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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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Snowfall in upper reaches disrupts traffic, intensifies chill across Valley

Razdan Pass records season's first snowfall | MeT forecasts more precipitation till today | 6-8ºC fall predicted in day temperatures

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 12: Fresh snowfall in the upper reaches of Kashmir on Thursday disrupted traffic movement on several key roads, including the Bandipora-Gurez Road, Mughal Road and Srinagar-Leh Highway. These roads were closed for vehicular traffic following snow accumulation and slippery conditions.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) fresh snowfall was reported from Margan Pass, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Zojila Pass, Drass, Machil Valley and Jumagund in Kupwara district, while the plains of Dawar in Gurez Valley also witnessed the season's first snowfall.

Razdan Pass in Bandipora district recorded around six inches of fresh snow, while approximately two inches accumulated at Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road in Shopian district. Snowfall continued in several higher-altitude areas.



Following the snowfall, vehicular movement on the Bandipora-Gurez road was snapped. The Border Roads Organisation's 56 RCC has launched snow-clearance operations at Razdan Pass to restore connectivity along the strategic road.

The Mughal Road and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road, connecting Kashmir with Ladakh through Zojila Pass, also remained closed to traffic due to fresh snowfall and slippery road conditions.

RAINFALL LASHES PLAINS

Plains across the Kashmir, including parts of North and Central Kashmir, received rainfall, bringing a chill to the region and intensifying cold conditions.

Authorities have advised commuters and travellers to avoid travelling on the affected roads until further notice and follow official traffic advisories.

Meanwhile, the Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department (MHED), Division Anantnag, conducted mock drills of snow-clearance machinery across Tehsil Kokernag to assess operational preparedness ahead of the forecast rain and snowfall spell in mid-November.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally cloudy weather is expected on November 13, with light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches at most places. Moderate to heavy rain and snowfall over higher reaches is also likely at several places till late afternoon.

A brief spell of light rain and snowfall at a few places is expected on November 14 and 15, while weather is likely to remain generally dry from November 16 to 20.

The MeT department has forecast a significant fall of 6-8 degrees Celsius in day temperatures during November 12 and 13. Thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds are also possible at a few places during the period.

It has advised farmers to safely store harvested crops during November | More on P6

LG visits fire-hit markets in Jmu, announces Rs 1 lakh relief

Orders 15-day probe into Warehouse fire, assures strict action if negligence found

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday visited fire-affected Warehouse, Nehru Market and Shiv Market in Jammu to assess the damage caused to shops in recent fire incidents and announced immediate relief of Rs 1 lakh each for affected shopkeepers through the Red Cross.

During the visit, the Lieutenant Governor, per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), interacted with affected shopkeepers and members of the trade and business community, listened to their concerns and reviewed the extent of losses along with



senior officials.

Sinha said that although he had no relief funds at his disposal, he had sought assistance through the Red Cross in his capacity as | More on P6



Preserve J&K's civilisational heritage for future generations: LG Sinha

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 12: Calling for a people-centric movement to preserve, document and disseminate Jammu Kashmir's civilisational heritage for future generations, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that cultural heritage must remain a living force in society, not merely a subject of academic | More on P6

Bullet-riddled bodies of two missing SPOs recovered in Kishtwar

DGP reaches spot, massive manhunt launched

Deceased allegedly ambushed; service rifles missing

CM Omar, LoP Sharma, MLA condemn killings

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 12: Bullet-riddled bodies of two Special Police Officers (SPOs), who went missing while on duty in the remote Dachhan-Marwah area of Kishtwar district, were recovered on Thursday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a massive counter-terrorist operation has been launched in the area to track down the assailants.

The officer identified the deceased SPOs as Rashpal Kumar (40) and Babi Chand (57). Preliminary information suggests that the two SPOs were attacked while proceeding towards Dherna post to relieve their colleagues deployed there.

According to sources, one of the deceased sustained a bullet injury to the head, while the other had a gunshot wound to the back. Their service weapons, an INSAS rifle and a .303 rifle, were also found missing, raising suspicion that the attackers may have taken their weapons away.

Two SPOs were reportedly on patrol duty along with Army personnel when they went missing. Their | More on P6

CM Omar calls for making exams secure, transparent

Says cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 caused additional stress to aspirants | Chairs meeting with members of High-Powered Task Force on exam reforms

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 12: Emphasising on making examinations secure, transparent and technology-driven, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the need for robust examination reforms had become particularly evident following the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026.



Chairing a meeting with members of the High-Powered Task Force (HPTF) on Examination Reforms at the Civil Secretariat here, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), called for comprehensive reforms in the examination system in Jammu and Kashmir to safeguard the future of students and ensure that merit remains the sole criterion for selection.

"The need for robust examination reforms had become particularly evident following the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 and the subsequent re-examination, which caused considerable inconvenience and additional stress to lakhs of aspirants across the country," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of strengthening examination security, gradually transitioning towards computer-based testing, improving the credibility of board | More on P6

'Op Sindoor' lessons shaping IAF's future war preparedness: Rajnath

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar/New Delhi, Nov 12: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that lessons learnt during 'Operation Sindoor' were shaping the Indian Air Force's evolving operational procedures.

Addressing the Air Force Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the changing nature of warfare demanded greater preparedness against conventional and emerging threats, stressing technological superiority, jointness and the element of surprise.

He said the Indian Air Force must remain prepared for new challenges, including kamikaze drones, surveillance and counter-drone operations, while



developing dedicated doctrines for emerging domains such as electronic, cyber and space warfare.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Defence Minister commended the Air Force for effectively implementing its operational doctrines and methods during and after the operation, praising the professionalism, restraint and judgement displayed | More on P6

Kulgam Terror Attack

Massive manhunt underway, search operation enters second day

GOC 15 Corps, IGP Kashmir visit attack site

CRPF Special DG calls on LG Sinha, discusses security scenario

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Nov 12: Security forces on Thursday continued an extensive cordon and search operation in South Kashmir's Kulgam district to track down terrorists involved in an attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) party a day earlier, in which three personnel sustained injuries.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the search operation has been extended to several nearby villages, with security forces intensifying efforts to track down the attackers. A massive manhunt is underway, said an official.

Pertinently, the terrorists on Wednesday afternoon had opened fire on CRPF personnel deployed at a checkpoint near Akhran- Mir Bazar. Soon after the attack security forces launched a | More on P6

Bukhari seeks general amnesty for those drawn into 1990s anti-national activities

Says Kashmir has chosen path of peace, urges Centre to take reconciliatory approach

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 12: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Thursday urged the Government of India (GoI) to grant a general amnesty to people who became involved in anti-national activities during the circumstances prevailing in the 1990s, saying Jammu and Kashmir has moved on and chosen the path of peace and normalcy.



Addressing a press conference here, Bukhari said many people who were once associated with anti-national narratives had since joined the mainstream, arguing that the change in people's thinking must be reciprocated by the Centre through a process of reconciliation.

"People have realised that lasting peace is the only way to secure a better and brighter future. This change in people's thinking must be reciprocated by the Government of India," he said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Bukhari said even the children and grandchildren of some leaders who were at the forefront of those developments are now participating in mainstream politics, reflecting a shift towards normalcy.

He urged the Centre to ensure that the benefits of peace and stability reached everyone, including those who may have taken the wrong path in the past.

"We cannot afford to wait for the last gun to fall silent before taking steps towards reconciliation and lasting peace," he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir's position as a border region required a forward-looking and inclusive approach.

The Apni Party chief said efforts must continue to strengthen peace and stability, create opportunities for reconciliation and take everyone along in the journey towards lasting normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bukhari also raised concerns over the reservation policy, saying it was affecting employment opportunities for people in Kashmir. He said nearly 70 per cent of the population is competing for 30 per cent of government jobs and called for a review of the policy.

He further sought early elections to urban local bodies, saying the absence of elected representatives is affecting the resolution of people's day-to-day problems at the grassroots level.

On recruitment in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, he called for consideration of the age limit, arguing | More on P6

Kashmir will always remain India's integral part: Dr Farooq reminds Pak

Asks neighbouring country to end terrorism

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 12: Reminding Pakistan that Kashmir was, is and will always remain India's integral part, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday told the neighbouring country that nothing can be achieved through terrorism.

Talking to reporters here, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I have always told Pakistan to put an end to terrorism. Nothing will come out of terrorism. Find a solution through talks. That is the only way a solution can be found."

"Kashmir was, | More on P6

Cabinet to meet today

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 12: The Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet will meet on Friday to take a final call on several proposals, sources disclosed.

Sources disclosed to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will chair the meeting at 3:30 PM tomorrow to decide on proposals mooted by different departments. This will be the first meeting | More on P6

DGP orders major police reshuffle across J&K, 136 DSPs transferred

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters has ordered the transfer and posting of 136 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) across the Union Territory with immediate effect.

According to an order issued by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, a copy of which was accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the reshuffle has been carried out in the interest of administration, with officers shifted across district police establishments, CID, Security, Traffic, Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Special Operations Group (SOG) and Armed Police formations.

As per the order, Tejinder Kour has been transferred from SO to DIG HG Jammu to Principal CTI Jammu, while Nisar Ahmad Khan has been shifted from DSP Headquarters Kulgam to DSP PCR Srinagar. Ashaq Hussain Dar has been transferred from SDPO Zakura to DSP Headquarters Kulgam, Sachit Mahajan from DSP SKPA Udhampur to DSP CID SB Political Jammu and Junaid Wali from SDPO M.R. Gunj to DSP CID SB Srinagar.

Mohd Ameen Bhat has been shifted from DSP SOG Bani, Kathua, to DSP CTC Lethpora, Tussif Ahmed from SDPO Mendhar to DSP CID CI Ramban, Imtiaz Ahmed from DSP Security Jammu to SDPO Pahalgam and Parul Bhardwaj from SDPO Mahore to DSP Headquarters Bandipora. Irshad Ahmad Ahanger has been transferred from DSP CID CI Doda-Kishtwar to DSP EOW Jammu, while Shaid Nahiem Ahmed has been shifted from SDPO Manjakote to SDPO Arnas.

Aftab Hussain Shah has been posted | More on P6

Ecological Conservation

Vice Chairman JKLCMA reviews development works at Dole Demb in Dal Lake

Stresses importance of dredging internal channels

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, visited the Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review the ongoing works related to the removal of bushes, clearance of the identified area for its proposed development, and dredging of internal channels to facilitate smooth navigation and flushing of water.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, inspected the site and took stock of the progress of the ongoing operations. He was briefed by the concerned officers on the work being undertaken, including the removal of aquatic vegetation, bushes, and dredging of internal channels.

Emphasizing the importance of planned and sustainable development, he stressed that the works should be carried out systematically, with due attention to the ecological sensitivity of the area. He underscored



that the proposed park should enhance the scenic and recreational appeal of the identified stretch while preserving the natural character of Dal Lake and to promote Tourism.

He also stressed the importance of dredging internal channels and flushing of waters to ensure smooth navigation and improve connectivity within the lake. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close supervision of all ongoing activities and ensure timely progress while adhering to appropriate environmental safeguards.

The initiative is aimed at improving the overall lake environment, enhancing navigational facilities and developing a designated recreational space to promote tourism and provide an attractive experience for visitors. It also forms part of the Authority's efforts towards the responsible and sustainable utilisation of Dal Lake's surrounding spaces as tourism attractions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name mentioned in Aadhaar card is AASHYA GULZAR which is wrong however my actual name is AAYISHA GULZAR Now i intend to rectify my name in my aadhaar card. In this regard if anybody **having any objection may file the same before the concerned au-**thorities within a period of 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AAYISHA GULZAR D/O GULZAR AHMAD KHAN R/O BANA KOOT
BANDIPORA
ADHAAR CARD NUMBER .420809097725

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL
NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been
received from Mr./Mrs/Miss MUKESH VADERA
S/D/W of/RAMESH KUMAR VADERA
Resident of 16 IST FLOOR BLOCK-E SECTOR 1 ROHINI NEW DELHI-110085
in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler/Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DLICR6543 Chassis No MA3E-**UA61S00851149 Engine No. 5618555 In favour of MOHD ABDULLAH MALA son/wife/daughter of GHULAM AHMAD MALA R/O BEEHAMA GANDERBAL 191201**
(Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the gener-al public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.
No. JK/ARTOG/
Dated.

