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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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Kashmir shivers as mercury dips further

Shopian freezes at -4.2°C | Dense morning haze, fog affect visibility in Valley parts | Dry weather forecast for next six days

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 25: Kashmir continued to reel under intense cold conditions on Wednesday as temperatures dipped further across the Valley, with Shopian recording the season's lowest minimum so far at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius. Several parts of the Valley also witnessed fog and hazy conditions during the early morning hours, prompting commuters to drive cautiously amid reduced visibility.

According to the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Department forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the next six days, offering little respite from the prevailing cold conditions.

According to data shared by the Meteorological Department and accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar's minimum temperature was 2.0 degrees below the seasonal normal. Srinagar Airport recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius.

In south Kashmir, Pahalgam recorded minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Pulwama at minus 3.5 degrees, Anantnag at minus 2.8 degrees, and Qazigund and Konibal at minus 2.4 degrees each. Kokernag and Kulgam recorded minimum temperatures of 0.2 and 0.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In north | More on P6

Sainik schools nurturing leadership: LG Sinha

Says uniform symbol of service, responsibility, sacrifice | Asserts India's future in safe hands | Inaugurates multi-utility indoor sports arena at Nagrota

Yogesh



Nagrota, Nov 25: Praising Sainik Schools for their contribution towards the nation Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that these institutions have played a vital role in nurturing leadership, discipline, national unity, and commitment towards the armed forces.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the newly constructed multi-utility indoor sports arena at Sainik School Nagrota, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Nation looks to its youth as future soldiers, civil servants, scientists, sportspersons, healthcare professionals, and nation-builders."

He said that irrespective of the field they choose, success rests on the values of character, discipline, hard work, and commitment to national service.

LG Sinha also paid tribute to the brave personnel of the armed Forces who made the supreme sacrifice for the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence in the younger generation, stating that India's future is in safe hands.

Highlighting the significance of the new sports facility, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Indoor Sports Arena represents the nation's faith in the aspirations of youth. "The arena will provide uninterrupted training opportunities throughout the year and enable cadets to pursue sporting excellence in disciplines such as badminton, basketball, and table tennis, regardless of weather conditions."

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the ICICI Foundation for establishing the arena through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support. He observed that nation-building is a collective responsibility involving government, educational institutions, industry, society, and citizens.

He said that similar partnerships would benefit educational institutions, especially in remote areas of Jammu Kashmir.

UNIFORM | More on P6

Beyond the schedule

Power cuts in Kashmir exceed revised curtailment plan

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 25: Even after announcing the revised curtailment schedule, the Power Development Department (PDD) 'enforces forced curtailment beyond the schedule' across rural and urban areas of Kashmir.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that over the past week, the department on average was supplying over 1600 MW, and nearly 1800 MW during peak hours.

"For the past week, we have been supplying nearly 1600-1650 MW power on average. However, the peak power demand surges to nearly 1850-1870 MW," the official said.

The official further said, "Roughly, the department is facing a power shortage of more than 200 MW and during that time the department is resorting to forced curtailment."

"We usually cut the power supply to nearly 2-3 power grids on an average during the limited power availability of power. Typically, the forced curtailment lasts for nearly 30-40 minutes," the official said.

It also said that the department is getting an additional 330 MW of power from the month of December till Feb-2027.

As already reported, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of over 16 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December. | More on P6

CM Omar pushes to diversify renewable energy mix

Sets deadlines for completion of solar, hydro, science projects



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday called for Jammu and Kashmir's transition towards clean energy, ensure time-bound completion of key projects and to optimise the utilisation of renewable energy infrastructure to deliver tangible benefits to the people.

Chairing a review meeting of the department at the Civil Secretariat here, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Science and Technology, took stock of the progress of major initiatives, institutional activities and ongoing | More on P6

PUBLIC SERVICES GUARANTEE ACT

CM calls for stronger accountability in service delivery

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday called for strengthening the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011, with a renewed focus on accountability, timely delivery of services and effective grievance redressal mechanisms.

Chairing a review meeting of the General | More on P6

Union Home Secy, Dir IB to visit J&K today



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Jammu, Nov 25: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Director Intelligence Bureau Mahesh Dixit are scheduled to visit Jammu on Thursday to attend a high-level security review meeting, sources said.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the meeting will be attended by chiefs | More on P6

MHA examining fresh proposal for more border bunkers: Chief Secy

Directs preparation of Maa Mangla Mata Shrine development plan | Takes up healthcare, education, sports and connectivity demands



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Rajouri, Nov 25: Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav said on Wednesday said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is examining a fresh proposal for additional border bunkers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while taking stock of security and developmental requirements of border residents at 'Vibrant Village' Bhawani in Rajouri district informed them that fresh proposal for additional border bunkers stands submitted to the MHA and it is at an "advanced stage of consideration." | More on P6

Nothing has happened to Sheshnag, BRO carrying out work on existing 12-ft track: Govt

Committed to protecting environment: Forest Minister

Jahangeer Ganaie



Anantnag, Nov 25: Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Altaf Kaloo, on Wednesday said that no harm has been caused Seshnag lake and that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is only carrying out work on an existing waking track.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag, Kaloo as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the work being undertaken by the | More on P6

NC accuses BJP, PDP of communalising issue

CM Omar seeks report on alleged violations

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 25: The controversy over alleged environmental damage at Sheshnag Lake has escalated into a political row in Jammu and Kashmir, with the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) trading charges, while the BJP, Congress, CPI(M) and Peoples | More on P6

GMC staff protest, hunger strike continue despite CS assurance

Jahangeer Ganaie

Despite an assurance by Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Tuesday that the long-pending service recruitment rules of non-gazetted employees of five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) would be notified within a month, the agitation continued on Wednesday, with the Coordination Committee deciding to carry forward its protest. The hunger strike by the protesting employees | More on P6

J&K hospitals, dialysis centres face Rs 601 crore in pending PMJAY-SEHAT payments

Warn of service suspension over unpaid scheme dues, seek intervention of LG, CM

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 25: The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and SEHAT scheme in Jammu and Kashmir is facing a prolonged financial crisis, with pending payments to empanelled private hospitals and dialysis centres reaching Rs 601 crore, raising concerns over the sustainability of healthcare services being provided to thousands of beneficiaries.

The scheme, which was introduced as a major healthcare support mechanism for economically weaker sections, has been facing persistent payment-related disruptions since March 2024, following the withdrawal of private insurance company IFFCO Tokio from its implementation process.

Before its withdrawal, IFFCO Tokio was responsible for scrutinising treatment claims and releasing payments to empanelled healthcare institutions under a three-year agreement with the State Health Agency (SHA). However, after reportedly incurring substantial losses, the company exited the arrangement in March 2024, following which hospitals and dialysis centres have been facing prolonged delays in the settlement of their claims.

Since then, healthcare providers have repeatedly flagged the mounting dues, alleging that irregular and inadequate fund releases have made it increasingly difficult for them to maintain uninterrupted services under the government-sponsored health insurance scheme.

Speaking to the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Masood-ul-Hassan, General Secretary of the J&K Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association, said the prolonged withholding of payments had pushed several healthcare institutions towards a serious financial crisis.



"Hospitals and dialysis centres are suffering because of delayed and pending payments, causing enormous financial strain. We are now on the verge of bankruptcy. Despite these difficulties, we are continuing to provide treatment under the scheme and making every possible effort to ensure that beneficiaries are not deprived of healthcare services. However, this situation cannot continue indefinitely, as we have already crossed our financial threshold," he said.

He alleged that the pattern of releasing funds intermittently, followed by another prolonged pause, had become a recurring feature since March 2024.

"Whenever hospitals raise their concerns and the issue gains attention, the government releases some amount for a few days, after which payments are stopped again. Following another month or so, a small amount is released and the process is repeated. This stop-and-go pattern has continued since March 2024," he said.

Dr Masood-ul-Hassan expressed hope that the newly appointed Health Secretary and | More on P6

Mission POSHAN

International Day for elimination of violence against women observed in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, Zone Nowpora, organized a Community Awareness Programme to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

On the occasion, a resource person from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, sensitized the participants about various forms of violence against women, their legal rights and the mechanisms available for seeking justice and support.

The speaker, as per an official statement, highlighted the importance of creating awareness about domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, harassment and other forms of violence faced by women. Detailed information was also shared regarding the legal safeguards available to women, free legal aid services, the role of DLSA and the support mechanisms accessible to women facing violence or abuse.

The participants, particularly women beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN, were encouraged to speak up against violence, seek timely assistance and create awareness within their families and communities about women's rights, dignity and safety.

The programme aimed at empowering women through legal awareness, promoting gender equality and fostering a safe, supportive and violence-free environment for women in society.

Arrangements for JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination reviewed in Anantnag

Officers directed to ensure free, fair, transparent conduct

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Wednesday chaired a meeting with designated Examination Superintendents, Observers, Magistrates, Invigilators and other concerned stakeholders to review the arrangements for the smooth and transparent conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Sub-Inspector recruitment examination, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026, at various designated examination centres across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, emphasised the importance of ensuring a free, fair, transparent and hassle-free examination process. He called for close coordination, effective communication and collective efforts among all departments and officials associated with the examination to ensure that candidates face no inconvenience.

Highlighting the significance of the examination in shaping the career prospects of thousands of aspiring candidates, the DC stressed that every possible measure must be taken to maintain fairness, transparency and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



He directed all designated examination staff to discharge their assigned duties with utmost responsibility, sincerity and professionalism. He also stressed strict compliance with the examination guidelines and instructed the concerned officers to remain vigilant to prevent any malpractice or procedural irregularity.

Officers from key departments, including KPDCL, the Motor Vehicles Department, Traffic Police and other concerned agencies, were directed to extend all necessary logistical and infrastructural support for the smooth conduct of the examination.

Special emphasis was laid on uninterrupted power supply, traffic regulation, transportation arrangements and effective coordination among the departments.

During the meeting, all designated examination functionaries were briefed on their roles and responsibilities, with particular emphasis on adherence to the prescribed SOPs, examination protocols and instructions issued by JKSSB.

It was informed that 13 examination centres have been designated across Anantnag district for the JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination. To ensure effective supervision and monitoring, 13 Observers, 13 Examination Superintendents and 13 Magistrates have been deployed, with more than 4,700 candidates expected to appear in the examination across these centres.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers and officials to ensure seamless coordination and make adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination. He urged them to uphold the credibility and sanctity of the recruitment process.

The meeting was attended by Member JKSSB Showkat Ahmad, ADC, ACR, SDMs, SE KPDCL, DTO, DySP Traffic, DySP Police, ARTO, Examination Superintendents, Observers, Magistrates, Principals and other concerned stakeholders.

MVD Pulwama conducts Traffic Enforcement Drive to enhance Road Safety on Highways, Link Roads

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 25: In line with directions from the Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, an enforcement team from the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO), Pulwama, conducted a road safety inspection drive across multiple locations in the district on Wednesday.

The drive covered major transit points including Nowdal Tral, Awantipora Crossing, IUST Crossing, and the Pulwama–Awantipora Road.

The drive focused on curbing traffic violations to protect commuters, motorists, and pedestrians along the National Highway corridor as well as key internal link roads. During the inspections, the team checked 162 vehicles for standard safety compliance, valid documentation, and road discipline.

A total of 37 challans were issued to violators, leading to the on-spot recovery of approximately Rs 65,000 in compounding fees. In addition, the department blacklisted four Registration Certificates (RCs), suspended two RCs, and recommended three Driving Licenses (DLs) for suspension due to repeated or serious traffic offenses.

