

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Two mild earthquakes...

at 8.25 am. Its depth was 10 km below the surface at a latitude of 35.44 degrees and longitude of 77.36 degrees.  
The second earthquake of 3.7 magnitude was noted at 4.29 pm at a depth of 5 km below the surface at a latitude of 35.23 and longitude of 77.59 degrees, it said.  
Police said there was no information about damages due to the earthquakes from anywhere in the Union Territory.

### Rs 2,200 Cr...

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.  
"Though a decision was taken in 47th board meeting of CVPPL (Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd) for re-tender through e-tendering with reverse auction after cancellation of ongoing tendering process, same was not implemented (as per decision taken in 48th board meeting) and tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Limited," the FIR has alleged.

### Police, Army review....



Police and army officials after security review meeting at South Kashmir.

"#ChinarCorps Cdr chaired a Security Review Meet at Awantipur, #Pulwama today to review the prevailing security situation & coordinate the CT (counter-terror) Grid during the winter season," the Chinar Corps said in a post on X.  
The Corps commander also complimented the troops for their planning and execution of Thursday's Operation Arihal in Pulwama in which a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist was eliminated and war-like stores recovered, the Army said.

### Bills listed to...

Similarly, The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks to reserve for women a third of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

While there is a provision for a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory is under President's Rule at present.

Officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, the women's reservation law seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

According to its provision, "It shall come into force on such date as the central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint."

During a special session of Parliament in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam".

The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity.

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise -- redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies -- will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

### State must side...

will have its way, but the minority must have its say," he added.  
Elaborating his view, the CJI said if a democracy cannot safeguard discourse around the needs of all its people, it falls short of its promise and thus in order to resolve their discontents, a democracy must begin with hearing them.

"Merely because a body is elected does not ensure that it acts in the best interest of those who it governs. Democracy is messy and imperfect but inherent in it are the postulates of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity," he added.

Talking about the vitality of dissent, the CJI said dissent in a democracy, even those which are unpopular and unacceptable, give us windows to the future.

"If democracy means that the views of the majority prevail then it necessarily implies that a deliberating and eventually, a dissenting minority. And this can at times be more powerful than a dumb, unthinking accepting majority, ruled by slogans. A servile and subservient population guarantees a weakened democracy," he said.

The CJI said dissent emerges from profound questions about the working of the society.

"Abolition of slavery, annihilation of caste, emancipation of gender minorities and religious harmony were all once dissenting opinions. However, these dissents hold the power to fundamentally restructure our society by sparking an important conversation," the CJI said.

"These dissents emerge not from thin air but from a democratic culture of fierce debates. Therefore, a society which does not encourage its citizens to critically think, question the powers that be and engage in non-conformist democratic discourse will fail to progress because it will fail to create dissenters," he added.

### KPDCL to frame...

on Saturday confirmed rampant hooking of lines on bare conductor in metered areas and exceeding energy use beyond agreed load by flat-rated consumers across Kashmir Division. "During inspection overdrive, penalty of Rs.1.03 crore was imposed on consumers found involved in power theft across all 6 O&M Circles in last 10 days of November. As many as 995 connections were regularised and 2120 KW load added," the spokesman said.

O&M Circle Ganderbal conducted the highest number of 2,945 inspections, followed by Circle Spore with 2,048, Circle II Srinagar 1,950, Pulwama 1,528, Bijbehara 1,004 and Circle I Srinagar 990.

Crediting KPDCL patrolling teams for moving out in sub-zero temperature to expose power pilferage, the spokesman shared details of 11,238 consumers disconnected in the last 10 days of November, who had pending energy dues exceeding three months. This included 7,828 domestic, 2,979 commercial and 346 industrial consumers.

The spokesperson assured the consumers of strict adherence to power curtailment schedule following additional allocation of power to UT of Jammu & Kashmir by the Central Government.

Emphasizing judicious use of power, KPDCL spokesperson also warned consumers to avoid hooking, bypassing of meters and exceeding overload, failing which KPDCL will file criminal charges under relevant provisions of the Electricity Act. "We will soon start sharing details of consumers who have pending energy dues in lakhs towards the organisation. We will also expose hookers who have the temerity to openly use power unauthorisedly," he said, adding that FIRs will be lodged against those persons who physically assault KPDCL staff for performing official duties.

The spokesman also warned commercial consumers including hotels, malls and other business outlets who have been found involved in tampering with meters and have been caught red-handed by the Central Inspection Squad of KPDCL. "We have taken cognizance under law and penalised them. These penalties for power theft have been confirmed by the First Appellate Authority under Sections 126 & 127 of the Electricity Act. KPDCL will ensure the fines are deposited, otherwise we will act tough and initiate legal proceedings against them," he said, adding the lists of all such defaulters is lying with KPDCL and will be made public soon.