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory Assistant Regional Transport **officer**
Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL
NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been
has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss SHAFAT AHMAD WANI
S/D/W of/GHULAM RASOOL WANI
Resident of: 704 THIRD FLOOR GALI NO.20 A ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR NEW
DELHI-110025
in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler/Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL12CB3426 Chassis No MAJAXXMRKAEY29785 **Engine No. EY29785 In favour of: HILAL AHMAD CHOPAN S/D/W of: MOHD SHABAN CHOPAN Resident of: CHATTERGUL KANGAN** GANDERBAL 191201 (Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.
No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.
No. JK/ARTOG/.

Sd/-
Dated.. Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport
officer Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Correct my name in my driving license bearing No: **JK0120040041183 from AIJAZ IQBAL SOFI S/O HABIBULLAH SOFI TO AJAZ IQBAL SOFI S/O HABIB ULLAH SOFI (as per aadhar card). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the** same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
NAME . AJAZ IQBAL SOFI S/O HABIB ULLAH SOFI R/O THURU GANDERBAL

ADDC Shopian reviews preparedness for JKSSB Examination

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting regarding the preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Chief Inspector of Examination), Superintendents, General Observers appointed by the General Administration Department (GAD), Observers and District-level Observers deployed for examination duties.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER ANANTNAG

Subject: Revised final seniority list of Jr. Pharmacists of District Anantnag.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, **on the basis of the records available in this office, the final seniority list of Junior Pharmacists of District Cadre Anantnag was notified and circulated vide this office Order No. Est-I/CMOA/Phm/2502-13** dated 03.06.2026.
Whereas, after circulation of the aforesaid seniority list, this office received a representation duly forwarded by Chief Medical Officer Kulgam vide No: CMOK/Est/2026/3850-52 dated: 09-11-2026, which was examined and duly considered and disposed of on merits in light of the records available.
Now, therefore, the revised final seniority list of Junior Pharmacists of District Anantnag has been notified and circulated among all concerned Junior Pharmacists for their information vide No: Est-I/CMOA/Phm/8594-8606 dated: 10-11-2026 through their respective DDO's.
Any official having a genuine objection, if any, to the seniority position reflected in the revised seniority list shall submit the same to this office, through proper channel, within 05 (five) days from the date of issuance of this notice, along with supporting documentary evidence.
It is further notified that no objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the aforesaid stipulated period, and the seniority list shall thereafter be treated as final.

Sd/-
Chief Medical Officer,
Anantnag

No: Est/CMOA/Phm/8706-18 Dated: 12-11-2026

DIPK-7620/26
DATED: 12-11-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHOPIAN.

Subject: Supply and installation of ABC Items

TENDER NOTICE

E-NI TNo: MCS/Sani/ABC/17 OF 2026. Dated:11.11.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for tender for Supply and installation of ABC items for Dogs and rescue team of MC Shopian.

S.NO	Product	Type	Qty
01	Dog Cage 6x4	Iron 4 MM	03
02	Dog Catcher with Net	Branded	07
03	Dog bite proof Gloves and Uniform	Branded	12 Set
04	Dog bite proof Masks and Boots	Branded	12 Set

The details of the work is as under and the successful lowest bidder is bound to supply a reputed brand only.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13.11.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12.11.2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	13.11.2026 from 10:00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	18.11.2026 up to 02.00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	**18.11.2026 at 04.00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal** Council Shopian.
6	Submission of CDR.	The bidder shall be bound to accompany hisbids offerswith Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.5000/- amount drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the **Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian , (without** Which offers shall be liable for rejection)

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:
1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of BankChallan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0018040100000611 JRY maintained with-**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Shopian Main Branch in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian amounting to Rs. 200/- (Two HundredOnly) and Bid securing declaration as per format Annexure – 1, below on stamppaper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal CouncilShopi-**an, failing which tender will be rejected.
2. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened onlineon the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian.
3. The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. BIDSECURITY.
a) Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as perthe Format Annexure – 2 (format for the bid security declaration).
b) Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.
Terms &Conditions :
01. The product must be of appropriate specifications as Mentioned.
02. The bidder shall be bound to supply all products and Items of reputed brand only.
03. Bidder shall be bound to produce a Sample before Technical Evaluation on the basis of approval of Sample bidder shall be qualified.
04. EMD is compulsory for all bidder no bidder shall be qualified without EMD
05. Bidder Shall be bound to supply and installation of the said item and replacement warranty for 02 Years, for which an affidavit duly sworn in the court of Law shall be provided in advance.
06. Bidder shall be bound to produce an affidavit dully attested by Judicial magistrate for Warranty period and replacement of Cut and damage of the Items.
07. bidder shall have service center within the nearest location of Consignee location for immediate service and replacement without which bidder shall not be **qualified.**
08. The successful bidder shall be responsible for the comprehensive supply, transportation, installation, testing, and commissioning of the Item at the designated sites along with requisite Items.
09.The products shall carry a minimum comprehensive warranty of 02 years from the
date of final acceptance.
10. The Payment shall only be released subject to Satisfactory report of requisite
items by any competent authority.
Instructions to the Bidders regarding E-Tendering process:
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get,, Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)ı as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
f) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
g) Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
h) The Bidder must have to upload (softcopies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink signed and Seal):-
i) Valid original Bank Challan/ Receipt
j) Call Deposit Receipt (CDR)
k) BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
l) Valid GSTIN/PAN Card No.
m) The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
n) Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including
o) BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical Bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall not **be entertained in the form of hard copy. However ,in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if** need arises.
p) The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploade done-tending portal before issuance of Allotment.
No:MCS/Sani/ABC/4712-15 Dated: 11/11/2026.

DIPK-NB-2100/26
DATED: 12-11-2026

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council
Shopian.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER BARAMULLA NOORBAGH BARAMULLA

TECHNICAL SECTION

Subject: - Insurance of livestock (Sheep & Goat) in District Baramulla.
Expression of Interest
District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Baramulla invites "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) from registered/public sector general insurance compa-nies to take up insurance of livestock- sheep/goat units to be established under different Income generation Schemes of the department during the year 2026-27.
The interested companies may send their "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) as per the terms and conditions given below:-
General Conditions:-
1. The interested companies may send their "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) in sealed envelope by registered post/ speed post superscribed as "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) for one year named as Sheep Goat Insurance 2026-27 to the undersigned.
2. The insurance companies shall quote rate of premium per animal for one year only. The rate should be inclusive of all taxes/charges and other incidental charges what so ever inclusive of GST as well.
3. The interested companies shall have to abide by standard terms and conditions as laid down in GFR, manual for procurement of consultancy and other services.
4. The last date for submission of "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) is 3.00pm on 27/11/2026 and will open at 3.30 pm on the same date in presence of the authorized representatives of insurance companies present at that time if any.
5. If the last date of receipt and opening of "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) happens to be a public holiday the "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) will be received and opened on the next working day at the same venue and time.
6. The District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla reserves the right to cancel this notice of "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) or make amendments to this notice without any liability or assigning any reasons thereof.
7. The "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) will be scrutinized by the selection committee framed by this office.
8. The interested companies may obtain further information at the address given below.
Other Terms and Conditions:-
1. The period of insurance will be for one year only.
2. Insurance Policy shall provide indemnity against death due to all the diseases, natural disasters, calamities, accidents, wild animal attacks, deaths during transition.
3. The diseases namely Enterotoxaemia, Sheep Pox, PPR and FMD shall be covered by the policy if the animal is successfully vaccinated against these diseases. Since sheep and goat are to migrate from lower to higher altitude as per the weather conditions prevalent in the area as such the claims arising outside the geographical area are to be included without any extra premium.
4. The maximum value of animal (Sheep/Goat) is to be assessed by negotiation jointly by the owner of animal and by insurance companies in presence of Veterinary Doctor.
5. Claim, if any, will have to be settled within fifteen (15) days after submission of claim related documents.
6. Claims if any should be processed in a hassle free manner at a designated District Level Office of the selected insurance company.
7. The insurance companies shall have a Nodal Officer exclusively for operating Sheep/Goat insurance in the district.
8. The contact shall be valid for a period of one year (from the date of finalization of the contract) or till the State Level Purchase Committee (SLRC) Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir finalizes the rate contract whichever is earlier.
9. Any other condition that is not indicated here can be incorporated in the "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) before execution of contract, if needed

Office Address:-District Sheep Husbandry Office Noorbagh Baramulla
Email: - dshotech.bla@gmail.com

No:- DSHO/Bla/Tech/2026-27/2336-38
Dated: - 12/11/2026

DIPK-7629/26
DATED: 12-11-2026

Sd/=
(Dr. Mohd Haider)
District Sheep Husbandry Officer
Baramulla

'Indoor smoke can worsen lung conditions'

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 12: With the onset of winter, respiratory infections and pneumonia cases are expected to increase across Kashmir, with health experts urging people, particularly vulnerable groups, to take precautionary measures to minimise the risk of seasonal illnesses.

Dr Syed Mudasir Qadri, Professor of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at SKIMS Soura, said that, as in other regions experiencing harsh winters, Kashmir also witnesses an increase in respiratory infections and pneumonia during the colder months.

Dr Qadri said people at the extremes of age, particularly children below five years and elderly persons above 65 years, are more vulnerable to respiratory infections and pneumonia.

He said patients suffering from chronic lung diseases and those with compromised immunity, including cancer patients, transplant recipients and people taking systemic steroids or other immunosuppressive medications, are also at increased risk of developing serious complications.

"During the winter season, we do see an increase in the inflow of patients with respiratory ailments in hospitals. However, the healthcare system tries its best to prepare for such eventualities well in advance," he said.

Highlighting another major concern, Dr Qadri said indoor air pollution remains a significant contributor to respiratory complications, particularly among people living in rural and tribal areas where traditional heating arrangements are still widely used.

He said that although an increasing number of households are shifting towards modern heating systems such as electric hamams, electric radiators and air conditioners, a considerable population continues to depend on kangris, bukharis and coal- and wood-burning stoves.

According to him, smoke and pollutants generated by these traditional heating sources can aggravate existing respiratory conditions, particularly Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) and asthma.

"People exposed to indoor air pollution are more likely to experience frequent exacerbations of chronic lung diseases, especially during winter when ventilation inside homes is often limited," he said.

Emphasising the importance of prevention, Dr Qadri said that while improved transport facilities and increased awareness through social media have encouraged people to seek medical advice in a timely manner, greater attention needs to be paid to preventive healthcare.

He advised people to avoid overcrowded places, maintain a healthy diet, keep themselves adequately warm and limit outdoor exposure during periods of extreme cold, particularly during early mornings and evenings. He also stressed the importance of timely vaccination, saying pneumococcal and influenza vaccines should be taken as prescribed by healthcare professionals, particularly by people belonging to high-risk groups.

"Prevention remains extremely important. People should follow medical advice, maintain healthy habits and ensure that recommended vaccinations are taken on time," he said. Meanwhile, Dr Qadri said hospitals across Kashmir, including SKIMS Soura, undertake special winter preparedness measures to ensure that healthcare services remain functional and patients receive timely treatment during the cold season.

These preparations include reviewing the availability of medicines in hospital pharmacies, checking the functioning of ventilators and other intensive care facilities, ensuring adequate heating arrangements and stocking sufficient warm linen for patients.

"Such measures are taken in advance to ensure hospitals remain equipped to deal with the anticipated increase in respiratory and other winter-related ailments," Dr Qadri said.

The expert urged people not to ignore persistent respiratory symptoms, particularly among children, elderly persons and patients with pre-existing medical conditions, and to seek medical attention without delay—(KNO)

Delegation calls on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 12: A delegation of J&K Khadi Gramodyog Federation, led by Peerzada Manzoor Ahmad Shah called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

Landmine recovered, destroyed near LoC

KNO

Poonch, Nov 12: An old landmine was recovered by the Army during a routine patrol near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

An official said that alert troops detected the landmine during a routine patrol ahead of the fence in the Balakote sector.

He said that following the recovery, an Army Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the spot and safely destroyed the explosive device later in the evening.

The controlled destruction was carried out at the recovery site, with no loss of life or injuries reported, he said—(KNO)

ACB arrests RDD assistant engineer, contractor in bribery case

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 12: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said it had arrested an Assistant Engineer of the Rural Development Department (RDD) and a contractor for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000 for clearing pending bills related to five government works in Bandipora district.