Dir Agri Kashmir reviews progress of borewell works



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday chaired a virtual meeting with Director Command Area Kashmir, all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and Assistant Soil Conservation Officers (ASCOs) to review the progress and implementation of borewell works being executed under various schemes across Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Director, as per an official statement, held detailed discussions on the physical and financial progress of borewell projects and took stock of the status of ongoing works, besides reviewing issues and challenges, if any, affecting their timely execution.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening irrigation infrastructure and ensuring adequate water availability for the farming community, the Director stressed the need for expediting the execution of approved borewell works while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of works at the field level, ensure effective coordination among the implementing agencies and take necessary measures for the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

Mission YUVA: DE&CC Kulgam organises Job Fair

Over 700 job seekers participate, 300 vacancies notified by 20 employers

KT News Desk

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Kulgam, under Mission YUVA, Wednesday organised a Job Fair at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Kulgam, to facilitate employment opportunities, career guidance and entrepreneurship support for the youth.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, attended as Guest of Honour.

The Job Fair, as per an official statement, witnessed participation of over 700 job seekers and around 20 employers from different sectors, who notified more than 300 vacancies. Over 300 candidates also registered online for the event, providing them an opportunity to interact directly with prospective employers and explore suitable employment avenues.

As a major highlight, three offer letters were distributed to selected candidates on the spot. Besides, 13 sanction letters under Mission YUVA were distributed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth.

The event also featured active participation of student exhibitors, NRLM members, SHG participants and aspiring entrepreneurs. Various stalls and facilitation counters were established to showcase products and skills and provide information regarding employment, skill development, career counselling and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The Job Fair provided an important platform for strengthening employment linkages between job seekers and employers while promoting career guidance, skill development and entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA.

Mission Vatsalya

Awareness programme on Child Rights, Protection organised at GHSS Plan in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 25: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Plan, Bandipora, to sensitise students about child rights, safety and protection.

During the programme, as per an official statement, students were made aware of important child protection laws, including the POCSO Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Adoption Regulations, and COTPA.

On the occasion, Mission Vatsalya team briefed the students about various schemes and services under Mission Vatsalya, including Sponsorship, Foster Care, Aftercare and Child Helpline (1098).

The programme emphasised the importance of preventing child abuse, exploitation, child labour and substance abuse, while encouraging students to report violations of child rights without fear.

The initiative aimed at promoting awareness about child protection mechanisms and ensuring the safety, dignity and holistic development of children.

Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan

DLSA Budgam organises awareness programme at GBHSS Khansahib

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 25: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with the Education Department Budgam Wednesday organized an awareness programme at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Khansahib, under "Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan", a Pan-India School Awareness Campaign on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organized under the directions of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Tabassum Qadir Parray, with the objective of creating awareness among students and teaching faculty regarding child rights, child protection, personal safety and the legal safeguards available to children under the POCSO Act, 2012. The awareness programme was attended by students and focused on the theme"Mera Bachpan, Mera Adhikar (My Childhood, My Rights)."



The session aimed at educating students about their fundamental rights, the importance of personal safety, prevention of child abuse and exploitation, and the mechanisms available for reporting and addressing instances of abuse. Special emphasis was laid on encouraging children to speak up against any form of inappropriate behaviour or abuse, seek assistance without hesitation and approach trusted adults and appropriate authorities whenever required. During the programme, resource persons Adv. Showkat Majeed and Nisar Ahmad Mir (PLV DLSA) Budgam delivered informative and interactive sessions on various aspects of child rights, child protection and the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012. They sensitized the students about the legal framework for protecting children from sexual offences, the importance of recognizing unsafe situations and the role of educational institutions, parents and society in ensuring a safe, secure and child-friendly environment. The resource persons also highlighted the importance of awareness, prevention and timely intervention in cases involving child abuse, while impressing upon the students that every child has the right to dignity, safety, protection and a childhood free from fear and exploitation.

The programme witnessed active participation from the teaching faculty, DLSA staff members, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and a large number of students, who participated enthusiastically in the awareness session.

The participants were also informed about the NALSA Legal Aid Helpline No. 15100, available 24×7 for free legal assistance and guidance, and the Child Helpline No. 1098, which provides assistance to children in need of care and protection.

Through such awareness initiatives, DLSA Budgam continues to reaffirm its commitment towards promoting child rights, strengthening child protection mechanisms and ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

Office of the Principal
Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Sumbal
District Bandipora (J&K UT)

UDISE:01161904908 PIN:193501

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from reputed and registered dealers/suppliers for the supply of the following furniture items for the Institution:

S.No.	Description of item	Quantity
1.	Good quality chairs with following Specifications:- Solid seasoned hardwood, Well-cushioned seat with backrest and premium quality fabric with high-density PU Foam Properly shaped wooden arm rests with seat height approx.. 450-470 mm, width 450-480mm and seat depth 430-460 mm with load bearing capacity of 120 kgs.	70 No's.
2.	Good quality plastic chairs with following specifications:- Made of high quality virgin polypropylene (PP) Maximum load bearing of 120 kg Smooth, washable and scratch-resistant surface.	40 No's.

Terms and conditions:-
1. The item supplied must be of good quality, durable and conform to the required specifications.
2. The rates quoted should be inclusive of all applicable taxes, transportation and other charges.
3. The supplier must mention the make, model and specifications of the items wherever applicable.
4. The institution reserves the right to inspect the samples before placing supply order.
5. The supply shall be made within the stipulated time after issuance of supply order.
6. Payment shall be released after satisfactory delivery and verification of the item.
7. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
8. The tender should reach the office by 1st December, 2026.

Interested suppliers may submit their quotations in a sealed envelop clearly superscribed "Quotation for Supply of Chairs" alongwith their contact details and relevant registration documents.

No. HSS/5/026/597
Dt. 21.11.2026

Principal
Govt. Higher Secondary School
Sumbal Sonawari

DIPK-7942/26
DATED: 25-11-2026

DGP Prabhat moves to attach land of 5 Pak-based terrorists in Reasi

KNO



Jammu, Nov 25: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat has accorded prior approval for attachment of 28 kanals and 14.5 marlas of land belonging to five Pakistan-based terrorists from Reasi district, after an investigation revealed that they were attempting to sell the properties to generate funds for terrorist activities.

A copy of the order, states that the approval has been granted under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with FIR No. 70/2024 registered at Police Station Mahore.

According to the order, the five accused have been identified as Mohd Qayoom alias Abdul Qayoom, son of Ghulam Mohammad, resident of Shadole (Tehsil Mahore); Bashir Ahmad alias Masoom, son of Qamer Din, resident of Badder; Shokat Ali, son of Roshan Din, resident of Hunder (Tehsil Arnas); Manzoor Ahmad alias Manzoor Hussain, son of Mohd Din, resident of Khanti (Tehsil Thuroo); and Imtyaz Ahmad, son of Mohd Maqbool, resident of Thuroo (Tehsil Thuroo).

The order states that the five accused had exfiltrated to Pakistan for arms and ammunition training and were involved in efforts to revive terrorist activities in the region from across the border.

The investigation revealed that the accused were attempting to sell their landed properties, with the proceeds intended to be used for furtherance of terrorist activities.

The properties identified for attachment comprise 2 kanals and 7.5 marlas belonging to Mohd Qayoom in Shadole, 3 kanals and 8 marlas belonging to Bashir Ahmad in Badder, 3 kanals and 10 marlas belonging to Shokat Ali in Hunder, 15 kanals and 19 marlas belonging to Manzoor Ahmad in Khanti, and 3 kanals and 10 marlas belonging to Imtyaz Ahmad in Thuroo.

The DGP, invoking powers under Section 25 of the UAPA, accorded prior approval for attachment of the properties, which the order categorises as proceeds of terrorism under Section 2(1)(g)(ii) of the Act.

The FIR was registered on November 29, 2024, after Police Station Mahore received information about 30 individuals from the Mahore and Chassana areas who had crossed over to Pakistan between 1991 and 2003.

The order further states that the individuals were working for Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), supplying arms, ammunition and money, besides attempting to radicalise and recruit local youth into terrorist activities—(KNO)

LG Sinha condoles death of SSF personnel in road accident

Meets MP Jugal Kishore, MLA Reasi



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 25: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has condoled the passing away of Special Security Force (SSF) Personnel, SGCT Shabaz Ahmad, in a tragic road accident.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Saddened to learn about the passing away of SSF Personnel SGCT Shabaz Ahmad in a tragic road accident. I convey my deepest condolences to the family members and pray to the Almighty to grant them the strength to bear this loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family in this difficult hour."

The Lieutenant Governor has also prayed for the early recovery of SGCT Zorawar Singh, who sustained injuries in the accident and is currently undergoing treatment.

In the meantime, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Member of Legislative Assembly from Reasi called on the LG Sinha. He was accompanied by Yog Guru Vijay Krishan Parashar.

Furthermore, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament and Baldev Raj Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly from Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed important matters related to construction of the Link Road from Pangalad to Devipindi via Sukhal Gali and Sukhalghati, in Block Bhomag of District Reasi.

Administration, Police, Media come together at 'BWJA Conclave'

KNO

Baramulla, Nov 25: The Baramulla Working Journalists Association (BWJA) on Wednesday organised a Coordination Conclave here in North Kashmir bringing together the district administration, police, media fraternity, civil society and representatives of various sectors.

In a statement, a BWJA spokesman said that around 180 participants attended the conclave. "Aim of the event was to strengthen coordination and promote constructive engagement on public issues," he added. The spokesman said that the conclave was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F. Hamid, Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, SSP Sopore Neha Jain, Additional SP Baramulla Fahad Tak, DySP Headquarters Shahjahan Choudhary and District Information Officer Baramulla.

Prominent media representatives, included KPS Editor-in-Chief Raja Mohiud-Din, KNO's Nasir Azam Khan, Zeeshan Mohi-ud-Din of JK Revolution and Wajahat Farooq, Chairman Save Youth Save Future, were also present.

Representatives from civil society, trade and industrial associations, religious scholars, the Bar Association and senior citizens also participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F. Hamid appreciated BWJA for organising the conclave and stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between the administration and media fraternity.

He highlighted the media's role in creating public awareness, disseminating

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Security forces intensify hunt for 65 foreign terrorists in J&K

'Tech, intel networks, coordinated ops in place in remote forest, mountainous areas'

Sajid Raina



Srinagar, Nov 25: With no active local terrorist remaining in Kashmir, security agencies have stepped up efforts to track down and eliminate an estimated 65 foreign terrorists believed to be operating across Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the fresh focus of counter-terror operations is on identifying the movements, hideouts and support networks of Pakistan-origin terrorists, particularly those affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

They said the security forces are combining human intelligence with technological surveillance and in-puts from multiple intelligence agencies to locate the remaining foreign terrorists. Information gath-ered from ground-level sources, intelligence networks and surveillance systems is being analysed to establish their movements, particularly in difficult-to-access areas.

"Of the estimated 65 foreign terrorists, around 35 are believed to be associated with the LeT and 25 with the JeM, while the remaining five belong to other banned outfits," said an official.

"The latest assessment comes after the killing of Mohammad Lateef Bhat, a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative, in an encounter in Kulgam district on November 18, following an eight-day search operation. His killing marked the elimination of the last identified active local terrorist in the Kashmir Valley," he added.

Pertinently, after the killing of Lateef Bhat Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the elimination of the last local terrorist as a significant development in Jammu and Kashmir's security situation.

Speaking at a National Investigation Agency (NIA) counter-terrorism conference in New Delhi and sub-sequently at an event in Arunachal Pradesh, Shah said that, for the first time in 35 years, there were no active local or India-born terrorists in the Kashmir Valley.

He attributed the development to coordinated action by security agencies, the abrogation of Article 370, development initiatives and a decline in alienation among local youth. He also called for sustained counter-terrorism efforts, prevention of infiltration and strict action against terror financing and narcotics networks.

Officials said the current security challenge is increasingly concentrated in parts of the Jammu region, particularly Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Doda, where dense forests, steep mountains and difficult terrain provide opportunities for foreign terrorists to remain concealed.

The security establishment has accordingly intensified intelligence-led search operations, with agen-cies sharing information to identify possible hideouts, movement corridors and individuals suspected of providing logistical assistance to infiltrators.

