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J&K witnessing historic security transformation: LG

Says Post-2019 Changes Strengthened Democracy; Exposed Conflict Entrepreneurs



KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, October 31: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today extended greetings and best wishes to the people of Jammu Kashmir on the occasion of 8th J&K UT Foundation Day and paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the citizens of Jammu Kashmir and acknowledged the contribution of farmers, teachers, scholars, writers, artists, artisans, traders, workers, security personnel, youth and women in building a prosperous and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the occasion carried special significance as it coincided with the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, whose vision of national unity continues to inspire the country. He said that the developments of 2019 marked an important chapter in the journey towards integration, equality and development.

"Today is not merely a date; it is a milestone that

See on Pg. 10

LG leads Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Valley



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday led the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Kashmir, as thousands of people took part in 'Run for Unity' rallies across the valley, officials said.

The historic Lal Chowk in Srinagar witnessed an Ekta Diwas parade and celebrations in the presence of Sinha and other senior officers, reaffirming the collective commitment to national unity and integrity, they said.

The occasion was marked across the valley with patriotic fervour at district headquarters and police stations.

'Run for Unity' rallies were organised in various districts to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the 'Iron Man of India', and mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day.

The respective deputy commissioners and senior police officers led the rallies, which saw participation by officials of the civil and police administrations, students, youth and members of the public, officials said.

The officers highlighted Patel's contribution to strengthening

See on Pg. 10

Sinha Administers 'Unity Pledge' to Lok Bhavan officials



Srinagar, October 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha administered 'Unity Pledge' to Lok Bhavan officials, staff and security personnel, on the occasion of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said:

"Administered the Unity Pledge to Lok Bhavan officials, staff and security personnel and paid tributes to the Iron

See on Pg. 10

DIG S Chaudhary awarded 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 31: National Investigation Agency Deputy Inspector General (DIG) IPS Sandeep Chaudhary has been awarded the 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' for 2026 in the Investigation category.

Chaudhary, a 2012-batch AGMUT officer, is among 123 officers and personnel recognised for their outstanding work in the field of investigation.

According to an official statement, he led the probe after the NIA took over the investigation of the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 25 tourists and a local resident dead.

The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata

See on Pg. 10

Several officers transferred, assigned additional charges in J&K

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, October 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday ordered transfers and postings of several IAS, IPS and JKAS officers, besides assigning additional charges to senior bureaucrats in the interest of administration.

According to two separate government orders issued by the General Administration



Department (GAD), dated October 31, 2026, Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, shall also hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, till further orders.

Anil Kumar Singh, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Public Works (R&B) Department, has also been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department.

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Sardar Patel united princely states, laid foundation of strong India: Amit Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel wove together a nation fragmented into princely states into a single thread, laying the foundation of a strong India, and provided a robust base to the country's administrative services by establishing the All India Services.



In a message

See on Pg. 10

NC dismisses reports of party rebellion



KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 31: The ruling National Conference (NC) in Jammu and Kashmir dismissed reports on Saturday of a party rebellion over Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's expansion of the council of ministers on October 17, saying it would discuss any grievances from party leaders internally.

In Jammu, tribal affairs minister Javed Rana also dismissed speculation of an internal rift within the NC. "The BJP's wishes will not be fulfilled. The NC is a strong organisation, both politically and organisationally, and there is nothing to worry about," he told reporters.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, NC provincial secretary, Kashmir, Showkat Mir, described the reported meeting of a group of NC MLAs here on Friday as a get-together before the Darbar Move.

"Regarding yesterday's meeting, our sources and several MLAs mentioned that one MLA invited them over, saying, 'The Darbar Move is taking place, so please come to my residence so we can chat.' It is certainly their right to meet, sit together in a cordial atmosphere over lunch, and exchange views on the current political situation," Mir said.

He said the MLAs discussed several issues, including nominating a delegation of senior leaders to meet with the chief minister and present their concerns directly to the leadership.

"There was no rebellion whatsoever," Mir asserted.

Referring to the speculations about the meeting, the NC leader said,

See on Pg. 10

PM Modi calls Opposition 'Avrodh Paksh'

Raises Questions Over 'Secret' Meetings Abroad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ekta Nagar, Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said anti-India forces had become active amid a global energy crisis and slammed the Opposition, saying it had turned into "Avrodh Paksh" (obstructive force) rather than "Virodh Paksh" (opposing group).

Addressing the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Modi also warned against "dimagi Naxals", called for securing the country's borders and the need to move forward towards a "secular civil code".

Modi said the world was going through the "most difficult time" of the past several decades, with wars breaking out among several countries and economies grappling with difficulties.

"When the country was



seeking solutions to external challenges, some forces within the country were also creating instability by spreading lies and rumours. But the countrymen stood shoulder to shoulder with the nation," he said.

Taking a swipe at the Opposition, Modi said, "It is our misfortune that at this time in the country, the Opposition has turned into an Avrodh Paksh rather than Virodh Paksh. In their frustration, these people are standing as obstacles in the way of the country's development. This is not opposition, this is obstruction,"

See on Pg. 10

Jammu spruced up ahead of 'Darbar Move'

2-day highway curbs for employees' convoy

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu/Srinagar, Oct 31: Convoys of employees have begun leaving Srinagar as part of the biannual 'Darbar Move' for the winter capital Jammu, which is being readied to host the government for the next six months from Monday.

Ahead of the government's annual shift, Jammu is undergoing a major facelift, with beautification, road macadamisation and painting works nearing completion, officials said.

The government functions in Jammu for six winter months and in Srinagar during the summer.

To facilitate the smooth passage of



convoys of Secretariat employees from Srinagar to Jammu, restrictions on the movement of goods carriers have been imposed on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, also known as NH-44, on Saturday and

See on Pg. 10

2 chargesheeted for duping people on pretext of overseas jobs

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against two persons for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing overseas employment, officials said on Saturday.

The EOW has filed a chargesheet under Sections 420 and 120-B of the IPC and relevant provisions of the Emigration Act before the Court of PT&E, Srinagar, against Sajad Abdullah and Jahangir Ahmad Tanky, they said.

The case was registered following complaints alleging that the accused, proprietors of M/s Al-Aqsa Global Services Pvt Ltd, Moomin-Abad, Batamaloo in Srinagar, "lured" people with promises of lucrative overseas employment in reputed foreign companies and collected advance payments exceeding Rs 15 lakhs.

However, the promised jobs were not provided, and cheques issued towards refunds were dishonoured due to insufficient funds, the officials said.

The investigation revealed that the

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Owais Yaqoob receives invitation to attend prestigious UNCAGED MMA event in Jordan

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: In a moment of significant recognition for Indian MMA, Owais Yaqoob, one of India's emerging international MMA names, received an exclusive invitation to attend the prestigious UNCAGED MMA event in Jordan.

What makes this invitation particularly noteworthy is the calibre of personalities brought together at the event. Owais found himself among an extraordinary gathering of global icons, including boxing legend Mike Tyson, former UFC champ Cain Velasquez, football superstar Ronaldinho, internet sensation Hasbulla, the celebrated actor who portrayed Ertugrul Ghazi, and several other prominent personalities from the worlds of sports and entertainment.

Being invited from India to share the same distinguished gathering with such internationally recognised figures is more than just an appearance. It represents a significant moment of international exposure and recognition for Owais Yaqoob and a proud moment for the Indian MMA community.

With Owais Yaqoob increasingly making his presence felt on the international stage, his appearance at an event of this stature has certainly raised eyebrows and sparked curiosity.

But there is one question everyone is asking:

Is this just a prestigious invitation, or is something BIG being planned for India involving Owais Yaqoob and global sporting icons like Mike Tyson? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain, Indian MMA is getting noticed on a much bigger stage.

Construction of Mega Fruit Market begins at Adpora, Kulgam

Fruit trading to shift next year, says Ghulam Mohammad Banday

Kashmir Press Service



KULGAM, OCT. 31: In a significant development for fruit growers and traders associated with the horticulture sector in Kulgam district, the construction of a Mega Fruit Market has commenced at Adpora. The new market is expected to become operational next year, with fruit trading scheduled to shift from the existing fruit mandi to the newly established facility at Adpora.

President of the South Kashmir Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Association, Ghulam Mohammad Banday, expressed satisfaction over the development and said that the initiative had become possible due to the special interest, efforts and continuous attention of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS).

He said that the establishment of a modern and spacious fruit market had long been a pressing necessity for Kulgam district, as the existing fruit mandi witnesses enormous pressure during the peak fruit season. This not only creates difficulties for fruit growers and traders but also causes considerable inconvenience to the general public.

Banday said that the proposed Mega Fruit Market would be equipped with modern facilities, including a dedicated truck terminal and cold storage units. These facilities are expected to streamline the transportation, handling and storage of fruit produce and improve the overall functioning of the horticulture trade.

He added that the proposed truck terminal would provide an organised arrangement for the parking and movement of heavy vehicles, while cold storage facilities would prove beneficial for fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders associated with the horticulture sector.

According to Ghulam Mohammad Banday, during the fruit season, the existing fruit mandi experiences tremendous traffic pressure, resulting in prolonged traffic jams on Hospital Road, Qazigund-Kulgam Road, Kulgam-Shopian Road, Kulgam-Anantnag Road and other important connecting routes.

The movement of a large number of fruit-laden trucks, load carriers and other commercial vehicles frequently disrupts normal traffic flow, creating difficulties for commuters and residents.

He said that patients, elderly citizens, women, school-going children and daily commuters were among those worst affected by the situation. On several occasions, patients faced delays in reaching hospitals, while students also encountered difficulties in reaching their schools and returning home on time. Employees, traders and other commuters also lost valuable time due to frequent traffic congestion.

He further said that shifting fruit trading and the movement of heavy commercial vehicles to the new Mega Fruit Market at Adpora would significantly reduce traffic pressure in Kulgam town and on adjoining roads. The new facility would not only provide better trading arrangements for fruit growers and traders but also help the general public overcome the recurring transportation difficulties witnessed during the fruit season.

However, Bande clarified that despite the shifting of fruit trading activities to the new Mega Fruit Market, the office work and documentation of commission agents (Arhtiyas) would continue to be carried out at the existing fruit mandi for the time being. Their offices would remain operational at the old location, while the actual buying and selling of fruit would take place at the new market in Adpora.

He also clarified that the vegetable market would continue to function at the existing fruit mandi, and the sale and purchase of vegetables would remain unaffected. According to him, the volume of activity and traffic pressure generated by the vegetable market is comparatively minimal in comparison to the fruit trade during the peak season. Therefore, its continued operation at the old location is not expected to create major traffic-related problems.

Appreciating the district administration's efforts, Bande said that the establishment of the Mega Fruit Market was not merely a commercial project but an important step towards improving the urban traffic management system and strengthening the horticulture sector in Kulgam district.

He expressed hope that the district administration would ensure timely completion of the project along with all essential facilities so that the new market could become fully functional before the next fruit season.

Kulgam, which holds an important position in the apple-producing belt of Kashmir, has long required a well-equipped and spacious fruit market to accommodate its growing horticulture trade. The proposed Mega Fruit Market at Adpora is therefore being viewed as an important development for the district.

Public expectations are now centred on the timely completion of the project. If the new market becomes fully operational next year as anticipated, it is expected to help organise fruit trading, facilitate growers and traders, and provide substantial relief to residents and commuters from the persistent traffic congestion that has affected Kulgam town during successive fruit seasons.

Kulgam Police mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with pledge ceremonies, run for unity

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM, OCT. 31: District Police Kulgam celebrated National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) across the district on Saturday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India.



The celebrations were organised under the theme of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*, highlighting the values of national unity, integrity, solidarity and security.

On the occasion, pledge-taking ceremonies were held at various police establishments across District Kulgam, wherein officers and officials reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the unity and integrity of the nation and dedicating themselves to the service of the country.

The main function was organised at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam, where Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), graced the occasion with his presence.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), took the salute during the ceremonial march past organised as part of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations. Contingents of District Executive Police, Armed Police and Home Guards participated in the march past, reflecting discipline, dedication and the spirit of national service.

On the occasion, SSP Kulgam also administered the National Unity Pledge to the participants, who collectively reaffirmed their commitment to upholding the unity, integrity and security of the country.

Senior officers of the civil administration, police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were also present during the event. As part of the celebrations, *Run for Unity* was organised across all zones of District Kulgam, witnessing enthusiastic participation from local residents, particularly youth and students, along with officers and officials of the Police and Civil Administration. The initiative aimed at spreading the message of unity, brotherhood and national integration among people, especially the younger generation. The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment towards strengthening national unity, promoting communal harmony and upholding the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

M Altafdar Rajbagh expresses grief over demise of Nazir Ahmad Bhat

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR: M Altafdar Rajbagh has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Nazir Ahmad Bhat, son of Late Abdul Ahad Bhat, a retired Public Health Engineering (PHE) employee and resident of Zero Bridge, Srinagar.

The deceased was the beloved father of Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat and Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat and a relative of Showkat Ahmad Bhat (Rambagh), Treasurer of the Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF).