In a statement, the ACB said the accused Assistant Engineer, identified as Mohd Rafi Moon, posted at Block Arin, had initially demanded Rs 11,000 as bribe for clearing the bills, which was later reduced to Rs 8,000 after negotiations.

The ACB said its Police Station Baramulla had received a complaint alleging that the Assistant Engineer was deliberately withholding the complainant's bills despite the completion of five government PRI works and his refusal to pay the bribe.

Following the complaint, the Bureau conducted a discreet verification, which prima facie established the commission of a cognizable offence under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018.

Accordingly, FIR No. 07/2026 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla on November 12, and an investigation was initiated.

The ACB said a trap team was subsequently constituted in the presence of independent witnesses and a successful trap was laid, during which the Assistant Engineer and another accused, identified as Hilal Ahmad Mir, son of Mohd Ramzan Mir, a resident of Gundpora Rampora, Bandipora, were caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 8,000.

The amount was recovered from the conscious possession of the accused persons and authenticated through independent witnesses and other supporting evidence, the statement said. Both accused have been arrested and taken into custody, while further investigation into the case is underway—(KNO)

Public representatives, delegations, students call on CM Omar

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 12: Several delegations, public representatives and school students on Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various developmental issues, community concerns and matters pertaining to their respective constituencies.

MLA Anantnag West Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia and MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah separately called on the Chief Minister and discussed ongoing developmental works, public welfare concerns and other important issues concerning their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting public representatives and delegations and assured them that their genuine demands and developmental concerns would be examined and addressed on priority.

Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Prof. (Dr.) M. Ashraf Ganie, met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the functioning of the premier health institution.

Managing Director, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), Ramesh Mukhiya, also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on the status of various hydroelectric power projects being executed by the company in Kishtwar district. He also discussed key issues related to the implementation and progress of these projects. A delegation of the All J&K Christian Sabha, led by its President Ashu Peter Matoo, met the Chief Minister and discussed an upcoming event being organised by the Sabha. The delegation also apprised him of various issues concerning the Christian community in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, students of International Delhi Public School (IDPS) Juniors, Jammu, accompanied by Managing Director Siya Singh, Principal Sahrish Ismaily and Vice Principal Arti Sharma, called on the Chief Minister and extended their warm greetings on the occasion of the upcoming Children's Day.

The interaction provided an opportunity for the young students to meet the

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

MLA Budgam condemns Kulgam, Kishtwar attacks



Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Nov 12: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, on Thursday condemned the attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam and the killing of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in Kishtwar, saying violence has no place in a civilised or democratic society.

Speaking to media persons at his Budgam office, Mehdi said repeated incidents raise serious questions about the approach adopted by the Central government towards Kashmir.

"While the government may have controlled the visible signs of instability, maintaining control cannot be considered a permanent solution to the situation," he said.

Mehdi called upon the Government of India to reset its priorities and initiate political measures, including dialogue with the "elected Assembly", to address the political grievances of the people.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370, the MLA said it had not addressed the political grievances or instability in the region, alleging that the post-abrogation situation was controlled through the use of police force and surveillance.

"The prevailing silence and fear should not be projected as peace," the PDP leader said, adding that recent incidents indicate that political grievances and instability in the region remain unresolved—(KNO)

J&K NHM employees seeks CM's intervention on pending demands

Warn of fresh protest over unmet commitments

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 12: The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEAK) on Thursday sought the personal intervention of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the implementation of commitments made by the government during a high-level meeting on September 18, 2026, warning that employees may resume their protest if their long-pending demands are not addressed.

Addressing a press conference here, the association's leadership expressed resentment over what it described as an inordinate delay in translating the assurances given during the meeting, chaired by Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, into concrete decisions and official government orders.

The association said NHM employees had called off their strike in September following an appeal by the Chief Minister, who had publicly expressed his willingness to hold discussions with the employees on the condition that they first withdraw their agitation.

"We honoured the Chief Minister's appeal and called off our strike in the hope that our concerns would be addressed through dialogue. We now expect the same commitment from the government and request the Chief Minister to personally intervene and provide an opportunity for meaningful discussions," the association said.

Reiterating its demands, JKNHMEAK spokesperson Rouf Ahmad called for a comprehensive salary revision, formulation of a dignified job policy, implementation of equal pay for equal work, social security coverage, retirement benefits and resolution of other long-pending service-related issues.

The association said the demands were not limited to routine financial adjustments but required comprehensive policy-level decisions to ensure job security, financial stability and

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.

School Bus Accident

Transport Dept seeks FIR against Pulwama school

Vehicle allegedly operating without mandatory documents, permit

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Nov 12: The Transport Department has sought registration of a FIR against the management and concerned authorities of Future Pack Secondary School, Shadimarg, Pulwama, following an accident involving its bus that overturned at Darbgam on Wednesday, leaving 11 students injured.

A communication addressed to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Joint Transport Commissioner, J&K, has requested Police to register an FIR against the school management and initiate legal proceedings for allegedly operating the vehicle in violation of mandatory statutory and safety requirements.

The communication bearing No. TC/JK/Estt./2026/2853-58, dated November 12, 2026, reads the school bus (No. JK01M-2712) was carrying 13 students when it met with an accident at Darbgam. Eleven students sustained injuries in the incident.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Caring For The Weakest

Every society has people who are struggling — the poor, the sick, the orphan, the widow, the unemployed, the one who has lost everything. The question is not whether such people exist. The question is how the rest of us treat them. On this, the Quran and the Sunnah are not vague. They are clear, and they are demanding. The Quran makes charity a mark of the believer, not an optional virtue. "And they give food, in spite of love for it, to the needy, the orphan and the captive". The verse is striking because it names the captive — someone who may not even be grateful, someone who may be an enemy. The duty to feed does not depend on the worthiness of the receiver. It depends on the mercy of the giver. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best of people are those who bring most benefit to the rest of mankind." He also said, "Whoever relieves a believer's distress of the distressful aspects of this world, Allah will rescue him from a difficulty of the difficulties of the Hereafter". And in a famous hadith, he said that the one who cares for the widow and the poor is like a warrior in the path of Allah, or like one who prays all night and fasts all day. But support is not only money. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Your smile for your brother is charity." A kind word, a listening ear, a moment of respect for someone who feels invisible — these are also forms of support. The Quran says, "And speak to people kindly". What is required is a change of attitude. The poor are not a burden. They are a trust. The one who struggles is not outside our circle. He is inside it, and his dignity is our responsibility. A society that cares for its weakest is a society that has understood the message.

The Ship Is Sinking, And ASEAN Is Still Negotiating

The ship is still ours. The future is still being shaped. And the time to act is before the water reaches everyone's deck.

Abdulwahed Jalal Nori



How many more years must millions of people breathe polluted air before we stop treating the haze as an environmental problem and confront it as a failure of justice?

For nearly three decades, I have lived in Malaysia and watched this crisis return with disturbing familiarity. The skies darken, the air becomes difficult to breathe, and ordinary people adjust their lives to circumstances they neither created nor have the power to resolve. We monitor air quality, worry about our children and wait for the rain.

Eventually, the skies clear, public attention moves elsewhere, and the conditions that made the crisis possible remain largely unchanged. What troubles me most is not simply that the haze returns, but that we have gradually become accustomed to it.

This year, as the haze has persisted for months without a convincing sign of sustained improvement, I find myself asking a more fundamental question: how can a region that speaks confidently about economic growth, technological advancement and regional integration continue to tolerate a crisis in which the benefits of some economic activities accrue to a few while their environmental and health costs are imposed on millions?

Weather conditions, including drought, can intensify fires, but they do not fully explain the economic incentives, land-use decisions and institutional weaknesses that allow destructive practices to persist. Beneath the environmental crisis lies a deeper question about how we define progress, distribute responsibility and exercise political power.

A prophetic teaching offers a powerful framework for understanding this predicament. Al-Nu'man ibn Bashir reported that the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"The parable of those who respect the limits of Allah and those who violate them is that of people who board a ship after casting lots, some of them residing in its upper deck and others in its lower deck. When those in the lower deck want water, they pass by the upper deck and say: If we tear a hole in the bottom of the ship, we will not harm those above us. If those in the upper deck let them do what they want, they will all be destroyed together. If they restrain them, they will all be saved together."

The significance of this hadith extends beyond a general appeal for good behaviour. It exposes the danger of pursuing private interests without regard for collective survival. The passengers who wish to make a hole in the ship may believe that their actions concern only themselves. Those on the upper deck may assume that the damage is someone else's responsibility. Both are mistaken. The ship is a shared vessel, and its survival depends on whether those who recognise the danger are willing to intervene before the consequences become irreversible.

The haze presents Southeast Asia with precisely this dilemma. Smoke crosses borders without seeking permission from governments. Pollution does not distinguish between those who benefit from land clearing and those who breathe its consequences. The atmosphere connects communities that may never meet, while decisions made in one location can threaten the health and livelihoods of people hundreds of kilometres away. The injustice is difficult to ignore: some actors may capture the economic benefits of destructive practices while the wider public is left to bear the costs.

As an academic without executive authority, my contribution lies primarily in my pen, my teaching and my ability to question established assumptions. I write in the hope that someone in a position of power might encounter these arguments and reconsider a policy, challenge an established practice or recognise a responsibility that has been neglected. For me, this is one expression of amr bil ma'ruf wa nahi 'an al-munkar: encouraging what is right and resisting what is wrong.

Yet the hadith also demands that we think beyond individual moral conduct. Responsibility must be understood in relation to capacity and authority. An ordinary citizen can raise awareness and demand accountability.

A scholar can investigate and challenge prevailing assumptions. Corporations control resources and make operational decisions, while governments possess the legal instruments to regulate conduct and prevent harm. These responsibilities are not identical. Those with greater power to prevent foreseeable harm have a correspondingly greater obligation to use that power responsibly.

It is therefore inadequate to tell people to wear masks, remain indoors and monitor air quality while neglecting the decisions that could prevent fires in the first place. Personal precautions are necessary, but they cannot substitute for effective public policy. Nor should we assume that every farmer or every fire has the same cause.

Smallholders may lack affordable alternatives, and responsibility must be established through evidence. The objective should be to change the incentives that make destructive land clearing attractive while ensuring that vulnerable communities are not unfairly burdened with the costs of reform.

ASEAN has already recognised that transboundary haze requires regional cooperation. The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution provides a framework for joint action, while the Haze-Free Roadmap 2023-2030 sets out the ambition of achieving a haze-free region. Yet the recurrence of the crisis raises an uncomfortable question: what is the value of regional commitments if they do not translate into sufficiently effective action?

ASEAN must move beyond a pattern in which governments reaffirm their commitments during a crisis only for attention to fade when the skies clear. Regional cooperation needs to become more effective at preventing the next episode, not merely managing the current one. This does not require abandoning national sovereignty. It requires recognising that sovereignty carries responsibilities when activities within one country's jurisdiction cause foreseeable harm beyond its borders. Respect for national independence should not become an excuse for avoiding legitimate questions about cross-border pollution and corporate accountability.

One practical step would be to establish a regional haze accountability mechanism that publishes annual assessments of progress. Rather than measuring success by the number of meetings held or declarations issued, ASEAN should report on tangible outcomes: reductions in recurring fire hotspots, areas of vulnerable peatland restored, investigations completed, penalties enforced and progress in adopting non-burning land-management practices.

These indicators should be independently verifiable, with clear responsibilities assigned to relevant authorities. Where targets are missed, governments should explain the reasons and identify corrective measures. Regional cooperation becomes meaningful when failures must be acknowledged as openly as successes are celebrated.

ASEAN should also strengthen cross-border investigations into fires and corporate supply chains. Satellite observations, land-concession records, fire data and corporate ownership information could be brought together through a regional evidence-sharing system. Where credible evidence links a company to illegal burning or negligent land management, relevant authorities should coordinate investigations and pursue appropriate action under national law.

Complex corporate structures should not become a convenient means of avoiding scrutiny. At the same time, investigations must respect due process and distinguish allegations from proven violations. Accountability will be credible only when it is evidence-based and consistently applied.

Another priority is to change the economics of land clearing. If burning remains substantially cheaper than responsible alternatives, enforcement alone will struggle to eliminate the incentive. ASEAN should expand financial assistance for smallholders, improve access to affordable machinery and technical support, and encourage agricultural practices that do not depend on destructive burning.

