

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

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Modi govt's trade diplomacy sets new milestone. India-New Zealand FTA, that brings in \$20 billion investment and offers lucrative opportunities for Indian innovators, entrepreneurs, farmers, MSMEs, students, and youth, will open new gateways to prosperity.

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Terrorism, Criminal Activities Under Strict Vigil Of Police: DGP



YOGESH

KATHUA: Maintaining that Jammu and Kashmir Police are keeping a close watch on terrorism and all other forms of crime, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, on Monday said that force is committed to end anti-national and anti-social activities in the Union Territory.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 14th police martyrs memorial T20 cricket tournament 2025-2026 in Kathua, the DGP Prabhat, said that whether it is drugs, gangsters, mafia or any other kind of crime—especially terrorism—everything will remain in the sight of the police gun, adding that the constant aim and objective of the force is to stamp out all such anti-national and anti-social activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said sporting events are being organised in the

name of 1,620 brave martyrs and that, in recognition of such bravery, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has so far received one Ashok Chakra, seven Kirti Chakras, 33 Shaurya Chakras, 1,866 gallantry medals and 2,347 other awards.

“We always stand firmly with the families of our martyrs. Through our welfare fund, we provide them with financial assistance to the best of our ability,” the DGP said.

He said Special Police Officers (SPOs) are also provided ex-gratia assistance, adding that an amount of Rs 1 lakh is given for the marriage of daughters of martyrs and that all expenses for children’s education up to Class 12 are waived.

DGP Prabhat said that under the annual sports calendar, the Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament has already been held in Srinagar, while the

High Imports, Low Generation: J&K’s Power Crisis Deepens In 2025

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: As the year 2025 nears its end, the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir experienced cycles of increased dependency on imports, seasonal uncertainty in generation, and “decaying infrastructure” - causing an unreliable power supply and public frustration.

However, the government has made an effort to reduce outages and improve the financial position of the power sector through different developments including the installation of smart meters and upgrading the infrastructure.

Previously, the authorities had promised of doubling the hydro electricity generation by 2026 that had provided a glimmer of hope for a future of an unrestricted power supply but the stories of 2025 provide a more realistic view of how long and difficult it will be to



achieve that future.

Till the 3rd week of December, Jammu and Kashmir was importing over 95 percent of its electricity—a stark dependency that leaves the region vulnerable as it grapples with an 800 MW power deficit.

The officials had informed that the region was importing electricity ranging from 2900

1400-1500 MWs.

“As of now Jammu and Kashmir has a power deficiency of nearly 800 MWs. The total power availability as of now is 3100-3200 MWs,” he said.

On February 20, Jammu and Kashmir was relying on over 85 percent of coal and solar power amid acute deficit of hydro power generation.

Officials of the Power Development Department claim that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

A top official had informed that at present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from other states because as of now it don't have a local power generation.

In August-2025, with the minimal power generation availability, Jammu and Kashmir was procuring

Rain, Snow Ease Chill; Weather To Stay Cloudy In J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Cold conditions across Jammu and Kashmir showed some improvement on Monday following fresh snowfall in higher reaches and rainfall in the plains, which affected large parts of the region, even as the Meteorological Department has forecast further precipitation during the next 12 hours.

Popular hill stations and tourist destinations, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam, received fresh snowfall ranging between about five and 18 inches, as per reports obtained.

The snowfall was keenly awaited by skiers, Christmas and New Year revellers, and stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

Although cold conditions showed some improvement, minimum temperatures across the region remained below normal, with several towns in the Kashmir Valley recording sub-zero readings.

South Kashmir’s Pulwama district

Cabinet Okays Proposals For 5-Marla Plots To Flood-Affected

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Cabinet on Monday gave its nod to the policy for allotment for five marlas of land to people affected by floods and enhancement in salary for Village Level Workers (VLWs), the sources said.

Sources said that the Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and was attended by all ministers, cleared several proposals submitted by different departments.

They said the cabinet gave its go-ahead to the proposal for allotment for five marlas of land to people affected by cloudbursts and floods earlier this year.

“It also cleared the pro-

posal to designate District Panchayat Officers (DPOs) in Assistant Commissioner Panchayat offices as Block Development Officers (BDOs),” they said.

According to sources, the Cabinet further approved the proposal to enhance the salary of Village Level Workers (VLWs) / Multipurpose Workers (MPWs) from Level-2 to Level-4.

Besides, it gave its nod to a capital infusion of Rs 118 crore in the Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank and Jammu Central Cooperative Bank to improve their financial health.

The proposals cleared by the Cabinet will now go to Lieutenant Governor for approval—(KNO)



Snowfall Spurs Surge In Railway Travel Across J&K

Tourists, Locals Prefer Train Travel Over Disrupted Roads

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Inclement weather in Jammu and Kashmir has prompted a surge in passengers at railway stations, with many preferring train travel between Jammu and Srinagar over road transport, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the recent snowfall in the valley led to a surge of local passengers and tourists, putting additional pressure on railway services. He said the railways have made arrangements to manage passengers amid ongoing snowfall and rainfall across the region, which has disrupted road traffic.

Two Vandal Bharat trains are currently running between Srinagar and Katra in both directions, the official said, adding, “If passenger rush increases in the coming days, we will write to higher authorities for additional



trains.”

He said the Katra-Srinagar rail service is operating at full capacity to accommodate travellers affected by disrupted road movement.

Tourists also praised the railway service, saying it made their travel more comfortable than road transport. “We were worried about reaching Srinagar, but the Vande Bharat train made the journey smooth

and hassle-free despite the snowfall,” Pooja Sharma, a traveller, told KNO.

National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah also travelled from Katra to Srinagar aboard the Vande Bharat train.

Abdullah, who started his journey from Katra—the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi—praised the railway link for providing year-round

Two Flights Cancelled Inclement Weather Disrupts Traffic, Closes Roads



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall and rain in the Kashmir on Monday disrupted air and vehicular movement, while traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained slow due to single-lane movement at several stretches.

According to the details available, cold conditions across J&K eased slightly following fresh snowfall in higher reaches and rainfall in the plains, even as the Meteorological Department forecast further precipitation over the next 12 hours.

The Traffic Police said

movement on the National Highway has been regulated from 4 pm on December 22 and will continue till 4 pm on December 23 due to the breakdown of two heavy motor vehicles.

In view of inclement weather and a forecast of snowfall and rainfall over the next few days, commuters have been advised to travel only after confirming road conditions through official channels.

Passenger light motor vehicles were advised to prefer daytime travel on the Jammu-Srinagar axis, while heavy motor vehicles were asked to avoid

Season’s First Snowfall Enlivens Kashmir; Gulmarg Awaits New Year Eve Revellers

FIANS

SRINAGAR: Snow in the higher reaches and rain in the plains of Kashmir Valley during the last 24 hours broke the three-month-long dry spell on Monday as the 40-day-long period of harsh winter cold, locally known as the ‘Chillai Kalan’, started on a positive note.

Gulmarg ski resort received nearly nine inches of snowfall during the last 24 hours, giving the resort its pristine white blanket. Skiers, Christmas and New Year’s Eve revellers and those associated with the tourism industry had been looking eagerly forward to the snowfall.

Hill stations of Sonamarg and Pahalgam also received the season’s first snowfall during the last 24 hours as hoteliers and tour, and travel operators look forward to tourist arriv-



als during the next two to three days.

Farmers and orchardists have heaved a sigh of relief, and a continued dry spell was threatening not only the Rabi crop, but also the prospects of a good fruit season next year.

Snowfall during ‘Chillai

Kalan’ traditionally replenishes all the perennial water reservoirs situated in the mountains.

These perennial water reservoirs sustain rivers, streams, lakes and springs in Jammu and Kashmir during the hot summer months.

Pulmonologists

India In Advanced Stages Of Trade Talks With US: Goyal

FIANS

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that India and the United States are in the advanced stages of negotiating a bilateral trade agreement.

Goyal told journalists that India has already finalised free trade agreements with three members of the Five Eyes (FVEY) intelligence alliance — Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. The US and Canada comprise the other two members of the grouping.

The minister said that they are also preparing to re-engage Canada on a bilateral trade pact. “We are soon going to launch discussions for the ToR (terms of reference) with Canada also,” Goyal said, adding that “this reflects the growing strategic importance of India in world geopolitics”.

