists as they frequently change locations.

"There are some footprints, but there cannot be a certain number because they keep moving from one place to another. Any fixed figure would be an exaggeration," he said.

The IGP said the local terrorist was involved in attacks in Anantnag and Kulgam. The Anantnag attack claimed the life of police official Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was on Amarnath Yatra duty on June 22. In Kulgam, two | More on P6

Fake cyber crime officials dupe man of Rs 50,000

Four booked

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 05: Police have registered a case against four persons for impersonating Cyber Crime officials and cheating a man of rupees 50,000 in Batmaloo area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a complaint was received from a man alleging that four persons had cheated him by posing as officers of the Cyber Crime Department.

He said the accused fraudulently took rupees | More on P6

1,941 drug traffickers held, Rs 154 cr assets attached: IGP Kashmir

'1,651 NDPS cases; 1,711 kg contraband seized; 567 bank accounts frozen; cyber fraud complaints involve Rs 54.66 cr'

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 05: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar, on Thursday said police have intensified crackdown on drug trafficking and its financial networks, with 1,941 persons arrested and properties worth approximately Rs 154 crore attached across Kashmir Zone during the first 10 months of 2026.

Addressing a press conference at Police Control Room here, IGP Kumar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said tackling the drug menace, cybercrime and traffic violations require coordinated efforts, particularly the active participation of youngsters and civil society.

It's in place | More on P6

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches, wet spell ahead

MeT predicts 'generally dry weather' till Nov 9

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 05: Higher reaches of the Valley received fresh rain and snowfall on Wednesday late evening as weather conditions turned cloudy across parts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Snowfall was recorded at Razdan Pass and several other higher-altitude areas of the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday evening.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir from November 6 to 9, while another spell of precipitation is likely to affect the region from November 10.

According to the latest forecast, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), generally cloudy weather is expected on November 10 and 11, with light to moderate rainfall in plains and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches at scattered to many places from late evening on November 10 to the forenoon and afternoon of November 11.

Another spell of light to moderate rain and snowfall is likely at many places on November 12, | More on P6

Man found dead in Pantha Chowk

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 05: A 35-year-old man died after being found unconscious on the roadside near Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar, officials said on Thursday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found lying unconscious near Smart City Gate at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

He said locals spotted the man and informed police, following which he was shifted to SMHS Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was later identified as Mukesh Shrivastav (35), a resident of Bihar.

Meanwhile, the circumstances leading | More on P6

RS 209-CR CYBER FRAUD RACKET

Poor families lured to provide bank accounts against petty monthly commissions, reveals top cop

» Says BPL ration-card holders used as tools; doctor among 9 held

» Ganderbal link involves Rs 2.5 cr, 200 J&K accounts under scanner

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 05: In a major cyber fraud investigation, poor families holding Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards were lured with monthly commissions of up to Rs 10,000 to provide their bank accounts, which were then used to route money through fraudulent online investment and gaming platforms in a racket involving transactions worth Rs 209 crore, a top police officer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) on Thursday.

He said the investigations have unearthed a Ganderbal link involving transactions worth around Rs 2.5 crore, while nearly 200 bank accounts linked to Jammu and Kashmir were under scrutiny for their suspected connection with the wider network.

The official told KNO that a local person from Ganderbal was approached and persuaded to provide bank account details in exchange for commission. The transactions subsequently came under the scanner of Ganderbal Police, which investigated the suspected links.



The alleged main handler, an MBBS doctor from Haryana identified as Ekant Yogdutt, alias Dr Morphine, was apprehended at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi, while returning from China, the official said.

He said the doctor had pursued his MBBS studies in the Philippines and allegedly learnt the techniques of operating such financial networks during his stay abroad, including in China.

Investigators have found that around 20 bank accounts were allegedly operated in the names of the doctor and his wife, with 10 accounts each linked to them. Online gaming and other digital platforms were used to facilitate transactions and move money through multiple accounts.

Earlier, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal, while addressing a press conference on February 16 this year had said that Police had identified 835 suspicious bank accounts linked to the racket, with transactions worth Rs 209 crore verified in 290 accounts.

He had said the amount involved could cross Rs 400 crore after verification of the remaining accounts. Police had also arrested nine persons, including the Haryana-based doctor, in connection with the case.

Poswal had said the accused allegedly targeted BPL ration-card holders, offering them monthly commissions of Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 in exchange for their bank accounts and ATM cards.

The role of certain bank employees was also being examined for their suspected involvement | More on P6

DDC Ganderbal reviews power sector, assesses implementation of key projects



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 05: District Development Commissioner Ganderbal (DDC), Shreya Singhal, chaired a meeting Thursday in the VC Room of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review the overall functioning of the Power Development Sector and assess the implementation status of various key government schemes and projects across the district.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, a comprehensive review was taken regarding the implementation of major power initiatives, including the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Solarization of Government Buildings, and progress under UT Capex/CSS and other schemes. Special emphasis was laid on evaluating winter preparedness to ensure an uninterrupted and reliable power supply to consumers during the upcoming winter season.

A detailed presentation was delivered by the SE, KPDCL Circle Ganderbal, highlighting the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects, along with the status of infrastructure development and upgradation works across the district.

The DDC urged officials to maintain strict quality control, adhere to stipulated timelines, and ensure close coordination among departments for prompt redressal of public grievances related to power supply.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ganderbal, CPO Ganderbal, SE KPDCL Circle Ganderbal, SE KPDCL Projects Division Sopore, Executive Engineers of KPDCL Division Ganderbal/Sumbal, STD Division Ganderbal and Electric Project Division Ganderbal, along with AEEs and other concerned officials.

Vice Chairman JK LCMA reviews ongoing works, maintenance of Dal Lake

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 05: With a focus on assessing the ground realities and taking a first-hand view of the activities being carried out across Dal Lake, Vice Chairman, JK LCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, undertook an extensive tour of the lake Thursday, covering the stretch from Dockyard, Nishat, to Hazratbal, including Bod Dal and other important locations.

The Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, was accompanied by senior officers of the Authority, who briefed him on the status of various ongoing works and field-level activities at different locations during the tour.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected various sites to take stock of the ongoing works and assess the progress of activities being undertaken by the Authority. He also visited the ablution pond and reviewed its condition, maintenance and overall upkeep.

At different locations, he interacted with the concerned officers and field staff, sought updates on the works in progress and discussed operational aspects requiring attention. The visit provided an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of field-level interventions and identify areas requiring further improvement and focused attention.

POSB, PLI Schemes

General Post Office holds awareness programme at J&K Resident Commission

KT News Desk

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5: An awareness programme on Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) and Postal Life Insurance (PLI) schemes was conducted by a team from the General Post Office (GPO), New Delhi, at the Office of the Resident Commission, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi.

The initiative, as per an official statement, was aimed at promoting the financial literacy and familiarising the officers and officials with various government-backed savings and insurance schemes.

The visiting team, headed by Aparna Shandilya Assistant Director and her team, delivered an informative presentation on the features, benefits and eligibility criteria of various savings and insurance products offered by the Department of Posts.

During the session, the team highlighted various Post Office Savings Bank schemes, including Savings Accounts, Recurring Deposits (RD), Time Deposits (TD), Monthly Income Scheme (MIS), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP). The participants were apprised of the prevailing interest rates, investment tenures, financial security benefits and applicable tax incentives under these schemes.

cThe programme provided an opportunity to the officers and officials of the Resident Commission to interact with the GPO representatives and seek clarifications regarding savings, insurance coverage, long-term financial planning and investment options.

The objective behind the event was to enhance financial awareness among the employees and encouraging informed financial planning through secure savings and life insurance instruments being offered by the Department of Posts.

Pursue excellence, avail benefits of Self-Employment Schemes: DC Anantnag

KT News Desk



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Thursday visited Arwani Cricket Ground in Bijbehara and interacted with local youth to take stock of the facilities available for sports activities.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, listened to the genuine demands and concerns raised by the local youth and assured them of all possible support for promoting sports activities in the area.

He directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) to ensure the provision of all requisite facilities at the cricket ground to facilitate sports activities and encourage greater youth participation in sports.

Addressing on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that youth possess immense talent and urged them to strive for excellence, work hard and make the best use of available opportunities and assured them of the administration's full support at every step.

The DC added that the administration is strengthening sports infrastructure across District and creating better opportunities for youth to hone their skills and showcase their talent.

He urged the youth to avail the benefits of various self-employment schemes launched by the government, explore available opportunities and take up entrepreneurial ventures to build a bright and secure future.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Bijbehara Tanveer Ahmad, Tehsildar Bijbehara, BDO Bijbehara and other concerned officers and officials.

Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament programme organised at Govt Degree College Tral

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 05: The Viksit Bharat National Youth Parliament Programme was successfully organized at Government Degree College Tral by My Bharat Pulwama, Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports, Government of India in collaboration with Govt Degree College Tral.

The event, as per an official statement, aimed to promote democratic values, parliamentary awareness, and leadership skills among students. The topic of the youth Parliament programme was "One Nation One Election". The programme commenced with the National Anthem followed by the National Song.

The chief guest, Principal Prof. Jasvinder Singh Speaking on the occasion, underscored the importance of the programme in nurturing responsible citizenship and thanked all stakeholders associated with its successful conduct. He spoke about various initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to empower youth and provide them with platforms to express their views on national and social issues.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES, DISTRICT BANDIPORA

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the interested Fish Farmers belonging to ST Category from the below mentioned Tribal villages* located in Aspirational blocks of district Bandipora of UT of Jammu and Kashmir for providing Motor cycles with Ice box (Post Harvest Management) in private sector under "DAJGUA-proposed Action 2026-27 with the funding pattern mentioned as;

S.N	Component of the scheme	No of units allotted	Unit cost (Rs in lacs)	Funds sharing pattern	
				Centre	Beneficiary
1	Motorcycle with Icebox	03	0.75	90%	10%

Terms and Conditions:-

01. The applicant should be a Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir (UT).
02. The applicant should be a Fish Farmer/ Fish Worker/or Fish Vendor
03. The applicant/s should have the Valid Driving License.
04. The beneficiary should not have availed the same benefit under any scheme by any agency/department.
05. The short listing of the applicants shall be carried out by the District Level Committee by draw of lots.
06. The Final Selection of the intended sites shall be the domain of the District Level Committee framed vide Govt; Order No. 944-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated:-15-10-2020 and shall be guided by the necessary orders/guidelines/clarifications issued in this regard from time to time.
07. The last date for submission of application is now 16-11-2026 upto 12.00 Noon.

* Name of the village	Block
Kanzalwan Nail	Kanzalwan
Mastan Khopri	Budwan
Dawar	Gurez
Badwan	Gurez
Khandyal	Gurez
Markoot	Gurez
Shahpora-Achora (Churwan)	Gurez
Kishay payeen	Tulail
Barnie	Tulail
Zadigi	Tulail
Dangli Thal	Tulail
Puranatulail	Tulail
Jurnial	Tulail
Manzgund	Tulail
Neeru	Tulail
Wazirithal	Tulail
Budgam	Tulail
Saradaab	Tulail
Buglinder	Tulail
Gund Gul Sheikh	Tulail
Hussangam	Tulail
Malangam	Tulail
Baduaab	Tulail
Gujran	Tulail
Abdullan	Tulail
Chandaji	Bonakoot
Chuntimulla	Arin
Kudara	Arin
Chak Arsala Khan	Arin
Chittibanday	Bandipora
Aragam	Bandipora

Further details/guidelines of the scheme can be had from the office of the Assistant Director Fisheries Bandipora Block C, floor 3rd Mini Sect. Bandipora. The applicants hailing from Gurez Division can deposit their application with the Deputy Inspector Fisheries Office Gurez (Office at Dawar Gurez) on any working day, up to the last date. Further, Feel free to contact to Mr Muneer ul Hassan Sheikh, Deputy Inspector Gurez bearing contact No:-9682507833 in respect of Gurez division and Mr. Anam ul Haq Wani, Extension Wing Bandipora bearing contact No:- 7006537992 in respect of Bandipora.