A regional haze-prevention fund could support peatland restoration, community fire brigades, sustainable land management and alternative livelihoods. Funding should be directed towards high-risk areas and assessed against independently verified results. Preventing environmental damage must become economically viable, while causing it should no longer be an inexpensive route to profit.

Technology can help, but it must serve a clear institutional purpose. Satellite monitoring, artificial intelligence, improved weather forecasting and real-time air-quality modelling can strengthen early detection and emergency response.

However, better data will make little difference if institutions fail to act on it. ASEAN should establish clear protocols specifying which authorities must inspect vulnerable areas, mobilise firefighting resources and alert neighbouring countries when fire risks reach agreed thresholds. Early warnings are useful only when they lead to timely action.

Public health must also become a central component of regional haze policy. Governments should improve access to reliable air-quality information, establish clear guidelines for schools and workplaces, protect outdoor workers and provide assistance to vulnerable households. We cannot predict the precise long-term consequences for every individual, but uncertainty about individual outcomes is no justification for complacency about established public-health dangers.

These measures are especially urgent as the region faces the possibility of increasingly difficult fire seasons. Climate variability and prolonged dry conditions can make fire prevention and suppression more challenging. ASEAN must therefore treat environmental intelligence, preventive investment and regional coordination as essential infrastructure rather than emergency measures to be assembled after a crisis has begun.

The deeper question is what kind of future Southeast Asia wishes to create. One possibility is that the region continues its familiar cycle: fires intensify, smoke crosses borders, governments issue statements, communities endure the consequences, and attention eventually shifts elsewhere.

Another is that each crisis becomes an opportunity for institutional learning. Environmental responsibility shapes corporate decisions, public investment rewards sustainable land management, and regional cooperation produces measurable improvements in people's lives. Neither future is inevitable. The choices made today will help determine which one becomes reality.

From an Islamic perspective, development cannot be measured exclusively through economic output or commercial expansion. The principles of amanah (trust), 'adl (justice) and maslahah (public welfare) require us to consider whose lives are protected, whose interests are prioritised and what burdens are transferred to future generations.

A society that increases its wealth while undermining the conditions necessary for human well-being must reconsider its understanding of progress. The protection of life cannot remain a moral declaration disconnected from land-use decisions, corporate incentives and public policy.

I return, finally, to the hadith of the ship. As an academic, I cannot compel governments to act, but I can question the reasoning that allows preventable harm to become normal. Those with political authority must translate these concerns into effective policies. Corporations must accept responsibility for their operations, and ASEAN must demonstrate that regional solidarity means more than shared statements of concern.

The haze may eventually disappear with the rain. But if the underlying incentives and institutional weaknesses remain unchanged, the disappearance of the smoke will not mean that the crisis has been resolved. It will simply mean that we have been given another interval before the next test of our collective responsibility.

The real measure of ASEAN's progress is not how efficiently it learns to manage polluted air, but whether it can create a future in which millions of people no longer have to fear another haze season.

The Prophet's parable leaves us with a choice: allow the hole in the ship to widen because the immediate benefits appear attractive, or act together to protect the vessel on which we all depend.

The ship is still ours. The future is still being shaped. And the time to act is before the water reaches everyone's deck.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

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Sagar stresses strengthening of revenue services

Assures resolution of public grievances

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Revenue, Relief, Power Development Department (PDD), Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Thursday held an extensive interaction with representatives of the All Jammu and Kashmir Patwari Association and several other deputations, during which he reviewed issues concerning the Revenue Department, besides taking up various public grievances and demands raised by the visiting delegations.

During the meeting, the delegation, as per an official statement, apprised the Minister of various service-related, administrative and operational issues affecting the Patwari cadre. They also highlighted the challenges faced by field functionaries in discharging their responsibilities and stressed the need for addressing their genuine concerns to further improve the efficiency and functioning of the Revenue Department.

The delegation also discussed matters relating to strengthening the grassroots revenue administration, improving working conditions and facilitating better coordination between field functionaries and higher departmental authorities for effective public service delivery.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the representatives and acknowledged the important role played by Patwaris in the overall functioning of the Revenue Department. He observed that Patwaris constitute a vital link between the administration and the people, with their responsibilities extending to land records, revenue-related public services, field verification and implementation of various government initiatives.

Sagar assured the delegation that the issues and concerns projected by them would be examined on merit and taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate consideration. He stressed that strengthening the institutional capacity of the Revenue Department and addressing genuine difficulties faced by its field functionaries remained important for ensuring responsive, transparent and efficient public service delivery.

Later, several other deputations representing different areas and sections of society also called on the Minister and apprised him of various public, departmental and developmental issues. The deputations projected their demands and grievances, seeking the Minister's intervention for their early redressal.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting delegations and assured them that the issues raised would be taken up with the concerned departments and officers for necessary action. He reiterated that addressing public grievances and ensuring effective coordination among departments remained a priority, while directing that genuine issues be examined and resolved in a time-bound manner.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

DC Srinagar reviews progress of Rooftop Solar installations

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 12: In order to assess the progress of Rooftop Solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

He also reviewed the progress of ongoing solarization of Government buildings across Srinagar District.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shah Ismail Bangroo, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, JAKEDA, Zonal Head J&K Bank and other concerned Officers and stakeholders.

During the meeting the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman of the Monitoring and Management Committee of the schemes, emphasized the need to further accelerate rooftop solar installations and solarisation of Government buildings.

The DC directed the banks to clear all pending approved cases on priority and ensure timely disbursement of loans to facilitate hassle-free installation of rooftop solar systems.

He also instructed KPDCL Engineers to ensure sustained progress, timely execution of works and enhanced consumer outreach to encourage wider adoption of renewable energy solutions.

Emphasizing the importance of reaching to the consumers, the Deputy Commissioner called for intensified outreach activities to highlight the benefits of rooftop solar systems, including reduced electricity bills, promotion of clean energy and environmental sustainability.

The meeting was also informed that 8122 households have been covered under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, reflecting the ongoing efforts to expand rooftop solar adoption among domestic consumers.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress and latest status of solarization of Government buildings in the District, aimed at reducing dependence on conventional power sources, promoting clean energy generation and minimizing electricity expenditure of Government establishments.

The DC was informed that a total of 996 Government buildings have been identified for installation of rooftop solar systems, out of which 656 buildings have been covered so far, while work on the remaining buildings is underway.

Reviewing the pace of work, the DC stressed the need to further expedite the solarization process and directed the concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of all pending works within the stipulated timeframe.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to achieve the objectives of both initiatives, strengthen renewable energy adoption and promote sustainable energy practices across the District.

ADDC Kupwara inspects SDH Sogam; reviews healthcare facilities, winter preparedness



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Thursday inspected Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Sogam and held a detailed on-spot review of healthcare facilities with special focus on winter preparedness.

The ADDC was accompanied by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Sogam, Dr. Javid Rasool Shah and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the ADDC took a round of various sections of the hospital including Emergency, OPD, IPD, Laboratory and Pharmacy. He interacted with the staff and patients to get feedback about the facilities being provided.

On-spot inspection revealed that duty doctors and paramedical staff were found available and performing their duties. Heating arrangements were found in place and functional. Medical supplies and essential medicines were found available in adequate quantity.

The ADDC stressed upon the hospital authorities to remain available strictly as per the duty roster and ensure best healthcare services to the patients, especially in view of the approaching winter season.

He further directed the concerned to keep all heating arrangements fully functional and put in place additional heating measures wherever required for the convenience of patients and attendants. He also instructed for maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene in and around the hospital premises.

DC Srinagar reviews plan & design of approved District Mini Secretariat at Batamaloo

KT News desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the plan and design of construction of the District Srinagar's Mini Secretariat at Batamaloo.

The project aims to bring all District-level Government Offices under one roof, ensuring seamless coordination among Departments and hassle-free delivery of public services.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz and Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer R&B Abdul Qayoom, Executive Engineer KPDCL Tasaduq Nabi, Executive Engineer Water Works Division Aijaz Rafiq and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised about the proposed design and plan of the project and various components being incorporated into the proposed District Administrative Complex.

A detailed discussions were held on the project's design, infrastructure, functionality and other essential facilities to ensure that the Mini Secretariat is developed as a state-of-the-art Administrative Complex, reflecting the City's heritage while providing modern amenities for both employees and the general public.

The DC stressed the need for time-bound execution of the project and directed the concerned Officers to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued during the meeting.

He was also briefed on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and the facilities proposed for the convenience of the general public visiting the complex.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the prestigious project of Srinagar Mini Secretariat has been envisaged as a one-stop centre for public service delivery, aimed at making Government services more accessible and efficient.

He added that all peripheral and District-level Government Offices would be relocated to the Mini Secretariat in a phased manner, enabling people to access services offered by various Departments under one roof.

The initiative is also expected to reduce delays in inter-departmental coordination by bringing different Government Offices into close proximity, thereby ensuring improved administrative efficiency and better public service delivery.

Door-to-door waste collection introduced in rural areas of Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: District Administration Udhampur Thursday launched a door-to-door solid waste collection initiative in rural areas of the district.

Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi flagged off the waste collection vehicle from the DC Office Complex in the presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan; Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Dr Ashwani Hansa; DIO NIC Anish Sharma and other concerned officials.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayats informed that the door-to-door waste collection has been introduced in all 236 Panchayats across 17 blocks of the district, ensuring effective solid waste management in rural areas.

The DC directed the ACP and ACD to ensure proper monitoring of the collection process and its effective implementation across all rural areas. "The waste collected must be properly segregated, recycled and scientifically disposed of," he stressed.

DC further directed that no rural area should be left uncovered and instructed the concerned officers to ensure the removal of all existing garbage heaps and waste dumps. He emphasised the need to maintain visible cleanliness and improve sanitation standards across rural areas through regular monitoring and sustained efforts.

Work on Rs. 4.42 Crore Dev Sathan River Front project takes off at Bhandarkoot- Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 12: The Leader of Opposition J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Kumar Sharma (MLA Paddar-Nagseni) Thursday laid the foundation stone for the development of Dev Sathan RiverFront here at Bhandarkoot. Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma was also present.

The project, initiated under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP) of Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project, is being executed by PWD (R&B) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.42 Crore. The project is set to be completed in 2 years.

The Dev Sathan River Front project includes viewpoints, parking space for visitors and seating arrangements, where about 250 people can sit at a time and benefit from the facility.

The project would enhance the religious, cultural and tourism significance of Bhandarkoot, besides providing improved facilities to devotees and visitors. It will also contribute towards the beautification of the river front and promotion of local tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, the Leader of Opposition highlighted the importance of the project for the people of Kishtwar and assured all possible support for the holistic development of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency, PWD (R&B), to ensure quality and timely completion of the project to provide early benefits of the project to the people.

He further directed for taking all measures for the safety of the development works by constructing a protection wall, considering its vicinity to the Chenab River.

ExEn PWD (R&B) Shamis Din besides other officers and officials, were present on the occasion.

Health, Mental Wellness awareness camp organised at CCI Palaash- Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 12: A Medical Health and Mental Wellness awareness Programme was organised Thursday at Government-run Child Care Institution (CCI) Palaash, under the aegis of the Department of Social Welfare. The children from both Palaash and Parisha Child Care institutions availed the counselling and other services.

The programme was organised on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of District Child Protection Officer Tariq Parveaz Qazi.

A team of doctors comprising Dr. Haris Masood and Dr. Afia interacted with the children and discussed various aspects of physical and mental health. The children were counseled on mental health, emotional well-being, psychological concerns and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The children were also encouraged to openly share their concerns and seek appropriate guidance whenever required.

The initiative aimed at promoting awareness about physical and mental health among children residing in Child Care Institutions.

The programme was attended by Protection Officer (IC) Deepika Bhandari; Superintendent Parisha Priya Sharma; Counsellor CHL Swati Sharma; Social Worker DCPU Meenakshi Sharma; Case Worker Palaash Rakesh Kumar and Para Medical Parisha Shanu Bala, along with other staff members of both institutions.

DC reviews traffic management in Udhampur Township

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi Thursday convened a meeting with officers of the concerned departments to review traffic management in Udhampur town and discuss measures aimed at ensuring smooth traffic flow and easing congestion.

