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Kashmir Thunder

SCAN TO VISIT

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PDP, BJP stoking Sheshnag lake controversy for UP polls: CM Omar

Says SSB examination paper not leaked, only cheating attempts were made

Yogesh



Bani (Kathua), Nov 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of stoking controversy over the Sheshnag lake issue with an eye on the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections. He challenged both parties to approach the court or the National Green Tribunal (NGT) if they had evidence to support their allegations.

Breaking his silence on the Sheshnag Lake controversy, the Chief Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), accused the PDP and BJP of helping each other for political gains ahead of the Uttar Pradesh polls.

"A machine had moved some soil to one side, away from Sheshnag Lake. But these parties are helping each other. The PDP and BJP want to pit one community against another with an eye on the Uttar Pradesh elections. They want to mislead the people of Jammu and Kashmir. If there is any substance in their claims, they should go to court or approach the National Green Tribunal. I will see how much merit there is in their evidence. But they will not do that. Instead, they are playing with people's sentiments through the media, and we will not allow them to do so," he said.

He said the BJP and PDP were trying to create a Hindu-Muslim divide in Jammu and Kashmir over the Amarnath Yatra route. They claim that the track has been macadamised and that bitumen has been laid. I challenge them to show even one foot of bitumen. I am ready to face any inquiry," he said.

Speaking on the examination controversy, the Chief Minister said the examination system had worked properly and that those who attempted to cheat were caught inside the examination centres.

"The paper was not leaked. The paper was not stolen. The wrong people did not get jobs," Omar said, adding that some candidates had attempted to take question papers out of examination halls and use wireless devices to obtain answers but were caught on the spot and arrested.

He said that instead of appreciating the JKSSB for preventing malpractice and stopping attempts to manipulate the examination, some people were criticising the Board and misleading aspirants through social media.

"Some people tried to cheat in the | More on P6

Align academic reforms with NEP 2020: LG Sinha to BGSBU

Chairs 10th Executive Council Meeting of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired the 10th meeting of the Executive Council of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri, at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Govind Jaiswal, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Ravi Kumar Sihag, Registrar, BGSBU; Prof. O P Mishra, former Dean (Research) IMS BHU; Prof. Shahid Akhter, Department of Management Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Dr. Titi Xavier, Dean, Academic Affairs, BGSBU, and other members of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council accorded in-principle approval to various agenda points and proposals presented during the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to transition toward a skill-centric, employment-oriented curriculum and devise a long-term framework for self-sustained funding.

He underscored the importance of harmonising academic reforms with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, advancing faculty capacity building, and fostering robust industry-academia partnerships.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Executive Council to convene its meetings on a biannual basis and ensure the timely conduct of the convocation. He stressed the need for maintaining institutional discipline and fostering a conducive academic environment, calling for stringent action against any elements attempting to disrupt campus harmony.

He further | More on P6

J&K Assembly set to join presidential electoral college

Umer Maqbool

Srinagar, Nov 27: In a significant move, the Union Government has proposed to include the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly in the electoral college for the election of the President of India.

The Bill is being brought before Parliament in the second part of the Monsoon Session. The Lok Sabha will reconvene on November 30 and the Rajya Sabha on December 2 to transact essential Government Business.

According to a proposed legislation, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will be brought within the ambit of the term "State" as used in the Explanation to Article 54 of the Constitution, which deals with the election of the President.

At present, the Electoral College comprises elected Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), elected members of State Legislative Assemblies, and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Jammu & Kashmir became part of the Electoral College for Presidential elections on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1950, came into force.

MLAs from | More on P6

Syed Faisal Qadri appointed J&K Advocate General

Appointment approved by LG from among panel of 3 senior lawyers

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 27: Advocate Syed Faisal Qadri was on Friday appointed as the Advocate General of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, a post that had been lying vacant for more than two years.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha appointed Syed Faisal Qadri as the Advocate General of the UT.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (Act No. 34 of 2019) and in supersession of notification S.O. No. 07 of 2019 dated 01-11-2019, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to appoint Mr. Syed Faisal Qadri, Senior Advocate, as Advocate General for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads the notification issued by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.

With this appointment, Jammu & Kashmir has become the first Union Territory in the country to have an Advocate General.

An alumnus of the University of Kashmir, Syed Faisal Qadri has been practising in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for several years. He was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on December 3, 2020.

Sources said a panel of three advocates comprising Syed Faisal Qadri, former Advocate | More on P6

Rajnath to lead BJP's Loktantra Bachao padyatra in Jammu today

Yogesh Sagotra



Jammu, Nov 27: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Jammu on Saturday to lead the Bharatiya Janata Party "Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao Padyatra."

A BJP leader while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the padyatra will commence at 10 AM from Radio Station, Panjtirthi, and culminate at Parade Ground near Brahman Sabha, where a public rally will be held.

BJP's Jammu and Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha Member Sat Sharma, Rajnath Singh and other leaders will address the rally, he added.

Party workers, legislators and senior leaders from different parts of the Union Territory, including Kashmir, are expected to participate in the rally, the leader said.

"The speakers will counter misinformation campaign of the opposition against the democratically | More on P6

Veteran Congress leader Peerzada Muhammad Syed dies at 73

Thousands attend funeral, Rahul, Omar, Mehbooba, others mourn; 'Irreparable loss to Congress', says Karra

Jahangeer Ganaie



Anantnag, Nov 27: Veteran Congress leader, former minister and sitting Anantnag MLA Peerzada Muhammad Syed passed away at his Jammu residence on Thursday evening after a prolonged illness. He was 73.

A prominent Congress face in south Kashmir and a former Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president, Peerzada's death drew tributes from leaders across party lines, while thousands attended his funeral prayers on Friday at his ancestral village of Damhal Achabal in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), people from different walks of life, along with political leaders and party workers, gathered to bid a final farewell to the veteran politician.

Leaders from the National Conference (NC), Congress, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and other parties attended the funeral, | More on P6

Govt to prioritise need-based dev across J&K: CM Omar

KT News Desk



Bani (Kathua), Nov 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday reaffirmed the government's commitment to equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir, saying that no region would be left behind in the ongoing development process.

Addressing a large public gathering at Bani during his visit to Kathua district, the Chief Minister said his visit was aimed at fulfilling the commitment he had made to the local MLA to return with concrete initiatives for the development of Bani and its adjoining areas.

Earlier, the Chief Minister dedicated a series of educational and healthcare projects to the public, besides laying foundation stones for new infrastructure, with a total project investment of 9.69 crore.

At Government Degree College (GDC), Bani, he laid the foundation stone of a 50-bedded Girls' Hostel to be constructed at an estimated cost of 3.40 crore and inaugurated the Laboratory Block, completed at a cost of 2.60 crore. The laboratory facility will strengthen science education at the college, with facilities for Chemistry, Botany and Physics, enabling local students to pursue science studies without having to travel to Kathua.

At Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Bani, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of residential quarters for doctors, costing 1.62 crore, and inaugurated the OPD Complex constructed at a cost of 1.80 crore. He also inaugurated a Dialysis Unit established at a cost of 27 lakh to facilitate patients requiring regular dialysis, particularly those from far-flung areas.

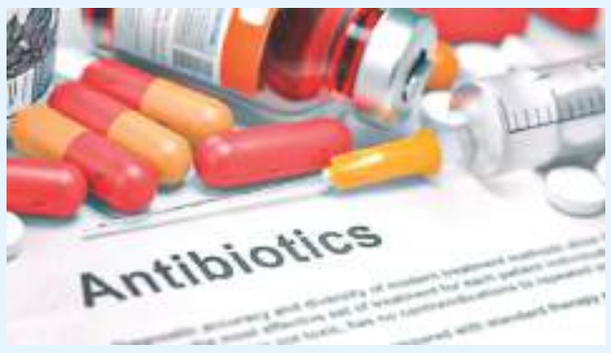
Addressing the gathering, Omar Abdullah appreciated the people of Bani-Lohai-Malhar for electing Dr Rameshwar Singh as their representative, observing that they had made the right choice for the area. He credited the MLA with consistently raising local development issues and conceptualising initiatives to promote Bani as a tourism destination.

Highlighting | More on P6

Antibiotic misuse fuels rising drug resistance in Kashmir, doctors warn

Self-medication, unregulated sales threaten effectiveness of life-saving drugs; routine infections could become harder to treat

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 27: Growing misuse of antibiotics, coupled with over-prescription and their unregulated sale, is contributing to an alarming rise in antimicrobial resistance in Kashmir, with doctors warning that even routine infections could become increasingly difficult to treat if corrective measures are not taken urgently.

Medical experts at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer that AMR has emerged as a major global health challenge, threatening to undermine decades of medical progress. "We are increasingly encountering infections that do not respond to antibiotics which were previously effective. This makes treatment more complicated, prolongs illness and increases the risk of serious complications," a senior specialist said.

Doctors said AMR develops when microorganisms undergo changes that enable them to survive medicines designed to eliminate them. The problem becomes particularly dangerous when bacteria develop resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics, leaving doctors with fewer effective options and forcing them to rely on stronger or more expensive medicines.

They identified unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions, self-medication, incomplete treatment courses, poor infection-control practices and the unrestricted availability of antibiotics without prescriptions as major factors accelerating the crisis.

Dr Murtaza Ahmad of DHSK said, "People often take antibiotics for fever, cough and other illnesses without consulting a doctor. Many of these conditions are caused by viruses, against which antibiotics have no effect. Such practices only encourage resistance."

Skipping doses, stopping medication once symptoms improve and using leftover antibiotics further contribute to the problem. Doctors said resistance is already posing challenges in treating pneumonia, urinary tract infections, tuberculosis | More on P6

Chief Secy reviews J&K's road infrastructure prog

Stresses faster execution of key connectivity projects

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 27: Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department to assess the progress of major road infrastructure projects, implementation of various development schemes and the department's future roadmap for strengthening connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, Transport Department; Engineer-in-Chief (Public Works); Regional Officer, NHAI; Chief Engineers of Project Beacon and Project SAMPARK; and other senior officers. All Deputy Commissioners participated in the | More on P6

Constitution Day Celebrations

Chief Justice highlights enduring strength of Constitution

Releases booklet on Fundamental Duties



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Commemorating 77 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirming the collective commitment to its cherished ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the High Court Legal Services Committee and District Legal Services Authority, Jammu, Friday observed Constitution Day, 2026 at Police Auditorium, Gulshan Ground, here.

The programme, as per an official statement, was graced by Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, as the Chief Guest, in presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Sanjay Parihar, Justice Yash Paul Bourney, Judges, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu.

The programme was aimed at rekindling constitutional consciousness among the masses, fostering respect for the supremacy of the Constitution and instilling a sense of responsible citizenship, particularly among the younger generation. It also sought to emphasize that preservation of constitutional democracy is a shared responsibility of institutions and citizens alike.

In his presidential address, Chief Justice, through an engaging interaction with the students and several real-life illustrations, elaborated upon the three dimensions of justice i.e social, economic and political, as enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Highlighting the equal value of every citizen's vote irrespective of their social or economic standing, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, underscored the remarkable achievement of political equality while emphasizing the need for sustained efforts towards social and economic equality and securing a dignified life for every individual.

Referring to the constitutional foresight of its framers, Chief Justice highlighted how Article 395 severed the remaining constitutional links with colonial rule and emphasized that the inherent flexibility of the Constitution is its greatest strength, binding the country's vast geographical, cultural and social diversity into a unified national fabric.

Reflecting upon the rich judicial heritage of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Chief Justice made a special reference to the establishment of the High Court in 1928, which is now approaching its centenary, as a reflection of the region's deep-rooted constitutional values.

Drawing upon his recent experiences in Ladakh, he highlighted the functioning of judicial institutions and Legal Services Authorities even in remote and high-altitude regions despite geographical and climatic challenges, describing it as a true manifestation of the beauty and strength of the Constitution.

