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SCAN TO VISIT

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Home Secy Govind Mohan reviews J&K security, calls for decisive blow to terror

IB Director, DGP Prabhat, CAPF chiefs, Army, Police officers discuss infiltration, terror networks, winter preparedness, preventing local recruitment

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Jammu, Nov 26: With the focus of counter-terrorism operations shifting towards tracking down foreign terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Thursday chaired a high-level security review meeting at Police Headquarters in Jammu, with top security and intelligence officials deliberating on measures to prevent infiltration, dismantle remaining terror networks and deliver a decisive blow to terrorism in the Union Territory.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the meeting was attended by Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) Mahesh Dixit, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Chinar Corps Commander Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, Chief Secretary Dr Sajan Singh Yadav, IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, IGP Jammu Tejinder Singh, and Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) G.P. Singh, along with chiefs of other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), senior officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and representatives of various security and intelligence agencies.

The review focused on the prevailing security situation, particularly the presence of foreign terrorists in mountainous and forested areas, infiltration attempts from across the borders, intelligence coordination and measures to prevent local youth from joining terrorist ranks.

The meeting assumes significance as security agencies intensify their efforts against foreign terrorists following the killing of the last identified active local terrorist in the Kashmir Valley, Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Mohammad Lateef Bhat, in an encounter in Kulgam earlier this month.

A source prior to meeting, told KNO, with local recruitment remaining a key concern for the security establishment, the review meet also assessed measures to prevent fresh recruitment, dismantle support networks and sustain the gains made against terrorism.

The source said a major focus of the deliberations was the presence of foreign terrorists believed to be operating in the upper reaches and forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Jammu region. "Security agencies are understood to have reviewed ongoing operations to track down these terrorists, their possible movement routes and the networks allegedly providing them logistical support, shelter and other assistance," the source said.

Preventing | More on P6

Aug 5, 2019 decision corrected 'historical injustice': PM Modi

Articles 370, 35A kept J&K away from full constitutional integration, deprived marginalised communities of rights

Sajid Raina



New Delhi, Nov 26: Asserting that the continued existence of Article 370 and Article 35A had kept several communities from enjoying certain rights, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the constitutional changes made in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 had corrected a "historical injustice."

In an opinion article on Constitution Day, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The provisions had prevented the full implementation of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir for decades."

He said Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women had been deprived of certain rights.

The Prime Minister cited the changes as part of the NDA government's efforts to strengthen constitutional values and advance social and economic justice.

PM Modi also criticised the Congress, accusing it of undermining constitutional principles during its decades in power. He said the party had increasingly shifted from being a "Virodh Paksh" (opposition) to an "Avrodh Paksh" (obstructionist).

He said a constitutional democracy assigns an important responsibility to the Opposition, but disrupting democratic proceedings cannot substitute for fulfilling that role.

The article marked Constitution Day, observed on November 26 to commemorate | More on P6

Exam results don't define person's life: LG Sinha

'Defeat only an event, not anyone's identity'



Yogesh

Jammu, Dec 26: Reminding students that examination results do not define a person's life, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that defeat is only an event and not anyone's identity.

Addressing meritorious students at Amar Ujala Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Life presents unexpected challenges for which character, patience and courage are often more important than academic scores."

He said, "It is true that marks can take you to a door, but how you live beyond that door will be determined by your character. Defeat is only an Event, not your identity. Be resilient, confident, give your best, and then accept the outcome with equanimity. No defeat or failure can break someone who can do this. A Marksheet is not the marksheet of life. Dream big, stay humble and rise above failure."

Emphasising holistic development, he called upon students to light three lamps in their lives- the lamp of knowledge, the lamp of compassion and the lamp of character.

LG Sinha said, "Country's true destiny is reflected in its young achievers. I am confident that the students would contribute significantly to the nation's progress in the years ahead."

Referring to India's rich philosophical traditions, the Lieutenant Governor said that education builds character, nurtures worthiness, and ultimately leads to meaningful and fulfilling lives.

'MACHINE CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION NOT WISDOM'

"Machine can provide information, but it cannot provide wisdom. It can give answers, but it cannot tell you which question is the right one to ask. A machine can calculate, but it does not possess values such as compassion. So always remember that, in the future, the most valuable thing will be what a machine cannot do and that is your wisdom, your ability to distinguish right from wrong, critical thinking, patience, compassion, sensitivity, courage, and curiosity. Always remember that ability gives you height, but character gives you the strength to remain standing at that height," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also | More on P6

Draw inspiration from Constitution to build progressive India, self-reliant J&K: LG Sinha

Says country not waiting for future but building it

Yogesh



Jammu, Nov 26: Calling upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to draw inspiration from the Constitution in the collective journey towards building a developed, inclusive and progressive India and self-reliant Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living expression of India's collective aspirations and democratic commitment.

Addressing the Constitutional day celebrations here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living expression of India's collective aspirations and democratic | More on P6

CM extends greetings on Constitution Day



KT News Desk

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and | More on P6

CM reviews dev works in Ramban

Calls for improving public services

KT News Desk

Ramban, Nov 26: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a district development review meeting in Ramban, assessing the progress of developmental works and delivery of public services across various sectors in the district.

The meeting, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was attended by Ministers, the Chief Minister's Advisor and MLAs representing Ramban and Banihal constituencies.

During the meeting, progress was reviewed in key sectors, including highways, power, water supply, rural development, agriculture, tourism, education, healthcare, social welfare and disaster management.

The Chief Minister appreciated the performance of Aspirational Block Khari and the district's Hospital on Wheels initiative for providing healthcare services in difficult terrain, calling for replication of these successful models in other remote areas.

He also commended the district administration's focused efforts | More on P6

Dry spell to continue in Kashmir till Dec 3

Rain, snow likely afterwards

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 26: Kashmir is likely to experience continued cold and dry weather conditions until December 3, while two Western Disturbances are expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir between December 4 and 10, potentially bringing rain and snowfall to parts of the region.

Srinagar recorded the season's lowest minimum temperature of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day, as several other parts of the Valley also witnessed freezing or near-freezing night temperatures.

According to the latest weather data, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Qazigund at minus 2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1 degree Celsius, while Kokernag settled at 0 degrees Celsius. Shopian also continued to remain among the coldest areas of the Valley.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded | More on P6

If there's nothing to hide, let us visit Sheshnag, Mehbooba challenges govt

Seeks cancellation of project MoU, demands inspection by environmental experts, public representatives

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 26: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday mounted her opposition to the proposed Sheshnag project, challenging the government to allow her to visit the site and questioning how heavy machinery was permitted in the ecologically fragile glacial lake area without a public environmental assessment.

She demanded cancellation of the MoU with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), immediate removal of the JCB and a joint inspection by environmental experts and public representatives. "If they have nothing to hide, let us go," she said.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Mehbooba, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the deployment of a JCB near Sheshnag Lake at an altitude of over 3,500 metres raised serious concerns about the fragile glacial ecosystem, and demanded that the agreement with BRO be made public.

She said the issue went beyond political differences and religious considerations, describing Sheshnag as an ecologically significant location connected with the faith of millions of devotees visiting the Amarnath cave. "It is not a political issue | More on P6

Can Kashmir's Saffron survive garbage menace? NGT orders probe near Pampore fields

Study links soil degradation, heavy metals to decline of prized crop

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 26: A study linking depleted soil nutrients and higher heavy-metal levels with declining saffron growth in Kashmir has added to concerns over environmental damage to the region's prized crop, as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered an inquiry into alleged municipal waste dumping near saffron fields in Pampore.

The NGT has formed a joint committee to investigate the allegations and submit a report within eight weeks. The order came during the first hearing of a petition filed by 37 farmers and environmentalist Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who have sought closure of the dumping site and compensation for affected farmers.

The study, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), examined soil samples from Pampore and Chandhara in Pulwama district and Chadoora in Budgam district. Researchers Syed Owais Mushtaq, Parshant Dahiya, Anjali Awasthi and Chandra Shekhar Yadav assessed



soil characteristics, including organic matter, available phosphorus and moisture, as well as heavy-metal concentrations.

The findings suggested that a decline in soil organic matter, available phosphorus and moisture, along with an increased heavy-metal load, may be associated with a fall in saffron quantity and quality. The researchers said soil characteristics and heavy-metal levels play an important role in saffron growth, while recommending further research.

The study did not examine the Pampore dumping site specifically. However, its findings have drawn attention to the vulnerability of saffron cultivation to soil degradation, amid allegations that waste is being dumped close to farms in the area.

According to the petitioners, municipal authorities have been dumping mixed waste on around eight acres of land near saffron fields in Patalbag village since 2022. They claim about 50 mini-truckloads of rubbish arrive from Pampore town every day.

The petitioners' lawyer Saurabh Sharma said their plea included an inspection report by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), which confirmed the presence of mixed waste and leachate — contaminated liquid that seeps from accumulated waste.

The tribunal took note of the findings and observed that there was prima | More on P6

J&K Resident Commissioner's Office observes Constitution Day



KT News Desk

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26: The Office of the Resident Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, Thursday observed Constitution Day with great enthusiasm and reverence, commemorating adoption of the Constitution of India.

On the occasion, all officers and officials of the office, as per an official statement, read out the Preamble to the Constitution in unison, reaffirming their commitment to the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in it. The participants also took a solemn pledge to uphold the Constitution and discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and dedication towards the nation and its citizens.

The ceremony was marked by a spirit of unity, patriotism and constitutional pride. The officers and officials reiterated their resolve to work in accordance with the constitutional ideals and to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with transparency, accountability and compassion.

Among those present on the occasion were Additional Resident Commissioner, Anil Sharma, Additional Secretary Supriya Kohli, along with other officers and officials of the Resident Commissioner's Office.

The participants expressed that Constitution Day is not merely a day of remembrance but a day of rededication to the democratic values that form the foundation of the country.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Bureau of Information also celebrated the national event with equal fervour. The officers and officials of the Bureau gathered to read out the Preamble and took the pledge to preserve and protect the Constitution.

Constitution Day celebrated by DLSA Srinagar at District Court Complex

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with District Judiciary Srinagar, celebrated Constitution Day at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to spread awareness about its significance, values and principles.

On the occasion, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, as per an official statement, lead out the collective reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India which was followed by the Judicial Officers, Staff Members and other participants posted at District Court Complex, Srinagar. The programme highlighted the importance of the Constitution, its fundamental principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and the responsibility of every citizen to uphold constitutional values.

The Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the importance of creating awareness about constitutional rights, duties and the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution.

Similar programmes were also organised at various Legal Literacy Clubs (LLCs) including LLC Kothibagh, LLC SP Hr. Secondary, LLC Chanapora, LLC MPML, LLC CPS, LLC Bilaliya, etc. and Free Legal Aid Clinics (FLACs) including FLAC IMHANS, FLAC Bagh-e-Mehtab, FLAC JJB, FLAC Pantha Chowk, FLAC Dargah, FLAC GMC and Ahat-e-Waqar across Srinagar District by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) deputed at these centres, with the objective of spreading constitutional awareness among students and the general public.

VC LCMA reviews progress of ongoing revitalisation works of Dole Demb area

Takes stock of dredging, development activities across various Dal Lake localities



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Thursday undertook a follow-up visit to Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review the progress of ongoing revitalisation works and take stock of dredging and development activities across various Dal Lake localities.

He was accompanied by senior officers of the Authority and other concerned officials, who briefed him on the progress of the ongoing works.