Officials pointed to the elimination of all seven members of a Jaish-e-Mohammed group led by Saiful-lah in Kishtwar as an example of coordinated operations against foreign terrorists. The group, which had infiltrated in April 2024, was neutralised through successive operations culminating in Operation Trashi-I on February 22, 2026 in the Chatroo area. The overall number of active terrorists has declined considerably in recent years. Security assessments put the figure at 135 in 2022, comprising 85 foreign and 50 local terrorists. It subsequently declined to 91 in 2024 before reaching the present estimate of around 65, officials said.

With the local recruitment pipeline having dried up, officials said that the security agencies are now concentrating on preventing fresh infiltration, dismantling remaining support structures and tracking foreign militants to eliminate their presence from the Union Territory. (KNO)

Big-ticket budget announcements yet to translate into reality

NLU, skill university yet to move beyond announcements

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar: More than one year and eight months after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced the establishment of a National Law University (NLU) and a Skill and Entrepreneurship University in his 2025-26 Budget speech, the two projects remain on paper.

Presenting the Budget in the Legislative Assembly as the Finance Minister of Jammu & Kashmir on March 07, 2025, the CM had proposed a budgetary provision of Rs 50 crore for the establishment of a National Law University, for which legislation had already been enacted during the PDP-BJP government's tenure.

"Our Government is committed to establishing a National Law University (NLU) in Jammu & Kashmir to drive legal education reforms and research. With world-class training aligned to contemporary standards, the NLU will empower future legal professionals and enhance justice delivery. I propose a provision of 50 crore in the Budget for this transformative initiative," the Chief Minister had said.

On October 29, 2025, the Chief Minister announced that the National Law University would start functioning from Ompora in Budgam from the next financial year.

He made the announcement while replying to a discussion on a resolution moved by Congress MLA Nizam-ud-Din Bhat seeking the establishment of the National Law University in Srinagar.

However, despite the CM's announcement and budgetary allocation, the proposed university is yet to become operational.

The government is yet to issue the requisite notification under Section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Act, 2018. The provision states: "The Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish one or more Universities under this Act, at such place and with effect from such date as may be specified in such notification."

In the same Budget speech, the Chief Minister also announced the establishment of the Jammu & Kashmir Skill and Entrepreneurship University (J&K SEU) to provide youth with skill-based education.

However, no visible progress has been made towards setting up the university so far—(KNO)

PG Doctors meet Sakina Itoo amid strike over stipend, pay parity

Jahangeer Ganaie



Jammu, Nov 26: A delegation of postgraduate (PG) resident doctors, accompanied by members of Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs), on Wednesday met Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo at the Civil Secretariat here to discuss their long-pending demands, particularly enhancement of stipends and revision of the existing remuneration structure.

Sources said that during the meeting, the minister asked the delegation to meet her again around December 15 to review the progress made on their demands.

The meeting comes amid an ongoing strike by PG doctors and senior residents across Jammu and Kashmir, which began on November 19. The doctors are seeking a substantial hike in stipends, pay parity with counterparts in other states and premier medical institutions, and revision of the existing payment structure.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the financial challenges and disparity in remuneration faced by resident doctors, urging the government to bring their stipends in line with the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

The doctors are also demanding enhanced remuneration for senior residents, a 20 per cent Non-Practising Allowance (NPA), and a uniform pay structure across all Government Medical Colleges and their associated hospitals in J&K.

Resident doctors said their demands have remained unresolved despite repeated representations to the authorities. They argued that their demanding clinical responsibilities, long working hours and round-the-clock patient care warrant a revision of

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

8-year-old Muhammad Shahraan clinches international taekwondo gold

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 25: At just eight years of age, Muhammad Shahraan from Srinagar has brought sporting glory to Jammu and Kashmir, clinching a gold medal at the 1st India International Open Taekwondo Championship 2026 in Pune, Maharashtra.

Competing in the under-24 kg category, the young martial artist defeated two opponents in successive bouts to claim the top spot at the championship, being held from November 20 to 25 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune.

Shahraan first defeated Aariz Saud Ahmad of India SKYE before overcoming Kabir Thakur of Maharashtra in his second bout to secure the gold medal.

Speaking after his victory, Shahraan said that his daily practice and hard work finally paid off. "I am very happy that I could win this gold medal. I practise for at least four hours every day, and today all that hard work has brought me this moment. I am thankful to my coaches, the association and my parents, who have always stood by me and encouraged me," he said.

Calling it only the beginning of his journey, the young champion said he wanted to win many more medals and make his country, Jammu and Kashmir, his coaches and his family proud.

His mother, Lubna Reshi, described the victory as an incredibly proud and emotional moment, saying that she and her husband had worked hard to provide their son with opportunities to compete at bigger platforms. She also appreciated the dedication and encouragement of his coaches, Mansha Bashir and Muzaffar of MTC.

Organised by India Taekwondo, the championship is witnessing participation of athletes across different categories. Around 30 players

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Man killed in road accident



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 25: A 60-year-old man died after being hit by a scooty near Nigeen area of Srinagar on Wednesday evening, while the driver has been arrested, officials said.

An official said that the man was injured after being struck by a scooty in the Nigeen area.

He was initially shifted to JLNM Hospital, Rainawari, and later referred to SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. The deceased was identified as Mohd Akram Dar (60), a resident of Bandipora.

Meanwhile, police have arrested the accused driver and further investigation into the incident is underway—(KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

EDIT | THURSDAY | 26.11.2026 | 04

EDITORIAL

Seats On Paper, Not On The Road

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh observation that reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities in public transport exist "more on paper rather than on the roads" is an indictment of how we treat our own rules. The law is clear. The government directions are clear. RTOs and ARTOs are supposed to enforce them, and compliance reports are supposed to be filed weekly. Yet women who board a bus or a matador every morning know the reality. They stand, hold the rod, and hope the ride ends soon. The most telling detail in the report is the Srinagar Traffic Police Chief's admission that his force cannot enforce the directives without executive decisions, statutory notifications or departmental directions. This is not an excuse. It is a damning account of how government departments pass responsibility to one another while the citizen is left standing. If a traffic officer does not know what authority he has, how is a woman commuter supposed to believe that the system is protecting her? The High Court has also noted that compliance reports sought in its August 10 order are still awaited from the Transport Commissioner, the J&K Legal Services Authority, the Transport Department and the Traffic Police. Five months, no reports. This is not administrative delay. It is administrative indifference. Reserved seating is not a decorative sign on a bus. It is a practical safety measure that allows a woman, a pregnant commuter, an elderly person or a person with disability to travel with some dignity. When enforcement collapses, so does the promise of public transport as a safe, inclusive service. The Court has given the respondents more time and reserved its discretion to issue further directions. The government must use this time to produce real compliance, real enforcement and real accountability. Otherwise, the next order will simply repeat what the Court has already said. Women do not need more promises. They need a seat.

Skills Take Center Stage: India To Host WorldSkills Asia 2027

IndiaSkills competitions at state and national levels will be an important part of the journey. They offer a platform to identify talent, test skills, and give young competitors experience of performing under pressure. The enthusiasm of the youth is confirmed by the response to IndiaSkills 2026-27, which has already received more than 4.5 lakh registrations across 63 skills.



Jayant Chaudhary

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that 'Shramev Jayate' has the same power as 'Satyamev Jayate' in developing our nation. Yesterday in Lucknow, at the fifth Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, the convocation event for the skilling ecosystem, where our best trainees are honored, that belief took a big step forward. The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced a landmark decision that India will host the next edition of WorldSkills Asia 2027 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Just a year ago, India sent its first-ever contingent to participate in WorldSkills Asia, and now, for the first time, a WorldSkills event is coming to India. This is evidence that India's skilling ecosystem is shining, and the world is taking note.

Indian civilization has always honored the maker. We worship Lord Vishwakarma in our workshops and factories, take pride in our artisans' ingenuity, and celebrate the objects they make. Yet, for many families, skilling remains a second choice. The preferred route is still a degree, even when a good technical qualification may offer a more direct path to employment and professional fulfillment. The Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh was conceived and rooted in the belief that a young electrician or machinist graduating from an Industrial Training Institute deserves a convocation as dignified as any university's. First held on Vishwakarma Jayanti in 2022, the event established that technical education carries immense value. If such a convocation reassures technical graduates of their intrinsic worth, hosting an international tournament shows the entire nation that their mastery truly counts on the global stage. Yesterday's event in Lucknow showed where the next generation will come from. Among those honored were Amit Bairagi, a visually impaired metal-cutting trainee from the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy in West Bengal; Supritee Mohapatra, a motor vehicle mechanic from Puri; and Shahbaz Khan, an electronics mechanic who trained a few kilometers from the very hall he was felicitated in Aliganj. More than half of the 52 toppers were women.

Studies show that as more employers adopt AI, demand for highly skilled workers increases, while recent graduates face the most challenging job market in years. ADP's People at Work 2026 found 80 percent of employees in India use AI several times a week and 41 percent nearly daily, the highest among all markets surveyed, allowing India a unique opportunity in these times. Research worldwide also posits that skilling matters more than ever. The World Economic Forum expects 170 million new jobs and 92 million existing jobs to be lost by 2030, and says 59 out of every 100 workers will need training. A study published by The Economist estimated that AI has so far created about a million jobs in the United States, against about 200,000 layoffs blamed on it. Many of the new jobs are for electricians, technicians, and installers who build and maintain data centers. AI creates the opportunities and requirements for skilled manpower. In this direction, the Hon'ble PM launched PM-SETU at last year's convocation. This scheme has an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore to upgrade 1,000 ITIs and is now moving from plan to action: investment plans for 15 clusters, each with an anchor industry partner, have been approved. Our institutes will build matching workshops and labs, and employers will find the talent they need in one place.

Competitions like WorldSkills Asia provide skilled trainees a platform to show their talent and prepare for the world stage. At our debut in the WorldSkills Asia Competition in Taipei last November, we finished eighth among 29 countries. On the other hand, after placing 29th at WorldSkills São Paulo in 2015, we entered the top ten for the first time at Shanghai this September. The value of competitions like these cannot be measured only by medals or rankings. Their impact is much deeper and also lies in the aspirations they create. What a person sees up close, they want to be part of. In 1997, a fifteen-year-old Jhulan Goswami stood at the boundary of Eden Gardens and watched the Women's World Cup final. She walked out of that ground determined to play for India, and went on to become the leading wicket-taker in women's one-day cricket. Greater Noida, which hosted the IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26, will now give many more aspirants that same view, which until now only competitors had witnessed. A trainee from Uttar Pradesh, not yet a competitor, will be able to walk into the hall, watch the best of Asia at work from close quarters, and aim to stand on that stage next time.

The preparations for WorldSkills Asia also offer an opportunity for international benchmarks to inform how we think about trade tests, assessment, and training quality. Indian instructors and industry experts can engage with counterparts across Asia, while the competition can bring skilled work closer to school students and families. IndiaSkills competitions at state and national levels will be an important part of the journey. They offer a platform to identify talent, test skills, and give young competitors experience of performing under pressure. The enthusiasm of the youth is confirmed by the response to IndiaSkills 2026-27, which has already received more than 4.5 lakh registrations across 63 skills.

Since the inception of MSDE, the department has built the frameworks, standards and institutions that produce world-class talent. Hosting WorldSkills Asia is a key step towards India becoming the global skill capital. The path is not easy, as the Roman writer Seneca wrote: 'Non est ad astra mollis e terris via', there is no easy road from the earth to the stars. Behind every medal is a trainee who chose hard work over the easy path. In 2027, Asia will come to our doorstep, and India will showcase the stars its skilled hands are reaching for.