Chief Justice exhorted the younger generation to keep the flame of constitutional values alive, harness their potential constructively and contribute meaningfully towards strengthening the Constitution, democracy and the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, highlighted the Preamble as the essence of the Constitution and elaborated upon its four foundational ideals i.e. Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Laying particular emphasis on equality and liberty, he underscored the importance of safeguarding the constitutional rights of every citizen, ensuring equality of opportunity and upholding individual dignity.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal further emphasized that constitutional freedoms must be exercised with responsibility and due regard for the rights of others, while stressing the need to inculcate constitutional awareness among the younger generation so that they remain conscious of both their rights and responsibilities.

The deliberations were further enriched by the insightful addresses of Prof. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Faculty of Law, University of Jammu, and Seema Khajooria Shekhar, Senior Advocate, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who brought academic and professional perspectives to the discourse on the historical evolution of the Constitution, constitutional morality and contemporary challenges.

The programme also featured insightful presentations by a Trainee Judge, law students and a Para Legal Volunteer, highlighting various facets of constitutional values and legal awareness.

An informative video presentation on the E-Nyay Saarthi Portal, developed by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, showcased the role of technological interventions in facilitating access to justice for all.

A significant highlight of the occasion was the release of a booklet on Fundamental Duties by the Chief Justice. The publication, brought out by the J&K Legal Services Authority, seeks to familiarize citizens with the Fundamental Duties enshrined under Article 51A of the Constitution of India in a simple and accessible manner.

The initiative is intended to promote constitutional literacy, foster a sense of civic and moral responsibility and encourage citizens to imbibe constitutional values in their day-to-day lives, thereby contributing towards the realization of the vision and aspirations of the Constitution.

The programme was also attended by Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Achal Sethi, Commissioner Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Tahir Khursheed Raina, PDJ (Chairman, DLSA) Jammu, Ashish Gupta, Special Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, other judicial officers from Registry and District Court Jammu, members of the legal fraternity, academicians, law students, Para Legal Volunteers and other distinguished invitees.

The welcome address was presented by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and the vote of thanks was delivered by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

J&K BOSE issues schedule for submission of examination forms in summer zone

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27. The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE), has notified schedule for online submission of permission cum examination forms for Classes 10, 11 & 12 along with Renewal Registration Returns (RR) for Class 11 and 12, for the Annual/Regular, 2027 (Feb–March session) for the Summer Zone in the Jammu Division.

As per the notification of J&K BOSE, eligible on-roll candidates from JKBOSE- affiliated institutions can fill up the online forms on payment of prescribed fees from November 27 to December 11 and the details thereof have been elaborately laid down in the notification available on the J&K BOSE website jkbose.jk.gov.in.

As per an official statement, the schools which fail to fill the forms during the timeline shall be liable to late fee.

The HOIs have been advised to generate an online checklist and submit it to the concerned board office within five days after completion of the form submission process. The checklists must be duly signed and stamped by the school principal/ headmasters.

The notification states that only the institutions affiliated with JKBOSE will be eligible to fill the examination cum permission forms.

The students with a disability of 40% or more, have been exempted from payment of examination and renewal registration fee dues.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, emphasising upon meticulous verification of particulars during punching of information on the designated portal.

ڈسٹک پولیس ہیڈکوارٹر بارہمولہ

زیر دفعہ 512 ض ف

غلام محی الدین شیخ

دفعات: FIR Nr 02/2008 U/S 2/3 EIMCO Act, 120-B, 121 RPC

نمبر: علت 02 سال 2008 مقام پولیس کنٹرول

حکم بنام: اہلکاران پولیس ریاست جموں وکشمیر بخلاف ملزم صدر

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ملزم کا بار بار بذریعہ وارنٹ گرفتاری بلاضمانتی طلب کیا گیا ہے لہذا ملزم کی دستیابی نہ ہوئی اور وارنٹ ہذا پر تعمیل آئی ہے کہ ملزم: 1۔عبدل احد میر ولد غلام محمد میر ساکنہ منگورا کنزر۔2۔فاروق احمد وانی ولد عبدل احد وانی ساکنہ کرال واتھ کنزر۔ 3۔منظور احمد گنائی ولد عبدالغنی گنائی ساکنہ لوپورہ کنزر۔4۔غلام حسن گنائی ولد خضر محمد گنائی ساکنہ گنڈ دلواش کراہامہ۔5۔محمد شفیع گنائی ولد محمد رمضان گنائی ساکنہ کرشہامہ کنزگھر سے فرار ہے اور روپوش ہے جس سے ملزم کی دستیابی بطریق آسانی مشکل ہے لہذا ملزم سے خلاف کارروائی زیر دفعہ 512 ض ف بعمل لائی جا کر اہلکاران پولیس ریاست جموں وکشمیر کو حلم واختیار دیا جاتا ہے کہ ملزم متذکرہ بلا جہاں کہیں بھی اندر حدود ریاست دستیاب ہو تو اُسے فوراً گرفتار کر کے عدالت ہذا میں پیش کریں۔وارنٹ ہذا تادستیابی فرمان/ملزم زیر کار رہے گا۔

تحریر الصدر

ایس پی پی بارھمولہ

DIPK-7983/26
DATED: 27-11-2026

JKSSB announces additional preventive measures for upcoming examinations

KT News Desk



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: The J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), after taking cognizance of the latest modus operandi attempted by unscrupulous elements to resort to unfair means in a recently held FAA examination, has decided to introduce additional preventive measures for upcoming examinations.

These arrangements, as per an official statement, will operate alongside the existing regulations regarding the conduct of examinations and are intended to strengthen fairness, transparency and security in the examinations. These additional measures include appointment and deployment of invigilation staff through a randomisation process by the concerned Deputy Commissioners from a pool of already identified staff. Candidates will continue to be allotted examination centres through randomisation. However, the period for downloading admit cards has been reduced from seven days to three days before the examination.

The security protocol at examination centres has been reviewed in consultation with the Police Department. Magistrates have been assigned to supervise the frisking of candidates and authorised examination-duty staff deployed at each centre. Magistrates will also ensure that no unauthorised person enters the examination premises and that no person leaves the premises until the examination concludes.

Likewise, Centre Observers appointed by the concerned Deputy Commissioners will be personally responsible for monitoring the movement of invigilation staff and examination material during the examination. They must ensure that unused or unissued Question Booklets and OMR Sheets belonging to absentee candidates are counted, packed and sealed inside the examination rooms or halls by the concerned invigilators, and kept under strict CCTV surveillance.

Furthermore, the Board will continue installing jammers in examination rooms and halls. In view of recent attempts to use sophisticated electronic gadgets, the number of jammers at examination centres has been increased. Magistrates deployed at examination centres will ensure that all deployed staff, including service providers, deposit their mobile phones and other gadgets in the designated control room. These items will remain locked there until the examination is completed.

Similarly, CCTV surveillance will continue at every examination centre, with live monitoring from JKSSB Control Rooms in Jammu and Srinagar. Centre Superintendents have been directed not to engage temporary or need-based staff for centre preparedness. Such duties must be assigned only to permanent government officials. Centre Superintendents will be personally responsible for any lapse.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner will constitute Flying Squads to monitor examination centres and nearby areas for suspicious activity. The District Administration will continue imposing restrictions around examination centres under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and will deploy adequate police personnel to prevent unnecessary movement in the vicinity.

Furthermore, candidates will not be permitted to park vehicles near examination centres, and no accomplice will be allowed. Frisking of candidates will be strengthened through J&K Police security. Candidates will not be allowed to carry metallic items, including water bottles, watches and special goggles.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN SHOPIAN, SHOPIAN WILDLIFE DIVISION

MINI SECRETARIAT ARAHAMA SHOPIAN

E-NIT NO. 06 OF 2026-27 DATED: 27/11/2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with CPWD/PWD/MES/ Forest/Wildlife Department/ Central/State/ UT Governments for execution of below work/s.

1. Details of Work

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in lacs.	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money/EMD	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Earth Filling and Development of Lawn of Control Room Pinglena Pulwama	9.99	500/- through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account	20,000/- through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account	20 days	"DEE" CEE & BEE
Position of AA: ACCORDED Position of funds: POSITIONED Major Head Account: CAMPA						

2. Schedule of Dates

S. No.	Event	Date/Time
1.	Date of Issue of tender Notice	28.11.2026
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents (online)	28.11.2026
3.	Bid Submission – Start Date	28/11/2026 @ 14:00 Hrs
4.	Bid Submission – End Date	08/12/2026 @ 15: 00 hrs
5.	Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08/12/2026 @ 15: 00 hrs Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
6.	Opening of Financial Bids (Online)	10/12/2026 @ 11:00 hrs Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
7.	Clarifications / Q&A	05/12/2026 till 04:00 pm.

All dates are subject to change by notice on the e-tender portal.

All pre-bid queries, clarifications, and requests for information shall be submitted in writing to the Tender Inviting Authority on or before 25.10.2026 up to 04:00 PM. Any query, clarification request, or communication received after the stipulated deadline shall not be entertained or responded to under any circumstances. Bidders are advised to submit their queries well within the prescribed time limit.

3. Tender & Bidding Documents

e-NIT (qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities, Terms & Conditions, annexures) – download from http://jktenders.gov.in. Complete Bidding Package (drawings, detailed specifications, BOQ, etc.) –download from https://jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule above.

Bidders are required to read the e-tender Submission Manual (available under Downloads on the portal) before preparing their bids.

a) No additional payment or claim shall be entertained on account of restricted working conditions, limited access, environmental constraints, or seasonal stoppage.

b) Any violation of these conditions shall result in immediate stoppage of work, imposition of penalties as per rules, termination of contract, blacklisting of the contractor, and forfeiture of EMD and Performance Security.

No: WLW-Spn-Estt/2026/Dated:.11.2026

DIPK-8016/26
DATED: 27-11-2026

Wildlife Warden,
Shopian Wildlife Division

Kashmir's Kani weaving goes global in Dubai

Rehan Qayoom Mir



Srinagar, Nov 26: From Kashmir's famed Kani shawls and hand-knotted carpets to the international design stage in Dubai, two architects are taking the Valley's generations-old weaving wisdom to the world through an innovative installation that brings attention to the knowledge behind its celebrated craftsmanship. Titled 'Taleem', the installation by VARUSSI, an architecture and research practice founded by Kashmiri architects Owais Asif Khan and Samreen Junaid Wani, was showcased at Dubai Design Week 2026 under the Abwab programme, translating the coded instructions used by Kashmiri weavers into an architectural experience.

The architects said the project was inspired by this year's Abwab theme, 'In Other Words', which encouraged them to explore forms of communication beyond spoken and written language.

Their research led them to the traditional instruction systems used by Kani shawl artisans and carpet weavers, where designs are communicated through sequences of symbols and instructions that skilled craftsmen interpret and translate into intricate patterns. Rather than reproducing textile designs, the architects explored the underlying logic of the weaving process and translated its traditional language into architecture.The project also drew on research involving local weavers. Shah Ahsan Illahi, a researcher from Kashmir, visited artisans on behalf of the architects to document their techniques and understand the knowledge involved. Through him, the team received interviews and videos of master weaver Ghulam Nabi Ganie at work, helping them understand the intricacies of the craft. The architects also studied existing documents and references before developing the installation.

The duo, currently based in Dubai, said their professional experience spans cultural buildings, museums, hospitality, sports and large public developments. They added that their connection to Kashmir continues to influence their approach to architecture, space, material and cultural identity. VARUSSI's proposal was selected for the Abwab commissioning programme, with 'Taleem' exhibited at Dubai Design District from November 3 to 8. The pavilion attracted visitors from the creative community, including the Director General of Dubai Culture, alongside artists, architects, designers and curators. Khan and Wani said visitors showed particular interest in how the coded instructions behind Kashmiri textile designs had been translated into a spatial experience, offering an opportunity to introduce the Valley's cultural heritage to a wider international audience.