At Dole Demb, the Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, reviewed the removal of bushes, Petsi and other aquatic vegetation, along with clearance of the identified area for its proposed development as a recreational space. He also inspected the ongoing dredging operations at Khan Mohalla, aimed at improving water circulation, flushing and navigational connectivity. Besides, he reviewed other development and improvement works being undertaken at Karapora, Kabootar Khana, Kooli Mohalla, Moti Mohalla, Kati Mohalla and Out Kadal.

The Vice Chairman also directed the concerned officers to undertake dredging of Nishat Paw, particularly the channel leading from Nishat Basin towards the Vegetable Market and the Ashaibagh side of the lake, to improve navigational connectivity, facilitate water circulation.

Emphasising the importance of water quality improvement, he stressed the need for effective dredging and channel clearance to improve water circulation, reduce stagnation and strengthen the ecological health of Dal Lake. He directed the officers to ensure timely execution and regular monitoring of all works.

The ongoing interventions reflect JKLCMA's continued efforts towards improving water quality, restoring the lake environment, strengthening navigational connectivity and enhancing the overall development of Dal Lake and its interior localities.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises awareness programme at Kehnusa

Emphasis laid on importance of preventing child labour, child marriage, child abuse, exploitation, other forms of violence against children

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 26: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Kehnusa, Bandipora, with the objective of sensitising the community about child rights, child protection laws, and various government initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety, welfare and overall development of children.

During the programme, as per an official statement, participants were made aware of several important child protection legislations, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.



Special emphasis was laid on the importance of preventing child labour, child marriage, child abuse, exploitation and other forms of violence against children. The participants were also sensitised about the provisions of the POCSO Act and the importance of creating a safe and protective environment for every child. Furthermore, awareness was disseminated regarding Child Helpline 1098, highlighting its role as an important emergency support service for children in distress, in need of care and protection, or facing abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The programme concluded with an appeal to the community to remain vigilant, report cases of child abuse and exploitation, discourage harmful practices and collectively work towards safeguarding the rights, dignity and future of every child.

Know Your Artisan

3-day event inaugurated at Polo Ground, Srinagar

Event, will showcase Kashmir's famed handmade products from high-value crafts

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Thursday inaugurated the 8th Edition of "Know Your Artisan," programme, held under the aegis of Soulful Kashmir brand promotion campaign at Polo Ground Park, here.

The event, being held from November 26 to 28, shall showcase Kashmir's famed handmade products from high-value crafts like carpets, pashmina and kani shawls to papier mache, willow wicker and walnut wood carving in non-textile sector.

The three-day event, as per an official statement, aims to provide a vibrant platform for showcasing the rich and diverse craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir while creating direct interaction between traditional artisans and the craft lovers, buyers and tourists. "It seeks to bridge the gap between the creators and potential buyers of handicraft products, enabling visitors to understand the skill, dedication and cultural legacy behind every handcrafted products," he said, adding as many as 21 stalls have been installed, with a 'Try Your Hands' corner to connect with youth and children. With the onset of winter, this edition places special emphasis on Kashmir's traditional winter crafts and products, including Pashmina, woollen textiles, carpets and other indigenous crafts, highlighting their warmth, elegance and enduring cultural significance.

The spokesman emphasized the importance of preserving traditional craftsmanship while creating sustainable market opportunities and greater visibility for local artisans. "The event also reflects the Department's continued commitment towards promoting artisan-led entrepreneurship, strengthening market linkages and taking Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage to wider audiences," he added.

The participating artisans are showcasing their products and craftsmanship, offering visitors an opportunity to explore authentic handmade products and engage directly with the people who preserve these age-old traditions.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

SWD Srinagar organises Sensitization programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, organised a Sensitization Programme aimed at creating awareness about the importance of the girl child, promoting gender equality and encouraging the education and empowerment of girls.

During the programme, as per an official statement, a resource person from the College of Education delivered an informative and interactive session, highlighting the significance of educating and empowering the girl child, eliminating gender-based discrimination and challenging prevailing social stereotypes. The participants were sensitized about the need to ensure equal opportunities for girls in education, healthcare and other spheres of life.

The resource person also emphasized the collective responsibility of families, educational institutions and society in fostering a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for girls, enabling them to realise their full potential.

The programme witnessed active participation and served as an important platform for spreading awareness about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative and reinforcing the message of "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child."

The Department reiterated its commitment to organising such awareness and sensitization programmes to promote the rights, dignity, education and empowerment of the girl child.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Short Term.

GIST of Detailed e– NIT No: - 85/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Registered/Approved/ Mechanical / Electrical Works having good experience in the relevant field /Joint Ventures etc having good experience in the relevant field as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S.No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head /Pro-gramme	Tender Call
	Providing and testing of Submersible Pumping unit with allied accessories under M&E for Ground Water Division Srinagar.	Rs. 2.87 Lacs	Rs.8,650 /-	Rs. 10/-	05 days (from the date of issuance of directions by the concerned AEE))	Registered for Electrical/ Mechanical works	M & E	1st
	Providing and fitting of aftermarket heater/ blower for inspection Vehicles Mahindra Boloero Camper JK01BC-1179 and Tata Yodha JK-01AB-0835 Ground Water Division Srinagar.	Rs. 0.39 Lacs	Rs.1,200 /-	Rs.50/-	02 days (from the date of issuance of work order)	Registered for Electrical/ Mechanical works	M&R / Contin-gency	1st

Position of Funds: - Available

➢ Circular issued by the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir Srinagar's Vide No. CE/PHE/DB/26798-832, Dated: 11-03-2026.

➢ Action Plan under M&R for the financial year 2026-27 forwarded to the Superintending Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Circle North Srinagar vide letter No. PHE/GWD/2026-27/TS-172-73, Dated: 07-04-2026.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:
https://www.jktenders.gov.in
From 23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:
https://www.jktenders.gov.in
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	23.11.2026 (10:00 AM) UPTO 07.12.2026 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	08.12.2026 (11:00 A.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD/e-challan, the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT.	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication,
The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 08-12-2026 (11:00 AM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 19085-92.
Dated: 23-11-2026.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-7966/26
DATED: 26-11-2026

Air raid, blackout mock drills conducted across J&K



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 26: Civil defence air raid and blackout mock drills were conducted across several districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri, on Thursday to assess emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, officials said.

The exercises were organised by the respective district administrations in coordination with police, health, fire and emergency services, SDRF, civil defence and other departments.

In Bandipora, an air raid mock drill was held at NM Boys Higher Secondary School to assess coordination among emergency response agencies during crisis situations.

Anantnag conducted an air raid exercise in the afternoon, followed by a blackout drill in the evening, during which residents switched off lights and covered windows after warning sirens were sounded.

In Shopian, a civil defence air raid and blackout drill at Government Degree College simulated evacuation, search-and-rescue operations and emergency response measures.

Similar exercises were also conducted in Poonch and Rajouri as part of the Union Territory-wide preparedness initiative.

Officials said the drills were conducted in accordance with directions issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department for mock exercises across the Union Territory from November 23 to 27—(KNO)

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Jammu: A delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Jammu Kashmir, led by its State Secretary Sannak Shrivats, called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

The delegation comprising Joint Secretaries Radhika Aryan and Rahul Thakur, along with Jammu University Vice President Jayavardhani Singh Parihar, submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues concerning examination reforms, higher education, recruitment, and tribal student welfare.

The members of the delegation demanded the creation and sanctioning of essential staff positions at the Gaddi-Sippi Hostel in Udhampur, and transfer of Pahari Hostel in Kot Bhalwal, Jammu to the Department of Tribal Affairs for better administration and management.

They also urged the immediate appointment of a regular, full-time Chairman and Members of J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) to ensure smooth institutional functioning and timely recruitment.

In the meantime, Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba also called on the Lieutenant Governor and discussed various development issues of his constituency.

JLNM Hospital gets first NICU

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 26: Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital, Rainawari, has established its first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), adding 10 specialised beds for the treatment of critically ill newborns.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, during an inspection of the facility on Thursday said the NICU had been made operational through the convergence of district-level resources and that newborns were already being admitted and treated there.

He said JLNM Hospital, despite handling a significant number of maternity cases, previously lacked a dedicated neonatal intensive care facility, forcing critically ill newborns to be referred to other hospitals.

The newly commissioned NICU is equipped with 10 beds, two advanced mechanical ventilators, three Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines and other essential equipment for managing neonatal emergencies.

Officials said the facility would enable timely treatment of newborns at the hospital itself, reducing referrals and easing pressure on other tertiary care institutions.

Labroo said the project was part of the district administration's efforts to bridge gaps in healthcare infrastructure through inter-departmental coordination and optimal use of available resources.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Deadlock persists as GMC non-gazetted employees continue protest

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 26: The deadlock over recruitment rules in five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Jammu and Kashmir continued on Thursday, with non-gazetted employees refusing to call off their agitation despite an assurance from Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav that the rules would be notified within a month.

Employees associated with GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda, GMC Kathua, GMC Handwara and GMC Baramulla continued their protest and hunger strike, insisting that the agitation would end only after the government formally notifies the long-pending recruitment rules.

The Coordination Committee representing the employees said it had deliberated on the Chief Secretary's assurance but decided to continue the protest, citing similar commitments made over the past seven years that did not yield any concrete outcome.

The ongoing agitation has affected services at hospitals attached to the five medical colleges, causing inconvenience to patients and attendants.

The Chief Secretary had interacted with protesting employees on Tuesday during his visit to Rajouri after they stopped his cavalcade and sought his intervention in resolving the issue.

During the interaction, Dr Yadav assured them that the recruitment rules would be notified within a month after completion of the required formalities.

He said the draft rules had already been sent by the Health and Medical Education Department to the Finance Department for examination and would subsequently be processed by the Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department before being placed before the Lieutenant Governor for approval.

The employees are demanding immediate notification of recruitment rules to establish a uniform service framework, including clear designations, seniority norms, promotional avenues and career progression for non-gazetted staff across the five medical colleges.

The Coordination Committee reiterated that the agitation would continue until the government issues a formal notification, keeping the stalemate unresolved despite the Chief Secretary's intervention—(KNO)

Shopian residents renew demand for mechanical division

Say dependence on Anantnag delays snow clearance, leaves remote areas cut off for days

Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, Nov 26: With winter setting in, residents of south Kashmir's Shopian district have renewed their demand for a dedicated Mechanical Division, warning that the absence of an independent setup and adequate snow-clearance machinery could leave several areas cut off from the rest of the district for prolonged periods during snowfall.

Residents said Shopian, despite being a full-fledged district with a sizeable population and vast rural areas, continues to depend on the Mechanical Division based in Anantnag for snow-clearance operations, which affects timely deployment of machinery, particularly during heavy snowfall.

They said the problem is more pronounced in far-flung and mountainous areas, where even moderate snowfall can bring normal life to a standstill, with some localities remaining inaccessible for two to three days. Several interior and link roads in Keller, Sedow, Hirpora, Harmain and other peripheral areas frequently remain blocked, affecting access to healthcare, educational institutions, markets and other essential services.

Jahangir Ahmad, a resident of Keller said that winter has become a period of uncertainty for people in remote areas. "Every time it snows, people are left waiting for roads to be cleared. Since Shopian does not have an independent mechanical division with sufficient machinery, operations get delayed. The situation becomes particularly alarming when someone falls seriously ill and needs to be shifted to a hospital," he said.

