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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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No local terrorist left in Kashmir, only foreigners remain: Amit Shah

Says Art 370 abrogation ended separatist sentiment among Kashmiri youth, brought decisive change in Valley's security situation; hails security forces for containing terrorism during 1990s

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that not a single local terrorist is left in Kashmir Valley and remaining terrorists operating in the Valley are foreign nationals.

Shah while addressing a ceremony in Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), referred to the recent killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander and the last known active local terrorist, Lateef Bhat in South Kashmir and said, "In Kulgam, Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Police neutralised the last known active Kashmiri terrorist affiliated with Lashkar-eToiba (LeT) in an encounter. With this, I can say with pride today that there is not a single local terrorist left in Kashmir Valley. All those who remain are foreign terrorists."

"Development marks a significant change in the security situation in the Valley. It's a matter of pride for us. No Kashmiri youth is currently involved in terrorist activities in the Valley," he added.

The Union Home Minister also linked the decline in locals joining terrorist ranks to the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in August 2019. "Constitutional changes have ended separatist sentiments among Kashmiri youth," he added.

Recalling the political and security situation in the Valley during the 1990s, Shah said, "I also want to remind the people of this country about the situation in the Kashmir during the 1990s, a time when many questioned how long we would even be able to hold onto Kashmir."

He credited security personnel deployed in the region during those difficult years with maintaining India's control over the Valley.

Shah said that when Article 370 was abrogated, opposition parties had questioned the connection between the constitutional provision and terrorism. "Today, | More on P6

UP making BrahMos missiles that rattled enemy during 'Op Sindoor': PM Modi

» Says 50 crore people moved out of poverty since Independence

» Calls it major achievement towards making Viksit Bharat

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted Uttar Pradesh's growing role in India's defence and technology sectors, saying the state was now manufacturing BrahMos missiles deployed during 'Operation Sindoor,' while also preparing to enter semiconductor production.

Addressing an event, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "A semiconductor chip manufacturing facility was being established in Uttar Pradesh, reflecting the state's expanding industrial capabilities."

He said the production of BrahMos missiles in the state was another significant development, particularly in view of their use during Operation Sindoor.

"The BrahMos missile that gave sleepless nights to the enemy during Operation Sindoor is now also being manufactured in Uttar Pradesh," PM Modi said.

Referring to concerns about possible disruptions in cooking gas supplies during the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, the Prime Minister said, "Apprehensions were raised about LPG shortages and long queues at petrol pumps but we did not allow that to happen."

He said the government has planned to expand piped natural gas (PNG) connections, setting a target of providing at least one lakh connections every day to diversify household fuel supplies. "The rollout has encountered an unexpected problem due to a shortage of plumbers. The daily number of connections has remained around 15,000 to 20,000 despite efforts to accelerate the process," PM Modi said.

He said officials have cited the lack of trained plumbers as the primary reason for the slow progress.

PM Modi also questioned predictions of a major cooking gas crisis, saying the feared disruption never happened.

Turning to concerns about artificial intelligence and its potential impact on employment, he said technological advancements would not eliminate opportunities for people equipped with relevant skills.

"AI will do this, AI will do that, AI will take away this person's job or that person's job. But understand this point of mine very clearly: no one can take away the job of a person who possesses skill," he said.

On poverty reduction, PM Modi described the lifting of 50 crore people out of poverty since Independence as one of India's major achievements. He said access to essential facilities and efforts to strengthen the economic position of poorer sections were important to the country's ambition of becoming a developed nation.

PM Modi said the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' would depend significantly on improving the living standards and opportunities available to disadvantaged sections.

The Prime Minister also announced that India would host the WorldSkills Asia competition in 2027, with Greater Noida selected as the venue. He said participants from across Asia and other parts of the world would attend the event.

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure expansion, PM Modi said the state had developed an extensive expressway network and was increasingly earning recognition for its road connectivity.

"The people of Uttar Pradesh proudly say that Uttar Pradesh is the 'Expressway Pradesh'," he said. (KNO)

Dry spell to continue till Nov-end; nights set to turn colder

Temps likely to dip by 1-2°C: MeT

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 21: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness largely dry weather conditions until the end of November, with the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasting a fall of 1-2 degrees Celsius in minimum temperatures across the region during the coming days.

According to the MeT department's forecast, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), weather is expected to remain generally dry between November 21 and 30, while partly to generally cloudy conditions are likely from December 1 to 3.

The minimum temperatures are likely to decline by 1-2 degrees Celsius towards the end of November, indicating colder nights across the Kashmir Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The department's seven-day forecast, covering November 21 to 27, also indicates dry weather across Kashmir, Jammu and the overall Union Territory, with no weather warnings issued for either division during the period.

According to the weather bulletin, maximum temperatures during the past 24 hours remained 1-3 degrees Celsius above normal at several places in Kashmir division, while they were 1-4 degrees above normal at many places in Jammu division.

Kupwara recorded the highest maximum temperature in Kashmir division at 18 degrees Celsius, while Kathua was the warmest place in Jammu division at 27 degrees Celsius.

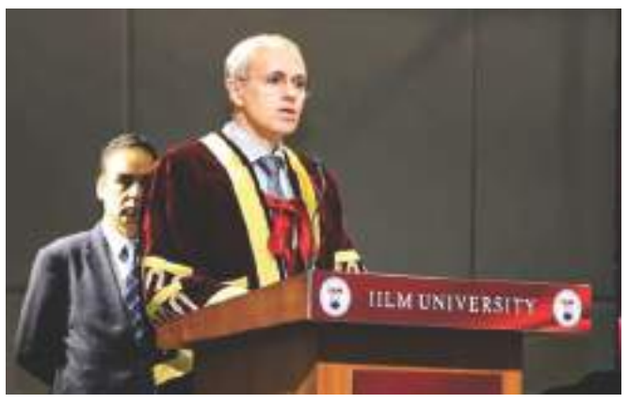
The minimum night temperatures also remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

Pahalgam and Gulmarg recorded the | More on P6

Actively engage in governance, nation-building: CM Omar to youth

Urges graduates to uphold integrity, build bridges, create opportunities for others

KT News Desk



New Delhi, Nov 21: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called upon the graduating Class of 2026 of IILM University to actively participate in governance, public life, and nation-building, stressing that the country's demographic dividend can translate into lasting prosperity only through responsible leadership and meaningful engagement.

The Chief Minister was addressing the Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest in New Delhi.

Addressing the graduating students, faculty members, and parents, the Chief Minister said young people must recognise their responsibility in shaping the country's institutions and future. Observing that voting is only the beginning of democratic participation and not its entirety, he said, "Voting is the entry ticket to democracy, not the entirety of the performance," and urged capable, ethical, and educated youth not to remain detached from governance and public affairs.

The Chief Minister highlighted various avenues through which young professionals can contribute to governance, including ethical entrepreneurship, data-driven public policy, grassroots-level engagement, and public service. He stressed that governance is not confined to political offices but requires participation and commitment from every section of society.

Reflecting | More on P6

Recruitment row intensifies; calls for accountability grow

Former MP calls recruitment corruption 'worse than murder'



NC defends govt response, slams PDP over past record

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 21: Political criticism over alleged recruitment irregularities in Jammu and Kashmir intensified on Saturday, with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and former MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi demanding accountability and a transparent probe, while ruling National Conference (NC) leaders defended the government's response and traded charges with the opposition.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), PDP president Mufti criticised the National Conference-led government over alleged examination irregularities, saying repeated controversies were jeopardising students' futures, and demanded a | More on P6

Govt allows stipend during maternity, paternity leave for PG students, senior residents

AIMSA welcomes, says stipend hike remains key demand

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has allowed postgraduate students, senior residents, tutors and other medical trainees in Government Medical Colleges across the Union Territory to draw stipends during duly sanctioned maternity and paternity leave.

According to an order, students pursuing postgraduate and super-specialty programmes, including DM, M.Ch. and DNB Super-Specialty courses, as well as senior residents, tutors, registrars and demonstrators, will be entitled to receive stipends during sanctioned maternity or paternity leave in accordance with applicable government rules.

The order, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), also lays down conditions regarding the extension of training and tenure periods.

For students enrolled in academic and super-specialty programmes, the training or tenure period will be extended by a duration equivalent to the maternity or paternity leave availed, subject to the norms of the concerned statutory body.

However, senior residents and tutors not pursuing any academic programme will be eligible for stipends during sanctioned leave within their prescribed tenure without any extension of their engagement period.

The department said the benefit will be admissible only during the approved tenure of engagement and subject to fulfilment of | More on P6

Ladakh records 70.03% turnout in first Panchayat polls since UT formation

Municipal elections see 52.40% turnout; LG Saxena hails 'historic day'

Rehan Qayoom Mir/
Raja Syed Rather



Leh, Nov 21: Ladakh on Saturday recorded an overwhelming 70.03 per cent voter turnout in its first Panchayat elections and 52.40 per cent in Municipal Council polls since the formation of the Union Territory, with Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena hailing it as a "historic day" and expressing gratitude to the people for their enthusiastic participation in the democratic process.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Heartfelt gratitude to the resilient people of the Union Territory of Ladakh for coming out in overwhelming numbers to cast their votes in the Panchayat and Municipal elections. Today's voter turnout, with 73.60% polling for Panch and 70.03% for Sarpanch, marks an improvement over the overall voter turnout of 67.8% recorded in the 2018 Panchayat elections, reflecting an encouraging level of public participation in the democratic process and celebrating the true essence of democracy."

He said witnessing everyone, from enthusiastic first-time voters to respected senior citizens, was a powerful testament to people's unshakeable faith in the democratic process and local self-governance. "This was the first Panchayat and municipal elections since 2018, and the first time since Ladakh was made a UT in 2019. It marks a proud milestone in self-governance," the LG said, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for their "steadfast vision and commitment to empowering and strengthening grassroots democracy across Ladakh".

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the young and the elderly, women and men, first-time voters, monks and people from every walk of life exercised their democratic right across villages and towns.

The Panchayat elections covered 192 Panchayat Halqas across eight districts, comprising 192 Sarpanch positions and 1,428 Panch seats. Of these, 55 Sarpanches and 1,186 Panches were elected unopposed, while polling was conducted for the remaining 137 Sarpanch and 242 Panch seats. The Municipal Council elections covered 38 wards, comprising | More on P6

JKEDI Srinagar concludes Management Development Programme in Balhama



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Office Srinagar, successfully concluded a Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at Balhama Srinagar.

The programme, as per an official statement, trained 22 entrepreneurs, equipping them with structured training designed to enhance their entrepreneurial competencies and strengthen their business capabilities.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by AnsarUllah Machloo Incharge-CNEC/Program reviewer; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar and Syed Miftah Andrabi, Manager CSF/Trainer.