No:-ADF/Bpr/26-27/2325
Dt:- 05/11/2026

Sd/
Assistant Director Fisheries
District Bandipora

DIPK-7394/26 DATED: 05-11-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Compassionate appointment of Mr. Syed Waseem Ahmad S/o Mohd Yousf Shah R/o Haripari-gam Awantipora, Pulwama under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme 2022 read with S.O 397 dated 16.08.2024-Notice thereof.

NOTICE

Mr. Syed Waseem Ahmad S/o Mohd Yousf Shah R/o Haripari-gam Awantipora, Pulwama, is hereby informed through the medium of this notice to furnish his email Id/ address and mobile/contact details to the Public Works (R&B) Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar, for registration under the EVS Portal (Employee Verification System).

The requisite details may be submitted either in person or through email at clericalhallrnb121@gmail.com within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this notice, in terms of Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022, issued by the General Administration Department.

It is further informed that failure to furnish the above-mentioned information within the stipulated time frame shall be construed as unwillingness to accept appointment in the Public Works (R&B) Department under the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022, and the claimant shall forfeit his right to appointment without any further notice.

Namrita Wanchoo
Under Secretary to the Government

No: PWD-SRO/15/2025-05 (7637292) Dated: 29.10.2026

DIPK-7404/26 DATED: 05-11-2026

Kashmir Thunder
IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS



NOTICE

I Jawahira Rasool W/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/o Model town B, Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Jawhara Begum to Jawahira Rasool for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 378977836171
Henceforth, i shall be known as jawahira rasool

NOTICE

I Moazim Masood ul haq S/o syed Masood ul haq R/o Shalapore ,Danger pora , Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Syed muazim Masood to Moazim Masood ul haq for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar no 440102112428
Henceforth, i shall be known as Moazim Masood ul haq

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I, Abdul Hamid Lone, have lost my 9th Class Pass Discharge Certificate issued by Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal, for the academic year 2015–16, bearing Admission No. 935 and Roll No. 1617. Despite my best efforts, the certificate could not be traced. I intend to apply for a duplicate certificate from the concerned school authorities.
Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned school authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Abdul Hamid Lone
S/o Mohammad Maqbool Lone
R/o Telipora, Ganderbal.

LOSS OF WALLET

I have lost wallet somewhere between SALOORA TO WANI PORA which contains POLICE DEPARTMENT I CARD , ATM CARD and 2000. Now if anybody have found contact on the below given number.

MOHMAD AMIN SHAH
S/o.GH MOHMAD SHAH
R/o SALOORA GANDERBAL
Phone No:7051617226

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE
FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Showket Ahmed Bhat
S/o Ab. Salam Bhat & Rubeena Bano
minor through mother
Rubeena Bano R/o Pati Bamloora Gbl
V/S
UT of J&K through Registrar Birth and Death Block Sherpathri/Gbl Block Development officer Sherpathri Gbl
Respondent
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1. The instant application came to be filed before this court on under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely
2. Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the general public be called for issuance of birth certificate in favour of the above named person.
3. Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days, to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced
1/C ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE
GANDERBAL

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE
FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Saima Jan
D/o Ab. Salam Bhat r/o Rubeena Bano
minor through her mother
Rubeena Bano R/o Pati Bamloora
Saloona [illegible]
Applicant
V/S
Ut of JK through Registrar Births &
Deaths Block Sherpathri/gbl
BDO Sherpathri /gbl
Respondent
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1. The instant application came to [Stamp Obscured] before this court on under Section 13 (3) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely
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JUDICIAL
MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS,
GANDERBAL

Announced
02-11-2026

Jhelum, tributaries record low water levels

Springs dry up in south Kashmir

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 05: As Kashmir heads into winter following prolonged dry spells, water levels in the River Jhelum and several of its tributaries remain low, raising concerns over availability of water in coming months.

Data released by the Irrigation and Flood Control De-partment reveals that the gauge readings recorded at 9 am on Wednesday showed the water level at Sangam at minus 0.64 feet, while the gauge at Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar recorded 3.80 feet. At Asham in North Kashmir, the water level stood at 1.19 feet, while the Wular Lake level was recorded at 1573.84 metres.

Among the tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani rec-orded 2.41 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi stood at minus 0.48 metres and Lidder Nallah at Batkoot at minus 0.52 metres. Doodhganga at Barzulla recorded 0.26 metres, while Sindh Nallah at Doderhama stood at minus 0.25 metres.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said water levels across the Valley were below normal, warning that another prolonged dry spell could aggravate water scarci-ty, particularly during the winter months. "Water levels are below normal, and we have a dry spell ahead in Kashmir Valley. This could trigger shortages of drinking water and affect electricity generation, particu-larly if water availability continues to decline," he said.

SPRINGS IN SOUTH KASHMIR HAVE ALSO DRIED UP

Arif said several local springs in South Kashmir have also dried up following continued dry conditions, adding to concerns over the availability of water for rural communi-ties.

A study published in the journal Frontiers in Water, titled GIS-Based Inventory and Utility Assessment of Spring Resources in the Kashmir Himalaya, has also highlighted growing concerns over the region's water security.

The study mapped 649 springs across Anantnag and Kul-gam districts during field surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022. It found that 76 springs, accounting for 11.7 per cent of those surveyed, were completely dry, while 8.5 per cent were seasonal and the remaining 79.8 percent were perennial.

The research also found that domestic requirements, in-cluding drinking, cooking and washing, accounted for the largest share of spring water use. Researchers noted that local communities had reported declining spring dis-charge and reliability over the preceding five to 10 years, although the absence of long-term hydrological records prevented independent confirmation of these trends. The findings underline the vulnerability of communities dependent on natural springs, particularly in rural areas where these water sources support both household con-sumption and agricultural activities.

Meanwhile, the intense and prolonged dry spells that af-fected Kashmir over recent seasons have temporarily eased, with the region entering the winter transition marked by occasional light precipitation and falling tem-peratures.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather from November 6 to 9, followed by spells of light to moderate rainfall and snowfall over higher reach-es between November 10 and 13.

The department's figures represent gauge readings at a particular time and should not be confused with seasonal averages or a direct measurement of drinking water availability. However, concerns over declining spring flows and the prospect of further dry periods have brought renewed attention to Kashmir's water security—(KNO)

Dr Farooq, CM Omar visit Ahsan Pardesi's residence to offer condolences



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 05: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited the residence of MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), to offer condolences on the demise of his father, Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC).

Paying rich tributes to the late leader, the Chief Minister recalled his dedicated public service and valuable contri-butions to public life. He offered Fatiha for the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the be-reaved family.

The Chief Minister prayed for eternal peace to the de-parted soul and strength and fortitude to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

In the meantime, JKNC media cell in a press statement said that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the residence of late Sheikh Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, a senior party leader and former MLC, at Shivpora, Srinagar, to offer condo-lences and express solidarity with the bereaved family.

The two leaders particularly conveyed their condolences to the late leader's son, Ahsan Pardesi, Provincial Vice President of the party and MLA from Lal Chowk, and shared the grief of the family.

On the occasion, both leaders offered Fatiha Khawani for the departed soul and paid glowing tributes to him, re-calling his noble qualities, public service, unwavering commitment to the party and valuable contributions to-wards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

They expressed heartfelt sympathy and solidarity with the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace to the departed soul, forgive his shortcomings, elevate his status in the hereafter and grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. They also prayed for strength and patience for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 05: A delegation of Jammu Tawi Aarti team, led by Rajesh Gupta, President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (J&K and Ladakh), called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, and apprised him of their ongoing social, cultural, and religious initiatives in the Jammu region.

The delegation consisted of Harinder Gupta, Convener, LEAD (Ladakh Jammu & Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue); Swami Hridyanand Giri Ji Ma-haraj, Peethadhishwar, Hridayadeep Ashram; Sanjiv Sharma, Board Member, LEAD; Tapan Dubey and Vijay Kumar Gupta, members of Jammu Tawi Aarti, briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the preparations for the forth-coming LJK Mahotsav 2026, scheduled to be held from December 18th to 20th, 2026, at Tawi Riverfront.

They also discussed the expansion of Tawi Aarti, up-gradation of facilities at the Aarti Sthal, Amba Yagya at the Tawi Riverfront and the upcoming International Mu-seum of Goddess at Katra.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor was also pre-sented with LEAD's annual magazine, 'Smarika'.

In the meantime, a delegation of Jewellers Association Jammu led by its President Mayank Kapoor called the Lieutenant Governor on Thursday.

Another delegation, the team of "Ek Galat Kadam", an awareness short film on drug abuse called on LG Manoj Sinha, and extended invitation for the premiere of their short film.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the initiative and ex-tended his best wishes to the team.

The short film features Mahira Tandon, the Youth Am-bassador of Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyaan. Divya Tandon, Writer and Director and Sumit Tandon, Producer of the film were also present.

Furthermore, Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson called on LG Manoj Sinha.

Soldiers celebrate Diwali along LoC, IB amid tight vigil

Sajid Raina

Jammu: Amid heightened vigil, security forces personnel deployed at several forward locations along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Diwali on Thursday.

According to the details available, Army soldiers de-ployed in the Akhnoor sector on the outskirts of Jammu participated in prayers and burst firecrackers, while simi-lar celebrations were held by troops stationed in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district.

"They were seen lighting firecrackers, offering prayers at a temple and celebrating the festival with fellow soldiers while continuing their operational duties along the LoC," witnesses told KNO.

The celebrations were also held against the backdrop of extensive security arrangements

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

ECI to announce J&K electoral roll revi-sion in due course

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India on Thursday said the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir will be announced in due course of time.

The Commission said the schedule for roll revision in J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be announced later, keeping in view their weather conditions. "Also, for the 3 States/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where SIR has not been started so far, schedule for roll revision will be an-nounced in due course of time keeping in view their weather conditions," the ECI said, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Kashmir youth must lead anti-drug fight: IGP Kumar

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar: Assuring that police would stand by young people who are willing to bring positive change in the society, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar, on Thursday called upon youth to become partners in fight against drug addiction, cybercrime and reckless driving.

In his first media interaction since taking over as IGP Kashmir, Sujit Kumar said, "Challenges confronting society cannot be addressed through police action alone, these require active participation from youngsters, families and civil society."

"Police are with you. I assure you that my team and the entire Kashmir Zone Police will support you. The youth must come forward and play a positive role in this fight," he said while addressing a press conference at PCR Srinagar.

Focusing on the growing drug menace, IGP Kumar urged youngsters battling addiction not to suffer in silence, assuring them of police assistance in accessing rehabilitation facilities while keeping their identities confidential.