Detailed deliberations were held on the traffic-related issues, including regulation of vehicle halting time, entry of Goods vehicles, streamlining of bus operations for Ramnagar and adjoining areas, creation of temporary parking spaces and improvement of the overall traffic management system.

The DC stressed the need for effective enforcement measures to decongest roads, curb traffic violations and ensure the smooth and hassle-free movement of vehicles and pedestrians. He directed the ARTO and Traffic Police to designate stops points for vehicles to ensure orderly traffic movement and prevent unnecessary halting on busy roads.

Phulwari Udhampur facilitates inter-country adoption: Child Shiv finds a loving family in Canada

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi and supervision of District Social welfare officer Kanika Gupta, Phulwari-a Specialized Adoption Agency, under Mission Vatsalya, Department of Social Welfare, Jammu & Kashmir, has successfully completed the inter-country adoption process of a child named Shiv, marking a significant and memorable milestone in his life.

Child Shiv was born on July 15, 2025 at Reasi and was voluntarily surrendered by his biological mother. Subsequently, on July 17, 2025 the child was handed over to the concerned authorities for care, protection and rehabilitation.

Later, the child was provided with a safe and protective environment under the care of the Specialized Adoption Agency.

After completing the prescribed procedures and legal formalities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Adoption Regulations, 2022, the child was successfully matched with a prospective adoptive family from Canada.

The completion of the adoption process and fulfillment of the required formalities paved the way for adoption of Child Shiv. He was officially handed over to his adoptive family by Phulwari Specialized Adoption Agency on Nov 12, 2026. The successful completion of this inter-country adoption represents a beautiful journey of hope, care and new beginnings.

Shiv will now have the opportunity to grow up in a permanent family environment filled with love, affection, care and security.

Arrangements for JKSSB Exam reviewed at Bhaderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 12: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Thursday reviewed the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Accounts Assistant Examination, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

Officers and officials from the Police, Revenue, Traffic Police, Municipal Committee, Health, Jal Shakti Department, Power Department, Government Degree College Bhaderwah, Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Government Higher Secondary School (Girls), Government Higher Secondary School Sartingal and other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

The meeting held detailed discussion regarding the overall management and necessary arrangements for the examination. Approximately 1070 candidates are expected to appear at four designated examination centres across the Bhaderwah.

Later, the ADC inspected the examination centres designated for the exam at Government Degree College, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bhaderwah and Government Higher Secondary School Sartingal.

The ADC took stock of the availability and functioning of CCTV cameras, examination halls, drinking water facilities, electricity supply, cleanliness, seating arrangements and other essential facilities required for the smooth and transparent conduct of the examination.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Snowfall in upper

12-13, while travellers, transporters and tourists have been asked to plan their journeys accordingly, keeping in view the possibility of disruption on important mountain passes and hilly roads due to moderate to heavy snowfall.

SRINAGAR RECORDS 17.3 C

Meanwhile, according to the latest weather data issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 17.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 16.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 5.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 14.5 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 2.7 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 17.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 3.7 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 15 degrees Celsius and 6.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 9.9 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest among the weather stations in the Kashmir division.

Among other AWS stations, Bandipora recorded a maximum of 19.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6.1 degrees Celsius, Baramulla 18.1 and 6.4 degrees Celsius, Shopian 16.8 and 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Sonamarg recorded 11.9 and 2.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The maximum rainfall/snowfall recorded was 7.5 mm at AWS Gulmarg, according to the weather bulletin.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 27.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.3 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department has advised people, particularly those travelling through higher reaches and mountain passes, to remain cautious in view of the prevailing weather conditions. (KNO)

LG visits fire-hit

its President. He said cheques of Rs 1 lakh each had been arranged, which was the maximum assistance permissible under the rules.

"I understand that this amount is very small compared to the losses you have endured, but I hope it provides at least some help during this difficult time. In the meantime, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Jammu are making every effort to ensure that you receive your insurance claims as soon as possible," he said.

Immediate financial assistance of Rs 11 lakh has been provided to affected shopkeepers at Warehouse, while Rs 27 lakh has been given to those affected at Shiv Market.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to expedite the damage assessment process and ensure prompt relief to all affected. He also stressed the need to review and strengthen fire safety protocols across major commercial hubs to prevent such incidents in the future.

"The entire UT administration stands with you. I assure the business community of all possible support from the Administration to help you rebuild your business at the earliest," he said.

Sinha has already constituted an inquiry committee comprising the Inspector General of Police, Jammu, and the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, to ascertain the cause and circumstances of the fire at Warehouse, Nehru Market.

The committee has been directed to probe any lapses or negligence, fix responsibility and submit its report within 15 days.

The Lieutenant Governor said the inquiry would be completely impartial and accountability would be fixed, adding that strict action would be taken if any negligence was established.

He was accompanied by DGP Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal, DIG JSK Range Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa, Municipal Commissioner Jammu Aayushi Sudan, JDA Vice Chairman Vidhu Shekhar and other senior officials. (KNO)

Preserve J&K's

preservation.

Addressing a two-day National Seminar on "Revival, Preservation and Sustainability of Cultural Heritage of Kashmir," here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Heritage is a priceless inheritance received from generations of philosophers, saints, artisans, writers and thinkers who enriched humanity through their wisdom and creativity."

The event organised by Kakini Building Humanity was also graced by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, through virtual mode.

Congratulating the organisers, scholars, administrators, artists, ex-servicemen, military officers and citizens participating in the seminar, the Lieutenant Governor said that the responsibility of the present generation is not merely to admire this legacy, but to preserve, organise, document and make it more accessible to society.

He called for a collective commitment to safeguarding the civilisational legacy of Jammu Kashmir for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir is not known only for its natural beauty but also for its profound contributions to philosophy, spirituality, language, aesthetics and human thought.

Referring to Acharya Abhinavagupta, he said that the great philosopher embodied the unity of spiritual experience, art and intellectual inquiry, and that youth should be introduced to the remarkable thinkers who emerged from the Kashmir Valley.

"Every university, every teacher, and every cultural institution of this land should work on translating important texts, encourage research, and provide scholars and students with a common platform. I believe that heritage must be alive, it must converse, and it must guide our new generation," he said.

Emphasising that culture forms the foundation of every society, the Lieutenant Governor noted that communities draw confidence and self-respect from a deeper understanding of their history and heritage. He underlined the importance of preserving ancient religious sites, manuscripts, museums and cultural institutions as instruments for strengthening identity and promoting mutual understanding.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significant efforts undertaken in Jammu Kashmir for heritage conservation under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He noted that heritage revival projects are being implemented across the Union Territory through restoration of monuments, archival modernisation, archaeological research and cultural infrastructure development.

It is pertinent to mention that preservation work has been initiated on 106 heritage projects under the first two phases, with over 40 projects already completed. Under Phase III, 321 projects have been identified and 312 have received administrative approval. The digitisation work of historical records is ongoing in the Jammu and Srinagar archives, with nearly 96.8 lakh pages digitised so far, representing about 68 per cent of available documents.

Under Mission Gyan Bharatam, the surveys have identified 43,000 manuscripts and digitisation efforts are progressing steadily.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted ongoing work related to the Sufiana School in Srinagar, the modernisation of Abhinav Theatre and Kala Kendra in Jammu, restoration of Mubarak Mandi and research into recently discovered Kushan-era Buddhist remains in Baramulla district.

Speaking about Naranag Heritage Complex in Ganderbal, the Lieutenant Governor welcomed the research and documentation initiatives undertaken by Kakini Building Humanity and expressed hope that conservation and restoration activities would commence after completion of necessary procedural requirements. He also appreciated efforts connected with the Harmukh-Gangbal pilgrimage, describing it as a symbol of the region's enduring cultural and spiritual traditions.

"I believe that Naranag has its own distinct historical and spiritual dignity, where faith, geography, and collective memories are deeply intertwined. Therefore, I am extremely pleased that Kakini Building Humanity has also established a chair at the Indian Heritage Institute," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed that Jammu Kashmir has a long tradition of harmony and equal respect for all faiths. He emphasised that the heritage of every community must be preserved with sensitivity.

"The vaakhs of Yogini Lalleshwari and Nund Rishi still reach people's hearts across centuries, because their words contain eternal truths that are untouched by the passage of time. Preserving this tradition of harmony is our collective public responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said Kashmiri Pandit's contribution to Kashmir's literary, spiritual and cultural heritage is invaluable and their dignified return would help restore the Valley's complete social and cultural fabric.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, scholars, archivists, museum professionals and all stakeholders associated with heritage conservation.

He also lauded former army officers and civil society organisations for their continued contribution to cultural preservation and nation-building.

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha; Adv. Raja Ashraf Ali Khan, Swamini Vishwa Nireeshwari Lakshmi Priya Mata, Ramesh Hangloo, Ar. Balaji Dhar and Ar. Shravanthi were felicitated for their contribution in the field of culture and heritage.

Maj Gen R.K Raina (Retd.), Chairman Kakini Building Humanity, Cdr. Sanjay Kaul (Retd.), Dr. Aanchal Khurana, Vice President, Kakini Building Humanity; Ramesh Kumar, Secretary, Culture Department; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG CKR; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, senior officials and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present on the occasion. (KNO)

'Op Sindoor' lessons

by air warriors.

He said the lessons from the operation were reflected in the Air Force's evolving procedures, particularly its increased emphasis on drones and air defence systems, which have become critical components of modern warfare.

Highlighting the coordinated role of all three services during Operation Sindoor, Singh said jointness and integrated efforts must continue to guide military planning and operational execution.

The Defence Minister also called for strengthening both offensive and defensive capabilities to ensure that adversaries are left with little time to react, while India's own forces remain prepared for unexpected threats. "Victory in future conflicts would depend not merely on the number of aircraft, but also on technological sophistication, speed of response and precision of preparations," he said.

During the conference, Singh also launched a suite of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications developed in-house by the Indian Air Force's Centre of Excellence under the Unit for Digitisation, Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Application Networking (UDAAN).

The applications, deployed on the Air Force's secure network, will help automate and expedite tasks related to operations, administration and aerospace safety.

The two-day conference is being attended by senior Air Force commanders and focuses on operational, maintenance and administrative priorities under the theme 'The Year of Empowerment: Maximising Efficiency Through Decentralisation'. (KNO)

CM Omar calls

examinations and addressing concerns relating to the subjective component of selection processes.

He noted that while examination irregularities under the traditionally decentralised system generally remained confined to particular regions, the transition towards centralised examinations had significantly widened their impact, with a paper leak potentially affecting candidates across the country.

Stressing the need to strengthen the examination ecosystem, CM Omar Abdullah said the Government would extend every possible support to the Task Force in fulfilling its mandate, as the credibility of examinations had a direct bearing on the future of young people.

The Chief Minister also underlined the importance of a gradual transition towards computer-based examinations, observing that students must be adequately familiarised with the technology before such a system is introduced on a wider scale.

CM Omar also advocated examining the possibility of incorporating school board examination performance into the selection framework for competitive and entrance examinations.

He said such an approach could help reduce the excessive dependence on a single entrance examination while also restoring the importance of regular school education and board examinations.

The Chief Minister stressed that a suitable mechanism would have to be evolved to ensure a level playing field for students from different educational boards, including JKBOSE, CBSE and ICSE, so that candidates from any particular board were not placed at a disadvantage.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the need to strengthen transparency in the interview and viva-voce components of recruitment and admission processes.

Observing that concerns were frequently raised by candidates regarding the subjective nature of oral examinations and the possibility of manipulation of marks, he suggested that the Task Force could examine measures to make this component more objective, transparent and accountable.

He said the ultimate objective of all examination reforms must be to establish a genuinely merit-based system in which the most deserving candidates secure opportunities on the basis of their performance and ability.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, gave a detailed presentation on the examination reform initiatives undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the arrangements put in place for the conduct of national-level examinations in J&K.

The meeting also discussed the mandate of the High-Powered Task Force constituted by the Government of India to recommend comprehensive reforms in examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), including NEET-UG, JEE (Main), CUET-UG and UGC-NET.

The Task Force has been mandated to examine various aspects of the examination ecosystem, including examination design, security, institutional governance, use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, inclusivity, student well-being and a time-bound roadmap for implementation of reforms.

