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9 killed, 32 injured...**

Thirty-two people, including 27 police personnel, two revenue officials, and three civilians from the nearby area, were injured, and all of them were immediately taken to hospitals.

The massive explosion severely damaged the police station building, and small successive explosions initially hampered rescue operations.

Political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir condoled the deaths, with L-G Sinha paying floral tributes to the deceased at the Police Control Room, alongside officials that included Corps Commander Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and DGP Prabhat.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, however, said the Srinagar blast is a wake-up call for the Central government to strengthen intelligence and anti-terror mechanisms, and it cannot run from accountability.

He demanded an urgent all-party meeting to discuss the "growing threat" of terrorism that continues to receive support from external forces.

Rahul Gandhi also expressed concern and paid tributes to the deceased, while hoping for the early recovery of the injured.

However, both the Jammu and Kashmir police chief and Lokhande made it clear that the blast occurred while FSL teams were carrying out the prescribed procedure of taking samples from the seized explosives for forensic and chemical examination.

"Due to the unstable and sensitive nature of the recovery, the sampling process, the handling was being done with utmost caution," DGP Prabhat said. "However, unfortunately, during this course, last night around 11.20 pm, an accidental explosion took place."

The sampling process, necessary due to the "voluminous" nature of the recovery, had been ongoing for two days, he added. The materials being sampled were approximately 360 kg of explosive substances, chemicals, and reagents, including ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate, and sulphur.

A top official said the huge cache of explosives was brought from Haryana's Faridabad in small bags on a pickup truck.

About the reason behind transporting the explosives to Kashmir, the official said the original case was registered at the Nowgam police station, and the explosives were the case property of that police station.

Hence, there was a need to transport the explosives, the official added.

This cache was recovered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police from the rented residence of the arrested accused Dr Muzzamil Ganaie in Faridabad on November 9 and 10.

Asked about the possible targets of the 'white-collar' terror module which hoarded the explosives, the official said the investigators were still grappling for clues. "All the information about the possible targets was... purely speculative."

Investigations had begun after posters threatening police and security forces appeared on walls in Bunpora in Nowgam, in mid-October.

CCTV footage analysis led to the arrest of the first three suspects -- Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid. Their interrogation led to the arrest of Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic turned Imam, who allegedly supplied the posters and radicalised the doctors.

The trail led the investigators to Al Falah University in Faridabad, where Dr Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed were arrested, and the huge cache of chemicals was seized.

Investigators believe that a core trio of doctors -- Dr Ganaie, Umar Nabi (the driver of an explosives-laden car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, killing 13 people), and Muzaffar Rather (absconding) -- were running the module.

The role of the eighth arrested person, Dr Adeel Rather, the brother of Muzaffar, is still under investigation.

Among those killed in the "accidental" blast at the Nowgam police station was 47-year-old Mohammad Shafi Parry, a local tailor.

State Investigation Agency Inspector Israr Ahmad Shah, who was among the nine people killed, joined the police force in 2011. He is survived by a wife, two young children, and elderly parents.

Hailing from the Drugmulla area of Kupwara district, Shah was known as a soft-spoken person who focused mainly on his work and had a reputation for being helpful.

Amit Shah to...

held days after a 'white-collar' terror module was busted following the recovery of a huge amount of explosives in Faridabad in a coordinated operation by multiple state and central agencies.

Explosives linked to the terror module are suspected to have been used in the Red Fort blast on November 10 that left 13 people dead.

The explosives seized in Faridabad, which were taken to Jammu and Kashmir, also led to an accidental blast in a police station in Nowgam, killing nine people and injuring 32 others.

The explosion occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from the "unstable" cache of explosives.

On the NZC meeting, officials said the role of zonal councils has changed from an advisory nature to "action platforms" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

LG orders probe...

to those affected. I have ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of the accidental explosion".

The Lieutenant Governor met the injured in the accidental blast who are undergoing treatment at Ujala Cygnus and SMHS Hospital in Srinagar.

The team of doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of the injured and the medical facilities being extended to them. The Lieutenant Governor directed the Doctors and Hospitals Administration for ensuring the best possible treatment for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The Lieutenant Governor also laid a wreath and offered his tributes to the Police Personnel, Revenue Officials and a Civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station last night. He also met the bereaved families and conveyed his condolences.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Laid a wreath and offered my solemn tributes to the Police Personnel, Revenue Officials and a Civilian who lost their lives in an accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station last night. The nation will forever remain indebted to their selfless service and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Interacted with the bereaved families and expressed my deep condolences. The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour".

Sinha chairs high...



nine people and injured 32, officials said.