He said those seeking help could approach any police station or the police-run drug rehabilitation centre, where necessary assistance would be provided without exposing their identities.

The IGP also made a special appeal to recovering victims to share their experiences through videos and awareness messages, saying their stories could motivate other youngsters to stay away from drugs and seek help.

He said he wanted more such initiatives in which young people who had overcome addiction could inspire others through their personal experiences.

STAY AWAY FROM CYBERCRIME

On cybercrime, he cautioned youngsters against becoming part of organised online fraud networks, particularly those involving mule bank accounts used to cheat people of their hard-earned money.

Describing such activities as a betrayal of one's own people, he urged youth not to provide their bank accounts to fraudsters or become involved in financial transactions linked to cybercrime.

He also called for greater awareness about online fraud and urged victims to report such incidents promptly so that necessary action could be taken to prevent financial losses.

EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RECKLESS DRIVING

Expressing concern over reckless driving, IGP Kumar said rash driving, speeding, modified motorcycles and loud bikes during night hours were endangering lives and causing inconvenience to the public, particularly elderly people.

He appealed to youngsters to follow traffic rules, avoid using mobile phones while driving, refrain from improper parking and show consideration for pedestrians and other road users.

Referring to a recent initiative by Srinagar Police, IGP Kumar appreciated a youngster who had uploaded a video of reckless driving but later acknowledged his mistake and appealed to other youth not to repeat such behaviour.

He said such positive examples should be encouraged, adding that youngsters could use social media to spread awareness against drug addiction and irresponsible driving rather than promote dangerous behaviour.

Reiterating his appeal for collective action, the IGP said the younger generation had an important role

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Mehbooba re-elected as PDP chief for fifth term

Says, 'people need healing, not victories'

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar: Saying that people who have suffered for years need healing rather than political victories, Mehbooba Mufti was on Thursday unanimously re-elected as president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for fifth term.

"Those who are hurting do not need victories. They need healing," Mehbooba said in a social media post. "My heart is heavy and full at the same time. I am grateful. You have trusted me for the fifth time and I do not take that lightly. But I also carry the pain of people who have given so much and been heard so little," she said.

The proposal to re-elect Mehbooba was moved by former minister and senior party leader Abdul Rehman Veeri and seconded by senior leader Mohammad Khurshid Alam.

According to the party, all members of the electoral college present at the meeting unanimously supported her candidature, while members from Jammu participated online and extended their support.

Reflecting on the suffering of families who have lost their loved ones, Mehbooba said she had walked through lanes where mothers still kept lamps lit for sons who never returned and met fathers who had carried too many coffins but received too few answers.

She also referred to the uncertainty among young people, saying their question about whether tomorrow would be different from yesterday was one she heard and felt. "This is the party we built together, to answer our people's pain, so that no one has to die searching for answers," she added.

Mehbooba has been leading the PDP since 2003—(KNO)

Fire Services issues winter fire safety advisory

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Fire & Emer-gency Services (F&ES) Department on Thursday issued a winter fire safety advisory, urging people to take precau-tionary measures while using heating appliances, Bukha-ris, Kangris and LPG heaters to prevent fire incidents, suf-focation and loss of life and property. In an advisory issued for the general public, the depart-ment said the use of heating appliances increases consid-erably during winter, and their improper use or careless handling could lead to fire incidents and other hazards.

The department advised people to use standard-marked heating appliances and electric blankets, ensure they are properly checked before use, and switch off and unplug electric heaters before going to bed or leaving home. The advisory called for proper ventilation while using LPG heaters, Bukharis and other fuel-burning appliances, warning against leaving LPG heaters running while sleep-ing or when rooms are unattended.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Justice Begins At Home

Among the many trusts a parent carries, the fairest treatment of children is perhaps the most delicate. It is easy to love one child more in a moment, to reward the one who pleases us, to worry more about the one who struggles. But the Quran and the Sunnah do not leave this to instinct. They make justice among children a matter of faith. The Quran commands justice as a fundamental duty: "Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct". And the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made this concrete in a famous incident. A father, Bashir, gave a special gift to one son, Nu'man, and asked the Prophet (PBUH) to witness it. The Prophet (PBUH) asked: "Have you given all your children the same?" He said no. The Prophet (PBUH) refused, saying: "Fear Allah and be just among your children". In another narration, he said: "I will not witness injustice". This is not a small matter. The scholars explain that unequal treatment in gifts or spending plants hatred between siblings and wounds the child who is left out. The Prophet (PBUH) even asked the father: "Would you like them to show you equal kindness?" When he said yes, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "Then do not do it". But justice is not always identical treatment. Islam recognises that a sick child needs more money for medicine, a poor child needs more help, a student needs support for fees. The scholars permit differentiation for a valid reason, not for favouritism or to deprive an heir of inheritance. The line is between need and preference. For parents, the lesson is clear: fear Allah in how you distribute your love, your time and your wealth. For children, the lesson is also clear: even when a parent is unjust, kindness and patience remain your duty. But the burden of justice rests first on the one who holds the authority. A home built on fairness is a home where siblings remain siblings, and where the parents' dua is answered.

Ibadur-Rahman: The Servants Of The Most Merciful

They will be awarded high chambers in Paradise because they remained steadfast-controlling their desires, bearing hardships, and practicing patience throughout their lives. Their reward is elevated ranks in Jannah.

Saeed



In the last section of Surah Al-Furqan, Allah mentions fifteen verses in which He describes several noble qualities of His special servants — those whom He honours with the title "Ibadur-Rahman."

The believers who possess these thirteen qualities will be granted lofty chambers in Paradise. These upper chambers will appear to the rest of the people of Jannah like stars appear to the people of the earth. They will also receive the special honour of angels greeting them with congratulations and peace.

1. First Quality: Servitude ('Ubudiyyah)

They are true servants of Allah. Allah says: "The servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth humbly, and when the ignorant address them, they say words of peace."

Allah begins their description with "Ibad" — servants — indicating that their first quality is complete servitude. A true servant acts only according to the will of his Master. Their daily activities are aligned with what pleases Allah. They fulfil both the rights of Allah and the rights of His creation. Nothing they do is based on personal whims. To impose one's own desire — "I will do this, I won't do that" — is contrary to servitude.

2. Second Quality: Mercy (Rahmah)

The second quality is tied to the Divine attribute "Ar-Rahman." Allah could have said "the servants of Allah," but instead He chose the name Rahman, the Most Merciful. Rahman is a name unique to Allah and cannot be used for humans except in a construction like "Abdur-Rahman."

So the servants of the Most Merciful must themselves embody mercy. Even if they show sternness at times, it is only out of necessity, not due to a harsh nature. Their temperament is gentle — they are merciful because they belong to the One who is infinitely merciful.

This is affirmed in a well-known Hadith Qudsi: "Indeed, My mercy surpasses My anger." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Allah says of the Prophet (SAW): "We did not send you except as a mercy to all worlds." And in Surah At-Tawbah, He describes him as deeply concerned for us, gentle and merciful to the believers.

Thus, the true servants of Allah must also be inherently gentle and merciful, following Allah and His Messenger (SAW).

3. Third Quality: Humility in Walking

"They walk on the earth with calmness and dignity."

There are two ways of walking: artificial or arrogant walking — swaggering, pretending piety, showing off humility; and natural, modest walking — free of arrogance or pretension.

Allah says: "Do not walk on the earth with pride. You cannot tear the earth apart nor reach the mountains in height."

Thus, the first trait mentioned is humility — even visible in their walk.

4. Fourth Quality: Peaceful Speech

"When the ignorant address them harshly, they respond with words of peace."

Their speech is refined and respectful, never rude. Even when confronted with disrespect, they reply with dignity.

Allah says: "O believers! Fear Allah and speak upright words." Good word choice is essential. Even in the face of ignorance, believers respond with peace.

5. Fifth Quality: Night Prayer (Tahajjud)

"They spend their nights prostrating and standing before their Lord."

Their intimate connection with Allah is strongest during the quiet of night. Their solitude becomes a meeting with Allah — sometimes in prostration, sometimes standing, sometimes preparing for prayer.

"Yabitun" means to spend the night; hence "bayt" (house) is where one spends the night. Allah describes their nights as filled with worship.

6. Sixth Quality: Fear of Hell and Continuous Dua

"They constantly supplicate: 'O our Lord, turn away from us the punishment of Hell.'"

"Its punishment clings — none can remove it except Allah." Even though they spend their nights in worship, by morning they are trembling, asking Allah to save them. This deep fear is itself a mark of true faith.

We must ask Allah for protection from Hell, just as we ask Him for all needs.

7. Seventh Quality: Moderation in Spending

"They neither waste nor are miserly; instead, they adopt balanced spending."

8. Eighth Quality: Avoidance of Shirk

"They call upon none besides Allah."

Shirk is the greatest sin. Allah says: "Allah does not forgive associating partners with Him." They avoid shirk and everything that may lead to shirk.

9. Ninth Quality: Avoiding Unlawful Killing

"They do not kill any soul that Allah has forbidden — except by right, such as legal justice."

10. Tenth Quality: Avoiding Zina (Fornication)

"They do not commit zina, nor do they go near it."

In the era of ignorance, shirk, murder and zina were widespread — just as zina is extremely common in many non-Islamic societies today. Allah warns: "Do not go near zina; it is indeed a shameful, evil path."

11. Eleventh Quality: Avoiding False Testimony

"They never give false testimony."

It is among the worst forms of lying.

12. Twelfth Quality: Avoiding Idle and Useless Activities

"When they pass by useless or indecent activities, they pass with dignity — avoiding participation."

13. Thirteenth Quality: Listening and Acting with Open Hearts

"When reminded of Allah's signs, they are not deaf or blind to them."

Believers listen attentively, understand and act. They are not like the disbelievers described as "deaf, dumb and blind." A believer opens his ears to truth and follows it.

14. Fourteenth Quality: Being a Blessing for Family

The essence of the fourteenth quality is that they do not focus only on reforming themselves; they gently guide their spouses, children and closest family members.

They constantly make dua: "O our Lord, grant us from our spouses and offspring the coolness of our eyes, and make us leaders for the righteous."

The Reward for Ibadur-Rahman

"They will be awarded high chambers in Paradise because they remained steadfast" — controlling their desires, bearing hardships and practising patience throughout their lives. Their reward is elevated ranks in Jannah.

Umme Muhammad is a writer and muallimah of Islamic studies dedicated to sharing practical, heart-centred lessons from the Qur'an and Sunnah. She focuses on family ethics, spiritual growth and character development. She can be reached at:

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Why Does The Ego Get Hurt So Easily?

Every time you choose patience over pride, and every time you let go instead of reacting, you are growing, even if no one else sees it. The question is not simply, "Why does my ego get hurt so easily?" but rather, "Can I train my heart to care more about Allah than my ego?" Because in the end, the one who wins the battle against the ego is the one who finds true peace within—strength is not always in reacting; sometimes it is in restraint, in choosing silence when the ego wants to speak, and in controlling our response when everything within us wants to defend itself.

There are moments in life that seem small on the surface, yet feel heavy inside. A comment that lingers longer than it should, a tone that feels slightly off, or a message that seems colder than expected. Nothing major happened, and no real harm was done. And yet, something within us reacts. We replay the moment, question it, and begin to feel offended or perhaps even distant. But what if the pain we feel in these moments does not always come from the heart? What if, sometimes, it is the ego - the nafs - quietly reacting?