While Kashmir's Kani shawls and hand-knotted carpets are admired for their colours, patterns and craftsmanship, the techniques, instructions and skills behind them represent an equally important body of knowledge passed down through generations of artisans, the architects said—(KNO)

Govt announces winter break for Kashmir schools



Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 27: School Education Department (SED) Friday announced a phased-manner winter break for Kashmir division from November-30.

Director of School Affairs Education Kashmir (DSEK) in an order said that the vacations for Pre-primary to 8th standard shall commence from November-30 to February-28-2027.

In case of 9th to 12th standard, DSEK said that the vacations shall be observed from December-14 to February-22-2027.

DSEK further ordered that the teaching faculty shall remain available for any academic activity during the vacation period.

"The Teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools 04 days prior to the opening of schools for making arrangements regarding the opening of schools," it reads.

Earlier, the Education Minister Shameema Firdous had said that the government is considering announcing winter vacation from December 01 for the elementary level classes.

The minister had said, "Our primary focus is the health of the children. Keeping in view the cold weather conditions, we are considering vacation of elementary level classes from nursery to 5th standard from December-01."

She also said that the government was receiving different feedback from the parents regarding the winter vacation. "We were getting two different responses from the parents, some parents are in favour of the vacation and some are saying that it is early to announce the vacation," the minister said—(KNO)

LG Sinha pays tribute to Girdhari Lal Dogra



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tribute to the veteran leader Girdhari Lal Dogra on his death anniversary.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "Paid heartfelt tributes to veteran leader Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra Ji on his Punya-tithi. His lifelong dedication to pub-lic service, unwavering commitment to uplifting the mar-ginalized, and monumental contributions to the devel-opment of Jammu Kashmir will continue to inspire gener-ations to come."

In the meantime, the Lieutenant Governor was presented with a book authored by Heritage and Cultural Sociolo-gist, Dr. Suheel Rasool Mir, at Lok Bhavan. The title of the book is "Voices Across the Pir Panjal: An Ethnographic Study of a Pahari Tribe".

The book provides an in-depth understanding of Pahari community, their social organization, identity and various challenges they encounter. It also offers a well-rounded comprehension of the tribe, framed through sociological and anthropological discussions.

In the meantime, Romi Sharma, Founder President, Pari-vartan (Change We Need), NGO called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Sagar condoles demise of Peerzada Mohammad Syed

KT News Desk



Jammu, Nov 27: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Former Minister and sitting MLA from Anantnag, Peerzada Mohammad Syed.

In his condolence message, Sagar described Peerzada Mohammad Syed as a veteran political leader of high integrity, who made

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

SBI ATM robbery attempt foiled

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Nov 27: Police foiled an alleged attempt to loot a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM located adjacent to the bank's branch in Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district during Thursday-Friday night, seizing a JCB machine and a vehicle abandoned by the accused while fleeing.

A police spokesperson said that after receiving information about the attempted theft, Chadoora Police acted promptly and reached the spot within minutes despite the sub-zero temperatures, thereby foiling the attempt

The accused persons fled from the spot, leaving behind the JCB machine and the vehicle allegedly used in the attempted theft. Both have been taken into police custody, while a search operation has been launched to identify and apprehend those involved.

Police said the investigation is underway and efforts are being made to trace the accused involved in the incident.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

DC Bandipora directs administrative officers to review hospital functioning, order draws flak



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Nov 27: An order issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, assigning various district-level officers the responsibility of reviewing the functioning of different departments at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bandipora has triggered a row, with several people questioning the rationale behind involving officials without medical backgrounds in assessing specialised healthcare departments.

The order states that the day-to-day functioning of the hospital has repeatedly come under scrutiny over various issues, including alleged interference, the non-availability of doctors during duty hours and shortages of medicines.

"To address the concerns raised by different stakeholders and understand the administrative and operational challenges affecting the hospital, the Deputy Commissioner constituted a group of officers and assigned them specific departments to review their functioning, availability of human resources and existing challenges, besides suggesting possible solutions," an official said.

As per the order, the Additional District Development Commissioner has been assigned the responsibility of reviewing surgery and the administration of the Medical Superintendent, while the Programme Officer ICDS will look into Gynaecology, Paediatrics and the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC).

Similarly, the General Manager, District Industries Centre, has been assigned Orthopaedics and Immunisation; the Chief Horticulture Officer will review Anaesthesia, Dentistry and ENT; while the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer has been tasked with examining Ophthalmology, paramedical staff and Medicine.

The Assistant Drug Controller, who will also assist the Chief Horticulture Officer, has been assigned the Drug Store, laboratories and Blood Bank, while the District Treasury Officer will examine accounts-related matters, tendering and Hospital Development Fund (HDF), among other issues.

The officers have been directed to submit their findings within three days.

NETIZENS CRITICIZE MOVE

However, the allocation of specialised medical departments to officers from unrelated administrative backgrounds has drawn criticism on social media, with several users questioning whether such an exercise could effectively assess the functioning

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

No written order, no strike withdrawal: resident doctors

Authorities seek time till Wednesday for final implementation

Jahangeer Ganaie



Srinagar, Nov 27: The ongoing strike by resident doctors across Jammu and Kashmir will continue despite what the protesting doctors described as a positive outcome of a high-level meeting with the Finance Department in Jammu on Friday. The doctors said they would not suspend their agitation until a formal written order is issued.

The representatives said discussions were held on the proposed stipend structure for Postgraduate (PG) doctors and Senior Residents (SRs), with an amount of around Rs 90,000 or above for PGs and approximately Rs 1.20 lakh for Senior Residents.

However, the authorities have sought time until Wednesday for final implementation or further communication on the issue. The doctors said that no written assurance or definite implementation timeline had been provided to them so far.

Speaking about the outcome, representatives of the protesting doctors said the meeting was positive and that a decision on the proposed stipend amounts had been discussed. However, they stressed that a verbal understanding could not be treated as a final resolution of their demands.

"We are not calling off the strike until we receive something in writing," one of the representatives said, adding that other GMCs across J&K were closely watching the developments and waiting for the protesting doctors to decide their next course of action. The representatives said that withdrawing the strike at this stage, merely on the basis of verbal assurances, could weaken the collective position of resident doctors and undermine the momentum of the ongoing agitation. The indefinite strike, which began at GMC Jammu on November 19, has spread to GMC Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Rajouri, Doda and Handwara, and several district hospitals.

The protesting doctors have suspended routine Outpatient Department (OPD) services and elective surgical procedures, while emergency and other essential medical services continue to operate.

The resident doctors are demanding a uniform stipend across all government medical institutions in J&K under the slogan "One State, One Pay", arguing that doctors performing similar duties should not receive different remuneration at different institutions.

Their demands also include implementation of 7th Pay Commission benefits, a minimum stipend of Rs 92,000 for PG doctors, full stipend during maternity leave and protection against any punitive action for participating in the protest.

On November 25, representatives of the resident doctors met Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, who acknowledged that their demands were genuine but said the matter required detailed examination in view of its financial implications—(KNO)

3 terror associates held in Shopian

KNO

Shopian, Nov 27: Security forces arrested three alleged terror associates during a joint search operation in Narwaw and Rawalpora areas of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, officials said.

An official said that the operation was conducted by the Army's Rashtriya Rifles (RR) in collaboration with the Special Operations Group (SOG) Shopian.

During the operation, three persons were apprehended. A search led to the recovery of two hand grenades, 20 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, five posters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), three mobile phones and three Aadhaar cards, the official said.

He said a case has been registered under FIR No. 250/2026 at the concerned police station under relevant sections of law, while further investigation into the case is underway—(KNO)

Bear mauls five in Udhampur's Panchari

KNO

Udhampur, Nov 27: At least five persons were injured in a bear attack in the Panchari area of Udhampur district on Friday, officials said.

An official said that the incident took place at Darang Bakal in the morning.

The injured were initially shifted to Panchari Hospital, from where they were referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur for further treatment.

Meanwhile, the authorities have taken cognizance of the incident, while locals have urged the authorities to intervene—(KNO)

Kashmir Thunder

EDITORIAL

A Result Is Not A Verdict

Every result season brings the same anxiety: a sleepless teenager, a worried family, and a number on a page that seems to decide everything. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to meritorious students in Jammu was a timely reminder that it does not. His central message was simple and humane: failure is something that happens to a person, not something a person is. A poor result is a moment, not a verdict. In a society that ranks children from the first class onward, this is advice many young people, and many parents, need to hear. Marks may open doors, but character decides what happens once you walk through. Patience, courage and resilience matter most when life throws up challenges no syllabus prepared you for. The LG's call to "light three lamps" of knowledge, compassion and character captures the idea well. Education that produces only high scorers, without decency or empathy, is incomplete. His remarks on technology were equally relevant. Machines can store information and compute at astonishing speed, but they cannot tell right from wrong or decide which question is worth asking. Judgment, curiosity, sensitivity and compassion are the qualities that will keep humans valuable as artificial intelligence spreads. Perhaps most important was his appeal on emotional well-being. Fear, anxiety and setbacks are natural, and seeking help is a sign of courage, not weakness. Parents, too, were urged to see their children beyond ranks and percentages and to put their happiness first. In a region where academic pressure weighs heavily on young shoulders, this deserves attention. Finally, he asked achievers to look back. Somewhere in a village there is a child with dreams as big as theirs but no coaching centre to nurture them. Success that reaches back to hold that child's hand is the kind worth having. These words should not be forgotten once the applause fades. Schools, families and communities must turn them into practice by valuing the whole child, not just the score.

The Return Of The Spotted Sprint: India's Cheetah Population On The Rise

From extinction in 1952 to a growing population at Kuno, India's cheetah recovery is moving from reintroduction toward natural breeding. Scientific monitoring, habitat restoration and genetic diversity from animals brought from several African countries underpin the effort, while the survival of wild-born cubs remains a crucial measure of long-term success.

Press Information Bureau



The winter mornings at Kuno National Park begin in tranquillity, as sunlight spreads across its grasslands and scrub. Amid this landscape, a species that disappeared from India seven decades ago is gradually reclaiming its place. A joint Field team at Kuno, comprising Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India personal monitor the cheetahs through radio-collar signals, field signs and associated changes in their behaviour. Consecutively in October and November this year, these daily observations brought two special developments: the arrival of two new litters of cheetah cubs.

Each birth reflects years of planning, scientific management, veterinary care and dedicated fieldwork under Project Cheetah. More importantly, each new birth is an encouraging indication that these highly stress-sensitive animals are adapting to their new environment, establishing themselves and successfully navigating the challenges of life in the wild. It is a testament to their resilience and a promising sign of the growing ecological suitability of the landscape and the progress of India's cheetah reintroduction programme. Collectively, these developments mark another chapter in India's efforts to establish a viable cheetah population. They also signal the emergence of a new generation born and raised on Indian soil. These new births also reemphasis India's role in global metapopulations endeavours.

Also Read: A Sprinting Revival: The Return of the Cheetah A New Generation at Kuno

Kuno National Park, located in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, lies in the northern part of the Vindhyachal mountain range. It has emerged as the principal site for India's cheetah reintroduction programme. The park recently witnessed two successive births, adding nine cubs to the country's growing cheetah population.

The first litter arrived in 5 October 2026, when KJP21, a 32-month-old Indian-born female, gave birth to five healthy cubs. She became the third India-born female cheetah to reproduce, following Mukhi and KGP12. The cubs' father is a male cheetah brought from Botswana. Their birth therefore introduced the Botswana genetic lineage into country's India-born cheetah population.

This development holds particular significance under the National Action Plan for Cheetah Introduction in India. The plan identifies successful breeding by the first India-born generation, or F1 generation, as one of the milestone necessary for successful establishment of cheetahs in reintroduced sites. KJP21's reproduction therefore marks an important step towards achieving this objective.