Goyal’s optimistic note comes against the backdrop of the talks held by Indian officials with the US delegation led by Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer in Delhi earlier this month.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal had also said earlier that India is “very close” to finalising

Intelligence Warns Of ISI Plot To Push Lakhs Of Infiltrators Into India

VICKY NANJAPPA

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the unrest in Bangladesh, Indian intelligence agencies have sounded a very high alert along the border, fearing a massive spillover of illegal immigrants. However, officials also say that as security agencies there are too busy controlling the situation in their country, many pro-ISI outfits are already planning a massive infiltration bid into India.

The idea would be to send in lakhs of people near the Indian border with a clear intention of overwhelming the system. The push would be harder closer to the elections in West Bengal, and this is the time to watch out for, the Intelligence agencies say.

The elections in West Bengal would be hard fought one, and the security agencies are anticipating some level of



violence. The ISI would take advantage of the scenario and then try to push scores of illegal immigrants at that time.

It is a very sinister plot that is being hatched in Bangladesh, officials say. The Indian security agencies would have to handle this situation very carefully. While trying to overwhelm the system with illegal immigrants, the ISI is also looking to push as many terrorists as pos-

sible at the same time.

The plan is to push in both Bangladeshis and Rohingyas at the same time. While on one hand, the ISI is attempting massive demographic changes in West Bengal and the northeastern states, on the other, it wants to send in many terrorists into these regions.

Since the ISI increased its influence in Bangladesh post the ouster of Sheikh Hasina,

CM releases 'Samnvay', coffee-table book chronicling J&K's digital transformation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday released a coffee-table book titled 'Samnvay', which showcases the digital transformative journey of Jammu and Kashmir and documents the key projects and technological contributions of the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) in J&K.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Science & Technology and Information Technology Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir

Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department Shantmanu; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Commissioner Secretary GAD/Information M. Raju; Secretary IT Piyush Singla; Special Director BISAG-N; Secretary School Education; CEO JKeGA, and other senior officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister lauded BISAG-N for crafting practical, innovative solutions to complex governance challenges in Jammu and Kashmir,

noting that many of these solutions have relevance beyond J&K. He said J&K's unique geography and climatic conditions necessitate a strong push towards digitisation, as technology enables uniform delivery of public services irrespective of location.

"Digitising governance and services ensures that people of Jammu and Kashmir receive the same quality of service, whether they live or work in remote areas or urban centres," the Chief Minister observed.

Calling Samnvay a comprehensive snapshot of this cooperation, the

Chief Minister said the publication offers an overview of how technology-driven interventions have supported administrative efficiency and service delivery.

Thanking the Director General of BISAG-N and his entire team for their sustained efforts, CM Omar Abdullah expressed hope that Samnvay would be the first of many such publications documenting future projects and milestones, as the Government of Jammu and Kashmir continues to leverage technology for better governance in the months and years ahead.

Two flights cancelled at Srinagar Airport

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Two flights to and from Srinagar Airport were cancelled on Monday due to operational reasons, officials said.

According to airport authorities, one flight each operated by different airlines on the Srinagar-Delhi and Srinagar-Kolkata sectors was cancelled as part of a planned operational adjustment.

Passengers have been advised to check the status of their flights with the respective airlines for the latest updates and to make alternate travel arrangements.

Airport officials expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to passengers and said normal operations would resume as per schedule, subject to weather and operational conditions.(KNS).

Dy CM meets delegations; emphasizes prompt redress of public grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Monday asserted on ensuring amicable redress of public grievances and seamless delivery of services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with various public delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, assured them that all their issues and concerns would be looked into for speedy redress at the appropriate forum.

He instructed the officers to address the public issues on priority while ensuring prompt service delivery at people's doorstep.

During the interaction, the Deputy Chief Minister



met the delegations from different districts of J&K, including students, job aspirants, aspiring entrepreneurs, representatives of business associations, civil society organisations and scores of individuals. The delegations apprised him of their concerns, demands and other pressing issues.

He reiterated the need for timely service delivery and maximum coverage of beneficiaries under various welfare and developmental schemes of the government. He emphasised on ensuring timely completion and quality work execution of developmental activities undertaken across J&K.

Snow Allah's blessing, Vande Bharat Kashmir's new lifeline: Farooq Abdullah

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on Monday said that the Vande Bharat train has emerged as a lifeline for the people of Kashmir, especially during winter months when road connectivity is disrupted and flights are frequently delayed due to weather conditions.

Speaking to reporters, Abdullah said that snowfall, while challenging, remains a blessing for the Valley. "Snowfall is a blessing for us and we pray that Allah blesses us with more," he said.

Reacting to the fresh snowfall, Abdullah said



snow has always been a source of sustenance and hope for the region. "Snowfall is a blessing for us. May Allah bless us with more," he said.

Referring to the newly introduced Vande Bharat service, Abdullah said the

train has provided much-needed relief to commuters. "The Vande Bharat train has become a lifeline for Kashmir. Even if roads are blocked due to snowfall or flights are delayed, the train will continue to run," he said as per KNS.

Abdullah said that winter in Kashmir often brings severe disruption to daily life, with highways getting closed for days and air travel becoming uncertain. In such situations, Abdullah said, the train offers a dependable alternative for passengers, students, patients and traders.

The NC chief said improved rail connectivity will not only help people travel safely during adverse weather but will also strengthen economic activity and ensure smoother movement of essential goods.

He said that dependable transport links are crucial for the Valley, particularly during winter months when isolation becomes a major challenge.(KNS)

DIPR Condolences Demise of Abdul Ahad Farhad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, Monday expressed deep sorrow and profound grief over the demise of Abdul Ahad Farhad, a renowned poet, writer and noted broadcaster, terming his passing as an irreparable loss to the literary and cultural heritage of Kashmir.

In this connection, a condolence meeting was held at the office of the Joint Director Information Kashmir, which was attended by officers and officials of the department.

The participants recalled the invaluable contributions of the late Abdul Ahad Farhad to Kashmiri literature and culture and paid rich tributes to his enduring literary legacy. They also remembered his famous and gentle voice, which resonated in almost every household through Radio Kashmir and All India Radio, leaving a lasting impression on generations of listeners.

Abdul Ahad Farhad was remembered as a mentor and a father-like guide to many journalists and media professionals. He was widely admired for his humility, kindness, deep knowledge, and lifelong dedication to the preservation and promotion of the Kashmiri language, Sufi traditions, and cultural heritage.

Noted Kashmiri writer, broadcaster Abdul Ahad Farhad passes away

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Renowned Kashmiri broadcaster, poet, and writer Abdul Ahad Farhad passed away suddenly in Jammu, plunging literary, journalistic, and cultural communities in Kashmir into mourning.

Farhad was celebrated as a major voice in Kashmiri literature and broadcasting, known for his insightful and clear writings and his unwavering dedication to cultural values through his public work.

He actively supported literary platforms and hosted programs that nurtured literature and emerging writers, earning deep respect from both colleagues and the public.

Farhad was closely asso-



ciated with Radio Kashmir and All India Radio (AIR), Srinagar, where he earned wide respect as a broadcaster and news anchor. Known for his refined voice, intellectual depth and humane outlook, he remained a mentor and fatherly figure for several generations of broadcasters and writers.

Writers, journalists, and cultural groups have expressed profound grief,

calling his demise a major loss for Kashmir's literary landscape.

Former Director of Radio Kashmir and Door-darshan Rafiq Massodi, while speaking to Ziraat Times, said:

"My association with farhad sahab has been since 4 decades.. from the days I used to come for children's programs... then as a colleague in Radio Kashmir he would really contribute excellent suggestions to me for my productions like Sehri programs, family programs & Sufi saint programs...he would monitor all programs & inform me even after his retirement in 2006... I pray that Allah grants him Maghfirat & place in Jannah...."

IUST Students Gain First-Hand Experience at DIPR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Students of the department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Monday undertook an educational visit to the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to gain practical exposure to communication and media management.

Senior officers of DIPR, including Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Kashmir, Mohd. Rafiq, Culture Officer, Burhan Hussain, and Information Officer, Maheer Thakur interacted with the students and provided detailed briefings on the department's core sections. The officers familiarised the students with the role of DIPR, its organisational hierarchy, human resource structure, and the functioning of various sections, including the audio-visual and new



media wings.

Addressing the students, the Culture Officer Kashmir, highlighted diverse career avenues such as public relations, corporate communication and graphic designing, and encouraged them to proactively explore emerging opportunities in the evolving media landscape.

The Information Officer briefed the students about the functioning of the Social Media Cell, which disseminates information related to government policies, programmes, achievements and daily activities through platforms such as Facebook, X, YouTube and Instagram. He

also highlighted the designing and publicity work undertaken by the department.