In his condolence message, M Altafdar Rajbagh conveyed his heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with the bereaved family, relatives and well-wishers. He described the demise as an irreparable loss and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the bereaved family the strength, courage and patience to endure this difficult time.

M Altafdar Rajbagh also attended the Namaz-e-Janazah of Late Nazir Ahmad Bhat, which was offered today at 10:30 AM at Zero Bridge, Srinagar.

The Fateha Khawani will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the bereaved family with Sabr-e-Jameel. Ameen.

Mega Cyclothon event held under 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' in Ganderbal

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 31: As part of the celebrations of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), a vibrant Cyclothon was organised in Ganderbal under the banner of "Run for Unity", with the objective of promoting national integration, communal harmony, brotherhood and physical fitness among the youth.

The Cyclothon flagged off by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Ganderbal at Clock Tower witnessed enthusiastic local youth participation. The participants demonstrated their spirit of unity, enthusiasm and commitment towards the cause of national integration.

The rally proceeded from Clock Tower Ganderbal and culminated at Gadoora College, witnessing active participation and great enthusiasm among the cyclists throughout the route. The event was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India, whose contribution towards the unity and integration of the nation remains an enduring source of inspiration. The Cyclothon also highlighted the importance of engaging youth in constructive activities, encouraging healthy lifestyles and strengthening the bonds of unity and togetherness in society. Senior officers from both civil and police administrations also participated in the Cyclothon.

GDC DH Pora celebrates Ekta Diwas with 'Run for Unity' in collaboration with J&K Police

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM, OCT. 31: The NSS Unit and the Department of Physical Education and Sports of Government Degree College (GDC) DH Pora celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on the college premises on Friday in collaboration with J&K Police DH Pora, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India.



The occasion was marked to pay tribute to the remarkable contribution of Sardar Patel in the integration of more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union, thereby playing a historic role in strengthening the unity and integrity of the country.

On the directions of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Salam Dar, a 'Run for Unity' was organised in which faculty members, college staff, NSS volunteers, students, LFEs and officials from the police department participated enthusiastically.

The run was flagged off by Prof. Sajad Ahmad Shah, Head of the Department of Computer Applications, and Mr. Reyaz Ahmad, SDPO DH Pora, from the college premises. Carrying a large banner depicting the theme of National Unity along with the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the participants proceeded towards the SDPO Office DH Pora, expressing their commitment to national unity and paying homage to the great leader.

A Unity Pledge was also administered on the occasion, wherein participants vowed to uphold and safeguard the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of the nation.

The programme highlighted the importance of national integration, communal harmony and collective responsibility, while encouraging students and young people to contribute towards building a united and peaceful society.

KU concludes 43rd Annual National Convention of ISMPP

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR OCT 31: The Department of Botany, University of Kashmir (KU), concluded the three-day 43rd Annual National Convention of ISMPP, held from October 29 to 31, under the theme "Advances and Challenges in Plant Pathology under Climate Resilient Agriculture."

The event was organised in collaboration with the Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology (ISMPP) and Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur,

The convention was sponsored by Teknocare Engineers, Next Gen Life Sciences, Frutech Agro Genetix, Unique Scientific, J&K Bank, Hazratbal, and JK Science Technology and Innovation Council.

The event aimed to explore research approaches, disease management strategies and scientific interventions for protecting crops and strengthening climate-resilient agriculture.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the importance of plant pathology research in addressing agricultural challenges. "Research in plant pathology is vital for understanding emerging crop diseases and developing effective strategies to protect agricultural production under changing climatic conditions," he said.

Dr. T. R. Sharma, Former Deputy Director General, ICAR, and National Fellow, IARI, New Delhi, spoke about the importance of sustained research and scientific collaboration in addressing challenges in crop protection. Delivering the R. Prasad Memorial Lecture, he shared his research journey spanning over three decades, with particular focus on rice and rice blast. He was also felicitated with the Prof. S. S. Chahal Lifetime Achievement Award.

DC Office Budgam observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Officers, Officials witness Live Streaming of PM's Address, Parade & Cultural Programmes



Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 31: As part of the celebrations of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, officers and officials of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Budgam, participated in the national-level celebrations through live streaming of the programme.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) and other officers and officials witnessed the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Gujarat, along with the ceremonial parade and various cultural programmes organised to mark the occasion.

The address of the Prime Minister was centred on the vision of a united and strong India, highlighting the significance of national unity, integrity and collective responsibility in the journey towards a developed nation.

The programme also underscored the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, encouraging citizens to uphold the ideals of unity in diversity, patriotism and national solidarity.

The officers and employees also participated in the Ekta Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation and upholding the values of national solidarity and collective responsibility.

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JK Govt begins budget exercise for 2027-28, discussions from Nov 16

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, OCT 31 :J&K Government has initiated the budget formulation process for 2027-28, with discussions on budget proposals scheduled to commence from November 16.

According to an itinerary issued by the department the budget discussions on the

Revised Estimates (RE) for 2026-27 and Budget Estimates (BE) for 2027-28 will commence on November 16 and continue till December 2.

The Finance Department will hold detailed deliberations with 36 administrative departments as part of the annual budget preparation exercise.

In directions issued to the departments, the Finance Department has asked them

to furnish Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on budget announcements, wherever applicable, well before their scheduled discussion dates. They have also been asked to provide complete details relating to establishment budget and Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) requirements.

Besides, all departments have been directed to submit PowerPoint

presentations in both hard and soft copies covering sanctioned and in-position staff strength, contractual

employees, scheme-wise trends in revenue and capital expenditure, revenue receipts over the last five years, details of major

projects, liabilities of ongoing projects and key features of the proposed budget.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: DGP, IGP interact with students at Lal Chowk



Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, OCT 31 :Amid the spirit of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at Srinagar's iconic Lal Chowk, a warm interaction between police leadership and young students offered a glimpse of the

human side of policing, as Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar spent time with students of Police Public School on Saturday.

Senior officers interacted with the students and posed for photographs with them, turning the occasion into a memorable moment for the young participants.

The celebrations brought together police personnel, students, youth, members of civil society and other stakeholders, reflecting the spirit of public participation and togetherness associated with the occasion.

The interaction also highlighted the importance of building trust and strengthening the relationship between the police and the younger generation beyond their conventional roles.

The live telecast of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Parade was also screened at police stations and police posts across Jammu and Kashmir, enabling personnel and other participants to witness the national-level celebrations.

NC Govt will collapse like pack of cards: LoP Sharma

Kashmir News Observer

KISHTWAR, OCT 31 :Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Saturday claimed that growing discontent within the ruling National Conference (NC) following the recent Cabinet expansion could deepen the party's internal crisis and threaten the stability of both the party and the government.

Speaking to reporters in Kishtwar, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he had anticipated resentment among MLAs who were not included in the Council of Ministers.

"On the day of the Cabinet expansion itself, I had said this was the beginning of the end. The National Conference will collapse like a house of cards," he said.

Sharma asserted that dissatisfaction within the party extended beyond ministerial berths and reflected growing opposition to what he described as dynastic politics and family rule.

Referring to reports of a meeting between some disgruntled NC legislators, he said the developments suggested that efforts in that direction may already be underway.

"I believe some activities in that direction may have begun yesterday," he said, adding that neither the government nor the party would remain intact if the situation continued.

Weather to remain dry till Nov 9: MeT

Shopian coldest at 0.5°C; Srinagar records 3°C, Pahalgam 0.2°C

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, OCT 31 :Night temperatures remained below normal at several places in Kashmir, with Shopian recording the lowest minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Department has forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9.

According to the forecast Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 3 degrees Celsius against the normal of 3.7 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 0.2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.1 degrees Celsius, against the normal of 2.3 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund and Kupwara recorded minimum temperatures of 2.6 and 2.3 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Among other places, Bandipora recorded 3.5 degrees Celsius, Anantnag 3.2 degrees Celsius, Baramulla 4.8 degrees Celsius, Pulwama 1.4 degrees Celsius and Sonamarg 1.1



degrees Celsius.

Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius among the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in the Valley.

In Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 15.8 degrees Celsius, while Katra registered 13.9 degrees Celsius, Kathua 14.5 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 5.4 degrees Celsius.

The weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours, with Reasi recording the highest rainfall of 0.5 mm, the department said.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the weather would remain partly cloudy on November 1 and 2, with brief spells of rain likely at isolated places towards the evening.

Police ready to, safeguard country's integrity: IGP Kashmir

Refers to PM's call, flags cybercrime as major challenge

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, OCT 31 :Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to protect national unity, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir Police are ready to face challenges in safeguarding the integrity of the country.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at historic Lal Chowk here, IGP Kumar said, "The Prime Minister has given us a task to save the unity and integrity of the country. We are ready to face any challenges in the coming days."

Pertinently, Ekta Diwas parade, was telecast live from Kevadia, Gujarat. LG Sinha, top officers of J&K Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), youth and schoolchildren witnessed the live celebrations. They also listened to the Prime Minister's address to the nation.

Ashutosh Dixit takes over as new IAF chief, AP Singh retires after 42 years

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Saturday took over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, succeeding Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who retired after 42 years of service in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

As per details AP Singh superannuated on October 31, bringing to a close a career during which he held several important operational and leadership assignments and contributed to the force's combat preparedness and modernisation.

An accomplished fighter pilot and Experimental Test Pilot, AP Singh served as Chief of the Air Staff during a period marked by a focus on operational readiness, particularly during 'Operation Sindoor,' in which the IAF demonstrated its operational capabilities.

During his tenure, Singh, as per details, stressed indigenisation, innovation and the adoption of emerging technologies to strengthen the IAF's operational capabilities. He maintained a strong focus on personnel, encouraging professionalism, accountability and initiative among air warriors.

Meanwhile, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986.

With a career spanning four decades, Dixit has extensive experience in operations, flight testing, capability development and joint staff assignments. An accomplished fighter pilot, Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot, he has logged over 3,300 hours of flying on various aircraft, including Mirage-2000, MiG variants, Jaguar and transport aircraft.

He played an important role in the modernisation of the IAF and was instrumental in finalising the Jaguar and MiG-27 upgrade projects, besides contributing to the Initial Operational Clearance

(IOC) and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) activities of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-I Tejas.

EOW Kashmir files chargesheet against 2 for duping job seekers of Rs 15 lakh

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, OCT 31: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against two persons for allegedly duping job seekers of over Rs 15 lakh on the pretext of providing overseas employment, officials said.

In a statement a spokesperson said the EOW Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in case FIR No. 32/2026 under Sections 420 and 120-B of the IPC and Sections 10/24 of the Emigration Act before the Court of PT&E, Srinagar, against Sajad Abdullah, son of Mohammad Abdullah Sheikh, resident of Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, Srinagar, and Jahangir Ahmad Tanky, son of Hafizullah Tanky, resident of Sheshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, Srinagar.

He said the case was registered following complaints alleging that the accused, proprietors of M/s Al-Aqsa Global Services Pvt. Ltd., Moomin-Abad, Lane-04, Batamaloo, Srinagar, lured people with promises of lucrative overseas employment in reputed foreign companies and collected advance payments exceeding Rs 15 lakh.

The spokesperson said the promised jobs were not provided and cheques issued towards refunds were dishonoured due to insufficient funds. The investigation revealed that the consultancy was registered as an excursion agent for tour and travel services and not as a recruiting agent, and was operating without the requisite registration for overseas recruitment.

It was further established that both accused received lakhs of rupees in their respective personal bank accounts from complainants on the pretext of providing overseas employment but failed to fulfil their promises. He said that despite sustained efforts, accused Jahangir Ahmad Tanky could not be traced and had been absconding since 2025.

The investigation was concluded as proved, and the chargesheet has been filed before the competent court for judicial determination. SSP EOW Kashmir advised job seekers to verify the credentials .

People would oust NC if asked to give verdict today: Sajad Lone

Kashmir News Observer

HANDWARA, OCT 31 :People's Conference (PC) president and MLA Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the National Conference (NC), claiming that if people were given an opportunity to express their views today, they would vote the ruling party out of government.

Commenting on reports surrounding MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and his decision to leave the National Conference, MLA Lone said the matter was entirely internal to the party and that the People's Conference had nothing to do with it.

"We have nothing to do with that. Who is leaving and who is not is their internal issue," he said. Lone, however, maintained that the public mood was against the ruling party, claiming that people would give their verdict against the NC if they were asked to express their opinion today. "If people are being asked to express their views today, they will definitely vote them out of the government," Lone said.

Kangri makers in Charar-i-Sharief struggle as demand falls

Kashmir News Observer



BUDGAM, OCT 31 :With winter approaching, Kangri makers in Charar-i-Sharief area of central Kashmir's Budgam district are busy crafting traditional firepots, even as they face declining demand amid the growing use of modern heating appliances.

Charar-i-Sharief is home to artisans who produce a wide range of Kangris, including traditional varieties used for warmth, special bridal Kangris, decorative showpieces and smaller designs.

The Kangri, an earthen pot encased in finely woven willow wicker, has remained an integral part of Kashmiri life during winter, traditionally carried beneath the pheran to provide warmth during the harsh cold months.

Bashir Ahmad Dar, an award-winning willow-wicker artisan who received the UT Award 2022, Second Prize, in Willow Wicker craft, said the use of Kangris has declined considerably over the years.