At the meeting held at the Raj Bhavan here, Sinha was briefed about the steps taken to destroy the terror ecosystem in Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Home Secretary Chandraker Bharti, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Special DGP S J M Gillani, ADG CID Nitish Kumar, among others, the officials added.

Properties of narco...

Chenani along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. The accused was identified



as Makhian Din. The spokesperson termed the step a "decisive action" against narcotics. A habitual offender, Din was involved in a case registered at Rehambal police station last year, he said.

"Due to his persistent involvement in drug trafficking, he was also detained under the PIT NDPS and is currently lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu," he said. According to the spokesperson, police investigation revealed that Din encroached on state land and constructed five commercial properties and a house worth crores of rupees.

"The illegal property, raised through proceeds of narco trade, was demolished as part of the ongoing crackdown to dismantle the financial infrastructure of drug peddlers," he said.

In a separate action, the spokesperson said, a team from Majalga police station in Udhampur attached the property of alleged drug peddler Vikramjeet Kumar, a resident of Inderpuri in Punjab's Amritsar.

During the course of investigation in a case registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Majalga police station, it was revealed that Kumar owns a duplex house, which he acquired through the proceeds of crime generated through narco trade, he said.

The property worth over Rs 1 crore has been attached under the NDPS Act for further legal action.

Delhi blast: Two...

and the activities of individuals linked to the university.

The Crime Branch has lodged two FIRs under charges of cheating and forgery following regulatory violations reported by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The action was taken after both statutory bodies highlighted "major irregularities" in the university's functioning. A police team also visited the Okhla office of the university on Saturday to seek details related to those under scanner.

The police also detained two doctors -- "Mohammad and Mustakim --" from Al-Falah University, who were known to Dr Umar Nabi, the driver of the Hyundai i20 car that exploded near the Red Fort on Monday.

The detentions were made during coordinated raids in Dhauj, Nuh and adjoining areas late Friday by the Special Cell and the NIA, officials said.

Sources said Mohammad and Mustakim were allegedly in touch with Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who has been arrested in connection with the probe into an alleged "white collar terror module". Both were also close associates of Umar.

Initial questioning revealed that one of the doctors was in Delhi on the day of the blast to appear for an interview at AIIMS, they said.

Their statements are being verified to establish the extent of their association with Ganaie and their possible role in the wider conspiracy, officials added.

Another man, identified as Dinesh alias Dabhu, has also been detained for selling fertilisers without a licence. It has emerged that the members of the terror module had pooled around Rs 26 lakh to buy explosive substances and spent Rs 3 lakh out of it to purchase NPK fertiliser, which is commonly used to make bombs.

It is being probed whether Dinesh sold the fertiliser to the suspects and if his activities extended beyond the illegal trade, officials said.

Police teams have also questioned a tea seller in Wazirpur Industrial Area, where Umar halted for 10-15 minutes before the explosion. The seller told reporters he remembered a masked man sitting briefly at the stall.

"The police asked if he had tea or stayed for long. We don't notice every customer. They showed CCTV footage," he said after being released.

Investigators have also sought visitor records from a mosque near Ramlila Maidan on Asaf Ali Road, where Umar was seen in CCTV footage hours before the blast.

A detailed log has been prepared of every vehicle that entered the Sunehri Masjid parking zone during the three hours when the car remained there before the explosion, police sources said. The list includes vehicle numbers, timings and ownership details.

A Delhi Police team and a bomb detection squad are stationed at the parking area and are checking all vehicles that have remained there since the blast.

Cars present at the time of the explosion are being examined first. Once cleared, they are being returned to the owners after verification.

Investigators are showing Umar's photograph to drivers and vehicle owners to verify whether he met or interacted with anyone while the car was parked.

CM mourns loss...

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has said the government will compensate for damages caused to nearby structures by the accidental blast at Nowgam police station.

Abdullah said the government stands firmly with the victims' families and will provide every possible support to them.

"The chief minister has assured that the government stands firmly with the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic Nowgam police station explosion and will provide every possible support to them. He has also directed health minister Sakina Itoo to ensure the best treatment for the injured and assured that the damaged structures will be duly compensated," read a post on his official X handle.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar also expressed profound grief over the tragic accident.

In his message, the Minister said he is deeply saddened by this heart-breaking incident. "My heart goes out to the bereaved families. The pain of losing loved ones in the line of duty is immeasurable," he stated.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and conveyed his solidarity with the families during this hour of immense grief. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured in the accident.

Expressing profound shock and grief over the tragic incident, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana in his condolences message, the Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of the brave individuals who lost their lives in the incident.