Interacting with the participants, Ansar appreciated the efforts of JKEDI Srinagar in organizing capacity-building programmes in the interior rural areas of District Srinagar.

Shabir Hussain Shah, in his address, commended the enthusiasm and active participation of the entrepreneurs and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and skills gained to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

He stressed the importance of women entrepreneurship in building a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

The participants expressed heartfelt gratitude to the course team and JKEDI for their dedicated guidance and support in successfully organizing the programme.

Strengthening Child Protection

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises awareness programme at Ashtangoo

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21 : Continuing its efforts to reach every corner of society and strengthen awareness about Child Rights, Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Ashtangoo, Bandipora.

During the programme, as per an official statement, teachers, students and community members were sensitised about various laws and provisions concerning child protection, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, Child Labour Laws, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Adoption Regulations, and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

Participants were briefed about Child Helpline 1098 and various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission Vatsalya. The programme aimed to educate students and teachers about Child Rights promote a safe and protective environment for children.

As part of the awareness initiative, posters displaying the Child Helpline 1098 were also placed at prominent locations of the area to strengthen public awareness and encourage people to report child protection concerns promptly.

Financial Literacy, Social Security Schemes

SWD Srinagar organises community awareness programmes in Khanyar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes to empower community members with information regarding various welfare initiatives and financial support mechanisms available to eligible beneficiaries. During the programme, as per an official statement, participants were sensitized about the importance of financial literacy, responsible financial management, savings, financial inclusion and awareness regarding various government-sponsored financial assistance schemes. Detailed information was also shared about the eligibility criteria, application procedures and benefits of different social welfare schemes, with the aim of enabling beneficiaries to access the assistance available to them.

In another programme organized in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, Zone Khanyar, awareness was imparted regarding Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes. The programme focused on empowering women and community members, particularly those associated with Anganwadi Centres, by providing them with information about various welfare schemes and encouraging them to avail the benefits for improving their financial security and overall well-being.

The programmes witnessed active participation from community members and highlighted the Department's continued commitment towards grassroots awareness, women empowerment, financial inclusion and ensuring that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach deserving beneficiaries.

Save Youth Save Future Foundation's NEXGEN connects Kulgam Youth with District Administration

KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSF), through its Students' Wing, NEXGEN, organised a Youth–Administration Interactive Session at the Auditorium Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, aimed at strengthening youth participation and creating meaningful opportunities for direct engagement with public institutions. The programme brought together local students, youth representatives and district administration for an interactive exchange of ideas and concerns.

The programme, as per an official statement, was graced by Shahzad Alam, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, as the Chief Guest, along with Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of Save Youth Save Future Foundation. Several senior office bearers, organisational representatives and a large number of local youth also participated. During the interaction, young participants highlighted key issues concerning Kulgam, including tourism development, Sports, healthcare infrastructure, education, employment opportunities, public transport, women's safety and the growing concern of substance abuse.

Suggestions were also put forward regarding sports infrastructure, adventure tourism and youth entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted extensively with the participating youth, patiently heard their concerns and shared valuable insights on various developmental priorities of the district. He encouraged young people to remain actively engaged in community development, identify local challenges and contribute constructive suggestions. His interaction also provided participants with an opportunity to understand the role of the district administration in addressing public concerns and facilitating development. Addressing the gathering, Wajahat Farooq Bhat, highlighted the vision behind NEXGEN, emphasising that the initiative aims to bridge the gap between young people and public institutions by providing a meaningful platform for dialogue, expression and participation.

Bankers' Meeting reviews PMEGP, JKREGP performance

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 21: A meeting of bankers was held Saturday at the Government Conference Hall, Sopore, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Dy. CEO), Kashmir Division (KD), to review the progress and performance of the PMEGP and JKREGP schemes.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Lead District Managers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, and Directors of RSETIs from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts. Officers from J&K Grameen Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), along with a large number of Branch Managers of J&K Bank, also participated.

During the meeting, the performance of PMEGP and JKREGP was thoroughly deliberated upon, with particular focus on pending rectifications under PMEGP.

The participating bankers were directed to ensure the clearance of all pending rectifications under PMEGP by or before November 30, 2026, positively. Emphasis was laid on timely action and effective coordination to ensure smooth implementation of the schemes.

DLSA Srinagar settles 18,856 cases in Special Lok Adalat

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Traffic Challans, other civil cases and Negotiable Instruments, Act, 1881 Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, thrrr benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiyaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, along with Tasneem Kawoos City Munsiff, Srinagar asmember. 2nd bench was presided over by Junaid Imtiyaz Mir Sub-Judge Srinagar, and Iram Irtiza , 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member and 3rd bench was presided over by Mufti Nahida, Additional Spl. Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk (Incharge), along with Advocate Sameena Ramzan as member.

A total number of19,204 Cases including traffic challanswere taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 18,856 Cases were settled.

An amount of Rs 68,83,290 was awarded as settlement amount in all these cases.

SDM Karnah inspects Farmer ID Camps

Reviews registration progress



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 21: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, accompanied by Tehsildar Karnah, Saturday inspected Farmer ID generation camps across the sub-division to review the ongoing registration drive and check facilities for local farmers.

During the visit, the SDM spoke with field staff at the camps and reviewed the number of IDs generated so far. He stressed that every eligible farmer must be registered so they can easily access government welfare schemes and agriculture services.

The SDM, as per an official statement, directed officials from the Revenue and Agriculture departments to work closely together to ensure a smooth and hassle-free process for farmers. He asked them to pay special attention to remote and far-flung areas so that no eligible person is left out due to distance or poor network connectivity.

To help residents of remote villages like Jabdi which lacks mobile network coverage for online registration, a special camp has been set up at Toli with the help of local Army authorities. Residents of Jabdi have been informed to visit the Toli camp to complete their registration.

The SDM praised the teamwork of the Revenue and Agriculture departments, as well as the Army, for reaching difficult areas in Karnah. He stated that the administration is committed to registering all eligible farmers and directed teams to finish the work accurately on time.

Charar-i-Sharief comes alive with Sufi music, cultural celebrations

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 21: On the directions of Director Tourism, Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, organised a vibrant Sufi Festival Saturday at Tourist Bungalow, Charar-i-Sharief, celebrating the Valley's rich spiritual, cultural, and musical heritage.

The festival, as per an official statement, was graced by Basharat Mahmood, Assistant Director Tourism, Kashmir, who attended the programme and addressed the gathering. In his remarks, he highlighted the enduring role of Sufi traditions in preserving Kashmir's unique cultural identity and spiritual legacy. He further emphasised that such initiatives are vital for promoting the region's heritage, offering a dedicated platform to local artists, and strengthening the cultural tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme featured soulful Sufi musical performances by local artists, who captivated the audience with traditional Kashmiri compositions and melodious renditions accompanied by indigenous instruments. The performances offered attendees an immersive experience of the timeless musical traditions deeply rooted in Kashmir's Sufi culture.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL- @ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No: 36 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S No.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertisement Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Sindh Nallah-Flood Protection work on R/S at Duderhama near bus adda at RD 81.5 to RD 81.76km (Fresh for eNIT NO: 30 of 2026-27 S No: 01)	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 40 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.09.2026	48.630	2500	1,46,000/-	150 Days	AAY/ BEE	MH 4711 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	26-11-2026 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	27-11-2026 11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on
27.11.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/
Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal from any scheduled or
nationalized bank, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. However, the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money of those bidders who had participated in the previous eNIT NO 23 of 2026-27 shall also remain valid for this eNIT Only. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.
6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:
A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
B} encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
C} criminal proceedings.
D} Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -
a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.
d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.
8) Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.
b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
c) The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at Serial No. 1.
e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 9235-84
Dated: 21.11.2026

DIPK-7901/26
DATED: 21-11-2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

CS undertakes first district visit to Reasi

Reviews key infrastructure, development projects in Katra

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 21: In his first visit to a district after assuming charge as Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Saturday visited District Reasi to undertake an on-ground assessment of the developmental scenario and review the progress of key infrastructure projects, with particular focus on Katra, the prominent base camp for pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

On his visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by DC, Reasi, Kumar Abhishek; SSP Reasi; SP, Reasi and other senior officers from the District administration.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary took stock of several ongoing and proposed projects aimed at strengthening urban infrastructure, improving connectivity, augmenting public transport facilities and enhancing sanitation arrangements in Katra.

The Chief Secretary also fixed specific timelines for completion of each of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed deadlines. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, to undertake close and rigorous weekly monitoring of the progress of each project and ensure that any bottlenecks impeding their execution are promptly addressed.

Cautioning the officers against delays and any compromise in the quality of works, Dr Yadav made it clear that failure to meet the stipulated timelines or adhere to prescribed quality standards would invite strict disciplinary action against the officers concerned.

The projects reviewed included the ongoing construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Tan Talab by the Katra Municipal Committee, aimed at strengthening scientific solid waste management and ensuring more efficient handling and processing of municipal waste.

He also reviewed the ongoing restoration works on National Highway-44, including slope protection measures being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), which are critical for ensuring road safety, improving the resilience of this vital highway stretch and facilitating smoother movement of pilgrims and other commuters.

Taking stock of the proposed transport infrastructure, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of the upcoming Inter-Modal Transport Station at Katra, being taken up by the Urban Development Department, besides the proposed upgradation of the Katra Bus Stand by the PWD. These projects are envisaged to improve passenger convenience, streamline traffic movement and strengthen transport facilities in view of the substantial pilgrim and tourist footfall witnessed by the town throughout the year.

The Chief Secretary also assessed the status of sanitation-related works, including the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), underscoring the importance of strengthening sewage management and ensuring a clean, hygienic and environmentally sustainable urban environment in this high footfall area of the UT.

He further reviewed the progress of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway, which is in its final phase of completion. The expressway is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity, reduce travel time and provide a major impetus to pilgrimage and tourism-related economic activity by improving access to Katra.

Emphasising the strategic importance of Katra as one of Jammu & Kashmir's foremost religious tourism destinations, the Chief Secretary underscored that infrastructure development in the town must keep pace with its growing pilgrim footfall.

He observed that improved road connectivity, efficient public transport, scientific waste management, effective sewage treatment and better civic amenities are essential for ensuring a safe, comfortable and seamless experience for pilgrims and visitors in addition to the overall development of this area.

DIPR represents J&K at 57th IFFI in Goa

Secy I&B visits J&K Stall; briefed on film ecosystem, filming opportunities



KT News Desk

Goa, Nov 21: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, is participating in the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, representing the region and showcasing its rich cinematic heritage, diverse filming locations, emerging film ecosystem and the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for film production.

As part of the ongoing participation, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Chanchal Kumar on Saturday visited the Jammu & Kashmir Stall at IFFI, where he was briefed in detail about the evolving film ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir and the various initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen the film sector and facilitate film production in the region.