"Earlier, almost everyone used Kangris, but today people use them less because electric heating appliances have become common. We are trying to make different varieties, including bridal Kangris and decorative pieces, to keep this traditional craft alive," Dar said.

Dar, who has been associated with the craft for around four to five decades, said his workshop employs around five to eight workers and produces approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Kangris. He added that sales are largely concentrated during the winter months, particularly November, December, January and February.

Highlighting the distinctive identity of Kangris made in Charar-i-Sharief, Dar said the area is particularly known for its special bridal Kangri, locally referred to as "Mahreen Kangri", besides several other varieties.

New academic session starts Monday in Kashmir schools

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, OCT 31 :The educational institutions across Kashmir Valley are set to begin academic session 2026–27 from November-02 for KG to Class-10 students.

An official informed that the new academic session commenced after the schools completed annual assessments and declared results in line with the academic calendar.

Schools are expected to begin regular classes, issue textbooks and prepare a new curriculum in the first week of November.

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education had earlier said that the free textbooks among students will be distributed to various educational zones in the first week of November.

Earlier, former Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo directed the officials to ensure timely completion of preparation of textbooks, syllabus and other needs.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | SUNDAY
01-NOVEMBER-2026
04
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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/o ABDUL AZIZ RATHER R/o HARDU SHURU Tehsil: Kunzer Distt: Baramulla, do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as FAROAOQ AHMAD RATHER in my Passport bearing No. N8452342, whereas my correct name is FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER. That my correct name may kindly be read and treated as "FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER" for all official and legal purposes, including correction in my Passport and other relevant documents. I hereby declare that both names belong to one and the same person, i.e., myself.

C-145

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the PDD electricity agreement bearing Consumer ID No. 0213040011473, presently registered in the name of Gh Mohammad Sheikh R/o Zangam, Pattan, under PDD Sub-Division Pattan, is proposed to be transferred in the name of his son Ab Rahim Sheikh S/o Gh Mohammad Sheikh, R/o Zangam, Pattan, Baramulla.

Any person having any objection regarding the proposed transfer of the said electricity agreement may submit their objection before the concerned PDD Office, Sub-Division Pattan, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the concerned authorities may proceed with the transfer process as per rules.

Applicant: Ab Rahim Sheikh S/o: Gh Mohammad Sheikh
R/o: Zangam, Pattan, Baramulla
Mobile No.: 9906542516
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 795257441610 has been my name is admitted Mohammad Zeyaan Sofi S/o Zahoor Ahmad Sofi R/o Bandi pain while my correct name is as per DOB Mohammad Zain Sofi S/o Zahoor Ahmad Sofi R/o Bandi Payeen. Now, I want to apply its correction in my regard if anybody having any objection may file the same concerned department within the period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Zain Sofi
S/o Zahoor Ahmad Sofi
R/o Bandi Payeen, Baramulla
(MSG)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 436258495660 has been my name is admitted Zuyana Gul D/o Ghulam Mohammad Najar R/o Bandi pain while as my correct name is as per DOB Certificate Zainab Gul D/o Gh. Mohd. Najar R/o Bandi Payeen. Now, I want to apply its correction in my regard if anybody having any objection may file the same concerned department within the period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zainab Gul
D/o Gh. Mohd. Najar
R/o Bandi Payeen, Baramulla
(MSG)

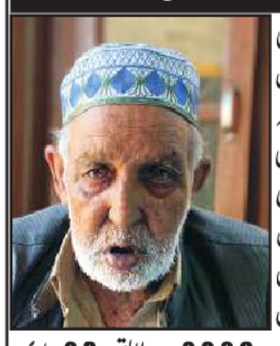
PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my J&K Bank Passbook bearing Account No. 0006040100014314 as Gulzara Rasool Danposh whereas per my Aadhaar Card my correct name is Gulzara. Now, I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the office of Branch Manager J&K Bank Safakadal within 07 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Gulzara
W/o Ghulam Rasool Danposh
R/o Braripora, Sakidafar, Eidgah, Srinagar
8279

عبدالحمید دھوبی کو صدمہ

والد صاحب انتقال کر گئے



یہ خبر نہایت ہی دُکھ کے ساتھ شائع کی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام احمد دھوبی ولد محمد اسماعیل دھوبی ساکنہ شالہ باغ کرالہ پورہ مورخہ **31** اکتوبر **2026**ء بمطابق **19** جمادی الاوّل **1448**ھ بروز سنیچروار کو خالق حقیقی جا ملے۔ مرحوم کے انتقال پر علاقہ بھر میں دُکھ کا اظہار کیا گیا اور مرحوم کو پُرنم آنکھوں کے ساتھ سپردِ خاک کیا گیا۔ لواحقین کے مطابق مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی **3** نومبر **2026**ء بمطابق **23** جمادی الاوّل **1448**ھ بروز منگوار ان کے آبائی مقبرہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ اُدھر عبدالرشید وانی گاؤکدل نے لواحقین کے ساتھ تعزیت کرتے ہوئے اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا کی کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت الفردوس جگہ نصیب کرے اور لواحقین خاص عبدالحمید دھوبی کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا کرے۔

سوگوار خاندان

نوٹ: مستورات سے گذارش ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی قسم کا میوہ وغیرہ نہ لائیں۔

2169

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my J&K Bank Passbook bearing Account No. 0006040800001176 as Mehmooda Malik whereas per my Aadhaar Card my correct name is Mehmooda. Now, I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the office of Branch Manager J&K Bank Safakadal within 07 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mehmooda
W/o Farooq Ahmad Malik
R/o Chana Mohalla, Chattabal, Srinagar
8279

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Tender No:- 174,175-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR & 176,177,178,187-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR Date: 30.10.2026 DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on **www.ireps.gov.in** with **closing date- 20.11.2026** up to **15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnest money only through the payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like Net Banking. Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	**Bid Starting Date**	**Tender Closing Date/Time**
28.10.2026	06.11.2026	20.11.2026 & 15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	174-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works at Station Building and other service buildings from FZP to FKA & ABS to FKA (excl.) to FZP section (Zone-1) in the section of SSE/Works/JBD under ADEN-II/FZR (2026-27).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	8998531.26	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".				
2.	175-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works at station building and other service buildings from FZR (excl.) - JUC (excl.) section (Zone No-2) in the section of SSE/W/LNK in the jurisdiction of ADEN-II/FZR (2026-27).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	4999150.39	100000.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar nature of work :- "NIL".				
3.	176-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works in FZR (excl.)-BTI (excl.) and KKP-FKA (excl.) section (Zone No-4) in the section of SSE/Works/KKP under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-27).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	8999356.59	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".				
4.	177-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works in TWB (excl.)-LDH (excl.) section (Zone No-5) in the section of SSE/Works/JGN under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	8999111.36	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".				
5.	178-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alterations to existing structure & emergent works in Colony No.1 & 2 at FZR (Zone No-1) in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	8998367.70	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".				
6.	187-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alterations to existing structure & emergent works in Colony No.3 & 4 at FZR (Zone No-2) in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**	**Period of Completion**	
	8995514.01	179900.00	60 Days	12 Months	
	Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".				

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2026-27 Dated: 30.10.2026 **3821/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

IEI J&K State Centre holds 61st Annual General Meeting



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir State Centre, successfully convened its 61st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, at its auditorium at Church Lane, Sonwarbagh, Srinagar.

The meeting witnessed the participation of distinguished Corporate Members of the Institution affiliated with the J&K State Centre.

The Annual General Meeting provided an important occasion to review the activities and achievements of the State Centre during the financial year 2025–26, assess its institutional progress, and deliberate upon future initiatives aimed at strengthening the engineering fraternity and promoting professional excellence across Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Er. Ferdous Ahad Bhat, FIE, Chairman, IEI J&K State Centre, presented an overview of the Centre's activities and achievements. He highlighted the successful organisation of various technical programmes, seminars, professional interactions and other institutional activities undertaken during the year. He also underlined the encouraging growth in membership, reflecting the continued engagement of engineering professionals with the Institution.

The Chairman reiterated the State Centre's commitment to providing meaningful professional platforms for engineers, encouraging knowledge-sharing and technical collaboration, and contributing towards the advancement of engineering education, research and sustainable development in the region. He also emphasised the importance of active participation by Corporate Members in strengthening the Institution and expanding its professional outreach.

Er. Irfan Ahmad Reshi, MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI J&K State Centre, presented the Annual Report and Audited Statements of Accounts for the financial year 2025–26, outlining the major activities, programmes and institutional developments undertaken during the reporting period. The report provided members with an overview of the Centre's functioning and its continued efforts to fulfil the objectives of the Institution.

The meeting also provided a valuable platform for members to deliberate upon matters relating to the effective functioning of the State Centre and to exchange views on the future course of its activities. Emphasis was laid on the need for all Corporate Members to take a more active and meaningful part in the technical programmes and professional activities organised by the Centre.

سکول ریکارڈ میں تاریخ پیدائش کی درستی

ہر خاص کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میری تاریخ پیدائش غلطی سے سکول ریکارڈ میں 01.04.2017 غلط اندراج ہوئی ہے اور اب اس کو درست کرنا مطلوب ہے، جبکہ میری اصلی تاریخ پیدائش 16.04.2014 ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو سات روز کے اندر اندر متعلقہ دفتر سے رجوع کریں بعد گذرنے معیاد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول ہوگا، بذریعہ۔۔ سیرت فیاض دختر فیاض احمد ساکن بہی پورہ، پانچویں جماعت، ایڈمیشن نمبر 962

ماں کا نام، حفیظہ بیگم

گورنمنٹ مڈل اسکول بہی پورہ

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that All Kashmir Tempo Travellers Tata Winger Taxi Owners Association, registered under J&K Government Trade Union Registration No. 1439/69/MTU/I/SGR/18 has changed its name to All Kashmir Tempo Travellers Taxi Owners Association. It is further notified that the association's registered address has also been changed to from Batamallo to Boulevard Road, Tang Bagh, Gate No. 8 Dalgate Srinagar. The membership has been reconstituted and the association's official records updated accordingly. All concerned government departments, members, authorities and the general public are hereby requested to take note of the above changes and use the new name and address for all future correspondence and official purposes.

8279

ADDC Bandipora chairs meeting to review human-wildlife conflict

Kashmir Age News

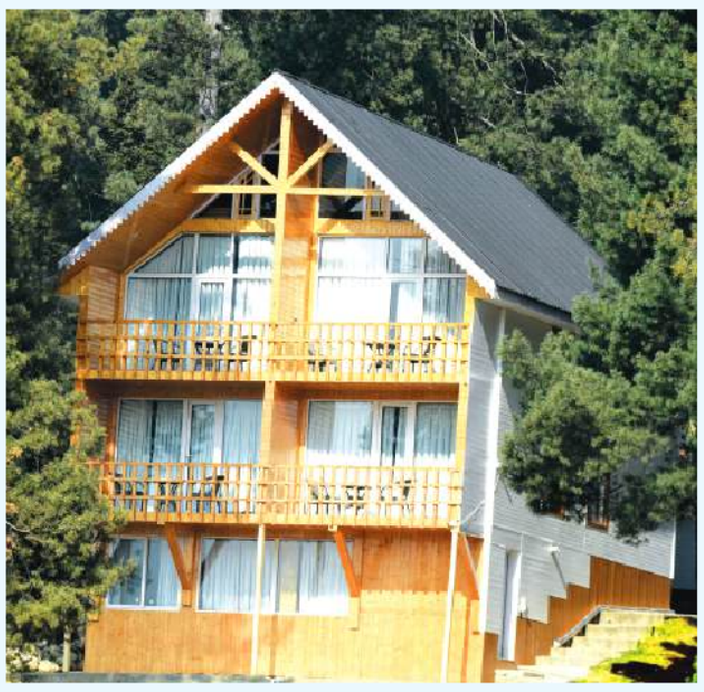
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: A meeting of the District Level Task Force (DTF) for Mitigation and Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir to review the prevailing situation and discuss preventive measures.

During the meeting, the Wildlife Department highlighted human-wildlife conflict hotspots, incidents of human casualties and injuries, and the need for adequate manpower and infrastructure, particularly in Gurez. Concerns regarding crop damage caused by wild boars and monkeys were also discussed.

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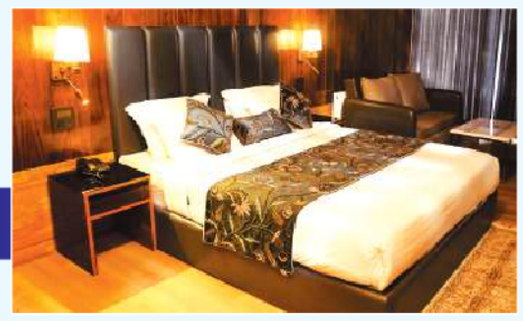
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01-NOVEMBER-2026

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J&K Tourism bags 2 prestigious awards at IITM Mumbai

Kashmir Age News

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 31: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism has added another feather to its cap by winning two prestigious honours at the India International Travel Mart (IITM) in Mumbai. The J&K was adjudged the Best Adventure Tourism Destination and Best Experiential Tourism Destination, recognising its growing popularity and immense potential as a premier destination for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism in the country.

