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JAMMU AND KASHMIR | NEED 24 NEWS · Every Story, Every City | 21 November 2026

SARKARI YOJANA

J&K government grants Old Pension Scheme benefits to 33 employees



The Jammu and Kashmir government announced that 33 government employees will receive benefits under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). According to a report by Kashmir Life, this move will grant pension rights to employees who were not covered under the new pension reforms.

Eligible employees under the OPS will receive a fixed pension based on their last drawn salary and years of service, fulfilling the long-standing demand of several senior officials. The decision is seen as a step towards alleviating employees' long-term concerns regarding administrative security.

The announcement did not mention the specific departments of the 33 employees or the selection criteria, but officials stated that the selection was made in accordance with existing government guidelines. Implementation is expected to begin soon, with orders to be issued to the relevant departments.

Stakeholders have welcomed the move, viewing it as a step towards equal treatment for employees who retired before the new pension system. No clear indication has been given regarding the possibility of extending OPS benefits to additional employees in the future.

EDUCATION

School timings changed in Jammu and Kashmir due to cold weather



The Jammu and Kashmir Education Department has announced changes to the timetables for all schools from nursery to Class 12, as temperatures in the valley are currently dropping sharply. Officials stated that this step was taken to protect students and staff from the severe cold.

Under the new timetable, school operating hours will be adjusted to reduce the time children spend outdoors during the coldest parts of the day. The department said the change aims to maintain regular attendance and ensure health and safety.

The decision was based on weather data and feedback from school officials, who reported difficulties in conducting classes due to the extreme cold. Parents have been informed of the new timetable through official notices.

CRIME

Kashmiri Pandit Activist Rakesh Hando Arrested on Cyber-Terrorism Charges; Daughter Launches Support Campaign



Jammu and Kashmir police detained Kashmiri Pandit activist Rakesh Hando on October 17, alleging that he distributed threatening online content falling under cyber-terrorism laws. According to the police, Hando used digital platforms to spread messages that could incite violence, leading to his arrest.

Hando's defense team has expressed its intention to file a petition with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, challenging the factual basis of the police report and the validity of the cyber-terrorism charges. Lawyers argue that the evidence is merely circumstantial and that the allegations do not meet the legal threshold for terrorism.

Meanwhile, Hando's daughter, Anjani Hando, has launched a public support campaign seeking assistance from community leaders, civil society groups, and the Kashmiri Pandit diaspora. She has appealed for legal aid, media coverage, and moral support to secure her father's release during the judicial process.

This case adds to a series of high-profile arrests related to digital security laws in the region, raising questions about the balance between anti-terrorism measures and civil liberties. No further details regarding the investigation have been disclosed, and the case is currently under judicial review.

EDUCATION

JKBOSE to release new textbooks for six classes from 2026-27



The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) issued an official notice announcing the decision to update textbooks for six classes. This revision will be effective from the 2026-27 academic session. The board stated that this step is to align learning materials with the latest curriculum guidelines.

The board has not yet disclosed the specific subjects or classes, but clarified that the new books will replace current ones in all government-aided and recognized private schools. Schools have been instructed to purchase the new books and incorporate them into their teaching plans before the start of the next academic year.

JKBOSE appealed to school principals and headmasters to facilitate a smooth transition and to inform teachers and parents about the change. The board also indicated that it would monitor compliance and assist institutions with any logistical difficulties that may arise.

Education sector experts view this update as a positive step toward modernizing class resources, although they are awaiting further information about the changes in content and the distribution process.

EDUCATION

Kashmir School Timings to Change from November 17



The School Education Department (SED) has issued a directive stating that the timings for all schools in Kashmir will be changed from November 17. The new timetable will apply to both government and private schools, ensuring uniform start and end times across the region. Parents have been requested to adjust their daily schedules accordingly and ensure their children reach school at the new timings. The department has instructed school principals to update the timetables and inform staff of the changes. Regional education officers will monitor the smooth implementation of this change.