A second litter followed on 20 November 2026, when KOMG 3, a 30-month-old female brought from Botswana, gave birth to four healthy cubs. Significantly, KOMG 3 became the first female cheetah brought from Botswana to give birth in India. She delivered her cubs in free ranging conditions after spending more than four months in the wild. This also marked the second recorded instance of a cheetah giving birth in the wild (outside of Closed Natural Ares (CNA), which are large protected/fenced acclimatization areas within the release sites) since the reintroduction programme began in 2022. Successful reproduction in the wild is another criterion identified in the National Action Plan for assessing achievements of the programme's long term goals. This also is a critical milestone for the global metapopulation initiatives as India offers space for breeding Cheetahs from the African Subcontinent which otherwise are fragmented.

With the arrival of the November litter, India's cheetah population reached 62, including 43 cheetahs born cubs within the country. India-born cheetahs now account for nearly 70% of the total population. This reflects the growing contribution of reproduction within India to the programme's population base. Altogether, the two litters brought nine new cubs into India's cheetah population. Their arrival marks an encouraging milestone, while their survival and future reproduction will remain important indicators of conservation progress. From Reintroduction to Natural Reproduction Where did our cheetahs go? The cheetah officially went extinct in India in 1952. The last confirmed sighting of wild cheetahs was recorded in 1947 in the Sal forests of present-day Koriya district, Chhattisgarh. The last three recorded wild Asiatic cheetahs in India were shot and killed in the Sal forests in December 1947. Thus, the nation lost the species once ranged from Punjab in the north to Tirunelveli in the south. India's native Asiatic cheetah vanished due to a combination of excessive hunting, poaching, and the use of cheetahs for coursing. Large-scale habitat loss from agriculture, decline of prey, climate pressures, and the species' low reproductive rate and narrow genetic base further accelerated their extinction. Project Cheetah is the first attempt anywhere to move a large carnivore between continents for reintroduction.

India's cheetah story restarted with Project Cheetah on 17 September 2022 with a landmark release at Kuno National Park. On that day, the Prime Minister released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia into quarantine enclosures. Twelve more cheetahs arrived from South Africa in February 2023, completing a founder stock of twenty animals. The exercise remains the world's first intercontinental translocation of a large wild carnivore anywhere. Project Cheetah is run by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Its stated aim is to restore the cheetah as a flagship species of open forests and grasslands.

The programme widened further on 28 February 2026, when nine cheetahs arrived from Botswana. Six females and three males were released into quarantine enclosures at Kuno on that date. Each new source country adds genetic depth to a population that must sustain itself over many decades. A Population Growing From Within

A reintroduction succeeds only when translocated animals settle into their new habitat and propogate there naturally. By that measure, India's cheetah numbers are now growing largely through births on Indian soil.

Population propagation by cheetahs born in India has now become an important driver of this growth. This trend began in November 2025, when Mukhi, the first India-born cheetah under Project Cheetah, gave birth to five cubs. Two more India-born females, KGP12 and KJP21, have since followed her and given birth at Kuno. Their litters show that India-born cheetahs can mature and breed locally, completing a full reproductive cycle. This marks steady progress from the survival of individual animals towards a self-sustaining cheetah population in India.

Furthermore, each new breeding line matters because the founder populations of large carnivores usually carry a narrow genetic base. Sourcing animals from Namibia, South Africa and Botswana widens that base in a planned manner. A broader gene pool supports disease resistance, fertility and the long-term resilience of future generations. The Science Behind the Recovery

Kuno National Park was selected following expert assessment of habitat suitability, prey availability and human disturbance. Earlier relocation of 24 villages, involving 1,545 families, made nearly 6,258 hectares available for wildlife conservation. These efforts helped reduce human pressures and create suitable habitat for cheetahs. Habitat management measures, including grassland restoration, prey augmentation and water management, support the reintroduction programme.

Project Cheetah follows a scientific framework informed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines on conservation translocations. The Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India was prepared jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. Monitoring combines satellite collars, camera traps and field observations. Distance sampling along fixed transects helps estimate prey abundance and assess habitat conditions. Veterinary teams monitor the cheetahs' health, body condition, injuries and reproductive status.

Animals are first held in Closed Natural Areas before moving into the wider open landscape. This staged (soft-release) method allows each cheetah to adjust to terrain, prey and climate at its own pace. Successful propagation further indicates that cheetahs can reproduce under the conditions persistent at Kuno. However, reproduction alone does not establish that a population is self-sustaining. The survival of wild-born cubs remains an important measure of progress. The national action plan identifies cub survival beyond one year as an important milestone. Continued monitoring during this critical period helps assess survival, health and the programme's longer-term prospects.

Grasslands, Prey and Local Communities

Under Project Cheetah, the cheetah has been designated a flagship and umbrella species for conservation. Protecting it requires the restoration of open forests, grasslands and semi-arid habitats. Kuno supports chital, sambar, nilgai, chinkara, chousingha, blackbuck and other wild ungulates. Chital is the most abundant wild prey and accounts for about three-quarters of recorded cheetah kills. Grassland recovery also improves soil stability, water retention and carbon storage across the wider landscape.

Communities living around Kuno are partners in this effort rather than observers of it. More than 450 Cheetah Mitras work as local ambassadors across 80 villages near the park. The programme has created about 380 direct jobs, including trackers, patrol workers and trained guides. Villages around Kuno also receive a five per cent share of eco-tourism revenue. Eco-development works covering roads, check dams and sanitation extend across more than one hundred villages. Conservation gains are more durable when local communities share in the benefits they help generate. The Road Ahead

The long-term objective is a self-sustaining metapopulation of 60 to 70 cheetahs by 2032. This population is planned across about 17,000 square kilometres in the Kuno and Gandhi Sagar landscape.

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been developed as the second site under the programme. The first two cheetahs, named Prabash and Paavak, were moved there from Kuno National Park in April 2025. Subsequently, 2 females have also been shifted to the sanctuary.

A separate action plan guides prey recovery, habitat preparation and phased release at Gandhi Sagar. Additional habitats are being assessed so that the species is not confined to a single protected area.

As cheetah numbers grow, the programme is also spreading the animals across a wider landscape in Madhya Pradesh. In October 2026, Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Sagar district became the third cheetah habitat in the State. Two cheetahs from Kuno National Park were released there by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

The current total of 62 animals reaches the lower end of the planned range. It also includes very young cubs whose survival cannot yet be taken for granted. The nine cubs from the two recent litters are therefore an encouraging milestone rather than a final verdict. Their survival, and in time their own reproduction, will be the more meaningful measure of success. Each new litter brings India closer to a cheetah population that can sustain itself in the wild.

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

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

Kashmir Thunder

STATE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON POWER

Sagar seeks special Central Package for J&K Power Sector

Flags winter deficit, infrastructure needs

KT News Desk

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 27: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Friday interacted with the Group of Ministers during the State Ministers' Conference on Power, held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal.

During the interaction, the Minister, as per an official statement, highlighted the distinctive challenges confronting Jammu and Kashmir's power sector and sought special financial assistance from the Government of India for its comprehensive modernisation, strengthening and long-term sustainability.

The Minister also submitted a detailed memorandum to the Union Minister for Power, outlining the sector's key requirements and seeking a dedicated financial package to address infrastructure gaps, reduce distribution losses, strengthen transmission networks, enhance hydropower generation and improve power availability, particularly during the winter months.

Emphasising the geographical and climatic challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, Sagar pointed out that the mountainous terrain, scattered habitations, remote locations and extreme weather conditions make power infrastructure development and maintenance particularly demanding. He said that heavy snowfall, avalanches, landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods frequently disrupt electricity infrastructure, while winter demand rises sharply at a time when hydropower generation declines.

Highlighting the progress made in improving the financial and operational performance of power distribution companies, the Minister informed that revenue realisation by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had increased from approximately 3,060 crore in 2021–22 to 5,290 crore in 2025–26, registering a growth of nearly 73 per cent.

He also highlighted the reduction in AT&C losses, which had declined from 49.82 per cent to 27.13 per cent in JPDCL and from 65.61 per cent to 33 per cent in KPDCL. The gap between average cost of supply and average revenue realised had also witnessed substantial improvement.

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), 14.07 lakh smart meters have been sanctioned, of which nearly 12.25 lakh had been installed as of November 19, 2026. Distribution strengthening and loss-reduction works worth 4,708.52 crore have also been sanctioned, with substantial physical progress achieved in both power distribution companies.



The Minister sought continued Central support for strengthening the distribution network, including replacement of ageing and overloaded transformers, augmentation of 33/11 kV infrastructure, installation of additional substations, strengthening of low-tension networks and development of alternate feeding arrangements. He also stressed the need for underground and insulated cabling in vulnerable areas and dedicated enforcement wings to curb power theft and unauthorised consumption.

Referring to the winter power scenario, Sagar said that Jammu and Kashmir's peak demand during the previous winter had touched approximately 3,362 MW, comprising 1,456 MW in Jammu and 1,906 MW in Kashmir. The anticipated restricted demand for winter 2026–27 is around 3,450 MW, with an estimated supply gap ranging between 600 MW and 1,300 MW.

He urged the Union Government to provide additional unallocated Central power, ensure predictable allocations and continue or enhance the additional 329 MW allocation for December 2026 to February 2027. He also sought support for affordable long-term power procurement and banking arrangements with neighbouring states, including Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

On hydropower development, the Minister underlined that Jammu and Kashmir possesses an estimated potential of 14,635 MW, of which only around 3,540 MW has been harnessed so far. He highlighted the ongoing projects of Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle, with an aggregate capacity of approximately 3,563.5 MW, and said that the Government aims to increase installed hydropower capacity to around 10,975.65 MW by 2035.

He sought Central assistance through grants, concessional financing and viability gap funding for accelerating hydropower projects, undertaking geological investigations and preparing detailed project reports. He also highlighted the proposed Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Power Policy 2026 and the need to encourage private investment in the sector.

The Minister further emphasised the importance of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for managing peak demand and integrating renewable energy. He outlined the proposal for developing 250 MW/1,000 MWh of storage capacity over three years and scaling it up to 1,000 MW/4,000 MWh over five years, up to 2031.

Regarding transmission infrastructure, Sagar highlighted the ongoing transformation of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL), which has a transformation capacity of approximately 12,875 MVA, with another 3,766 MVA in the pipeline. He sought support for new transmission lines, grid substations, transformer augmentation, modern digital substations and strengthening of transmission corridors to meet future demand.

The Minister also stressed the need to make power infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters. He proposed a dedicated Himalayan Power Infrastructure Resilience Programme, including the procurement of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) units. While seven ERS units have already been procured for Jammu, he highlighted the requirement for 15 additional units for Jammu and 10 for Kashmir.

Calling for greater investment in digitalisation and capacity building, Sagar emphasised the importance of smart-grid technologies, cybersecurity, modern operational systems and specialised training for power-sector personnel. He proposed establishing two dedicated Power Training Colleges, one each in the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

He said that reliable and affordable electricity was essential for supporting industrial growth, tourism, horticulture, cold-chain infrastructure, healthcare facilities and the emerging electric mobility ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister urged the Union Government to consider a dedicated Jammu and Kashmir Power Sector Development and Modernisation Package, combining grants, concessional loans, viability gap funding and project-based assistance. He also proposed the constitution of a joint working group comprising representatives of the Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir to examine the proposals and facilitate their time-bound implementation.

Sagar expressed confidence that sustained support from the Centre would help Jammu and Kashmir overcome its structural power-sector challenges, strengthen energy security and build a modern, resilient and financially sustainable electricity system.

Speaker condoles demise of Congress leader Peerzada Mohammad Syed



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of senior Congress leader and sitting MLA from Anantnag, Peerzada Mohammad Syed.

