

**BLUE MOON**  
Banquets & Conventions  
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu  
Contact: 9886035550, 9886035551

# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

**J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
KUNJWALI, JAMMU  
The School with a Difference

**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

RNI No. : 66908/96  
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24  
Vol. 29 Issue 323 • Jammu • Friday • November 22, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00  
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

**03** Justice Sreedharan emphasizes importance of equal focus on fundamental duties alongside rights for nation's progress

**03** Dr Jitendra releases former Union Minister Alphons' book 'The Winning Formula'

**10** JKIIANS shine in J&K Open Rope Skipping Championship 2024-25

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

## CM reaffirms government's commitment to equitable development

**Interacts with over 24 delegations, pledges prompt solutions**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: Emphasising the importance of completing ongoing projects within stipulated timelines while adhering to the highest quality standards to ensure maximum benefit for the public, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reaffirmed government's commitment to equitable development.

"This is the people's elected government, and it is our duty to maintain close contact with the public", the Chief Minister said while conducting a comprehensive review of developmental works in Poonch district, marking his first visit to the district since assuming office.

"Today, I personally met around 24 delegations from different areas of Poonch district, reviewed developmental works, identified areas requiring improvement, and issued necessary directions to address key issues", he said and highlighted the importance of inputs from elected representatives, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and District Development Council (DDC) members.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Masood, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, and Satish



CM Omar Abdullah reviewing development works in Poonch on Thursday.

Sharma, along with Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Administrative Secretaries, District Development Council Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly from Poonch district, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, top civil and police officers, and departmental heads.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Poonch delivered a detailed presentation on the progress of CAPEX projects and the achievements of various departments.

During the meeting, MLA Haveli Ajaz Jan and MLA Surankote Chowdhary Akram raised pressing issues, including road connectivity, healthcare, education, and power infrastructure. Prominent delegations, including representatives from Beopar Mandal, religious leaders of all communities, civil society organizations, the ex-servicemen association, bar associations,

## Jammu petrol pumps declare 'no fuel for vehicles driven by minors'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a bid to ensure the safety of underage children, petrol pumps in Jammu have put up posters declaring "no fuel for vehicles driven by minors".

The Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of School Education (DSE) has also issued a circular prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school.

The poster, first displayed at petrol pumps in the Gandhi Nagar area on the Jammu-Pathankot highway reads, "No fuel for minors".

"The poster, which specifically focuses on minors riding two-wheelers without helmets or four-wheelers, is aimed at ensuring the safety of children," said an employee of the petrol pump.

This step has drawn praise from residents and encouraged the authorities to take proactive measures. On November 14, two

## NIA raids multiple locations in J&K to probe cases of terrorist infiltration, attacks

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The NIA on Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a case related to infiltration by terrorists from across the border and recent attacks on security forces and civilians.

According to an official statement, National Investigation Agency (NIA) teams conducted the raids at eight locations in the Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

It said the searches led to the seizure of various materials showing linkages between terrorists of banned outfits with overground workers (OGWs) and hybrid terrorists whose premises were searched.

Premises of sympathizers and cadres of the banned outfits were also searched as part of the crackdown,



the statement by the anti-terror agency said.

"The suspected hybrid terrorists and OGWs of today's searches were linked with the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of the banned terrorist outfits," it added.

The searches are part of an investigation in a case registered by the NIA on October 24, based on information regarding the infiltration of active terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) into Indian Territory border the International Border and Line of Control, the statement said.

These infiltrations were facilitated by OGWs and other terror associates based in villages in the Jammu region who were engaged in providing logistical support, food, shelter and money to the terrorists, it said, adding that further investigations are continuing in the case.

## K Sanjay Murthy takes over as CAG



President Droupadi Murmu administering oath of office to K. Sanjay Murthy as CAG at a Swearing-in-Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: K Sanjay Murthy, former higher education secretary, on Thursday took charge as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

He belongs to Indian Administrative Service of Himachal Pradesh cadre (1989 batch).

Murthy succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu, who

## Multi-crore ration scam: CB charge-sheets 13 Ex-CAPD officials

**Accused include 9 ADs, 2 CAOs, 2 TSOs**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against 13 former officers for their alleged involvement in a multi-crore ration scam in Jammu district, officials said.

The alleged Rs 19.20-crore scam, which occurred over 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006, involved the misappropriation of 4.39 lakh quintals of ration meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries.

The case began after the Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CA&PD) filed an FIR based on a report from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the officials said.

Those against whom the chargesheet has been filed include nine then assistant directors (ADs), two chief account officers (CAOs), and two Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs).

The report highlighted discrepancies in the distribution of ration for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries.

A detailed departmental reconciliation confirmed the irregularities.

Four Deputy Superintendents of Police led the investigation, uncovering that the accused had shown an excess issuance of BPL and AAY food grains far beyond the authorised quantities, they said.

The proceeds from this excess ration were allegedly misappropriated and swindled.

Of the 13 accused, seven have passed away, one has been granted bail, one surrendered in court, and the

remaining four were arrested and produced in the court at the time of filing the chargesheet, they said.

The Crime Branch had previously investigated a similar ration scam in 2004, which was also challenged by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh, confirmed the completion of the investigation in case and the chargesheet has been filed before the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu for judicial determination.