Confirming positive outcomes of accelerated inspection and disconnection drives, KPDCL spokesman said such drives will continue which are aimed at preventing energy losses and enhancing revenue collection from defaulting consumers. "There have been many positive takeaways from such drives. This will help us in adhering to power curtailment schedule and extending comfort to the genuine consumers," he assured.

Reiterating concern over the rate of damage to Domestic Transformers (DTs), the spokesperson urged the consumers to prevent overloading of DTs which puts entire habitations to great hardships during peak winter times. "We have maintained steady rate of replacing damaged transformers. Our teams at Central Workshop Pampore and divisional-level workshops are working 24X7 to repair damaged DTs and ensuring time-bound replacement," he added.

### DGP urges officers...

of Jammu Zone and all AISG of PHQ.

The DGP said that the martyrs and their families are part of Jammu and Kashmir Police Pariwar and we are duty bound to take care of their families in every respect. It has to be our primary responsibility to see how these families are doing, he said, adding that we have to see what additional care could be extended for these families. The DGP directed the officers to put heart and soul together to identify the issues and problems, if any, being faced by the families of martyrs and submit them to Police Headquarters within a stipulated time period.

He directed ADGP Armed, J&K to send empathetic officers to connect to the martyrs' families. He also directed for adoption of a family by individual police officers so that an emotional bond is created between the martyrs families and the officers which will help in taking care of the wards of martyrs empathetically.

The DGP also called for preparing the inspiring stories of J&K Police martyrs.

"It is not the help and assistance that matters but connecting with these families including the parents of the fallen heroes is more important", the DGP said and called for connecting with each member of the martyr families and spending quality time with them the way we spent with our own family members.

"While interacting we may also find some inspiring stories of our fallen heroes," he said, adding that martyrs' families should be assured that the institutional strength of J&K Police is behind them.

During the meeting, discussions were held on a comprehensive plan executed under which Dy.SsP/Inspectors will visit the families of martyrs to know their welfare. This will be additional to the services already in place for these families. The officers gave various suggestions which were underlined and directions were passed for their execution. The DGP stressed for taking to logical conclusion the criminal case regarding the targeted attacks on martyred policemen.

He also enquired about the functioning of Sevara Scheme and helpline services for the martyrs' families operational at district levels. He directed for providing quality education to the wards of martyrs at Police Public Schools.

### CB files charge...

and his rights, the spokesperson said.

He said the accused's plan to defraud the complainant was exposed after they approached the collector for land acquisitions with a written communication that they had cancelled the special power of attorney granted to the complainant. They also demanded that the collector make the payment into their account.

After a complaint was lodged, a preliminary verification was initiated. It was found during the probe that the allegations were substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case for an in-depth investigation, the spokesperson said.

The investigators seized relevant records, recorded witness statements, gathered scientific, circumstantial and other material evidence and offences under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code were established against the accused for luring the complainant in a deceitful manner with criminal intent and duping him of Rs 43 lakh, the official added.

### JKJA holds training...

been the part of the system for sparing time to enlighten the Magistrates with their vast knowledge and experience.

In his special address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar underlined that the purpose of imparting this training is to enhance the performance of Judicial officers and to remove inhibitions while applying the provisions of law in their day-to-day court work. He also observed that technical session on expediting the trial/disposal of Criminal cases is of great importance because the delay in disposing of the cases is of grave concern for all us associated with the dispensation of justice.

He attributed the delay to the various factors associated with courts, adjournments on the mere asking of lawyers and some factors beyond the control of the Judges. He highlighted that judge- population ratio was far below in our country which was one of the major causes of delaying disposal of the criminal and civil cases.

Justice Sanjeev further stressed upon the judicial officers to inculcate the habit of working with missionary zeal as judicial service is not an ordinary service but a service that needs to be done with mission to ensure that justice is rendered to the person who knocks at the doors of justice, and further articulated that judicial officer should shun the practice of granting unnecessary adjournments. He remarked that the outcome of the workshop would equip the judicial officers to deal with day-to-day problems more effectively and efficiently.

In his welcome address, Director, JKJA extended warm welcome to Chief Justice, Justice N. Kotiswar Singhand to Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, , for gracing the occasion and said that by organizing such type of interaction programmes on varied subjects of importance, JKJA provides a platform to the experts and judicial officers to ponder upon crucial issues and exchange valuable experience and knowledge. He hoped that the programme/course would be beneficial for the officers specially to make co-ordinated efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of expeditious and fair trial and justice to the aggrieved parties.