As part of the exposure visit, the students also visited the Divisional Newsroom at the office of the Joint Director Information, Kashmir and gained practical insights into how news inputs are received, verified, edited and disseminated to print, electronic and digital media on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, the students toured the Advertisement Verification Section, Audio-Visual Unit, recording studio, and the editing room, gaining firsthand insight into content production and verification processes.

Group of Concerned Citizens Calls on Forest Minister

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Monday reiterated that protection of the environment is a shared responsibility and called for a sensible, sustainable and participatory approach to preserve natural resources for future generations.

The Minister was speaking during an interaction with a delegation of the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), led by its Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Ganie, former civil servant and Advisor to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation raised a range of issues pertaining to environmental degradation and urged the Government to adopt robust conservation and preservation measures across Jammu & Kashmir.

Acknowledging the concerns raised, Rana said that while environmental challenges are being faced globally, Jammu and Kashmir is no exception.

"Our ecosystem is under stress, and there is an urgent need for collective and coordinated efforts to address the environmental challenges confronting our region," he said.



"We must identify areas where the Government, civil society and communities can work together to improve the overall environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir,"

The Minister assured that the issues and suggestions put forth by GCC would be examined on priority. The department will assess the feasibility of the proposals, identify areas for improvement, and take appropriate steps for their effective implementation," he said.

Emphasising the need for unity, he added that safeguarding the environment that sustains us all has become imperative now more than ever.

Earlier, Khurshid Ahmad Ganie and other members of GCC stressed that the government must take the growing threats of environmental degra-

dation and climate change in Jammu and Kashmir seriously.

They cautioned that failure to preserve and protect natural resources could lead to severe consequences, including an increased frequency of natural calamities.

The GCC members drew attention to the alarming retreat of glaciers, which serve as a lifeline for drinking water and irrigation in the region, and urged the government to formulate long-term strategies for their protection.

They also highlighted the sharp rise in vehicular pollution due to the increasing number of private vehicles and stressed the need to strengthen public transport systems and explore innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating condition of wetlands in Kashmir, the delegation underlined the urgent need for their protection.

They noted that wetlands act as natural sponges that help prevent floods and must be safeguarded against encroachment and other forms of environmental degradation.

The GCC members brought to Minister's notice the recurring incidents of tree felling and warned that the elements of nature are deeply interconnected, with disturbances in one area having far-reaching consequences for human survival.

They also emphasised that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) should be made mandatory for all developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir prior to their execution.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

COMMAND KULGAM

Email: ddfire-kulgam@jk.gov.in

No.DDKGM/Estt/2025/1613
Dated: 19.12.2025

Shri Lateef Ahmad Bhat,
Fireman Driver No.2720
S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat,
R/O Sofipora Chitragam,
Posted at F&ES Kulgam.

NOTICE-III

Subject: Unauthorized Absence from duty.

Whereas, undersigned served a notice to you vide this endorsement No, PDKGM/Estt/2025/1205-06 Dated 06.10.2025 & DDKGM/Estt/2025 Dated:08.11.2025 despite of the notice, we have not received any response from you which is imperative to finalize the absentee case.

Now through the medium of this third notice, you are hereby granted a final opportunity to explain your position that why action under rules shall not be taken against you for remaining unauthorized absent from your legitimate duties.

Your reply shall reach the office of the undersigned within a week from the issuance of this notice failing which it will be construed that you have nothing to say in your defence and proposed action under rules will be initiated against you without any further notice

Deputy Director,
Fire & Emergency Services
Command Kulgam

DIPK-9222-25

DT: 22/12/2025

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Zero Tolerance Must Translate Into Zero Space

The assertion by Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat that terrorism and all forms of crime will remain under relentless surveillance sends a clear and timely message: the Union Territory will not allow even an inch of space to forces that threaten peace, security and stability. His remarks, made at the inauguration of the Police Martyrs Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament in Kathua, underline the administration's uncompromising stance against terrorism and its entire ecosystem.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has never operated in isolation. It survives through a complex web of overground workers, sympathisers, financiers, drug traffickers and hawala operators. By explicitly stating that terror groups, criminal gangs, drug smugglers and mafia elements are all firmly on the police radar, the DGP has highlighted an important reality — that national security today demands a holistic approach. Guns and grenades are only the visible face of terror; money trails, narcotics networks and cross-border logistics form its backbone.

The emphasis on dismantling the entire terror ecosystem is particularly significant. Sustained and coordinated operations against terrorists, OGWs and their financial lifelines reflect a shift from reactive policing to proactive disruption. Treating drug trafficking and hawala rackets as serious national security threats is a recognition that terror financing has evolved and adapted, often hiding behind organised crime.

Equally crucial is the focus on border security. Infiltration attempts, drone-based smuggling of arms and narcotics, and cross-border exfiltration are persistent challenges. The DGP's assurance that such threats are being effectively countered reinforces confidence in the preparedness and vigilance of security forces operating under difficult and hostile conditions.

The regular review of security preparedness at the highest level, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and monitored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, reflects strong political and administrative backing for counter-terror operations. This synergy between field forces and leadership is essential to sustain pressure on terror networks and prevent their regrouping.

Environmental Crisis

Nature Can Be Saved Not By Policies But By Civic Consciousness



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The debate on environmental protection is often steered in a convenient direction, governments don't formulate policies, ministries are inactive, and laws remain confined to paper. This criticism isn't entirely misplaced. Looking at the record of environmental ministries at the central and state levels, nature often becomes the first casualty of development projects. Deforestation, river pollution, toxic air, and groundwater scarcity, all of these are attributed to policy failure. But this is an incomplete truth. The full truth is that the environmental crisis is deeply rooted in our own lifestyles.

We have treated the environment as a government subject, as if it were a departmental file separate from civic life. This mindset is the biggest crisis. Air, water, soil, and forests are not the property of any ministry, but a collective responsibility. When citizens distance themselves from this responsibility, no policy remains effective.

Today, the bulk of pollution isn't generated by factories, but by everyday household behavior—excessive private vehicles, countless plastics, uncontrolled waste, and wasteful water and electricity consumption. We consider conveniences a right and their consequences a problem of governance. This very thinking is slowly pushing the environment toward destruction.

In a developing country like India, environmental protection is often dismissed as anti-development. This is an artificial and misleading argument. The truth is that the destruction of nature is itself antithetical to development. Floods, droughts, extreme heat waves, water scarcity, and diseases—these are all the products of "development" that ignores the balance of nature.

But even in this debate, the role of the citizen is relegated to a secondary role. We don't ask how much our individual habits contribute to our development model. Is it necessary to take out a car for every short distance? Is unnecessary ostentation necessary at every wedding, ceremony, and festival? Is life impossible without single-use plastic? We avoid these questions because the answers make us uncomfortable.

Environmental protection isn't possible through laws and regulations alone. It's a question of civic character and social values. Countries that demonstrate environmental discipline are not just driven by strict laws, but also by disciplined citizens' habits. The problem in India is that we are extremely conscious of our rights, yet almost indifferent to our duties.



When it comes to planting trees, enthusiasm is limited to government campaigns and photo opportunities. Saplings are planted on Tree Planting Day and forgotten the next day. No one takes responsibility for their conservation. This is why millions of trees are planted in statistics, but on the ground, forests continue to dwindle. There is an old saying: If a person takes nine maunds of wood with him throughout his life, he should leave behind at least nine maunds of trees. This saying is even more relevant today. Do we strive to give back something equal to the resources we consume in our lives?

We don't hesitate to litter outside our homes, yet we expect the government to ensure cleanliness. We pollute rivers in the name of worship, then protest for their cleanup. This contradiction exposes our social mindset.

When it comes to tree planting, enthusiasm is limited to government campaigns and photo opportunities. Trees are planted on Tree Planting Day and forgotten the next day. No one takes responsibility for their conservation. This is why millions of trees are planted in statistics, but on the ground, forests continue to dwindle.

There's an old saying: "If a man carries nine maunds of wood throughout his life, he should leave behind at least nine maunds of trees." This saying is even more relevant today. Do we strive to give back something equal to the resources we consume in our lives?

Today, planting trees is no longer a noble deed, but rather a minimal moral obligation. Yet, we avoid it. Space, time, water, and care—we have excuses for everything. The truth is, we've prioritized convenience and considered responsibility a burden.

Not planting trees is not just environmental negligence, but an injustice to the lives of future generations. It's a crime our children will pay for—in the form of dirty air, toxic water, and an insecure future.