The awards were received by Waseem Raja, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir.

The recognition reflects the increasing popularity of Jammu and Kashmir among domestic travellers and its growing reputation as a destination offering diverse adventure activities, immersive travel experiences and breathtaking natural landscapes.



IITM is a prominent tourism promotion event organised across various states of the country, bringing together tourism departments, travel operators and other industry stakeholders on a common platform. J&K Tourism participated in the event alongside several states, including Gujarat and Telangana, as well as private tourism stakeholders.

The J&K Tourism pavilion attracted an overwhelming response from local tour operators, travel agents and tourism stakeholders from Maharashtra. Hundreds of visitors reportedly visited the pavilion during the two-day event, showing keen interest in the tourism potential and diverse travel experiences offered by Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K Tourism delegation comprised Waseem Raja, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, and Vivek Puri, Chief Executive Officer, Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority. During the two-day event, the delegation held detailed interactions and meetings with prominent tour operators and tourism stakeholders from Maharashtra to explore avenues for strengthening tourism promotion, expanding travel partnerships and attracting more visitors to Jammu and Kashmir. The double recognition at IITM Mumbai is expected to further enhance Jammu and Kashmir's visibility in the national tourism market and strengthen its position as a preferred destination for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism.

Bandipora Admin joins nation in observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: The District Administration Bandipora today joined the nationwide observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, by participating in the live broadcast of the national-level celebrations graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The national-level celebrations were held at Parade Ground, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his monumental contribution to the unity and integrity of the nation.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi administered the Rashtriya Ekta pledge, reaffirming the collective commitment to uphold the unity, integrity and security of the country.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Tahir Saleem Khan, joined the live broadcast at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, along with district officers and officials.

The observance highlighted the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose pivotal role in the integration of the country remains an enduring source of inspiration. The occasion also underscored the importance of national unity, integrity and solidarity in strengthening the bonds among citizens.

Kulgam Admin organises mega 'Run for Unity' to mark 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM, OCT 31 To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India, the District Administration Kulgam on Saturday organised a mega 'Run for Unity' to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), witnessing enthusiastic participation from people across different sections of society.



The Run for Unity was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), from Mini Stadium Kulgam. The run passed through Chattabal Bypass and Chawalgam before culminating at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, amid great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), ADC Kulgam Viqar Ahmad Giri (JKAS), ACR Reyaz Ahmad Shah (JKAS), other district officers, officials from the Police and Civil Administration, students from various schools and colleges, sportspersons and members of the general public participated in the event. Hundreds of men, women and youth joined the run, reflecting their commitment to national unity and integrity.

On the occasion, participants also took the Rashtriya Ekta Pledge, vowing to uphold and safeguard the unity, integrity and security of the nation. A special function to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was also organised at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, where Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam highlighted the significant contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel towards the unification of the country and his role in shaping modern India.

The DC observed that National Unity Day is celebrated to reaffirm the collective commitment towards preserving the unity and integrity of the nation and spreading the message of national integration. He also highlighted the vision of India as a democratic, secular and socialist republic, where people from diverse backgrounds enjoy equal opportunities, freedom and liberty. Appreciating the overwhelming participation of youth in the event, the Deputy Commissioner called upon people to work collectively for maintaining peace, promoting progress and strengthening the spirit of unity and brotherhood.

At the conclusion of the celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam (IAS) and SSP Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS) felicitated the winners of the Run for Unity in both men's and women's categories. The top three performers in each category were awarded trophies, medals and cash prizes of Rs 5,000, Rs 3,000 and Rs 2,000, respectively. All participants were appreciated for their enthusiastic participation and contribution towards making the event a success.

Govt Degree College Qazigund celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Kashmir Press Service

Qazigund: National Service Scheme Unit of Govt. Degree College Qazigund celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose remarkable contribution towards the political integration and unity of the nation remains unparalleled.



In his address to the students the Principal Prof.(Dr) Sudhir Singh said that this day aims at promoting the values of national unity, integrity, mutual harmony and brotherhood among students. "Diversity is our identity and preserving it with unified efforts is the need of hour. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel is a symbol of unity who unified all of us into one great nation. Our unity is a pre-requisite for realising the vision of Viksit Bharat," he added.

On the occasion, students, faculty members and other staff members participated in activities highlighting the importance of unity in diversity and the role of citizens in preserving the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. Mass singing of the National Song followed by the National Anthem & pledge to strengthen the spirit of national integration and uphold the principles of unity, peace and solidarity by the staff and students of the College. Afshana Shaukat, a student representative, administered the pledge.

Earlier the programme started with the welcome note of the NSS Programme Officer Prof Nehad K. Fatima who stressed on the importance of standing united for building up a great nation." Youth is a great power and the future of the country lies in their hands," she added.

An Ekta Rally was also organised by the students and staff to reaffirm their commitment to uphold the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and contribute towards building a strong, peaceful and united India. The occasion served as a reminder that national unity and collective responsibility are essential for the progress and prosperity of the country. Prominent among the staff include Prof Aufaq Ahmad Zargar, Prof. Irshad Ahmad, Dr. Basharat Reshi, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Dr. Mukhtayar, Dr. Meenaza Manzoor & Basit Mushtaq Naikoo. The programme concluded with a renewed enthusiasm for making India the envy of the world.

Kupwara's Sufi heritage gets recognition through new book

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: In a proud moment for Kupwara district, a book titled **"Kupwara: An Abode of Sufi Saints,"** authored by Khursheed Ahmad Dar, a resident of Pohrupeth, Handwara, was formally



released by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar.

The book highlights the rich spiritual heritage, Sufi traditions and historical significance of Kupwara district. It aims to document the contributions of Sufi saints and preserve the region's centuries-old spiritual and cultural legacy for future generations.

The publication is expected to serve as a valuable source of information for readers, researchers and those interested in Kashmir's Sufi history and traditions.

The release of the book marks an important contribution towards documenting and promoting the cultural and spiritual identity of Kupwara district.

Inam Un Nabi visits fire-hit Shiv Market in Jammu; seeks immediate relief

Kashmir Press Service

JAMMU: Awami Ittihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi visited the fire-ravaged Shiv Market in Jammu to assess the devastation caused by the massive blaze that gutted dozens of shops and severely affected the livelihoods of local traders.



Expressing solidarity with the affected trading community on behalf of entire AIP leadership, Inam Un Nabi urged the Omar Abdullah-led government to announce an immediate relief package, ensure transparent assessment of losses and provide adequate compensation without unnecessary procedural delays.

"The affected traders cannot be left to rebuild their lives on assurances alone. For many families, these shops represented years of hard work, investment and their only source of income. The government must provide immediate financial assistance and ensure their businesses are restored through a time-bound rehabilitation plan," he said.

Inam Un Nabi said the government must move beyond expressions of sympathy and political assurances and demonstrate its commitment through tangible relief, timely compensation and a clear roadmap for restoring the affected businesses.

AIP reiterated its solidarity with the affected trading community and urged the administration to act with urgency and sensitivity.

Sakeena Itoo convenes public outreach camp at Nagnard; distributes solar lights

Kashmir Age News

KULGAM, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today convened a public outreach camp at Nagnard, D.H. Pora, Kulgam, to take stock of public issues and assess the developmental needs of the area.



The Minister, accompanied by officers of various departments, listened to issues of public importance raised by community members including demands related to civic amenities and welfare.

Interacting with the people, Sakeena Itoo underscored the importance of unity and collective efforts in ensuring holistic development of the area. She assured that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased manner.

She said road connectivity would be extended to far-flung areas and necessary steps would be taken to provide healthcare and education facilities through establishment of a dispensary, upgradation of the existing Middle School and improvement of mobile network connectivity.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to identify and address the highlighted issues on priority and ensure timely redressal of public grievances.

She stressed that the benefits of government schemes and developmental initiatives must reach the deserving population.

On the occasion, the Minister distributed 106 solar lights among local residents.

The camp was attended by SDM Noorabad, CMO Kulgam, CAO Kulgam, CEO Kulgam, CHO Kulgam, Tehsildar D.H. Pora, XEN PWD (R&B) D.H. Pora, AD FCS&CA Kulgam and CDPO D.H. Pora.

MY Bharat Bandipora organises district-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: MY Bharat Bandipora, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, organised the District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 125 students who registered for the event.

The programme was graced by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, as the Chief Guest.

The Deputy Commissioner, interacted with the students and appreciated the students' debate performances, emphasised research-based thinking, and highlighted the importance of book reading in shaping young minds. Recalling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on National Unity Day, she stressed that differences of opinion should never divide people.

On the occasion, the DC encouraged students to participate in Nun Chai Talks, visit the Waqar Knowledge and Youth Empowerment Centre, and pursue careers based on their interests.

The DC felicitated the participating students and appreciated their enthusiasm, active participation and commitment to shaping a progressive and developed India.



The central theme of the Youth Parliament was "One Nation, One Election", which provided a platform for young minds to engage in meaningful deliberations on an important issue of national significance. Participants shared their perspectives, articulated arguments and engaged in healthy discussions, reflecting their awareness of India's democratic framework and governance processes.

Padma Shri awardee Faisal Ali Dar attended the event as the Special Guest and appreciated the growing enthusiasm and participation of youth in sports. A representative of the civil society also lauded the District Administration's sustained efforts towards promoting cleanliness, development and public welfare.

Srijan Singh Patel, District Youth Officer, Bandipora, highlighted the vision of MY Bharat and the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament initiative, emphasising the importance of providing young citizens with platforms to express their views, develop leadership qualities and contribute meaningfully to national conversations.

When a Proprietor Dies, Must His GST Credit Die Too?



AIJAZ HUSSAIN MALIK

Few calls that reach a tax office are as delicate as the one that begins with a death in the family. A trader who built his business over decades passes away, and within days his family, his accountant, and sometimes even a fellow officer want to know what becomes of the GST registration, the stock lying in the godown and the input tax credit sitting in the electronic credit ledger. Is all of it lost? Does the stock suddenly become taxable? Can a son or daughter who already holds a GSTIN simply take the business over?

The questions are natural because a sole proprietorship has no separate legal identity. The proprietor is the business, and the GST registration is granted against his personal PAN. When he dies, the registration loses its owner overnight, while the shop, the stock, the debtors and the credit remain very much alive. Fortunately, the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 and the identical State laws, including the J&K Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, answer each of these questions. The answers are spread across Sections 18, 22, 29, 85 and 93 and Schedule II of the Act, Rule 41 of the Rules, and Circular No. 96/15/2019-GST issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on 28 March 2019. This article brings them together and walks through them with examples drawn from ordinary business life.

A common belief is that Section 29 cancels the registration on death. It does not. Section 29(1) says that the proper officer "may", on his own motion or on an application filed by the registered person "or by his legal heirs, in case of death of such person", cancel the registration where the business has been discontinued or "transferred fully for any reason including death of the proprietor". Death, in other words, is a ground on which cancellation may be ordered. The GSTIN continues to exist until the officer passes an order in FORM GST REG-19, and until then return obligations keep falling due.

It is the legal heir who sets the process in motion by filing FORM GST REG-16 and choosing "death of sole proprietor" as the reason. Once that application is filed, Rule 21A treats the registration as suspended, so no further returns under Section 39 are required while it is pending. Equally important, Section 29(3) makes it clear that cancellation never wipes out the liabilities of the period before it.

Every case of a proprietor's death turns on a single fact: will anyone carry the business forward? Circular No. 96/15/2019-GST clarifies that the death of a sole proprietor amounts to a "transfer or change in the ownership of business" for the purposes of Section 18(3), Section 22(3), Section 85(1) and Rule 41(1). If the business is continued by a successor, the unutilised credit can travel to him. If the business is closed, it cannot. Two examples show how differently the two roads run.

Mr. ABC ran a hardware store in Budgam for nearly three decades. When he died last winter, his electronic credit ledger showed 1,70,000 of Central Tax and 1,70,000 of State Tax credit, and the shop held stock worth about 18 lakh. His son Mr. XYZ already runs a sanitary-ware business in Srinagar under his own GSTIN, also registered in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. XYZ's mother and sister are happy for him to take over the hardware store.

The first step is not a tax form but a family document. Under personal law the business devolves on all the heirs, while GST needs one identifiable successor. Mr. XYZ's mother and sister therefore sign a relinquishment deed in his favour. With that deed, his father's death certificate and the legal heir certificate in hand, Mr. XYZ visits the jurisdictional officer. Nobody can log in on a deceased person's behalf, so, following the procedure explained in the GSTN's FAQs on the subject, the officer adds Mr. XYZ's as an authorised signatory on his father's registration. Mr. XYZ's now files the returns his father could not, and clears any tax due up to the date of death.