In the first technical session of the programme, M.Y Akhoun guided the participants about the relevant provisions of CrPC related to taking cognizance and committal of criminal cases. The resource person also discussed and deliberated upon the powers of magistrates and trial Courts under section 156(3) and 173(8) of CrPC.

In the second technical session, M.Y Akhoun navigated through process and procedure for private complaints and complaints under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act and also conversed different ways to expedite the trial and disposal of Criminal cases on police report.

Post lunch-session of the programme was chaired by Aijaz Ahmad Mir, who by his vast and varied experience made this part of programme more interesting and absorbing by deliberating upon the important provisions of Domestic Violence Act 2005 and on the Procedure & Practice related to plea-bargaining.

In the Last Session, Aijaz Ahmad Mir discussed with the participants the alternatives to Habeas Corpus petitions vis a vis section 97 of CrPC and the procedure and practice related to section 145 of CrPC.

Later, an interactive session was held during which the participants deliberated and discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were addressed satisfactorily by the resource persons.

### Night temperature stays...

degrees Celsius. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, while the mercury in Gulmarg settled at minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, the officials added.

The three-week dry spell in Kashmir ended on Thursday with snowfall in the middle and higher reaches of the Valley and rains in the plains.

The intermittent snowfall continued at some places, like Sonamarg in central Kashmir, on Friday morning as well.

The Met office said the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy, but mainly dry till December 10.

## India, China refrain from signing pledge to triple world's renewable energy capacity by 2030

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DUBAI: India and China both on Saturday refrained from signing the pledge at the COP28 climate summit to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 even though New Delhi already committed to it as part of its G20 presidency.

During the UN's climate talks here, 118 countries committed to tripling the global renewable energy capacity by 2030 in a highly endorsed initiative.

This ambitious goal aims to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels in the world's overall energy production.

The countries which backed the pledge included Japan, Australia, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Nigeria, and Barbados.

Although China and India have expressed endorsement for the threefold increase in renewable energy by 2030, neither of them formally supported the comprehensive pledge on Saturday.

This commitment involves scaling up clean power alongside a decrease in the utilisation of fossil fuels.

The pledge called for phase down of unabated coal power and putting an end to the financing of new coal-fired power plants.

"Unabated" fossil fuels generally refer to the continued use of coal, oil and gas without efforts to curtail emissions. Nonetheless, a universally accepted and precise definition of this term is currently lacking.

The International Energy Agency says the world must

triple its renewable energy capacity and double the rate of energy efficiency by 2030 to drive down demand for fossil fuels and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

India's decision has gauged mixed reactions from Indian experts.

Madhura Joshi, Senior Associate and India Energy Transition Lead at E3G, expressed disappointment over India's decision not to sign the global pledge aiming to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030.

"These pivotal decisions were initially championed by the Indian G20 presidency and endorsed by G20 leaders in September 2023," Joshi said.

Joshi highlights the significance of transitioning away from fossil fuels, particularly coal, to achieve net-zero commitments. Despite India's ambitious targets for renewable energy, with plans to reach 450GW by 2030, the hope is that New Delhi will endorse these global goals at COP28, leveraging its leadership position in the renewables sector.

Vibhuti Garg, Director of South Asia at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, notes India's commitment to tripling the renewable energy target as part of the G20, reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP28 in Dubai.

While India exhibits serious ambitions for renewable energy, Garg emphasised the country's silence on coal phase-down. "Achieving India's renewable energy goals will

necessitate a tripling of investments, prompting the country to advocate for additional funding support from the Global North through blended finance mechanisms, including multilateral development bank (MDB), green bonds, equity investors, and insurance and pension funds," he added.

Ulka Kelkar, the Executive Director of Climate at World Resources Institute (WRI) India, underscored the global target of tripling renewable energy capacity adopted during India's G20 presidency.

She highlighted the magnitude of India's National Determined Contributions (NDC) target, requiring the country to build as much renewable capacity as currently exists on the entire continent of South America.

Kelkar emphasises the transformative impact on various sectors, enabling vehicles, buildings, cookstoves, and industries to run on cleaner electricity. Additionally, she recognises energy efficiency as a crucial component of the clean energy transition, capable of delivering tangible benefits, especially for micro, small, and medium enterprises. Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of the International Solar Alliance, expresses delight at the global commitment to tripling renewable capacity by 2030. He emphasised the dual benefits of fostering development and mitigating climate change, emphasising the urgency of accelerating the growth of renewables for a successful transition towards clean energy.