The writer is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education

PhD Supervisors Cannot Be Untouchable

Ending academic dictatorship, exploitation and misuse of supervisory power in Indian Universities



Prof. Rajinder Kumar Uppal



The PhD degree represents the highest level of academic achievement, research competence and intellectual development. A doctoral scholar enters a university with the expectation of receiving academic guidance, professional encouragement and opportunities to contribute to knowledge. A PhD supervisor is entrusted with the important responsibility of nurturing young researchers, developing their analytical capabilities and preparing them for independent academic careers. However, concerns about the misuse of supervisory authority, unfair treatment, unnecessary delays and exploitation of research scholars have raised serious questions about the accountability of doctoral supervisors in Indian universities. An uncomfortable question needs to be asked: Why should a PhD supervisor enjoy enormous academic authority without equally strong accountability?

A supervisor is an academic mentor, not an unquestionable ruler. The responsibility of supervision is to guide research, encourage innovation and develop independent thinkers. Unfortunately, in certain cases, the relationship between supervisors and scholars becomes excessively hierarchical. Scholars may feel compelled to accept every instruction, even when they have legitimate academic disagreements. Some supervisors expect unquestioning obedience and treat independent thinking as a challenge to their authority. Such an environment damages the intellectual freedom that is essential for research excellence.

PhD supervisors cannot be untouchable. Their academic position must never become a licence to dominate, intimidate or exploit research scholars. A doctoral researcher is not a personal servant, private assistant or unpaid employee. A scholar is an emerging academic professional who deserves dignity, fairness and respect. Assigning unrelated personal or administrative work, demanding unnecessary services or using scholars for activities unrelated to research undermines the purpose of doctoral education. Universities must ensure that research scholars are not exploited under the disguise of academic training.

Another serious concern is the excessive control some supervisors exercise over the academic future of their scholars. Research topic approval, progress assessments, thesis review, publication guidance and recommendations are important supervisory responsibilities. However, when these powers are exercised arbitrarily, scholars may become vulnerable. Unnecessary delays in reviewing chapters, repeatedly changing research objectives and withholding approvals without reasonable academic justification can waste valuable years of a scholar's life. Doctoral research should not become a prolonged struggle for obtaining the supervisor's approval.

The problem becomes particularly serious when scholars have no effective mechanism to challenge unfair treatment. Many hesitate to complain because they fear retaliation, delays in thesis submission or damage to their academic careers. Some may silently tolerate inappropriate behaviour because their entire research journey depends on the person supervising them. This imbalance of power requires urgent institutional attention. Universities must establish independent, confidential and accessible grievance-redressed systems where scholars can report harassment, discrimination, exploitation and unreasonable delays without fear.

Who supervises the supervisors? This question must become central to the debate on doctoral education in India. Universities regularly monitor the performance of research scholars through progress reports, presentations and research advisory committee meetings. But how effectively do they evaluate the performance of supervisors? Are they assessed for the quality of their guidance, accessibility, ethical behaviour and timely feedback? Supervisory accountability cannot remain a neglected dimension of higher education.

Research quality is another major casualty of ineffective supervision. A genuine PhD should contribute original knowledge, develop new ideas, solve practical problems or offer innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. Unfortunately, where doctoral education becomes a mechanical exercise of registration, paperwork, publication requirements and thesis submission, research excellence suffers. Supervisors must encourage scholars to identify meaningful research problems, adopt appropriate methodologies, analyze reliable data and produce findings that contribute to society.

The growing emphasis on publication numbers also requires careful attention. Research scholars should not be pressured to publish merely to satisfy numerical targets. Publications in questionable journals, artificial authorship arrangements and manipulated research findings damage academic credibility. Supervisors must promote originality, proper referencing, data integrity and ethical publication practices. They should lead by example rather than merely lecture scholars about research ethics.

Fair treatment is equally important. Supervisors must not discriminate on the basis of gender, economic background, personal relationships or other irrelevant considerations. Every scholar deserves equal academic attention, constructive criticism and access to research opportunities. Favouritism and selective guidance create frustration and weaken institutional trust. A research environment should reward merit, originality and hard work rather than personal loyalty.

The University Grants Commission, universities and other regulatory authorities must strengthen the framework governing doctoral supervision. Clear guidelines should define supervisory responsibilities, reasonable scholar allocations, regular interactions, thesis evaluation timelines and professional conduct. Research advisory committees should play a meaningful role so that a single supervisor does not become the sole authority over a scholar's academic future. Independent grievance committees and transparent evaluation mechanisms should be strengthened.

Universities should also introduce periodic assessments of supervisors. These assessments should consider research quality, timely feedback, ethical conduct, completion records and the professional development of scholars. Supervisors who repeatedly violate academic ethics or exploit their position should face appropriate institutional action. At the same time, committed mentors who develop independent researchers and produce meaningful academic contributions should receive recognition.

India's ambition to become a global knowledge economy under the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 cannot be achieved through an increasing number of doctoral degrees alone. The country needs researchers who can contribute to industrial development, technological innovation, agricultural transformation, financial inclusion and social progress. Such researchers can emerge only from universities that provide intellectual freedom, professional dignity and responsible mentorship.

A good supervisor should be remembered for the researchers they develop, not for the authority they exercise. The real success of supervision is achieved when a scholar becomes capable of questioning established theories, challenging conventional wisdom and producing independent research. A supervisor should create thinkers, not followers; innovators, not imitators; and confident researchers, not dependent individuals.

The time has come to end the culture of unquestionable supervisory authority. Academic positions must carry responsibility, and supervisory privileges must be balanced with institutional accountability. Research scholars should never have to sacrifice their dignity to obtain a doctoral degree. India needs research mentors, not academic dictators. PhD supervisors cannot be untouchable because no academic position should stand above ethics, fairness and accountability.

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

Inter-Ministerial Central Team reviews damage caused by heavy rains, floods in Jammu

Div Com Jammu apprises Central Team of affected areas, magnitude of damages

KT News Desk



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: An Inter-Ministerial Central Team, led by Union Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs, Gaya Parsad, Wednesday reviewed the extent of damages caused by heavy rains, flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides across Jammu Division.

The meeting was chaired by Joint Secretary Gaya Parsad along with Commissioner Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, M. Raju and Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, at the Conference Hall of the Divisional Commissioner's Office.

The Government of India, as per an official statement, has deputed the Inter-Ministerial Central Team to undertake an on-the-spot assessment of the damages caused by the natural calamities. The team comprises officials from the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Power, Rural Development, Jal Shakti and Finance, and will visit the affected areas to assess the ground situation.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, JPDCL; Director General, School Education, Jammu; Director, Rural Development; Director, Agriculture; Director, Animal Husbandry; Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Jammu, and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Jammu Division participated in the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, a detailed PowerPoint presentation was made, highlighting the extent of damage to public infrastructure and private property, besides the loss of human lives caused by the recent natural calamities.

The Divisional Commissioner apprised the Central Team of the affected areas and the magnitude of damages to critical infrastructure, including roads, power infrastructure and water supply schemes. He also briefed the team about the restoration measures undertaken by various departments to ensure the early restoration of essential services.

A detailed deliberation was held on the challenges arising from incessant rains, flash floods and landslides, which had disrupted normal life across the region. Officers from various departments shared sector-wise details of the damages and apprised the team of the measures initiated for restoration and rehabilitation.

Joint Secretary Gaya Parsad emphasised the need for accurate and comprehensive damage assessment based on ground-level verification. He directed the concerned departments to prepare sector-wise damage reports, submit realistic estimates in accordance with the prescribed norms and furnish complete supporting documentation.

He further stressed the importance of accounting for expenditure already incurred and ensuring that there was no duplication while preparing damage estimates and proposals.

Over the next few days, the Inter-Ministerial Central Team will undertake detailed field visits to various affected areas across Jammu Division to assess the actual extent of losses and damages.

Reasi admin, Police hold joint public grievances redressal camp

KT NEWS DESK

REASI, NOVEMBER 25: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek and Senior Superintendent of Police Mukund Tibrewal Wednesday co-chaired a Public Grievances Redressal Camp here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

A large number of local residents, including senior citizens, prominent citizens, representatives from market associations and social workers from Reasi town and adjoining areas participated in the camp and projected the issues concerning public amenities and civic infrastructure.

The major demands, as per an official statement, raised were related to road connectivity, sanitation and cleanliness in the town, eviction of encroachment on public spaces and market areas, traffic decongestion, provision of adequate parking facilities, renovation and improvement of facilities at Sula Park, maintenance of lanes and drains in municipal wards, promotion of pilgrimage tourism, besides shifting and expansion of the existing bus stand. The residents also sought better parking facilities around prominent pilgrimage destinations, including Agar Jitto, Nau Devi and Chandi Mata temples, besides renovation and improvement of Zanana Park, including installation of gym equipment for public use. The participants also highlighted the issue of monkey menace.

Demands related to the education sector were also highlighted, particularly meeting the shortage of teaching staff in government schools and the posting of Commerce subject teachers and adequate staff at Government Boys Higher Secondary School and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Reasi.

Other demands included expediting ongoing road projects, resolution of ration distribution issues arising from the implementation of face authentication and strengthening road safety measures, particularly along accident prone stretches near Jyoti Puram.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the residents and called upon the officers to ensure their availability in their respective offices and address public grievances promptly whenever residents approached them. Stressing accountability in public service delivery, he asked all departments to accord priority to redressal and follow-up of people's grievances.

He informed the participants that several road projects have already been sanctioned and work on these would commence shortly. He added that pending road-related works would also be taken up at the earliest.

On the demand for additional parking facilities, the DDC directed the Executive Officer Municipal Council Reasi to identify suitable locations and initiate the process for preparation and submission of proposals. He also directed the Executive Officer to ensure immediate removal of illegal encroachments from roads and areas around the bus stand, maintain cleanliness and undertake repairs of potholes within the town.

Taking cognizance of the ration distribution issues related to face authentication, the DDC directed the Assistant Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs to examine the matter and take necessary measures for early resolution of the difficulties faced by beneficiaries.

Regarding traffic congestion, the DDC and SSP directed the concerned authorities to strengthen traffic regulation, particularly during peak hours in and around the market area. The DDC also directed the Block Development Officer, Reasi, to organise cleanliness drives in their respective panchayats and ensure regular maintenance of sanitation facilities.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to address water supply leakages in the area, while the Chief Education Officer was asked to look into the requirements for the repair of the Government Middle School building at Vijaypur. The Public Works Department was also directed to identify suitable locations and install speed breakers at vulnerable points in the town to enhance road safety.

Taking note of complaints regarding underage driving, the SSP directed the concerned police personnel to conduct special enforcement drives to curb the practice and ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations.

The DDC further asked the departments to organise awareness camps to familiarise residents with the government welfare schemes and facilitate access to benefits for all eligible beneficiaries. He also urged residents to extend cooperation to the administration in improving public service delivery.

The DDC assured the residents that all genuine grievances would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action and timely redressal. He emphasised coordinated efforts by the administration and police to address public concerns and improve civic amenities and public services.

Air raid, blackout mock drills across Kashmir districts today

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 25: District administrations in Bandipora, Anantnag and Shopian will conduct civil defence air raid and blackout mock drills on Thursday as part of emergency preparedness exercises across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Bandipora, the second civil defence air raid mock drill will be held at NM Boys Higher Secondary School at 11:30 am under the supervision of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). Police, Health, Fire and Emergency Services, SDRF and school authorities have been directed to coordinate the exercise.

In Anantnag, an air raid mock drill will be conducted at 2 pm, followed by a blackout exercise from 6:30 pm to 6:40 pm. Residents have been advised to switch off all lights and cover windows during the blackout period. Authorities said emergency and essential services will remain functional.

In Shopian, a civil defence mock drill will be held at Government Degree College Shopian. The exercise will begin with an air raid simulation at 1 pm, followed by a blackout drill from 6 pm to 6:30 pm.

Officials said the exercise will simulate air raid warnings, evacuation, search and rescue operations, and emergency response measures in line with prescribed protocols.