The meeting reviewed the arrangements made by J&K administration for the conduct of NEET-UG 2026, including coordination among civil and police authorities, examination-centre preparedness, security of question papers, deployment of nodal officers and constitution of committees at UT, divisional and district levels.

The meeting also took stock of the security arrangements put in place for the transportation and custody of question papers, including police-escorted movement from designated banks, CCTV-monitored strong rooms, round-the-clock security, prescribed frisking procedures and monitoring of examination centres.

Besides, the members deliberated on examination reforms undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC), Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), universities and other higher education institutions.

Best practices relating to question paper security, digital examinations, transparent evaluation, timely declaration of results and issuance of degrees were also discussed.

Various suggestions and recommendations were put forward by the participating Ministers and other officers, with particular emphasis on strengthening institutional safeguards, leveraging technology, eliminating examination malpractices and reducing avoidable stress for candidates.

The deliberations were aimed at evolving a comprehensive and practical framework that would make examinations more secure, credible, transparent and student-friendly, while ensuring equal opportunities and a level playing field for all aspirants.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo; Minister for Education Shamim Firdous; Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Director General of Police, Armed; administrative secretaries of the General Administration, Health and Medical Education, and Higher Education Departments; Chairman, JKSSB; and members of the High-Powered Task Force, Tapan Kumar Deka and Prof. V. Kamakoti.

The visiting members were accompanied by Director National Recruitment Agency and other officials of the Task Force Secretariat. (KNO)

Bullet-riddled bodies

mobile phones were initially reachable but were subsequently switched off, prompting concern among security agencies and leading to a search operation. Their bodies were eventually located by a search party in the Dherna Top area.

DGP PRABHAT REACHES KISHTWAR

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat reached Kishtwar following the incident and reviewed the security situation with senior Army and police officers.

A massive joint search and cordon operation involving the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has been launched to identify and apprehend the suspected attackers.

Security forces are using sniffer dogs, drones and helicopters to comb the difficult mountainous and forested terrain. The operation has been intensified to track down the assailants and recover the missing service weapons.

CM OMAR EXPRESSES GRIEF

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief and anguish over the tragic killing of two SPOs Rashpal Kumar and Babi Chand and strongly condemned the act.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

OLD TERROR-SUPPORTING NETWORK NOT COMPLETELY DISMANTLED: LOP SHARMA

Reacting to the killings, Jammu and Kashmir Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma termed the incident extremely unfortunate and said remnants of the terror-supporting ecosystem were still active in the region.

"Peace is gradually being established in Jammu and Kashmir, yet frustrated elements—frustrated terrorists—carry out such acts just to signal their presence," Sharma said.

He alleged that the two SPOs were kidnapped while travelling through a dense forest from Dherna towards Kiad and said the incident highlighted the continued presence of terrorist elements despite sustained security operations.

Sharma further maintained that the old terror-supporting network had not been completely dismantled and said its remaining elements would be dealt with.

Kishtwar MLA, Shagun Parihar, expressed grief over the killings, describing the incident as deeply tragic. Parihar said the bodies of the two SPOs were recovered at around 8 am and 9 am, respectively.

"Pakistan continues to persist with its nefarious conspiracies. We urge the Home Minister to ensure that those responsible for the deaths of these two SPOs are brough to book as soon as possible," she said.

Demanding a strong response, she added, "We want exact price—for these two, we want to take down four."

Pertinently, the incident comes weeks after another SPO, Bashir Ahmed, was found dead near his residence in Wanipora Trigam on October 16. Ahmed, who was posted at Pedil Police Post, had gone missing while returning home from duty with his service-issued rifle and magazine. A subsequent police investigation established that he had been murdered by relatives over an ongoing land dispute.

The latest killings have once again brought the security situation in Kishtwar's remote forest areas into focus, with security forces continuing efforts to track down the perpetrators. (KNO)

Kashmir will always

is and will always remain a part of India," he said, asserting that violence could not resolve the issues between the two countries.

He said nothing could be achieved through violence and called for reviving South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to bring regional countries together for resolving their differences. "Regional countries must come together, resolve their differences and work towards progress. We have to revive that SAARC again. We must all sit together, resolve our issues and move towards progress," he said.

"Every day Pakistan is shouting Kashmir, Kashmir, Kashmir. They don't know that what has happened has happened. But the issues will not be solved by violence," Dr Farooq added.

Referring to the violence which Jammu and Kashmir witnessed, Dr Farooq said people should not forget the painful history of the region.

He also referred to international conflicts, including those involving Iran, the United States and Ukraine, to underline the destruction caused by wars and the need to resolve disputes through dialogue. (KNO)

Cabinet to

of the Cabinet after the shifting of the Durbar Move to Jammu. (KNO)

DGP orders major

as SDPO Bijbehara from DSP EOW Jammu, Satish Bhardwaj as DSP Personnel APHQ from SDPO Bakshi Nagar and Sheikh Mudasir Ahmad Farooqi as SDPO Magam from SDPO Bijbehara. Nikhil Gogna has been shifted from DSP Prov I PHQ to SDPO Katra, Zafar Mahdi from DSP Headquarters Bandipora to DSP 22 JKAP IR and Ahmad Shaafi Zargar from DSP DAR Bandipora to DSP Buildings Headquarters.

Mohd Nawaz Khandey has been transferred from SDPO Sumbal to DSP DAR Sopore, Sheezan Bhat from DSP 7 JKAP IR to SDPO Handwara, Neeraj Kumar from SDPO Billawar to DSP Headquarters Rajouri, Lov Karan from SDPO Gandoh to DSP Headquarters Kathua and Rohit Chadgal from DSP SOG Jammu to DSP Headquarters Reasi.

Khalid Ashraf has been shifted from DSP CID CI Headquarters Jammu to DSP SKPA Udhampur, while Sagara Singh, who was awaiting posting, has been posted as SO to DIG DK Range. Qazi Shamas-ul-Muzaffar has been transferred from DSP CID CIK (JIC) to DSP CID CI Budgam, Zahid Ahmad Lone from DSP Buildings Headquarters to SDPO Zakura and Zohaib Hassan from SDPO Panthachowk to SDPO Sopore.

Syeed Peerzada Mujahidulhaq has been shifted from DSP Headquarters Anantnag to SDPO Khanyar, Sunil Singh from DSP CID SB Headquarters Jammu to SDPO Chenani, Shoket Ali from DSP Traffic Doda-Kishtwar to SDPO Mahore and Satish Kumar from DSP Headquarters Rajouri to SDPO Vijaypur. Imtyaz Ahmad has been transferred from DSP Security Kashmir to DSP Traffic Ganderbal-Bandipora, while Parupkar Singh has been shifted from SDPO Thana Mandi to DSP Personnel Headquarters.

Dr Azhar Rashid has been posted as SDPO Tangmarg from SDPO Khanyar, Vikram Singh as DSP 16 JKAP IR from SDPO North Jammu and Kulwant Singh as DSP 3 JKAP IR from DSP CID CI Baramulla. Arun Jamwal has been shifted from SDPO Vijaypur to DSP 5 JKAP IR, Updesh Kumar from SDPO Arnas to DSP DAR Samba and Aijaz Ahmad from DSP 2 JKAP IR to DSP CID SB Poonch.

Sharad has been transferred from DSP GRP Lines Katra to SDPO Manjakote, Dr Bhishm Dubey from SDPO Katra to DSP 11 JKAP IR, Javaid Ahmad Lone from DSP 17 JKAP IR to DSP TMG CID Headquarters and Syed Sleet Shah from DSP Headquarters Srinagar to DSP CID CI Headquarters Srinagar.

Surinder Mohan has been shifted from DSP SOG Kalakote, Rajouri, to DSP Prov I Headquarters, Mohd Rafee Rather from DSP CID SB Srinagar to DSP CID SB Ganderbal, Viqar Younus Batt from DSP Headquarters Ramban to DSP EOW Jammu and Adil Hussain from DSP DAR Doda to DSP IO JKAP IR.

Arif Hussain Malik has been transferred from SDPO Kokernag to SDPO Panthachowk, Majad Ali from SDPO Awantipora to DSP 9 JKAP, Shammi Kumar from DSP SOG Rajouri to DSP Headquarters Udhampur and Aakash Kohli from DSP EOW Jammu to SDPO Border Kathua. Dev Raj has been shifted from Principal CTI Jammu to SO to DIG HG Jammu.

Revaz Ahmad has been transferred from SDPO DH Pora to DSP Traffic City Srinagar, Mehboob ul Haq from DSP Traffic City Srinagar to DSP DAR Kulgam, Faizan Ali from SDPO Tangmarg to DSP CID CIK (JIC) and Mohammad Ashril from SDPO Magam to SDPO Hazratbal. Rashad Akbar Makai has been shifted from SDPO Hazratbal to DSP CID CI Srinagar, Abid Hussain Rafiqi from DSP CID SIA Kashmir to DSP 22 JKAP IR and Dheeraj Kumar from SDPO Shaheedgunj to SDPO North Jammu.

Mohd Abdullah Wani has been transferred from DSP DAR Sopore to DSP Security Kashmir, Maroof Ahmad from DSP AC HG Poonch to DSP AC HG Rajouri, Mohd Aslam from DSP Traffic Kulgam to DSP 6 JKAP and Faisal Arif Rishu from DSP EOW Jammu to SDPO Uri. Rajeev Raina has been shifted from SDPO Kangan to DSP 24 JKAP IR, Shivam Jaggi from SDPO Achchabal to DSP CID SB Headquarters Jammu and Rohit Gupta from DSP SOG Manzgam Kulgam to DSP 1 JKAP Border.

Vikram Nag has been transferred from DSP SOG Srinagar to SDPO Bakshi Nagar, Mamta Sharma from DSP Crime Jammu (EOW) to DSP 1 JKAP Women, Shakir Hassan from DSP SOG Srinagar to SDPO M.R. Gunj and Faisal Hussain from SDPO Handwara to DSP Headquarters Anantnag.

Sayed Aqeel Shah has been shifted from DSP SOG Kulgam to SDPO Shaheedgunj, Vikram Sarmhal from DSP 12 JKAP IR to SDPO Gandoh, Rajesh Chandan from DSP CID SS II to SDPO Thana Mandi and Sumit Bhagat from DSP 24 JKAP IR to DSP Headquarters Ramban.

Rukhsana Choudhary has been transferred from DSP CID CI Headquarters Srinagar to DSP 14 JKAP IR, Farooq Ahmad from SDPO Pahalgam to DSP 8 JKAP IR, Mujahid Nazir from DSP Traffic Baramulla-Kupwara to DSP 11 JKAP IR and Sukhvir Singh from SDPO Chenani to DSP CID CI Kathua.

Barkat Hussain has been shifted from DSP AC HG Rajouri to DSP AC HG Poonch, Manjeet Singh from DSP 7 JKAP Security to DSP CID SB Jammu, Sharat Chander Singh from DSP PCR Jammu to DSP 8 JKAP and Prehlad Kumar from DSP Headquarters Udhampur to DSP Complaints Headquarters.

Surinder Paul Singh has been transferred from DSP Traffic Banihal to DSP 19 JKAP IR, Mohd Iqbal from DSP Security Civil Secretariat to DSP Traffic Pulwama-Shopian, Ajay Kumar from DSP DAR Baramulla to DSP 1 JKAP Border and Vishal Singh Jamwal from DSP Headquarters Reasi to SDPO Billawar.

Bukhari seeks general

that candidates had lost several years waiting for fresh recruitment opportunities.

Bukhari also sought relief for consumers facing high electricity bills, urging the government to consider an amnesty for pending dues.

Referring to the political situation, he appealed to the Prime Minister to fulfil the promise of removing "Dilli ki Doori and Dil ki Doori", saying people in Jammu and Kashmir were still waiting for meaningful progress on the commitment. (KNO)

Massive manhunt

search operation to trace perpetrators.

The injured personnel were identified as Head Constable Somveer Singh and Constables Rakesh Dass and Santosh Chandru. They were rushed to a hospital in neighbouring Anantnag district for treatment.

Chandru, a resident of West Bengal, sustained injuries to his abdomen and his condition was stated to be critical. Dass, who hails from Assam, suffered a bullet injury to his leg, while Singh, from Madhya Pradesh, was injured in his arm. Both were reported to be stable.