During the visit, he was apprised of the immense cinematic potential of Jammu & Kashmir, its breathtaking landscapes, diverse geographical settings, rich cultural heritage and picturesque locations, which offer significant opportunities for filmmakers, production houses and the entertainment industry.

The briefing also highlighted the Government's sustained efforts to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination through facilitation measures, institutional support and initiatives aimed at creating a conducive environment for filmmakers. Particular emphasis was laid on encouraging film productions, strengthening film-related infrastructure, promoting local talent and creating opportunities for artists, technicians, filmmakers and other professionals associated with the creative industry.

Secretary I&B was also briefed about the potential of leveraging cinema as an effective instrument for tourism promotion, cultural preservation, employment generation and economic development. The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between the Government, film industry stakeholders, production houses and local creative professionals to further expand the region's presence on the national and international cinematic landscape. The Jammu & Kashmir Stall serves as an important platform to showcase the region's cinematic possibilities, promote its diverse filming destinations and engage with filmmakers, producers, industry representatives and other stakeholders attending the prestigious festival.

Through its participation at IFFI, DIPR is seeking to highlight Jammu & Kashmir's potential beyond its scenic appeal, positioning the region as an emerging hub for film production, creative expression and cinematic enterprise.

The participation also reflects the Government's broader vision of harnessing the film and entertainment industry to promote tourism, generate employment, encourage local talent and create new avenues of economic activity in Jammu & Kashmir.

HC pulls up authorities over women's safety in public transport

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 21: Flagging gaps in the enforcement of government directions meant to ensure safer travel for women commuters the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has pulled up the authorities over safety of females using public transport.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rahul Bharti while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) "Reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities in public transport exist more on paper rather than on the roads"

The PIL filed by Advocate Monisa Manzoor Mir has raised concerns over the safety and security of women travelling in buses, matadors and other public transport vehicles without assurance of reserved seating.

The High Court noted that even the Srinagar Traffic Police Chief had expressed difficulty in enforcing the directives, stating that their implementation required executive decisions, statutory notifications or departmental directions from the competent authorities.

The High Court also took note of government directions requiring Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to ensure strict implementation of seat reservation for women and persons with disabilities in buses, mini-buses, sumos, e-rickshaws and other public service vehicles.

The directions, as per KNO, also require weekly compliance and enforcement reports to be submitted to the Transport Commissioner. The High Court observed that compliance reports sought through its August 10 order were still

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Weapons meant for anti-national elements, not civilians: CRPF IG



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 21: Stating that weapons carried by security personnel are meant only for dealing with anti-national elements and not to threaten civilians, Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma on Saturday said that the force is carrying out its duties effectively across Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the fourth edition of the CRPF T20 Cricket Cup in Srinagar, Sharma said, "Security forces are working together effectively in Kulgam and gradually achieving success."

"Our weapons are solely for safety. Having weapons does not mean anything else. Weapons are only for anti-national elements," he added.

On the Kulgam situation, Sharma said, "Whatever work we need to do in Kulgam, we are doing it. Working together effectively with the Army, the civil police and all our intelligence agencies, our force is carrying out the work that needs to be done wherever required. Gradually, we are achieving a lot of success."

Meanwhile, IG Sharma said the CRPF would continue strengthening its engagement with local youth through sports and other civic action programmes.

He said the force has been organising cricket and football tournaments under its Civic Action Programme for the past four years to build stronger ties with young people.

This year, the CRPF received more than 130 entries and selected 16 teams for the week-long cricket tournament, he said, adding that public participation and cooperation have been encouraging.

Sharma said a similar football tournament would be organised in the first week of December, with four teams each from Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts participating.

He also urged young people to keep learning and create opportunities rather than depend solely on seeking jobs, emphasising sustained engagement with the younger generation—(KNO)

Health Minister vows strict action in rotten meat case



Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag Nov 21: Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo on Saturday warned of strict action against those involved in the rotten meat case, asserting that there would be no compromise on the safety and health of people.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir, Itoo said the government was taking all necessary measures in accordance with the law and the concerned departments had already initiated action against those found involved in violations.

She said the licences of certain establishments had been cancelled and several other measures had also been taken as part of the action initiated by the authorities.

"Whatever action is required at the departmental level is being taken. We have made it clear that there will be no compromise when it comes to the health of people. What we are consuming should not turn out to be poisonous for us, and anyone found involved in such practices will be dealt with strictly," she said. The minister also acknowledged staff shortages in the Food Safety Department, saying that although the department had been functioning since 2002, it was facing a shortage of manpower, which affected its overall functioning.

Itoo said she recently reviewed the department's performance and functioning and that steps were being taken to address the staffing-related issues and strengthen its enforcement mechanism.

The health minister said the exposure of cases such as the alleged rotten meat scandal was also an indication that the department had been carrying out inspections and making efforts to ensure accountability.

"Such cases are coming to the fore because the department is working and efforts are being made to make the system accountable. We have to ensure that people get safe and quality food items, and there can be no leniency in matters concerning public health," she said.

Regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests of those allegedly involved, the minister said the Food Safety Department had already communicated with the police, as further legal action in these matters fell within the police domain.

"Whatever was required to be done by our department has been done, and we have also written to the police regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests. We hope the police will take necessary action against those involved," she said.

Itoo appealed to the public to remain vigilant and immediately inform the concerned authorities if they noticed the sale of suspicious, spoiled or unsafe food items.

She said Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across districts had also been directed to keep a close watch on such activities and ensure immediate intervention whenever complaints or reports of food safety violations were received.

The administration, she said, had been instructed to respond promptly to such complaints and take necessary action to prevent the sale and distribution of unsafe food products.

"Protecting public health remains a priority," the minister said, adding that

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

PG, senior resident doctors' stir intensifies

More hospitals to join from Nov 23



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 21: The agitation by postgraduate (PG) and senior resident doctors demanding enhancement of stipends, parity with other States and Union Territories and implementation of maternity leave benefits intensified across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with more medical institutions expected to join the protest from November 23.

The protest entered its second consecutive day at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and third day at GMC Jammu, while doctors from other institutions extended support. The protesting doctors are seeking revision of their monthly stipends, alleging significant disparity between the remuneration offered to resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir and several other parts of the country.

AIMSA representatives, including Chief Advisors and PG residents Dr Muyeen Ahsan, Dr Sushant and Dr Mohammad Hussain from GMC Srinagar, participated in the protest, while Dr Abhimanyu Manhas, Dr Abhishek Mittal, Dr Sanah Javaid and Dr K.R. Jaipal from GMC Jammu and Dr Rajat Mishra and Dr Owais Khan from GMC Baramulla extended solidarity.

Dr Manhas, Vice President of the RDA GMC Jammu, reiterated the decision to suspend routine ward duties, OPD services and elective operation theatre lists as part of the agitation. AIMSA President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan cautioned authorities against any attempt to intimidate or take retaliatory action against protesting doctors, maintaining that demands concerning fair remuneration, maternity benefits and professional welfare were legitimate and should not be equated with indiscipline.

Dr Ravi, a DNB resident at JLNM Hospital Rainawari, said DNB residents were receiving Rs 48,000 per month and would join the protest from November 23. Dr Yamin, a PG resident at District Hospital Pulwama, announced that doctors in district hospitals would also join from that date.

Amid the growing agitation, several Government Medical Colleges issued communications to resident doctors emphasising the need to maintain academic schedules and patient-care services.

GMC Srinagar's Postgraduate Department of Anatomy directed postgraduate scholars and senior residents to ensure teaching and academic activities were not affected, asking them to conduct scheduled classes, practical sessions and seminars as per timetable and make alternative arrangements if unable to perform duties.

GMC Baramulla issued a circular prohibiting postgraduate students, DNB candidates and senior residents from participating in strikes, referring to

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

World Must Do More To Protect Children From War

Land mines and explosive remnants continue to kill and maim children gathering firewood or simply playing. A protected childhood is not a luxury, it is the foundation of healthy individuals and stable societies.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh



As the world on observed UN World Children's Day under the theme "My day. My rights. My future," the reality for millions of children trapped in armed conflict is very different from this hopeful message. In many places, such as Sudan and Yemen, children are not merely bystanders to adult wars — they are the ones who suffer the deepest and most lasting harm.

Killed by drones and landmines, recruited as fighters, driven from their homes, starved by the blocking of aid and denied schooling and medical care, they carry problems and wounds that shape the rest of their lives.

These are not the unavoidable side effects of conflict. They are the predictable result of choices made by aggressive armed groups and governments and an international community that has too often failed to prioritize the protection of children.

The scale of the crisis is unprecedented. The latest Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict verified 38,558 grave violations against children in armed conflict in 2025, affecting 24,174 children — the highest number recorded since the Children and Armed Conflict mandate began 30 years earlier.

Killing and maiming accounted for the largest share, followed by denial of humanitarian access, the recruitment and use of children, and abduction. Explosive weapons caused about 70 percent of child casualties. These figures capture only verified cases; the true number is most likely higher.

The Houthis' renewed aggression in Yemen this year illustrates how quickly progress can reverse. More than 12 million children there already require lifesaving assistance. The intensified fighting initiated by the Houthis in September displaced at least 300,000 people, including an estimated 110,000 children, in the opening weeks alone. Families have fled shelling around Taiz and other front lines only to confront overcrowded shelters, collapsing services and restricted humanitarian access.

Child recruitment remains especially grave. The UN verified 262 cases of recruitment and the use of children in Yemen in 2025 — 127 of which were attributed to the Houthis. Investigations have documented abductions of children as young as 11, ideological summer camps that channel youth into military pipelines and boys who left home on ordinary errands only to appear on the front lines.

Land mines and explosive remnants continue to kill and maim children gathering firewood or simply playing. Schools have been damaged or closed and health services disrupted. An entire generation is growing up without the basic security, nutrition, education and care that childhood demands.

Sudan presents an equally devastating picture. Between January and September, UNICEF recorded 410 children killed or injured, with about two-thirds of those casualties resulting from armed drone strikes.

Drones bring the war to places once considered relatively safe, destroying power stations that pump water, disrupting vaccine cold chains and forcing families to use unsafe water sources that spread disease.

Hunger has increased the damage. An estimated 825,000 Sudanese children under five are expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2026 — the form that kills. Nearly 19.5 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity. Millions have been displaced. At least 8 million children are out of school in key regions. Health facilities have been destroyed or rendered nonfunctional.

The combination of drones, drought and blocked aid has created a lethal cycle from which children cannot escape on their own.

A protected childhood is not a luxury, it is the foundation of healthy individuals and stable societies. The early years shape brain architecture, emotional regulation and the capacity for trust and learning.

When children are recruited into fighting forces, they lose not only their present but also the skills and relationships needed for later civilian life. Survivors often face stigma, trauma and limited economic options, raising the risk of re-recruitment or further violence.