## Army Public School Damana celebrates Annual Day Function

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A colourful cultural programme marked the resounding Annual Day celebration of Army Public School Damana on 2nd December 2023. It was celebrated under the theme, 'Crescendo: The Cultural Fiesta' with grandeur and extravagance in the School premises.

The Chief Guest of the momentous celebration was Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GOC Tiger Division & Patron APS Damana. Puja Gautam, Chairperson FWO Tiger Division graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour, Brig Vivek Puri, Sena Medal, Commander Chenab Brigade & Chairman APS Damana was the Special Guest and Ghina Vivek Puri, Chairperson FWO Chenab Bde, Distinguished Guest adorned the function and were given a cordial welcome by the Principal, Vice Principal, Staff and the students of the School. Prominent among others present on the majestic event were Col Sagar D Rai , SO School and others.

The Chief Guest along with the Principal and other dignitaries inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional lamp. The function progressed with captivating Welcome Song by the School choir followed by invocation of Lord Ganesha- an obeisance to

the God of wisdom.

The cultural programme based on the theme 'Crescendo: The Cultural Fiesta' comprised multiple acts and dance performances highlighting India's development since Independence. The theme resonated throughout the performances, emphasizing unity and understanding among communities.

Welcome dance by primary school students created the visual feast for the audience as it filled the ambience with warmth and happiness of welcoming the guests. A glittering bonanza of dance presentations, dance-dramas, Mime, Skit was staged highlighting India's Folk Dances, Languages and Culture. The Annual School Report, read by the Principal Pushpinder Kaur elucidated the academic excellence attained by the students and outlined her vision for the progress of the School.

The programme involved more than 1000 students of the school in a spectacular performance enriched with warm rhythmic music, vibrant ethnic costumes, dance and drama. The tiny tots made everyone spellbound with the nimble footed movements in performances like 'Cultural Bonanza' and 'Incredible India'. Mime on 'Tech Tango: Unveiling the consequences of Mobile Phone' enthralled the

audience.

Qawwali by school's choir filled with the zeal of patriotism proved to be the icing on the cake as no one could escape the feeling of patriotism that surged within each heart through the stupendous performances of the students. All the participants were highly impressive. The enthusiasm and cheerfulness of the participants of various items was beyond description. Children swayed to the foot tapping beats of patriotic dance which took the audience to various parts of India which enchanted every heart. The event saw the efflux of monumental enchantment as the students took part

enthusiastically in Annual Day Celebration. The meritorious students of classes X and XII who scored more than 90% marks, Subject Toppers and School Toppers in CBSE Board Examinations were felicitated by the Patron and the Chairman of the School. Prizes and certificates were presented to winners of Sports and Co-curricular activities.

The Chief Guest, Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GOC Tiger Division & Patron APS Damana applauded the union of efforts, unwavering dedication and active participation which fortified the triumph of the function. Brig. Vivek Puri, SM,

Chairman APS Damana appreciated the concerted efforts of the School and applauded the achievements. He further addressed the students and exhorted them to bear in their mind that regardless of pursuits in life, they must never overlook the valuable contributions of their parents, teachers, elders and most importantly the Nation in shaping the trajectory of their lives. Vote of thanks was presented by the School Jr Head Boy, Ridit Rajput (V) & Jr Head Girl, Akankasha Gulati (V). The function concluded with choral singing of National Anthem followed by light refreshment to parents and students.

## Army organises 2-day job fair in Baramulla

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army on Saturday kicked off a job fair in Baramulla district to provide a common platform to local jobseekers and prospective employers. In its commitment to positively impact the local population, the Dagger Division (Pir Panjal Brigade) is organising a two-day job fair at Chinar Nau Jawan Club, Boniyar in Uri area of north Kashmir district, an Army official said. He said the fair's primary objective was to create a common platform for local youth seeking

employment opportunities and prospective employers. This job fair is the Indian Army's latest initiative in its comprehensive approach to fostering economic growth in the region while further strengthening its harmonious relationship with the local population, the official said. The job fair attracted nearly 2,500 youths from across Jammu and Kashmir for around 750 job vacancies, the official added. The event brought together employers from across the Union Territory and beyond, enabling candi-

dates to explore job opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture and farming, horticulture, animal husbandry, food industry, and handloom, the official said. The job fair also disseminated valuable information about institutional schemes promoting self-employment and available financial aid. In addition to public sector participation, several private companies contributed to the job fair, offering employment prospects for both skilled and unskilled individuals, the official added.