In his condolence message, the Speaker described Peerzada Mohammad Syed as a veteran political leader of high integrity, who made significant contributions to public life and the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling his long political career, the Speaker, as per an official statement, said that Peerzada Mohammad Syed represented the Kokernag Assembly Constituency 1987, 2002 and 2008 and Anantnag Assembly Constituency since 2024 till date besides serving the people as a legislator in his subsequent political innings. He also headed the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee for a considerable period.

The Speaker recalled that Peerzada Mohammad Syed held several important portfolios during his tenure in the State Government, including Education, Sports, Haj and Auqaf, and Public Enterprises. He first served as Minister of State for Education in 1987 and subsequently held the portfolios of Education and Public Enterprises. In 2009, he was again inducted into the State Cabinet.

A law graduate from the University of Kashmir (LL.B., 1980), Peerzada Mohammad Syed was widely respected for his calm demeanour, political experience and strong connect with grassroots workers.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, the Speaker prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength and fortitude to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

CAT declines to defer J&K Police SI exam, to be held on Nov 29 as scheduled

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has informed the concerned candidates and the general public that the OMR-based written examination for the post of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), Jammu & Kashmir Police, will be conducted strictly as per schedule on Sunday, November 29, 2026.

In an Original Application bearing O.A. No. 1326/2026 titled Bilal Ahmad Khoja and Others verses Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir & Others, some contesting applicants approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, seeking interim directions to defer the upcoming J&K Police Sub-Inspector examination scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026, and to stay further recruitment procedure of the Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination which was held on November 15, 2026, expressing apprehension over the fairness, transparency and sanctity of the examination process.



JKSSB, as per an official statement, in order to ensure the highest standards of fairness, transparency and sanctity for the upcoming Sub-Inspector examination, placed on record existing Government Protocols, Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) alongside additional preventive measures recently notified by the Controller of Examinations, JKSSB.

Taking note of the Board's proactive safeguards, CAT declined to grant any interim relief for staying the selection process of the posts of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA), Finance Department and also decided against deferment of the examination of Sub-Inspector (SI), Jammu & Kashmir Police, Home Department, scheduled to be held on 29.11.2026.

JKSSB reiterates its unwavering commitment to conduct of free, fair and transparent examinations. It advised all the aspiring candidates to focus on their preparation for the forthcoming examinations, rely exclusively on the information published on the official website of JKSSB and refrain from paying heed to false, misleading or fabricated rumours.

JKSSB, as per an official statement, in order to ensure the highest standards of fairness, transparency and sanctity for the upcoming Sub-Inspector examination, placed on record existing Government Protocols, Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) alongside additional preventive measures recently notified by the Controller of Examinations, JKSSB.

Sakeena Itoo seeks Centre's intervention to ensure safety of Indian students studying abroad

Urges time-bound protocol for repatriation of mortal remains, formal inquiries into untoward incidents



KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo has sought the personal intervention of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare for putting in place a comprehensive institutional mechanism to ensure the safety, security and welfare of Indian students pursuing medical education in foreign countries.

In a communication addressed to the Union Health Minister, Sakeena Itoo, as per an official statement, expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, for facilitating the repatriation of the mortal remains of a student from Jammu and Kashmir who passed away in Bangladesh while pursuing his medical course.

The Minister observed that incidents involving the death or critical injury of Indian students overseas are a matter of serious concern, causing immense distress and trauma to affected families. She emphasised that while the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Medical Commission (NMC) regulate foreign medical qualifications, the safety, security and overall welfare of Indian students abroad also require a robust and coordinated institutional response.

Seeking the Union Minister's personal intervention in taking up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs, Sakeena Itoo urged the establishment of a structured and time-bound mechanism to ensure prompt assistance to students and their families in the event of any unfortunate incident abroad.

The Minister specifically called for initiating formal and transparent inquiries in coordination with host governments whenever the death or critical injury of an Indian student is reported overseas. She also stressed the need for a standardised, time-bound protocol within the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian diplomatic missions to facilitate affected families through requisite formalities and ensure expeditious repatriation of mortal remains.

Further, she called for a comprehensive review of the safety standards, emergency redressal mechanisms and student support services available at foreign medical universities recognised by the National Medical Commission.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach involving the concerned Central Ministries, the Minister said that families facing such tragic circumstances must receive timely institutional support, clear communication and all possible assistance, rather than being left to navigate complex procedures on their own.

Sakeena Itoo expressed hope that the Union Government would consider the suggestions favourably and take appropriate measures to strengthen the existing support framework for Indian students pursuing higher and professional education abroad.

JKSSB conducts training session for invigilators, supporting staff of Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: In preparation for the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Sub-Inspector in the Home Department, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026 (Sunday), from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) organised a comprehensive training session for invigilators and supporting staff of Jammu district at the Convention Centre here Friday.

The training programme, as per an official statement, witnessed the participation of more than 3,000 invigilators and supporting personnel, reflecting the extensive preparations being undertaken by the Board for the forthcoming examination.



The session was presided over by Rakesh Kumar Badyal and Sudhir Bali, Members of JKSSB and Coordinators for Jammu District, who addressed the participants and emphasised the importance of meticulous planning, coordination and strict adherence to the prescribed examination guidelines.

During the training session, participants were sensitised about their respective duties and responsibilities, standard operating procedures and various aspects of examination management. Detailed instructions were imparted regarding the reporting and deployment of staff, verification of candidates' identity and admit cards, frisking procedures, maintenance of discipline, prevention of unfair means and ensuring a secure and conducive examination environment.

Special emphasis was laid on maintaining the confidentiality and sanctity of examination material, proper handling of question paper-related documents, adherence to prescribed timelines, effective coordination among Centre Superintendents, invigilators and supporting staff, and prompt reporting of any untoward incident or procedural irregularity.

The participants were also briefed about the importance of vigilance inside examination halls, proper seating arrangements, accurate documentation and ensuring that every candidate is treated fairly and uniformly in accordance with the examination instructions.

Addressing the gathering, the Members underscored that the successful conduct of a large-scale examination requires collective responsibility, professional commitment and close coordination at every level. They called upon all personnel to discharge their assigned duties with utmost sincerity, impartiality and alertness, leaving no scope for negligence or procedural lapses.

The Board reiterated its commitment to conducting the Sub-Inspector examination in a free, fair, transparent and orderly manner, ensuring equal opportunity for all candidates.

The training session concluded with an appeal to all invigilators and supporting staff to remain fully prepared and ensure strict compliance with the instructions issued by JKSSB for the smooth and successful conduct of the examination on November 29, 2026.

Kashmir Thunder

Planning backbone of rural development: Altaf Wani

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 27: Minister for Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Altaf Ahmad Wani, today described planning as the backbone of development and called for effective convergence with line departments to make rural areas developed, self-reliant and sustainable.

Addressing a day-long workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP), organised by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj in Jammu, the Minister said the initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of independence. He said the workshop marked an important step towards achieving this vision at the grassroots level.

Emphasising the importance of planning in shaping rural development, Altaf Wani said the Government of India has laid special emphasis on structured and participatory planning under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. He urged officers and field functionaries to take ownership of the initiative and translate its objectives into tangible outcomes, asserting that with commitment, dedication and determination, even the most challenging goals can be achieved.

The Minister said field functionaries are the face of the Department and play a vital role in strengthening rural governance and development. He observed that the Department has the potential to achieve remarkable progress if its personnel demonstrate the will, commitment and dedication required to deliver on their responsibilities.

Altaf Wani underscored the need for greater public participation in Gram Sabha meetings and stressed consultations with elected representatives while preparing development plans. He said that, as part of a democratic system, planning must reflect the aspirations and needs of every section of society. He further emphasised that elected MLAs, irrespective of party affiliation, should be taken on board during the planning process to ensure inclusive and comprehensive development.

Highlighting the importance of convergence, the Minister called upon the Department to work in close coordination with other line departments to ensure integrated development and strengthen rural livelihoods.

Altaf Wani observed that if other departments contribute towards the material component of development works, the Department of Rural Development can complement these efforts through the labour component under the VB-G RAM G scheme, thereby ensuring need-based, comprehensive and effective development of rural areas. He said convergence mechanisms would be further strengthened and the matter would also be taken up with the concerned departmental Ministers to ensure better inter-departmental coordination and collaboration.

The Minister directed officers to expedite works under UT CAPEX, PRI grants and other development programmes, emphasising that the working season in snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir is limited and requires timely execution of projects. He stressed the need to accelerate progress and ensure optimal utilisation of available funds to facilitate the release of additional resources. He also called for expediting projects initiated under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Calling for a citizen-centric approach, Wani urged officers to remain responsive to public needs and discharge their duties with sincerity and accountability. He cautioned that negligence in the discharge of official responsibilities would invite appropriate disciplinary action. He also stressed the proper protection, preservation and maintenance of assets being created by the Department.

Speaking at the workshop, Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar, highlighted the objectives and framework of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan, stating that the initiative aims to facilitate participatory and comprehensive planning through Gram Sabhas based on the identified needs and priorities of local communities. He said the plan incorporates technology-driven planning mechanisms, including the use of Yuktdhara, and brings together the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and other line departments to ensure coordinated interventions at the Panchayat level.

The Secretary highlighted the four key thematic areas of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan—water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods and disaster mitigation—and emphasised that convergence is a central component of the initiative to avoid duplication of works and ensure tangible, holistic and sustainable development. He said technology would be utilised at every stage of planning and implementation, including geo-tagging and monitoring, while district-level officers would play a crucial role in ensuring effective implementation. He exhorted officers to remain accountable and responsible, describing field functionaries as the eyes and ears of the Department.

The Secretary also stressed the need to complete ongoing works within stipulated timelines and asked officers to thoroughly familiarise themselves with the guidelines of VB-G RAM G and ensure their effective implementation. He further directed officers to expedite the completion of houses under PMAY-G and accelerate works related to Panchayat Ghars and Community Sanitation Complexes.

Earlier, Director RDD Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar, delivered the welcome address, while Additional Secretary Waseem Raja outlined the objectives and key features of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan.

The workshop was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr V.S. Senthil Kumar; Secretary in the Department, Rachna Sharma; Director RDD Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director Panchayati Raj, Pankaj Raj Katoch; CEO IWMP, Rajneesh Kumar; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja; officers from line departments; Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs); Block Development Officers (BDOs); and other senior officers and officials.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PDP, BJP stoking

examination. I agree with this. Some people took the question paper out of the examination hall, used wireless devices and tried to obtain answers. But they were caught on the spot. They were arrested. They were stopped in the examination hall itself," he said.

Omar announced that the government would establish a degree college at Lahri-Bandhan, highlighting the difficulties faced by students in remote areas who have to travel long distances to pursue higher education.

He said the nearest degree college for students from Lahri-Bandhan was in Billawar, around 70 kilometres away, involving nearly four hours of travel.

The Chief Minister said it was unfair to expect students from remote areas to compete with those living in cities, where degree colleges were available within short distances.

He questioned the rationale behind establishing colleges in areas where institutions were located within seven to 15 kilometres of one another but had enrolments of only 50 to 120 students, while children in far-flung areas continued to struggle for access to higher education.

"I assure the people of Lahri-Bandhan that I will sign the proposal for the establishment of your degree college," Omar said.

He also assured a well-equipped library for local youth, saying the demand raised by the MLA was an important one and would be included in the government's priorities for the coming year.

Highlighting the government's initiatives in Bani, Omar said four new laboratories for Botany, Geology, Physics and Chemistry had been inaugurated at the local degree college to facilitate science education.

He said students earlier had to travel nearly five hours to reach institutions in other areas, including Jammu, to pursue science subjects.

The Chief Minister said the laboratories were equipped with the necessary infrastructure and facilities, enabling students to study science subjects locally.

He also highlighted the construction of a 50-bed hostel for girl students at the degree college, saying the facility would help girls from far-flung areas pursue higher education without having to travel long distances every day.