In addition, chronic malnutrition permanently impairs cognitive development. Displacement severs social networks and access to education. The long-term costs — mental health crises, lost productivity, intergenerational poverty and cycles of violence — fall on entire communities and impact future generations.

We know that international law is unambiguous: the recruitment and use of children under 15 in hostilities is a war crime. Broader obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions require parties to conflict to protect children, facilitate humanitarian access and refrain from attacks on schools and hospitals.

Statements of concern are no longer sufficient. Concrete measures are required. Existing action plans must be fully implemented. The Houthis signed a UN action plan in 2022 to end child recruitment — they must immediately release children associated with their forces, cease new recruitment, allow independent age verification and grant the UN unimpeded access to detention and training sites. Accountability must be strengthened.

The UN Security Council should maintain and expand lists of parties that recruit or kill children and support mechanisms that document evidence for potential prosecutions. Targeted measures against commanders responsible for child recruitment and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas can raise the cost of violations.

Humanitarian space must be protected. Attacks on water systems, power infrastructure, schools and health facilities must be investigated and condemned without double standards.

Sustained and flexible funding for child protection, nutrition, education in emergencies and mine action is essential. Children's specific needs and rights must be elevated in every peace process. Any settlement that ignores the harms done to them will plant the seeds of future instability.

In summary, children bear the most pain in any conflict. They are the ones who lose the most — their safety, their health, their education, their future — and they are the ones we have the clearest duty to protect. Childhood is the most formative period of human life; damage inflicted then echoes for decades. International organizations, governments and communities must therefore do everything in their power to shield children from the violence of adults.

Conflicts that place this intolerable burden on the youngest must be brought to an end. Children must not be used as instruments of war and instead be allowed to live as children.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a Harvard-educated Iranian-American political scientist.
Courtesy: Arab News

Could You Survive Without Microsoft? Inside The Costs Of Digital Dependence

No emails, no calendar, no meeting invitations—and suddenly the working day was disrupted by the loss of a single application. When did we become so dependent on a handful of technology companies that one missing tool could unsettle everything? And what is the financial and environmental cost of that dependence?

Narmin Nahidi

When I arrived at work to discover that Outlook had vanished from my computer, I wondered how I was supposed to get through my working day. No emails. No calendar. No meeting invitations.

Then another thought crossed my mind: when did we become so dependent on a single technology company that losing access to one application could disrupt our entire working routine? And what is the financial and environmental cost of that dependence?

We regularly discuss sustainability in terms of reducing plastic, cutting carbon emissions and consuming less energy. But the digital systems we rely on every day also have huge environmental consequences.

As world leaders gather at the UN climate summit, Cop31, in Turkey, perhaps it is time to ask an uncomfortable question: can our digital economy really become sustainable when so much of it depends on a handful of technology companies?

The cloud has a physical footprint

The cloud may sound weightless, but it runs on data centres, electricity, cooling systems and hardware.

The International Energy Agency estimates that data centres consumed 415 terawatt-hours of electricity in 2024, around 1.5% of global demand. It projects that consumption could reach 945 terawatt-hours by 2030, largely driven by AI and other digital services.

Microsoft's own 2026 sustainability report illustrates the tension. The company reported a 25% year-over-year rise in total emissions in 2025, primarily because of expanding data centres and a change in renewable-energy certificate accounting. Microsoft is also investing in cleaner energy and more efficient infrastructure. Both facts matter: technological progress can reduce emissions per task, while growth pushes overall demand higher.

Asking the right questions

Turkey's Cop31 presidency released the voluntary Antalya artificial intelligence pledge in October. This pledge aims to encourage climate-responsible AI while acknowledging the energy and water demands of the technology.

The World Resources Institute, a global research organisation, welcomed the pledge's direction but warned that voluntary commitments need stronger accountability mechanisms. Meanwhile, the International Telecommunication Union has scheduled a Cop31 event for November 16 on financing cleaner digital infrastructure, measuring emissions, and promoting durable, repairable and reusable electronics.

The message is important: sustainability cannot stop at greener electricity. It also concerns what technology organisations purchase, how long they keep it, and who pays for its environmental effects.

When a software decision becomes a hardware bill

Consider a computer that still works but cannot support a newer operating system. Windows 10's regular support ended in October 2025, although Microsoft offers extended security updates for eligible consumer devices through October 2027.

The transition does not make every older computer obsolete. Yet software support and compatibility can influence whether organisations replace otherwise usable equipment.

Manufacturing devices consumes energy and raw materials. It also creates electronic waste (e-waste). According to the UN's global e-waste monitor, the world generated 62 million metric tonnes of e-waste in 2022, of which just 22.3% was documented as formally collected and recycled.

These figures cover all electronic waste, not waste attributable to Microsoft. They nevertheless show why extending equipment lifetimes deserves a place in climate policy.

Costs that are rarely counted

A software subscription has a visible price. Less visible are the costs of training employees, migrating files, replacing equipment, maintaining duplicate systems and eventually switching suppliers.

Economists call these switching costs. They can lock organisations into existing providers even when better-value alternatives emerge.

This is not merely hypothetical. In March 2026, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority announced plans to investigate Microsoft's business software ecosystem. It also reported steps by major cloud service providers, including Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services, to reduce data-transfer fees and improve interoperability, making it easier for businesses to switch between providers.

What might this have to do with sustainability? A buyer unable to change providers easily may also struggle to choose lower-emission computing services. That is a potential environmental consequence of lock-in, not a demonstrated claim that Microsoft users emit more carbon.

There is a wider accounting problem too. The UN estimates that global electronic waste was associated with approximately US$78 billion (£59 billion) in externalised costs in 2022, including pollution and climate-related impacts. Such costs are largely absent from the price of a software license.

A responsible procurement decision should therefore compare lifetime financial costs, equipment lifespans and credible emissions data rather than only the next annual bill.

Freedom to choose

Could workplaces use alternatives (such as Thunderbird and LibreOffice) or interoperable cloud services? Often, yes. But migration has costs and a rival provider is not necessarily greener.

The better goal is freedom to choose: portable data, open document formats, repairable devices, transparent environmental reporting and software contracts that do not penalise switching.

Digital systems that remain affordable, competitive and environmentally responsible, even when their preferred technology changes, will be the most resilient ones.

Narmin Nahidi, Assistant Professor in Finance, University of Exeter

Courtesy: The Conversation

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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RNI NO:-**JKENG-2010/39938**, Email:- **Kashmirthunder123@gmail.com**, Website: **Kashmirthunder.com**, Mobile: **9906797575, 9419006285**
Owner & Editor-In-Chief of Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a leading news agency in Jammu & Kashmir. Website: www.kashmirnewsobserver.com, Mail: info@kashmirnewsobserver.com

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of WMDA

Takes stock of Lake Conservation, Tourism Development works

KT News Desk



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Saturday chaired a review meeting in the Meeting Hall of Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) to assess its overall functioning, with particular focus on ongoing developmental works, conservation of Manasbal Lake and tourism infrastructure.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti, as per an official statement, presented a detailed overview of the Authority's achievements, ongoing initiatives and future development plans, highlighting key interventions in lake conservation, environmental management, infrastructure development and tourism promotion.

The meeting reviewed various measures undertaken for the conservation of Manasbal Lake, including dredging, de-weeding, cleanliness drives, waste management and sanitation initiatives. The progress of major infrastructure projects, particularly the lakeside pedestrian pathway, parking facilities and Manasbal bypass, was also discussed.

The Authority's initiatives to promote Manasbal as a sustainable tourism destination through cultural activities, recreational facilities and adventure tourism were highlighted. The proposed sewage management system for the lake's catchment area and the need for strengthened solid waste management were also deliberated upon.

The DC emphasised the importance of balancing tourism development with ecological preservation and called for coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of ongoing projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi; Chief Executive Officer, WMDA; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Ganderbal; representatives of J&K Sports Council and UEED Ganderbal, besides other concerned officials.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a field visit to various locations to assess the status of ongoing works and examine proposed developmental interventions. The visit covered the ongoing tile-laying work along the lakeside pedestrian pathway near Naninara, proposed paragliding site, Manasbal Bypass, ancient temple, and Wular Vintage Park.

DC Pulwama launches Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0

72 villages have so far been declared tobacco-free

KT News Desk



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Saturday launched the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0 at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pulwama, emphasising the need for greater awareness and active youth participation in the collective effort to make the district tobacco-free.

During the launching ceremony, District Health Officer, Pulwama, presented a detailed presentation on the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), highlighting the district's achievements and ongoing interventions aimed at curbing tobacco consumption and strengthening enforcement of tobacco control regulations.

It was informed that 72 villages, as per an official statement, have so far been declared Tobacco-Free Villages in the district, while 651 schools have achieved compliance under the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) guidelines. It was apprised that the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0, is being implemented over a period of two months, focusing on intensifying public awareness regarding the harmful effects of tobacco, strengthening Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions, declaring atleast 42 more villages tobacco-free, and ensuring stricter enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated the Health Department for its efforts and ongoing interventions under the National Tobacco Control Programme. He stressed that the campaign should translate into tangible behavioural change through coordinated efforts of the Health Department, educational institutions, local bodies and other stakeholders to achieve the goal of a tobacco-free Pulwama.

On the occasion, the DC advised students against falling prey to peer pressure, curiosity and misleading influences that may lead to tobacco and other drug consumption. He urged them to make informed choices, adopt healthy lifestyles and act as ambassadors of the tobacco-free campaign within their families, educational institutions and communities.

He encouraged students to focus on education and hard work, highlighting that the pen in their hands and their dedication and hard work would shape their future, not tobacco or any form of substance abuse. He also sensitised them about the harmful effects of passive smoking, highlighting that exposure to tobacco smoke puts the health of non-smokers, including children and family members, at risk.

Highlighting the role of students in shaping a healthier society, the DC stressed that awareness among young people is crucial for preventing the initiation of tobacco use. He called upon educational institutions, health functionaries and other stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure effective implementation of the campaign and realise the objective of building a tobacco-free society.

The DC also directed the Health Department to maintain close coordination with the District Administration and communicate any requirement for administrative intervention or support to ensure the smooth implementation of campaign activities. He further informed that a senior officer would be assigned to each of the 42 villages envisaged to be declared tobacco-free under the campaign to oversee and facilitate the process.

On the occasion, the DC also led the gathering in a pledge wherein the participants resolved never to consume tobacco in any form, encourage tobacco users to quit, support healthy lifestyles and contribute towards building a Tobacco-Free India. He also flagged off a rally on the occasion.

The launching ceremony was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; District Health Officer, Pulwama; Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Pulwama; Block Medical Officers, officers from various line departments and students from different educational institutions of the district.