It's also not correct to say that governments have no role to play. Strict enforcement of environmental laws, honest environmental assessments of projects, stringent penalties for polluters, and empowerment of local bodies are all essential. But history shows that when society is inactive, even the best laws become ineffective.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is an example of this. Where citizens participated, results were seen. Where it was considered merely a government scheme, the situation remained the same. Environmental protection will also work on this principle.

The solution to the environmental crisis lies not in one big decision, but in millions of small citizen decisions. Household waste segregation, rainwater harvesting, using public transportation, energy-efficient appliances, local tree planting—these steps are all simple yet impactful.

Environmental education in schools and universities must not be limited to curriculum, but must be translated into practice. Children must be connected to nature, so that they develop not only information but also sensitivity. The role of the media and social organizations is also crucial. The environment must be presented not only as a disaster or a day-to-day issue, but as an everyday concern.

Ultimately, the most honest answer to the environmental crisis is to ask ourselves—what are we giving to nature? Until this question arises in the minds of every citizen, policies will continue to come and go, and nature will continue to be quietly destroyed.

Nature is not the responsibility of any ministry; it is a test of our collective character. And so far, we have failed this test. There is still time—if we truly want development, it must be built in harmony with nature, or future generations will never forgive us.

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AWAKENING SOCIETY

Faith, Reason, And The Right To Question



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The hallmark of any vibrant society isn't the number of traditions it adheres to, but rather the rationality with which it views those traditions. History bears witness that societies that respected those who asked questions progressed; while those that tried to suppress them fell prey to stagnation and decline. Today, when an individual, organization, or thinker raises their voice against superstition, hypocrisy, and lies, their motives are questioned. Attempts are made to brand them as anti-religion, anti-culture, or anti-social. This trend itself poses a serious question—why question those who awaken society?

Understanding the difference between faith and superstition has become a paramount need today. Faith strengthens a person from within, providing morality, compassion, and self-confidence. In contrast, superstition breeds fear, ignorance, and helplessness. While faith is accompanied by reason, superstition crushes reason. Unfortunately, today the two are being deliberately conflated to silence those who ask questions and protect the business of hypocrisy.

The fundamental purpose of religion has never been to keep humanity in ignorance. Indian philosophy has a tradition of questioning and dialogue. From the Upanishads to Buddha and Kabir, every school of thought has valued curiosity and reason. The culture of "don't ask questions" is contrary to the spirit of Indian thought. Yet, today, the perception is being created that questioning is an attack on faith. This is not only intellectually incorrect but also socially dangerous.

The greatest harm of superstition is that it legitimizes exploitation. People are duped in the name of miracles, the sick are sent to sorcerers instead of receiving treatment, and women and children are forced to live in fear and guilt. When someone speaks out against these evil practices, they are branded as "tradition breakers." In reality, they are challenging not tradition itself, but the exploitation perpetrated in the name of tradition.

It's also worth noting that superstition isn't just a personal problem; it directly impacts democracy. A society that lacks logic and scientific thinking easily falls prey to rumors, hatred, and false propaganda. The very foundation of democracy rests on informed and rational citizens. When citizens begin to make decisions based on fear and ignorance, democratic institutions begin to weaken.

The Constitution of India provides a clear guide in this regard. It is not only a system of governance, but also a social



document. The Constitution promotes scientific temper, equality, and human dignity. Article 51(A) enshrines among the fundamental duties of citizens the development of scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of reform. From this perspective, raising voice against superstition is not a personal whim, but a constitutional responsibility.

Despite this, those who awaken society are viewed with suspicion. One reason for this is that change is always uncomfortable. Those who benefit from long-standing systems fear change. They fear that if people start questioning, their dominance will collapse. Therefore, they resort to the easy path of discrediting those who raise questions.

The role of media and social media is also crucial in this debate. While some platforms promote reason and logic, content promoting sensationalism and superstition also spreads rapidly. Stories of miracles, unscientific claims,

and fear-mongering messages are more viral. In such an environment, the voice of reason is often silenced, and the person making the argument is labeled as "negative" or "controversial."

Education is at the root of this entire problem. If education is reduced to a mere means of obtaining degrees and lacks scientific thinking, the habit of questioning, and moral courage, it is natural for superstition to spread in society. Children should be taught from an early age that they don't have to accept everything without understanding it. Respectful disagreement and logical thinking are the foundation of a healthy society.

It's also true that all change comes slowly. The path of those who awaken society is not easy. They face opposition, ridicule, and sometimes even violence. But throughout history, it is these individuals who have shaped society. When Raja Rammohan Roy spoke out against the practice of Sati, he too faced opposition. When Dr.

Ambedkar challenged caste discrimination, he too faced questions. Today, all these social reformers are remembered with respect.

Today's times demand similar courage. Standing up against superstition isn't about standing up for any one religion, class, or community. It's about standing up for human dignity and conscience. Saying that lies, hypocrisy, and fear should have no place in religion isn't about insulting one's faith, but rather about protecting it.

Society must decide which way it wants to go—toward fear and ignorance or toward wisdom and progress. If we truly want a strong, just, and democratic India, we must listen to voices that force us to think. Instead of fearing questions, we must confront them.

Ultimately, the question is, why question those who awaken society? Perhaps it's because an awakened society is uncomfortable with power, hypocrisy, and exploitation. But this very discomfort is also the foundation of the future. If we stand with the voice of conscience today, future generations will inherit a more aware, free, and humane society.

The end of superstition will come not from a single movement, but from collective consciousness. This consciousness begins with asking questions. Therefore, those who ask questions and inspire thought are not society's enemies, but its true friends.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Unwanted Guest: A Life Of Lonely Regret



SYED MAJID GILANI

Mehr never imagined that silence could be so loud. Once, her world was alive, the clink of cups in the morning, children racing through the house, shared meals, routine disagreements, familiar laughter, and the quiet reassurance of a man returning home after a long day. Today, those sounds exist only in memory. What remains is a quiet room, a glowing phone screen, and a heart burdened with thoughts she once dismissed. There is nothing more tragic than watching a family collapse, not because of poverty, fate, or unavoidable hardship, but because of stubbornness, misuse of freedom, betrayal, and an unwillingness to compromise. Many women, like Mehr, walk away from faithful and loving husbands, only to recognize their worth when it is too late.

Sarfراز was not an ordinary man. A husband who provides, protects, remains loyal, and loves sincerely is a rare blessing. He stayed. His love lived in responsibility, not slogans; in endurance, not drama. He provided without complaint, protected without boasting, and loved without conditions. He was not perfect, but he was genuine. Mehr failed to see that. When Sarfراز worried, she felt watched. When he asked, she felt questioned. Where he saw care, she saw control. Where he feared losing her, she heard suspicion. She never understood that love often trembles, not because it doubts, but because it fears breaking.

Endless phone calls and long conversations with parents, siblings, and friends followed, everyone except the



man beside her. Borrowed slogans entered her life like poison wrapped in glitter. "My life, my rules," she said. She called it independence. She called it freedom. In reality, it marked the beginning of regret. The phone itself was never the problem. Being online was not wrong. Communication was not the enemy. Neglect was. What Mehr labelled as possessiveness was, in truth, Sarfراز's concern. When he advised her on what to wear or where to go, it was not control; it was care. He was protecting his honour, his home, and the woman to whom he had entrusted his life. But in an age intoxicated with hollow modern noise, love is mocked as restriction and sincerity as suppression.

Her family encouraged her defiance. Instead of healing matters, they hardened her heart, urging her to view affection as toxic, concern as abuse, and resistance as empowerment. She was pushed to see herself as a victim and Sarfراز as an obstacle to her freedom.

The truth was different. Sarfراز sought unity, between his wife, his parents, and his extended family. Mehr demanded exclusivity. She did not want a husband to lead the household; she wanted a subordinate, someone who would move, speak, decide, and spend only at her command, not a life partner to walk beside her.

To achieve this, she applied calculated pressure to cut him off from his own identity, his parents, and his life-long relationships, insisting that his world revolve solely around her and her parental home. Sarfراز refused, as any principled man would. For this refusal, Mehr escalated through manipulation, emotional cruelty, and relentless hostility. Each accusation wounded Sarfراز's dignity, and each confrontation drained his peace. Conversations died. Homes turned cold. Shared memories were replaced by bitterness and distance.