Omar said the hostel project was being taken forward through the efforts of the local MLA and his ministerial colleagues, Sakina Itoo and Shamima Firdous.

He said the government wanted to ensure that girls were not left behind in education because of the difficulties faced by families in sending them to distant institutions.

The Chief Minister also spoke about the shortage of doctors in remote health institutions, saying people had repeatedly complained that hospitals had buildings, beds and equipment but lacked doctors.

He said doctors posted in such areas often left after a few days because of the lack of residential accommodation.

Omar thanked the local MLA and the doctors who had been appointed in the area, saying the availability of medical staff would reduce the need for patients to travel elsewhere for routine treatment. (KNO)

Align academic reforms

issued directives to strengthen institutional accountability and organise national-level programmes along with student outreach initiatives such as Yuva Connect.

The meeting also deliberated on vital academic and administrative matters including faculty recruitment, career advancement, admissions, new academic programmes, the promotion of research publications, and infrastructure upgrades to enhance the university's overall functioning.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification.

The Executive Council also reviewed the Action Taken Report pertaining to the previous meeting held in January 2026. (KNO)

Rajnath to lead

elected Modi Government, aimed at creating confusion and political instability in the country," he said.

Another leader said the padyatra is intended to bring together party leaders, elected representatives, workers and citizens to reaffirm their commitment to democracy, constitutional values, national unity and good governance.

Pertinently, BJP had launched its nationwide 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' campaign on October 22.

The campaign aims to strengthen democratic values and constitutional institutions and counter the alleged "misinformation being spread" by the Congress and its INDIA alliance partners.

The campaign is being organised in phases through public rallies, padyatras, youth conventions and grassroots outreach programmes. (KNO)

Syed Faisal Qadri

General Ishaq Qadri, and Jammu-based senior advocate Seema Shekhar was forwarded to Raj Bhavan for consideration.

"The Lieutenant Governor approved the name of Faisal Qadri," sources said.

The post of Advocate General had remained vacant since D.C. Raina resigned in 2024 following the formation of the elected government in the Union Territory.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor shall appoint a person qualified to be appointed a Judge of the High Court as the Advocate General for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

As per the law, it is the duty of the Advocate General to advise the government on legal matters referred to him and perform such other legal functions as may be assigned by the government. The Advocate General is also required to discharge functions conferred upon him under the Constitution and other laws in force.

The Act further provides that the Advocate General shall hold office during the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor and receive such remuneration as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor.

According to the notification, Syed Faisal Qadri will draw a monthly remuneration of Rs 1 lakh as Advocate General of Jammu & Kashmir. He will also be entitled to a rent-free, fully furnished official accommodation in Jammu or Srinagar, or a compensatory allowance of Rs 12,000 per month if he opts to stay in his own residence.

The terms of appointment also provide for an official vehicle, a monthly sumptuary allowance of Rs 3,000, medical reimbursement and travel allowances on par with a sitting High Court judge, besides professional fees for appearances before the High Court, Supreme Court and other courts and tribunals.

His headquarters shall be the same as that of the High Court unless otherwise directed by the government, and he will be provided security by the Home Department as required. (KNO)

J&K Assembly set

Jammu & Kashmir participated in Presidential elections whenever an elected Legislative Assembly was in existence.

However, after Jammu & Kashmir was reorganised into a Union Territory in 2019, a constitutional ambiguity arose as Article 54 specifically mentions only the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry in the Electoral College.

At the time of the 2022 Presidential election, the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly was not in existence as the Union Territory was under Central rule.

In the 2017 Presidential election, MLAs belonging to the PDP-BJP coalition voted in favour of Ram Nath Kovind, while legislators from the opposition National Conference and Congress supported Meira Kumar. (KNO)

Govt to prioritise

the government's efforts to strengthen healthcare services, the Chief Minister acknowledged the shortage of doctors in Bani and appreciated Health Minister Sakina Itoo for facilitating the deployment of seven doctors to the area.

He said that the establishment of dialysis facilities would provide significant relief to kidney patients, who otherwise had to travel considerable distances for treatment. He also informed that doctors' residential quarters were being developed with a target of completing the project within one and a half years. Better accommodation facilities, he said, would help encourage doctors to serve in remote areas.

The Chief Minister also dedicated two ambulances to strengthen emergency medical services and facilitate the transportation of patients. He said road connectivity and electricity infrastructure were receiving due attention to improve the living conditions of people in Bani and its adjoining areas.

On education, Omar Abdullah said the availability of Science stream facilities at GDC Bani would open new opportunities for students, particularly those from remote habitations who faced difficulties in accessing higher education. He assured that he would visit Lohai-Malhar by road and give priority to examining the demand for establishing a degree college there.

However, he emphasised that educational institutions are established on the basis of criteria and also taking into account the requirement of the area and feasibility, observing that opening colleges without adequate infrastructure, enrolment and other necessary facilities might not serve the intended purpose.

The Chief Minister also assured that the demands for a bus stand and a library, raised by the local MLA, would be addressed shortly.

Referring to tourism potential, he said Dr Rameshwar Singh deserved credit for conceptualising tourism promotion in Bani and turning it into a popular annual event. He assured the government's support for further strengthening the Sarthal Winter Snow Festival and expressed his willingness to participate in the festival.

On economic development, the Chief Minister said efforts would be made to revive the SEWA project, emphasising that its revival must translate into tangible benefits for local residents, particularly through employment opportunities for the people of the area.

He reiterated that generating employment for youth remained a priority of the government, while acknowledging the growing mistrust among young people towards recruitment institutions. He said the government was conscious of their concerns and committed to ensuring transparency and fairness in the recruitment process.

Referring to recent attempts of unfair means in JKSSB exam, the Chief Minister assured that the Government is committed to making recruitments fair and transparent and such attempts would not be allowed.

"Our endeavour is to ensure that young people progress and that avenues of employment are opened up for them. It is our responsibility to ensure that youth get government jobs through a fair and transparent process. We fully understand and acknowledge this responsibility," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said the government's development agenda was focused on maintaining the pace of development across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Development, he observed, could not be confined to selected areas but must reach every region and every section of society.

He stressed that the government would not allow society to be divided and would instead work towards building a strong network of development connecting all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Education Shamim Firdous, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Bani Dr Rameshwar Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma and other senior officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

Veteran Congress leader

reflecting the respect he commanded across the political spectrum.

JKPCC president Tariq Hameed Karra, who attended the funeral, described Peerzada's demise as an irreparable loss to the Congress party, recalling his long association with the organisation and contributions to public life.

Condolences poured in from across the political spectrum, with leaders remembering Peerzada for his commitment to public service and contribution to Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi expressed grief over the veteran leader's demise and extended sympathies to his family, friends and supporters, saying his loyalty to the Congress party and service to the people would always be remembered.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also condoled his death, recalling his long public life and contributions to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo remembered Peerzada's decades-long political journey and his tenure as JKPCC president, cabinet minister and legislator.

Senior Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz described his death as a major loss for Jammu and Kashmir and the Congress party, while PDP president Mehbooba Mufti remembered him as a humble and compassionate public figure.

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, NC leader and Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone, Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, former JKPCC president Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also paid tributes to the veteran leader.

A prominent Congress leader from south Kashmir, Peerzada was first elected to the Assembly from Kokernag in 1987 and was re-elected in 2002 and 2008. During his political career spanning nearly four decades, he held several key portfolios, including Education, Rural Development, Science and Technology, and Haj and Auqaf.

He also served as JKPCC president and remained an influential figure within the Congress for several years.

After a political hiatus, Peerzada returned to electoral politics in 2024, winning the Anantnag Assembly seat on a Congress ticket and defeating PDP candidate Mehboob Beg by over 1,600 votes.

His death marks the end of a long political journey and leaves a void in the Congress organisation, particularly in south Kashmir, where he remained an influential political figure for decades. (KNO)

Chief Secy reviews

meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the department made a detailed presentation on its vision, infrastructure portfolio, ongoing projects, achievements and key priorities, covering works being executed through different agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and the Public Works Department.

On this occasion the Additional Chief Secretary, PWD, Anil Kumar Singh apprised that Jammu and Kashmir has a road network of approximately 42,121 kilometres, while the overall infrastructure portfolio covered in the presentation is valued at around Rs 1.28 lakh crore, encompassing ongoing and sanctioned works as well as projects at the DPR and in-principle stages.

He also gave a detailed overview of the National Highway programme presenting that 43 works worth Rs 39,784 crore are under execution, besides 11 sanctioned works amounting to Rs 9,187 crore awaiting commencement. Another 31 works, involving an estimated investment of Rs 70,839 crore, are at the DPR or in-principle stage.

Reviewing the progress of major connectivity projects, the meeting was informed that the Z-Morh Tunnel has been commissioned and is operational, while the main breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel was achieved on June 9, 2026, with physical progress reaching 49.64 per cent. Work on the Vailoo–Donipawa four-laning project has also commenced.

The progress of the Srinagar and Jammu Ring Road projects was also reviewed. Srinagar Ring Road Phase-I has achieved around 92 per cent progress, while the tunnels on Jammu Ring Road have also reached approximately 92 per cent completion. The meeting was further apprised of the completion of important works, including Pulwama Bypass, Sanat Nagar Flyover and Tengpora service road.

The department also highlighted the strategic importance of the two major tunnels sanctioned on NH-244 Sudhmahadev–Dranga Tunnel, measuring 12.85 km at an estimated cost of Rs 4,179.18 crore, and Singhpora–Vailoo Tunnel, measuring 38.61 km at a cost of Rs 5,600.28 crore. Land acquisition for both projects is under process. Progress and proposals relating to other strategic tunnel projects, including Pir Ki Gali and Sadhna, besides proposed tunnels in Keran, Machil and Gurez, were also discussed.

The meeting reviewed the progress of Project SAMPARK on NH-144A (Akhnoor–Poonch), which has achieved 90.35 per cent length-weighted physical progress. Of its eight packages, two have been completed, while work on the remaining packages is at different stages of execution.

Under PMGSY-IV, the department has sanctioned 644 roads covering approximately 3,357 km, aimed at connecting 789 eligible habitations by March 2028. The progress of the current batches was also reviewed, including the award and implementation status of the sanctioned works.

A detailed assessment of the financial and physical progress under various funding windows, including UT Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, CRIF and NABARD-RIDF, was also undertaken. As on November 20, 2026, against the UT Capex budget allocation of Rs 5,969.55 crore for 2026-27, releases of Rs 4,061.07 crore had been made, with expenditure of Rs 2,142.13 crore.

The meeting was also apprised that under CRIF, 294 projects worth Rs 4,337.21 crore have been sanctioned, of which 203 had been completed up to March 2026. Similarly, 1,074 projects worth Rs 4,967.70 crore have been sanctioned under NABARD-RIDF, with 427 projects completed up to March 2026. The department also outlined the pipeline of new projects proposed under these funding mechanisms.

Further the meeting took stock of the ongoing restoration of infrastructure damaged by floods and other disasters. The department reported that 2,046 flood-restoration works had been completed between April 1 and October 31, 2026. Progress under the relevant restoration and rehabilitation components was also reviewed.

Highlighting the department's achievements during April–October 2026, it was revealed that 1,500 kilometres of roads had been macadamised, while 68 identified black spots had been rectified and 1,265 road safety audits conducted. Of the 6,000 migrant transit accommodation units, 5,288 had been completed and handed over to the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated and outcome-oriented approach to infrastructure development, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of timely execution of projects, effective interdepartmental coordination, quality construction and optimal utilisation of available resources. He also underscored the significance of strengthening last-mile connectivity, particularly in remote, border and hilly areas, while ensuring that infrastructure is designed to withstand the region's challenging climatic and geological conditions.

Antibiotic misuse fuels

and bloodstream infections.