World Heritage Week 2026: Heritage walk organised at Bahu Fort



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 21: As part of the ongoing celebrations of World Heritage Week 2026, the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K, in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Jammu organized a Heritage Walk at Bahu Fort, a historically significant protected monument in Jammu.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools of Jammu. The initiative aimed at sensitizing the younger generation towards the rich cultural and historical heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and encouraging them to take an active interest in its preservation and promotion.

Students, as per an official statement, were taken on a guided tour of the Bahu Fort premises, where they were familiarized with the historical significance, architectural features and cultural importance of the monument. The students showed keen interest in exploring the heritage site and learning about its historical legacy.

The walk culminated at the Amphitheatre in Bagh-e-Bahu, where a Heritage Baithak was organized.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K Dr. Pranjal J. Hazarika emphasized the importance of generating awareness among the younger generation about the region's rich cultural heritage. He highlighted that heritage monuments are not merely historical structures but valuable symbols of our identity and collective past. He encouraged students to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility towards protecting and preserving these invaluable assets for future generations.

Director, Floriculture, Jammu Nagendra Jamwal also shared his views on the importance of heritage conservation and the role of public participation in maintaining and beautifying heritage surroundings. He highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts between government departments in promoting heritage awareness and enhancing the appeal of important historical sites.

Other experts and resource persons also shared their views during the Heritage Baithak, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding the cultural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir. The programme underscored the commitment of both departments towards promoting heritage awareness, strengthening public participation and fostering a sense of responsibility among students towards preserving the cultural heritage of Jammu

DC Anantnag presides over vibrant Public Grievance Redressal Camp in Chittergul

KT News Desk



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 21: As part of the public outreach initiative aimed at bringing the administration closer to the people, a mega public darbar-cum-grievance redressal camp was Saturday held at Model Higher Secondary School, Chittergul, to listen to the grievances, demands and developmental concerns of the people of Block Chittergul.

The programme, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from people belonging to different villages and sections of society across the block, who put forth their issues and demands before Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the public darbar, participants raised a wide range of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water, irrigation, healthcare, education, electricity, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and other essential public services. Several issues were redressed on the spot, while the DC directed the concerned departments to take prompt action on the remaining genuine demands.

The major demands raised during the programme included construction of a Shamshan Ghat, improvement of mobile network connectivity, resolution of drinking water supply issues in Patribal and Didnard, upgradation and construction of Wuzkhan Road and Ziyarat Road, provision of PHE and irrigation facilities, availability of additional ration at Cheerpora, upgradation of Government Girls Middle School Dethu, and adequate deployment of medical staff at Chittergul Hospital.

Other demands included installation of an X-ray facility at the hospital, establishment of Fire and Emergency Services facilities, organisation of agricultural and horticultural awareness camps, construction of Achabal-Chowgund Road, establishment of a laboratory at Higher Secondary School Chittergul, opening of a public library, construction of a Block Office and release of pending land compensation for PMGSY Tangmullah Road.

The people also demanded construction of a water supply tunnel from Nagbal to Sonach, upgradation of the Sub-Centre at PHC Brah, provision of banking facilities at Brah, establishment of a CSC complex, construction of a slaughterhouse at Chittergul, development of Chatabal as a tourist destination and improvement of irrigation facilities at Gamkul, besides other area-specific demands.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the participants and took detailed stock of the issues raised by the public. He directed the concerned officers to examine the grievances on priority and take immediate necessary action for redressal of the genuine demands.

The DC also instructed the departments to ensure close coordination and regular follow-up so that the issues raised during the public darbar are addressed within stipulated timelines. He stressed that officers should remain responsive to public concerns and ensure effective delivery of services at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that such public outreach programmes provide an important platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling the government to understand local issues and address them effectively.

He urged people to avail themselves of the benefits of various government welfare and self-employment schemes, stating that these initiatives can improve livelihoods, promote economic self-reliance and generate employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

The DC assured that all genuine public grievances would be addressed on priority and that the District Administration remains committed to ensuring equitable development and effective delivery of public services across the district.

Senior Citizens Issues: DC Pulwama chairs meeting

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Saturday chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex Pulwama to discuss issues and concerns of senior citizens and seek their suggestions for improving public services.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pulwama Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, ADC Pulwama Dr. S.M. Ashraf, CPO Aashiq Khanday, Additional SP Pulwama, ACD Pulwama, CMO Pulwama, Executive Engineers of R&B and KPDCL, other officers and senior citizens from across the district.

At the outset, the DC, as per an official statement, acknowledged the invaluable contributions and services rendered by senior citizens to society and emphasised the need to ensure their dignity, well-being and access to essential services.

During the meeting, senior citizens raised issues relating to healthcare, drinking water, electricity infrastructure, road connectivity, sanitation, revenue services, social security and implementation of welfare schemes.

A key demand was the establishment of a Viqaar House with library and recreational facilities. The DC assured that suitable land would be identified and the proposal taken up on priority.

Other issues included macadamisation of roads, strengthening of power infrastructure, rationalization of Patwari halqas and extension of pipes attached to municipal suction vehicles. The DC issued directions to the concerned officers for necessary action. He also directed the ACD to ensure immediate resumption of door-to-door waste collection in villages where the service had been disrupted.

Emphasising the participation of senior citizens in local development, the DC directed the Rural Development Department to specially invite them to Gram Sabha meetings. He also assured that the procedure for issuance of Senior Citizen Cards would be examined and taken forward at the earliest.

Taking note of traffic congestion, particularly along the approach road to District Hospital Pulwama, the DC said that an on-ground survey would be conducted with concerned officers to identify measures for improved traffic management. He also stressed collective responsibility and public participation in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation.

Regarding healthcare, the CMO was directed to facilitate essential medical tests and investigations free of cost for financially disadvantaged senior citizens during medical emergencies, with the district administration bearing the expenditure in such cases.

The DC gave a patient hearing to individual grievances and assured that all genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely redressal.

The senior citizens appreciated the district administration for providing them a platform to highlight their concerns and called for continued coordination and follow-up.

DC Shopian visits PARESHA Girls' Home, One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women

KT News Desk



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Saturday visited PARESHA, Child Care Institution (Girls' Home), Shopian, and the One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women at Heemal Administrative Complex, Old DC Office, Shopian, to assess the functioning, facilities and welfare services being provided at the institutions.

During his visit to PARESHA, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, interacted with the girls residing at the institution. The girls introduced themselves and shared their interests, hobbies and future aspirations. He listened to their concerns, enquired about their basic needs and encouraged them to overcome life's challenges through education, hard work and perseverance, emphasising that their circumstances should never limit their aspirations.

Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian, the DC inspected the accommodation, mess, classrooms, library and other facilities. He reviewed food quality, hygiene, the menu and mess roster, and directed proper cleanliness and upkeep of the campus.

The girls requested improved sports facilities, including an outdoor gym, a small playground and a badminton court. Taking note of their demands, the DC stressed the need to strengthen sports and recreational facilities to promote their physical fitness and overall development.

During his visit to the art and craft classroom, the girls showcased their creative work. Appreciating their talent, the DC encouraged innovative activities, particularly 'Waste to Wonder' projects using cardboard, sand art and other materials. He directed the concerned art and craft teacher to enhance the quality of their work, improve classroom furnishing and organise exhibitions to provide a platform for showcasing their creativity.

At the library, he reviewed the available books and catalogue and directed that newspapers be made available regularly to encourage reading habits and enhance the girls' general awareness.

Interacting with the staff, the DC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts, dedication and a compassionate approach towards the care and development of the girls. He underscored the need for every staff member to discharge their assigned responsibilities diligently and work in close coordination to ensure a safe, supportive and enabling environment, with the welfare and overall development of the inmates remaining the foremost priority.

District CAPEX Budget 2026-27

Progress of developmental works reviewed in Kupwara

KT News Desk



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 21: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Chodhary, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27.

During the meeting, the ADDC undertook a detailed department-wise and work-wise review of the ongoing projects and took stock of the progress achieved so far. He directed all concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of all approved works within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing the importance of quality and accountability, the ADDC stressed that all developmental works must be executed strictly in accordance with the prescribed technical specifications and quality standards. He also called for regular field inspections and effective monitoring of the projects to ensure transparency, accountability and optimal utilization of public funds.

The ADDC reviewed the progress of works across various sectors and funding components, including PRI Grants, BDC Grants, DDC Grants, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health, APDS, ABDS, SSY, UT CAPEX (Tribal), UT CAPEX (Revenue), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and MPLADS.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain close coordination with the executing agencies, promptly address bottlenecks, if any, and ensure that the benefits of developmental initiatives reach the people in a timely and effective manner.

Kashmir Thunder

Govt's critics were happy over gas supply fears amid West Asia conflict: PM Modi

PTI



Lucknow, Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a veiled dig at his political opponents and claimed that they were happy over the threat posed by the West Asia conflict to gas supplies. However, the government's efforts ensured the country was prepared for the crisis, he added.

He also highlighted the "shortage of plumbers" for laying the PNG (piped natural gas) pipelines in the country.

"Gas supplies got affected as the war in West Asia began. A crisis loomed due to doubts about LPG availability, and 'khaas premi log (those who love us dearly)' were happy.

"You would have seen what was said then (by the critics), that gas wouldn't be available, that stoves wouldn't burn and that there would be queues outside petrol pumps. You would have heard all that. But none of it happened," Modi said while speaking at the fifth National Skill Convocation Ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow on Saturday evening.

Referring to the Hormuz crisis, he said, "As the crisis began to unfold in Hormuz, doubts intensified on LPG's availability. But we too wanted to avoid getting caught off-guard. We also wanted to be proactive, and that is when the government decided to provide one lakh PNG (piped natural gas) connections daily to urban households."

"Orders were issued to ensure that one lakh PNG connections daily were ensured. And I would hold a review meeting in this connection because I was anxious to come up with a contingency plan before any big trouble hit us," Modi said.

He said during the review meeting he would find only about 22,000 to 23,000 PNG connections being provided and said he was baffled to discover the reason for the inability of officials to meet the target despite the fact that the government was willing to fund the initiative.

"Do you know what the answer I got? That this was due to lack of plumbers," he said, gesturing at the students from ITIs who had assembled for the convocation and who let out a collective roar and burst into applause as the PM urged them to remember the power a skilled workforce possesses.

"What this means is if you are skilled, you have many greater employment options," he said while recalling his visit to West Asian countries whose leaders admit to the utility of India's skilled workforce in their nations.

"The vibrancy of Dubai, the dazzling Abu Dhabi, all of these were the result of the skill and hard work of Indians," Modi said, adding that India was on its way to becoming the global skill capital.