Next comes his own registration. Section 22(3) makes a successor liable to be registered from the date of succession. Had Mr. XYZ not been registered, he would have applied in FORM GST REG-01 within thirty days, selecting "death of the proprietor" as the reason, exactly as the Circular directs. Since he already holds a GSTIN in Jammu and Kashmir, no second registration is required. Section 85(2) asks a registered transferee who carries on the transferred business to seek amendment of his registration, so Mr. XYZ files FORM GST REG-14 under Rule 19, adding the Budgam shop as an additional place of business. If he preferred to keep the hardware store separate, he could take a separate registration for it under Rule 11 and use that GSTIN instead.

Now the credit moves. Section 18(3) permits the unutilised credit in the electronic credit ledger to be transferred where the business changes hands "with the specific provisions for transfer of liabilities", and Rule 41(1) prescribes FORM GST ITC-02 for any "change in the ownership of business for any reason". Rule 41(2) requires a certificate from a practising chartered accountant or cost accountant confirming that the transfer carries the liabilities with it. Mr. XYZ therefore gives a written undertaking to clear all GST dues of his father, and the accountant certifies on that basis. Logging in to his father's GSTIN, Mr. XYZ files ITC-02 showing his own GSTIN as the transferee and Rs 3,40,000 as the credit to be transferred. He then logs in to his own GSTIN and accepts it. Under Rule 41(3), the credit lands in his electronic credit ledger the moment he accepts.

Only after this does Mr. XYZ file REG-16 on his father's GSTIN, citing death of the sole proprietor and quoting his own GSTIN as the transferee, so that the two registrations stand linked. The sequence is not a technicality. Paragraph 3(d) of the Circular requires ITC-02 to be filed before the application for cancellation, and Rule 20 expects REG-16 within thirty days of the event. In practice, therefore, the whole exercise should be completed within the first month. Once the officer passes the cancellation order in REG-19, Mr. XYZ files the final return in FORM GSTR-10 on his father's GSTIN within three months, as Section 45 and Rule 81 require.

This is where families worry most, and needlessly. Paragraph 4(c) of Schedule II deems the business assets of a person who ceases to be a taxable person to have been supplied by him, but expressly not where "the business is transferred as a going concern to another person" or "the business is carried on by a personal representative". Mr. XYZ's case falls squarely within the exception. Even if one were to treat the passing of a running business as a supply, Serial No. 2 of Notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate) exempts the transfer of a going concern. Rule 41(4), for its part, simply asks the transferee to account for the inputs and capital goods so transferred in his books, which shows that the law expects the stock to travel alongside the credit. Mr. XYZ records the 18 lakh of stock in his books and pays tax when he sells the goods, as any trader would.

One caution deserves mention. Section 29(5) asks every person whose registration is cancelled to pay an amount equal to the credit on stock in hand, and it contains no express exception for a transfer of business. The better and widely followed view, reading it together with Section 18(3), Rule 41(4) and Schedule II, is that nothing is payable where stock passes to a successor as a going concern, because the goods remain within the tax chain and will be taxed on sale. The prudent course is full disclosure: show the stock as on the date of death in REG-16 and GSTR-10, with a note that it has passed to the transferee GSTIN in terms of Circular No. 96/15/2019-GST. If Mr. XYZ shifts some of the goods to his Srinagar shop, the movement is not a supply, but the goods should still travel on a delivery challan under Rule 55 and, above the prescribed value threshold, with an e-way bill under Rule 138.

Suppose that six months after the takeover a scrutiny of Mr. ABC's returns reveals a short payment of 45,000 for an earlier year. Mr. XYZ cannot say the debt was his father's alone. Section 93(1)(a) makes the legal representative or any other person who continues the business liable for the deceased's tax, interest and penalty, whether determined before or after the death, and Section 85(1) makes the transferor and the transferee jointly and severally liable for dues up to the date of transfer. The Circular confirms the position. The notice, however, must be addressed to Mr. XYZ and not to his late father. The family should hear it plainly from the outset: taking the credit means taking the past.

Mr. TP ran an electronics showroom in a neighbouring district. After his death, his wife and two daughters, both settled in other professions, decide to close it. Here no business is transferred, so no credit can be transferred either. One of the heirs is added as authorised signatory, files the pending returns and applies in REG-16 citing death of the sole proprietor.

The stock now attracts Section 29(5). Suppose the goods on the shelves were purchased for Rs 5,00,000 and carried input tax credit of Rs 90,000 at 18 per cent, while their market value today is only Rs 4,00,000, on which output tax would be Rs 72,000. The law requires the higher of the two, so Rs 90,000 is payable. Rule 44 explains the computation: credit on inputs is worked out proportionately from the purchase invoices, credit on capital goods is reduced pro rata over a useful life of five years, and where invoices are missing the amount is estimated on the prevailing market price. If the ledger holds 30,000 of credit, it is set off against this amount and the remaining 60,000 is paid in cash. Whatever credit is left after all dues are settled simply lapses, because Section 54(3) allows refund of unutilised credit only for zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structures, not on closure. The final return in GSTR-10 follows within three months of the cancellation.

There is, however, an important protection for the family. Under Section 93(1)(b), when the business is discontinued, the legal representative pays the deceased's dues only out of the estate and only to the extent the estate can bear them. If an old demand later surfaces against Mr. TP, the daughters' personal savings are not at stake beyond what they inherited from him.

The example carries a further lesson. Had one of the daughters wished to sell the remaining goods through her own registered shop, closure would have been the expensive choice. Tax would have been paid on the stock at the time of cancellation and then charged again on resale, with no credit for the first payment, because she would hold no tax invoice for those goods. Where an heir intends to deal in the inherited stock, structuring the matter as a genuine continuation of the business keeps the credit chain intact.

For tax officers, the most helpful thing is to act promptly when a legal heir arrives with a death certificate and a legal heir certificate, because nothing else can move until the heir is added as an authorised signatory. Where access to the portal is not possible, FORM GST REG-16 itself provides that, in the case of death of a sole proprietor, the application may be made manually by the legal heir or successor before the tax authority.

For tax practitioners, three things matter most. The first is the sequence: the heir's access to the deceased's GSTIN, pending returns, the successor's registration or amendment, ITC-02 and its acceptance, REG-16, and finally GSTR-10. The second is the Rule 41(2) certificate, supported by the family's settlement or relinquishment deed and the successor's undertaking on liabilities. The third is honest disclosure of the stock in every form that asks for it.

Aijaz Hussain Malik is a JKAS officer, presently posted as State Taxes Officer, Circle Budgam. Views expressed are personal.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..come what may"

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Food as Medicine

BY DR.A.PAVANI

Nutrition is no longer viewed merely as a means of satisfying hunger. It is increasingly recognised as a powerful determinant of human growth, immunity, mental well-being, disease prevention and healthy ageing. Medical research is shifting from treating illness after it appears to understanding how everyday food choices shape the trajectory of human life itself.

Nutrition and Human Growth

The first 1,000 days of life—from conception to a child's second birthday—are now considered a critical window for nutrition research. Adequate maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, micronutrient intake and complementary feeding influence brain development, physical growth and long-term metabolic health. Deficiencies in iron, iodine, vitamin A, zinc and protein can leave lifelong consequences, particularly in children from vulnerable communities.

At the same time, researchers are examining how poor early nutrition may raise the later risk of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This has made nutrition central not only to paediatrics but also to public health planning and national development.

Food, Disease and Prevention

Modern medicine increasingly acknowledges that diet is among the most cost-effective tools for reducing the burden of chronic disease. Evidence links balanced, fibre-rich and largely plant-based dietary patterns with lower risks of obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

Nutrition is also entering clinical practice as "food as medicine." Hospitals and researchers are exploring medically tailored meals, therapeutic diets and nutrition counselling for patients with diabetes, kidney disease, cancer and digestive disorders. The goal is not to replace medicines, but to make treatment more effective and sustainable.

Personalised Nutrition

One of the most exciting developments is personalised nutrition. People respond differently to the same foods because of genetics, gut bacteria, lifestyle, age and environment. Research on the human microbiome suggests that the trillions of microbes in the digestive system influence digestion, immunity, mood and even response to medication.

In future, dietary advice may become more precise: rather than a single universal diet, individuals may receive recommendations based on metabolic markers, genetic profiles and gut-health data. This could transform the management of diabetes, obesity and inflammatory disorders.

Nutrition for Ageing Populations

As life expectancy rises, sustaining health in older age has become a major research priority. Nutrition science is moving beyond preventing deficiency diseases towards



maintaining muscle strength, bone health, cognitive function and immunity across the lifespan.

Protein intake, vitamin D, calcium, hydration and anti-inflammatory foods are being studied for their role in preventing frailty, sarcopenia and dementia. For ageing societies, nutrition may become as important as pharmaceutical intervention in preserving independence and quality of life.

Sustainable Food Systems

Human nutrition cannot be separated from the health of the planet. Climate change, water scarcity, soil degradation and population growth are placing immense pressure on food systems. Researchers are therefore exploring climate-resilient crops, reduced food waste, sustainable farming and alternative protein sources such as legumes, insects, fermented foods and cultivated meat.

A sustainable diet must be affordable, culturally acceptable and nutritionally adequate. This is especially relevant for countries such as India, where malnutrition and lifestyle diseases often coexist within the same households.

Food Literacy Matters

Scientific knowledge alone cannot improve health unless people can apply it. Food literacy—the ability to understand, select, prepare and access nutritious food—is emerging as a crucial public-health skill. Poor food literacy contributes to the rise of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease across age groups and income levels.

Schools, hospitals, community kitchens and digital platforms can play a major role in translating nutrition science into practical daily habits. Educators, in particular, can help children build lifelong healthy relationships with food.

Common Bacteria May Trigger 12M Stomach Cancer Cases



The vast majority of stomach cancer cases have been linked to a common bacteria that often doesn't produce any symptoms.

A new study published in the journal Nature Medicine Trusted Source reports that 76% of stomach cancers worldwide may be attributed to the Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) bacteria.

The scientists found that nearly 16 million people born between 2008 and 2017 are expected to develop gastric cancer sometime during their lifetime. Of those cases, around 12 million will be caused by H. pylori bacteria.

They noted that about 8 million of those bacteria-related cases are expected to occur in Asia. Another 1.5 million are predicted for North America and South America.

The researchers said their findings may help explain the rise in gastric-related cancers in younger people in recent years.

They also noted that a vaccine to prevent H. pylori bacteria "would be a powerful tool for gastric cancer prevention," but there appears to be "little momentum at present to advance its development."

Experts not involved in the study told Healthline the findings are important and should be noted by medical professionals.

"This is truly a fascinating, practice-changing study," said Anton Bilchik, MD, a surgical oncologist as well as the chief of medicine and director of the Gastrointestinal and Hepatobiliary Program at Providence Saint John's Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, CA. "This tells us that … it is a preventable cancer."

"We have known that H. pylori infection increases an individual's risk of developing stomach cancer for many years," added Joo Ha Hwang, MD, a professor of medicine at Stanford University.

"This study quantifies the estimated number of deaths that would likely occur if we do not start screening individuals who are at moderate to high risk for H. pylori infection and gastric cancer. This study is a call to action to address a preventable cancer," Hwang noted.

H. pylori bacteria driving stomach cancer rates

Alan Venook, MD, a professor of medical oncology and translational research at the University of California San Francisco, and program development director at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the connection between the H. pylori bacteria and gastric cancer has been known for more than 30 years.

He cited older research from 1991 published in the New England Journal of Medicine that first made the connection, and said the findings in the new study aren't surprising. Still, he expressed concern over the persistent nature of the bacteria's connection to cancer.

"The most interesting thing in this study to me is that this is still a problem," Venook said, adding he is "mystified" as to why progress hasn't been made. "I think the message to medical professionals is that this remains a terrible problem," he noted. "This is a wake-up call."

Bilchik, who had attended the 1991 presentation of the original study, said the research was initially dismissed by the medical community. Since then, he said those early findings have proven to be correct.

"This is a clear message to both patients and professionals that stomach cancer is not necessarily caused by smoking and alcohol," he said.

Nilesh Vora, MD, a hematologist and medical oncologist and medical director of the MemorialCare Todd Cancer Institute at Long Beach Medical Center in California, has some cautions about the new research.

He called it "thought-provoking," but added that more research is necessary to confirm the data and the conclusions.

What to know about H. pylori bacteria

The Helicobacter pylori bacteria grow in the digestive tract and tend to attack the stomach lining. It has adapted itself to live in the highly acidic world of the human gastrointestinal system.

H. pylori often develops in a person's stomach during childhood. The bacteria are typically harmless and don't cause symptoms. However, in some cases, they may lead to stomach ulcers and some diseases, including gastric cancer.

Many people with H. pylori don't have symptoms. However, an estimated 30% of people with the bacteria develop peptic ulcers and other conditions.

Some common symptoms from the bacteria include:

- burning stomach pain
- feeling full quickly
- nausea
- burping
- unexplained weight loss

The bacteria can be transmitted via saliva, contaminated food, and other methods. It can be diagnosed with tests involving breath, stool samples, and blood antibodies. Doctors sometimes order an endoscopy, which involves placing a tube down a person's throat.

The bacteria are treated with antibiotics. Some people may be prescribed proton pump inhibitors to help the stomach heal.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) notes there are currently no recommendations Trusted Source for routine stomach cancer screenings for those with average risk.