The Subtle Nature of the Ego

The ego does not always appear as arrogance or pride in obvious ways. Sometimes, it appears as sensitivity, overthinking, or the quiet feeling of being slighted or overlooked. The Qur'an reminds us of the nature of the human soul: "Indeed, the soul is ever inclined to evil..." (Surah Yusuf 12:53)

Scholars explain that part of this inclination is the desire to be seen, respected, and valued, not for the sake of Allah, but for the sake of the self. So when someone says something small and it affects us deeply, it is worth asking ourselves: Was I truly hurt, or did my ego feel challenged?

The ego does not introduce itself clearly. Instead, it whispers, "You deserved better," "That wasn't fair," "Why did they say it like that?" or "They should have treated you differently." Slowly, something small becomes something heavy. But Islam calls us to a higher awareness, one that shifts our focus away from people and brings it back to Allah. Allah says: "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Surah Al-Hujurat 49:13)

True worth is not measured by how people treat us, but by how we respond for the sake of Allah.

The Example of the Prophet (SAW)

The Prophet (SAW) was the most honored of creation, yet also the most humble. When a man approached him trembling out of fear, the Prophet (SAW) gently reassured him: "Take it easy. I am not a king. I am the son of a woman who used to eat dried meat." (Reported in Ibn Majah)

There was no ego, no need to assert his status, and no need to be elevated in the eyes of others. His strength was not in being above people, but in being grounded before Allah.

Redefining Strength

We often think strength lies in responding, defending ourselves, or proving that we are right. But the Prophet (SAW) taught us something different: "The strong person is not the one who can overpower others, but the one who controls himself when angry." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Strength is not always in reacting. Sometimes, it is in restraint. It is in choosing silence when the ego wants to speak, and in controlling our response when everything within us wants to defend itself.

A Quiet Shift in Perspective

The next time you feel hurt over something small, pause for a moment. Ask yourself: Is this about my dignity, or is it my ego? Will this matter in the sight of Allah? What response would bring me closer to Him? Not every reaction needs to be expressed, and not every feeling needs to be followed. Sometimes, the greatest growth happens in the moments when we choose to let go.

The Wisdom Behind These Moments

Perhaps Allah allows these small discomforts not to harm us, but to refine us. To expose the ego, soften the heart, and teach us humility. Every time you choose patience over pride, and every time you let go instead of reacting, you are growing, even if no one else sees it.

The question is not simply, "Why does my ego get hurt so easily?" but rather, "Can I train my heart to care more about Allah than my ego?"

Because in the end, the one who wins the battle against the ego is the one who finds true peace within.

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Sagar stresses transparency, accountability, effective litigation management

Reviews functioning of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 5: Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Revenue, Power Development Department, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at the Civil Secretariat, here, to assess its overall functioning, administrative performance, ongoing initiatives and progress achieved in various key areas.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Commissioner Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Special Secretary Law, Director Finance in Law Department, Director Litigation and other senior officers of the Department.

At the outset, the Commissioner Secretary Law briefed the Minister about the overall functioning of the Department, its administrative structure and institutional responsibilities. A detailed presentation was given on the sanctioned strength of the High Court and subordinate judiciary, the sanctioned strength of the Advocate General's Organisation, and the engagement and working of advocates representing the Union Territory before the Supreme Court.

The meeting also held detailed deliberations on the existing litigation management system, monitoring of litigation policies, effective handling of court cases and compliance with judicial directions. The Minister reviewed the mechanisms in place for tracking departmental litigation and stressed the need for timely responses, proper coordination and effective representation of the Government before various judicial forums.

The progress of various digital initiatives and online service delivery mechanisms aimed at facilitating public access to legal information and services was also discussed.

The Minister also took a review of the development of judicial infrastructure, including the progress of ongoing works, projects completed and other infrastructure-related requirements. He stressed the importance of timely execution of projects, effective monitoring and close coordination among the concerned departments to ensure that judicial infrastructure is strengthened in a planned and time-bound manner.

Sagar reviewed matters concerning to human resource management in the Department such as career progression, promotional avenues and timely release of service-related benefits to employees.

While reviewing the overall performance, the Minister underscored the need to make the Department more transparent, accountable, responsive and citizen-friendly. He directed the officers to ensure that all legal and administrative matters are dealt with strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules, regulations and established policies.

Sagar stressed that every officer entrusted with handling litigation must remain vigilant about court proceedings, ensure timely filing of responses and compliance with judicial directions, and take appropriate measures to prevent avoidable delays or violations. He further directed that any instance of non-compliance with court orders, violation of prescribed norms or procedural irregularities should be properly monitored.

The Minister emphasised that public service delivery must remain at the centre of the Department's functioning. He directed the officers to ensure that members of the general public approaching the Department for legal assistance, information or other services are treated with due consideration and provided timely guidance and necessary support.

Sagar also called for greater administrative responsiveness, inter-departmental coordination and accountability, particularly in matters relating to stamps, statutory limits, violations of prescribed norms and other legal issues requiring effective departmental intervention.

Concluding the review, the Minister reiterated that the Department must function with utmost professionalism, transparency and accountability. He directed the officers to ensure continuous monitoring of departmental performance, strengthen litigation management mechanisms and expedite the implementation of digital initiatives for improved public service delivery.

Tribal development collective responsibility of entire administration: Rana

Announces Rs 7 cr Girls' Hostel for Samba, calls for enhanced allocations under Tribal Sub Plan

KT News Desk



SAMBA, NOVEMBER 5: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday announced the construction of a Girls' Hostel at Samba at an estimated cost of 7 crore, aimed at strengthening the educational infrastructure and providing better accommodation facilities to tribal girl students.

The announcement, as per an official statement, was made during an extensive interaction with the members of tribal communities held at Samba as part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, being observed across Jammu and Kashmir from November 1 to 15.

During the interaction, the Minister heard various demands and grievances concerning housing, education, scholarships, healthcare, road connectivity, drinking water, electricity and livelihood opportunities. He directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and ensure their resolution in a time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, Rana said that Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada is not merely an occasion to celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of tribal communities but also an opportunity to strengthen the delivery of welfare and development schemes at the grassroots level. He emphasised that the Government is committed to ensure that the benefits of development reach every eligible tribal household, particularly those living in remote, inaccessible and underserved areas.

In a significant direction, the Minister asked the sectoral departments to ensure adequate and proportionate allocation of development funds for tribal communities under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), in accordance with the applicable guidelines of NITI Aayog and the Ministry for Tribal Affairs.

He stressed that allocations for tribal welfare must be commensurate with the tribal population and their developmental requirements. The funds earmarked for this purpose should be utilised effectively to address the existing gaps in infrastructure, education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities, he added.

Rana observed that tribal development is a collective responsibility of the entire administration and cannot be left to the Tribal Affairs Department alone. He called for stronger convergence among Rural Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Social Welfare, Skill Development and other departments to ensure coordinated and meaningful development of tribal communities.

The Minister directed the district administration to undertake focused outreach during Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada through special camps in tribal habitations to identify the eligible families who have not been covered yet under various welfare schemes. He asked the Deputy Commissioner, Samba to ensure maximum coverage of eligible tribal households under housing, scholarships, health, social security, skill development, employment and livelihood schemes.

The Minister made it clear that the success of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada should be reflected in actual benefits delivered to tribal families rather than merely in the number of programmes organised.

He emphasised the need to identify development gaps in tribal habitations and incorporate their requirements into departmental plans so that tribal communities receive their due share in overall development process.

Div Com Jammu reviews status of land acquisition cases of BSF, CRPF



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 5: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of land acquisition and transfer cases pertaining to the BSF, CRPF in the Jammu Division.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the progress of land acquisition by J&K Police for accommodating BSF companies and the identification of suitable state land for the establishment of five additional BSF battalions in Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi districts.

The meeting also discussed land-related issues concerning BOPs, the proposed 135-feet border fencing and pending cases involving the acquisition and transfer of state land to CRPF and other security agencies.

The Inspector General BSF presented a detailed overview of the land acquisition and requisition cases pending at various levels across the districts. The concerned Deputy Commissioners apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the latest status of individual cases and the issues hindering their resolution.

Taking serious note of the pending matters, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to undertake a case-wise examination of all pending proposals and ensure their time-bound disposal.

He further directed the concerned district administrations and representatives of the security forces to conduct joint field visits for physical verification of the identified land, wherever required, to resolve discrepancies and address site-related issues. The Deputy Commissioners were further asked to personally monitor the progress of cases falling under their jurisdiction and take proactive measures to resolve bottlenecks in coordination with the concerned departments and security agencies.

The Divisional Commissioner also stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination, timely submission of requisite documents and removal of procedural hurdles to facilitate the expeditious transfer and acquisition of land.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General BSF, Jammu and Inspector General CRPF, Jammu, in person, while Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police of Jammu Division participated virtually.

Comm Secy FCS&CA reviews departmental functioning

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 05: Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department, Sourabh Bhagat, Thursday chaired an online review meeting to assess the functioning and progress of various departmental initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Director General, FCS&CA, Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Shavan; General Manager, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Director IT, Sanjay Gupta, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Directors from each district through VC.

Director General FCS&CA Jammu, along with the Assistant Directors of the respective districts, gave a point-wise presentation on the latest status of departmental activities. These included lifting and distribution of foodgrains, winter stocking for six-month and three-month requirements, Aadhaar-based e-KYC, face authentication, CBDC implementation and other priority issues.

During the deliberations, the Commissioner Secretary directed the concerned officers to ensure expeditious lifting and distribution of foodgrains well before the onset of adverse weather conditions, particularly in view of the approaching winter and the possibility of disruption due to inclement weather. He stressed that both six-month and three-month winter stocking arrangements must be completed within the prescribed timelines. He asked the FCI authorities to ensure supply of quality foodgrains to the department.

Reviewing the status of petroleum products, the Commissioner Secretary directed the respective district administrations to identify the remote and far-flung areas where petrol pump facilities are presently unavailable. He asked for working out suitable modalities, in consultation with the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), for establishing departmental-owned petrol outlets to facilitate the general public, particularly during emergencies and other exigencies.

While reviewing implementation of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) project under the Public Distribution System, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure its timely rollout as per the timelines prescribed by the Government of India. It was informed that the project is scheduled for pilot implementation in Jammu and Srinagar districts with effect from November 15, 2026, followed by Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts by November 30, 2026 and thereafter across the entire Union Territory by December 31, 2026.

Sourabh Bhagat directed the district administrations and Assistant Directors to complete the requisite groundwork, beneficiary data preparation and other implementation-related modalities well in advance. He asked the NIC and PNB authorities to expedite beneficiary data validation and whitelisting besides creation of login IDs for Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers, to ensure that the project is rolled out within the timelines. He urged the PNB authorities to prepare a comprehensive training schedule for Jammu district to facilitate smooth onboarding and capacity building of the concerned stakeholders.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the progress on Aadhaar-based e-KYC of NFSA beneficiaries. He directed the district administrations to intensify efforts for completion of e-KYC of all left-out beneficiaries. He stressed implementation of the Face Authentication Application from the current month's distribution cycle to strengthen transparency and ensure seamless authentication at Fair Price Shops.