Reyaz Ahmad Lone, a shopkeeper from Sedow,

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Man arrested for duping family on pretext of Govt jobs

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 26: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has arrested a man for allegedly duping a family from Ganderbal of Rs 12.20 lakh on the pretext of securing government jobs for their two sons and daughter, officials said on Thursday.

In a statement, Crime Branch said the accused, identified as Mohammad Abdullah Mir, son of Abdul Gaffar Mir, a resident of Shilvat, Sumbal, Bandipora, was arrested on November 25 in connection with FIR No. 09/2025 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC.

The statement said the investigation revealed that the accused had allegedly provided three forged appointment orders to the family, including two purportedly issued for appointments in J&K Bank and one in the Forest Department. "Verification from the respective departments confirmed that the said appointment orders were fake and had never been issued by the competent authorities," the statement said.

It further said that the accused was also named in several other criminal cases, including FIR No. 42/2026 of Police Station Kunzer, which has been charge-sheeted, FIR No. 100/2023 of Police Station Kokernag,

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Police register four FIRs over violation of VPN ban

KNO

Rajouri, Nov 26: Rajouri Police have registered four separate FIRs against individuals found using Virtual Private Network (VPN) services in violation of prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate, Rajouri.

Details reveal that the cases have been registered under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at four police stations across the district.

An FIR (No. 242/2026) has been registered at Police Station Nowshera against Ram Bihari Choudhary, a resident of Panna district in Madhya Pradesh.

Police Station Darhal has also registered FIR No. 92/2026 against Ghulam Mustafa, a resident of Chowkian, Darhal, while Police Station Sunderbani has registered FIR No. 79/2026 against Neeraj Kumar, a resident of Samastipur district in Bihar.

Another case (FIR No. 177/2026) has been registered at Police Station Kandi against Mohd Sageer, a resident of Kandi area of Kotranka tehsil in Rajouri district.

Police said the action was part of efforts to ensure strict implementation of the prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate and warned that violations would invite legal action under the law.

Rajouri Police have further appealed to the public to refrain from using VPN services in violation of the restrictions and cooperate with the authorities in maintaining peace, security and law and order in the district—(KNO)

J&K Armed Police concludes inter-battalion firing competition

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 26: Personnel from various battalions of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police showcased their marksmanship and weapon-handling skills as a two-day Inter-Battalion Firing Competition concluded at the Armed Police Complex (APC), Zewan.

Organised on the directions of ADGP Armed J&K Nitesh Kumar, IPS, and supervised by DIG IRROK, the competition brought together Gazetted and Non-Gazetted officers who competed in categories including INSAS rifle, AK-47, JVPC (5.56×30 mm) and 9 mm pistol.

In the INSAS rifle category, SgCt Mohd Shafayat (4 JKAP IR) secured first place, followed by HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP) and HC Ravinder Singh (13 JKAP).

In the AK-47 category, HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP) finished first, while SgCt Mohd Shafayat (4 JKAP IR) and SgCt Gulab Singh (20 JKAP IR) secured second and third places.

In the JVPC category, HC Afsar Khan (20 JKAP IR) secured first position, followed by HC Mohinder Kumar (17 JKAP IR) and HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP).

In the Non-Gazetted Officers' 9 mm pistol category, PSI Maqsood Ahmad secured first place, while PSI Sajad Ahmad (10 JKAP IR) and PSI Aijaz Ahmad (9 JKAP) finished second and third.

In the Gazetted Officers' AK-47 category, Commandant Sajad Shah (17 JKAP IR) secured first place, followed by Dy Commandant Gh Hassan (23 JKAP IR) and Dy Commandant Abid Rashid Mir (4 JKAP IR).

In the Gazetted Officers' Glock pistol category, SSP/Commandant Shazaad Salaria (9 JKAP) secured first place. Dy SP Fiza Hamid Shah (13 JKAP) and Dy SP Nisar Ahmad Bakshi shared second place, while Dy Commandant Gh Hassan (23 JKAP IR) finished third.

At the award ceremony held at the APC Zewan Auditorium, DIG Armed Range Kashmir Maqsood-ul-Zaman presented certificates and mementoes to the winners.

He lauded the participants for their discipline, dedication and performance, and highlighted the role of such competitions in enhancing marksmanship, firing proficiency and professional efficiency among police personnel—(KNO)

JKAACL organises literary interaction with writer, poet Dr Nazir Azad

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 26: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Thursday organised an interactive literary programme featuring noted Kashmiri writer, poet, researcher and critic Dr Nazir Azad under its ongoing 'Meet the Eminent Writer' series at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The programme, titled 'An Encounter with Dr Nazir Azad', brought together prominent writers, poets, researchers and intellectuals, who discussed his literary journey and contributions to poetry, research, translation and criticism.

A statement said the event was presided over by renowned writer and intellectual Padma, Prof Shafi Shauq, while noted poet Rafiq Raaz attended as the chief guest. Prof Shafiqa Parveen was the guest of honour.

The programme began with welcome remarks by Muhammad Saleem Salik, Editor of Sheeraza Urdu, who highlighted the objectives and significance of the literary interaction.

During the session, Dr Rakesh Kumar Talib presented a comprehensive paper authored by Sufi Shaukat, offering an account of Dr Nazir Azad's personality and literary contributions. Another scholarly paper was presented by Abdul Ghani Kumar, who discussed various creative and critical dimensions of his work.

On the occasion, two recently published books by Dr Nazir Azad, titled 'Sha'r, Sharut te La-Sha'oor' and 'Kashmir Mein Ma'aasir Urdu Adab: Ikhtiyar-o-Inhiraf', were formally released. A special issue of the weekly newspaper Shehrbeen, dedicated to Dr Azad, was also released.

During the interactive session, Dr Nazir Azad spoke about his personal life, educational background and different stages of his literary journey. This was followed by a question-and-answer session in which members of the literary fraternity interacted with him on various aspects of his work and experiences.

Dr Azad was also felicitated in recognition of his literary achievements and contributions.

The programme witnessed the participation of several prominent poets, writers, researchers and intellectuals from across the Valley, including Abdul Rashid Rahgir, Ghulam Nabi Shaheed, Prof Shad Ramzan, Dildar Ashraf Shah, Prof Majrooh Rashid, Prof Nasir Mirza, Muhammad Amin Bhat, Javaid Iqbal Khan, Javaid Matji, Abdul Hafeez Masoodi, Parvez Manoos, Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Hassan Anzar, Shabir Mujahid, Mohi-ud-Din Rishi, Bashir Arif, Muhammad Yousuf Shaheen, Muhammad Subhan Shaukeen, Dr Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, Sagar Sarfraz, Rehana Shajar and Rukhsana Jabeen, among others.

The proceedings were conducted by Mohammad Iqbal Lone, while Muhammad Saleem Salik presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the guests, paper presenters and participants—(KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

EDITORIAL

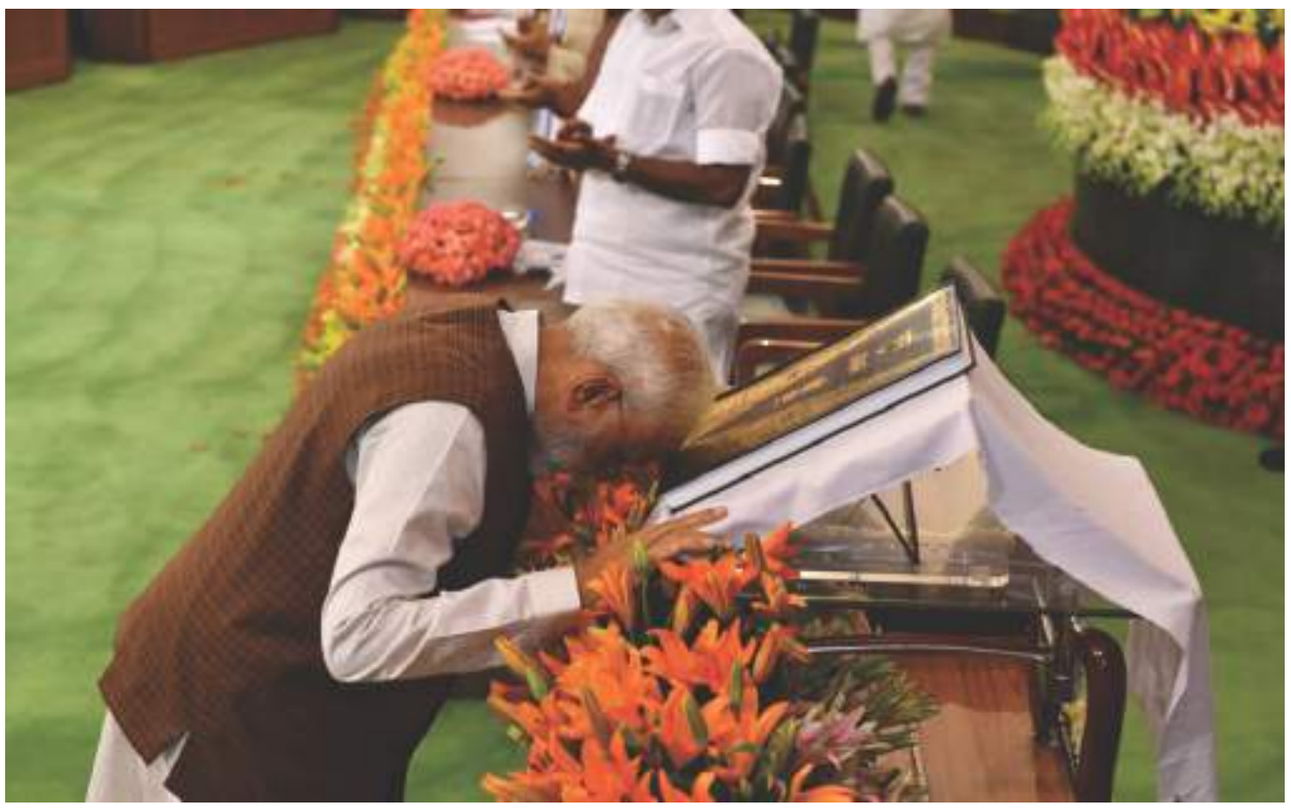
Friday Brief: The Weight of Intention

In Islam, the value of a deed is not measured by its size alone, but by the intention behind it. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Actions are judged by intentions, and every person will have what he intended" (Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim). This one hadith reshaped how believers understand even the smallest acts. A glass of water given to a thirsty person, a smile, a moment of restraint — each can become an act of worship if the heart is sincere. The Quran reinforces this. "And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, sincere to Him in religion" (Al-Bayyinah, 98:5). Sincerity is not an optional extra; it is the foundation. Allah also says, "Allah does not impose blame upon you for what is unintentional in your oaths, but He imposes blame upon you for what your hearts have earned" (Al-Baqarah, 2:225). The heart is the place where good and evil are weighed. The Prophet (PBUH) also taught that a good intention alone is rewarded. He said, "Whoever intends to do a good deed but does not do it, Allah records it as a complete good deed" (Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim). This is mercy. It means no believer is too weak to earn reward. Even a sincere wish to help, blocked by circumstance, is written in their favour. But intention also protects against hypocrisy. The Prophet (PBUH) warned, "Whoever seeks knowledge to show off will not smell the fragrance of Paradise" (Sunan Abi Dawud). The same applies to charity, prayer and service. If the intention is to be seen, the reward is lost. Good intentions are not a substitute for action. But they are the soul of action. A deed without intention is a body without life. A deed with a pure intention, even if small, can outweigh mountains. The believer's task is to keep the heart clean, to renew the intention before every act, and to remember that Allah sees not just what we do, but why we do it.