FOOD

FDA suspends five meat processing licenses in Jammu and Kashmir after 95 inspections



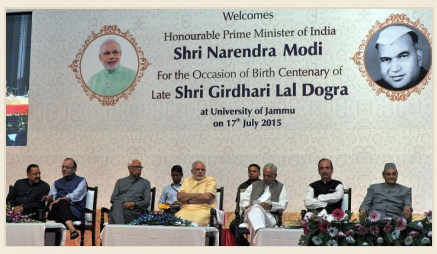
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has announced the suspension of registrations for five meat processing units in Jammu and Kashmir. This step was taken following 95 recent inspections in the region, aimed at ensuring compliance with food safety standards.

Inspectors found multiple violations regarding hygiene, temperature control, and documentation, prompting the regulator to take corrective action. The suspended units will not be allowed to operate until they rectify the violations and receive approval from the FSSAI.

This measure demonstrates the agency's growing commitment to ensuring a safe meat supply in the region, where consumer trust in processed food products is becoming a major issue. Officials have also urged other processors to fully cooperate with upcoming inspections.

The FSSAI did not disclose the names of the affected businesses for confidentiality reasons but clarified that the suspension is temporary and will be reassessed after confirming corrective measures.

J&K Finance Department Orders Review of Pay Fixation for Employees Appointed Since 2016



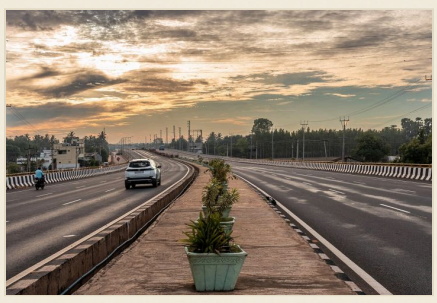
The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has ordered a comprehensive review of the pay fixation for all government employees appointed since January 2016. Departmental heads have been instructed to examine the pay structure, allowances, and any reinstatements that have come into effect since their appointments.

Officials stated that this step is aimed at ensuring parity with the latest Pay Commission recommendations and addressing potential discrepancies that have arisen in previous years. The department has asked concerned officers to submit detailed reports on individual cases within a stipulated timeframe.

The review may lead to pay revisions for a significant portion of the region's civil servants and other government institutions. No additional information has been provided regarding the implementation timeline.

AUTOMOBILE

Traffic regulated on Jammu & Kashmir highways; tanker ban imposed on NH-44



The Jammu & Kashmir administration has issued an order to regulate traffic on all state highways. This measure aims to manage increasing traffic volume and ensure safety on these routes.

Under the regulations, vehicles are permitted to enter the highways only after obtaining clearance from designated checkpoints, and transport companies are required to adhere to a specified schedule. Officials stated that this would reduce congestion and lower the likelihood of accidents.

Additionally, a ban has been imposed on tanker trucks on National Highway 44. The ban is effective immediately and is intended to mitigate potential risks associated with fuel transport on the busy route. Fuel distributors have been advised to use alternative routes to continue their supply operations.

NIA Launches Probe into Overground Operatives Network Linked to Pakistan-Based Terrorist Organizations in Jammu & Kashmir



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced that it will investigate a module of active overground operatives in Jammu & Kashmir, who are reportedly linked to Pakistan-based terrorist organizations. The agency stated that this group provides logistical and recruitment support to extremist elements in the region.

Overground operatives typically assist militants by offering safe houses, financial aid, and communication channels, while refraining from direct armed action. Such support plays a crucial role in sustaining extremism, prompting the NIA to subject this network to a comprehensive inquiry.

The move comes amid escalating security concerns in the federal territory, where vigilance has heightened over cross-border infiltration and ideological dissemination. The NIA said it will collaborate with the Jammu & Kashmir Police and other intelligence agencies to expose the network's connections and gather evidence.

No arrests have been made to date, and the investigation remains in its early stages. The agency has not disclosed the names of individuals involved due to the operation's sensitivity.

Authorities stated that the investigation aims to dismantle any support structure, thereby safeguarding national security from external threats.