"Given the relatively low prevalence of gastric cancer in the United States, there is currently no screening recommendation for H. pylori in patients without symptoms," said Anu Agrawal, MD, vice president of Global Cancer Support at the American Cancer Society.

"The high incidence in Asia particularly could justify screening protocols which, as noted in the publication, have been initiated in a few Asian countries," he told Healthline.

Bilchik said that people should not ignore gastrointestinal symptoms that linger for an extended period of time. "If the symptoms are persistent, then go to a physician and be proactive," Bilchik advised.

Vora added that while screenings are important, there are some logistical issues. Endoscopies, he said, are invasive and expensive. He added that the big questions are whether general screenings should be done for this bacterium and whether everyone with long-term gastrointestinal symptoms should be tested for H. pylori.

Hwang agreed that screening should be selective.

"H. pylori often infects family members, so if one family member is diagnosed with H. pylori, family members who live together should be tested for the infection," he said.

"We have been advocating for individuals who have immigrated from regions that have a high incidence of H pylori infection and gastric cancer, such as East Asia, Eastern Europe, and the west coast of South America, to be tested for H pylori infection and treated if positive."

What to know about stomach cancer

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates Trusted Source there will be about 30,000 new cases of stomach cancer in the United States this year. More than 10,000 people are expected to die from the disease.

Those numbers represent less than 2% of all cancer cases and all cancer deaths in the United States.

Almost 38% of people in the United States with stomach cancer are expected to live at least five years after diagnosis.

Stomach cancer usually develops over a number of years. Many times, there are no symptoms until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

The disease is more common in adults over the age of 60 and in those who smoke, have obesity, or have a family history of the disease. It's also more common in people of Asian descent and people with a diet high in salty foods, meat, and processed products.

Symptoms of stomach cancer include:

- frequent heartburn
- loss of appetite
- bloating or burping
- indigestion
- abdominal pain

The disease can be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, and immunotherapy.

Experts say you can lower your risk of stomach cancer by:

eating a healthy diet
exercising regularly
quitting smoking if you smoke
limiting or avoiding alcohol
treating H. pylori infection if you receive a diagnosis

The American Cancer Society has a list Trusted Source of ways people can lower their risk. "Obesity, tobacco use, alcohol, diets high in smoked foods or foods preserved by salting, or diets low in fruits and vegetables are risk factors," said Agrawal. "If you have a family history of stomach cancer, are a first-generation immigrant from a high prevalence area (e.g., East Asia), or have certain genetic cancer predisposition syndromes, you should be screened for stomach cancer."

Vora said the message is pretty simple: "Eat well and exercise more."

Courtesy Healthline

Doctor explains why Ozempic use is causing worrying 'Ozempic-sex' side effect

■ Tom Chapman

For those who feel like they're carrying a few extra pounds, the likes of Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro seem like a godsend.

These semaglutides were originally designed as an anti-diabetic medication, but in 2025, they're proving to be an effective way to tackle obesity.

The problem is, instead of being prescribed the so-called 'skinny jab' by a medical professional, many are turning to online alternatives in the hope of getting that summer body.

Still, with major celebrities ranging from Elon Musk to Sharon Osbourne, Amy Schumer to Tracy Morgan admitting to taking these medications, and with the weight dropping off them, it's no surprise that the general public is scrambling to get similar results.

It's important to weigh up the supposed pros and cons of these jabs, with side effects like 'Ozempic breath' and increased fears of pancreatitis being discussed alongside the potential to reverse liver disease, as well as various cardiovascular benefits.

We've already got a bit raunchy when discussing the supposed 'Ozempic penis' where a gentleman's manhood might appear larger, but on the other end of the spectrum, what about the injections affecting your performance in the bedroom?

After all, what's the point in having the kit if you don't know how to use it?

Over on Reddit, one Ozempic user was concerned with their lack of sex drive since going on the jab, explaining: "I've been on Ozempic for a few months now and I love it. Almost no side effects and I'm down 30lbs. Halfway to my goal weight. I'm on 1.5mg compounded with Vitamin B.



"The only side effect I have noticed that's causing issues in my life is that I have absolutely no sex drive at all, and I'm almost repulsed by the notion of it. I have more or less the same feelings that I have when presented with a big meal. Like the thought of having sex is almost nauseating.

"If I was single this really wouldn't impact my life very much, but I live with my boyfriend of about 2.5 years, and the sharp decrease in our sex life is causing issues in our relationship. He isn't pressuring me or anything, but we have been kind of growing distant, and we have been bickering."

Others in the thread reported similar 'issues', with one person stating: "Male here 42. Same boat. The new studies show it takes the pleasure out of alcohol and gambling as well. You are not alone. Thankfully I'm divorced and single."

A third said: "Definitely feel same way and glad I'm not the only one. The drug messes with our hormones so much and I'm thinking about taking some libido pills that will amp up my sex drive."

Still, not everyone was convinced. Someone else went the other way and claimed: "This is not my experience. I (F51) feel like I have an increase in my sex drive. I just don't have an outlet right now. Ugh."

Apparently, there's some genuine science behind it all, with Dr. James Simon, a reproductive endocrinologist, OBGYN and clinical professor at George Washington University, telling The Wall Street Journal: "These drugs do work in the same places that pleasure and sexual interest are located in the human brain—male and female."

As these drugs work by affecting your appetite to make you feel full, it's thought that they may work similarly to the part of our brains that regulates our sex drive.

With semaglutide users seemingly split on whether they're feeling like they can't bear to be touched, and others tearing a partner's clothes off, it seems this is one potential side effect that's hard to pin down.

Courtesy Unilad Tech

How to spot and manage heart rhythm issues

■ Camilla Foster

A new do-it-yourself heart monitor, the ePatch by Philips, is being given to patients on the NHS to help diagnose heart rhythm issues. Unlike traditional monitoring which requires specialist setup and numerous wires, patients can be sent the ePatch in the post and attach it to their skin with ease at home. After wearing it for a few days, patients post the patch back and then the data from it is analysed by Cardiologs, an AI tool, with final review by a clinician.

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust is the first hospital in the country to roll out the device, with hopes that the device will soon be used across other NHS trusts.

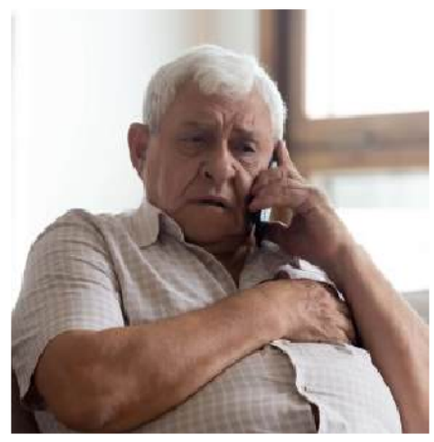
This new device can be used to investigate heart rhythm problems, known as arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation, tachycardia and heart blocks.

Arrhythmias can present in different forms, so we got in touch with Dr Oliver Segal, consultant cardiologist and electrophysiologist at The Harley Street Clinic, part of HCA Healthcare UK, to find out how to identify and manage these conditions.

"An arrhythmia is a problem with the heart's electrical system, which controls how the heart beats," explains Segal. "Normally, electrical signals cause the heart to beat in a steady, coordinated rhythm.

"However, in arrhythmias these signals become irregular or disrupted, causing the heart to beat too fast, too slow, or in an uneven pattern. This can affect how well the heart pumps blood around the body."

"Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common serious arrhythmia, where the upper chambers (atria) of the heart beat in a rapid and irregular way," says Segal. "AF



can significantly increase the risk of stroke and often occurs without noticeable symptoms, making screening important in some individuals." Bradycardia and tachycardia are also fairly common types of arrhythmia.

"Bradycardia is when the heart beats too slowly which can cause tiredness, dizziness or fainting," explains Segal. "Whereas, tachycardia is when the heart beats too fast. This can originate from the upper chambers (supraventricular tachycardia) or the lower chambers (ventricular tachycardia), which can be more dangerous.

"Other arrhythmias include premature atrial or ventricular contractions (extra beats) and more rare conditions like ventricular fibrillation."

"Risk factors include heart disease, high blood pressure (which can strain the heart over time) and thyroid problems, especially an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism)," says Segal. "In addition, older age and family history can also increase your risk."

Certain lifestyle factors like smoking and drinking may also have an impact.

Best Agrolife Q2 profit rises 48 pc to Rs 57 cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Agrochemical firm Best Agrolife Ltd has reported a 48 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 57.46 crore for the quarter ended September 2026.

Its net profit stood at Rs 38.93 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income declined to Rs 408.57 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal from Rs 514.94 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

During the first six months of this fiscal, the company's net profit grew to 98.11 crore from Rs 58.85 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income decreased to Rs 806.57 crore during April-September period of this fiscal from Rs 900.26 crore a year ago.

The company said its revenue was "impacted by irregular monsoon rainfall, delayed sowing, lower crop protection demand in certain markets and heightened competitive intensity during the Kharif season."



The company maintained cost discipline, with operating expenses excluding finance costs and depreciation declining 12 per cent year-on-year in September quarter and 5 per cent in the first half.

Vimal Kumar, Managing Director of Best Agrolife, said: "Q2, FY'27 was a challenging quarter for the domestic crop protection industry. Irregular monsoon rainfall delayed and uneven sowing, moisture stress and limited irrigation availability across several agricultural regions affected crop establishment and the timing of crop protection applications."

These factors, coupled with cautious farmer spending and high competition, created significant headwinds for the business, he pointed out.

"Despite these challenges, we delivered a strong improvement in profitability, with EBITDA growing 30 per cent in Q2FY27 and 45 per cent in H1FY27," Kumar said.

He attributed the margin expansion to strategic shift over the past two years towards a stronger patented product portfolio, besides focusing on cost discipline and operational efficiency.

On the outlook, Kumar said it will depend on the progress of Rabi sowing, soil moisture conditions, irrigation availability and farmers' investment in crop protection.

Best Agrolife is an R&D-based Indian agrochemical company engaged in the development, manufacturing and marketing of crop protection solutions. (PTI)

Lodha Developers Q2 pre-sales up 10 pc to Rs 5,037 cr on better home demand

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Realty firm Lodha Developers' sales bookings rose 10 per cent to Rs 5,037 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal on strong housing demand despite global uncertainties.

According to an investors presentation, the company's sales bookings or pre-sales in the first six months of this fiscal rose 7 per cent to Rs 9,670 crore.



Mumbai-based Lodha Developers has set a target of Rs 24,000 crore worth sales bookings in the current fiscal, as against Rs 20,530 crore in the preceding 2025-26 financial year.

Lodha Developers, which sells properties under Lodha brand, is one of the leading real estate firms in the country.

On Friday, the company reported a 28 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,013.5 crore for the quarter ended September on higher income. Its net profit stood at Rs 789.8 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income rose to Rs 4,584.9 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal from Rs 3,878.9 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Abhishek Lodha, Managing Director of Lodha Developers, said the company has delivered continued strong operating and financial performance in September quarter of 2026-27, building on the momentum that it has sustained since initial public offering in 2021.

He said the PAT (profit after tax) margins were 22.1 per cent.

"Basis the strong performance in H1, we expect to easily exceed our profit guidance for the year," he said.

He highlighted that the company's Bengaluru expansion continues to gather pace, with another successful launch in North Bengaluru during the September quarter.

"The strength of this response reaffirms robust underlying demand for a quality brand like Lodha and helps allay concerns around AI-led disruption impacting segments beyond affordable housing," Abhishek said.

The first pilot project in Delhi-NCR would be launched this festive season.

Comm min sets up committee for better utilisation of RELIEF initiative for exporters

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: The commerce ministry has set up a six-member committee for better utilisation of funds and improved uptake of the RELIEF initiative for exporters.

RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) is an initiative of the government launched under the Rs 25,060-crore Export Promotion Mission (EPM).

It is aimed at protecting exporters from soaring freight costs, increased insurance premiums, and maritime trade disruptions in the Gulf and West Asian corridors. In a trade notice, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has said a sub-committee for RELIEF shall be constituted for better utilisation of funds and improved uptake of the intervention. Three officials from the DGFT, and one each from the departments of commerce, financial services and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), are members of the committee. The sub-committee, it said, will review the progress of implementation of the three components of RELIEF, including the claims processed and the balance funds available as reported by ECGC; examine the factors affecting the uptake of the intervention and the utilisation of the approved funds; and recommend measures for better utilisation of funds and uptake of the intervention. (PTI)

India-born financial journalist rings closing bell of London Stock Exchange



Press Trust Of India

LONDON, OCT 31: A UK-based financial journalist became one of the first Indian-origin media professionals to ring the closing bell of the London Stock Exchange during a Diwali celebration at the iconic bourse.

Shruti Tripathi Chopra, editor-in-chief of Financial News and Private Equity News at Dow Jones, led the historic ceremony that closes trading for the day during the launch of the second edition of the 'South Asian Power Brokers' this week. Android App News

The annual list is published by 'Financial News' to spotlight influential leaders of South Asian heritage shaping finance and business globally.

"Ringing the closing bell at the London Stock Exchange matters because it sends a powerful message about who belongs at the very top of global finance," said Chopra.