The administrations have urged residents to cooperate and avoid panic, stressing that the drills are routine exercises aimed at strengthening emergency preparedness and assessing the response capabilities of various agencies.

DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir organises drug abuse awareness-cum-cultural programme at Hygam Wetland

KT News Desk



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 25: The Cultural Unit Kashmir, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Wildlife Department and Valley Public School, Sopore, organised a Drug Abuse Awareness-cum-Cultural Programme at Hygam Wetland, Sopore, to sensitise students and the public about the harmful effects of drug addiction.

Students, as per an official statement, delivered awareness speeches highlighting the adverse impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society, while a thematic skit conveyed a strong message against drug addiction and encouraged young people to adopt a healthy lifestyle and resist peer pressure.

Range Officer, Wildlife Protection Range Hygam, Mohammad Iqbal Wani, also addressed the gathering and stressed the importance of collective efforts by educational institutions, government departments and civil society in combating drug abuse.

The programme highlighted the role of art and culture, particularly theatre and other creative activities, as effective tools for social awareness and positive change.

Certificates and mementoes were distributed among participating students in recognition of their contribution. The programme concluded with a collective pledge to promote awareness and work towards a healthy and drug-free society.

MLA Baramulla calls for collective efforts to ensure effective Solid Waste Management

KT News Desk



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 25: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig, Wednesday attended a Capacity Building Session on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, organised by the Municipal Council Baramulla at the auditorium of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Baramulla.

The session, as per an official statement, was presented by Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd., with support from St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Javed Hassan Baig emphasised that maintaining cleanliness and protecting the environment is a collective responsibility. He urged the general public to refrain from polluting water bodies, particularly the River Jhelum, and appealed to people not to dump garbage into rivers and other water resources.

Executive Officer, Municipal Council Baramulla, civil Society members, officials and students were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the MLA briefed about the initiatives being undertaken to address sewage management issues in the area. He informed that a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) worth 40 crore has been approved, with the tendering process expected to begin shortly. He further informed that another treatment plant costing 4 crore, along with a separate treatment facility for Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla at an estimated cost of 16 crore, is also planned.

He expressed hope that these projects would be completed over the next five to six years, helping address sewage management challenges and protect local water bodies.

NCORD MEETING

251 FIRs registered, 359 accused arrested, properties worth Rs 138 crore attached, 200 bank accounts frozen

DC Srinagar, SSP review anti-narcotics measures | Emphasise sustained enforcement, proactive inter-departmental coordination

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review ongoing anti-narcotics measures and and assess the progress of the District's efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy was present in the meeting.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held detailed deliberations on strengthening the District's anti-narcotics strategy through stringent enforcement, effective surveillance of drug supply networks, regulatory measures, preventive interventions and improved rehabilitation facilities for drug victims. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of the Common Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with accused persons, action against illicit cannabis cultivation and measures to prevent the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to maintain sustained momentum in the fight against the drug menace through proactive coordination and collective efforts of all concerned departments. He underscored the importance of safeguarding the younger generation from substance abuse and strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms to ensure proper care, treatment and reintegration of affected individuals into society.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all Departments and enforcement agencies to work in close coordination, intensify preventive and enforcement measures and ensure a sustained, comprehensive and result-oriented approach to eradicate the drug menace from the District. He directed the Excise and other line Departments to take effective measures for eradication of cannabis across the District. He also reiterated the zero-tolerance policy towards Government employees found involved in NDPS cases.

The DC laid emphasis on cases involving commercial quantities of narcotic substances, which shall be monitored periodically by the concerned agencies, including Police, Transport, NCB and Prosecution. The investigating agencies were also directed to focus on establishing forward and backward linkages in all NDPS cases to identify the main suppliers, financiers and kingpins operating behind the drug trafficking networks.

The Drug Controller in coordination with District Police and NCB, was directed to ensure proper regulations and strict monitoring of pharmaceutical shops across the District.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for the effective implementation of the nationwide 100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan announced by the Prime Minister of India, with emphasis on awareness generation, community participation, preventive interventions and coordinated efforts towards building a drug-free society.

SSP Srinagar emphasised the need for sustained and coordinated surveillance of drug trafficking networks, effective investigation of NDPS cases and strict action against those involved in the illicit trade. He stressed strengthening intelligence-sharing among enforcement agencies, identifying vulnerable areas and drug distribution channels, and ensuring that investigations comprehensively establish forward and backward linkages to dismantle the entire supply chain.

During the meeting, the NCORD Committee was apprised of the sustained crackdown against narcotics in the district, which has resulted in the registration of 251 FIRs and the arrest of 359 alleged drug peddlers. The Committee was further informed that 21 movable and 110 immovable properties, collectively valued at over Rs 138 crore, linked to drug traffickers have been attached as part of the intensified enforcement action. In addition, 200 bank accounts have been frozen following financial investigations.

The Committee was also informed that the Transport Department has taken strict action against violations linked to narcotics-related activities, resulting in the suspension/cancellation of 108 driving licences. Further, the Registration Certificates (RCs) of 64 vehicles have been suspended as part of the enforcement measures aimed at curbing drug-related offences.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan, SP Headquarters Ghulam Mustafa, Joint Commissioner SMC Suhail ul Islam, PO ICDS Bureeda Majeed, SDM West Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, Chief Education Officer Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, ALC Adnan Tariq, Deputy Drug Controller Rema Gazalla, District Health Officer Dr. Rubeena, besides officers from Excise, ANTF, Horticulture, Agriculture and other stakeholder Departments.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir shivers

and central Kashmir, Kupwara recorded minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, Bandipora minus 1.5 degrees, Ganderbal minus 0.5 degrees and Baramulla minus 0.1 degrees. Budgam and Awantipora recorded minus 2.4 degrees each, while Gulmarg settled at 0.0 degrees and Sonamarg at 0.3 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Bhaderwah was the coldest at 3.2 degrees Celsius. Udhampur recorded 6.0 degrees, Poonch 6.1 degrees, Samba 7.4 degrees, Reasi 7.5 degrees and Ramban 7.7 degrees. Kishtwar settled at 8.5 degrees, Banihal at 8.9 degrees, Jammu city at 9.8 degrees, Katra at 10.2 degrees, Kathua at 10.4 degrees and Batote at 10.6 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said dry weather conditions were likely to continue across the region for about a week, with mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies.

The Meteorological Department has also forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir until November 30 and December 1, with shallow to moderate fog likely in several areas.

Daytime temperatures are expected to gradually decline from around 15-16 degrees Celsius to nearly 12 degrees Celsius by early next week. Night temperatures are likely to remain low, with minimums dropping below freezing at several colder locations and higher reaches.

The department has reported no rainfall or snowfall at any weather station across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours. (KNO)

Sainik schools

SYMBOL OF SERVICE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND SACRIFICE

Emphasizing the role of sports in character building, the Lieutenant Governor noted that sports foster teamwork, resilience, discipline, humility, and leadership. He encouraged cadets to focus not merely on winning medals but on continuous self-improvement.

Referring to India's growing achievements in international sports and initiatives such as Khelo India, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that some of the cadets present could one day represent the nation on the Olympic stage.

"In our military tradition, sports and physical training have always been given special importance. The reason is clear. From a soldier, physical strength alone is not expected. He is also expected to remain calm in adverse circumstances, make quick decisions, trust his comrades, and stand firm in the face of difficulties. And I believe all these qualities are developed on the sports field," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the cadets to adopt five guiding principles- dream big, work hard with honesty, embrace teamwork and sportsmanship, maintain physical and mental well-being, and always regard the military uniform as a symbol of service and sacrifice.

"There is no greater righteousness than the welfare of others, and no greater unrighteousness than causing suffering to others. This sentiment should be the guiding principle of a true soldier's life, because the uniform is not merely a symbol of authority and honour; it is a symbol of service, responsibility, and sacrifice.

Always remember the true meaning of the military uniform: it is not a means of personal prestige, but a commitment to serving the nation. Always remember that your success lies within India's success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor laid a wreath at the Shaurya Samarak and paid homage to the brave sons of Maa Bharati.

Devyani Rana, Member of Legislative Assembly from Nagrota; Lt Gen Mohit Seth, General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps; Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, Principal Sainik School Nagrota; Sandeep Sharma, Zonal Head for Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh at ICICI Bank; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Vikas Kundal, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; representatives of ICICI Foundation, senior officials of Army Police, Faculty and students were present. (KNO)

Nothing has happened

BRO involves laying tiles on a walking track meant for pilgrims undertaking the annual Amarnath Yatra and is being executed in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2023.

He said the government is committed to ensuring that the work remained strictly within the framework of the agreement, adding that the Forest Department was already monitoring the ongoing activities to ensure compliance with the stipulated conditions.

"Nothing has happened to Sheshnag," he said, seeking to dispel concerns being raised over the nature and extent of the work.

The minister said that protecting the fragile ecology of the region is a collective responsibility and said the government is equally concerned about preserving the environment.

"It is the responsibility of everyone to protect and maintain the ecology. We are committed to it and the work is being monitored to ensure that the MoU is followed in letter and spirit," he said.

Reacting to criticism from opposition parties, Kaloo accused them of exaggerating the issue for political gains, alleging that the BJP and PDP were playing a fixed political game ahead of the elections.

On being asked whether the government would consider cancelling the project in view of the concerns being expressed, the minister said the matter could not be viewed independently of the Supreme Court's directions.

He said there was a Supreme Court ruling requiring the maintenance of the track for pilgrims visiting the holy Amarnath cave. "No minister is above the Supreme Court. The 12-foot track has to be maintained for the convenience of pilgrims visiting for the Amarnath Yatra," he said.

The minister reiterated that the government would ensure that the work remained confined to the approved track and that environmental safeguards envisaged under the 2023 MoU were maintained. (KNO)

CM Omar pushes

projects, while emphasising the need to remove implementation bottlenecks and strengthen research, innovation and scientific outreach.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Administrative Secretary Science & Technology Babila Rakwal and other senior officers.

At the outset, Administrative Secretary Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the mandate, achievements, ongoing projects and future roadmap of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

Reviewing progress under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Chief Minister was informed that 9,025 government buildings had been solarised under the CAPEX mode, with a cumulative capacity of 96.10 MW. He directed the department to expedite the solarisation of remaining government buildings and resolve inter-departmental issues relating to unified billing, adoption of Virtual Net Metering (VNM) benefits by DISCOMs and conversion of single-phase connections into three-phase connections for solar plants of 10 kW and above.

Underscoring the importance of diversifying the renewable energy mix, Omar Abdullah called for exploring viable wind energy opportunities alongside an accelerated expansion of solar power. He reviewed the department's 2030 vision, which envisages 500 MW of Solar PV capacity, 100 MW of Small Hydro capacity and 5 MW across wind, hydrogen, biomass and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

He also directed the exploration of solar energy potential in water bodies under the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana and called for expeditious implementation of the Model Solar Village initiative across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister stressed strict adherence to project timelines and directed the department to expedite the completion of the Industrial Biotechnology Park at Handwara, Sub-Regional Science Centre and Science Innovation Dissemination Centre at Rajbagh, Srinagar, and the 240 kW Solar Agro-Photovoltaic pressure irrigation project at Patyari Cluster in Samba.

He also reviewed the progress of 62 Small Hydro Power projects, with a cumulative capacity of 135.15 MW, currently in the development pipeline. He called for coordinated efforts to secure the requisite forest clearances and NOCs in a time-bound manner to prevent delays in execution.

Reviewing the Industrial Biotechnology Parks at Ghatti, Kathua, and Handwara, along with the proposed Centre of Innovation and Excellence, the Chief Minister emphasised their timely operationalisation and effective utilisation to promote research, innovation, entrepreneurship and employment generation. He stressed that the completed biotechnology park at Ghatti should be put to optimum commercial and research use.