Sourabh Bhagat directed the concerned officers to organize special e-KYC camps across districts and ensure saturation of beneficiary verification. He emphasized that districts achieving 95% or above e-KYC coverage would be suitably appreciated. The consolidated progress would also help the department take up the matter with the Government of India for additional funding and support for innovations under the Sarthak PDS project, he added.

He also stressed the need for genuine and rightful verification of beneficiaries to ensure that the benefits of the Public Distribution System reach only eligible beneficiaries. The status of e-KYC of migrant ration card holders was also reviewed, with directions to expedite the pending cases.

As part of the efforts to modernize the Public Distribution System, the Commissioner Secretary directed all district administrations to identify five Fair Price Shops in each district for modernization under the convergence plan involving MGNREGA and other applicable schemes.

Sourabh Bhagat directed the district administrations to identify suitable land for establishment of additional granaries and Government storage godowns, particularly in remote, far-flung and border areas. This will ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities during emergencies and other exigencies, he added.

PENDING INHERITANCE MUTATIONS

Mutation Camp organised in Tehsil Tarathpora for disposal

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 5: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, (DC), Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, and under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, a mutation camp was organised Thursday in Tehsil Tarathpora for the speedy disposal of pending inheritance mutation cases.

The camp, as per an official statement, was conducted under the supervision of Tehsildar Tarathpora, Sheikh Aijaz Ahmad, with the active participation of the concerned revenue officials. The initiative aimed at expediting the settlement of pending inheritance mutations, ensuring timely updation of land records, and facilitating the delivery of revenue services to the public at their doorsteps.

During the camp, the Tehsildar and the revenue staff extended necessary assistance to the public and facilitated the resolution of revenue-related issues. The initiative provided an opportunity for people to address their pending inheritance mutation cases and seek necessary guidance regarding revenue matters.

The camp reflects the commitment of the District Administration Kupwara and the Sub-Divisional Administration Handwara towards ensuring transparency, accountability and efficiency in revenue administration. Such initiatives are aimed at reducing pendency, streamlining revenue-related processes and ensuring the timely delivery of public services at the grassroots level.

SWD Srinagar organises community outreach programme in Khayam

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 05: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a community outreach programme in coordination with Mission Poshan-Zone Khanyar, and a facilitation camp at Khayam, Srinagar, with the objective of strengthening grassroots-level engagement and creating awareness among the public regarding various welfare initiatives, financial literacy, and financial assistance schemes.

The community outreach programme, as per an official statement, at Mission Poshan-Zone Khanyar focused on strengthening the role of Anganwadi Workers in disseminating information about government welfare schemes and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are made aware of the services available to them.

Anganwadi Workers, being important links between the administration and local communities, play a significant role in identifying eligible beneficiaries, facilitating access to welfare services, and spreading awareness among women, children, and vulnerable sections of society.

During the outreach programme, emphasis was laid on the importance of community participation and effective coordination between field functionaries and the Department of Social Welfare to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reach deserving beneficiaries. The role of Anganwadi Workers in addressing community concerns, guiding eligible families, and encouraging people to approach the concerned offices for assistance was also highlighted.

In a separate initiative, the SWD Srinagar organised a facilitation camp at Khayam, Srinagar, to provide information and guidance to the public regarding financial literacy and various financial assistance schemes available for eligible beneficiaries.

During the camp, participants were sensitised about the importance of financial literacy, including responsible financial planning, savings, informed financial decision-making, and awareness of available financial services. The need for individuals and families to understand basic financial concepts and make informed choices regarding their financial resources was emphasised.

Special focus was laid on creating awareness about financial assistance schemes intended to support eligible individuals and families, particularly those belonging to vulnerable and economically weaker sections of society. Participants were informed about the importance of understanding the eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and application procedures associated with relevant welfare schemes.

As part of the initiative,19 beneficiaries were linked with various social security schemes, enabling them to avail the benefits of the welfare measures for which they were found eligible.

The Department of Social Welfare Srinagar emphasised that community outreach initiatives and facilitation camps are important mechanisms for ensuring inclusive delivery of welfare services. Such programmes help bring administration closer to the people, particularly those who may face difficulties in accessing information about government schemes and financial assistance.

Kashmir Thunder

Wani calls for action on human-wildlife conflict, Hangul conservation

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 05: Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj,Altaf Ahmad Wani on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with a unique natural heritage and its protection is not merely a departmental duty but a collective responsibility of the government and the people.

The Minister was speaking during a detailed review meeting of the Wildlife Protection Department and J&K Forest Research Institute (JKFRI) at the PCCF / HoFF office, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Sarvesh Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, J&K, Vasu Yadav, Chairman, PCC, Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K and Director, JKFRI, Regional Wildlife Wardens, DFOs and other senior officers.

Reviewing functioning of the department, the Minister said that J&K is home to some of the rarest species in the world. "Hangul is found nowhere else in the world. It is our pride, our identity. We cannot afford to lose it," he said, directing the department to take up Hangul conservation on mission mode with scientific monitoring and habitat improvement.

The Minister was informed that J&K has a Protected Area Network of 50 Protected Areas covering 4,861.282 sq km across 20 districts including 4 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 16 Conservation Reserves and 16 Wetland Reserves. Besides, Eco-Sensitive Zones for 10 Protected Areas including Jasrota, Rajparian, Ramnagar, Hirpora, Surinsar-Mansar, Gulmarg, Kazinag, Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Dachigam-Overa-Aru and Tral have been notified.

The Minister was apprised that J&K is home to 4,440 plant, 111 mammal, 608 bird, 68+ reptile, 14 amphibian, 308+ butterfly and 100+ fish species. Birds alone account for 44 percent of India's bird diversity. The UT has 10 rare and endangered species including 4 Critically Endangered including Hangul, Kashmir Musk Deer, Markhor and Asiatic Ibex.

Expressing deep concern over human-wildlife conflict, the Minister said, "One human life lost is a tragedy for the family. Protecting human life must come first while also protecting wildlife. Both are possible if we respond on time."

Directing the department to strengthen the response system, the Minister said Rapid Response Teams must reach the spot without delay, compensation must be paid on time and early warning systems and awareness camps must be held in every vulnerable village with the help of Panchayats.

He directed the department to prepare a compendium on J&K specific wildlife, flora and fauna in consultation with the experts. This will help in properly documenting the rich biodiversity of Jammu and Kashmir for the researchers, students and the public.

While reviewing the functioning of JK Forest Research Institute (JKFRI), the Minister said that science is the backbone of forest conservation and research must not remain in files and laboratories rather should reach the forests, the farmer and the common man. He directed the JKFRI to strengthen coordination with the Forest Department, farmers and industry and ensure that research outcomes translate into income for the local people and better protection of forests.

The Minister was apprised that JKFRI has developed two Seed Banks at Jammu and Srinagar for proper storage of seeds of forest tree species collected from Seed Production Areas. It was further informed that JKFRI has developed protocols for cultivation of important medicinal plants including Kuth, Tilpushpi, Mushkwala, Pushkarmul, Angur Shefa and Shinglimingli. It has also inventoried and mapped medicinal plants in both Jammu and Kashmir regions and raised their germplasm in JKFRI nurseries.

Emphasising participatory development, the Minister said the concerned MLA must be taken on board wherever works are executed in a district. The public representatives understand the ground realities more deeply and their involvement will ensure transparency and better execution, added the Minister.

Appreciating the geo-tagging work, the Minister was informed that around 30,000 Chinar trees across J&K have been geo-tagged and a digital database has been created. Besides, QR-enabled metal plates have been installed on 10,000 prominent Chinar trees in Kashmir and 3,500 QR plates on Peepal and Bargad trees in Jammu. In the second phase, geo-tagging of left-over Chinar, Bargad and Peepal trees will be completed.

Tribal welfare govt's prime concern: Minister Rana

KT News Desk



Kathua, Nov 05: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Javed Ahmed Rana, today participated in the Janjatiya Diwas Pakhwada programme organised at the DC Office Complex, Kathua.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the present dispensation is working towards ensuring permanent settlement of tribal communities to mitigate their long-standing hardships and improve their living conditions. He emphasised that focused interventions are being undertaken to address the socio-economic concerns of tribal populations.

Highlighting various welfare measures, Rana said that Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) are being constituted at district and sub-divisional level to facilitate the tribal communities in availing benefits under the Forest Rights Act. He informed that the government is keen to constitute a Tribal Advisory Committee to ensure due representation of the aspirations and concerns of nomadic communities.

The Minister said that the Janjatiya Diwas Pakhwada provides an opportunity to revisit the welfare trajectory of tribal communities. This strengthens the outreach efforts to educate the people about their invaluable contributions, rich cultural traditions and heritage, he added.

Describing Kathua as a symbol of unity and brotherhood, he called for collective efforts by all stakeholders to address the concerns and hardships faced by the tribal communities. He assured that their developmental aspirations would be duly considered while formulating the plans and programmes at all levels.

Regarding the updation of family members in ration cards, the Minister said that the exercise is linked with the completion of the ongoing Census process. He directed the District Administration to work out an exercise for incorporating the details of eligible additional family members. He also assured that adequate ration supplies would be ensured for migrating nomadic groups.

Rana directed the Executive Engineer, Flood Control, to expedite restoration and protection works in flood-affected habitations, stating that the government has already approved adequate funds for the purpose.

Earlier, the opening session featured a detailed presentation on the life, ideals and contributions of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The speakers paid tributes to the legendary tribal freedom fighter and recalled his struggle for the rights and dignity of tribal communities.

Representatives and speakers from diverse tribal communities also highlighted various demands, grievances and developmental issues during the programme.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, Director, Tribal Affairs, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Gujjar & Bakkerwal, Dr Basharat Hussain, ADDC Surinder Mohan, PO ICDS Mohammed Syed Khan, GM DIC Muhstaq Chaudhary, ACD Gulshan Kumar, CPO Ranjeet Thakur and other officers of district administration were also present.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Combat terror

Governor, Shri Govind Jaiswal; Additional Director IB J&K and Ladakh, Pankaj Kumar Thakur; and other senior officials.

Discussions were also focused on formation of dedicated Prison Intelligence Units in jails, biometric systems across all jails, expansion of Tele-medicine facilities for inmates and strengthening of human resources in the Prisons Department.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the progress of the upcoming High-Security Prison in Mahanpur. He directed officials to expedite remaining works within the stipulated timelines. (KNO)

AIIMS Awantipora OPD

the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other agencies for completing major structures despite challenging conditions at the site.

Officials informed the meeting that Phase-I infrastructure, including the OPD Registration Block, OPD Block, residential buildings and designated hostels, has been completed, with inventory verification and handover formalities currently underway. The remaining academic, administrative, hospital and residential facilities are being developed and handed over in phases.

Emphasising the need for timely equipment procurement, Nadda directed HITES and the AIIMS administration to accelerate the purchase of medical equipment, laboratory instruments and furniture required for operationalising services.

The meeting was informed that procurement approvals have been issued for 180 medical equipment items worth Rs 59.41 crore, with notices of award already issued for 140 items. Procurement of OPD instruments, laboratory furniture and other essential items is at various stages.

On recruitment, the minister called for expediting appointments of faculty and non-faculty staff to ensure adequate manpower before services commence. The Ministry has approved the engagement of 652 personnel for OPD and related services, including hospital attendants, housekeeping and sanitation workers, and security staff. Of these, 150 posts have been earmarked for security personnel.