He added that the tragedy has caused unimaginable grief and emphasized that the pain of the bereaved families is shared by every citizen. On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital Nowgam here to enquire about the well being of injured persons of Nowgam explosion incident and also assess medical treatment and care being extended to them.

During the visit, Minister Sakeena interacted with the attending doctors to gather first-hand assessment of medical care being extended to Nowgam explosion injured persons. She asked the doctors and medical staff to provide best treatment to the injured persons and also take consultations from other established Government Medical institutions like SKIMS and SMHS if any need may arise.

The Health Minister also met the injured persons as well their attending family members and took feedback from them about the medical care provided. She assured them all possible assistance and support from the government, offering words of comfort and called the incident deeply unfortunate and shocking.

"The sacrifice of the departed will be remembered with enduring respect, gratitude, and compassion," the Minister stated, noting that their service and dedication to duty stand as a testament to courage and selflessness.

He expressed solidarity with the affected families, prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength to their families to bear this irreparable loss.

Major Pak-linked...

through drones into Punjab from Pakistan and send couriers from Jammu to receive the consignment and distribute it here.

"The arrested accused is part of the supply chain, and this is the seventh racket busted by police this year. So far, 22 peddlers were arrested," the police officer said.

Seeking public support to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, the SSP requested people to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station. "Those involved in drug trafficking will not be spared," he said.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said dozens of bank accounts involved in the drugs trade in Poonch district have been seized.

The action comes as part of an intensified crackdown on narcotics networks operating in the region, aimed at disrupting their financial lifelines and curbing the flow of illegal funds, he said.

During financial investigations, many accounts under scrutiny were found to have unusually high-volume transactions that raised suspicion, the spokesperson said.

He said these accounts were used to allegedly route proceeds from the sale and distribution of narcotics across multiple districts.

By freezing the bank accounts, authorities have effectively prevented the accused from withdrawing or diverting money that could have been used to further fuel illegal activities, the spokesperson said.

He said this action of the police is part of a broader strategy to dismantle the economic foundations of drug trafficking groups by targeting not only the traffickers but also their financial channels, associates, and facilitators.

Further investigations are underway, and more seizures and attachments may follow as the financial investigations continue, he said, adding that police have also attached immovable properties worth crores as proceeds of drug sales in Poonch district two days ago.

Police also recovered over Rs 2.27 crore after busting a multi-state cyber fraud and identifying 13 accused, an official said on Saturday.

The breakthrough was achieved following registration of a case by Khalid Hassan, a resident of Dalpatian Mohalla at the Nagrota police station here on November 10, a police spokesman said.

According to Hassan, he received a call on April 8 from his brother, Sajid Hassan, who sought an urgent amount of Rs 54 lakh. Acting on the request, the complainant obtained a Rs 54 lakh loan from the J-K bank. However, on November 10, he was informed by his brother that over Rs 2 crore, including the loan amount, which he had invested through the ICICI Securities application, had been fraudulently withdrawn by unknown persons, the spokesman said.

Following the complaint, he said the victim was advised to register an online fraud report through the National Cyber Crime Helpline 1930.

The complaint, filed through the NCCRP portal, alleged cyber fraud amounting to RS 2,27,45,264 through fraudulent trading activities on the ICICI Securities platform.

During the inquiry, the bank statements of the victim and suspected fraudsters were obtained and analysed, after which it was found that the misappropriated amount had been transferred into multiple bank accounts operated by the suspects, the spokesman said.

He noted that prompt police action led to the freezing of several fraudulent accounts, and following court orders, the embezzled amount was remitted to the rightful account, resulting in a total recovery of Rs 2.27 crore.

Further analysis of Customer Application Forms (CAFs), KYC documents, and transaction trails established that the accused, acting in criminal conspiracy, cheated the complainant and other victims by inducing them to invest money under the false promise of high returns, the spokesman said.

He further informed that the investigation team has so far identified 13 suspects in the case, and multiple police teams have been formed to arrest the suspects across various states. Three government employees were arrested on Saturday for the suicide of their subordinate near Jammu earlier this week, a police official said.

Puran Chand (55), a helper in the Irrigation Department, was found engulfed in fire in an open field near Ring Road Prithivipur on November 10, the official said.

He said Chand was rushed to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.

After registering a case, the investigations revealed that Chand allegedly took the extreme step after constant mental harassment, including withholding of his salary for the past few months by his seniors in the office.

The CCTV footage was obtained from the cameras covering the route taken by Chand while he was travelling on his motorcycle. The footage shows him arriving at a filling station in R S Pura, where he filled petrol in a plastic container and proceeded towards Miran Sahib where he set himself ablaze, the official said.