He also called for full operationalisation of the Sub-Regional Science Centre at Srinagar, by attracting visitors through interactive scientific exhibitions. Emphasising the need to foster scientific temper among young people, he directed the department to strengthen science outreach initiatives and develop facilities such as planetariums to make scientific learning more engaging and accessible.

Reviewing the proposed Bio-Farms for medicinal and aromatic plants, the Chief Minister stressed the need to ensure their commercial viability and establish stronger market linkages to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The presentation highlighted substantial progress under PM-KUSUM, with JAKEDA having installed 4,891 solar agricultural pumps against an allocated target of 5,000, achieving 97.8 per cent of the target. A 30 kW solar-powered electric vehicle charging station has also been commissioned at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

The meeting was informed that the Jammu and Kashmir Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Policy 2026 had been notified to promote circular energy initiatives under the GOBARdhan programme.

Under the RESCO mode, solarisation of 8,000 government buildings through JAKEDA, with a targeted capacity of 152 MW, and another 1,500 buildings through NHPC, with a target of 23 MW, has been proposed. A Power Purchase Agreement for 8 MW has already been signed for the Health & Medical Education Department in Jammu.

On the science, technology and innovation front, JKSTIC highlighted the successful organisation of several major scientific events during 2026, including the J&K Medical Science Congress at SKIMS/SKICC, J&K Science Congress at IUST, J&K Agriculture Science Congress at SKUAST-Kashmir and J&K Women Science Congress at Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

The forthcoming initiatives include Science on Wheels, a mobile exhibition bus to take scientific awareness beyond institutional settings, the J&K Children's Science Congress, research and development in assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, location-specific health research and financial assistance for patents and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The Chief Minister called for strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem, expanding scientific outreach and ensuring that research and technological interventions translate into practical solutions, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM calls for

Administration Department (GAD) to assess the implementation of the Act, the Chief Minister directed the departments to address the significant gap between applications disposed of beyond the prescribed timelines and the number of penalties imposed on officials responsible for delays.

He observed that while the Act provides for penalties against designated officers for unjustified delays and deficiencies in service delivery, the gap between cases delayed and penal action imposed needed to be addressed. He directed that the issue, along with the number of applications reverted by departments, be examined and corrective measures should be taken .

Emphasising the need to make the appeal mechanism more effective, the Chief Minister called for greater utilisation of the Auto Appeal System while ensuring that appeals are meaningfully examined at the First Appellate Authority level. He observed that several cases were being automatically escalated to the Second Appellate Authority without adequate processing at the first level, indicating that the concerned appellate authorities might not be aware of pending appeals.

He directed the General Administration Department to work with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to put in place an alert mechanism so that First Appellate Authorities are promptly informed about cases pending before them and can examine these within the prescribed timelines.

Observing that the Act was among the pioneering initiatives in the country when introduced in 2011, he said that several other states and Union Territories had since adopted similar frameworks, with some making further improvements. He stressed that an independent assessment would help evaluate Jammu and Kashmir's experience and identify areas requiring reform.

He further called for a review and revision of the penalty provisions under the Act, observing that 15 years was a sufficiently long period to reassess the existing framework and make it more effective in ensuring accountability.

Underscoring the importance of public awareness, the Chief Minister said that despite the Act being in force for 15 years, awareness among citizens about their rights and the available mechanisms for securing time-bound public services needed to improve.

He stressed that the government must take ownership of the legislation and make sustained efforts to publicise its provisions so that more people are aware of and benefit from this important instrument of citizen-centric governance.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was apprised that 517 services across various departments have been notified under the PSGA. Of these, 114 services have been integrated with the Auto Appeal System, while another 163 services have been identified for integration.

The meeting was informed that, as per the data available on November 24, 2026, a total of 18.80 lakh applications had been received across districts, of which around 16.97 lakh had been disposed of.

The review also highlighted the need for departments to integrate all notified services with the Unified PSGA Portal and reconcile their data across the PSGA and Auto Appeal portals in coordination with NIC to ensure consistency and real-time updates.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; Ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar, Sakina Itoo and Javed Ahmad Rana; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Departments and other concerned officers. Officers stationed outside Jammu attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Union Home Secy

of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), senior officers of J&K Police, intelligence agencies and other security officials.

The meeting is expected to review the overall security situation in the Union Territory, including counter-terrorism strategies and measures to further strengthen the security grid.

"The measures to eliminate the remaining foreign militants, and the preparedness of security forces for the coming months are also expected to come up for discussion," the sources said.

The meeting assumes significance as it comes days after the killing of two Special Police Officer (SPO) by terrorists in Kishtwar.

It also comes against the backdrop of a claim by the Home Ministry that the last local terrorist operating in Jammu & Kashmir has been neutralised. (KNO)

Power cuts

An official in this regard has said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 16.3 percent during the peak solar and non-solar hours. "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 623 MWs against the available power position during the peak solar and non-solar hours in the month of December."

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for December-2026 for both the Union Territories, the official said that there will likely be a peak availability of 3190 MW against the requirement of 3813 MW—keeping a loophole of 623 MW during the peak solar and non-solar hours.

Earlier, KNO carried news that the onset of cold weather has pushed Kashmir into a daily power deficit of nearly 4,400 megawatt-hours (MWh)—leaving consumers to contend with scheduled curtailments amid plummeting temperatures. (KNO)

NC accuses BJP,

Conference have also weighed in.

NC chief spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), accused the BJP and PDP of giving the issue a communal colour for political gain, alleging an attempt to portray the matter as Muslims opposing the project.

Questioning PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's recent visit to Sheshnag, Sadiq said the project was initiated in 2022, its MoU signed in 2023 and approval granted in 2024, asking why objections were not raised earlier.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had directed the Forest and Environment Ministers to examine the alleged deviations from the approved plan and submit a report. "If any violation is found, appropriate action will be taken. We will not allow anyone to compromise the environment," he said.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti questioned why Mehbooba Mufti was not being allowed to visit the site if everything was in order, while the party also raised concerns over the presence of heavy machinery in the ecologically sensitive area.

PDP MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi said human intervention in Sheshnag's fragile terrain was alarming and could adversely impact the ecosystem.

Peoples Conference president and MLA Sajad Lone cautioned that the NC-PDP confrontation could overshadow genuine environmental concerns. Calling Sheshnag an "ecological disaster", he urged that the issue be examined through scientific assessment rather than political rhetoric.

Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra sought clarity on the nature of work being undertaken at the site, warning that construction activity and vehicular movement could cause ecological damage.

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also expressed concern over the alleged damage to the fragile ecosystem and called for transparency and environmental safeguards.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, meanwhile, said conclusions should not be drawn until a proper inquiry establishes the facts.

The controversy has brought the environmental sensitivity of the Sheshnag region into sharp focus, even as political parties continue to trade charges over the issue. (KNO)

MHA examining fresh

Chairing a Block Diwas-cum-Public Grievances Redressal Camp in Nowshera block, the Chief Secretary also directed the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the revered Maa Mangla Mata Shrine, recognising its religious significance and potential to promote religious tourism and ecotourism in the border region.

During the programme, residents and public representatives raised a range of demands concerning border infrastructure, tourism, road connectivity, healthcare, education, sports facilities, agriculture and livelihood opportunities.

On the development of Maa Mangla Mata Shrine, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive and detailed development blueprint, keeping in view the shrine's religious importance and tourism potential.

Among the prominent demands raised by residents were granting shrine status to Maa Mangla Mata Temple, organising a Border Tourism Mela, promoting agriculture-linked ecotourism, double-laning of the Nowshera-Jhangar road, filling staff vacancies in educational institutions, constructing a sports stadium at Kalsian and establishing a dispensary and ambulance facility at Bhawani.

Residents also sought fixation of rates for maize and wheat seeds and adequate storage facilities for agricultural produce, besides other infrastructure and public service-related interventions in border villages.

Taking up the demand for sports infrastructure, Yadav directed the Deputy Commissioner to identify suitable land for the proposed stadium at Kalsian. He also observed that indoor sports facilities could be developed in schools with higher student enrolment and directed the administration to work out school-wise priorities.

On healthcare facilities, he said appropriate measures would be explored to provide a dispensary and ambulance services at Bhawani. He also assured that the issue of staff shortages in educational institutions located in border areas would be taken up with the concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary further said that the demand for establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya would be taken up with the concerned authorities, while other genuine issues raised during the interaction would be examined by the respective departments for appropriate action.

He also directed the Industries Department to sensitise local residents, particularly youth, about collateral-free loan schemes, startup financing and other entrepreneurship support initiatives available under various government programmes.

Highlighting the significance of Block Diwas, Yadav said the initiative, introduced in Jammu and Kashmir on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, had emerged as an effective mechanism for taking governance to people's doorsteps, facilitating direct interaction with citizens and ensuring focused attention to their grievances.

He assured the gathering that all demands and issues raised during the programme had been noted and would be examined earnestly. He also appreciated the District Administration Rajouri for its public-centric initiatives and sustained efforts towards development and effective implementation of government schemes.

Emphasising the immense potential of border areas, the Chief Secretary encouraged local youth to explore opportunities in entrepreneurship, skill development, startups and emerging sectors to become active partners in the region's socio-economic development.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary inspected stalls established by various departments, including School Education, Skill Development, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Mission Poshan and Social Welfare, showcasing government schemes and public welfare initiatives.

On the occasion, he handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for agricultural machinery and under schemes of the Sheep Husbandry Department. He also distributed engagement orders to newly engaged Anganwadi Workers.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Dr Devansh Yadav, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Sandeep Wazir, SSP Naresh Singh, ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq, ADC Rajouri Ravi Sihag, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, district and sectoral officers, public representatives and a large number of local residents attended the programme.

GMC staff protest,

also continued, as the latest assurance failed to convince the agitating workforce to call off its agitation. The decision was taken after deliberations over the government's latest commitment, with employees maintaining that they would not suspend their protest until a formal notification of the recruitment rules was issued.

The employees said they had been receiving assurances from successive authorities for nearly seven years, but the issue remained unresolved despite repeated representations, meetings and commitments.

They said the latest assurance was welcome, but past experiences had made them cautious about trusting verbal commitments without a concrete outcome.

The development comes a day after the Chief Secretary, during his maiden visit to Rajouri, interacted with protesting GMC employees after they stopped his cavalcade and sought his personal intervention. Dr Yadav assured them that he would convene a meeting with the concerned departments to expedite the process and ensure that the recruitment rules were notified within one month.

He informed them that the draft recruitment rules had already been forwarded by the Health and Medical Education Department to the Finance Department for examination, and would also require clearance from the Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department before being submitted to the Lieutenant Governor for final approval.

The protest, underway across GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda, GMC Kathua, GMC Handwara and GMC Baramulla, is aimed at securing a clearly defined service structure for non-gazetted employees. The employees are demanding immediate finalisation and notification of recruitment rules, saying the prolonged delay has left hundreds of workers without a proper framework governing their service conditions and career progression.

They have been seeking clearly defined promotional channels, designation structures, eligibility criteria, seniority arrangements and promotional hierarchies for different categories of employees, and a uniform service framework across all five medical colleges.

Employees argue that despite discharging their duties in medical colleges and associated hospitals for years, the absence of notified rules has left their professional growth and future prospects uncertain. They maintain that their agitation is not against the functioning of the institutions but is aimed at securing legitimate service rights and putting in place a transparent mechanism for recruitment, promotions and other service-related matters.

The Coordination Committee has maintained that the agitation would continue until the government takes concrete steps, with employees insisting that an official notification, rather than another assurance, is the only acceptable outcome—(KNO)

J&K hospitals, dialysis

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the State Health Agency would take the matter seriously and work towards resolving the crisis.

"We have high expectations from the new Health Secretary and the new CEO. We hope they will understand the gravity of the situation and take effective measures to ensure that the pending payments are cleared," he added.

The Association said that the prolonged delay in settling dues, extending over more than 20 months, has severely affected the operational and financial functioning of private healthcare institutions associated with the scheme.