A Constitution That Lifts The Humble

It is time for "India First" in thinking and duty in action as the country works towards Viksit Bharat by 2047

Narendra Modi



On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. Today, we remember Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly. Their greatness lay in drawing extensively from the rich traditions and civilisational wisdom of Bharat while framing a modern Constitution.

For a nation as diverse as Bharat, with its numerous faiths, languages, customs and schools of thought, it is important that the Constitution have a resonance far beyond the precincts of Parliament and the courts. Our endeavour has been to deepen its connect with the collective consciousness of our people, especially our youth and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future. That is why over a decade ago, our government decided to mark 26th November as Constitution Day.

For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys. Whenever I look back at my childhood, the humble circumstances in which I grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards our Constitution. That a child born into a family of modest means, with no privileges or advantages of birth, could one day be entrusted with the responsibility of serving the world's largest democracy speaks volumes about how extraordinary our Constitution is. It is due to our Constitution that circumstances of one's birth no longer determine the limits of one's future.

In our own humble way, we have sought to repay this debt of gratitude by strengthening our Constitution.

The distinguished constitutional scholar Granville Austin described our Constitution as "first and foremost a social document." The quest for social and economic justice runs through the very fabric of our Constitution. Thus, what can be more satisfying than working towards the realisation of this cherished vision of the makers of our Constitution?

A recent World Bank report highlights that nearly 50 crore Indians have moved out of poverty. Breaking free from generations of deprivation, crores of parents can now dream of a better future for their children.

When PM Awas Yojana ensures a family moves from a thatched roof to a pucca home, the constitutional promise of dignity acquires meaning.

When Ujjwala Yojana frees a mother from the hardships of a smoke-filled kitchen, we advance the ideals of equality and well-being.

When Ayushman Bharat enables a poor family to access quality healthcare without the fear of debt, social justice becomes a lived reality.

When MUDRA and PM-SVANidhi provide collateral-free credit to small entrepreneurs and street vendors, economic justice finds expression.

When digital technology and platforms like UPI transcend all divides and place opportunities once available to a privileged few within the reach of every citizen, we advance the constitutional ideal of inclusivity.

There are many more manifestations of this constitutional vision.

The list of amendments we brought can be viewed through the same prism. The 101st Amendment ushered in GST, a long-awaited reform. The 102nd Amendment granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, fulfilling a long-standing dream of the marginalised sections of society.

The 103rd Amendment received broad social acceptance. By providing reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, it addressed the long-overlooked aspirations of economically disadvantaged families from communities outside the existing reservation framework.

For the first time since 1950, an updated version of our Constitution is now available in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule. This has brought our Constitution closer to the people.

Even after our Constitution came into force in 1950, we continued to be governed by the colonial penal code dating back to the 1860s. With the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, we have sought to bring about a fundamental shift in our criminal justice system, moving from the colonial emphasis on punishment (Dand) to a citizen-centric pursuit of justice (Nyay).

Over the past decade, we have laid special emphasis on Kartavya, or the duties of a citizen. Our civilisation has always emphasised the responsibilities that accompany every role in society. The spirit of Kartavya has found expression in several mass movements, from Swachh Bharat to water conservation and environmental protection.

However, there is another reality that I feel compelled to share. There have been occasions in our history when those entrusted with upholding the Constitution chose to weaken it. Ironically, they are the same people who had the opportunity to govern India for five decades.

This year marks 75 years since the First Amendment of 1951, when a government that was not popularly elected used its majority in the Provisional Parliament to restrict fundamental freedoms. Its timing, barely months before India's first general election, proves that it was intended to influence the electoral process and stifle public opposition. It is also 50 years since the 42nd Amendment at the height of the Emergency. This curtailed judicial review and fundamentally altered the balance of institutional powers. I would also urge youngsters to study the 38th and 39th Amendments to know what a power-hungry and anti-constitutional leadership can do.

The repeated misuse of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments presents another troubling chapter. One party has the dubious record of imposing Article 356 almost a hundred times and one former Prime Minister has scored a half-century in this field.

The makers of our Constitution had hoped that it would be implemented in letter and spirit across India. But, for over 70 years, Articles 370 and 35A did not allow the full Constitution to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, thus trampling over the rights of SC, ST, OBC communities and women. It was only in 2019 that this historical wrong was corrected.

For decades, in several parts of India, particularly in tribal areas, Naxalites used the might of the gun to deny the poorest people the rights guaranteed to them by our Constitution. The successful elimination of Naxalism this year is particularly heartwarming because it has ensured that the poorest of the poor can finally exercise their constitutional rights without fear. Now, we are left only with 'Dimagi Naxals', far removed from the realities of our times but persistent in their efforts to derail our growth trajectory. It is most appalling that the biggest party in the Opposition wants to reduce OBC reservation and bring Muslim reservations, something the makers of our Constitution, notably Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, were totally against.

The journey of our Constitution would be incomplete without recognising the remarkable women who helped shape it. But what happened earlier this year should fill our hearts with shame. A legislation aimed at giving women adequate representation in legislative bodies was disallowed from being passed by the one Opposition party, once again showing its disdain for constitutional values. I assure the Nari Shakti of India that no force can prevent us from ensuring that justice is done to them.

Our constitutional democracy has a clearly defined role for the Opposition. Sadly, the leading Opposition party seems to have become more of an Avrodh Paksh (obstructionist) than a Virodh Paksh (opposition). They should know that disrupting democratic processes is no substitute for discharging constitutional responsibilities.

Today, India stands at a defining moment. As we work towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, two simple yet powerful principles can guide our collective endeavours: India First in our thinking and Kartavya (Duties) in our actions. With these as our guiding principles and the Constitution as our source of strength, we can secure a bright future for generations to come.

The writer is the Prime Minister of India

The Unintended Consequences Of Good Intentions

We can easily get absorbed in our own point of view and move into tunnel vision

Denise Winn

I was intrigued to read a recent article about honeybees aggressively bumping bumblebees out of the way when they alit on the same flowers, mercilessly chasing them off.1

It is a story of unintended consequences. Apparently, the number of registered beekeepers more than doubled between 2010 and 2025, following campaigns encouraging us to get involved in saving endangered insects. Now it seems that this growth in honeybees is having harmful, unforeseen effects on other wild pollinators.1

It happens so often, doesn't it? Someone, often a politician, presents what seems a commonsense or creative idea to better a bad situation, then someone else calmly points out all the downsides that just haven't been thought of.

We are so focused on whatever has our attention that we don't see the big picture, leaving us in tunnel vision.

It is something that human givens therapists stay alert to at all times. When our clients focus on a particular view or sense of understanding, we can stay neutral, stand back, and bring attention to elements that they cannot see.

For instance, a client once consulted me about her plan to write a will leaving her worldly goods to just two of her three adult children. She loved them all equally and, on the face of it, her plan seemed logical. Her elder daughter had a lucrative job in finance while her younger daughter was a struggling actor and her son a struggling musician. I pointed out that while her plan made monetary sense, she wasn't taking into account the potential emotional meaning of leaving money in a will.

Screenwriter, TV producer and novelist Daisy Goodwin has written about this. With her highly successful TV career, she had no financial worries and could accept that her siblings had greater need of the proceeds of their mother's estate when she died. Her mother left Daisy just a small cash sum and some personal items and wrote in her will, "I leave my daughter Daisy out of the estate not because I love her any less but because I think she has less need of it."

Daisy's response? "But, and here's the rub, although I know in my head that my mother's will is fair, in my heart I feel left out. I love my siblings dearly, and I don't begrudge them the money; I can understand they need it more than I do, but all the same I feel rejected. I am pretty sure that this was not my mother's intention; she was trying to do the right thing as she saw it, but the result left me, a decade later, still trying to fight the feeling that she left me out of her will because she loved me less."2

It is a good example of seeing just part of the picture and thinking others will view things as we do. Often, in such cases, what is conceived in generosity ends up causing unforeseen rifts in the family.

Michael was devastated when a presentation he had spent his personal time on was rejected without explanation. He had had "a revolutionary idea" that, he believed, would reposition the company in a way that would drive a host of new clients to them. He expected his bosses to be as excited as he was and arranged a meeting with the chief executive officer and second-in-command to demonstrate his vision in a dramatic video, packed with punch.

To his astonishment, his presentation was met with silence. Then he was politely thanked and told that "they would think about it." Eventually, he received an email saying the company would not be pursuing his idea.

What Michael had entirely ignored in his single-minded focus on his vision were perspectives other than his own. His bosses felt undermined, and that the current approach, which they had masterminded, was being disrespected. Instead of taking into account their need for a sense of status and achievement, he had ridden roughshod over their ideas, expecting them to receive this gladly. The irony is that they probably all lost out. It was a honeybee manoeuvre, with no good outcome for anyone, when, correctly thought through and introduced gradually, outcomes might have been very different.

When we want to bring about change, we may have only the best of intentions. But we have to bring others with us, including critics or those who may be affected in ways that they don't initially like. Putting ourselves in others' shoes and foreseeing unwanted outcomes remain the unmissable first steps in all such circumstances.

Denise Winn is the former editor of the Human Givens journal and an HG therapist. She was a regular contributor for UK newspapers and magazines and is the author of many books. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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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MONSOON-2026 DAMAGE

Inter-Ministerial Central Team assesses damage to critical infrastructure in landslide hit Thathri



KT News Desk

DODA, NOVEMBER 26: An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), led by Team Leader-IMCT and Joint Secretary (F-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India Gaya Prasad visited flood-affected areas of Thathri here the other day to conduct an on-the-spot assessment of the damages caused by flash floods and landslides during Monsoon-2026.

The team, as per an official statement, comprised Chief Engineer (DP&M), Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority Shyam Kejriwal; Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development Prabhat Kumar and Director, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Water Commission Shachi Jain.

During the visit, the team inspected the affected areas and assessed the extent of damage caused by flash floods and landslides, besides taking first-hand feedback on the impact on public infrastructure, essential services and the local population.

Earlier, the IMCT held a detailed meeting in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex Doda to review the overall situation in the flood-affected areas and assess the damages caused by incessant rainfall, flash floods and landslides during the past monsoon season.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal briefed the team on the prevailing situation in the affected areas, the challenging geographical terrain, water levels in the Chenab River, damage to roads and bridges, restoration and recovery measures, and the overall losses suffered due to heavy rainfall.

The team was apprised of the damage to critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power infrastructure and water supply schemes, along with the status of restoration and rehabilitation works being undertaken by the concerned departments to ensure the restoration of essential services and connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda also highlighted the challenges faced in restoring damaged infrastructure, particularly in remote and hilly areas and detailed the efforts being made by the district administration and line departments to provide relief to affected people and restore essential services at the earliest.

The meeting also reviewed precautionary measures adopted by the district administration to minimise the impact of natural disasters, mitigate losses and strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms to deal with such eventualities.

Inter-Ministerial Central Team assess damage in Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 26: An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) Thursday visited District Kishtwar to assess the damages caused by cloudbursts, heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides during Monsoon-2026.

The team, as per an official statement, comprised Shyam Kejriwal, Chief Engineer (DP&M), Ministry of Power, CEA, New Delhi; Prabhat Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi and Shachi Jain, Director, Ministry of Jal Shakti, CWC.

The team held a detailed meeting with the district administration to review the situation and assess the damages caused by monsoon-related disasters in various parts of the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the damages caused to public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power infrastructure, water supply schemes and public and private property. He also briefed the team about the relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures taken by the district administration and concerned departments.