Shaleen Kabra inaugurates IMPARD badminton championship

KT News Desk



Srinagar, Nov 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD) is organising a two-day Badminton Championship on 21st and 22nd November, 2026 for the Officer Trainees (OTs) of the three services undergoing the Joint Foundation Course at its Main Campus, Srinagar.

The championship forms part of the Institute's endeavour to promote holistic development, physical fitness, mental well-being, team spirit and camaraderie among the Officer Trainees, reinforcing the importance of sports and co-curricular activities as integral components of professional training.

The championship was inaugurated by Director General, J&K IMPARD, Shaleen Kabra, who emphasised that sports play a vital role in developing discipline, leadership, resilience, mutual respect and a healthy spirit of competition. He observed that these qualities are equally important for officers entrusted with responsibilities in public administration, financial governance and law enforcement.

Shaleen Kabra reiterated the Institute's commitment to providing a holistic training environment that extends beyond conventional classroom learning and contributes to the overall personality development of future public servants.

The Director General on this occasion said that IMPA will be developed as a vibrant hub of professional interaction, learning and extracurricular activities for civil servants across different services and batches. The Institute envisages making sports, cultural programmes, intellectual engagements and inter-batch interaction a permanent feature.

Shaleen Kabra also appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Tazayun Mukhtar, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, for facilitating the requisite infrastructure and making the Indoor Stadium available for the championship.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Officer Trainees, including cross-batch participation involving officers from previous batches, providing an opportunity to strengthen inter-service bonds, foster fellowship and promote sportsmanship through healthy competition.

Through such initiatives, J&K IMPARD continues to reinforce its commitment to nurturing well-rounded, disciplined and effective public servants.

DC Ramban reviews progress of work on NH-44 four-laning project

KT News Desk



Ramban, Nov 21: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan on Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of ongoing works under the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) four-laning project between Ramban-Banihal stretch. He took stock of the progress of key infrastructure works and reviewed measures for ensuring smoother, safer and hassle-free traffic movement along the vital highway.

SSP Traffic National Highway Wing K.M. Priyanka; Project Director NHAI Shubham Yadav and other concerned officers and representatives from executing agencies accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the inspection.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned agencies to make the Nachilana–Kishtwari Pathar Viaduct operational by the end of November, emphasising that its timely opening would significantly improve traffic movement and enhance connectivity along this strategically important stretch of NH-44.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing construction of the second tube of the Panthyal Tunnel, directing the executing agency to expedite the remaining works and make the tunnel operational by the end of the current month, without compromising on construction quality and safety standards.

He further instructed the concerned agencies to create essential commuter facilities, including passenger sheds and toilet facilities at designated locations along the highway, for the convenience of passengers and other road users.

Emphasising the strategic and economic importance of NH-44 as the principal road link connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and agencies to maintain close coordination, remove bottlenecks, accelerate the pace of execution and ensure tangible progress on the ground within the stipulated timelines.

Successfully demonstrated vehicle-mounted anti-tank guided missile system: Adani Defence

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 21: Adani Defence and Aerospace has "successfully demonstrated" a vehicle-mounted anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan, the firm shared on Saturday.

"The programme validated day and night engagements, a two-missile tandem firing along a single beam against a target representing an armoured vehicle, and an aerial-target engagement at an extended range. It was followed by a static display of the complete system," it said in a statement.

Senior representatives of the Indian Army, Department of Military Affairs and Ministry of Defence witnessed the 'No Cost No Commitment' (NCNC) demonstration at Pokhran on November 20.

Built for the Indian battlefield, Bagheera AT1 is the outcome of 18 months of design and development, during which Adani Defence customised the missile system for the Indian terrain, climate and operational requirements, the firm said.

"The result is a complete combat system comprising the missile, automated launcher, day and night sights, mounted on an Adani Defence-designed 4x4 high-mobility armoured vehicle," it added.

The Adani Group's flagship defence and aerospace company, according to the statement, "successfully demonstrated" Bagheera AT1 -- vehicle-mounted ATGM system at the Pokhran field firing ranges.

India's requirement for modern anti-tank guided missiles remains substantial, with "reported gaps" in the ATGM inventory underscoring the need for continued modernisation, the firm said.

Enumerating Bagheera AT1's features, the company said the anti-tank engagement has a range of 8 km, with the wider missile architecture capable of supporting guided engagements of up to 10 km.

"The missile rides a laser beam rather than relying on a radio link, making it highly resistant to electronic jamming on a battlefield increasingly shaped by drones and electronic warfare," it said.

Two missiles can be fired in quick succession along the same beam at a single target. The first engages the tank's Active Protection System (APS), while the second is designed to penetrate its defences, the statement said.

"Four ready-to-fire missiles on the automated launcher and eight reloads onboard provide a total capacity of 12 missiles per vehicle," it added.

Additionally, the system has integrated day television and thermal-imaging sights with automated target tracking, the firm said, adding that the crew engages from cover and relocates quickly to reduce exposure to enemy fire.

The system can also engage aerial targets at an "extended range".

Recent conflicts have underscored the importance of range and mobility in armoured engagements, the firm said.

Bagheera AT1 offers the Indian Army "an additional long-range, mobile ground capability alongside man-portable and helicopter-launched missiles," it said.

"The programme builds lasting national capacity to integrate, manufacture, support and progressively indigenise advanced anti-armour systems, reducing dependence on emergency imports," the firm stated.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No local terrorist

I can proudly tell the entire nation that the abrogation of Article 370 has put an end to the sentiment of separatism among the youth of Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

Recruitment row

thorough probe into the alleged paper leak syndicate.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an inauguration ceremony in Srinagar, Mirwaiz expressed serious concern over recurring allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations, saying such incidents were playing with the future of thousands of educated youth. He called for a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation, stressing that allegations of scams and cheating amounted to grave injustice to aspirants who spend years preparing for competitive examinations.

On the continuing rotten meat controversy, Mirwaiz questioned the outcome of previous investigations and sought answers from the government about action taken against those responsible. "Merely seizing and destroying rotten meat is not enough. Those playing with people's health and lives must be exposed and brought to justice," he said, calling for a social boycott of those proven to be involved.

Former MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who joined protesting students at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar, described recruitment corruption as "worse than murder" and accused successive administrations of playing football with the careers of unemployed youth. "The students are not joining with me. I am joining with the students. I am not leading this," Ruhullah said, demanding that "heads should roll" and alleging that a network had developed over the past five to eight years to facilitate compromises in recruitment processes.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani defended the government, saying authorities had taken cognisance wherever wrongdoing was reported and proceedings were underway. He accused the PDP of avoiding questions about its own record, saying, "They were in government after 2014. What did they do here?"

Congress MLA from Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat termed the alleged paper leaks a serious failure of the system, calling for transparency and accountability in recruitment institutions.

Education Minister Shameema Firdous said strict action would follow if irregularities were established in the JKSSB Finance Accounts Assistant examination, asserting that an inquiry had already been ordered.

Earlier, police dismantled an alleged hi-tech cheating racket during the examination in Jammu, arresting 14 suspects, including four government employees, and seizing wireless radio sets and mobile phones.

A Special Investigation Team is probing the wider network. Student Sahil Parray, at the protest site, demanded a transparent examination system and a level playing field, recalling that three JKSSB examinations were cancelled in 2022 and 2023 over irregularities. (KNO)

Actively engage

on his experience of governing Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah emphasised that trust between citizens and the government is fundamental to development and effective administration.

Inviting young graduates to look at Jammu and Kashmir beyond its tourism potential, he encouraged them to engage with the region as investors, educators, and innovators.

"When young professionals from Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai collaborate with young minds from Srinagar and Jammu, we strengthen the fabric of the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister also shared five guiding principles with the graduating students, emphasising the importance of listening before leading, creating opportunities for others, exercising strategic patience, maintaining uncompromising integrity, and nurturing lifelong curiosity. He urged the graduates to view their degrees not merely as academic achievements, but as a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

During the convocation, IILM University conferred honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees (Honoris Causa) upon three distinguished personalities—former Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Motors Limited Ravi Kant, eminent educationist Dasho Arun Kapur, and Dr. V. L. Indira Dutt—alongside awarding doctoral degrees, Dr. Kulwant Rai Gold Medals, and certificates of merit to graduating scholars across various disciplines.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Amoncar delivered the Welcome Address, Chancellor P. Dwarakanath formally declared the Convocation open and addressed the gathering, and Chairperson Malvika Rai felicitated the Chief Guest. (KNO)

Dry spell to continue

lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.4 degrees Celsius each, while Bhaderwah registered the lowest night temperature in Jammu division at 3.6 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, against the normal of 0.7 degrees, while Qazigund settled at 2.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at 0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 3.1 degrees Celsius.

Among other automatic weather stations, Shopian recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 0.5 degrees Celsius and Srinagar minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

The department said weather remained dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours till 8:30 am on Saturday, with no rainfall or snowfall recorded at the reporting stations.

The department has not issued any weather warning for Kashmir or Jammu divisions for the next seven days, with the warning-impact outlook remaining nil throughout the forecast period.

The MeT department has advised people to keep track of subsequent weather updates as temperatures are expected to fall towards the closing days of November. (KNO)

Ladakh records 70.03%

21 in Leh and 17 in Kargil. Polling was conducted in all 21 wards of Leh, while four wards in Kargil were filled unopposed and polling was held in the remaining 13 wards.

Election authorities made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of polling across Ladakh's geographically dispersed areas. In Zanskar, helicopter services were deployed to airlift polling teams to three remote and road-inaccessible polling stations, enabling the conduct of elections in some of the most isolated settlements. Polling personnel, security agencies and officials of various departments worked in close coordination to facilitate the electoral process.

The elections mark an important step towards the constitution of elected Panchayats and Municipal Councils across Ladakh, which will provide representative platforms for addressing local development priorities, civic amenities and public services.

The overwhelming participation in the first local-body elections since the formation of the Union Territory marks a significant milestone in Ladakh's democratic journey, laying a strong foundation for democratic decentralisation, representative institutions, participatory governance and accountable local self-government. (KNO)

Govt allows stipend

all applicable conditions.

The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) welcomed the decision, however, it said enhancement of stipends, in parity with other states and Union Territories, remains its primary demand.

Dr Abhishek Mittal, chief adviser of AIMSA while welcoming the decision said the focus remains on the stipend hike, which is a major demand of resident doctors. (KNO)

PM says India has shown it can break limits, unlock possibilities



PTI

Kharagpur (WB), Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India has shown over the past 12 years that breaking barriers in thinking can help the country realise its potential, create opportunities and empower the poor.

Addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of IIT Kharagpur, the country's first Indian Institute of Technology, here, Modi said India had declared "loud and clear" its resolve to "break the limits and unlock the possibilities".

"The nation only understands its capacity when it breaks its limits and unlocks the possibilities," he said.