According to the Association, hospitals are struggling to pay salaries to doctors, nurses and paramedical staff on time, while the uncertainty over payments has also created the possibility of skilled healthcare professionals leaving their jobs.

The financial crunch has also affected the procurement of essential medicines, medical consumables, dialysis kits, oxygen and other critical supplies required for patient care. Suppliers, who earlier extended credit facilities to hospitals, are now reportedly demanding advance payments, further complicating the situation.

Several healthcare institutions have allegedly been compelled to depend on bank loans carrying high interest rates to meet their routine operational expenses and sustain patient services. The situation is particularly difficult for small and medium-sized dialysis centres, some of which, according to the Association, are facing the possibility of closure.

The Association maintained that despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from the authorities, no concrete timeline has been communicated for the clearance of the outstanding Rs 601 crore.

It warned that if the pending liabilities are not settled and a predictable payment mechanism is not put in place, private hospitals and dialysis centres may eventually be forced to suspend services under the scheme.

Such a situation, it said, would have serious consequences for thousands of poor and economically weaker patients across Jammu and Kashmir who depend on Ayushman Bharat–PMJAY and SEHAT for cashless treatment, major surgeries, specialised medical procedures and regular dialysis.

The Association has appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene in the matter, direct the concerned authorities to clear the outstanding payments and ensure that the scheme is streamlined through a sustainable financial mechanism.

It has stressed that timely reimbursement to empanelled healthcare institutions is essential not only for their survival but also for protecting the interests of beneficiaries who rely on the scheme for access to affordable and quality healthcare.

The Association said the government must act urgently to prevent the financial crisis from escalating into a disruption of healthcare services, warning that continued uncertainty could undermine the very purpose for which the scheme was introduced. (KNO)

Congress wants regime change through anarchy, not votes: Rajnath



PTI

Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Nov 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday launched an attack on the Congress and its senior leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of "encouraging street violence and anarchy" because they were unable to accept their repeated electoral defeats.

Addressing the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Eradicate Anarchy' rally in Kalaburagi, the home town of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh said Indian democracy was not so weak that a regime change could be brought about through anarchy on the streets.

Saying he had come to Kalaburagi to pledge to protect the Constitution, Singh said: "We are here to raise our voice against the Congress's politics of spreading anarchy and weakening constitutional bodies in the country."

Noting that politics should not be a means to capture power but a means to build the nation, he alleged: "The Congress wants regime change through violence and anarchy, not through votes. I want to tell Rahul Gandhi clearly that Indian democracy is not so weak that regime change can happen through anarchy on the streets."

He accused the Congress of inviting foreigners to target Indian democracy.

PM to address first NDA rally in Punjab on Dec 8



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the first NDA rally in poll-bound Punjab on December 8 after the renewal of the BJP-SAD alliance, Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Wednesday.

He said the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP will organise the mega rally in Moga to mark the birth anniversary of Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal. "The prime minister will arrive in Moga on December 8 on the occasion Parkash Singh Badal's birth anniversary," Sirsa said.

"This will be the first rally of the NDA which Prime Minister Modi will address (after the alliance was announced). Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal will also address the rally," the BJP leader told reporters at the party headquarters here. Sirsa said the rally will be historic because it is the first such event the SAD and the BJP are organising together after the passing of Parkash Singh Badal.

Parkash Singh Badal died in April 2023 at the age of 95. "In my belief, if any historic rally or historic programme is going to take place for Punjab after 1996, it will be the one in Moga to be organised on December 8," Sirsa added. The BJP and the SAD on Tuesday announced their alliance for the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections, marking the return of the oldest NDA ally after six years, with Home Minister Amit Shah making it clear that the Akali Dal will take the role of "elder brother" and also get the CM post if they are voted to power.

Bajaj General Insurance partners with 'Lawyered' to bring 24x7 legal assistance to motor policyholders across India

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 25: Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited), one of India's leading private general insurers, on Wednesday announced its partnership with 'Lawyered' to introduce LOTS (Lawyer On The Spot), a 24x7 roadside legal assistance add-on for its motor policyholders. The initiative is aimed at address-ing an important gap in the motor insurance experience by providing customers access to le-gal guidance and on-ground assistance when they encounter legal or procedural challenges following a road accident or other roadside incidents.

Through LOTS, policyholders can access round-the-clock legal guidance on police proce-dures, FIRs, vehicle detention, traffic challans and related documentation. Where physical intervention is required, customers can also access support from a lawyer through Law-yered's nationwide network.

The service is supported by Lawyered's nationwide network of over 80,000 empanelled law-yers, with coverage across 98% of India's PIN codes. A round-the-clock response desk and case tracking mechanism further support customers through the assistance process.

Speaking on the announcement, Mr. Amarnath Saxena, Chief Technical Officer – Commer-cial, Bajaj General Insurance, said, "The value of an insurance proposition should be meas-ured not only by the protection it offers against financial loss, but also by how effectively it supports customers when they encounter unexpected challenges. For a motorist facing a legal situation on the road, the absence of timely and credible guidance can turn an already diffi-cult situation into a far more complex one. Through our partnership with Lawyered, we are extending access to qualified legal assistance to our motor policyholders, wherever they are in the country.

With round the clock support in multiple Indian languages and an extensive network of em-panelled lawyers, customers can access the right expertise to understand their legal position, make informed decisions and take appropriate action. This is an important step in broaden-ing the role of motor insurance from financial protection to a more comprehensive support proposition, ensuring that customers have access to the right expertise to protect their inter-ests and navigate the wider challenges of vehicle ownership."

Himanshu Gupta, Founder & CEO, Lawyered, said, "Most of what happens to a driver in the hours after an accident is legal, not mechanical. Very few people know what to do at a police station or how to get a detained vehicle released, and those first hours often decide what fol-lows. When an insurer of Bajaj General Insurance's reach makes a lawyer reachable in that window, legal help stops being something you search for in a crisis and becomes part of re-sponsible vehicle ownership."

With LOTS, Bajaj General Insurance is expanding the scope of support available to its motor policyholders, recognizing that the needs of vehicle owners extend beyond protection against financial loss to the practical and legal challenges that can arise during vehicle ownership.

Suvendu directs police to identify, send back illegal Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants



PTI

Cooch Behar, Nov 25: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday directed the police to trace, "one by one", Muslim immigrants who had allegedly entered the Cooch Behar district illegally from Bangladesh and send them back, while describing Hindus fleeing the neighbouring country as refugees deserving shelter.

Addressing a programme during his visit to Cooch Behar for Rash Mela, Adhikari told SP Manish Joshi that illegal Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh had no place in the state and must be sent back through the routes they had used to enter India.

"Illegal Muslim infiltrators from Bangladesh have to be identified and traced, one by one, in this district. They must be sent back through the same routes they used to enter. They have to be driven out," he said.

The chief minister said Hindus coming from Bangladesh should not be treated as infiltrators, as they had crossed the border to escape religious persecution and save their lives.

"Those Hindus who have come from across the border are not infiltrators. They are refugees. They have come here to protect their religion and save their lives. They must be given shelter," he said. Adhikari, who also holds the Home portfolio, directed the state police and the Border Security Force (BSF) to work in close coordination to strengthen security along the international border.

He said the state government had provided the necessary land to the BSF for border infrastructure and fencing, and asserted that all forms of smuggling must be stopped once the fencing work was completed.

The chief minister also asked the police to crack down on what he described as illegal madrasas in border areas, besides taking action against ganja cultivation, circulation of fake currency and drug trafficking.

Cooch Behar shares a sensitive border with Bangladesh, and illegal immigration and cross-border smuggling have remained key issues in political discourse in the region.

Adhikari said his government would not tolerate violence against women and warned of stringent action against offenders.

He felicitated members of 'Durga Bahini', a specially trained women police force, and handed over 30 scooters to its personnel to improve their field presence.

"The government will not tolerate any violence against women. Strict action will be taken at all times. If anyone raises a finger against even one of my sisters or daughters, that finger must be broken," he said.

Adhikari also asked the police to strictly enforce the provisions of the West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950.

"Police must look into the 1950 law. There should be no raising of hands against 'Gau Mata'. I am making this absolutely clear," he said.

Adhikari also outlined his government's development priorities for the district, saying it would work towards transforming villages into towns and towns into cities.

He asked state ministers and BJP legislators present at the event to ensure that government welfare schemes reach people across all sections of society.

Centre to train 1 lakh rural youth as 'Nal Jal Mitras' under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Centre will train and certify at least one lakh candidates as 'Nal Jal Mitras' to strengthen the operation and maintenance of rural piped water supply systems under the extended Jal Jeevan Mission, with an estimated outlay of Rs 111.93 crore, the Jal Shakti Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Jal Shakti Ministry and the Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to implement the water supply operation and maintenance skilling programme under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

The programme aims to create a skilled local workforce, generate employment opportunities for rural youth and ensure the long-term functionality of rural drinking water infrastructure, the ministry said in a statement.

The entire expenditure of approximately Rs 111.93 crore for training and certification of the candidates during the extended period of the mission will be borne by the DDWS from its departmental-level expenditure.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna and Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary in New Delhi.

The training programme will be rolled out through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) across the country, leveraging the existing vocational training infrastructure.

Delhi's AQI remains 'poor' for 11th straight day; set to worsen by Nov 28

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25: Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category for the 11th consecu-tive day on Wednesday, with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 220, as the city also recorded its coldest morning of the season.

Of the 58 monitoring stations that recorded data, 30 were in the 'poor' category, four in the 'very poor' category and the remaining 24 in the 'moderate' category. Anand Vihar recorded the worst AQI at 357.

The city's AQI has remained 'poor' since November 15. It logged 290 on November 15, 275 on November 16, 204 on November 17, 232 on November 18, 280 on November 19, 270 on No-vember 20, 265 on November 21, 239 on November 22, 260 on November 23, 227 yesterday and 220 on Wednesday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an AQI between zero and 50 is classified as 'good', 51 and 100 as 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 as 'moderate', 201 and 300 as 'poor', 301 and 400 as 'very poor' and 401 and 500 as 'severe'.



Vehicular emissions emerged as the largest contributor to Delhi's PM2.5 levels on Wednesday, accounting for 22.1 per cent, followed closely by biomass burning, including stubble burning and domestic solid biofuel use, at 21.3 per cent, according to real-time source-apportionment estimates.

Secondary organic aerosols contributed 20.1 per cent, while secondary inorganic pollutants accounted for 15.8 per cent. Within the latter category, nitrates contributed 6.9 per cent, am-monia 5 per cent and sulphates 3.9 per cent.

Waste burning, including municipal, plastic, rubber-containing and e-waste burning, con-tributed 7.2 per cent, followed by firecrackers at 4.7 per cent, mixed combustion at 3.8 per cent, industrial emissions at 2.9 per cent and mineral dust and ash at 1.9 per cent. The India Meteorological Department's Air Quality Early Warning System has forecast that Delhi's air quality is likely to remain in the 'poor' category from November 25 to 27 before de-teriorating to the 'very poor' category on November 28.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions are likely to impede pollutant dispersion over the coming days.

The ventilation index is forecast at 4,500 square metres per second on November 25, 4,000 on November 26, 1,000 on November 27 and 1,500 on November 28. The index, along with av-erage wind speeds below 10 kmph, is expected to remain unfavourable for pollutant disper-sion.

The predicted maximum mixing depth is 1,200 metres on November 25, 1,300 metres on No-vember 26, 1,050 metres on November 27 and 1,000 metres on November 28.

On Wednesday, Delhi recorded its coldest morning of the season, with the minimum temper-ature at Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, settling at 10 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees below normal.

The maximum temperature at Safdarjung settled at 28 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees above normal. Among other weather stations, Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 24.4 de-grees Celsius, 2.1 degrees below normal; Lodhi Road 27.6 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal; the Ridge 26.8 degrees Celsius, 0.1 degrees above normal; and Ayanagar 27.2 degrees Celsius, 0.3 degrees above normal.