The team was also informed about the challenges faced in restoring essential services and road connectivity, particularly in remote and hilly areas, and the steps being taken to provide timely assistance to affected families.

The central team also visited cloudburst-affected areas of Chatroo to assess the damages on the ground. The team inspected three out of the six affected sites in the Sub Division Chatroo area and reviewed the damage caused to roads, infrastructure, water supply schemes and other essential facilities.

The team inspected Dugga, Chatroo, affected by a cloudburst in August 2026; Guzar to Gurinal Link Road, affected by a cloudburst in July 2026 and Helipad Road to Guzar via Tehsil Complex Link Road Chatroo, which was affected by a cloudburst in August 2026.

Javid Dar calls for upholding constitutional values in everyday governance

Lauds ministerial employees for backbone role in administration

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday attended the Constitution Day and Ministerial Employees Day celebrations as the chief guest at SKICC, Srinagar.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir All Departments Clerical Staff Association (Ministerial Cadre), the event recognised the vital contribution of ministerial employees to the effective functioning of Government administration.

Addressing a large gathering of employees, the Minister, as per an official statement, described ministerial employees as the backbone of the administrative system. He said their experience, dedication and professionalism are vital to the smooth functioning of every department and to the timely delivery of public services.

Highlighting the changing nature of governance, Javid Dar stressed the need for employees to adapt to digital technologies and emerging tools, including Artificial Intelligence, while firmly maintaining the values of human judgement, accountability and integrity. He said technology should be used to strengthen efficiency, not to replace responsibility.



The Minister also underscored the need to move beyond routine file processing towards a citizen-centric approach. He observed that the true purpose of administration is not merely to move files but to resolve people's problems and ensure timely delivery of services.

Acknowledging the concerns relating to promotions, career progression and workload, the Minister said these issues deserve due consideration through appropriate administrative channels. He added that continuous capacity building and professional development must remain a priority so that employees are equipped to meet the evolving demands of governance.

Referring to Constitution Day, Javid Dar said the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity must find expression in the everyday functioning of Government institutions. He called upon the employees to discharge their responsibilities with honesty, efficiency and a spirit of public service.

High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Commemorates Constitution Day at Jammu



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh commemorated the 77th Constitution Day with solemnity and reverence at its Jammu Wing Thursday, marking the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949.

On the occasion, Chief Justice, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, as per an official statement, led the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India, followed by Judges, Judicial Officers and Officers/officials of the Registry present on the occasion.

The ceremony was graced by the august presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Yash Paul Bourney.

The event was attended by Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Mohinder Kumar Sharma; Registrar Vigilance and Director, J&K State Judicial Academy, Rajiv Gupta; Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum; Registrar Rules, Faizan-ul-Haq Iqbal; Registrar Judicial, Swati Gupta,; Registrar (IT), Umesh Sharma; Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol), Meyank Gupta; Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Sunil Kumar; Central Project Coordinator e-Courts, Faizan-I-Nazar; Registrar (Recruitment), Baldev Raj; Registrar (Personal Staff), Pankaj Kumar Gupta; Registrar (Estates), Ajay Kumar; besides other officers and officials of the High Court Registry.

The observance reaffirmed the institution's commitment to the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and its resolve to uphold constitutional values, judicial independence and the rule of law.

Surjeet Singh Slathia chairs PAC meeting, stresses accountability, timely compliance

Committee examines CAG audit paragraphs related to Power Development Department

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26: The Committee on Public Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia, Thursday held a meeting at the J&K Assembly Secretariat, Jammu, to examine the audit paragraphs of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pertaining to the Power Development Department (PDD).

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Committee members, including MLAs Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch. Mohammad Akram and Tanvir Sadiq.

Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit; Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department, Anil Kumar Singh;; Managing Director, JKPDC, Rahul Yadav; Director Finance; Managing Directors of JPDCL and KPDCL; Dy Accountant General, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and other senior officers of the concerned departments were also present.



During the meeting, the Committee examined the CAG audit paragraphs related to the Power Development Department and discussed the issues and observations highlighted in the audit reports.

Addressing the officers, Chairman of the Committee, Surjeet Singh Slathia, stressed the need for greater financial discipline, transparency and accountability in functioning of the department. He underscored that audit observations should be treated with due seriousness and that the concerned departments must take appropriate corrective measures to address the shortcomings pointed out by the CAG.

The Chairman directed the officers to furnish clear, factual and comprehensive replies to the observations raised by the Committee, supported by relevant records and documentary evidence with in stipulated time. He also emphasised the importance of strengthening internal financial controls, ensuring proper utilisation of public funds and avoiding recurrence of procedural and financial irregularities.

Slathia stressed that accountability must be fixed wherever lapses are established and called for expeditious follow-up action on pending audit observations. He said that the Public Accounts Committee plays a significant role in ensuring legislative oversight over public expenditure and safeguarding the interests of the public exchequer.

The Chairman urged the officers to maintain close coordination with the office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit) and ensure timely submission of Action Taken Reports so that audit-related issues are resolved in a time-bound manner.

MLA Pampore, DC Pulwama review Sector-Wise progress of developmental works

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 26: Member of Legislative Assembly, Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Thursday jointly chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Pampore, to assess the progress of developmental works and implementation of various schemes across the Pampore Assembly Constituency.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Joint Director Planning Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Executive Officer and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, concerned officers from various departments presented detailed sector-wise progress reports and apprised the chair of the status of ongoing and completed developmental works being executed under District Capex, UT Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Constituency Development Fund, NABARD and other flagship programmes. The physical and financial progress of projects, expenditure, implementation status and issues affecting execution were discussed in detail.

A comprehensive review of key sectors, including Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, Roads and Buildings, PMGSY, Rural Development, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Power Development and Urban Local Bodies, was undertaken. The chair reviewed the status of water supply schemes, road connectivity projects, flood protection and restoration works, healthcare infrastructure, educational facilities, rural development initiatives and other public utility projects being implemented across the constituency.



The Rural Development sector was reviewed with particular focus on implementation of works under District Capex, CDF, MGNREGA, PMAY-G and other rural development schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to accelerate the pace of execution, ensure optimal utilisation of available funds and maintain close field-level monitoring to ensure that developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

They also reviewed progress in the Health and Education sectors, including ongoing healthcare infrastructure projects, upgradation of health facilities, school infrastructure and other initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery. The concerned officers were directed to address pending issues and ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

Progress under Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry sectors was also assessed, with emphasis on effective implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes and strengthening livelihood opportunities. The status of works and initiatives being undertaken by MC Pampore was also reviewed.

MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, highlighted various developmental priorities and issues concerning the constituency, emphasising the need for coordinated efforts by all line departments to address public concerns and bridge infrastructure gaps.

The DC emphasised strict monitoring of developmental works, adherence to quality specifications and timely utilisation of funds under various budgetary heads. He also reviewed the winter preparedness and directed that all available machinery and manpower shall remain fully prepared to meet the winter related requirements.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed accountability, inter-departmental coordination and time-bound execution of developmental projects.

DIPR observes Constitution Day at Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) observed the Constitution Day Thursday with a solemn ceremony, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirming its commitment to the principles enshrined in the country's supreme law.

On the occasion, officers and officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations and the Joint Directorate of Information, Jammu, as per an official statement, assembled to collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution, reiterating their faith in the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The gathering also witnessed the administration of a pledge, wherein the participants resolved to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and perform their official responsibilities with sincerity, integrity and a strong sense of public service.



The observance served as an occasion to reflect upon the significance of constitutional values in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting social harmony and ensuring an inclusive and accountable system of governance.

Reiterating their commitment, the officers and officials resolved to let the constitutional principles guide their professional conduct and public responsibilities, while continuing to serve the people with dedication, transparency and impartiality.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Deputy Director Information (Hqrs) Jammu, Ashu Kumari; other officers and officials of DIPR were present on the occasion.

TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

District Admin Srinagar extends financial support of Rs 2.50 lakh for Nutritional assistance to TB patients

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman, District Red Cross Society Thursday handed over a cheque amounting to Rs 2.50 lakh to District Tuberculosis Officer, for extending additional nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan initiative.

The cheque was handed over in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West, Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr Rouf and other concerned.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, said that the amount of financial assistance is aimed to strengthen nutritional support for TB patients during their treatment and is in addition to the monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 provided to eligible TB patients by the Central TB Division, under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana - DBT.

The DC further stated that this additional nutritional assistance will play a significant role in improving patients' nutritional well-being, promoting treatment adherence and enhancing treatment success rates, thereby strengthening TB care services across District Srinagar.

District Tuberculosis Officer, expressed his gratitude to the District Administration Srinagar, for their continued support towards TB elimination efforts.

Kashmir Thunder

Massive backlog of pending cases remains significant challenge for justice delivery system: President

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 26: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the massive backlog of pending cases remains a significant challenge for the country's justice delivery system and stressed the timely delivery of justice.

Asserting that making justice accessible on the basis of equal opportunity by providing free legal aid is a directive of the Constitution, she stressed ensuring quality and reliability of legal representation for people belonging to the poor and deprived sections.

"Not everyone possesses the resources required to access the high courts or the Supreme Court," the president said.

She said the Constitution mandates the provision of justice on the basis of equal opportunity, which includes the facilitation of free legal aid.

The objective of this mandate is to ensure that no citizen is denied the opportunity to seek justice due to economic constraints or any other form of hardship, President Murmu said.

She said that timely delivery of justice is an essential component of the very concept of



justice.

To ensure that justice is accessible in a timely manner, the judiciary is undertaking various initiatives such as simplifying procedures, leveraging technology and establishing special courts, the president said.

She said that despite these efforts, the massive backlog of pending cases remains a significant challenge for our justice delivery system.

President Murmu expressed confidence that this challenge will be addressed through the concerted efforts being made at every level of the judiciary.

She said it is also crucial to focus on the quality and reliability of legal representation available to the poor and marginalised sections of society.

In this context, the district, state and national legal services authorities must intensify their efforts to ensure that justice reaches these vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, President Murmu said.

"A large number of criminal cases are pending in some districts of the country. I am pleased to know that the central government has taken an initiative to collaborate with national law universities to address this challenge in those districts.

"Students, researchers and pro bono clubs of national law universities are being involved in this effort. Such initiatives will instil sensitivity in the students and familiarise them with grassroots legal processes," she said.

President Murmu said that "justice for all" should not be just said but it is to be done, and asserted providing accessible justice to all.

She emphasised that true progress of a nation lies in ensuring that every citizen has an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed.

The president underscored the importance of providing every child with equal access to quality education.

"It is said that children are the future of the country... The key to development is education.

"That is why the Chief Justice (of India) is sitting here (on the dais)," the president said, addressing the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court here.

A person who is poor today cannot become rich tomorrow, but a child born into a poor family today can progress through education, she said.

"Should we not provide them with an opportunity? Can we not work in this direction?" the president asked.

She thanked the government for ensuring "adult franchise" for all and making the country Naxal-free.

All should get a chance to vote, President Murmu said.

"I want to thank the government. Today the entire country has become free from Naxals.

"When the Naxals were surrendering, I was looking at their faces. Is he really a Naxal (sic)?... Why were those people made Naxals? Why were we not made Naxals? We need to work on this 'why'," she added.

The president said that empathy and ethics should be given as much importance as the study of laws in legal education in our country.

She urged the leading lights in the lawyers' community to present inspiring examples for young lawyers.