Nadda also reviewed campus security, transport connectivity, website development and other operational arrangements, stressing close coordination among AIIMS Awantipora, CPWD, HITES and the local administration to resolve pending issues.

He said the timely completion and operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora will improve access to tertiary and specialised healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir, while also emerging as a major centre for medical education and reducing the need for patients to travel outside the Union Territory for advanced treatment. (KNO)

100 MBBS seats

but now the Union Health Minister has indicated that 100 students will soon begin their studies at AIIMS Awantipora," she said.

The minister also stressed the need to make the Outpatient Department (OPD) operational at the earliest, saying it would provide much-needed specialised healthcare services to people of south Kashmir and reduce pressure on major hospitals in Srinagar.

Itoo said the Omar Abdullah government was keen to see the premier institute become functional without further delay and noted that the chief minister had reviewed the project on several occasions.

Meanwhile, she raised with Nadda the issue of Adnan Ahmad Rather, a final-year MBBS student from Sopore who died in Bangladesh. She said she handed over the student's documents and sought the Union Minister's intervention for the early repatriation of his mortal remains.

"The family is going through an extremely difficult time. His mother, who was accompanying him in Bangladesh, is also in a state of shock. I requested the Union Health Minister to ensure the mortal remains are brought back at the earliest," she said.

According to Itoo, Nadda assured all possible assistance and said he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities.

AIIMS Awantipora is among Jammu and Kashmir's key healthcare infrastructure projects and is expected to significantly improve access to specialised medical services while boosting medical education in the Union Territory. (KNO)

Local terrorist behind

migrant workers from Chhattisgarh, Deepak Ratray and Bopinder, were killed at a brick kiln. The accused, identified earlier as Mohammad Lateef Bhat of Kulgam, is allegedly affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

On reports of recent infiltration, Kumar said he did not have verified information and would not comment without concrete data.

Referring to the terrorists killed in the Yousmarg-Korag operation in Budgam, Kumar said they had been operating across high-altitude areas, including mountainous stretches of Poonch and Budgam.

He said security forces had established dominance over these areas, leading to the successful operation, while noting that the vast terrain and mobility of terrorists in the mountains continue to pose operational challenges.

On the drug-terror nexus, Kumar said proceeds from narcotics trafficking were being used to fund overground networks. He said police had identified key operators both within Jammu and Kashmir and across the border.

According to the IGP, investigation teams have been sent outside the Union Territory to trace the wider network. He added that probes have revealed links to both cross-border sources and supply chains in other states.

Responding to concerns over restrictions on National Highway-44, Kumar said the security measures were necessary given the continuing threat.

"Threats are still there. IEDs are also being recovered around the highway," he said, adding that concerns regarding public inconvenience would be discussed with senior officers and security agencies.

He also said any technology being used by terrorists was on the radar of security forces.

Responding to concerns over the cost of de-addiction treatment, Kumar said the Police Drug De-addiction Centre was among the most affordable facilities in north India. According to the centre's head, Dr Muzaffar, patients pay only for food, while medicines are provided free of charge.

The IGP cautioned people against using photographs with government officers to project influence or seek favours. He said such photographs are often taken as goodwill gestures and should not be misconstrued as official support.

Kumar also stressed that government jobs are awarded on merit and warned youngsters against individuals claiming they can secure employment through influence. He added that action had been taken against employees whose appointments were found to be irregular. (KNO)

Education must produce

Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), felicitated meritorious students, including those who secured over 99 per cent marks and also honoured employees for completing 25 years of service.

On the occasion, Omar said that the purpose of education must extend beyond academic performance and marks to the development of well-rounded individuals with strong moral values, independent thinking and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

He said while academic excellence is important, the larger objective of education should be to develop well-rounded individuals capable of contributing positively to society.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister urged during his speech urged students not to hesitate in asking questions and to develop the confidence to challenge ideas and seek answers. "There are no stupid questions, there are only stupid answers," he said.

He encouraged the students to remain inquisitive and explore the 'why' and 'how' behind things.

He said Jammu and Kashmir needs a generation that is willing to question existing practices, understand what is happening around them and explore ways to make things better.

"A generation that is happy to ask questions will make all of us answerable. And if we are answerable, Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow will be a better place," Omar said.

Referring to the growing influence of social media and digital platforms, Omar said the present generation is navigating challenges that were largely unfamiliar to previous generations.

The Chief Minister on the occasion further said that Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Educating Society manages 24 schools across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, educating around 28,000 students and providing employment to nearly 1,600 people.

"These schools produce civil service officers, police officers, doctors and business leaders. But more than anything else, they produce successful people who remain good people," he said.

He urged students to use technology as a learning tool rather than misuse it for cheating or outsourcing their homework and assignments.

The Chief Minister also shared his own experience of using AI tools, saying he sometimes takes assistance from ChatGPT and Gemini while preparing speeches.

He observed that technology had made life easier in several ways but had also brought new challenges, making responsible usage all the more important.

Stressing the importance of curiosity and independent thinking, Omar urged students not to hesitate in questioning things around them, saying there were no stupid questions, only stupid answers. (KNO)

NC leadership steps

to defuse the resentment among MLAs over the recent cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion.

Ahead of the meeting, the legislators met at the residence of MLA Pampore Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi at Sanat Nagar here this evening to discuss the issues to be raised with the party leadership during Friday's meeting.

"During the meeting, legislators from Jammu targeted Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary while those from Kashmir demanded replacement of ministers who have completed two years," they said, adding that they decided that they will raise all issues outlined by them in a memorandum submitted to the party leadership.

As many as 16 MLAs-15 from National Conference and an independent- were physically present in the meeting which continued till 10:00 pm.

"Four MLAs attended the meeting via virtual mode," a source disclosed. (KNO)

Man found dead

to his death are awaited and an investigation is underway. (KNO)

Fresh snowfall

particularly towards the evening and night. The weather is expected to improve on November 14 and 15, with partly cloudy conditions.

Meanwhile, the night temperatures across Kashmir remained above the freezing point, with Pahalgam recording a minimum temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Gulmarg at 2.0 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 4.0 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund registered 3.3 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 2.1 degrees Celsius and Kokernag 6.1 degrees Celsius, according to the Meteorological Centre's daily weather report.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 15.1 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 5.6 degrees Celsius, Batote 9.1 degrees Celsius, Katra 14.0 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 4.8 degrees Celsius.

The weather department also advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations until November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops.

Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories issued by the authorities, particularly in view of the forecast precipitation over higher reaches.

The department has asked people to remain updated about the latest weather forecasts and advisories. (KNO)

1,941 drug traffickers

to mention here that Police have registered 1,651 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act between January 1 and October 31 this year, with 1,711.32 kilograms of contraband seized and cash worth around Rs 1.10 crore recovered.

The Police data reveals that 567 bank accounts linked to NDPS cases were frozen, involving approximately Rs 1.71 crore.

Police have also destroyed illicit crops spread over 2,116.3 kanals, registered 260 FIRs related to illegal cultivation and arrested 284 persons.

As part of the disposal of seized narcotics under Section 52-A of the NDPS Act, police destroyed 4,355.74 kilograms of contraband, besides 4,808 bottles of codeine phosphate, 20,163 tablets and capsules, and 482 litres of liquor.

CYBER FRAUD COMPLAINTS INVOLVE RS 54.66 CRORE

On cybercrime, IGP Kumar cautioned youngsters against becoming part of organised online fraud networks, particularly those using mule bank accounts to facilitate fraudulent transactions.

He said cheating people of their hard-earned money is unacceptable and appealed to youngsters to stay away from such activities.

The police data shows that 12,385 financial fraud complaints involving Rs 54.66 crore were received during the 10-month period.

Rs 7.48 crore, accounting for 13.68 per cent, was recovered or saved through police intervention. Police also registered 93 FIRs, including seven cases involving mule bank accounts.

DAY-AND-NIGHT TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

IGP Kumar also expressed concern over rash driving, reckless biking, speeding and modified motorcycles, saying such violations endangered the lives of drivers, pedestrians and other road users.

He urged youngsters to follow traffic rules, avoid using mobile phones while driving and refrain from creating noise and inconvenience through loud motorcycles during night hours.

During daytime enforcement between September 1 and October 31, police checked 15,47,890 vehicles and 7,65,851 persons. A total of 17,702 vehicles were seized, while 989 persons were arrested or bound down, including 211 bound down.

During the daytime drive, police recovered cash amounting to Rs 7,27,790 (Rs 7.28 lakh) alongside narcotics, which included 13.76 kilograms of charas, 262.5 grams of heroin, 103.51 kilograms of cannabis, 39.65 kilograms of ganja, 17.06 kilograms of bhung, 680 grams of brown sugar and 5.29 kilograms of poppy straw.

Night enforcement was also intensified across districts between October 17 and November 4 (1800 hrs to 0600 hrs). During this night drive, police checked 2,67,214 vehicles and seized 2,211 vehicles, besides impounding 80 outside-registered vehicles.

Legal action was taken against 2,275 instances of helmetless riding, 590 cases of rash driving, 545 instances of triple riding, and 15 pressure-horn related violations. Police also seized 10 pressure horns and recorded 1,480 other enforcement actions.

IGP Kumar urged youngsters recovering from drug addiction to share their experiences through awareness videos, saying their stories could motivate others to stay away from substance abuse.

He assured that those approaching police for assistance or sharing information about drug peddling would have their identities protected, adding that police would facilitate their rehabilitation. The IGP said collective participation of youngsters, families, and civil society was essential to address these challenges and build a responsible society. (KNO)

Fake cyber crime

50,000 from the complainant.

The official said an FIR (No. 139/2026) under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered at Police Station Batmaloo and further investigation is underway. (KNO)

Poor families lured

in facilitating the transactions, officials said.

Police have cautioned people against sharing bank accounts, ATM cards, QR codes or banking credentials with strangers in exchange for commissions, warning that such practices could make them part of organised cyber fraud networks. (KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

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PM Modi lauds pace of urban India's transformation

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that cities like Pune would have had to wait decades for Metro connectivity if the network had continued expanding at the pace it did before 2014.

In a post on X, Modi said India had only 248 km of Metro lines across five cities in 2014, while the network has now expanded to nearly 1,200 km across 26 cities.

"If India's Metro network had continued expanding at the pace it did before 2014, how long would the wait be for cities like Pune to have a metro? Years ¦ no ¦ decades perhaps. And that was unacceptable," he said.

Modi said over one crore people travel by Metro every day, adding that the expansion has meant less time in traffic, more family time, greater productivity, and better opportunities.

"This is the transformation we are working towards for urban India," he said.

The prime minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of Pune Metro projects worth around Rs 21,800 crore on November 3 through video conferencing.

PM meets NITI Aayog leadership



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 5: Amid global uncertainties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met NITI Aayog's new leadership to get a first-hand view of the issues they are working on, a senior official of the government think tank said.

The official said that during the meeting, NITI Aayog members made a presentation on the issues and policies they are working on, in line with the government's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Lahiri, CEO Anurag Jain and members Rajiv Gauba, R Balasubramaniam, Joram Aniya, K V Raju, M Srinivas, Gobardhan Das and Abhay Karandikar attended the meeting, along with other senior officials.