Citing a 2022 study in The Lancet, the specialist said bacterial AMR was directly responsible for around 1.27 million deaths worldwide in 2019 and associated with nearly 4.95 million deaths, with projections of up to 10 million annual deaths by 2050 if effective interventions are not introduced.

Dr Irfan of GMC Anantnag said AMR has far-reaching social and economic implications. "Resistant infections require prolonged treatment, longer hospital stays and more expensive medicines. They also increase complications during surgeries and threaten procedures such as organ transplantation and cancer treatment," he said, stressing proper disposal of expired medicines and pharmaceutical waste.

Doctors said the situation in Kashmir requires particular attention, alleging antibiotics are frequently prescribed without adequate clinical justification and often sold without valid prescriptions. They called for strict enforcement of regulations, a comprehensive antibiotic policy for Jammu and Kashmir, strengthened infection prevention measures, expanded laboratory facilities, surveillance systems to monitor drug-resistant infections, sustained public awareness campaigns against self-medication, and greater attention to research and development of new antimicrobial medicines.

"Antimicrobial resistance is a silent pandemic. If antibiotics continue to be misused at the present rate, we risk reaching a stage where infections that are currently treatable could become life-threatening. Preserving the effectiveness of these medicines is a collective responsibility," the doctors said. (KNO)

From Modi-Shah-Nabin to state leaders: BJP readies all-stars list ahead of 2027 poll season

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 27: As it gears up for 2027 assembly elections in five states, the BJP will depend on all its mega stars, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to state-level leaders, to mount an aggressive poll campaign.

The upcoming poll season, covering elections for as many as 690 assembly seats across Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, is being seen by many political pundits as a semi-final to the 2029 Lok Sabha polls, mainly because of Uttar Pradesh, which sends the maximum number of 80 MPs to Lok Sabha.

While BJP will put all its might at stake to retain power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, it has already brought back its oldest ally, Shiromani Akali Dal, to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to wrest power again in Punjab.

Besides Modi, the biggest star campaigner for the BJP in any election, other key central leaders that the party would depend on include Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president Nitin Nabin.

The 690 assembly seats that are scheduled to go to polls in early 2027 include 403 in Uttar Pradesh, 117 in Punjab, 70 in Uttarakhand, 60 in Manipur, and 40 in Goa.

The party has convened a special meeting of its national office-bearers on November 27-28 to discuss preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections, organisational strengthening and campaign strategy.

This will be the first structured meeting of the newly appointed national office-bearers of the BJP, which is also being attended by the prime minister.

The party's political journey in these states has varied. In Uttar Pradesh, it returned to power in 2017 under Yogi Adityanath and retained power in 2022. In Uttarakhand, the BJP formed the government in 2017 and returned to power in 2022, with Pushkar Singh Dhami leading the government.



In Goa, the BJP has been in power since 2012, with Pramod Sawant currently heading the government.

Manipur saw the BJP form its first government in 2017 and return to power in 2022. Following a period of President's Rule amid ethnic violence, the party returned to government in February 2026 under Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

Punjab presents a different political landscape. The BJP, which contested the 2022 assembly elections on its own after its long-standing alliance with the SAD ended over three central farm laws in 2020, has renewed its ties with the regional party ahead of the 2027 polls. The BJP-SAD alliance is yet to release its joint manifesto.

At the national level, Modi remains the BJP's principal campaign face, while Shah is central to election strategy and political management. Nabin is overseeing coordination between the central leadership and state units, with BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh handling organisational matters. In Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath will be at the forefront of the campaign, with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak among the key state leaders. National general secretary Vinod Tawde is the party's state in-charge.

In Punjab, state unit president Kewal Singh Dhillon and state in-charge Satish Poonia are among the prominent faces. Leaders from its ally SAD, including its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, will be equally important in the Punjab campaign, as BJP has already described Akali Dal as the 'elder brother' in the state.

Dhami is leading the party's campaign in Uttarakhand, with senior leader Ram Madhav overseeing organisational preparations. Various MPs from the state, the most important being its Garhwal MP and the party's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, will also play key roles as the party tries to keep Congress at bay in the state.

In Goa, Sawant is the party's principal state face, while former Union minister Bharati Pawar is the state in-charge. Chief Minister Yumnam Singh and state in-charge Rajdeep Roy are among the key figures in Manipur.

IORA nations must enhance collaboration: EAM Jaishankar



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Indian Ocean is central to global trade, energy security and connectivity, and all littoral states in the region must jointly work towards "meaningful collaboration" in ensuring a better future for its people, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

In an address at a ministerial conclave of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Jaishankar said the grouping must enhance its collective voice and reinforce its role as a regional platform at a time of significant "geopolitical changes".

India hosted the conclave in New Delhi in its capacity as the current chair of IORA that comprises 23 nations, including Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Somalia, Oman, Yemen, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand.

"The Indian Ocean is central to global trade, energy security, connectivity and economic prosperity. It is also a region of immense diversity, opportunity and shared challenges," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the meeting.

He said India's approach to IORA and India's chairship of the bloc is guided by vision MAHASAGAR.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the vision MAHASAGAR, or 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions', for India's engagement with the Global South during his visit to Mauritius in March last year. Jaishankar said India's theme for IORA -- Innovation, Openness, Resilience and Adaptability in the Indian Ocean Region -- reflects its conviction that the grouping must remain responsive and adaptive to the changing regional and global environment, while delivering tangible benefits to its member states.

"At a time of significant geopolitical changes, IORA must enhance its collective voice and reinforce its role as a regional platform," he said.

Healthcare must combine medical excellence with compassion, affordability: VP



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 27: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Friday stressed that healthcare institutions must combine medical excellence with compassion, affordability and a human touch, saying advanced infrastructure and equipment alone cannot define a hospital's strength.

Inaugurating the new super speciality block of Holy Family Hospital here, he said the real strength of a hospital lay in the dedication, expertise and human touch of its healthcare professionals.

Calling for collaborative national efforts to strengthen cancer care, Radhakrishnan advocated setting up a common forum of cancer treatment institutions across the country to share research, knowledge and best practices.

He said the benefits of medical research and innovation must reach all sections of humanity and should not remain confined to a few countries or privileged sections. He also expressed willingness to take initiatives to strengthen such collaboration.

The vice president said the new facility would expand access to specialised healthcare and underlined the importance of ensuring that quality treatment remained affordable.

A healthy society was indispensable for building a developed nation, he said, emphasising that the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 must ensure that development reaches every citizen, including those in villages and smaller towns.

Delhi govt hosts media tour of Kejriwal's CM residence 'Sheesh Mahal'



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 27: A powder room with fittings worth Rs 5.8 lakh, a 'baithak' costing Rs 41 lakh, and a lobby adorned with items valued at around Rs 7.5 lakh were on display at former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, which was thrown open to the media on Friday, Public Works Department (PWD) officials said.

Dubbed 'Sheesh Mahal' by the BJP, the 6 Flagstaff Road bungalow in north Delhi was where Kejriwal lived as Delhi chief minister.

At the entrance to the house, large boards reading "Welcome to Sheesh Mahal, built at a cost of Rs 58 crore" were put up for the guided tour. Inside, a red carpet awaited visitors.

The bungalow will be opened to the public next month, with an online ticket-booking system.

According to the PWD, which named and put a price tag on each item, chandeliers hanging above a 14-seat dining table cost around Rs 11 lakh. Spread across 1,905 square metres, the house has eight bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and a wellness room complete with a sauna and jacuzzi.

The baithak, which has a sliding door, is listed at Rs 41.16 lakh, the powder room fittings at Rs 5.80 lakh, the lobby area at Rs 7.58 lakh, and a kitchen dumbwaiter (a shaft used to transport items) at Rs 7 lakh. TVs, which are always on in the bungalow, play on a loop videos showing Kejriwal's first oath-taking ceremony as chief minister and his vow not to accept a government house or vehicle.

An online content creator dressed as Kejriwal, complete with his trademark cap and muffler, was invited to mimic him.

"We have only one objective: every government should provide a full account of where and how much of Delhi residents' money, that is, taxpayers' money, has been spent," PWD Minister Parvesh Verma told reporters.

"The public has the right to know how the former chief minister spent their money, meant for Delhi's development, on buying what kind of furniture. We have no political motive here. Alongside every amount listed here, we have also provided the corresponding bill number and invoice number," he said. The minister claimed that the entire house was "exactly as it was before". The public can later buy tickets and visit the residence, he added.

According to officials, the ticket price is likely to be around Rs 20. Senior citizens and college students will be allowed free entry.

Earlier, the government had also announced that it would rope in a private hospitality firm to manage the residence, which it plans to use for official conferences, lunches and meetings. In the run-up to the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP ran a campaign accusing the Aam Aadmi Party national convener of incurring inordinate expenses on the bungalow, a charge at odds with the humble common-man image Kejriwal had leveraged to vault to power.

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Nahida jan (age about 06 years) Minor through her father showkat Ahmad rather s/o Asadullah rather R/o Thuru Ganderbal
Applicant
The registration of Births and Deaths/Block development officer lar ganderbal
Respondent
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.
To,
The General Public

PROCLAMATION

1) The instant application came to be filed before this court on 23.11.2026 under Section 13 (3)(a) of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Births & Death Rules 2000 by the applicant seeking the issuance of direction on Registrar Births and Deaths, for registering Date of Birth of the applicant namely Nahida mirror through her father showkat s/o Asadullah rather r/o Thuru Ganderbal

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

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

Announced

JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS GANDERBAL

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, GANDERBAL

Present: Ms. Rameen Rashid Khan
JO Code: JK00316
In the Case of:
Nahida jan (age about 06 years) Minor through her father showkat Ahmad rather s/o Asadullah rather R/o Thuru Ganderbal
Applicant
The registration of Births and Deaths/Block development officer lar ganderbal
Respondent
In the matter of: Application for issuance of appropriate directions for delayed registration of birth u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths, Act, 1969 as amended.
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Announced

JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Parviz Ahmad Mir, hereby inform the general public that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Gh. Ahmad Lone in my Marks Card, whereas his actual and correct name is Gh. Ahmad Mir.

Now, I intend to rectify/correct my father's name in the said Marks Card from Gh. Ahmad Lone to Gh. Ahmad Mir. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, within the stipulated period.

Parviz Ahmad Mir S/O GH AHMAD MIR
R/O TULAIL BANDIPORA.
REG -255-TL-2024.

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE (TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Mr Arshad Aziz Qureshi
Jo Code: JK00306
Application No: _____
Aamina Ashraf (Minor) through father
Mohammad Ashraf Mirzo (Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth with the following particulars:
Name: Aamina Ashraf
Date of birth: 05-10-2016
Place of birth: Seer Jagir Tehsil Sopore (HOME)
Father's name: Mohammad Ashraf Mirzo
Mother's name: Nayema Bano
Address: Seer Jagir Tehsil Sopore.

Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.

Issued under the seal of this Court on 18-11-2026 Sopore.

District Mobile Magistrate

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE (TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Mr Arshad Aziz Qureshi
Jo Code: JK00306
Application No: _____
Sakeena Khaliq D/o Abdul Khaliq Najar
Mothers Name: Shaheena Begum
R/o Gurseer Seer Jagir Sopore District Baramullah (Applicant)
PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth
with the following particulars:
Name: Sakeena Khaliq
Date of birth: 30-04-2006
Place of birth: Guru Hospital Nursing Hospital Sopore
Father's name: Abdul Khaliq Najar
Mother's Name: Shaheena Begum
Address: Gurseer Seer Jagir Sopore District Baramullah

Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.

Issued under the seal of this Court on 25-11-26 Sopore.