According to officials, the checkpoint attacked by terrorists is located around three kilometres from the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Balbir Singh, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 15 Corps, along with other senior Army officers, visited the attack site. GOC Singh later chaired a meeting with senior officials from the Army, Police and CRPF in Kulgam to review the security situation.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, also visited the attack spot in the evening and reviewed the security situation.

Separately, Sandeep Khirwar, Special Director General, CRPF J&K Zone, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory. He later visited the site of the attack in Kulgam. (KNO)

Modi heads to Manila next week for ASEAN summit; maritime security, trade on agenda

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Manila on Monday for a three-day visit to attend the annual India-ASEAN summit that is expected to focus on boosting maritime security cooperation and enhancing trade and investment ties.

He will also attend the annual East Asia Summit. Philippines is hosting the summits in its capacity as the current Chair of the 11-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Modi is also set to join Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi for the annual Quad summit in Manila. There is, however, no official word on the Quad summit.

At the India-ASEAN and the East Asia summits, New Delhi is expected to pitch for deeper maritime cooperation among the like-minded nations in the Indo-Pacific.

The ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

"Prime Minister Modi will be travelling to Manila to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India summit and the 21st meeting of the ASEAN-led East Asia Summit process. The visit will take place from November 16 to 18," said Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East) in the external affairs ministry. He said Modi's programme in Manila will include attending a dinner to be hosted by President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr for the visiting dignitaries of this summit process and bilateral meetings.

Modi will attend the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit process on November 17.

The top official said enhancing maritime security and trade and investment ties will be among the key focus areas at the summit.

The East Asia Summit is the premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defence. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

Apart from the ASEAN member states, the East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia.

"There is also a very strong demand from the Indian community to meet the prime minister. So we are trying to adjust that also in his schedule," Tandon said at a media briefing.

He said a deeper India-ASEAN engagement will help both sides becoming more resilient to handle the rapid geopolitical developments.

The ties between India and ASEAN have been on a significant upswing in the last few years with focus being on boosting cooperation in the areas of trade and investment as well as security and defence.

The theme of this year's ASEAN Summit is "Navigating the Future".

Asked about the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), Tandon said New Delhi favours the review of the trade pact to be completed as soon as possible.

"That conversation is ongoing," he said.

Asked about the planned Quad summit, Tandon said, "We don't have any information on this at the moment."

Last month, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the next edition of the Quad Summit is set to be held on the margins of the ASEAN Summit in the Philippines.

India had planned to host the Quad Leaders' Summit last year but it didn't take place as there was no clarity from Washington on Trump's visit to the country.

To a question on Myanmar, Tandon said India has been maintaining that isolating the country is not the right approach.

"For Myanmar, our position has always been very clear. We have always said that isolating Myanmar is not the right approach because if we do, someone else will fill that vacuum," he said.

"There is no alternative to engaging Myanmar. We strongly support ASEAN initiatives to engage the Myanmar government. Our only counsel is that we have to take into account that this is a country with a complex history and a complex society," he said.

ASEAN does not recognise Myanmar's military government, and its senior leaders are not allowed to attend the grouping's high-level meetings in view of the civil-war-like situation in the country as well as the forcible ouster of Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government in 2021.

Amit Shah holds second law-and-order review at Delhi Police HQ

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 12: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held a second high-level review meeting on law and order and policing at the Delhi Police headquarters in less than three weeks, taking stock of the security preparedness in the national capital.

The meeting, attended by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu and senior Delhi Police officers, lasted over three hours, police said.

Shah reached the police headquarters on Jai Singh Road around 3.15 pm and held detailed discussions with senior officers on various aspects of policing, intelligence gathering and the law-and-order situation in Delhi.

"Several issues that could not be discussed during the previous review meeting on October 24 had been scheduled for deliberations during Thursday's meeting. The meeting assumes significance in the wake of recent security incidents in neighbouring regions. In Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, three CRPF personnel were injured, one of them critically, after suspected terrorists opened fire at a security checkpoint near Mir Bazar on Wednesday," said a police source.

The source also said that a recent attack in Ghaziabad, an explosion at the Vasundhara police outpost on November 6, left a food delivery worker injured and damaged the premises. Multiple agencies, including the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad, examined the incident amid claims of a possible terror link.

During his previous visit on October 24, Shah had chaired a security review meeting at the Delhi Police headquarters, which was attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar and other senior officers.

The discussions covered police preparedness to handle large gatherings and protests, intelligence collection, crowd management and coordination among various units.

The source also said Thursday's meeting was intended to take up additional matters that remained pending from the previous review.

Owaisi names Chandrashekhar Aazad as UP CM face

Says Akhilesh will remain 'ex-CM'

PTI



Lucknow, Nov 12: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday named Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) president Chandrashekhar Aazad as the chief ministerial face of the newly formed Samajik Parivartan Morcha for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He also launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, accusing him of practising "entitlement politics" and keeping the marginalised communities confined to vote-bank politics.

He also said Yadav will forever remain an "ex-chief minister", stressing that Samajik Parivartan Morcha (SPM) had the "political and intellectual honesty" to stop the victory run of BJP-RSS in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow with Aazad, Owaisi said the AIMIM-ASP (Kanshiram) alliance would seek to prevent the BJP from returning to power for a third consecutive term.

The alliance would focus on issues concerning backward and Dalit communities, the oppressed and marginalised sections, irrespective of their caste, he said.

"I am happy to announce that our brother Chandrashekhar Aazad will be the chief president of the SPM and its chief ministerial candidate in Uttar Pradesh," he said. Responding to a question on his earlier remark that "Abdul will no longer lay carpets", Owaisi said Muslims have now become part of the political discourse, with the demand shifting towards equality, participation and independent leadership. Muslims should not remain politically marginalised, he argued. Targeting parties that had contested successive elections against the BJP, Owaisi said, "Voters had supported them in 2014, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2024, but they had failed to defeat the BJP. The SPM has the political and intellectual honesty to take on the BJP and the RSS."

Declaration of Aazad as the chief ministerial face has unsettled rival parties, claimed Owaisi, who invoked the Preamble and Dr B R Ambedkar's emphasis on "political justice" and said communities must secure their rightful political representation.

Maintaining that Akhilesh Yadav practices "entitlement politics", the AIMIM chief asked whether the Samajwadi Party chief had ever faced a bullet attack like Aazad did in 2023, or if his car ever came under attack as Owaisi's did in 2022.

"Akhilesh Yadav is a former chief minister and, Inshallah, will remain one. Those who live in glass houses do not know what people go through. You practise entitlement politics," he said.

Jensen Huang quits as Nvidia CEO with immediate effect

CFO Colette Kress named interim chief

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 12: Nvidia co-founder Jensen Huang has stepped down as president, chief executive and board member of the chipmaker with immediate effect, the company said on Thursday, naming chief financial officer Colette Kress as interim CEO while it searches for a permanent successor.

Kress, who is executive vice president and CFO, will keep her finance role until a permanent CEO is named. The board will consider both internal and external candidates, the company said in a statement. The company also named Harvey C Jones, former CEO and executive chairman of Synopsys, as the first-ever chair of its board.

"Colette has helped lead NVIDIA through a period of extraordinary growth and has a deep understanding of our business, customers, operations and financial position," Jones said. Kress said she was "committed to building on the extraordinary foundation Jensen created over the last 33 years".

Huang was not quoted in the statement, and the company did not give a reason for his resignation.

His exit comes days after media reports alleged that Huang had an extramarital relationship with a Chinese businesswoman who is reportedly suspected by US authorities of spying for Beijing.

The company has opened an independent inquiry into reports that Huang had been targeted by a foreign intelligence effort. On November 8, US President Donald Trump announced that the FBI was also investigating the matter.

Kress joined Nvidia in September 2013. Before that, she spent nearly 25 years in finance roles at technology companies, including Cisco and Microsoft.

India to have one of 'best' trade deals with the US: Goyal

PTI



Visakhapatnam, Nov 12: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said India will have one of the "best" trade deals with the US in every respect. He said that India has negotiated a very good set of outcomes with the US in the pact.

"And in every respect, India will have one of the best deals with the US," he told reporters here.

India and the US in February finalised a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. However, changes in the tariff landscape in the US have led to further negotiations.

"Nations that make the same products and are at a similar level of development, like India. We will have the most preferred market access in the US post the deal in products of our interest," Goyal said.

When asked about a timeline for the pact, he said the agreement is under discussion and there are many factors which determine these outcomes.

About the visit of the US officials, he said that it was mainly a discussion with the customs authorities. "The Deputy Chief Negotiator had come for discussions with the customs department on one track," he said.

On the impact of India's trade pact on exports, he said: "It's too early to tell because, as you are aware, the 'mother of all deals', the EU agreement is not yet operational. The US will take some time before it comes into effect".

He also said that Guatemala and Ecuador too have shown keen interest in discussing separate trade pacts with India.

"India today is looked upon as the trusted partner of the world. Otherwise they would not be wanting to do trade agreements with India. They would not be looking to India as a part of their global value chains," he said.

A two-member team of US officials visited earlier this month for talks on trade and customs facilitation issues. Both sides are in regular touch on the finalisation of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

When asked about the UK issue on whiskey, he said: "Whenever there is any new agreement, there are some operational issues. Probably this is one of those which is being sorted out".

MoS Defence launches revamped portal dedicated to gallantry awardees



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 12: Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth launched the revamped portal dedicated to gallantry awardees, featuring an enhanced, citizen-centric user interface and offering improved accessibility.

The portal is a dedicated digital initiative to honour the courage and supreme sacrifices of the gallantry awardees and preserve their legacy for future generations.

Seth launched the revamped Gallantry Awards Portal at an event held in New Delhi, the defence ministry said.

The redeveloped portal features an enhanced, citizen-centric user interface and user experience, with intuitive navigation, responsive design and improved accessibility.

"The key features include dedicated sections on events, memorials and museums, Warpedia, awardees, Gallantrypedia (articles), media and an interactive tribute section enabling citizens to explore the nation's military history and pay homage to its bravehearts," the ministry said in a statement.

The Gallantry Awards Portal also hosts Veer Gatha as a dedicated digital space, with a page for every edition that brings its introduction, topics, timeline, evaluation criteria, rewards, resources, results, felicitation ceremony, media gallery and student activities together in one place.

Through this, Veer Gatha connects students directly with the stories of the gallantry awardees. Students learn about the courage and sacrifice of these heroes and express what they learn through their own entries, it said.

"The programme has grown from about eight lakh students and 4,788 schools in the first edition to over 1.92 crore students and 1.9 lakh schools in the fifth. It includes 28,005 students from 91 CBSE-affiliated schools across 18 countries," the ministry said.

The initiative aims to create a comprehensive and authentic digital repository of information on gallantry awards, awardees, wars and military operations since Independence, while promoting patriotism and raising awareness about the rich military heritage, particularly among the youth.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officials of the ministry were present on the occasion.

Long-term exposure to PM2.5 linked to 10-16 pc higher risk of Type 2 diabetes: Study

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 12: Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is associated with a 10 to 16 per cent higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes for every 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in exposure, according to a global review of research published in the Journal of Vascular Diseases.

The findings, published ahead of World Diabetes Day on November 14, are based on an umbrella review of 13 systematic reviews and meta-analyses, covering more than 200 million cumulative participant observations from studies across different parts of the world.

The review, titled 'Association Between PM2.5 Exposure and Type 2 Diabetes Across the Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Continuum (APEX-T2D)', has been co-authored by Dr Anoop Misra, Executive Chairman and Director, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Fortis C-DOC Hospital, New Delhi.

The researchers found that six of the seven reviews examining new cases of Type 2 diabetes reported an increased risk ranging between 10 and 16 per cent for every 10 microgram per cubic metre rise in long-term PM2.5 exposure.

The association was observed across Asian and Western populations, with the findings also indicating a dose-response relationship, wherein the risk increased with higher levels of exposure.

PM2.5 refers to fine particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and trigger responses beyond the respiratory system.

The researchers said possible biological pathways linking air pollution to diabetes include systemic inflammation, oxidative stress, endothelial dysfunction and impaired insulin signalling. However, these mechanisms remain incompletely understood.

The review also found positive associations between PM2.5 exposure and the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, diabetes-related mortality and fasting blood glucose levels. However, the evidence for these secondary outcomes was rated very low.