## Space, sea should be subjects of 'universal cooperation': Modi



**AGENCY**  
GEORGETOWN: Offering the mantra of 'Democracy First, Humanity First' for global good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that space and sea should be subjects of "universal cooperation", not universal conflict.

In his address at a Special Session of Parliament of Guyana here, Modi also

## Judge recommends sending terror case against Er Rashid to MP/MLA court

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday urged the District Judge to transfer the Jammu and Kashmir terror-funding case to a court designated to try lawmakers after observing one of the accused, Engineer Rashid, was now a member of Parliament.

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh, who was also scheduled to pass an order on Rashid's application seeking regular bail, sent the case file to the District Judge, who would likely hear matter on November 25.

Apart from the case lodged by the NIA and the bail application of Rashid, the judge also recommended transferring a related money laundering case to the special court.

Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the

## Nearly 50 killed as terrorists ambush vehicles in Pakistan's restive northwest



**AGENCY**  
PESHAWAR: Heavily-armed militants on Thursday ambushed dozens of vehicles carrying passengers in Pakistan's restive northwest, killing around 50 people, mostly Shias, in one of the worst attacks in the region in recent years.

The militants attacked the convoy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan,

which has witnessed deadly sectarian clashes between Shia and Sunni religious groups as well as militant attacks in the past resulting in dozens of deaths in recent months.

Rescue authorities said around 50 people, including eight women and five children, were killed and 20 others injured in the attack. Most of the victims belonged to the minority Shia community, they said.

Javed Ullah Mehsud, the deputy commissioner of Kurram, confirmed that 45 people have died in

## Khattar announces to conduct survey of homeless people in Ladakh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH/JAMMU: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday reviewed the functioning of the power and housing departments in Ladakh, and announced to conduct a survey of all the homeless people in the Union Territory to ensure no one remains homeless.

Highlighting Ladakh's immense potential for solar power development due to its vast area, Khattar said work is progressing on a 13 GW solar plant which aims to meet local energy needs besides addressing

## JDA demolishes Kashmiri migrants' shops in Jammu; sparks protests, condemnations

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu Development Authority has demolished a dozen shops belonging to displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu city, allegedly without issuing notices, sparking protests from various sections that demanded action against the officials.

The demolition drive was launched on Wednesday, targeting shops built by displaced Kashmiri Pandits near the Muthi camp three decades ago, officials said.

The old shops were located on land belonging to the Jammu Development

## Drive carried out to clear land for construction of 208 flats for Economically Weaker Sections: JDA clarifies

JAMMU: Clarifying its stand, the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Thursday stated that the demolition drive conducted by it on November 20, 2024 against encroachment at Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu and other prime land patches are meant for construction of infrastructure projects and for development of colonies.

The land measuring 25 kanals at Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu has been earmarked for construction of 208, one BHK flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) having one bedroom, hall, kitchen and bathroom was under the illegal possession of encroachers and the same was cleared of encroachments after following due procedure, the Authority clarified. "It was brought to the notice

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 24.6°C Min: 10.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 77 Min: 71

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 14.7°C Min: -0.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 89 Min: 72

Sunset : 17:32 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:56 Hours

## Govt lists 15 bills including Waqf bill for winter session of Parliament

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The government has listed 15 bills, including one to amend the waqf law and five new ones, for the winter session of Parliament starting on Monday.

The five new draft legislations include the one to set up a cooperative university.

The pending bills include the Waqf (Amendment) Bill which has been listed for consideration and passage after the joint committee of the two Houses submits its report to Lok Sabha. The panel is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the winter session.

The session concludes on December 20.

The other bill listed by the

## Draft report ready: Waqf panel head

NEW DELHI: The chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Jagdambika Pal, said on Thursday that the panel's draft report is ready amid opposition members' demand for an extension of its November 29 deadline for more deliberations.

"Our draft report is ready. We will soon give a date for clause by clause discussion on its recommendations," Pal told reporters after an almost six-hour meeting of the committee during which the Minority Affairs ministry presented a detailed justification for the amendments proposed by the government in the Waqf Act.

Opposition members will meet Speaker Om Birla on November 25, the first day of Parliament's winter session, to push for their demand for an extension. They said they need more time to raise questions and seek clarifications.

Pal said the committee has engaged in an exhaustive deliberation with a gamut of stakeholders, and all its members were allowed opportunity to pose questions and seek replies as he suggested that all that is left now is for the panel to discuss the draft report. "I hope there will be

enhance the pecuniary (defined as the monetary value of a case) appellate jurisdiction of Delhi district courts from the existing Rs 3 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, also a new draft law planned by the government, seeks to ensure compliance with India's obligation under maritime treaties to which New Delhi is a party.

Besides, the Coastal Shipping Bill and the Indian Ports Bill have also been listed for introduction and eventual passage.

As many as eight bills, including the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill are pending in Lok Sabha. Two others are with Rajya Sabha.

## Most parts of Kashmir reel under sub-zero temperature



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Most places in Kashmir reeled under sub-zero night temperature as the winter chill gripped the Valley due to the recent snowfall in the higher reaches, officials said on Thursday.

Srinagar and other places in Kashmir experienced sub-zero minimum temperature for the second straight night as the mercury settled below the freezing point, officials said.

Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced snowfall last week, resulting in the cold conditions across the Valley.