"We are not just celebrating extraordinary achievement. We are changing what the next generation believes is possible.

"It was an immense honour to stand alongside some of the most influential figures in the industry and demonstrate that our South Asian heritage is not something we have to leave at the door to succeed. It is part of our success," she said.

The gathering celebrated the achievements and influence of South Asian leaders across financial services, investment, law and business, highlighting the importance of representation, mentorship and opening doors for future generations.

For Chopra, the occasion was made more poignant as it coincided with the festival of Karwa Chauth and she was joined at the Diwali festivities by her in-laws visiting from India.

"The South Asian leaders standing alongside me on the balcony of the London Stock Exchange collectively oversee billions of dollars. Yet when I asked how many

had imagined, at the start of their careers, that they would one day stand on that balcony being celebrated for their professional success and South Asian heritage, not a single hand went up," added Chopra.

London Stock Exchange chief executive Dame Julia Hoggett praised those who had "made space for others opened doors and sent ladders down".

SEBI pushes for resilient capital markets, focuses on investor protection: Chairman

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA, OCT 31: SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Saturday said the regulator is continuously working to make the country's capital markets more accessible, efficient and resilient, with a core approach focused on facilitating capital formation, improving ease of doing business and strengthening investors' protection.



Speaking on capital market expansion at the Bharat Chamber of Commerce Investors Forum here, Pandey noted that the market capitalisation has grown strongly over the past decade, with companies raising on average more than Rs 10 lakh crore annually through equity and debt issuances.

"While we continue to strengthen markets for businesses, an equally important priority is investor protection. World-class markets must be not only efficient during normal times, but also resilient during periods of stress," he said.

"Our approach has been to facilitate capital formation, improve ease of doing business, and strengthen investor protection," Pandey said, highlighting that these objectives reinforce each other.

Focusing on regional growth, the SEBI chairman pointed out that participation from West Bengal has expanded considerably, with the number of investors in the securities market increasing from around 12 lakh in the 2015 financial year to over 90 lakh today, approximately 36 per cent of whom are young investors below 30 years of age.

Additionally, 379 listed companies have registered offices in West Bengal, and over 40 MSMEs from the state have accessed capital markets to raise over Rs 1,400 crore through SME IPOs.

To reduce unnecessary compliance burdens and improve operational efficiency, Pandey said the Securities and Exchange Board of India has taken several steps to make fundraising simpler and more cost-effective. These include streamlining IPO processes, shortening timelines for rights issues, rationalising listing requirements for large issuers, permitting certain employee stock options after listing under prescribed conditions, reducing listing timelines for public issues, enabling debt securities with lower face values, and relaxing mandatory merchant banking requirements for eligible issuers undertaking private placements.

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Q2 profit more than doubles to Rs 53 cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL) on Saturday reported a twofold increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 53.05 crore for September quarter FY27.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 23.44 crore during July-September FY26, according to a regulatory filing from ABFRL.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 2,265.61 crore from Rs 2,037.90 crore earlier.

Total expenses of ABFRL, which handles Pantaloons and Style Up, along with a host of ethnic brands, were at Rs 2,224.99 crore, up 9.71 per cent in the second quarter of FY27.

Total income, including other income, was up 11.48 per cent to Rs 2,295.42 crore in Q2 FY27.

Last year, the Aditya Birla Group demerged its Madura business into a separately listed entity, Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Limited (ABLBL), effective from May 1, 2025.

ABLBL has its lifestyle brands business as Â–Louis Philippe, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, Peter England, Simon Carter and youth western wear brands such as American Eagle. It also has a sportswear brand, Reebok, for which it has a long-term licensing agreement for the Indian market.

Jatin Kumar Nayak takes charge as CMD of IREDA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Jatin Kumar Nayak has assumed charge as the Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a company statement said.

Prior to this appointment, Nayak held the position of Executive Director (Finance) at REC Ltd.

Nayak has over three decades of rich and diverse experience, the statement said.

He has served as Chief Financial Officer of erstwhile REC Transmission Projects Company Limited, a subsidiary of REC.

Earlier in his career, he has worked with NHPC, Hindustan Copper, National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.

His experience spans over the power sector and resource-intensive industries, including mining and metals.

He also brings substantial expertise in domestic and international resource mobilisation, strategic treasury management, corporate finance, taxation and legal affairs, project appraisal and monitoring, lending operations, loan recovery, and stressed asset management.

Nayak holds a Master's degree in Commerce from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He is a fellow member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India and a qualified Company Secretary. Nayak holds a Master's degree in Commerce from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He is a fellow member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India and a qualified Company Secretary.

His appointment had been earlier approved by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). (PTI)

Maruti Suzuki Dzire crosses 3.5 million units of cumulative production

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) on Saturday said its sedan, the Dzire, has surpassed the milestone of 3.5 million (35 lakh) cumulative production.

Currently manufactured at the company's Manesar facility, Dzire achieved the milestone in about 18 years and 9 months.

"The cumulative production of 3.5 million Dzire vehicles marks a significant milestone in the model's journey." Going forward, with increasing manufacturing scale, we remain committed to delivering world-class quality and delighting customers in India and across global markets," Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO,

MSIL, said. Apart from Dzire, Alto, Swift and WagonR are the other models that have crossed this milestone. The company said that Dzire is the first sedan to earn a 5-star Bharat NCAP rating. (PTI)

IBBI amends regulations to strengthen insolvency resolution of stressed real estate projects

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31: To expedite real estate insolvencies, regulator IBBI has notified amendments to regulations providing for project-wise treatment, enhanced disclosures, stronger participation of homebuyers as well as detailed cost-assessment that will help attract more realistic bids.

Against the backdrop of issues, challenges and delays being faced in the resolution of stressed real estate projects that are impacting homebuyers, the watchdog has amended the regulations pertaining to insolvency resolution process for corporate persons.

IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides the framework for resolution of stressed assets in a market-linked and time-bound manner.

"The amendments aim to facilitate more informed and viable resolution of real estate projects, enhance transparency and accountability, and strengthen the interests of homebuyers and other stakeholders in the insolvency resolution process," IBBI said in a release on Saturday.

With the changes in regulations, IBBI seeks to strengthen project-wise financial management



and monitoring, introduce technical and cost-to-complete assessment of real estate projects, and enhance disclosures relating to the projects.

Besides, the amendments aim to boost the participation of homebuyers as well as strengthen oversight during the insolvency resolution process and also provide for prescribing project-wise requirements in the resolution plan.

According to IBBI, the amended norms would facilitate identification and exclusion of real estate projects under the resolution process as well as facilitate handover of possession to homebuyers.

Certain other changes have also been effected for procedural improvements.

Under IBC, a Resolution Professional or an Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) handles the insolvency process and a decision on the resolution plan is taken by the Committee of Creditors (CoC). The plan needs to be approved by the the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which is the Adjudicating Authority. Following are the key amendments in regulations that pertain to Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) involving multiple real estate projects: Financial discipline A separate bank account needs to be maintained for each real estate project of the corporate debtor undergoing insolvency. The RP should place financial information about each project before the CoC and the fund utilisation requirement under the RERA Act should be complied during the resolution process.

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ED files supplementary chargesheet in Chhattisgarh DMF 'scam'; attaches assets worth Rs 31.70 cr

Press Trust Of India



RAIPUR, OCT 31 :The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 31.70 crore and filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against 17 persons in connection with the alleged misappropriation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds in Chhattisgarh, officials said on Saturday.

The ED's Raipur Zonal Office issued a provisional attachment order on October 29 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and filed the supplementary prosecution complaint before the Special Court (PMLA) here on October 30, the agency said in a statement. The complaint names Satpal Singh Chabda, Mandip Chawla and 15 others, it added.

The alleged scam took place during the previous Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in the state.

A money-laundering investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau/Economic Offences Wing (ACB/EOW), Raipur, under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code.

Subsequently, FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh police in Kanker district and the ACB/EOW were also incorporated into the investigation, the agency said.

The ED investigation has revealed that DMF funds were allegedly siphoned off by an organised syndicate comprising public servants and agents or liaisoners, it said.

DMF is a trust funded by contributions from mining leaseholders and established in districts across the state to undertake welfare and development activities for people and areas affected by mining-related operations.

"The syndicate allegedly manipulated the allocation and utilisation of DMF funds by favouring supply-oriented works involving inflated procurement costs and payment of substantial illegal commissions. Agents and liaisoners collected commissions ranging from 25 to 50 per cent of the base value of purchase orders issued to entities holding rate contracts," it said.

The commissions were collected both in cash and through banking channels and subsequently routed through various entities and accounts to conceal their origins. A substantial portion of these commissions was allegedly passed on to public servants and other influential persons in exchange for allocation of DMF-funded works, issuance of purchase orders and release of payments, it said.

The investigation also revealed that similar commissions were collected by the agents in connection with procurement undertaken through Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Evam Krishi Vikas Nigam (Beej Nigam) using funds other than those of the DMF, the agency said.

The ED identified Chabda, who was arrested on September 1 this year, as one of the main liaisoners and financial coordinators of the alleged syndicate.

He allegedly facilitated the allocation of supply-oriented works to selected vendors, issuance of purchase orders, release of payments and collection and distribution of illegal commissions, the agency said.

The agency has quantified the proceeds of crime attributable to the accused persons in the present action at around Rs 35 crore, against which assets worth Rs 31.70 crore have been attached, it said.

So far, four persons, including Chhattisgarh-cadre IAS officer Ranu Sahu, have been arrested in the case, while assets worth around Rs 50 crore have been attached, the ED said.

Ketan Agrawal murder trial starts; Ujjwal Nikam appears as special prosecutor

Press Trust Of India

PUNE, OCT 31 :The trial in the murder case of Ketan Agrawal (26), who was allegedly pushed to his death off Lohagad Fort by his fiancée and her boyfriend, began at the Wadgaon Maval sessions court on Saturday, with noted lawyer Ujjwal Nikam appearing as special prosecutor.

The prosecution will present its opening arguments on November 17, Nikam, who appeared in the case for the first time after his appointment as a special prosecutor, told reporters.

A lawyer representing accused Siya Goyal (20) filed applications seeking bail and discharge from the case for her. The defence claimed that there was no evidence against her, Nikam said.

The court also directed accused Ritesh Hange (22), who did not have a lawyer, to engage one before the next hearing. A lawyer will be appointed for him through the court if he fails to do so, the court said.

The prosecution will inform the court about the alleged conspiracy and the evidence collected by the police regarding the roles of Goyal and her boyfriend Chetan Chaudhary (22) at the next hearing. The applications filed by Goyal will also be heard on November 17, Nikam told reporters.



Nitin Bhalerao, Goyal's lawyer, said the videographic and other technical evidence collected by the police has not yet been provided to the defence. Therefore, an application seeking access to the evidence was also filed.

Senior advocate Vipul Dushing will appear for the defence on November 17, Bhalerao said, adding that the defence believes the evidence collected by the police was insufficient to secure a conviction.

All three accused -- Siya Goyal, Chaudhary and Hange -- appeared before the court through video conference from Yerawada Central Jail in Pune.

According to the police, Agrawal, a real estate businessman, was set to marry Goyal. As she did not want to marry him, Goyal and her boyfriend Chaudhary allegedly conspired to kill him. Hange, Chaudhary's friend, was allegedly party to the conspiracy.

Agrawal was pushed into a gorge at Lohagad Fort near Pune on June 18, 2026, leading to his death.

Eight arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 20 lakh in Jharkhand's Lohardaga

Press Trust Of India

LOHARDAGA, OCT 31 :Eight people were arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 20 lakh in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district, police said on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off that some people travelling in an SUV had arrived here to buy and sell brown sugar and had gathered at an under-construction house under Kudu police station limits on Friday, police raided the house and nabbed the accused with 98 grams of brown sugar, a senior officer said.

"We arrested eight inter-district drug peddlers with 98 grams of brown sugar. Besides, the SUV was also seized from the spot during the raid," Lohardaga SP Sadique Anwar Rizvi said. Six of them are residents of Ranchi, while two others hail from Latehar district. All the accused are aged between 18 and 32 years, he said. The estimated market value of the seized drugs is worth around Rs 20 lakh, another official said. An FIR, under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, has been registered at the Kudu police station.

Two arrested with heroin worth Rs 60 lakh in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills

Press Trust Of India



SHILLONG, OCT 31 : Meghalaya Police have arrested two persons and seized heroin worth around Rs 60 lakh in West Garo Hills, officials said on Saturday.

The operation was conducted by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Meghalaya, in collaboration with West Garo Hills police at Tikrikilla, they said.

The arrested persons have been identified as Shahadot Ali (31), a resident of Goalpara district, and Rejaul Islam (31), also from Goalpara district in Assam.

During a search conducted under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the team seized 10 plastic soap boxes containing 112.52 grams of suspected heroin, with an estimated market value of Rs 60 lakh.

Two cars and three mobile phones were also seized during the operation, according to a statement issued by the police.

A case has been registered at Tikrikilla police station under the NDPS Act.

Officials suspect that the arrested persons are part of a larger organised inter-state drug trafficking network.