Those who applauded her rebellion

vanished when loneliness arrived. Hashtags do not pay bills. Slogans do not provide food, clothing, or medicine. When reality struck, her supporters disappeared. In the end, she found herself dependent on the very man she had pushed away, accepting his financial support for herself and their children, while the same voices that had encouraged her rebellion offered not a single rupee of help. Money came, but at the cost of peace, dignity, and emotional ruin. Mehr once took pride in Sarfراز's love, care, and provision. That same care later stood as a silent reminder of what she had lost. Her gain was isolation. She fought relentlessly to keep Sarfراز's elderly parents away, resented their presence, and demanded control over his parental home. He did not yield.

Today, Mehr and her children are becoming unwanted guests in her own parental home. The house barely tolerates her presence. When her sisters

arrive with their families, Mehr cooks, cleans, and serves, masking her tears behind forced smiles. Time spares no one. Youth fades. Parents grow old and pass away. Siblings drift into their own lives. In the end, Mehr is left without protection or belonging, surviving only on the steady flow of money sent by none other than Sarfراز. The greatest victims are the children. A broken marriage robs them of security and peace. No matter how hard she tries, Mehr can never replace both parents. Sarfراز, however, remains deeply committed to his children, and one day his long struggle to reunite with his lifeline, his children, will bear fruit.

Mehr now seeks refuge in social media, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Telegram. Likes and messages offer momentary distraction, not companionship. They are not family. They do not wipe her tears. They do not sit beside her at night. More than a decade into their marriage, Sarfراز uncovered the deepest betrayal. Mehr had kept him blocked on all her social media while claiming disinterest. Strangers had access to her life; her husband did not. Even during drives and outings meant for closeness, Mehr remained absorbed in her phone, endlessly connected to everyone except the man beside her. Sarfراز waited for a connection that never came.

The man she lost was faithful. He worried for her health and guarded her dignity, not out of narrow-mindedness, but out of love.

As a woman, Mehr should have known the importance of respecting marital boundaries, seeking her husband's consent, protecting her marriage, and never neglecting her spouse. These were not restrictions; they were protections. She rejected them. She choose validation over loyalty and hashtags over home. Sarfراز would have stood by her through everything, had she only stayed.

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Bangladesh Crisis: Global Silence, And Hard Questions

AJAY KUMAR

Until just two days ago, the world was preaching unity against terrorism. Speeches were being delivered on major platforms, invoking humanity and civilisation. Yet today, the same world remains silent as Hindus bleed in Bangladesh. The very powers that claim to be the greatest protectors of human rights are now sitting in silence as if nothing has happened. What has transpired in Bangladesh in recent days is not merely internal unrest in a neighbouring country; it is a reflection of the selective mindset and ideological hypocrisy that the entire world needs to see.

The situation in Bangladesh began to deteriorate when the radical leader Sharif Usman Hadi died, triggering violent mobs on the streets. What started as protests quickly turned into violence. In Dhaka and other cities, arson, vandalism, and chaos spread. Media institutions were targeted, government property was set on fire, and anti-India slogans were openly raised. None of this happened suddenly it was the explosion of a long-nurtured extremist mindset.

The most horrifying scene of this frenzy came from the district of Mymensingh, where a Hindu youth, Dipu Chandra Das, was surrounded by a mob. He was brutally beaten and then murdered. But the atrocity did not end there. His body was hung from a tree and then brought to the middle of the road and set on fire. This incident was not just the killing of an individual; it was a clear message that the extremist mob considered itself above law, constitution, and humanity. After such brutality, it was natural to ask how the world would react. Yet, the same old story repeated itself. No significant reaction came from Western countries or international organisations. No strong statements, no strict warnings. It was as if the murder of a Hindu held no significance. In contrast, when newspaper offices in Dhaka were attacked, statements expressing concern for press freedom were quickly issued. This difference clearly shows whose rights are valued and whose are not.

The offices of major newspapers like Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in Dhaka were attacked, vandalised, and set on fire. Western



media organisations expressed concern over these incidents. While such concern is valid, the question arises: why did their voices fall silent when, just a few kilometres away, a Hindu was burnt alive? Are buildings more valuable than human life? The interim government of Bangladesh did condemn the murder and assured action against the perpetrators, with some arrests made. But the reality on the ground is one of fear. The Hindu community feels unsafe. This is not the first incident; attacks on Hindus, destruction of temples, and forced migration have been reported in Bangladesh before. The only difference this time is the extreme cruelty of the violence.

Amid this turmoil, another development sparked outrage in India. The Bangladesh Cricket Board paid tribute to Sharif Usman Hadi the same Hadi associated with anti-India

politics and linked to the controversial Greater Bangladesh map that shows India's northeastern states as part of Bangladesh. The question arises: when institutions in Bangladesh openly honour anti-India sentiment, should India continue to maintain ties with blind eyes? This question has now reached Indian cricket and the IPL. The debate intensified when the Kolkata Knight Riders bought Bangladeshi player Mustafizur Rahman for millions of rupees. Those invoking the spirit of sports argue that sports should remain separate from politics. But when sporting institutions themselves start sending political messages, that argument weakens. In the past, controversies arose over Mustafizur liking posts critical of India. In such a context, the question naturally arises: should India reward and honour those who spread

venom against it?

This debate is dominating social media today. People are asking: when anti-India slogans are raised on Bangladesh's streets, Hindus are being killed, and anti-India sentiment is glorified, why are the BCCI and IPL silent? Will India's priority remain limited to speeches, or will it also be reflected in actions? This issue is not just about cricket or a player; it concerns national pride and security. India took a clear stand in the case of Pakistan, cutting off sporting ties and sending a strong message. Now, when a similar mindset is emerging in Bangladesh, should India adopt a different standard? What is happening on the streets of Bangladesh is a warning for the entire region. Extremism is not confined to a single religion or country; it crushes humanity wherever it arises. Today, Hindus are the target; tomorrow, it

could be someone else. That is why a clear and unbiased fight against this ideological terror is essential.

The world must understand that Islamic extremism is not just a threat to Jews or Western countries. It is equally dangerous for Hindus and Asian nations. The murder of one Hindu is as much an attack on humanity as that of anyone else. Until this truth is acknowledged, talks of human rights will remain hollow. India now faces a moment to act not emotionally, but with firm policy. Friendships can only be maintained with those who value friendship. Those who think against India and fuel anti-India frenzy must receive a clear message: India will no longer remain silent. This is what the times demand, and it is in India's best interest.

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Terrorism, Criminal

Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament is currently underway in Kathua.

He said that a cricket tournament in memory of Shaheed Aman is organised in Kishtwar and that the Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held in Jammu at the beginning of next year.

“Besides this, under the Civic Action Programme, we are organising many sporting activities. The Jammu and Kashmir Police believes that for peace and harmony to prevail in society, it is very important to engage the youth and support them through sports,” he said.

He said that in September, the police organised the “Jashn-e-Dal” event at Dal Lake, which included various boating races, while in July the “Pedal for Peace” cycle rally was held in Srinagar. He said that a marathon titled “Run for Peace” was organised with 4,210 participants and that the Jammu “Run for Unity” will be organised on December 28, with participation expected to exceed last year’s figure of 3,000.

The DGP said that for 148 sporting activities conducted at the district level, police headquarters has allocated dedicated funds to all districts.

He said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police runs 10 drug de-addiction centres across the Union Territory, where treatment and counselling are provided, adding that around 3,000 people have received treatment at these centres this year.

On youth engagement, DGP Prabhat said that under the Bharat Darshan programme, more than 1,000 youths have been sent to different parts of the country this year.

He also said that two police personnel, who are wrestlers, have won gold medals at the World Games held in Birmingham, USA—(KNO)

High Imports, Low

approximately 40-50 percent of electricity from the imported power markets during lean season.

Official documents accessed reveal that from the total imported power, it is seen that the power procurement by Jammu and Kashmir from the market is approximately 40-50 percent during lean season.

The documents further reveal that due to non-availability of internal generation during winter months, Jammu and Kashmir imports power from the interstate network.

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness an energy deficit ranging from over 4,200 MWs to 10,000 MWs in the next ten years.

“J&K and Ladakh are likely to witness energy deficit ranging from 4293 MWs to 9929 MWs in different years from 2024-25 to 2034-35 with the existing and planned capacity addition,” the official documents had revealed.

The official documents further reveal that a study was carried out considering existing capacity and planned capacity. “It was observed that the total unserved energy in the year 2034-35 is about 8730 MU,” it reads.

The Power Development Department (PDD) had proposed an extra 20 percent charge on electricity consumption during morning and evening hours in the Valley.

The Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has sought approval from Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) to impose a 20 percent surcharge on all categories of consumers except for the agriculture sector during peak hours, when demand is at its highest due to the bone-chilling cold in the Valley.

According to a petition filed before the JERC for J&K and Ladakh, KPDCL has proposed the surcharge for different consumer categories, including domestic households. The JERC, a quasi-judicial body, is empowered to approve or reject tariff proposals.

Amid ‘unserved energy’ predictions in coming years, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to require more than 4600 Megawatts (MWs) of power other than the planned capacities to meet electricity demands.

The official figures revealed that Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 4625 MWs of power in the coming nine years amid the predictions of ‘unserved energy’.

“As J&K is likely to have unserved energy in coming years there is a need to contract non-fossil capacities for meeting energy requirements other than the planned capacities. The additional quantum of capacities required (other than already planned) to be contracted is about 2438 MW from Coal, 1200 MW from solar, 987 MW of DRE till 2034-35.”

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness growth in power demand by nearly 50 percent in a decade.

The official documents revealed that the authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by 49.42 percent by the year 2034-35.

They stated that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to 2034-2035.

‘Persistent Unsatisfactory

representative has informed, “On the basis of status of July month, it is evident that reporting status of some of the constituents that is Renewable energy (RE) stations, SLDC-HR, SLDCPS, SLDC-J&K, SLDC-HP, SLDC-Delhi, NTPC, NHPC and RAPS are not satisfactory and need improvement.”

“Further, persistent unsatisfactory reporting status of Punjab and J&K was also highlighted,” reads the NRPC document.

The NRPC has further anticipated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may face a shortfall of 2 percent of electricity in the ongoing month as per the revised peak demand.

The committee, however, said that the representative of J&K SLDC informed them that the shortfall in J&K would be met through Real time exchanges.

With the present and other planned Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA), Jammu and Kashmir is unlikely to meet and cater the power demand of consumers over the next nine years.

A study by the Government of India (GoI) reads, “The study has analysed the daily and monthly pattern of unserved energy in the year 2034-35, it can be seen that contracted capacity (present and planned) is unable to meet the demand.”

“It can be seen that during the high demand of winter months, the proportion of unserved energy is high,” reads the study.

Besides, the report further reveals that the surplus capacity is available with states due to RE availability, demand variation etc.

“The pattern of surplus capacities for J&K and Ladakh has been observed as below. This capacity can be shared with other states which might result in reduced fixed cost burden on the utilities resulting in further reduction in the cost for consumers,” it reads.

The report further suggests that J&K and Ladakh have likely surplus capacity available from April to September in the range of 230-740 MW for 2027-28 as shown below which can be shared with other states.

likely to increase by more than four percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Authorities in a report have projected that “Electrical energy demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh is increasing with a CAGR of 4.2 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35 as forecasted by 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India.”

It has further said that the projections of J&K also indicate that electrical energy demand may increase with a CAGR of 4.07 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35.

“For satisfying resource adequacy that is meeting the electricity demand reliably and at affordable cost, the UT needs to methodically plan its capacity expansion either by investing or by procuring power,” it reads.

The government in the last week of October had informed the Legislative Assembly that PDD was imposing a curtailment of four hours in those areas having highest technical and commercial losses on local feeders.

The department also said that there were no power outages and unscheduled cuts were imposed in Kashmir valley during the last winter.

“No unscheduled cuts were imposed in Kashmir valley during the last winter despite substantial increase in power demand on account of heating load at a time when the power availability from own generation sources remains limited,” the government had said.

About the power curtailment, PDD had informed that that detailed schedules of power curtailment indicating, feeder-wise, the maximum curtailment daily depending upon the loss level of the feeders were formulated and except for addressing urgent and accidental system requirements, no unscheduled distress curtailment was allowed or undertaken.

In Kashmir valley, there is no power capacitor available for the local DISCOM to improve the quality in electrical systems by compensating for reactive power and improving power factor.

Officials revealed that the Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) has provided the capacitors to industrial consumers to keep healthy power factor.

“In the meeting, it was informed from the J&K side that presently no capacitors are available in Kashmir DISCOM although capacitors have been provided by industrial consumers to keep healthy power factor,” reads the documents of (MoP).

The documents further states that it was also discussed that TCC and NRPC had recently accorded approval from forum for installation of capacitors by Rajasthan, Uttarakhand DISCOMs.

“The proposals were then submitted by respective states to PSDF and PSDF also had positive views of providing funds for installation of capacitor banks. PSDF funds were frozen for some time but now PSDF has started approval for some of the schemes,” it reads.

‘Persistent Low

NRLDC with CEA and CTUII in Grid-India’s quarterly operational feedback report as well.

“The issue has been continuously raised in NRPC as well as OCC meetings, still the issues of low voltage persist in J&K especially Kashmir valley,” it reads.

Besides, the report further states that power is being imported by J&K from 400kV Moga-Kishenpur D/C lines and 400kV Jalandhar-Samba D/C lines.

“It is being noticed that heavy power is being drawn by 400kV lines from Moga to Kishenpur during winter months whereas the power flow on 400kV Jalandhar-Samba is not that high,” it reads.

The Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) in the report further said that it has been discussed and suggested on numerous occasions earlier to J&K to plan and expedite commissioning of reactive power devices especially capacitors at lower voltage level to improve the voltage profile in valley area and also avoid large sums payable as reactive energy charges.

Amid persistent cold temperatures, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficit of over 34 percent in the month of December.

The officials said that in the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have a power shortage of 34.2 percent.

The official figures reveal that there is an availability of just 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against a requirement of 3737 MWs in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It also reveals that there is a shortage of 1277 MWs.

In the last week of July, in the backdrop of low voltage issues during the day time, ‘Jammu and Kashmir is facing a variation of nearly 700 Megawatts (MWs) of power’ in comparison to other hours.

The official documents had revealed that in view of low voltage during the day hours from 9Am to 2Pm, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited has a Available Transfer Capability (ATC) and Total Transfer Capability (TTC) of 2700/2800 MWs of power.

However, during the other hours except for 9Am to 2Pm, there is an ATC and TTC capacity of 3400/3500 MWs of power—highlighting the need of improving the grid and other major infrastructures that can help in increasing the voltage during the day hours.

The Power Development Department (PDD) in the first week of December was facing a ‘shortage of nearly 500 Megawatts (MWs) to meet the actual power demand’ in Kashmir valley—plunging residents into extended blackouts.

An official had informed that in the first week of December, “The actual peak power demand in Kashmir is at least 2400 MWs but the local Discom (Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) this year so far has been able to cater only 1900 MWs.”

About the unscheduled power cuts, the official had said that “The power outages are primarily because of the unauthorised use of power. People mostly in the flat rate areas are not using power judiciously and that is one of the main reasons for the power tripping. “As of now 60 percent of the areas in Kashmir are flat rated.”

Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department this year was reeling under high Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) with the figures suggesting the loss of more than 41 percent till the financial year 2023-24.

Among the both DISCOMs, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) till March-2025 was facing extra 21 percent AT&C in comparison to the Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCL).

In the year 2020-21, JPDCL was facing 30 percent of AT&C while the KPDCL was reeling under 65 percent of losses.

Similarly, in the financial year 2021-22, there were 37.5 percent AT&C losses in Jammu DISCOM and 63.26 percent in Kashmir DISCOM.

The official figures further reveal that in the year 2022-23, JPDCL was grappled with 35.4 percent of AT&C losses and KPDCL with 59.59 percent.

Likewise, in the previous fiscal there was a total of 41 percent AT&C losses across the DISCOMs with 31 percent in JPDCL and 51.98 percent in KPDCL.

The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) has recorded nearly 250 percent increase in revenue generation in the past five financial years.

Since 2019-20 till previous fiscal, PDD has collected Rs 16,974 Crore revenue from its consumers.

From the total revenue generated, the Kashmir Power

Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) sees 176 percent increase.

The official figures further reveal that Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCL) 73.58 percent increase in revenue generation in past five financial years

It reveals that JPDCL has collected Rs 8906.31 Crores since 2019-20 till previous fiscal year while KPDCL has collected Rs 8068 Crores.

In Jammu and Kashmir, power tariff share in non-tax revenue has increased by 11 percent in four years.

An official had informed KNO that “Power tariff’s share in non-tax revenue grew from 56 percent to 67 percent since Financial Year-22.”

It further states that the power is a critical driver of economic development in Jammu and Kashmir, with the government focusing on optimizing power generation and enhancing infrastructure to ensure a reliable, 24 hours supply at affordable rates.