The president said that larger and more active participation of women in the Bench and Bar will help make our society more fair, just, equitable and inclusive.

She highlighted that a woman's perspective can add to inclusion, diversity and balance to judicial decision-making.

President Murmu underlined the need to encourage greater participation by women as judges and lawyers. "Greater emphasis on inclusivity and merit will further strengthen our judiciary," she added.

The president noted that the Supreme Court has taken steps to promote access to justice by prioritising cases relating to specially abled persons, acid attack victims, senior citizens aged above 80 years and persons below the poverty line.

She appreciated the steps taken for more effective case management and listing, promoting digital transformation and encouraging amicable resolution of disputes.

President Murmu said that the Supreme Court, high courts and the district and lower courts have made an invaluable contribution to the glorious journey of our republic.

"Over the past decades, there have been unimaginable changes across many spheres of life. In particular, the influence of technology and media has become increasingly pervasive and profound.

"While adapting its role to changing circumstances and expectations, the judiciary has upheld and strengthened the fundamental ideals of justice," she said.

From time to time, the Indian judiciary has placed special emphasis on judicial accountability, thereby bringing to execution the ideals envisioned by the framers of the Constitution, the president said, adding that "the synergy between judicial independence and judicial accountability lends strength to the role of the judiciary".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Home Secy Govind

infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) also figured prominently in the discussions. With winter approaching, agencies are expected to maintain heightened vigilance along vulnerable border stretches and infiltration routes, particularly amid concerns that fog, snowfall and difficult weather conditions could be exploited by infiltrators.

The meeting also reviewed intelligence inputs, surveillance mechanisms and coordination among the Army, Border Security Force (BSF), CAPFs, J&K Police and intelligence agencies to prevent any attempt to push terrorists into the Union Territory, the source said.

The security review assumed importance in view of the challenges posed by difficult terrain and harsh winter conditions, particularly in mountainous and forested areas where foreign terrorists are suspected to be hiding.

Operational preparedness, intelligence-based searches and coordination among forces were among the broader areas assessed during the meeting.

The role of overground workers (OGWs), who allegedly provide logistical support to terrorists, was also discussed, the source told KNO, adding that the participating officers deliberated on strengthening intelligence gathering, identifying support networks and preventing terrorists from receiving assistance in remote areas.

Pertinently, the meeting was held against the backdrop of recent terror-related incidents, including the killing of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in the Dachhan area of Kishtwar district and the encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district in which Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Mohammad Lateef Bhat was killed. The incidents have brought renewed attention to the security situation in the mountainous areas of Jammu and the need for sustained intelligence-based operations. (KNO)

Aug 5, 2019 decision

the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Modi paid tribute to Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr B R Ambedkar and other members of the Assembly.

He said the Constitution had enabled people from modest backgrounds to aspire to positions of responsibility, describing it as an inseparable part of his own journey.

Highlighting the government's initiatives, PM Modi referred to constitutional amendments relating to the Goods and Services Tax, the National Commission for Backward Classes and reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.

He also cited welfare schemes, digital payments and the replacement of colonial-era criminal laws as steps towards social and economic justice.

PM Modi said India was working towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 and called on citizens to place national interests first and fulfil their duties. (KNO)

Draw inspiration

commitment."

Recalling the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, the Lieutenant Governor described it as a historic milestone that gave constitutional direction to independent India and laid the foundation for a democratic future based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Emphasising the achievements of the nation over the past 77 years, he observed that India is reaching new heights in areas such as space, semiconductors, digital technology, science and innovation, made possible by the strong constitutional foundation laid by the nation-builders.

Paying tribute to Baba Saheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of social democracy and fraternity in sustaining democratic institutions. The Lieutenant Governor underlined that legal and constitutional safeguards alone are not sufficient unless citizens recognise and respect the dignity, rights and aspirations of one another in everyday life.

Referring to rapid advances in artificial intelligence, quantum technology, biotechnology and space technology, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to protect liberty, privacy and human dignity in the digital age. The Lieutenant Governor said that technological progress must remain human-centric and aligned with constitutional values.

"Along with rapid technological change, our constitutional responsibilities are also growing. In the digital age, it is our responsibility to ensure that, amid technological progress, an individual's liberty, privacy and autonomy remain protected.

We must ensure that technology assists human beings, rather than making human beings subordinate to technology. At the same time, we must ensure that the spirit of mutual cooperation and coordination deepens in administrative processes at every level. Our goal should be that services and infrastructure reach every part of Jammu Kashmir with equal sensitivity and commitment, and that no person is left behind on the journey of development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the importance of equal opportunities for youth, education and empowerment of women, dignity for farmers and workers, and responsive public institutions. He said that true development must expand opportunities and improve the quality of life of every citizen.

INDIA NOT WAITING FOR FUTURE BUT BUILDING IT

"India is not waiting for the future but building it. The Constitution gave future generations the foundation to achieve the unimaginable. Now, we must focus on true development, which means expanding opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring dignity for every citizen," he said.

Calling upon citizens to contribute actively towards nation-building, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to uphold constitutional propriety, practise digital ethics, promote equality, conserve the environment, encourage scientific temper, participate in local governance and strengthen public faith in constitutional institutions.

"India needs nothing more than a group of honest people who will place the country's interests above their own. Our Constitution-makers have given us a strong democratic foundation. It is now our responsibility to build, upon that foundation, an India that becomes a source of inspiration, confidence and pride for generations to come," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the collective resolve, dedication and hard work of citizens would enable India to emerge as a developed nation rooted in constitutional values and democratic ideals. He urged all citizens to make the Constitution a guide for their conduct.

"Let us all together build a developed India that is prosperous in capability, liberal in thought, compassionate in conduct, inclusive in opportunity, and unwavering in its commitment to justice. May our resolutions be great, our dreams big, our efforts continuous, and our unity forever unbreakable," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The UT-level event commemorating the adoption of the Constitution was organised by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with the Department of Culture.

Speaker, Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather; Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal; Commissioner Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi; Secretary, Culture Department, Ramesh Kumar; senior officials, prominent citizens and youth in large numbers attended the Constitution Day Celebration. (KNO)

CM extends

Kashmir on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Paying tribute to the framers of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his commitment to upholding its foundational ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

He said these enduring constitutional values continue to guide the collective endeavour towards building a stronger, more inclusive and equitable Jammu and Kashmir.

CM reviews dev

towards reducing road accidents.

Responding to issues raised by the MLAs, the Chief Minister directed the concerned Ministers to examine matters related to gypsum mining clearances, equitable upgradation of power infrastructure under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and formulation of dedicated tourism development plans for destinations such as Tattapani-Sangaldan.

He also called for focused interventions to improve student enrolment in schools and colleges across the district.

"To maximise local employment and entrepreneurial opportunities arising from the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project, the Chief Minister directed the administration to map the skill requirements of the project and facilitate targeted training for local youth."

He further stressed the need to support trained youth under Mission YUVA in establishing enterprises catering to the requirements of the project. (KNO)

If there's nothing

for us, nor is it a religious issue. It is a matter of existence for us, for Kashmir," she said.

Referring to the religious and ecological significance of the area, the PDP chief said the natural formation of the Shivaling at the Amarnath cave was connected with the surrounding environment, including glaciers, forests and water bodies, and cautioned against treating the pilgrimage area as a destination for large-scale infrastructure development without considering its ecological limits. "This is a place of devotion; this is not a picnic spot," she said.

Questions JCB deployment, environmental clearance

Questioning how heavy machinery reached such a high-altitude location, Mufti said the glacier's fragile nature demanded extreme caution. "You cannot even dig there with your hands, because the glacier has its own system. When you are going there with such a big JCB, do you have any idea what will be the impact on the environment there?" she asked. "I am surprised; how did they let this happen without any environmental assessment?"

She referred to the ecological deterioration of other water bodies and forests in Kashmir, citing Dal Lake and the cutting of Chinar trees, and warned that the fragile mountain ecosystem around Sheshnag should not be exposed to similar pressures.

Demands cancellation, public disclosure of BRO MoU

Taking aim at the Omar Abdullah government over the agreement with BRO, the former chief minister asked why the elected dispensation had allowed the project to proceed without addressing environmental concerns. "Cancel the MoU there, the MoU which you have signed, make it public. Let it come into the domain of the public. What have you signed?" she asked.

She questioned whether construction of a walking track required the deployment of heavy machinery in an ecologically fragile zone. "If you have to make a walking track, did you have to make it with JCB?" she asked. She referred to the proposed Khanabal-Baltal highway project and a 10.5-kilometre tunnel, saying she had opposed the proposal earlier as well and that large-scale infrastructure interventions in the area required serious ecological scrutiny.

'If they have nothing to hide, let us go'

Questioning why she had not been allowed to visit the project site, Mehbooba said she wanted to personally assess the situation along with environmental specialists and other public representatives. "If they have nothing to hide, then let us go. Let environmental specialists and other people come. We ourselves want to see what is happening there," she said. Mufti alleged that she had faced restrictions while attempting to reach Chandanwari and Sheshnag.

Raises concerns over protests, says legal options open

The former CM expressed concern over the alleged harassment of people raising objections to the project, referring to an online petition and protests by local youth, and alleged that some young people who had protested were called to police stations and their mobile phones seized.

Asked whether she would approach the National Green Tribunal or explore other legal remedies, she said all available options would be considered, but insisted the elected government must first take responsibility for protecting the area. "Let me go there first. I will go there too. I will also go to the court because I have evidence," she said, calling upon Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to send an environmental team comprising experts and public representatives to inspect the site.

Links Sheshnag protection with Amarnath Yatra, local livelihood

Mehbooba Mufti said Sheshnag was not only associated with the religious sentiments of millions of devotees but was also part of Kashmir's ecological and cultural landscape, contributing to the wider water system of south Kashmir, while the Amarnath Yatra provided livelihood opportunities to thousands of people.

Recalling the role of local Kashmiris in assisting pilgrims, she said, "It is their duty to save Jammu and Kashmir, to save Shivaling, to save Amarnath Yatra and to save Sheshnag Lake." (KNO)

Dry spell to

a minimum temperature of 10.6 degrees Celsius, Katra 9.8 degrees Celsius, Banihal 7.3 degrees Celsius, Batote 6.8 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 3 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather from November 26 to 30 and December 1 to 3, with cold conditions likely to persist across most districts of Kashmir division during this period.

However, a change in weather conditions is expected from December 4, when generally cloudy skies are likely to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir, with light rain or snowfall at scattered places between December 4 and 6.

Meanwhile, Kashmir Weather Forecast, citing the latest indications from various weather models, has indicated the possibility of two successive Western Disturbances affecting Jammu and Kashmir during December 4-10.

The first weather system is expected to influence the region between December 4 and 6, while the second system, which could be comparatively stronger, is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir from December 7 to 10.

Further updates regarding the intensity and impact of the two weather systems are expected in the coming days as forecast models become clearer.

The anticipated weather activity could bring the first significant change in the prevailing dry conditions after an extended period of largely precipitation-free weather across the region. (KNO)

Exam results don't

encouraged students to strengthen these uniquely human qualities, which will continue to be invaluable in the future. The Lieutenant Governor spoke about emotional well-being and urged students not to hesitate in seeking support during difficult times.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that fear, anxiety and setbacks are natural experiences and that true courage lies in accepting help and moving forward with resilience. He appealed to parents to view their children beyond marks and rankings and to prioritise their happiness and well-being.