'Surcharge an enhancement of rate of sales tax': SC

Upholds states' power to levy additional sales tax

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 5: The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the legal position held in a 1974 Constitution bench ruling that states have the power to impose additional sales tax or surcharge calculated as a percentage of the existing sales tax.

A seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant held that such a levy constitutes an enhancement of the rate of sales tax and does not amount to an independent tax on the dealer's income.

The CJI, who wrote for himself and Justices S V N Bhatti, Joymalya Bagchi, N V Anjaria, Arun Palli and V Mohana, held that the legal question referred to it nearly 27 years ago no longer required adjudication, as the statutory provisions under challenge had since been replaced or amended and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law had come into force.

The CJI, in his 47-page verdict, held controversy raised in a reference pending no longer required adjudication, as the legal position had already been settled by the earlier Constitution bench ruling in S. Kodar v. State of Kerala in 1974.

"S. Kodar squarely holds that an additional tax or surcharge computed as a percentage of the sales tax payable is an enhancement of the rate of sales tax and a tax on the sale or purchase of goods within Entry 54 of List II, as it then stood. That decision continues to hold the field," the CJI said.

"The constitutional entry and the State enactments under which the impugned levies were imposed have since been substituted or replaced, and the question referred is of no prospective significance," the verdict said. It said that consequently, the question referred does not survive for adjudication by the seven-judge bench, and the "reference has been rendered academic"

Justice K V Viswanathan wrote a separate concurring verdict running into 46-pages.

"For the reasons stated..., it is held that, S. Kodar has been correctly decided, continues to be a good law and needs no reconsideration," Justice Viswanathan said.

The matter arose from a batch of appeals led by Arjun Flour Mills, challenging the validity of provisions under the Orissa Sales Tax Act, 1947, and the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, which provided for additional levies calculated at 10 per cent of the sales tax payable by dealers meeting specified turnover thresholds.

The assessees had said that a levy calculated on the basis of tax already payable amounted to a 'tax on tax' and fell outside the legislative competence of state legislatures under Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

Rejecting the basis of this challenge, the bench explained that the subject matter of a tax and the measure adopted to calculate it are two distinct concepts. The principle also stood reaffirmed in the subsequent decision, it said.

The earlier sales tax enactments involved in the present litigation had also been replaced by VAT legislation and subsequently by the GST regime, it said.

Amit Shah inaugurates memorial built to honour 1857 heroes



PTI

Ambala, Nov 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated a memorial in Ambala Cantt built in honour of those who sacrificed their lives during the first struggle for independence in 1857.

The memorial, named "Azadi Ki Pehli Ladai Ka Shaheed Smarak", is spread over 22 acres of land and showcases historical events linked to the 1857 revolution through 22 galleries.

He also inaugurated the 23-km-long Jalbehra-Shahabad (NH-152 G) National Highway project worth Rs 1,260 crore.

During his address, Shah said, "I bow repeatedly to the very soil where, on May 10, the freedom struggle of 1857, an event that shook the foundations of the British Empire -- upon which the sun supposedly never set -- took place.

"Historians influenced by the British and those driven by a British-inspired, Leftist ideology have labelled the 1857 struggle a mere 'rebellion'. It may well have been a rebellion from the perspective of the British. However, as Veer (V D) Savarkar rightly asserted -- for us, the children of Mother India, the revolution of 1857 was not a rebellion, but a true struggle for freedom."

Only after countless sacrifices of martyrs did the nation gain freedom, he said.

"It is upon the foundation of the sacrifices made by those martyrs that we can, today, under the leadership of Modi-ji, envision a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). Building upon the bedrock of their sacrifices, we have spent the last 80 years strengthening our democratic systems, and today, we stand tall before the entire world," he said.

Shah hailed the sacrifices of Nana Saheb Peshwa, Maharani Lakshmibai, Tatya Tope, Azimullah Khan, Begum Hazrat Mahal and Bahadur Shah Zafar and many other "illustrious warriors".

The public meeting was attended by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union minister and Karnal MP Manohar Lal, state BJP chief Archana Gupta, Haryana minister and Ambala Cantt MLA Anil Vij, Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, BJP's Haryana incharge Smriti Irani, co-incharge Bhola Singh.

Pol rallies causing repeated disruption to commercial activities: CAIT writes to Rahul

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 5: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Thursday wrote to Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, expressing concern over "repeated disruption of commercial activities" caused by protests and demonstrations in Delhi, including the November 1 rally by the INDIA bloc.

In a letter, CAIT National President B C Bhartia on Thursday said road blockades and demonstrations over the past month, particularly during the festive season, had caused considerable losses to Delhi's trading community.

Thousands of traders, shopkeepers, street vendors, transporters and daily wage earners and their families had been affected, while customers and business visitors coming from different parts of the country also faced inconvenience, it said.

"We are writing to express the deep anguish and resentment of the trading community, not merely in Delhi but across the country, over the repeated disruption of commercial activities caused by political rallies, protests, demonstrations, including your rally in Delhi on November 1, 2026, and the continued support extended by you, the Congress Party and other allied political parties to demonstrations organised by various groups over the past month," the letter read.

The traders' body said it respected "every citizen's constitutional right to freedom of speech, expression and peaceful protest", but the right to protest cannot become "an unrestricted license to disrupt commercial activities, obstruct public movement or deprive citizens of their right to earn a livelihood".

The letter also referred to Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to practise any profession and carry on trade or business.

Raising five questions with Gandhi, CAIT asked whether the right to protest was more important than the right to trade and earn a livelihood, and who would compensate traders and small businesses for the losses suffered due to repeated demonstrations.

It also questioned the Congress leader's appeal to rally participants to shop from local markets while supporting demonstrations that, according to the traders' body, prevented customers from reaching those markets.

The organisation further sought accountability from the Congress and its political allies for the economic hardship caused to traders and asked whether political parties would support similar disruptions if their own businesses and livelihoods were affected.

CAIT urged Gandhi and other political leaders to ensure that demonstrations were held at designated locations without obstructing commercial areas, public movement and the livelihoods of ordinary citizens.

"Democracy must protect both the voice of the protester and the livelihood of the trader," Bhartia said in the letter, seeking a response from the Congress leader.

The traders' body said political parties had the democratic right to oppose the government and organise rallies but should also demonstrate accountability and sensitivity towards ordinary citizens.

Hardeep Puri declared elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha



PTI

Bhopal, Nov 5: Union Petroleum Minister and BJP candidate Hardeep Singh Puri was on Thursday declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Madhya Pradesh, an official said.

On the last day of the withdrawal of nominations, Puri, who was the sole candidate in the fray as the papers of other two nominees were rejected during scrutiny, was declared elected to the Upper House of Parliament by Returning Officer Umesh Sharma.

Madhya Pradesh BJP president Hemant Khandelwal collected Puri's certificate of election from the returning officer in the presence of party MLA Rameshwar Sharma.

On the last day for the scrutiny of papers, the nominations of the other two candidates, Kante Sayanna and Rajkumar Lohani, who was backed by the Opposition Congress, were rejected. The bypoll, if necessary, was to take place on November 12.

The Rajya Sabha seat fell vacant after the resignation of former Union minister L Murugan from the Upper House last month, necessitating the bypoll. Murugan's term was due to end on April 2, 2030.

The BJP then fielded Puri, a career diplomat-turned-politician, as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election.

Cyclone Murasu

Four bodies of missing TN fishermen recovered in Andhra

PTI



Ongole (Andhra Pradesh), Nov 5: Four bodies of Tamil Nadu fishermen who went missing after their boat capsized in the sea off the Andhra Pradesh coast amid Cyclone Murasu recently have been recovered, a senior official said on Thursday.

Prakasam District Collector P Raja Babu said that fishermen had set out to the sea from Chennai on October 29 and were advised to move their boats to safe locations in view of the approaching cyclone. Accordingly, four boats were anchored along the Andhra Pradesh coast, with three at Ramayapatnam Port and one at Nizampatnam Port.

"Four bodies of Tamil Nadu fishermen who went missing after their boat capsized off the Andhra Pradesh coast during Cyclone Murasu have been recovered," Babu told PTI. A total of nine fishermen had gone missing and efforts were on to trace the rest, he said.

Of the four bodies recovered so far, three washed ashore at Kothapatnam, while another was retrieved during search operations. All four bodies were being shifted to the local Government General Hospital (GGH) mortuary.

The Collector said he has spoken to Tamil Nadu officials, who were travelling to Andhra Pradesh. Arrangements were also being made to bring the capsized boat to the coast.

Search operations will continue to trace the remaining five fishermen, Babu said, adding that the four bodies would be handed over to TN officials after completion of the necessary formalities.

Tamil Nadu officials had confirmed on November 2 that all the fishermen and their boats were safe at the respective ports, the Collector said.

However, on November 3, nine fishermen aboard the boat anchored at Nizampatnam started moving towards Ramayapatnam to join their colleagues without informing either the Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu authorities, he said.

The boat was caught in the severe cyclone amid strong winds while it was proceeding towards Ramayapatnam and subsequently capsized, Babu added.

The Coast Guard was alerted and requested to launch rescue operations after the incident, he said, adding that the nine fishermen have been identified and their names and photographs have been shared by the Tamil Nadu government.

Severe cyclonic storm Murasu crossed the south Andhra Pradesh coast early on Tuesday between Nellore and Narasapur, close to Ongole, causing extensive damage.

Centre plans to launch coal, mineral exchanges soon: Reddy

'90 pc preparatory work done'

PTI

Panaji, Nov 5: Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the Centre was planning to launch coal and mineral exchanges, with nearly 90 per cent of the preparatory work completed.

Addressing a conference of mining ministers in Goa, the Coal and Mines Minister said the proposed exchanges would provide a common platform for companies, enterprises and traders to purchase and sell coal and minerals produced across different states.

The exchanges would cover minerals, such as iron ore, limestone, bauxite and critical minerals, besides coal, allowing producers to trade their output through a common mechanism.

"Almost 90 per cent of the work on both -- the coal exchange and mineral exchange -- has been completed. We will start their operations soon," he said.

Reddy said differences in production costs and prices across states could influence purchasing decisions, with buyers naturally preferring minerals available at lower rates.

"A common exchange platform would facilitate transactions and improve market access," he added.

The minister urged states to work collectively to ensure that coal and mineral production from across the country is integrated into the proposed exchange system.

He also called upon state governments and public sector companies to explore both surface and underground coal gasification, describing them as important initiatives to reduce India's foreign exchange expenditure.

Reddy said the first round of surface coal gasification auctions had been completed with incentives worth around Rs 8,500 crore, and projects had started moving forward at various locations.

Under the first phase of underground coal gasification, four coal blocks have been auctioned and work has commenced, while the second tranche of underground coal gasification blocks is also being put up for auction, he said.

Urging states to actively participate in these initiatives, the minister said coal gasification was crucial for reducing India's dependence on imports and conserving foreign exchange.

On critical minerals, Reddy said the Centre was working towards developing a national ecosystem, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaging with various countries to secure access to critical mineral resources.

Indian officials were also holding discussions with different countries and pursuing memorandums of understanding to ensure a steady supply of these minerals, he said.

The states could avail themselves of the Centre's incentives for critical mineral-related activities even without setting up such parks, he said, urging all state governments to focus on developing the critical minerals sector.