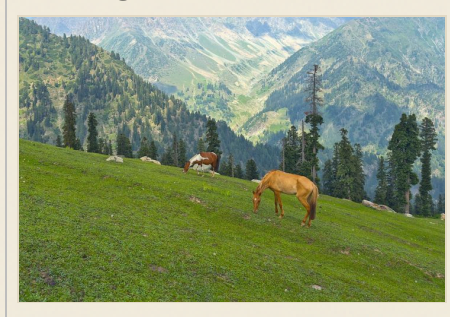
BUSINESS

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Opens 26th Branch at Mini Secretariat in Shopian



Jammu and Kashmir Bank inaugurated its 26th branch in Shopian on Monday, located within the Mini Secretariat building. The branch will offer all banking services, including deposits, loans, and digital transactions, to the local population and entrepreneurs. This brings the total number of branches in Shopian to three, strengthening the bank's network in the Kashmir Valley. Bank officials stated that this location was chosen to eliminate the need for customers to travel to the nearest branch. The inauguration ceremony was attended by local administrative officers and senior bank representatives, reflecting the bank's commitment to regional development.

Killed Terrorist in J&K Was Sheltered by Lashkar-e-Taiba Commander, Investigation Reveals



Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir engaged in an encounter with a suspected terrorist, resulting in his death. Following the operation, a detailed investigation was launched to examine his background. The inquiry revealed that the killed terrorist had been sheltered by a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander several months before he was officially inducted into the group. This fact indicates the existence of prior support networks in the recruitment process. Officials have emphasized the need to dismantle such support structures and strengthen regional security in the future.

SPORTS

Jammu and Kashmir Beats Tamil Nadu by Six Runs in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy



Jammu and Kashmir defeated Tamil Nadu by six runs in the latest Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match. The game was played at a neutral venue, where Jammu and Kashmir's bowlers maintained pressure, restricting Tamil Nadu to a modest total. In the final overs, Jammu and Kashmir's batting lineup performed strongly to ensure the win.

Key contributions for Jammu and Kashmir came from a steady opening partnership and decisive inputs from the middle order, which stabilized the chase. Tamil Nadu's top order struggled to build momentum, and Jammu and Kashmir's bowlers capitalized on conditions to limit the run rate.

This victory improves Jammu and Kashmir's standing in the tournament and advances their campaign. It also highlights the growing competitiveness of regional teams in India's premier T20 competition.

SCIENCE

Kashmir's groundwater quality lags behind Himachal and Uttarakhand, Himalayan study finds



A scientific survey covering the Himalayan region has highlighted disparities in groundwater quality among states. The assessment placed Kashmir at the lower end of quality standards, while Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand showed comparatively better results.

quality parameters at multiple sampling sites in each state. The results indicate that Kashmir's aquifers contain higher levels of pollutants or mineral imbalances compared to the neighboring hill states.

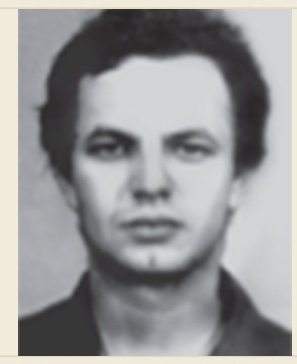
The report emphasized the need for targeted improvements and strict monitoring to preserve the purity of water sources in the Kashmir Valley and enhance agricultural usage.

State authorities have been urged to review current water management practices and invest in infrastructure to improve water purity.

The study confirms that localized policies are required to address regional variations in water quality, rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

DEFENCE

Militant Killed in South Kashmir Encounter; Search Operation Launched



A militant was killed in an encounter in a remote area of South Kashmir, according to local security officials. The clash occurred between the militant and soldiers who were monitoring suspicious activities in the region. Subsequently, authorities launched a search operation to locate remaining militants and collect intelligence material.

Security forces stated that a team of soldiers attacked the militant, resulting in his death and the seizure of weapons and documents allegedly linked to insurgent activities.