SUCCESS ALSO MEASURED BY INTEGRITY

Underscoring the importance of character, the Lieutenant Governor said that success is not measured only by achievement but also by integrity, humility and a commitment to service. He encouraged students to contribute to society, particularly by supporting those who may have fewer opportunities.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to play a leading role in realising the vision of a developed India by 2047. He urged them to combine knowledge with compassion, skill with values, and success with social responsibility.

"As you advance in your careers, do not forget that children in the villages who may not have access to coaching but whose dream is just as big as yours. When you succeed, turn back and hold that child's hand. I believe that true success is the success that returns to illuminate the paths of others," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Amar Ujala Group for consistently organising the programme across different parts of the country and inspiring academic excellence among students. He observed that the light of education is eternal and continues to grow when shared with others.

Bavinder Vashishth, Resident Editor, Amar Ujala Himachal Pradesh; Prof. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Abhishek Raj, Editor, Amar Ujala Jammu, Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers, students and their parents attended the felicitation ceremony.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur and other prominent citizens were also present on the occasion. (KNO)

Can Kashmir's Saffron

facie evidence of environmental damage, he said.

Residents say the dumping site has attracted rodents, stray dogs and birds, damaging crops and creating unsanitary conditions.

Some farmers have abandoned saffron cultivation because of rodent infestations, while others have shifted to apples and other horticultural crops but continue to face pest-related problems.

Bhat estimated that 200 to 250 acres of saffron fields had been destroyed and said an increase in stray dogs around the dumping site had made it difficult for farmers to access their land.

He said a scientist from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) had been included in the joint committee. Residents allege that rodents burrow into fields, damaging saffron corms and affecting flowering. They have demanded the complete removal of the dumping yard.

JKPCC regional director Safir Hussain Shah said the landfill was illegal and that the committee was investigating it and taking action for environmental compensation.

The tribunal has listed the matter for February 3, 2027. (KNO)

Priceless heritage of Indian democracy: PM Modi greets citizens on Constitution Day



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted all fellow citizens on the occasion of Constitution Day and said the Constitution is a priceless heritage of Indian democracy, one that will continue to guide in realising the resolve of a developed India.

Modi also said that it is a day to pay homage to the makers of the Constitution and an occasion to reaffirm the commitment to strengthening the values enshrined in it.

"Warmest greetings on Constitution Day to all fellow citizens," he said in a social media post.

The prime minister also paid his salutations and reverence to B R Ambedkar and all the great luminaries of the Constituent Assembly on this occasion.

"The gift they bestowed upon us in the form of the Constitution is a priceless heritage of Indian democracy, one that will continue to guide us in realising the resolve of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)," he said.

Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in the country on November 26 every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from January 26, 1950.

The Modi government in 2015 notified its decision to celebrate November 26 every year as Constitution Day to promote the values of the foundational document among citizens.

SP promises 25L govt jobs, caste census, Rs 40,000 pension for elderly women in UP

PTI



Lucknow, Nov 26: Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday promised 25 lakh government jobs and employment opportunities for two to three crore youngsters over five years, an annual pension of Rs 40,000 for elderly women and a farm-loan waiver if his party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh after the 2027 Assembly polls.

Free laptops will be distributed to students completing Class 12, Yadav announced, building on what was his government's popular scheme during the SP's tenure in Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 2017.

Unveiling the party's manifesto along with senior SP leaders here, Yadav said, "Our resolve is to give government jobs to 25 lakh youngsters and employment in other sectors to two to three crore young people in five years."

Promising financial assistance to vulnerable sections of the society, he said elderly women would receive Rs 40,000 annually as pension and the amount would be directly transferred to their bank accounts. Labourers, women workers and artisans would also be given an annual pension of Rs 40,000, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

"Samajwadi canteens will be opened for PDA (backward, Dalits and minorities) women and the poor, where meals will be available for Rs 5," he said.

Yadav also promised an immediate farm loan waiver and said a corpus fund of Rs 15,000 crore would be created to ensure that sugarcane growers receive their payments within 24 hours.

On employment and education, he announced an Urban Employment Guarantee Act for young people in cities and residential hostels for students in major urban centres.

"We will bring back the laptop-distribution scheme for students passing the Class-12 exam," he said, adding that a state education policy would be introduced to ensure equal access to quality education.

The SP government would also reopen 26,000 primary schools allegedly shut by the current Bharatiya Janata Party-led regime in Uttar Pradesh, he said.

On government recruitment, Yadav promised a time-bound and transparent process, backed by an annual calendar of vacancies and examinations.

"For vacancies requiring a single examination, the entire recruitment process will be completed within three months. For vacancies involving more than one examination, the process will be completed within six months," he said.

Yadav also promised a corruption-free recruitment system to prevent question paper leaks, adding that officials and ministers would be held personally accountable for any lapses. The results would be declared on time and transparently, and no irregularities would be tolerated, he said.

Centre asks Netflix to ensure no webseries from Pakistan is released in India

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 26: The Information and Broadcasting ministry has received several complaints on the possible India release of Netflix's first Pakistani show "Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo" and has asked it to ensure that content originating in Pakistan is not streamed here, official sources said on Thursday.

The trailer dropped on Tuesday but Netflix is yet to comment on whether the show's December 4 release includes India or is only aimed at Pakistan and other countries. Two cine worker bodies in India have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for a ban.

Sources said the ministry has asked Netflix to adhere to its advisory dated May 8, 2025, and ensure that streaming content originating in Pakistan is not available in India.

The ministry has also asked Netflix to stand by the commitment it gave in June -- when it informed the government that it had made no film or series originating in Pakistan available to subscribers in India -- and maintain the position it conveyed at the time.

The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) have said the show's release in the country would be a violation of the ministry's advisory, following last year's Pahalgam terror attack, when it asked OTT platforms and streaming services to discontinue Pakistani-origin content.

In its letter, also marked to Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Netflix India, the AICWA termed Pakistan a "terrorist country" that will never wish well for India.

"After the Pulwama attack, AICWA banned Pakistani artists from working in the Indian film industry. After the Pahalgam attack, the Government of India also imposed restrictions on Pakistani artists and content," stated the letter signed by AICWA president Suresh Shyamlal Gupta.

The AICWA, which states on its website that it is affiliated with the Maharashtra government and works for the rights of the people related to the film industry, went on to say that the release of the series would go directly against the spirit of that advisory and against the sentiments of the nation.

The FWICE, an umbrella body of 32 associations with five lakh members, asked the prime minister to intervene and direct the ministry and other concerned authorities to urgently examine the proposed release of the Pakistani series and take appropriate measures.

The FWICE has also warned that it would "ensure the shoot of all the Netflix projects comes to a halt" if the series is released in India.

"We want to express that we have an objection to the Pakistani show. For us, the country comes first, and Pakistani artists are not welcome," its president B N Tiwari told PTI.

Two-day meet of BJP national office bearers from today; PM likely to attend

PTI



New Delhi, Nov 26: A two-day meeting of the BJP national office bearers will be held here from Friday to discuss at length key organisational matters and the party's future plans.

According to sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the meeting at the PUSA campus, which will be presided over by BJP president Nitin Nabin.

This will be the first structured meeting of the newly appointed national office bearers of the BJP in which the prime minister will also participate. It comes as the party prepares for another crucial round of state elections, including in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The prime minister had interacted with national office bearers in an introductory meeting at the BJP headquarters here on August 22 after the conclusion of their first formal meeting, chaired by Nabin. "The two-day meeting will extensively deliberate on various key organisational matters and the party's future action plans, among other things. The newly appointed national office bearers will also get an opportunity to receive Prime Minister Modi's guidance," a source told PTI.

Sources said all the newly appointed national office bearers, including in-charges and co-incharges of states and BJP Morchas, will participate in the meeting.

On August 17, the BJP overhauled its national team under party president Nitin Nabin, bringing in many new faces and some prominent leaders like former Union minister Smriti Irani as general secretary and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav as vice president.

Excise case

Trial court's order discharging Kejriwal suffers palpable errors, CBI tells Delhi HC



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 26: The CBI on Thursday contended before the Delhi High Court that the trial court's order discharging AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and others in the excise policy case suffered from palpable errors and ignored material evidence.

Seeking to set aside the trial court's February 27 discharge order, the probe agency said this was a case which could not be thrown at the threshold.

The counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) submitted before Justice Sachin Datta that there were several glaring defects in the trial court's decision and the order should be set aside.

"The trial court judge travelled beyond the scope of its powers. It was not supposed to conduct a mini trial at the stage of charge. The trial court judge conducted a mini trial which was not permissible," Additional Solicitor General S V Raju argued.

He contended that the trial court's order was patently illegal, perverse and suffered from errors apparent on the face.

There were palpable errors on the face of it and material evidence was ignored and not considered by the trial court, Raju argued.

LOC issued against CJP's Das, Centre tells Delhi HC



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 26: The Centre on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that a Look Out Circular has been issued by the Mumbai Police against CJP co-convener Saurav Das, who was stopped at the airport from travelling to the United Kingdom.

The submission was made before Justice Amit Mahajan, who issued notice and sought a response from the Centre on Das's plea challenging the government's move to stop him from travelling.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on December 9.

During the hearing, the Centre's counsel said a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued against Das by the Mumbai Police on November 23 and that a show-cause notice was also issued to him and he is yet to respond to it.

Das's counsel submitted that he was not made aware of any LOC, the reason for its issuance and its purpose.

The court was hearing a plea by Das, who was stopped from flying to the United Kingdom for an event at Oxford University, where he was slated to speak on the "cockroach movement".

Das has alleged that he was stopped at the immigration counter at the Delhi airport before boarding his flight to London on the night of November 23.



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mushtaq Ahmad Teli, S/o Mohd Sultan Teli, R/o Batpora Ganderbal, hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Discharge Certificate issued by Govt. High School Dab Wakura as "Mushtaq Ahmad Talee" instead of my correct and actual name "Mushtaq Ahmad Teli". Similarly, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as "Mohd Sultan Talee" instead of his correct name "Mohd Sultan Teli".

The said discrepancies are merely spelling errors, and I intend to get the same rectified in the school records and obtain a corrected/duplicate Discharge Certificate.

Objections, if any, from the general public or any concerned person regarding the proposed corrections shall be submitted to the Headmaster, Govt. High School Dab Wakura, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mushtaq Ahmad Teli
S/o Mohd Sultan Teli
R/o Batpora Ganderbal . Admission no.1110 and serial No . 271 dated 22.07.1989.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This information is for the general public, that my name was recorded as SHABEENA MUSHTAQ in School Admission Record, after my marriage this name have been changed to SHABNUM, also in my official documents like Nikh Copy,Aadhaar card,Pan Card,Bank Account and Ration Card as well, now i am mentioned here that SHABEENA MUSHTAQ and SHABNUM is refer to one and the same person i.e, myself and there is no difference in my identity, it is also again mentioned here that, my name will be written as SHABNUM for the future records, Anybody having objection may contact me on below metioned details, within (7)seven days No, objection shall be accepted after said time period.

SHABNUM
W/O: TARIQ AHMAD MAKLOO
R/O: ANCHAR DUGA PORA SRINAGAR
Contact: 9541580226

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 0205010061800. from TAHIRA KHURSHEED TO TAHIRA BANO If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision GANDERBAL PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name TAHIRA BANO D/O BASHIR AHMAD HAJAM R/O BAMLOORA GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name enlisted in my bank account is Suhail Ahmad Khan. However my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is SUHAIL MUNEER. Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd NUNNAR GANDERBAL within a period of 3 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

SUHAIL MUNEER
S/O: MUNEER AHMAD KHAN
R/O: WAYILWOODER GUTLIBAGH GANDERBAL
Account number. 0174040100015189

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farooq Ahmad Kambay, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Kambay, R/o Wakura, Ganderbal, hereby inform the general public that I have recently been appointed as Junior Pharmacist in the Health Department vide Appointment Order No. 110 DHSK of 2026 dated 21-11-2026, and am presently posted at DH Ganderbal.