District Mobile Magistrate
Sopore

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE (TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Mr Arshad Aziz Qureshi
Jo Code: JK00306
Application No: _____
Farhat Sonah S/o Sonah ullah
R/o Kranshivan Colony Sopore District Baramullah (Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth with the following particulars:
Name: Farhat Sonah
Date of birth: 10-12-1979
Place of birth: Kranshivan Colony Sopore District Baramullah (HOME)
Father's name: Sonah ullah
Address: Kranshivan Colony Sopore District Baramullah.
Mother Name: Shareefa Begum

Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections
before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.

Issued under the seal of this court on 18-11-2026 Sopore.

District Mobile Magistrate Sopore

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MOBILE MAGISTRATE (TRAFFIC) SOPORE

Present: Mr Arshad Aziz Qureshi
Jo Code: JK00306
Application No: _____
Shameema Begum D/o Gh Mohammad Mir
R/o: Chack Brath Tehsil Zaingeer District Baramullah (Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of birth with the following particulars:
Name: Shameema Begum
Date of birth: 05-10-1980
Place of birth: Chack Brath Tehsil Zaingeer District Baramullah (HOME)
Father's name: Gh Mohammad Mir
Address: Chack Brath Tehsil Zaingeer District Baramullah
Mothers Name: Zareefa Begum

Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court either personally or through counsel on or before District Mobile Magistrate at Sopore during court hours. Thereafter the application shall be considered in accordance with law.

Issued under the seal of this Court on 18-11-26 Sopore.

District Mobile Magistrate

Houthis report 11 killed, including children, in airstrike in southwest Yemen

AP



Dubai, Nov 27 : The Iran-backed Houthi rebels report that an air strike in southwestern Yemen has killed at least 11 people, including children.

Meanwhile, Turkish and Saudi officials are heading to Pakistan for a meeting of their defence pact that is expected to discuss Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Friday.

Houthis say strike in southwest Yemen left 11 dead

The Houthi-run health ministry said Friday that a strike on a densely populated area in southwestern Yemen killed at least 11 people, including children, the latest attack in the fight between the Iran-backed rebel group and government forces backed by Saudi Arabia.

Ministry spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said on X that an airstrike hit a cinema building in Turbah city in Taiz province early Friday morning, killing people including children who sold ice cream in the area and had been living in part of the building.

Al-Asbahi didn't provide details of how many children were killed and said the death toll was preliminary as rescuers are trying to pull out more bodies from under the rubble.

He blamed the strike on Saudi Arabia. The AP couldn't independently verify his claims and the Saudi coalition made no public comment about this incident.

Footage aired by Houthi-controlled al-Masirah TV showed a destroyed building and people digging through the rubble to recover the bodies of several children. The AP couldn't independently verify the footage.

Turkish, Saudi delegations arrive in Pakistan for defence pact talks

Turkish and Saudi delegations were arriving in Pakistan for talks under a trilateral defence pact that treats an attack on any member as an attack on all three countries, security officials said.

The talks in Islamabad would focus on developments in the Middle East, including ongoing attacks on Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the meeting publicly.

Friday's meeting of the Strategic, Political and Defense Committee falls under the Joint Mecca Defence Agreement, which was signed in August by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, Erdogan formally approved the three-nation agreement, completing Turkey's ratification process.

Zelenskyy urges US to pressure Putin, calls Trump's 'my friend' remark strange

AP



Kyiv, Nov 27 : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed frustration with the US stance toward Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in the latest sign of deepening tension between Kyiv and Washington just as a question mark appears over Europe's future financial commitments to Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said in an interview with the BBC broadcast Friday that he wants the US to apply more pressure on Putin to stop his invasion of Ukraine, which began almost five years ago and grinds on despite President Donald Trump's efforts to broker a peace deal.

The Ukrainian president described Trump calling Putin "my friend" at a recent summit in China as "strange" because the Russian leader is "an aggressor and a killer."

"He can't be a friend," Zelenskyy told the British broadcaster in Kyiv, likening it to Adolf Hitler being viewed as a friend in World War II.

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine. The Trump administration, meanwhile, has imposed sweeping sanctions on the court as part of its campaign to dismantle the tribunal over investigations into the US and its allies including Israel.

Zelenskyy's comments were broadcast a day after Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and a US envoy trying to mediate an end to the war, complimented Putin on being a "grandmaster" of politics and weeks after Kushner's partner in peace efforts, Steve Witkoff, described Putin as a "humanitarian."

Moscow's invasion has killed hundreds of thousands of troops and thousands of Ukrainian civilians. It also brought heavy sanctions on Russia and diplomatically isolated Putin in the West before Trump resumed relations.

At the same time, Zelenskyy has complained that the Pentagon is not delivering to Ukraine paid-for Patriot missiles that could stop Russia's ballistic missiles and that SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink satellite internet service, which is the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations and communication, isn't working properly.

Europe has in the past vowed to stay the course in helping Ukraine fend off Russia's invasion. But European Union leaders on Thursday failed to reach consensus after fraught talks over a new USD 49 billion loan for Ukraine's economic and military needs next year.

Elections in the EU over the next 12 months could amplify the influence of parties reluctant to send more money to Ukraine and may fray the continent's support.

Ukraine's top diplomat looks to allay concerns over Libya strike

Ukraine is determined to keep fighting for its independence, Kyiv officials say, and has launched daring attacks against Russian assets.

A recent strike on a Russian navy vessel docked at a port in Libya, however, raised alarm in Europe and Washington that the war could spread and engulf other countries.

In an apparent attempt to defuse tensions, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said he held a phone call with Libyan Foreign Minister Al-Taher Al-Baour, informing him that Ukraine had no intentions of drawing Libya into the war.

Sybiha said in comments posted on X late Thursday that he reaffirmed Kyiv's support for Libya's sovereignty and efforts to reunify the country.

Russia launched nearly 300 aerial attacks a week in November

Stocks rise as Wall Street heads for strong weekly gains after erratic week

AP



New York, Nov 27 : Stocks jumped on Wall Street Friday and kept the market on track for strong weekly gains despite several days of erratic swings.

The S&P 500 index rose 0.7 per cent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 334 points, or 0.6 per cent, as of 9:51 am Eastern time. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.9 per cent.

Every major index is on track to notch weekly gains, having kicked off the week with a big rally on Monday. Those gains have held despite sharp swings on Tuesday and Wednesday. US markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday and will close at 1 pm Friday.

Technology stocks led the gains. Microsoft rose 0.5 per cent and Broadcom rose 2 per cent.

Technology companies, especially those with an AI focus, have been the driving force behind Wall Street's gains in 2026. They can have an equal influence in pushing the broader market lower. Those dynamics were on full display this week with the AI rally on Monday and the sector's subsequent swings throughout the rest of the week which see-sawed every major index from early losses to more modest finishes.

Companies including Nvidia and Broadcom are so valuable that their stock movements can often determine whether the market rises or falls. They were the key factor in driving the market to an all-time high last month and in also pulling it mostly lower ever since.

Nvidia has been especially volatile. It is down 1.7 per cent. The company has been the face of AI development and rattled the market following the sudden resignation and then surprise reinstatement of Jensen Huang as CEO. Amazon jumped 2.1 per cent as the holiday shopping season kicks off. The company is also one of the most valuable on Wall Street and has been among those focusing more on AI.

Elsewhere, retailers were mixed. Target was mostly unchanged, while Macy's rose 0.9 per cent.

Markets in Europe and Asia gained ground.

Sports Minister Mir Saifullah vows to improve facilities for J&K youth

KNO



Srinagar, Nov 27 : Jammu and Kashmir Sports Minister Mir Saifullah on Friday said he would work to strengthen sports infrastructure and facilities for the youth, adding that he first wants to understand the department's functioning and requirements before initiating reforms.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Department Premier League cricket tournament at Bakshi Stadium here, Saifullah said it was encouraging to see more youngsters taking an interest in sports, which plays an important role in promoting physical fitness and mental well-being.

"It is great to see the younger generation coming towards sports as it helps strengthen mental health and physical fitness," he said.

The minister said he was relatively new to the department and needed some time to assess its needs. "I am new to the Sports Ministry and need a little time to understand this field so that I can make my best efforts to help people, particularly the younger generation, get better sports facilities," he said.

On the Sheshnag controversy, Saifullah backed the Forest Minister's clarification, saying no construction activity had taken place at the site. He reiterated the government's position that "not even a single particle" had entered the area.

Taking a swipe at the opposition, Saifullah said criticising the government was part of its political role and that opposition parties needed issues to remain relevant.

"Criticising the government is the opposition's job. Otherwise, how would the opposition function? They need issues and do politics around them," he said.

The minister also condoled the death of senior Congress leader and Anantnag MLA Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, describing it as a major loss to Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape.

Remembering Sayeed as a respected leader and a good human being, Saifullah said he had devoted his life to public service and the welfare of the people.

India thrash Malaysia 6-2 to reach Women's Asian Champions Trophy final

PTI

Bhopal, Nov 27 : Deepika scored twice as India outclassed Malaysia 6-2 to enter the final of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Friday.

The Asian Games champions produced another dominant display, scoring five of their six goals from penalty corners.

China beat Japan 1-0 earlier in the other semifinal.

Mumtaz Khan gave India the lead in the 10th minute, converting a penalty corner. Navneet Kaur doubled the advantage with a field goal in the 18th minute.

Deepika made it 3-0 from a penalty corner in the 25th minute. Malaysia pulled one back two minutes later when Nur Azhar converted a penalty corner.

Deepika restored India's three-goal cushion with another penalty corner conversion in the 30th minute, sending the hosts into half-time with a 4-1 lead.

Sunelita Toppo added the fifth goal from a penalty corner in the 33rd minute.

Nuramirah Zulkifli scored a field goal for Malaysia in the 52nd minute, but Ishika sealed the win for India with a penalty corner conversion in the 57th minute.

India top BIMSTEC U-23 athletics meet with 47 medals, including 22 gold

PTI



Bhubaneswar, Nov 27 : India emerged champions with 47 medals, including 22 gold, at the inaugural BIMSTEC Under-23 athletics meet here on Friday.

More than 200 athletes from six nations participated in the three-day meet. Sri Lanka won six of the 14 gold medals at stake on the final day on Friday, with a stellar show in track events.

India added eight gold medals to their overnight tally of 14. Sri Lanka finished second with a total of 38 medals while Bangladesh were third with 10 (2 silver and 8 bronze). Nepal won a solitary bronze while Bhutan and Myanmar were medal-less.

In one of the day's premier races, K Hisana Nirupama (24.08 sec) warded off a stiff challenge from India's Bhavana G (24.23) to win the 200m gold. M Thimesh Chan Costa (21.23 sec) completed the sprint double for the Sri Lankans with a finger-wagging Usain Bolt-like finish ahead of India's Yuvaraj E (21.49).

The first four events of the day saw the Sri Lankans winning gold medals. Muthunayakage Chaturanga (49.90 sec) was never pushed in the men's race while Araliya Sathsar Geeganage (59.38 sec) won a tighter women's race where India won silver and bronze.

In the women's 800m race, Lakshani Waththe Gedara (2:10.17 sec) got the better of two Indians in a close finish to clinch the gold.

In the men's long jump, AP Krishandan (7.53m) and KMKC Karunarathna (7.43m) made it a Sri Lankan one-two while the bronze went to India.

For India, Anshu (15.17m) won the gold in women's shot put. It was an Indian one-two with Riya Verma (14.59m) winning silver.

Shyam Milan Bind (1:50.66 sec) then added a gold for India in the men's 800m race. Sri Lanka took silver and bronze.

India won both men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay events. Both the 4x400m relays were close affairs with India staging come-from-behind wins against Sri Lanka.

Mrithika T, who anchored India in the 4x100m relay and Tanu Chaudhary, were the only two women athletes to finish with two gold medals.

In line with India's growing stature in javelin, Shashank Patil won the gold with a throw of 71.89m.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi drew the curtains on the BIMSTEC meet.

"India's impressive performance in the championship reflects the dedication and potential of our young sportspersons," said Majhi.