“Key initiatives include expanding hydel power plants, promoting rooftop solar panels for households, encouraging solar energy in agriculture, and upgrading transmission networks to support uninterrupted supply and export surplus power to other states for revenue generation,” the official said.

The official further said that the major contributors to own revenue resources are GST, power tariff, excise, sales tax, water user charges and taxes on vehicles.

“The proportion of these six revenue resources has increased from 86 percent in FY-22 to 93 percent in FY-25,” the official said.

In the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.

An official had said, “Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data.”

“When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region’s increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region’s population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period,” the official said—(KNO)

Rain, Snow Ease

recorded the coldest minimum at -3.2°C, followed by Shopian at -2.9°C and Awantipora at -2.2°C.

Central Kashmir’s Srinagar district registered -0.4°C, Qazigund and Pahalgam -1.0°C each, while Gulmarg and Kulgam recorded 2.0°C and 1.2°C respectively.

In Jammu division, Katra recorded the lowest at 10.0°C, Jammu Airport 11.0°C, while Banihal and Baderwah registered 3.8°C and 4.4°C, respectively.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum of -4.2°C. Some stations, including Zojila Pass, Kargil, Doda, and Zethan Rafiabab, did not report data. The figures were compiled by Kashmir Weather.

The Meteorological Department has forecast further precipitation during the next 12 hours till Monday night. From December 23 onwards, the weather across Jammu and Kashmir is expected to remain partly cloudy until December 29.

It has forecast the possibility of light rain or snowfall over higher reaches at isolated places from December 30 to January 1, while January 2 and 3 are likely to be partly cloudy.

It advised travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories. Moderate to dense fog is expected to persist over the plains of Jammu division during the next seven days.

Meanwhile, the rainfall and snowfall had a positive impact on air quality across the Valley. The Meteorological Department said the Air Quality Index (AQI) showed significant improvement following the rain.

“There has been a clear improvement in air quality due to the rainfall. After this spell, the weather is expected to remain dry and cold from December 23 to December 30,” another official said.

An advisory issued by the department warned that higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts could receive moderate to heavy snowfall, especially during the night.

Travellers and transporters were advised to plan their journeys carefully and follow official advisories—(KNO)

Snowfall Spurs

connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

“The train has been a great advantage. Even when flights are cancelled or roads are blocked, it continues to operate, helping the people of the valley,” he told reporters—(KNO)

Inclement Weather

night travel due to congestion between the Nashri tunnel and NAVYUG tunnel.

“Subject to fair weather and improved road conditions, two-way traffic of light vehicles and regulated movement of heavy vehicles was planned on NH-44 in coordination with the Traffic Control Unit Ramban,” the officials added.

Meanwhile, the Kishtwar–Sinthan–Anantnag road, Srinagar–Sonamarg–Gumri road and Mughal Road were closed for vehicular movement due to snow accumulation, while security forces convoy movement was allowed after clearance from traffic authorities.

The Gurez–Bandipora road was also closed following snowfall, while several interior roads in north Kashmir were cut off due to snow accumulation, even as the administration initiated snow clearance operations.

Travellers were urged to follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion.

IndiGo and SpiceJet airlines had to cancel two flights from Srinagar airport due to low visibility. In a post on X, the airport said, “Passengers are advised to check their flight status with the respective airline for the latest updates and alternate arrangements.”—(KNO)

Season’s First Snowfall

expect the rain and snow to improve the air quality in the Valley, thereby bringing relief to those facing breathing issues and other chest-related ailments.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department official said rain/snow can occur at scattered places in the union territory during the next 24 hours, though with milder intensity and periodicity.

Srinagar city had 4 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg minus 2.4 and Pahalgam 2.4 degrees as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city and Katra town had 10.4 degrees Celsius, Batote 6.5, Banihal 2.4 and Baderwah 2.2 degrees as the minimum temperature.

The Srinagar-Leh highway and the Mughal Road have been closed for traffic, while traffic on Sinthan Pass in Anantnag, Razdan Pass in Bandipora and the Sadna Top in Kupwara has also been suspended.

India In Advanced

an initial framework deal with the US aimed at lowering

reciprocal tariffs.

“We are very close to closing the initial framework deal, but I don’t want to put a timeline to it,” Agrawal had said in a December 15 presser. He added that India and the US have completed six rounds of talks, covering both a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and an interim arrangement to reduce reciprocal tariffs.

There is a reasonable expectation that the two countries will reach an interim agreement to lower steep tariffs on most Indian exports, Agrawal said.

Goyal earlier said that the ongoing trade talks between Indian and US officials are progressing well, but at the same time ruled out any deadline for signing a deal.

Commenting on US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer’s two-day visit to Delhi, he said: “We had very good substantive discussions. But I have said on record that a deal is only done when both sides stand to benefit. We should never negotiate with deadlines because you tend to make mistakes then.”

Agrawal had said that the two sides exchanged views on matters related to India-US trade and economic ties, including on the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement.

US President Donald Trump recently told reporters at the White House that his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi were “going great” and that a visit to Delhi could take place next year.

Trump said that he plans to “lower tariffs” imposed on India “at some point”, indicating that a breakthrough in the trade talks could come soon.

However, India has made it clear that it would not compromise on the interests of farmers, the dairy sector, and workers in trade deals that it signs with other countries.

India has already started buying more oil and gas from the US. The move is aimed at reducing India’s trade surplus with the US, an issue that had figured in the earlier rounds of trade talks.

In this context, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri had announced that India’s public sector oil companies have successfully concluded a one-year structured contract to import around 2.2 million tonnes per annum of LPG from the US Gulf Coast during 2026. This represents close to 10 per cent of India’s annual LPG imports and marks the first such structured LPG contract with the US for the Indian market. The minister described the decision “as a historic development,” noting that one of the world’s largest and fastest growing LPG markets has now opened up to the United States.

Intelligence Warns

it has trained dozens of terrorists with the specific intention of sending them into India.

An Intelligence Bureau official says that the risk of infiltrations are at the low-visibility routes and riverine gaps in Assam, Tripura, and West Bengal. Further, these elements would try to take advantage of the forest cover in these regions as well, the official added.

The ISI-backed groups in Bangladesh over the months identified scores of Rohingyas and took advantage of their financial duress. They are picked up and then sent to a dedicated camp. Most of them are trained in terror-related activity. Security officials say that these camps, which have been in the making for over a year now, house thousands of desperate Bangladeshis and Rohingyas. They are lured with financial benefits and then trapped into joining a terror outfit.

The camps that have been set up are divided into two. While one camp comprises people who are only meant to infiltrate and enforce demographic changes, the other comprises trained terrorists.

Another official says that the plan is not just restricted to West Bengal and the northeastern states. Over a period of time, once the infiltrations take place, these elements would be sent to other parts of the country, such as Jammu and Kashmir, the southern states, and Maharashtra.

This has been the plan in the making ever since Pakistan lost the war with India in 1971. Pakistan realised that a conventional war with India would not yield any results, and there should be another way to stress the system. In 1973, the Research and Analysis Wing learnt that the Jamaat-e-Islami and ISI hatched a plan whereby they would enforce mass infiltrations of illegal immigrants into India. The idea was to enter India and then enforce demographic changes. This would then lead to insecurity among the majority community, and eventually, communal clashes would erupt.

The plan was not entirely successful, because Bangladesh has had several dispensations that have been friendly with India. However, today, the situation has changed, and the ISI-backed Jamaat is completely in charge after Hasina’s ouster. For the ISI, which has been planning this operation for a year, there is no better time than now to execute this plan. The regime in Bangladesh is pro-Pakistan, and hence it would not stand in the way of the ISI and Jamaat to execute its plan, officials say. (IANS)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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1st T20I: Jemimah's 69 not out, bowlers help India Women beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets

IAN S

VISAKHAPATNAM: Jemimah Rodrigues continued her superb form from the Women's ODI World Cup as she slammed an unbeaten half-century to help India capitalise on a good bowling performance to beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the first match of the five-match women's T20I series in Visakhapatnam.

After the Indian bowlers came up with a superb performance to restrict Sri Lanka to a modest 121/6 in 20 overs, Jemimah, who scored a century to help India reach the World Cup final, scored 69 not out off 44 balls on Sunday and helped India race to 122/2 at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium and win the match with 32 balls to spare.