The search operation is ongoing in nearby villages and forested areas, aimed at ensuring the safety of local residents and preventing further attacks. Officials have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

The incident occurred amidst ongoing security operations in Jammu and Kashmir, where armed forces are targeting individuals suspected of involvement in insurgent activities.

DEFENCE

LG Sinha: Number of Foreign Terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir Has Decreased; Region Will Soon Be Terror-Free



Lieutenant Governor LG Sinha of Jammu and Kashmir stated that only a handful of foreign terrorists remain in the region and that the security situation has improved significantly. He said that intense counter-terrorism operations conducted over the past few months have dismantled most enemy networks, with the remaining elements confined to limited areas.

focused on completely eliminating these remaining groups and assured that Jammu and Kashmir will soon be entirely terror-free. He credited the coordinated efforts of the Indian Army, paramilitary forces, and local police as the primary reason for this progress.

The statement comes amid ongoing efforts to restore normalcy and development in the region following a long-standing insurgency. While no specific numbers or timelines were mentioned, the Lieutenant Governor said that security agencies will remain vigilant to prevent any emerging threats.

EDUCATION

25% Reservation for EWS and Deprived Children in Private Schools in Jammu and Kashmir



The Education Minister of Jammu and Kashmir announced a plan to implement 25% reservation in private schools, a policy that will apply to all private institutions.

This measure aims to enhance access to quality education for children from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and other deprived groups, in line with the central government's inclusive education policies.

Officials stated that the reservation will take effect from the next academic session, and schools will be required to submit compliance reports to the Education Department. The department will also establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure fair distribution of seats.

The announcement was welcomed by several child rights organizations, while some private school associations have sought clarification on implementation details and the potential impact on fee structures.

JOBS & CAREER

J&K PWD issues transfer order for 33 engineers



The Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department (PWD) has issued an official order concerning the change in posting and transfer of 33 engineers within its jurisdiction. The order, published in the Daily Excelsior, mentions a reorganization aimed at improving departmental efficiency, though it does not provide details on the new appointments. This administrative step is part of the department's regular employee management process, which aims to balance workload and project requirements. No additional comments were received from departmental officials at this time. The changes will be implemented shortly after standard procedural approvals.

J&K DGP Prabhavati says local terrorist recruitment is near zero



Deputy General Police officer Prabhavati told the media on Thursday that there has been a sharp decline in new recruitment by local terrorist organizations in Jammu and Kashmir. She stated that intelligence inputs and ongoing security operations have limited the new recruitment capacity of insurgent groups to near zero.

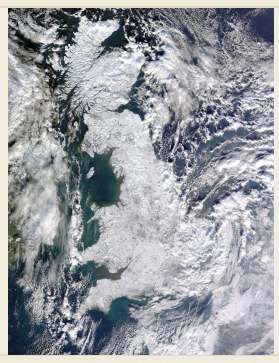
This statement comes amid extensive efforts by the Central Home Ministry and state authorities aimed at dismantling recruitment networks that have historically fueled the insurgency in the region. Officials have intensified surveillance, community engagement, and counter-radicalization programs, which Prabhavati credited for the current trend.

While highlighting the positive shift, Prabhavati emphasized the need to remain vigilant, noting that external influences and online propaganda can still pose risks. She urged local communities to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities to sustain the decline in recruitment.

Security analysts welcomed these comments, viewing them as a sign of stability in the Valley. However, they cautioned that sustained political engagement and socio-economic development are essential to prevent any resurgence.

The police department plans to release periodic updates on recruitment figures to maintain transparency and reassure the public about ongoing security measures.

JK News Today completes 10 years in digital journalism



JK News Today, a prominent digital news platform in the region, recently marked a decade of providing news and information to its audience. The platform has established itself as a reliable source of news by covering various relevant topics for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Over the years, JK News Today has adopted new technologies and platforms to reach a wider audience and adapt to the evolving media landscape. Its commitment to quality journalism and dedication to serving the community have earned it a respected position in the digital media space.