The Prime Minister said that over the last 12 years, his government had worked to break existing limitations and empower the poor. "Earlier, people used to talk about removing poverty from the Red Fort, but they never did anything except making files," he said.

Referring to a World Bank report, Modi claimed that around 50 crore people had come out of poverty in the last 12-13 years, describing it as a result of a change in the country's approach and thinking.

"The country discovers its capabilities only when it breaks the boundaries of thinking. Over the past few years, India has shown exactly that," he said.

Modi said West Bengal was a land where ideas had gained strength, and national movements had taken shape, adding that IIT Kharagpur stood on a site that once housed a detention camp for freedom fighters.

He urged students to draw inspiration from the lives, thoughts and activities of freedom fighters who were detained at the site.

"Imagine what the freedom fighters who stayed here must have talked about and thought about all day," he told the students, adding that their ideas and sacrifices continued to inspire generations.

The PM said the institution had completed 75 years of its journey and achieved several milestones during this period.

India, too, had witnessed tremendous transformation over these decades, moving "from bullock carts to bullet trains, from postal letters to social media messages", he said.

As India moves towards the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat', IIT Kharagpur's 75 years of experience would play a significant role in the country's development and innovation ecosystem, Modi said.

The institute's contribution to education, research and technological advancement would be important in shaping India's future, he added.

PM inaugurates bridge named after Nitish Kumar in Bihar

PTI

Hajipur (Bihar), Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated a bridge, named after former Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, over the Ganga in Vaishali district.

After its inauguration, Modi, accompanied by Governor Syed Ata Hasnain, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Union Minister Chirag Paswan, and Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Choudhary, walked on the bridge for a few minutes.

The PM also waved to the crowd with a 'gamcha'.

The six-lane bridge, which connects Bidupur block in Vaishali to Kachhi Dargah on the outskirts of Patna, has been named 'Nitish Setu', in deference to the former chief minister, on whose watch the project was conceived and came close to completion.

The bridge has been built at a cost of around Rs 4,280 crore.

The project connects Kachhi Dargah on National Highway 22 in Patna district with Bidupur on NH-322 in Vaishali. It comprises a 9.76-km main bridge and 10 km of approach roads, officials said.

Amit Shah congratulates NCB, US DEA on success of joint operation against drugs



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the DEA of the United States on Saturday on the exemplary success of Operation Monsoon Thunder to scuttle cross-border drug trafficking, terming it a "testament to the power of the India-US partnership in curbing the menace of drugs".

Six members of a transnational drug-trafficking network were arrested recently during a joint operation, codenamed "Operation Monsoon Thunder", carried out by the NCB and the DEA.

In a post on X, Shah said, "Heartiest congratulations to the NCB and the US DEA on the exemplary success of Operation Monsoon Thunder, jointly launched to scuttle cross-border drug trafficking."

"The arrests made and seizures effected in India and the US under this campaign stand as a testament to the power of the India-US partnership in curbing the menace of drugs. Under the leadership of PM Modi Ji, we are firmly committed to ensuring that neither a gram of narcotics enters India nor leaves for other countries," he said.

Six members of a transnational drug-trafficking network involved in the illegal supply of psychotropic substances and opioid medicines to consumers across America were arrested during the joint operation by the NCB and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

A statement issued by the NCB on Friday said as part of Operation Monsoon Thunder, the federal agency raided locations in Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow between November 4 and November 13.

Six people, including a woman, were arrested following the searches. The action resulted from shared intelligence inputs between the NCB and the DEA, the statement said.

India's strength lies in embracing, respecting diverse cultures: VP

PTI

Pune, Nov 21: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Saturday said India's strength lies in welcoming, respecting and embracing different cultures.

Addressing the 23rd convocation ceremony of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) in Pune, Radhakrishnan said it was a memorable occasion to see students from different nations receiving degrees and carrying with them memories of Indian hospitality, culture, friendship and exchange of knowledge.

Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil were also present.

"It is a pleasure to see students from different countries coming together to celebrate India's cultural heritage while showcasing the diversity of their own traditions," Radhakrishnan said.

Over 1 crore HPV vaccines given to 14-year-old girls in nine months: Health Ministry

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 21: India has administered more than one crore doses of the HPV vaccine to 14-year-old girls under its national vaccination campaign in less than nine months, covering nearly 87 per cent of the identified annual target, the Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The nationwide HPV vaccination campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February this year, provides free, voluntary and single-dose vaccination to 14-year-old girls at designated government health facilities with parental consent.

The annual target cohort comprises around 1.2 crore girls, based on Registrar General of India (RGI) 2021 population estimates.

Six states -- Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar -- have achieved 100 per cent coverage of their identified target populations, the ministry said.



Among other states, Assam has recorded 95.63 per cent coverage, followed by Telangana (95.28 per cent), Karnataka (93.16 per cent) and Uttarakhand (90.17 per cent).

Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have crossed the 80 per cent mark with 86.21 per cent and 85.23 per cent coverage, respectively.

Kerala has recorded 77.02 per cent coverage, Tamil Nadu 76.12 per cent, Odisha 74.90 per cent and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 72.99 per cent.

In absolute numbers, Uttar Pradesh leads with more than 29.33 lakh girls vaccinated, followed by Bihar with over 13.70 lakh and Gujarat with more than 7.75 lakh, according to the ministry.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FORMATION OF NEW FIRM

It is brought to the notice of the general public that Feroz Ali, S/o Ali Mohammad Gami, R/o Shah Hamdan Colony, Eidgah Rathpora, Srinagar, J&K, India, is in the process of establishing/incorporating a new firm under the name and style of "Wooden Interior A S Khatamband Works Private Limited", located near Ali Jan Road / Aiwa Kadal, Eidgah, Srinagar.

If any individual, department, authority, or financial institution has any objection, claim, or right regarding the registration, trade name, land/premises usage, or operation of the aforementioned firm, they are hereby requested to lodge their objection in writing along with supporting documentary evidence within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection or claim will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period of seven days, and it will be presumed that no party has any objection to the creation/registration of the said firm.

Contact Details for Objections:
Phone: +91 99060 08949 / +91 70062 51177

Feroz Ali
(Promoter / Director)
Shah Hamdan Colony, Eidgah Rathpora, Srinagar, J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name SALEEMA HASSAN enlisted in my bank account is however my actaul name as per my Aadhaar card is SALEEMA BEGUM. Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Ganderbal within a period of 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: SALEEMA BEGUM
W/O: GH HASSAN SOFI
R/O: SALOORA ganderbal . Account number.SB 21994

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 VENITA KUMAR SD/W/SH SUSHIL KUMAR Resident of 2-3 SECTOR-21 JALVAYU VIHAR NOIDA GB NAGAR UP inspect of LMV/Three wheeler/Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bering Rog No UP16AF7909 Chassis No MALITA2HFNB2G11122 Engine No HF84638620 in favour of: NOOR MOHD MIR son/wife/daughter of GRULAM AHMAD MIR R/O CHEERWAN 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/...
Dated.

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Danish Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Najar, R/o Khranihama, Lar, Ganderbal, hereby inform the general public that I intend to apply for a Fertilizer Licence in the name and style of "NAJAR FERTILIZERS", situated at Khranihama, Lar, Ganderbal.

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the Chief Agricultural Officer, Ganderbal, within the stipulated period. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Danish Bashir
S/o Bashir Ahmad Najar
R/o Khranihama, Lar, Ganderbal



IN THE COURT OF I/C ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Zareena Bano D/o Altaf Ahmad Khawaja Kakru
R/o Anderwan District Ganderbal
Applicant
V/S
bile Magis
Registrar, Births and Deaths, Block Lar
Responde
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3A) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public
PROCLAMATION
1) The instant application came to be filed before this court on under Section 13 (3A) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely Zareena Bano D/o Altaf Ahmad
2) Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the general public be called for issuance of birth certificate in favour of the above named person.
3) Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days, to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced
I/C ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE
GANDERBAL

IN THE COURT OF INCHARGE ADDITIONAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE AT GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the case of
Mohammad Zeeshan War(Minor) S/o Mehraj Ud Din War Through his father namely Mehraj Ud Din War S/o Late Ghulam Hassan War
R/o Gadoora Ganderbal
...Applicant
Through: Ishfaq Maqbool And Associates
Vs.
UT of J&K Through Registrar Births and Deaths/Block Development officer Ganderbal
...Non applicant
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 12(3A) of the registration of births and deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public
PROCLAMATION
1. The instant application came to be filed before this court on 19.11.2026 under Section 13 (3)(a) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely Mohammad Zeeshan War
2. Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the general public be called for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of the above named person.
3. Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days, to the issuance of such certificate failing which this court shall proceed in accordance with law

Announced 21.11.2026

Magistrate I/C/Ad.Sp Mobile M Adi. Sp Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Correct my name in my driving license bearing No: JK-0119910056689 from ZAHOOR AHMAD SHEIKH S/o GH HASSAN SHEIKH TO SHEIKH ZAHOOR HASSAN S/O SHEIKH GH HASSAN (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 . SHEIKH ZAHOOR HASSAN S/O SHEIKH GH HASSAN R/O SALOORA GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 0205010009422 . from GHULAM RASOOL GUROO S/O MOHD RAJAB GUROO TO GHULAM RASOOL GUJREE S/O MOHD RAJAB GUROO If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision GANDERBAL PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name . GHULAM RASOOL GUJREE S/O MOHD RAJAB GURJEE R/O SHAHPORA GANDERBAL

Kashmir Thunder

EPAPER.KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN
KASHMIRTHUNDER.IN

Climate talks enter overtime as countries struggle to agree on response to global warming

AP



Antalya (Turkiye), Nov 21 : Work crews were boxing up the venue of this year's United Nations climate talks in Turkiye, as negotiators went into overtime on Saturday in an attempt to reach a final agreement to address global warming. But hopes are slim that additional discussions will result in concrete plans to drastically slash the use of fossil fuels.

The added day of talks came as the two-week annual summit, called COP31, which was supposed to end Friday, drew strong condemnation from activists and some countries for failing to mention fossil fuels in a draft of the final agreement. The final document is meant to address how the world will deal with climate change, which is contributing to devastating heat waves, floods and other disasters.

To avert the most catastrophic effects of warming, experts said the world needs to urgently and drastically cut emissions from the use of coal, oil and gas. In the lead up to these talks, the UN announced that the world will likely blow past the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures.

"No one knows what is happening behind closed doors, or what the outcome of COP31 will be," said Teresa Anderson, global lead on climate justice at ActionAid International.

Climate talks go into overtime

Inside an area of the COP31 venue known as the "pavilions," where countries showcased their climate policies and hosted panel discussions, workers were packing up electronics and other belongings Saturday morning.