Reddy said demand for critical minerals would rise significantly in the coming years as they were increasingly required in products ranging from mobile phones and consumer appliances to space technology and defence equipment.

He called for coordinated efforts between the Centre and states, saying mineral-rich regions must take advantage of emerging opportunities through better policies, governance and cooperative federalism.

Quick Read

Russia, Ukraine trade airstrikes as talks resume in Brussels

AP

Kyiv, Nov 5 : Russia and Ukraine traded damaging overnight airstrikes Thursday as talks were set to resume in Brussels to discuss post-war reconstruction of Ukraine and security guarantees after the conflict triggered by Moscow's full-scale invasion nearly five years ago ends.

The scale of the rebuilding task ahead was underscored by the latest Russian aerial barrage and ongoing efforts to hunt for people missing in piles of rubble left by a deadly airstrike in southern Ukraine on Monday.

Ukraine hit back by firing hundreds of drones at Russian targets. The Russian defence ministry said that its forces shot down nearly 500 drones overnight.

Rescue teams continued to search for more than 30 people believed trapped in the wreckage of a former school and nearby shelter that was hit by Russian guided bombs on Monday.

The attack, which happened in Komyshuvakha near the front line in the Zaporizhzhia region, came as residents waited for humanitarian aid. It was one of the deadliest strikes there in the all-out war.

Ukraine's national police force said that 42 bodies have been recovered and efforts were continuing to identify some bodies using DNA samples from relatives.

Post-war reconstruction talks resume

Ukraine's lead negotiator, Rustem Umerov, said that talks will continue for a second day at NATO headquarters in Brussels focused on post-war reconstruction, funding for 2027 and security guarantees backed by the Ukrainian government's Western allies.

Umerov said that the discussions with officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the European Union and NATO, were also being attended by the World Bank and the US investment group BlackRock.

"We separately discussed the threats from Russia to Ukraine and all of Europe, as well as joint steps to counter them," Umerov wrote in an online post.

NATO spokesperson Allison Hart said that representatives from the countries and organisations would meet again "to discuss the way forward on bringing about a just and sustainable end to the war in Ukraine."

Multiple European flights diverted after bomb threats deemed hoaxes



AP

Milan, Nov 5 : Multiple flights in Europe were targeted by bomb threats on Thursday, forcing emergency landings, searches and military escorts to airports in France, Italy and Bulgaria. A British official called them "malicious hoaxes" that followed another rash of hoax threats earlier this week.

More than a dozen flights from cities including Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Madrid, Milan and Warsaw were confirmed to have been targeted with bomb threats, most diverted to other airports for emergency landings while others landed safely at their destinations. So far inspections have not turned up hazardous or suspicious materials.

Britain's Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander told British broadcasters that flights across Europe have been hit by "malicious hoax threats."

The European Union's Transport Commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas said that "any threats against civilians are unacceptable," and that the EU's executive branch was in contact with affected member countries.

"It is too early to draw conclusions on whether the reported incidents are linked," Tzitzikostas told reporters in Dublin. "National investigations remain ongoing."

He said that an EU level information-sharing mechanism on aviation security had been activated, and that "we don't have information yet whether this is a cyberattack."

Such threats are not new, but the latest incidents come at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and other disruptions, including attacks on supermarket refrigeration systems, drone incursions in Europe and mysterious triggers to alert apps. Authorities have warned that hybrid threats abound.

High security at French air base

A flight from Dublin to Rome was diverted to a military air base in western France because of a bomb threat, the French prime minister's office said. The flight landed safely at the base in Evreux in Normandy, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's office said. All 151 passengers and six crew members were safe and military bomb disposal teams were examining the plane, the office said. The passengers aboard the Aer Lingus Dublin-Rome flight were questioned and checked in groups of 10 inside the airport, the prime minister's office said.

Democrats plan major Trump probes after taking control of Congress

AP



Washington, Nov 5: Corruption topped the list of concerns for voters who ousted Republicans and handed Democrats control of Congress in the midterm elections. Now, the newly empowered Democratic Party is putting the issue front and centre as its leaders chart their course for investigations and policymaking.

Senior Democrats in both chambers of Congress have vowed to marshal the subpoena powers and larger investigative staffs that come with their soon-to-be majorities to probe what they say is the self-enrichment that President Donald Trump and people in his orbit have done at the public's expense. The Republican president and his White House have long denied any wrongdoing.

House Democrats are preparing a vast oversight agenda to look at how Trump and his family have become wealthier since he returned to office — and Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who's in line to become House speaker, has not ruled out trying to impeach Trump for a third time.

Months ago, Jeffries tasked the ranking Democrats on the Oversight and Judiciary committees, Rep. Robert Garcia of California and Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, with leading the effort, as Democrats work to link the costs of public corruption to the affordability concerns hitting Americans' pocketbooks.

"Lawyer up," Garcia posted on X as election results favouring Democrats began coming in on Tuesday night.

The Senate is expected to conduct similar investigations.

"Americans want us to clean up corruption in government," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who is poised to return as Senate majority leader next year. "No American should have to make tradeoffs at the supermarket while Trump is making inside trades on the stock market."

Investigation targets could include ICE raids, Epstein and DOGE

Garcia, the top Democrat on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has outlined five priorities, including Trump family business dealings, the administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations.

Rep. Jared Huffman of California, the ranking Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, said he wants to dig into Trump's White House ballroom and other construction projects, as well as the Trump family's role in mineral deals.

With the House majority comes an infusion of congressional committee staff and resources, and the effort is expected to be sprawling, involving House committees with authority to conduct oversight on Cabinet officials and the agencies they lead.

In the Senate, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who is expected to become the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, said his panel will want to look into Trump's real estate projects around the nation's capital and his crypto dealings with special envoy Steve Witkoff. Witkoff is a longtime ally who partnered with Trump on the president's family cryptocurrency venture, World Liberty Financial.

"The tentacles of corruption reach deep in this administration, and they have added costs to everyday Americans," Blumenthal said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. The senator added that he also wants hearings on ICE raids, the actions of the Department of Government Efficiency and Medicare plans he says are too restrictive and have cost some patients care.

Meanwhile, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, who is in line to become Senate Finance Committee chairman, ticked off several investigative targets that he describes as part of an "accountability" agenda, including banks that he contends ignored red flags about the financial dealings of Epstein and pharmaceutical companies that have profited from their ties to the Trump administration.

"When I am chair, they will be forced to answer to the Senate Finance Committee for their role in hurting the American people and enabling Trump's corruption," Wyden said in a statement Wednesday.

The issue of corruption resonated for voters, The AP Voter Poll shows

Many US voters in Tuesday's elections expressed deep concerns about government corruption and the state of democracy, according to The AP Voter Poll, which surveyed more than 100,000 voters nationwide.

While roughly 4 in 10 voters said the economy was the top issue facing the country, about 3 in 10 said that "the state of democracy" was the top issue. About half of US voters said government corruption was "crucial" to their vote for Congress, and most of those voters supported the Democratic candidate in their local US House race, while about one-third said they voted for the Republican.

Nationwide strikes intensify pressure on Macron as French unions unite



AP

Paris, Nov 5 : Hundreds of thousands of trade union members joined nationwide strikes and demonstrations on Thursday to demand higher wages and support the high school protest movement, piling fresh pressure on the beleaguered government.

After more than a month of large, recurring protests across France, major rallies took place again in Paris, Lyon, Marseille and elsewhere.

An official close to Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said that by early afternoon around 270,000 people had joined the union action in 180 rallies outside of the capital, and that most of them were peaceful.

The official, however, noted some violence in the cities of Lyon, Nantes, Pau, Orleans, Rennes and Toulouse.

Students also held fresh protests. About a third of France's high schools were closed or unable to operate, some because of student blockades and others because teachers were on strike. Public transportation was heavily disrupted. Police in the northeastern city of Strasbourg urged people to exercise extreme caution near certain schools.

The Eiffel Tower was also closed.

The atmosphere was joyful and relaxed despite heavy security at the capital's Place de la Republique, where Thursday's march was due to begin in the early afternoon. Rioters had clashed with police there during protests marred by looting on October 17.

Protesters carrying trade union flags gathered as hundreds of musicians played string, brass and percussion instruments, accompanied by singers.

Police are prepared but violence flares again

Nunez said that 70,000 police officers were being deployed, backed by armoured vehicles, drones and helicopters. Police have been criticised for injuring protesters with heavy-handed tactics.

Many demonstrations have been marred by violence, much of it committed by masked rioters who do not support the students' or workers' demands.

Mir Saifullah reviews J&K Sports Council activities, infrastructure projects; 85 works completed under 2026–27 Capex programme

KT News Desk



Srinagar, Nov 05:Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Mir Saifullah, today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning, ongoing activities and infrastructure development programmes of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC).

The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos (JKAS), Secretary, J&K Sports Council, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of the physical and financial progress of sports infrastructure projects, implementation of budget announcements, Khelo India initiatives, development of coaching facilities and assistance being extended to recognised sports associations across Jammu and Kashmir.

A detailed presentation highlighted that 264 works have been included under the Council's Capex programme for 2026–27, with an approved outlay of 128.87 crore, against which 96.07 crore has been released. Of the annual target of 120 works, 85 works have been completed so far, comprising 82 ongoing works and three new works.

The Minister was informed that synthetic turf fields at Azad Ganj in Baramulla, Draggad in Shopian, Gassu Hazratbal in Srinagar and Mendhar in Poonch have been physically completed. The synthetic turf facility at Bandhu Rakh in Jammu has achieved approximately 65 per cent physical progress and is scheduled for completion by December 2026.

Seven killed in Boko Haram attack in Cameroon

AP

Yaounde, Nov 5: At least seven people, including four civilians and three militants, have been killed when Boko Haram fighters raided a locality in Cameroon's Far North region, security sources said Thursday.

The attack occurred overnight into Thursday in Koza in the Mayo-Tsanaga division.

According to a security source in the region, heavily armed militants invaded the locality while residents were asleep, ransacking homes and firing indiscriminately.

"They killed three civilians on the spot, and another civilian died from injuries early this morning," the source told Xinhua. "Our brave forces confronted them and killed three of the terrorists. There is relative calm in Koza now."

India beat Pakistan 3-2 in SAFF Championship opener



PTI

Dhaka, Nov 5 : Suhail Ahmad Bhat struck a brace as defending champions India began their SAFF Championships campaign with a 3-2 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in a group match here on Thursday.

Bhat, who hails from Srinagar, scored in the 13th and 19th minutes while Manglenthang Kipgen struck in the 31st minute as India led 3-0 at half time. Pakistan scored two goals in the stoppage time to salvage some pride with Najeeb Ullah (90+1) and Alamgir Ghazi (90+4) finding the target in the Group B match played at the National Stadium here.

India fielded a second string side under the charge of Under-23 coach Naushad Moosa with the first team set to play two away international friendly matches against New Zealand on November 12 and 15.

Moosa had only 17 players at his disposal for Thursday's match as the Indian Super League (ISL) clubs are yet to release some of their players for the tournament with the game not falling in the FIFA match window (November 9 to 17). The ISL clubs are expected to release their players for the next match against Maldives on November 11. Then, the squad is expected to have 28 players.

Pakistan were also without the likes of Abdullah Iqbal, the Danish-born defender who plays for Mjallby AIF in Sweden, as the match does not fall inside the FIFA window.