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: ABDUL RASHID SHAH, S/D/W** of: MOHD SIDIQ SHAH, Resident of: HOUSE NO 94 NOOR NAGAR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR GALI NO 15",94,110025, in respect of LMV/ Three Wheeler/Motor Cycle/LMV bearing Registration No. DL12CB **4863, Chassis No. MAJAXXMRKAEA61224, Engine No. EA61224, in favor of: SHAH ASIF IQBAL, S/D/W of: ABDUL RASHID SHAH, Resi**dent of: HARRAN GANDERBAL JAMMU AND KASHMIR (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that representation/objection, if any, in connection with the **proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days** from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper leading papers, at the address of the undersigned.

No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in writing and submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/.

Dated.

Sd/-Authorized Signatory Assistant
Regional Transport Officer Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ishfaq Rashid, S/o Abdul Rashid Najar, R/o Thune, Ganderbal, **hereby inform the general public that I have lost my Discharge Certificate (8th Class), issued by Government Boys High School Thune,** pertaining to the academic session 2009–10, bearing Admission No. 1262.

I have searched for the said certificate but could not trace it. I intend to apply for a duplicate certificate from the concerned school authorities. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Ishfaq Rashid
S/o Abdul Rashid Najar
R/o Theru, Ganderbal

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Moonmin Abass Wani (Minor) s/o Ghulam Hussain Wani Dab Gandarbal through his natural guardian ghulam Hussain wani s/o Mohmad Qanim wani R/o Dab Gandarbal V/S
Applicant
registration and Deaths Ganderbal
ST CLASS GAR
Respondent
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1) **The instant application came to be filed before this court on** 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 Moomin Abass wani sto Ghulam Hussain Wani

2) Whereas this court has ordered that the objection from the gen**eral public be called for issuance of birth certificate in favour of the above named person.**

3) Therefore, this proclamation is issued through this newspaper **calling upon the general public to file objections, if any, within a period of seven days, to the issuance of such certificate failing which this** court this court shall proceed in accordance with law.

Announced

JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS GANDERBAL

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UK police charge two men over break-in at William and Catherine's country home

AP

London, Nov 25 : British police have charged two men over a break-in at Prince William and Princess Catherine's country home.

The Norfolk Police force says Mirgen Doku, 34, and Arilen Ndoci, 32, have been charged with entering a dwelling with intent to steal and trespassing on a protected site. They are due in court later Wednesday.

Police officers were called Monday evening to reported "suspicious activity" at an address on the rural Sandringham Estate in eastern England. After a search involving police dogs, drones and a helicopter, two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and trespassing.

No royals were on the property at the time.

Australia passes online safety law that could bring multibillion-dollar fines for Big Tech

AP

Melbourne, Nov 25 : Australia's Parliament on Wednesday passed online safety laws that could expose tech giants to multibillion-dollar fines for failing to prevent foreseeable online harms.

The United States and the Australian opposition party warned that the legislation would lead to censorship of lawful speech.

The Digital Duty of Care Act requires Big Tech to proactively reduce the risk of harm before it occurs, according to an Australian government statement.

Australian online law follows EU and British legislation

The legislation is similar to the European Union's Digital Services Act, passed in 2022, and the United Kingdom's Online Safety Act passed a year later.

The legislation became law in the House of Representatives, where the centre-left Labour Party government commands a majority, by 97 votes to 43.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Parliament the law would stand as a "powerful instrument to protect our children and our society from online harms by placing the onus on the tech platforms to ensure a safer online environment."

"This is a victory for our children and young people. The dangers were unforeseen when the digital world was young," Albanese said. "But now that the digital world has matured, they can be easily recognised and they can be remedied."

Opposition leader vows to repeal 'authoritarian' law

Opposition leader Angus Taylor told Parliament he would repeal the legislation if his conservative Liberal Party wins elections in 2028. Taylor described the legislation as "authoritarian."

"This bill is a blank check for political censorship," Taylor told Parliament. "The bill is an attack on free speech that is absolutely central to our democracy."

The government struck a deal with the minor Greens party on Tuesday to get the legislation through the Senate, where no party holds a majority.

Houthi rebels claim attacks on Riyadh financial district and Saudi refinery



AP

Dubai, Nov 25 : The Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility on Wednesday for strikes on a refinery in Saudi Arabia and the financial district in the kingdom's capital, Riyadh.

The Saudi-led coalition said Tuesday that a Houthi drone targeted a tower in the King Abdullah Financial District. In a statement early Wednesday, it said four drones targeting the Ras Tanoura refinery in the eastern region were intercepted.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree claimed Wednesday, without providing evidence, that the rebels had carried out the two attacks. The AP could not independently verify the claim. The Houthis have attacked Saudi energy facilities and airports in recent weeks, saying they aim to pressure the kingdom into lifting its blockade on Yemen.

Separately, the Houthis blamed Saudi Arabia for a strike that killed eight people from the same family, including women and children, on Tuesday. The AP could not independently verify the claim. The Houthi-run Health Ministry said the attack was on Lahj, a province where displaced families have fled since fighting resumed.

Drone strikes in Sudan kill at least 19 people

At least six women were among 19 killed by strikes on southeastern Sudan, according to Emergency Lawyers, a rights group tracking the Sudan war.

It blamed the killings on the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group.

The rights group said the strikes on neighbourhoods in Damazin, the capital of southeastern Blue Nile province on the border with Ethiopia, also wounded 15 people.

Strikes on Roseires, another city in Blue Nile, also hit a reservoir and power plants.

The attacks came as Sudan's government had rejected an Ethiopian government effort to mediate talks between warring parties to end the four-year conflict.

In a statement carried by the state-run SUNA news agency, the government in Khartoum said Ethiopia "doesn't meet terms of neutrality" to host such dialogue because of its alleged support for the RSF. Sudan's government accused Ethiopia of allowing the RSF to use its territories to launch drone attacks on the military-held areas in Sudan. Sudan called for an independent investigation into the allegation, which Ethiopia rejects.

Family of four killed in Israeli strike on Gaza City

The overnight airstrike on the Shati refugee camp killed four people and wounded six more, according to health officials.

The strike killed Mohammad Majid Abu al-Ouf, his wife and two teenage daughters, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said. It identified him as the director of internal security services in northern Gaza.

The Israeli military said it targeted a Hamas militant, and confirmed he was a member of the internal security services.

The latest strike came after Israel carried out several strikes on Gaza this week, killing at least nine people between Monday night and Tuesday, including another top security official.

More than 74,710 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed since the war began three years ago, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government. Its figures are generally considered reliable by the international community.

Israel continues to launch near-daily strikes on the territory amid a fragile ceasefire with Hamas.

Jordan sentences man to death for attack outside embassy

Jordan's State Security Court said Wednesday that it had sentenced a man to death for killing a security officer near the Sri Lankan Embassy in Jordan's capital, Amman, earlier this month.

New Delhi to host 2028 Thomas and Uber Cup Finals



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 25 : India will host the prestigious 2028 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in New Delhi, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) announced on Wednesday.

The tournament, which is effectively the world team championships for men and women, was last staged in India in 2014. India had famously won the Thomas Cup in 2022.

India had hosted the BWF World Championships in the national capital earlier this year.

The BWF on Wednesday confirmed several hosts for its major championships through to 2030, taking the sport's flagship tournaments across North America, Asia and Europe.

The 2027 World Championships will be played in Mississauga (Canada), the 2029 Sudirman Cup in South Korea and the 2030 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Paris.

BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul said: "The hosts selected for our Major Championships represent some of the most important and strategic markets in our sport and share our ambition to deliver exceptional events that inspire athletes, engage fans and strengthen badminton's global profile.

"We look forward to working closely with each host as we continue to elevate our Major Championships and bring badminton's biggest moments to more people around the world."

Nearly 2,000 migrants arrive in Spain's Canary Islands in single-day record

AP

Barcelona, Nov 25 : Spanish authorities said nearly 2,000 migrants arrived at Spain's Canary Islands on Tuesday, a record high for migrants reaching the archipelago on a single day. The islands located off the coast of West Africa saw a surge in arrivals just before Spain holds a national election later this week, when migration will be a major concern for many voters. Spain's maritime rescue service said that 1,990 people arrived on 15 different boats as search and rescue vessels accompanied one dinghy after another to the small island of El Hierro. "Sadly, this is a historic day," the Canary Islands' regional leader Fernando Clavijo said in an interview with Spanish radio Cadena Ser.

There were around 100 minors among Tuesday's arrivals, including a four-day-old baby that had been born during the journey, Clavijo said. The Canary Islands, a tourist hotspot for many Europeans drawn to its year-round mild weather, have for years been a key entry point for migrants desperate to reach Europe. The route is also extremely dangerous with thousands dying in the attempted crossing.

Pant, Gill and Jaiswal rise in ICC Test rankings

PTI

Dubai, Nov 25 : Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal featured in the top 10 as India's prolific batting display in the drawn first Test against New Zealand triggered a major reshuffle in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings released on Wednesday.

Pant remains the side's top-ranked batter, his attractive knock of 128 helping him move up one place to sixth position, while Test captain Gill moved up three places to seventh and left-handed opener Jaiswal climbed five places to ninth after their knocks of 98 and 85 respectively.

Opener KL Rahul, who top-scored for India with 136 in their total of 720 for nine declared in Wellington, has moved up four places to 25th, while Devdutt Padikkal's 80 runs have lifted him 15 places to 39th.



India pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah's five wickets in Wellington have helped him move up three places to joint-second in the bowling rankings.

The New Zealand batters who gained included Player of the Match Henry Nicholls, who has shot up 10 places to 30th after scores of 175 not out and 31, while Glenn Phillips has moved up 13 places to a career-best 17th position after scoring 118 and 26 not out.

The latest update also includes the first Test between South Africa and Bangladesh and the second Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy's score of 137 in the first innings has helped him climb 28 places to 33rd, while Litton Das has advanced nine places to 24th after scoring 120.

South Africa batter Ryan Rickelton is up to a career-best joint-15th, while Marques Ackerman is ranked 60th.

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada, who returned a match haul of eight wickets to help set up a nine-wicket victory in Johannesburg, is up two places to sixth.

Shukla says Siraj should not be dragged into selection controversy

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 25 : BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla on Wednesday dismissed the controversy surrounding Mohammed Siraj's omission from India's playing XI in the recently concluded drawn cricket Test against New Zealand in Wellington, saying the pacer should not be unnecessarily "dragged" into a selection debate.

Siraj was left out despite India opting for a four-pronged pace attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep and the rookie Anshul Kamboj, who had played just one Test before the Wellington match.

The decision came under scrutiny after India, despite posting a record 720 for nine declared, failed to force a win, managing to take only five wickets in New Zealand's second innings as the hosts held on for a draw at 239 for five.

The result also dented India's chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship final, triggered criticism of the team management's decision to leave out the 48-Test veteran, particularly on a green Wellington pitch.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar had earlier described Siraj's omission as "a little hard to get over", while former head coach Ravi Shastri also questioned the decision, citing the pacer's experience, aggression and ability to exploit seam movement.

"I don't think he (Siraj) should be dragged into any kind of controversy. That's not done. The playing XI has to be picked by the coach and captain. Bringing a player unnecessarily into these kinds of controversies is not good," Shukla told PTI here.

He also rejected suggestions that Siraj's omission was due to reasons other than cricketing considerations.

"I don't think that is the reason. That's completely wrong. He is part of the team. The playing XI has to be finalised keeping other factors in mind, including the pitch conditions and how the wicket is behaving on that particular day. All those things are taken into consideration," he said.

It was another draw for Shubman Gill's side, whose conservative approach in the closing stages has come under scrutiny.

India had also been unable to force a result in the drawn second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo in August, where the hosts, following on after India declared at 503 for nine, battled their way to 429 for nine after being bowled out for 290 in the first innings.