The researchers cautioned that the findings establish an association rather than a direct cause-and-effect relationship. The evidence for the increased incidence of Type 2 diabetes was rated as being of low certainty, given the observational nature of the studies and substantial variations in their findings.

They called for greater air-quality monitoring, the inclusion of air pollution in diabetes prevention and research frameworks, and more long-term studies to establish whether reducing exposure can lower the incidence of diabetes.

The researchers, however, said existing evidence does not establish that a specific reduction in PM2.5 exposure would lead to a proportional decline in diabetes cases.

Type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 500 million adults globally, is commonly associated with factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, dietary habits and genetic susceptibility. The review adds long-term environmental exposure to the growing body of research examining factors associated with the disease.

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Quick Read

Shreyas in focus as India look to seal ODI series on captaincy debut



PTI

Mount Maunganui, Nov 12 : Shreyas Iyer will have a point to prove with the bat on his ODI captaincy debut as both India and New Zealand look to offset forced wholesale changes to their squads, juggling with white-ball competition and red-ball preparations ahead of the fourth game here on Friday.

Leading 2-0 in the five-match series, India would back themselves to seal the series while New Zealand can only save the rubber by winning the remaining fixtures here, following the abandonment of the third ODI.

Iyer, whose issues against the short ball have resurfaced in the series, will captain India for the final two ODIs with Shubman Gill leaving the squad to focus on the preparation for the Test series beginning on November 19.

K L Rahul and Anshul Kamboj have also left the team to fine tune their red ball game.

The forced changes are a welcome opportunity for the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan and senior pacer Mohammed Siraj, who could really do with some time in the middle ahead of the Tests.

With Gill unavailable, it would be interesting to see who opens alongside Rohit Sharma. The options on that front are Ishan Kishan and Gaikwad, who has batted in the middle order in his last five ODI innings.

Veteran Rohit will be eyeing his first substantial knock of the tour, having got a 0 and 23 in the series so far.

Kishan would be itching to get in the middle after having missed a majority of the T20 series due to an injury.

Kishan is a strong contender for opening the batting, having smashed a double hundred in that position four years ago. In Rahul's absence, he is set to don the gloves as well.

If Gaikwad continues to bat in the middle-order, he would be aiming to make the most of the opportunity considering that he is not a part of the first eleven.

He has racked up a hundred and a half century in his last four ODI innings, making him an ideal replacement.

In the bowling department, Siraj is expected to replace an in-form Kamboj. Siraj has not been at his best over the last three months but four wickets in the India A game last week would give him much needed confidence.

It is quite intriguing that he is yet to bowl in the ODI series given his pedigree.

Auqib Nabi, who did well in the second ODI, and Arshdeep Singh will retain their place in the playing eleven.

For New Zealand, the likes of Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Nathan Smith and Henry Nicholls have switched their focus to Test cricket and will be unavailable for the ODIs.

"...whoever steps into their role, they're going to try their best, same with us, whoever steps into the role that the boys have left, everyone's going to try their best as well," said wicketkeeper-batter Tim Seifert on the changes to the side.

Like India, half of New Zealand's support staff has also linked up with the Test side in Wellington, highlighting the extremely hectic nature of scheduling.

Seifert, who has not been a regular in ODIs, will be under pressure to make an impact fully aware that he may be running out of time.

The Blackcaps have added uncapped Brett Randell, who has been rewarded for his consistent performances on the domestic circuit.

New Zealand last lost an ODI series at home seven years ago, against India, putting them in a must win situation on Friday.

Squads:

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Kristian Clarke, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Dean Foxcroft, Mitch Hay (WK), Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Brett Randell, Tim Seifert (WK), Will Young.

India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan [WK, VC], Axar Patel, Naman Dhir, Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Arshdeep Singh, Kumar Kushagra [WK], Mohammed Siraj, Yash Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav.

Match starts 7.30 am IST.

US envoys head to Kremlin to meet Putin after Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi

AP



Moscow, Nov 12 :US President Donald Trump's envoys arrived at the Kremlin on Thursday for talks with President Vladimir Putin, as Washington sought to generate new momentum in peace efforts after two days of US-mediated negotiations between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, brokered the talks in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, which were the first direct discussions between Russian and Ukrainian officials in nine months as the push for peace stalled this year.

The talks wrapped up Wednesday with an agreement on a large exchange of prisoners, with the exact number still to be agreed.

The talks produced no visible breakthrough on ending the nearly five years of large-scale hostilities, which began on Feb 24, 2022, after the fighting initially started in 2014 in eastern Ukraine.

But Kushner and Witkoff appeared keen to seize the moment and went straight to the Kremlin.

Kushner said that one of the goals of the meeting with Putin is to get the Russian leader's blessing for European representatives to be part of the talks, which are looking at the continent's broader security arrangements.

The US and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are looking for Europe to appoint a single person to negotiate with Moscow.

At the moment, Moscow doesn't want European countries, which are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent, involved in the direct negotiations. Moscow complains that Europe is financing and supplying weaponry to Ukraine and is part of the problem holding up a deal.

Many in Europe see the inclusion of Russia in discussions about European security as an unwelcome concession to Putin, who has described NATO's eastward expansion as a top security threat to his country. Moscow has demanded that the trans-Atlantic alliance's troops be pulled back from Russia's borders.

Some analysts say negotiators may be looking to grant Russia concessions on NATO's strategy in return for peace in Ukraine - a possibility that has alarmed European governments.

After meeting with Putin, Kushner said that he and Witkoff will fly to Dublin, Ireland, to meet later Thursday with Zelenskyy, who is attending a meeting of more than 40 European countries that also includes NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Zelenskyy said that political changes, including Democrats taking over the US Congress in January following the US midterm elections and votes in France next year, could bring "a window of opportunity" for a peace deal.

"The political landscape in Europe could change in 2027... we also see changes already taking place in the United States," Zelenskyy said in Dublin late Wednesday. "So today there really is this opportunity, this window of opportunity, when all those involved in the negotiating process genuinely want to achieve a result before 2027."

He said that the proposed prisoner exchange was a positive step, but at the same time he insisted that Ukraine won't give in to demands that it surrender its territory that has been occupied by Russia in return for peace. Hopes were low for any significant breakthrough in Abu Dhabi. Russia and Ukraine have occasionally swapped prisoners, but both sides remain far apart in their terms for accepting a settlement.

Along with post-conflict security guarantees for both countries, another key obstacle to an agreement is the fate of Russia-occupied Ukrainian territory.

US pulls boys' team from FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar citing Gulf security



AP

Geneva, Nov 12 :The United States soccer body pulled its team from the boys' Under-17 World Cup in Qatar starting next week for security reasons, FIFA confirmed on Thursday.

Qatar and the Gulf region have been on high security alert since the United States military attacks on Iran started in February, though an F1 race is scheduled in Doha this month.

The 48-nation FIFA tournament kicks off in Doha next Wednesday and the U.S. team's scheduled first game was Nov. 21 against Montenegro. Its other group opponents were Chile and Algeria.

"FIFA understands that U.S. Soccer's decision was made in light of the existing U.S. Level 3 travel advisory," FIFA said in a statement, noting other sports events staged safely in Qatar this year. They included a track and field Diamond League meeting, a MotoGP race last week and qualifying games for the 2027 FIBA World Cup in men's basketball.

FIFA and Qatar will next month also organize the men's Intercontinental Cup featuring Paris Saint-Germain, the Qatari-owned Champions League titleholder.

FIFA said "security assessments remain unchanged, and no new developments affecting the security situation around the tournament have occurred."

FIFA did not name a replacement team although the Dominican Republic was second in the qualifying group that the U.S. won in the CONCACAF region.

Nabi backs Extra pace to make mark in international cricket



PTI

Mount Maunganui, Nov 12 : Extra pace has its benefits but Indian pacer Auqib Nabi says he is relying more on seam movement and skills acquired over the years in the domestic circuit to make a mark in the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand.

Nabi, who has played three ODIs after making a forgettable debut against the West Indies at home, relies on movement in the air and off the pitch to fox the batters. He bowls in the 130kmph range.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the fourth ODI against the Black Caps here, Nabi was asked if he plans to increase his pace. India lead 2-0 in the series after the third match was washed out.

"Obviously, if you have the pace, it's very good. But my skill, I back that. I have done well in domestic cricket. Here, I have come on skill. if there is pace, it is a plus factor. But I back my skill. What I did well in domestic will be useful here as well," said Nabi.

Nabi has got the opportunity to bowl in the nets to the trio of Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma on the tour of New Zealand. He bowled to them extensively on Thursday.

"Actually, this is my first time putting a ball in New Zealand. So, it is a little different here. Here, you have to depend more on the seam movement. Because the top level batsmen play swing. So, that was their feedback (the trio).

"Here, if you do scramble seam or hit the deck, there is a chance to get more wickets here. That is what they told me," added Nabi on his conversations with the high-profile top-order batters.

He will be staying back to help the team's preparations ahead of the two-Test series beginning November 19.

Gulmarg hosts winter caddy golf tournament, launches junior golf initiative for students



Waris Fayaz

Gulmarg, Nov 11 : In an effort to promote participation of grassroot players in golf, the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir organised the 'Winter Caddy Golf Tournament 2026' here in North Kashmir on Thursday.

MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, who as the Chief Guest on the occasion, inaugurated the tournament with a ceremonial tee-off. MLA Pattan Javed Reyaz Bedar and Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad were present as Guests of Honour.

An official said that the tournament was organised to recognise the contribution of golf caddies, who play an important role in supporting golf tourism in Gulmarg, while providing them an opportunity to showcase their golfing skills. Winners were given awards and cash prizes.

A key highlight was the Junior Golf Initiative, under which local students aged 12 to 18 participated in golf activities. Junior golf kits were also provided to encourage young participants to take up the sport. The Director Tourism said regular golf learning sessions would be organised every weekend to help children develop their skills.

A separate competition was also held for junior participants, with winners receiving awards. The department also distributed paper bags as part of a cleanliness initiative to promote environmentally responsible practices and keep Gulmarg clean.

The initiative aims to promote golf among local communities, encourage youth participation and strengthen Gulmarg's position as a destination for sports tourism and sustainable tourism practices—(KNO)

London court convicts two Iranian men of spying for Tehran



AP

London, Nov 12 : Two Iranian men who spied on journalists working for a Persian-language broadcaster in London were found guilty Thursday of spying for Tehran. Jurors at Woolwich Crown Court in south London found Mostafa Sepahvand, 41, and Farhad Javadi Manesh, 46, to be working on behalf of the Iranian state and convicted of assisting a foreign intelligence service.

A third defendant, Shapoor Qalehali Khani Noori, 57, was acquitted of all offences against him.

"This was a calculated operation to spy on those critical of the Iranian regime," said Frank Ferguson, chief prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service's special crime and counter-terrorism division.

He said the pair were promised rewards to send intelligence back to Iran, while Sepahvand was willing to go beyond surveillance to commit serious violence against their targets.

These included journalists for Iran International, Mojtaba Pourmohsen and Kambiz Hosseini, and a founder member of UK Lawyers for Israel, Jonathan Turner. Iran International is banned by the government in Tehran.

Bangladesh steps up surveillance of Chinese vloggers over alleged anti-India content

PTI



Dhaka, Nov 12 : Chinese nationals accused of filming poor Dhaka neighbourhoods and falsely presenting the footage as scenes from India have scaled down their activities following increased surveillance by local law enforcement agencies, after New Delhi raised concern over the use of Bangladesh's territory to defame it.

Mohammad Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station, said the activities of the Chinese vloggers have decreased following the intervention of law enforcement agencies, the Prothom Alo newspaper reported on Thursday. Police and intelligence agencies have stepped up surveillance of the Chinese nationals and began monitoring their activities, he said.According to reports in Bang ladeshi media, around 150 Chinese nationals were operating across Dhaka's Tekpara and Uttara neighbourhoods, livestreaming footage of narrow streets and low-income areas onto Chinese social media. They introduced different localities as New Delhi and made disparaging remarks about the lifestyle of residents.

The vloggers filmed people's homes and daily activities, sometimes even entering residential premises, without residents knowing where the footage was being uploaded or how they were being portrayed.

It is suspected to be part of a coordinated disinformation campaign.

"There was no police surveillance over their activities. More than a hundred vloggers were making videos like this every day. They also