The hallways, normally bustling with participants, stood largely empty, with only a handful of security guards seen taking photos in front of the deserted pavilions. "COP31 is in a bleak overtime, with dwindling food and water, and no sign of any progress since the alarmingly underwhelming texts we saw earlier," said Rachel Cleetus from the Union of Concerned Scientists, who is at the venue in the Mediterranean coastal city of Antalya.

Earlier during the summit, the nonprofit Climate Action Tracker warned that progress on slowing global warming has stalled for the past five years, even as disasters – including this year's heat waves in Europe and flooding in Nepal – become more deadly.

Countries most vulnerable to climate change, including small island nations whose lands are battered by rising seas, also say wealthy nations that caused the climate crisis must contribute more to UN funds to help them recover from disasters and adapt to a warmer world.

The United States, a major polluter and the world's largest economy, did not participate directly in this year's talks.

Next year's climate summit is scheduled to take place in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, in November 2027.

Criticism of COP31 grows

On Friday, a protester wearing a red noose around his neck and a vest emblazoned with the slogan "you are killing the future" interrupted official COP proceedings by clambering onto a table and shouting "You take out fossil fuels. You killed 1.5. There is no money. Just kill me now. The Global South cannot wait."

The Global South is a term that isn't geographical, but a reference to developing countries in general.

"You keep doing nothing at all. Nothing at all. Kill me now. Kill me now," the protester shouted as he was escorted out of the room by security.

The demonstration interrupted Turkiye's Minister of Environment and COP31 co-president Murat Kurum, who said "let's try to maintain the peace in the room" before continuing with his scheduled remarks.

"Yesterday, of course, this place was buzzing and today it's nearly empty. But all the key negotiators are here, civil society is here watching the negotiations and waiting for the next iteration of the text," said Harjeet Singh, a strategic adviser to the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, who has attended 18 climate summits.

"We are still stuck with many, many disagreements and nobody knows how long this will go on," he said.

Trump says China's nuclear buildup is accelerating after meeting with Xi



AP

Washington, Nov 21 : Beijing is building nuclear weapons at a "hot and heavy" pace, President Donald Trump said, a day after he met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin and the three countries agreed to talks on preventing nuclear proliferation.

While Russia and the US lead the world by each possessing thousands of nuclear weapons, China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal.

In its annual review of China's military buildup, the Pentagon said China's stockpile of nuclear warheads remained in the low 600s through 2024, but the country was on track to have more than 1,000 warheads by 2030.

"They'll catch us within 10 years," Trump said of China's nuclear buildup during a news conference at the White House on Friday. "They're going at it hot and heavy, but they have a lot."

Trump's public remarks were his first since his controversial summit with Xi and Putin, leaders of countries long considered US rivals, in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Thursday. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who spoke to reporters alongside Trump on Friday, said it was imperative for the three nuclear powers to talk.

"These three countries possess the overwhelming majority of nuclear weapons on this planet," Rubio said. "The idea that these three leaders should not engage on a regular basis is not just absurd, it's dangerous."

After the trilateral meeting, the leaders issued a joint statement, saying they "affirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" and "will conduct a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons".

Prior to the meeting, observers had doubted if China would agree to nuclear talks. With a much smaller nuclear arsenal, Beijing had resisted joining nuclear arms control talks with the US and Russia.

Asian Games medallists honoured at Mumbai event

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 21 : India's Asian Games 2026 medal-winning athletes, including track and field stars Vithya Ramraj and Gurindervir Singh, were on Saturday felicitated at an event titled 'Heart of Gold' here.

The event, organised by sports marketing management agency Elite Sports Management, celebrated the achievements and journeys of Vithya, Gurindervir, Harita Bhadra and kabaddi player Aslam Inamdar, recognising their sacrifices, resilience and teamwork behind their success.

Vithya was among the standout performers at the Games, winning gold in the women's 4x400m relay, silver in the mixed 4x400m relay and bronze in the 400m hurdles. Her 54.75-second performance in the hurdles was a national record, surpassing the long-standing mark held by PT Usha.

Gurindervir and Harita won bronze as part of India's mixed 4x100m relay team, while the latter also secured a bronze in the women's 200m.

Inamdar was part of India's men's kabaddi team that clinched gold, remaining unbeaten throughout the Games.

RCB target third successive IPL title with limited purse, says Flower

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 21 : Two-time defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru are eyeing a historic third successive IPL title, and head coach Andy Flower said the franchise is comfortable heading into next month's auction with less money to spend than its rivals.

RCB beat Gujarat Titans by five wickets in this year's final in Ahmedabad to successfully defend its title.

The franchise has retained most of its title-winning squad, including Virat Kohli, Josh Hazlewood, Phil Salt and captain Rajat Patidar, and released only five players, including injured England all-rounder Jacob Bethell.

This leaves RCB with Rs 14.15 crore to fill five slots, including one overseas spot, at the auction in Goa on December 16. "We have had two very strong years, and going into the third year of this cycle, we are very confident and comfortable with the squad we have," Flower said on JioStar's 'TATA IPL 2027 Retention Special'. "We have made a few releases and the responsibility at an auction is always to improve your squad, and we will be looking to do that.

But we will be more limited than some of the other sides in the auction when it comes to spending power.

"We are comfortable with that because we have retained the bulk of our squad and a very strong core, the players who have served us so well over the last couple of years. We will be looking for that combination to work well again for us in 2027, and we have a very important season ahead where we can make history by winning three titles in a row."

It wasn't easy to let Ishant go: GT assistant coach Parthiv

Gujarat Titans assistant coach Parthiv Patel said it was not easy to release veteran pacer Ishant Sharma, who did not get a game last season.

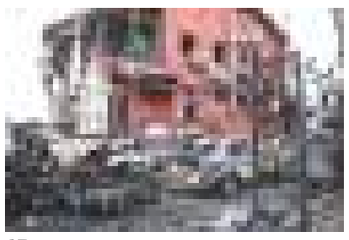
"It is not the easiest of decisions to let go of players, but Ishant Sharma has been with us for the last two seasons, and he was such a great influence on the players.

"For a player who has played 100 Test matches for India to then not get a game in an IPL season is something that is difficult. The same goes for Luke Wood and Connor Esterhuizen. That is the main reason why we have let go of certain players.

"We also have to see that in this three-year cycle since the last mega auction, we have had a good bit of success. We qualified for the playoffs in 2025, we played in the final last season, so there was not much need to let go of a high number of players. We are quite happy with the way things are at the moment as far as our team combination is concerned, so we have not let go of many players," he said. GT signed Harshal Patel from Sunrisers Hyderabad in a trade, and Parthiv said the Gujarat-born pacer would fill the gap left by Ishant.

"Harshal Patel's inclusion is an important addition for us. We have let go of the experience of Ishant Sharma, so we needed someone with that kind of experience in our squad. Harshal is also a player who is from Gujarat. He understands these conditions really well. On top of everything, he brings a lot of quality. He brings that death-bowling specialist role, which we were always looking for," he said.

Russian missile strike on Zelenskyy's hometown kills 2, wounds 60



AP

Kyiv, Nov 21 : A Russian strike on the centre of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, Kryvyi Rih, killed two people and wounded 60 others, local officials said Saturday.

A 7-year-old boy and a 20-year-old woman were killed in the attack Friday night on the city in central Ukraine, Oleksandr Vilkul, the head of the city administration, wrote on Telegram. Oleksandr Hanzha, head of the regional military administration, said 60 people were wounded, including six children. The strike caused four fires and damaged about 25 apartment buildings, a hospital, schools and an industrial facility, as well as businesses and vehicles, Vilkul said.

The attack fits the pattern of Moscow's heavy responses to eye-catching Ukrainian attacks, such as the ones this week on the Kerch Bridge linking Russia to illegally annexed Crimea.

The missile attack came hours after two Russian missiles and a suspected drone came down in Poland, in what its prime minister said was likely a provocation timed to coincide with European military exercises in his country for a possible postwar mission in Ukraine.

European troops were taking part Friday in an unprecedented two-week military exercise that began November 9 in southeastern Poland. Forces are preparing for a possible postwar mission in Ukraine aimed at helping to stabilise the country and rebuild its military.

Jr National Badminton: Shaina Manimuthu retains girls' singles crown, Gnana Dattu bags boys' singles title

ANI



Gangtok, Nov 21: Top seed and defending champion Shaina Manimuthu of Karnataka once again underlined her class to pack off statemate Lakshya Rajesh to retain the girls' singles crown, while Gnana Dattu TT came up with a triumph in an all-Telangana boys' singles final against Akhil Reddy Bobba in the 49th National Junior (U-19) Badminton Championships in Gangtok on Saturday. Shaina was in control throughout against Lakshya as she won the final 15-10, 15-12 to retain the crown she had won last year in Imphal, Arunachal Pradesh.

The boys' singles final witnessed a neck-and-neck contest in the opening game, but once Gnana Dattu edged past Akhil, he took control of the second to win 17-15, 15-11 in just under half an hour.

Chhattisgarh's Divyansh Agrawal began his quest for a double crown with a convincing win in the mixed doubles final as he and Varna Prabhuanand of Tamil Nadu defeated Amitb Raj Natraj and Suhina Roy 15-12, 15-8.

However, the combination of Divyansh and Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam could not find a way past second seeds Punith S and Pavan S. The Karnataka twins won the boys doubles final 16-14, 15-9. Top seeds Diya Bheemaiah B and Baruni Parshwal clinched the girls doubles crown, beating seventh seeds Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera 10-15, 15-12, 15-12 in the only match of the day that went into a decider.

Earlier on Friday, Shaina had to fight hard to get the better of 2025 Asian U-17 gold medallist Diksha SR 15-12, 15-17, 17-15 in a 45-minute encounter while Lakshya, seeded eighth, upset second seed Parul Choudhary of Rajasthan 15-10, 15-7 in the semifinals.

In the boys' singles semifinal, Gnana Dattu eased past Rudhar Pratap Singh Rana 15-7, 15-6 while Akhil Reddy upset second seed Bornil Akash Changmai 15-13, 7-15, 15-6 to set up an all-Telangana summit clash.

Chhattisgarh's Divyanshu Agarwal will have a chance to grab a double crown after he made it to the boys' and mixed doubles finals.

Results:

Boys' singles: 7-Gnana Dattu TT bt 4-Akhil Reddy Bobba 19-17, 15-11

Boys' doubles: 2-Punith S/Pavan S bt 4-Divyansh Agrawal/Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam 16-14, 15-9

Girls' singles: 1-Shaina Manimuthu bt 8-Lakshya Rajesh 15-10, 15-12

Girls' doubles: 1-Diya Bheemaiah B/Baruni Parshwal bt 7-Aanya Bisht/Angel Punera 10-15, 15-12, 15-12

Mixed Doubles: 2-Divyansh Agrawal/Varna Prabhuanand bt Amith Raj Natraj/Suhina Roy 15-12, 15-8.