Jemimah scored her half-century off 34 balls as she struck 10 boundaries and shared two half-century partnerships -- 54 for the second wicket stand with Smriti Mandhana, who scored a run-a-ball 25 after India lost Shafali Verma (9) early, and an unfinished 55-run partnership with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur for the third wicket.

Jemimah built her knock with patience and then unleashed some superb shots, was quick on her feet, played late cuts superbly, and ran brilliantly, at times egging Mandhana and Harmanpreet to put in an extra effort. Mandhana and Rodrigues repaired the Indian innings after Verma clipped Kawya Kavindi to square leg, where Gimhani picked a smart catch, diving forward.

Smriti was her usual left, cautious, and patient



as he scored 25, becoming the first Indian batter to reach 4000 runs in women's T20I cricket. She hit four boundaries before being caught by Nilakshika Silva at deep extra cover off Inoka Ranaweera.

Rodrigues found a willing partner in skipper Harmanpreet Kaur as they guided India to a comprehensive win with the captain scoring 15 not out as India went up 1-0 in the five-match series.

Earlier, the bowlers made an easy win possible for India in a match in which both teams were hampered by copious dew.

After skipper Harmanpreet Kaur elected to field on winning the toss in their first outing since winning the Women's ODI World Cup in Navi Mumbai, the Indian bowlers strangled the Sri Lankan batters despite atrocious fielding that included a few dropped catches, misfields and a six palmed-over by Smriti Mandhana as the 50 overs World Champions struggled to adjust with the short format, which they

were playing after a big break.

The Sri Lankans were not much better and struggled with the T20 format after they lost skipper Chamari Athapaththu for 15 off 12 balls as they managed to score only 31/1 in the Power-play. The Sri Lankan captain struck three fours in the first couple of overs before Kranti Gaud managed to sneak a ball through the gap between the bat and pad to rattle the stumps for her first Women's T20I wicket.

Though debutant spinner Vaishavi Sharma failed to get a wicket, she conceded only 16 runs in her four overs as the Indians tied the Sri Lankans in knots. Deepti Sharma conceded only 10 runs in three overs, while N Shree Charani was comparatively costly in her spell of 1-30 in four overs. She was also guilty of dropping two easy skiers.

For India, Kranti Gaud (1-23), Deepti Sharma (1-20), and N. Shree Charani (1-30) claimed a wicket each.

Vishmi Gunaratne waged a lone battle for Sri Lanka as she scored a slow 39 off 43 balls, hitting a four and a six before she was run out to a piece of good work by Kranti Gaud. She shared a 38-run partnership with Harshitha Samarawickrama, but once the latter was out, Sri Lanka's batting effort got derailed once again.

Hasini Perera 20 off 23 and Harshitha Samarawickrama (21 off 23) got starts but could not capitalise on them. But they helped the Islanders cross into three figures, though they could not manage to hit any big shots.

Both India and Sri Lanka have gone into the match with contrasting selection decisions. While India showed trust in the tried and tested, retaining a majority of players that figured in their triumphant 50-over World Cup winning campaign, Sri Lanka picked several youngsters as both teams try to find the best combination for the Women's T20 World Cup to be held later in 2026.

NZ rise to second in WTC rankings after 323-run win against WI

IAN S

NEW DELHI: New Zealand climbed to second on the ICC World Test Championship table after completing a dominant 323-run win over the West Indies in the third and final Test at Mount Maunganui.

The comprehensive victory lifted New Zealand above South Africa, with only Australia ahead of them in the WTC standings.

New Zealand's next assignment is a three-match World Test Championship series against England, scheduled for the middle of next year.

The West Indies, meanwhile, remain ninth on the table and will return to action at home next year in a series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The Black Caps sealed the result midway through the final session at Bay Oval, with left-arm seamer Jacob Duffy claiming the final wicket to bring the match to a close. The performance also capped off an outstanding series for Duffy, earning him the Player of the Series award.



Duffy was the standout bowler in the West Indies' second innings, returning figures of 5/42 as the visitors were bowled out for 138 while chasing a daunting target of 462. He finished the series with 23 wickets, playing a central role in New Zealand's 2-0 series win and a strong start to

their World Test Championship campaign.

In the process, the left-arm seamer surpassed a long-standing national milestone, breaking Richard Hadlee's record for the most wickets by a New Zealander in a calendar year. His third five-wicket haul of the series took his tally beyond Hadlee's previous mark of 80.

"I saw that list (most wickets in a calendar year) at lunch time, and there

were some cool names on there, so to be up there on any sort of list with those sort of names was special," Duffy admitted.

New Zealand's bowlers were backed up by a monumental effort with the bat, led by openers Devon Conway and captain Tom Latham. The pair created history by becoming the first opening combination in Test cricket to each register two centuries in the same match.

Conway's contributions were particularly notable, as his scores of 227 and 100 made him the first New Zealander, and just the 10th player overall, to record both a double century and a century in a single Test. He was rewarded with the Player of the Match accolade.

"I don't think it's sunk in yet. It will take some time for me to get my head around what happened in this Test match. But I'm really glad we got the win," Conway said.

Broad says he does not 'regret' calling Australia 'worst side in 15 years' after hosts retain the Ashes

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former England pacer Stuart Broad has doubled down on his assertion that the current Australian side is the weakest Ashes team England have faced in 15 years, despite the hosts referencing his comments during their celebrations in Adelaide.

Ahead of the series, Broad had claimed Australia were at their lowest ebb since England last won the Ashes in Australia in 2010-11, describing his assessment as "not an opinion" but "a fact". He cited Australia's transition and uncertainty around

selection as the basis for his view.

Those remarks clearly resonated within the Australian camp. After Australia secured the Ashes with victory in the third Test in Adelaide, Marnus Labuschagne referenced Broad's comments during a post-match interview with the ABC.

Travis Head later added fuel to the fire by posting a photo of himself alongside captain Pat Cummins on social media, captioned "Is it 2010 yet?" followed by three laughing emojis.

Speaking following Australia's 82-run win that gave the hosts an unassail-

able 3-0 series lead, Broad maintained that his original comments still stood, arguing England had failed to perform anywhere near their potential.

"Do I regret saying that? No. I did say Australia would have to play very badly and England would have to play very well. Australia haven't played very badly, and England haven't played very well," Broad said on his For The Love of Cricket podcast.

Broad also highlighted several factors he believed left Australia exposed coming into the series, including Cummins missing the opening two Tests, Josh Hazlewood being

unavailable for the entire campaign, and Usman Khawaja managing back spasms.

"From England's point of view, what would they have liked coming into this series? A lot of things have gone England's way. But England haven't been good enough ultimately. Australia have been relentless in what they've done. Do I think the 2013-14 (Australian team) man-for-man was a better side? Yes, probably still. I don't think individually they are better than any other team since 2010-11, but they've been relentless in the pressure they've managed to put on England."

Football: AFC to introduce new league for national teams

IAN S

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAYSIA): The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed on Sunday that it will introduce an AFC League in the coming period, aiming to

The AFC remains focused on delivering high-quality and consistent development pathways for its member associations in accordance with its long-term vision to advance football across Asia, the AFC said. "How-

ing incentives, we aim to ensure consistent access to high-quality matches while addressing logistical and cost-related challenges faced by teams," he added.

The AFC also noted that further details regarding the competition format,



enhance its international football competition for AFC member association teams across the continent.

In a statement, the AFC revealed growing challenges in fully utilising FIFA international match windows, including limited opponent availability, rising costs, and logistical difficulties, which the AFC said have reduced the sporting value of international fixtures.

"These challenges have highlighted the need for a more structured, predictable and sustainable competition framework for teams and, following a comprehensive internal review and consultation process, the Confederation has decided in principle to introduce an AFC League," read the statement.

ever, the effective utilisation of the FIFA International Match Windows has become increasingly challenging due to limited opponent availability, rising operational costs and logistical complexities, often diminishing the sporting value of international fixtures," the statement further said.

Commenting on the initiative, AFC General Secretary Windsor John said: "The AFC League represents an important step forward in our ongoing commitment to support the development of our 47 member associations."

"By introducing a structured competition platform during the FIFA international match windows, with greater calendar stability and clear sport-

timeline, and implementation will be announced in due course.

The AFC already hosts the Asian Cup competition for its member associations, with the top teams picked from the qualifiers to the finals. The winner is crowned as the Asian Champion.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of Asian football and one of the six Confederations making up FIFA. Formed in 1954 in Manila on the sidelines of the second Asian Games, the AFC was sanctioned by FIFA in Berne, Switzerland, on June 21 of that year. The AFC is now headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and consists of 47 Member Associations.

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