Three employees of the Irrigation Department -- Surjeet Kumar (Incharge Zildar), Girdhari Lal and Ram Murti alias Sani -- have been arrested in the case, he said. In another case, the police arrested a tractor driver for allegedly running the vehicle over a couple in the Marh area of Jammu on Friday, resulting in the death of Vikram Singh and critical injuries to his wife Vaishno Devi.

The police identified the arrested accused as Ranjeet Singh, a relative of the deceased. Vikram Singh was working in his agricultural field along with his wife when an argument over land ownership erupted among family members, a police spokesman said, adding the accused allegedly entered the field on a tractor, and deliberately ran the vehicle over Vikram and his wife before fleeing the scene.

An FIR was registered at the Kanachak police station, and the accused was arrested within hours of the incident, the spokesman said, adding that the tractor was also seized.

Leopard found dead in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR/JAMMU: A leopard was found dead in a forest area near the Line of Control in Poonch district on Saturday, officials said.

The carcass was recovered from the forest area of Balnoi in Mankote by a team of forest officials, headed by Range Officer Adrees Khan, they said.

The leopard had apparently died due to a land mine explosion, according to officials.

The forward areas are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system to prevent terrorists from crossing the border.

The carcass was handed over to the wildlife protection department for a post-mortem examination and later disposal, officials added.

IED destroyed in controlled explosion in Rajouri; house damaged

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI/JAMMU: Security forces recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Rajouri district on Saturday, and later destroyed it in a controlled explosion, officials said.

A house was partially damaged in the explosion which was carried out in Upper Bangai village of Thanamandi sub-division in the district, they said, adding that there were no casualties in the explosion.

According to officials, a security patrol found the IED near the house, and called in the bomb disposal squad which decided to conduct a controlled explosion.

The blast caused some damage to the house belonging to one Mohammad Akbar, but the family had already been moved to safety, officials said.

Principal, three staffers of Govt school in Rajouri suspended on sexual abuse charge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: The District Administration Rajouri has taken strong and immediate action after serious allegations of sexual abuse, misconduct, and inappropriate behaviour at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Ghambir Mughlan.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, issued an order placing the Principal and three staff members of the institution under suspension with immediate effect.

The action came in response to a written representation filed by residents and local representatives of Ghambir Mughlan, and the emergence of a CCTV video circulating on social media that heightened public concern regarding the safety and dignity of female students and female staff members. An FIR (No. 0102/2025 dated 09.11.2025) has already been registered at Police Station Manjakote under relevant legal provisions against the accused Principal and other staff members.

Officials suspended included Mohammad Farooq, Principal GHSS Ghambir Mughlan, Tanveer Ajaz Teacher, Manzoor Hussain Class IV employee and Mushtaq Ahmed Class IV employee of the same school.

The suspended officials have been attached to the Office of the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Rajouri pending inquiry.

The Chief Education Officer has been directed to conduct a detailed preliminary inquiry and submit a factual report to the Deputy Commissioner within 15 days, along with recommendations for further necessary action.

DC Rajouri emphasised that the matter has been viewed with utmost seriousness and that the administration is committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, and impartial inquiry, free from any influence or tampering of evidence. He reaffirmed the Administration's resolve to safeguard the dignity, safety, and welfare of female students and staff members of all educational institutions across the district.

The District Administration Rajouri assures the public that strict action will follow based on the outcome of the inquiry and that such incidents will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Four killed in car-truck collision in Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: At least four people died and five others sustained injuries when a sports utility vehicle collided with a dumper truck in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday night, officials here said.

The collision between a Tata Sumo vehicle and a dumper truck occurred around 10.30 pm at Palar in Budgam, they said.

According to the officials, nine people were taken to a nearby hospital following the accident, where four of them were declared 'brought dead'. Five others were undergoing treatment at hospitals, they said.

Three gang members from Punjab held in Poonch; pistols, cash seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: Three Punjab locals were arrested from a forward area in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said, adding that two pistols and over Rs 2 lakh were seized from them.

The arrested persons are said to be members of the notorious Gopi Ghanshyam Puria gang, and they came to the border village to procure weapons, officials added. Kanwaljeet Singh, Mandeep Singh alias Sidhu and Harmanpreet Singh, all residents of Amritsar, were travelling in a private car when they were intercepted by the police at Mirza Morh in the Surankote area.

An amount of Rs 2.18 lakh was recovered from the vehicle, officials said, further mentioning that sustained questioning led to the recovery of two pistols along with live ammunition. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at the Surankote police station, and further investigation is on, the officials said.