POLITICS

Mehbooba Mufti criticizes security setup after CRPF attack in Kulgam



Following the attack on the CRPF in Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti criticized the strict security measures imposed in the area. Mufti described these stringent steps as unjust collective punishment, arguing that they could alienate locals and increase tensions. She called for a more nuanced approach that addresses the root causes of terrorism while ensuring the safety and security of all citizens.

623 MW power deficit expected in J&K and Ladakh during winter



A power deficit of approximately 623 megawatts is likely in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh during the winter peak, as reported by Kashmir Life. This gap represents the difference between rising heating demand and limited generation capacity.

Winter sees a significant increase in power consumption for residential heating, commercial activities, and essential services. Reduced hydropower generation in high-altitude Ladakh and the snow-covered valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, along with fuel supply disruptions, exacerbate the deficit.

If this deficit materializes, authorities may have to consider measures such as load-shedding and importing additional power from neighboring states to keep the grid stable. This situation highlights the challenge of meeting energy needs during harsh winter weather.

CRIME

Encounter between security forces and terrorists during counter-terrorism operation in Kulgam



Security forces launched a counter-terrorism operation in Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday. An encounter broke out between security personnel and armed terrorists during the operation, resulting in a gunbattle.

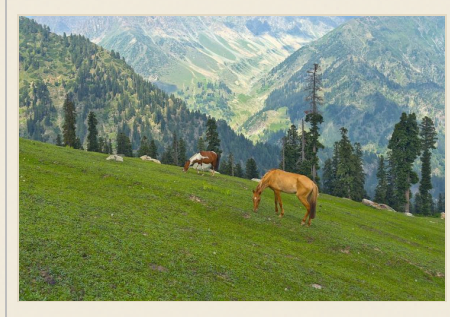
Local officials stated that the operation is part of a broader effort to eliminate terrorist elements present in the area. The number of personnel involved and the identity of the terrorists have not yet been made public.

No official information on casualties has been released so far. Officials have initiated a detailed search to secure the area and have urged residents to maintain calm.

security challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, where forces regularly conduct such operations to curb terrorist activities.

SARKARI YOJANA

Jammu and Kashmir to unveil new industrial policy, says CM



The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir stated that the state will soon unveil a new industrial policy, marking a step towards attracting investment.

The policy is expected to include incentives such as tax exemptions, subsidies, and simplified procedures to facilitate the establishment of manufacturers and entrepreneurs in the region.

The government said that special focus will be placed on sectors such as tourism, agro-processing, and renewable energy, in line with a broader economic development plan.

A detailed document of the policy will be made available to the public and industry representatives in the coming weeks.

The industrial community has welcomed the move, viewing it as a positive step towards revitalizing the region's industrial capacity.

HEALTH

Sunil urges S-YASA to expand yoga initiatives to tackle drug problem in Jammu and Kashmir



Sunil, a prominent activist, has urged the Yoga Education and Research Center S-YASA to expand yoga-based programs to curb the drug problem in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that promoting mental clarity and self-discipline through yoga can help reduce drug addiction among the youth.

Nagendra, has previously conducted community yoga initiatives in several states for health, stress relief, and lifestyle diseases. Sunil suggested that this model be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir by organizing yoga sessions in schools, colleges, and community centers.

The drug problem in Jammu and Kashmir has been on the rise recently, with an increase in the availability of narcotics recorded in remote districts. While enforcement operations continue, experts believe that demand-side measures such as yoga, counseling, and awareness are crucial in addressing the root causes.

Sunil called for a collaborative framework between S-YASA, local authorities, and civil society, which would involve developing regionally appropriate yoga modules, training local instructors, and monitoring impact. He believes that sustained yoga outreach can complement existing anti-drug strategies.

This appeal comes as the state government explores multi-dimensional measures to reduce drug addiction, and S-YASA is likely to review the proposal at its upcoming strategic meeting.

WEATHER

Snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir and Badrinath



Fresh snowfall has occurred in the high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Badrinath, covering the entire region in snow. The snowfall has caused a significant drop in temperatures, transforming these areas into winter paradises. People are being drawn to the region to witness the snowy landscapes.