That due to a typographical error, my father's name has been wrongly mentioned in the said appointment order as Late Ghulam Mohammad Kambay instead of his actual and correct name Ghulam Mohammad Kambay.

I hereby declare that Late Ghulam Mohammad Kambay and Ghulam Mohammad Kambay refer to one and the same person, i.e., my father, as supported by an affidavit

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Farooq Ahmad Kambay
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Kambay
R/o Wakura, Ganderbal

NOTICE

I syeed ul nisa W/o Ghulam hassan hajam R/o Hardushuo , Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from sayeda Begum to syeed ul nisa for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 632291831053

Henceforth, i shall be known as syeed ul nisa

NOTICE

I Mudasser yaseen kaloo F/o Arwa Binti Mudasser R/o ispeer sahib chinkipora , Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughter's name from Arwa jaan to Arwa Binti Mudasser for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 870918658158

Henceforth, she shall be known as Arwa Binti Mudasser

NOTICE

I Ahtishamul haq s/o Ghulam Mohammad bhat R/o Adipora, Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Ahtisham ul haq to Ahtishamul haq for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 496499703366

Henceforth, i shall be known as Ahtishamul haq

Indoor stadium at Lasjan to be ready next year: MLA Ahsan Pardesi



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 26 : MLA Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi on Thursday said several initiatives have been undertaken to promote sports in his constituency, including the construction of an indoor stadium at Lasjan in Srinagar, which is expected to be completed next year.

Speaking to reporters, Pardesi said work on the stadium has already begun and expressed hope that the facility would be ready by next year.

"The most important initiative we have taken is at Lasjan, where a major indoor stadium is being constructed. The work has started and, God willing, it will be ready by next year," he said.

Pardesi said efforts are also underway to create more opportunities for sports activities across the constituency, stressing the importance of youth participation in sports for their overall well-being.

"We have taken several initiatives to promote sports and create platforms for young people to participate. It is important for our youth to engage in sports activities, which are beneficial for their mental health," he said—(KNO)

First-ever roller-skating championship held in Pahalgam as Tourism Department announces regular sporting events to nurture young talent



KNO

Anantnag, Nov 26 : The first-ever roller-skating championship in Pahalgam was organised on Thursday at the TRC Lawns skating rink, with the Tourism Department announcing plans to introduce professional skating training for local children and organise regular sporting events to encourage young talent.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad announced the initiatives while inaugurating the championship at the skating rink, TRC Lawns, Pahalgam. Around 60 boys and girls participated in the championship across Under-11, Under-14 and Under-17 categories.

Encouraging the participants to explore their sporting potential, Sajjad said the department would organise such events regularly in Pahalgam to provide sustained opportunities for young talent.

He also announced a structured roller-skating training programme for local children and youth, with professional guidance to help them develop their skills and pursue the sport.

Stressing Pahalgam's potential as a sports and recreational destination, Sajjad said such initiatives would promote physical fitness, discipline and a healthy competitive spirit among youngsters—(KNO)

US trading partners reject Trump's new tariff plans



AP

Hong Kong, Nov 26 : China, Japan and other US trading partners protested planned tariff hikes by the Trump administration and hit back Thursday at allegations they have excess manufacturing capacity.

The new tariffs, which are likely to take effect early next year, were announced Wednesday. They are intended to help reinstate tariffs for most of the economies after the Supreme Court ruling in February struck down most of US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs implemented last year.

The new import duties followed a monthslong Section 301 probe. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said he determined that practices of the 14 economies relating to excess capacity and production in manufacturing are "unreasonable and burden or restrict US commerce."

China, one of the biggest trading partners of the US, is facing a 20 per cent tariff. It slammed the notion of "overcapacity" as a "false premise."

"China opposes its use as a pretext for political manoeuvring," Guo Jiakun, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a regular press briefing. "Tariff wars and trade wars serve no one's interests."

The US and China have extended by two months a trade truce that's set to expire on Jan. 10, 2027. The two countries also have agreed on tariff cuts on reciprocal lists of non-sensitive products worth about USD 60 billion.

Japan faces new US tariffs of up to 15 per cent. The Japanese government said it protested to Washington.

"Japan does not have any nonmarket policies or practices, or structural excess production capacity in the first place," Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told a regular news conference Thursday.

"It is regrettable that the United States announced the proposed measures targeting Japan, and we have conveyed our position to the US side." Singapore, due to be hit by a 20 per cent tariff rate, said it was "very disappointed" with the US proposal.

"Singapore's economic policies do not protect our domestic market or subsidize manufacturing for export," its Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry said in a statement.

Malaysia said it "does not have excess capacity in its manufacturing sectors that distorts or disrupts global markets," adding that it will continue to engage and consult with the United States.

Analysts say the 14 economies targeted by the Trump administration together account for roughly half of the global economy.

The latest US tariffs are not as alarming as they look, said Stephen Brown, a chief economist with Capital Economics, as they are essentially broadly replacing, rather than adding to, earlier announced US tariffs related to forced labour allegations announced in July.

Still, the new tariffs will likely help push prices higher and may "keep core goods inflation firm into next year," he said in a commentary.

In Thailand, government spokesperson Lalida Persvivatana said Thursday that the latest US proposal, capping tariffs at 18 per cent, was more favourable than expected.

"The government will continue to pursue negotiations to secure competitive tariff levels and additional exemptions for Thai products, with the main goal of protecting Thailand's export markets," Persvivatana added.

UK signs multi-billion-pound contract to strengthen nuclear deterrent

PTI

London, Nov 26 : The UK on Thursday announced a new multi-billion-pound contract to upgrade and strengthen its nuclear deterrent and boost the country's warfighting readiness.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said its estimated 8-billion-pound Gateway Agreement, awarded to British firm Babcock, will transform the way Royal Navy submarine maintenance and critical naval base services are delivered – tackling bottlenecks and modernising ways of working.

The agreement also enables wider naval activity, including surface fleet facilities, sea training, and future autonomous capabilities.

"Keeping the public safe will always be my top priority; this investment is a clear demonstration of that commitment – supporting not just the submarines that maintain our nuclear deterrent but also the people who build and maintain them," said British Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

"With this new agreement we're not just investing in our national security, we're also making a huge investment in our people. We're providing opportunities to get young people into work, to bring jobs to communities in Plymouth, Clyde and beyond, and to boost growth across the UK," he said.

Around 3,000 new highly skilled jobs will be created under the agreement, mainly across Plymouth, Clyde and Bristol. Additionally, around 2,500 apprentice and graduate roles will be created – delivering opportunities for young people not currently in education, employment or training.

"Our nuclear submarines are the cornerstone of our national security. Every minute of every day, they deter our adversaries and keep our country safe. The deterrent is only as strong as our ability to keep it at sea," said UK Defence Secretary Wes Streeting.

Morkel backs under-fire Kamboj, says young pacer deserves support

PTI



Christchurch, Nov 26 : India bowling coach Morne Morkel has thrown his weight behind the under-fire Anshul Kamboj, insisting that the young fast bowler should not be judged harshly for losing pace during the opening Test against New Zealand given that the dip was largely due to a placid track.

Kamboj bowled 45 overs across the two innings, but his pace dipped below 130 kmph during his second and third spells, with little variation in his bowling. His struggle to maintain intensity became increasingly apparent as the match progressed, particularly on a surface that lost pace quite early. However, Morkel felt it would be unfair to single out the Haryana pacer, who had given India control with his disciplined effort.

"Anshul did a great job. It is quite hard to judge from the outside...sitting in the dressing room, after the second day, if the wicketkeeper is standing up to a bowler who is two metres tall, that is worrying," Morkel said on the eve of the second and final Test here.

"Unfair to pick Anshul as he gave us control. Let's support the guy as he bowls hard overs for the team."

"The wicket lost a lot of pace early and hence the drop in pace of the bowlers. Wickets can get flat but you don't want them to lose pace," he explained.

Morkel also said the bowlers need to make the most of the new Kookaburra balls, drawing from his own experience of playing with it for 16 years.

Thousands protest in Irbil over Baghdad's move to seize Kurdish oil and border control

AP

Irbil, Nov 26 : Thousands of demonstrators gathered Thursday in Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region, protesting a move by the federal government to take control of oil operations and border crossings previously run by Kurdish authorities.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi announced the measures Tuesday, describing them as steps to address oil smuggling.

The decision marked a new escalation in a long-running power struggle between the central government and Kurdish authorities and spurred rival Kurdish parties to come together in opposition to Baghdad.

Al-Zaidi — who took office earlier this year with the backing of US President Donald Trump — has been trying to assert authority on several fronts, including sending security forces into an area long controlled by a powerful Iran-backed militia last week.

A move to consolidate control

Tuesday's decision brings official and unofficial border crossings in the Kurdish region under federal government management. It places approval for oil exports from the region under the authority of the federal oil ministry and transfers the management of oil fields in Diyala, Kirkuk, Salahuddin and Nineveh provinces to it.

Cricket's Sandpapergate scandal resurfaces as former teammates trade accusations



AP

Brisbane, Nov 26 : Cricket is imploding again 8 1/2 years after the cheating scandal dubbed "Sandpapergate."

Longtime Australia teammates are calling each other out over their conflicting versions of what happened. There have been accusations of scapegoating, of lies and cover-ups. Pot shots are coming from outside and within the inner-sanctum.

Three Australian players received unprecedented bans over a plot to illegally tamper with the ball during a test match — the traditional, five-day version of cricket — in March 2018 against South Africa in what was already an acrimonious series.

Reopening old wounds

An autobiography published by retired batter Usman Khawaja in early November alleged that everyone in the Australia squad and staff knew of the sandpaper plan but let captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and Cameron Bancroft — who was literally caught red-handed — take the fall. Smith and Warner accepted 12-month bans from Cricket Australia and returned in 2019. Bancroft was suspended for nine months, and never re-established his spot in the Australian team.

Warner and Bancroft, among others, supported Khawaja's claim. Pat Cummins, the incumbent Australia captain who was among the bowlers in that match, described Khawaja's claim as "complete and utter nonsense." His three longtime partners in Australia's so-called bowling "cartel" have also distanced themselves from the plot.

Smith has so far maintained a silence.

The initial Cricket Australia investigation, conducted within a matter of days, leveled the blame on three members of the team. Questions are being raised now about why all players, coaches and support staff weren't interviewed as part of the investigation.

Some critics have torched Khawaja's decision to reopen the biggest scandal in decades in Australian cricket and questioned his motives. Backers have praised Khawaja's courage for speaking out and acknowledging the win-at-all-costs mentality that typified the team of that era, even if he went public only after retiring. Khawaja said the Australians should have accountability as a team.

Intense media coverage has renewed focus on Warner's central role in the sandpaper plot. Bancroft, for the first time publicly, stated it was Warner's idea.

A rundown on ball tampering

Just like their counterparts in baseball, cricket players are capable of devising devious ways of getting extra movement on a thrown ball. It's sometimes known as "ball management." What made Sandpapergate such a scandal was the sheer brazenness of it.