The ANTF is investigating the case to establish forward and backward linkages and identify other members of the alleged syndicate.

Delhi court issues fresh bailable warrants against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in defamation case

Press Trust Of India



New Delhi, Oct 31 :A Delhi court on Saturday issued fresh bailable warrants against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in a 2018 defamation case.

Judicial Magistrate Rahul Jain issued the fresh warrants against Rathee in a case filed by Vikas Sanskrityayan alias Vikas Pandey, who accused the YouTuber of defamation over a video uploaded on his channel. The detailed order is awaited.

On October 17, the court had issued bailable warrants against Rathee after a process server reported that his house was locked while attempting to serve notice.

The court had also issued fresh summons to Rathee at his address in Gurugram, Haryana.

Appearing for Pandey, advocate Samaksh Sharma had submitted

that Rathee ordinarily resides in Austria and had come to India for the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protests in Delhi.

The court had noted that Rathee was initially summoned in July 2019.

The case pertains to a defamation complaint filed by Pandey in 2018 after Rathee uploaded a video against him on his YouTube channel.

Woman, son found dead inside house in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer; police suspects suicide

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR, OCT 31 :A woman and her 16-year-old son were found dead in separate rooms of their house in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Saturday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Sonu Kanwar and her son Dakshvardhan Singh, residents of C Block in Sanwal Colony here.

The woman's body was found in a room on the ground floor, while her son's body was recovered from a room on the terrace, police said, suspecting that the two allegedly committed suicide, but the circumstances leading to their deaths are yet to be established.

Kotwali SHO Premaram Bishnoi said that the police reached the house after receiving information about the incident and called a forensic science laboratory (FSL) team to examine the scene and collect evidence. The woman's husband, Bhanwar Singh, had died in a road accident around three years ago, and she had been living with her son since then, they said. Police said that the reason behind the suspected suicides was not known and the matter was being investigated from all angles.

Actor Ajay Devgn moves HC against FDA notice over Vimal Elaichi ads



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, OCT 31 :Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn has moved the Bombay High Court challenging a show-cause notice issued by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration over his appearance in 'Vimal Elaichi' advertisements, calling the agency's action arbitrary.

A division bench of Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna is likely to hear Devgn's petition on November 4.

As per the notice issued by the FDA to Devgn, the advertisements for 'Vimal Elaichi' amount to surrogate promotion

of 'Vimal Pan Masala', a chewable product banned in Maharashtra.

Similar notices were issued to actors Shah Rukh Khan and Tiger Shroff, who had also appeared in the advertisements.

Devgn's petition stated that the notice was arbitrarily issued to him as an actor rather than to the manufacturing company.

FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe on Friday said that proceedings against Khan, Devgn and Shroff for allegedly violating state rules were complete.

The department had concluded its investigation and found violations by the actors, he said, adding that the matter will be referred for adjudication next week.

While Devgn has approached the High Court, the department would continue its proceedings before the joint commissioner, Mundhe said.

The FDA had earlier claimed that the 'Vimal Elaichi' campaign amounted to surrogate advertising for prohibited pan masala products.

The brand was linked to the sale of gutkha and pan masala, products prohibited in Maharashtra, it had alleged.

Man attacks two Andhra govt school girls inside classroom with chainsaw

Press Trust Of India

RAPTADU (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 31 :Two schoolgirls were injured here in Anantapur district on Saturday after a man barged into their classroom with a chainsaw and attacked them, police said.

Both students were injured but one of them was stable, police said, adding the accused was on the run. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu promised stringent action.

Anantapur Rural sub-divisional police officer K Ashwin Manideep said the attacker was allegedly a relative of one of the girls.

"The girl is in hospital with her parents," Manideep told PTI, confirming the chainsaw attack. Police were gathering further information regarding the incident. He said police teams have been dispatched to nab the attacker. CM Naidu said he was "deeply shaken and enraged by the barbaric attack on a Class 10 student inside her classroom at Raptadu ZP (Zilla Parishad) High School." "Attackers who target our young girls inside schools have no place in our society. I am personally tracking her recovery and have directed the medical team to give her the highest priority care," he said in a post on X.

Man sentenced to life imprisonment for throwing acid on 3 sisters

Press Trust Of India

GONDA, OCT 30 :A court in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday sentenced



a man to life imprisonment in connection with throwing acid on three sisters and also imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh.

Special Public Prosecutor Krishna Pratap Singh said that Gurai, a resident of Paska village under Parsapur police station area, had filed a complaint alleging that on the intervening night of October 12 and October 13, 2020, an unidentified person climbed onto the roof of his house and threw acid on his three daughters -- Khushboo, Komal, and Anchal -- while they were asleep.

Singh said that all three sisters sustained severe burn injuries in the attack. The eldest daughter, Khushboo, suffered extensive facial burns that left her face disfigured, and she also lost vision in one of her eyes.

He further explained that the police investigation identified Ashish Jaiswal, a fellow villager, as the perpetrator. Jaiswal was infatuated with Khushboo and, angered by the fact that her marriage had been arranged elsewhere, he carried out the acid attack on the three sisters.

Special Judge (Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act) Alok Sharma held Ashish Jaiswal guilty and

sentenced him to life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh, Special Public Prosecutor Krishna Pratap Singh said.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha

changed the direction of history and strengthened the spirit of national integration, equality and inclusive development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that the changes witnessed in Jammu Kashmir since 2019 have expanded opportunities for citizens and strengthened the foundations of democracy. He highlighted that the implementation of grassroots democratic institutions and the conduct of Assembly elections have enhanced public participation and accountability.

"Article 370 abrogation gave ordinary citizens freedom from fear and access to rights denied for decades. Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a model of peace, development and good governance," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Referring to the aspirations of the people, the Lieutenant Governor said that the future of Jammu Kashmir must be shaped by peace, equal opportunities and development.

"The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies not in the shadow of terror, but in the light of peace; not behind the walls of discrimination, but in equal opportunities; and not in stagnation, but in the momentum of progress," he stated.

The Lieutenant Governor said that terror, separatism and stone-pelting have given way to democracy, development and public participation after Article 370 was removed.

"We did not buy peace, we established peace. Zero-tolerance policy crippled terror networks and restored normal life across Jammu Kashmir. Since 2020, more than 780 terrorists eliminated, local recruitment ended, stone-pelting erased. Now Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a historic security transformation.

Strong action against Narco-Terrorism continues. We have arrested thousands of drug smugglers and drug peddlers this year. Their illicit assets have been attached and drug-funded mansions were demolished. Conflict Entrepreneurs who profited from separatism and terrorism stand exposed. People of Jammu Kashmir have embraced peace, progress and national integration," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that unity is sustained through justice and public trust. He called upon all institutions and citizens to work together for good governance, compassion and inclusive development.

"Public trust must be won not merely by promises, but by deeds. Justice and accountability are the strongest foundations of unity," he said.

Highlighting the importance of extending the benefits of development to all sections of society, the Lieutenant Governor observed that the true measure of transformation lies in the lives of those who were deprived of opportunities for decades. He underlined the need to ensure that growth remains inclusive and reaches every household, village and community.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke about the changing aspirations of the younger generation in Jammu Kashmir. He noted that children and youth are growing up in an environment focused on education, opportunity and progress, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of peace for economic growth and social progress. He said that a stable and peaceful environment benefits every section of society, including farmers, entrepreneurs, traders, students and workers. He expressed satisfaction that the people of Jammu Kashmir are increasingly participating in developmental initiatives and contributing to the region's growth story.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined key priorities for the coming years, including employment generation, youth empowerment, strengthening agriculture and allied sectors, healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, tourism development, women's empowerment and transparent governance.

He stressed the need to equip youth with skills relevant to the changing global economy and encouraged greater participation in entrepreneurship, innovation and sports. He also called for sustained efforts to strengthen agriculture through modern technologies, climate-resilient practices and value addition.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that access to quality health services is essential for building a healthy and prosperous society and urged continued efforts to ensure that no citizen is left behind.

The Lieutenant Governor also appealed to citizens to embrace harmony, respect diversity and actively participate in the development of Jammu Kashmir. He said that the safe and dignified return of displaced communities and the strengthening of social trust require collective commitment and cooperation.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared his vision for the brighter future of Jammu Kashmir.

"My dream is that by 2047, Jammu Kashmir should emerge as a model of prosperity with a modern economy, world-class healthcare, excellent education and a vibrant cultural heritage."

Calling upon the people to work together for a brighter future, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Let us build a Jammu Kashmir where there is trust instead of fear, opportunity instead of scarcity, justice instead of injustice, and where every young person and every woman finds wings for their dreams."

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor administered the 'Unity Pledge' and flagged off the 'Run for Unity' to mark the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'.

A Documentary film by the Information Department on J&K's transformational journey was also screened.

Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Shri Govind Jaiswal; IGP Kashmir, Shri Sujit Singh; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Shri Anshul Garg; senior officials of Police, Security Forces and Civil Administration; prominent citizens, heads of various educational institutions, members of civil society and youth in large number attended the J&K UT Foundation Day.

LG Leads

Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Ji on his 151st birth anniversary."

DIG

Padak' has been awarded to 490 personnel of various States and Union Territories (UTs), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and Central Police Organisations (CPOs) for 2026. The medal aims to recognise excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the officials' morale, the statement said.

Of the total recipients, 358 personnel have been recognised in the Special Operation category, 123 in the Investigation category and nine in the Forensic Science category.

While the award announcement recognises Chaudhary's contribution in the investigation category, the Ministry of Home Affairs' published award list does not identify the specific case or investigation for which he has been selected.

The Ministry of Home Affairs promoted Chaudhary to Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) on a pro forma basis, with effect from January 1, 2026.

Inspector Feroz Ahmad Itoo from Jammu and Kashmir has also been named among the recipients of the medal in the investigation category, bringing recognition to another police officer from the Union Territory.

The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak was instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs through a notification dated February 1, 2024. The award aims to recognise excellence in operations, outstanding work in investigation, exceptional performance, courageous intelligence service and meritorious contributions in forensic science.

The medal is conferred on members of State and Union Territory Police Forces, Security Organisations, Intelligence Wings, Central Police Organisations, Central Armed Police Forces, the National Security Guard, Assam Rifles and serving government scientists working in forensic science.

The award is announced annually on October 31, the birth anniversary of former home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The 2026 awards recognise the professional contributions of police and security personnel from across the country to promote high standards of policing, encouraging excellence and boosting the morale of personnel engaged in different areas of national security and law enforcement.

After the NIA took over the probe into the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, the agency subsequently filed two chargesheets before the Special NIA Court in Jammu. The original chargesheet, filed on December 15, 2025, ran into 1,597 pages and named seven accused.

These included Pakistani handler Sajid Jatt, three Pakistani terrorists identified as Faisal Jat alias Suleman Shah, Habeeb Tahir alias Jibran and Hamza Afghani, who were killed in the Lidwas area of the Harwan-Dachigam forest belt on the outskirts of Srinagar on July 28, 2025, during Operation Mahadev, and local facilitators Parvaiz Ahmad and Bashir Ahmad Jothar, who were arrested for allegedly providing logistical support and shelter to the terrorists.

On July 6, 2026, the agency filed a supplementary chargesheet naming Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed in his individual capacity and as the outfit's supreme commander, also identifying the organisation's proxy, The Resistance Front (TRF), in the alleged conspiracy. The filing led to the issuance of an open-dated non-bailable warrant against Saeed.

Both chargesheets invoked provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), alleging a cross-border conspiracy to carry out the attack and wage war against India.

Transfers

Similarly, Vikramjit Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2004), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, shall also hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department.

Mir Tariq Ali, IAS (AGMUT: 2010), Director General, Women and Child Development, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Civil Aviation Department.

Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.

Leena Padha, IAS, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, has been assigned the additional charge of Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, besides her own duties.

In another order, the government ordered the transfer and posting of six JKAS officers.

Khalid Majeed, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla, against an available vacancy.

Udham Dass, JKAS, Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, has been posted as Joint Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, replacing Satish Kumar, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Mohd. Raiyaz, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar, has been transferred and directed to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Dr. Amit Kumar, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Padder, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh, relieving Mukhter Ahmad, JKAS, of the additional charge.

Daljeet Singh, JKAS, Tehsildar, Sunderbani, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Padder, while Firdous Ahmad Qadri, JKAS, Tehsildar, Bandipora, has been posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar.

Both orders have been issued by the General Administration Department with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor.

Amit Shah

posted on the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, celebrated as National Unity Day, on X, Shah termed the first home minister of the country "the architect of modern India, the symbol of national unity and integrity".

"We offer him millions of salutations and extend our heartfelt greetings to all fellow citizens on 'National Unity Day'," he said.

"With his indomitable courage and foresight, Sardar Sahab wove together a nation fragmented into princely states into a single thread, laying the foundation of a strong India, and by establishing the All India Services, he provided a robust base to the country's administrative system," he said.

Shah said Sardar Patel's struggle for farmers' rights through the Kheda and Bardoli Satyagraha has stands as an unparalleled example of public service and leadership.

"The sacrifice, dedication and patriotism of Sardar Sahab, who always placed the interests of the nation above all, will continue to inspire every citizen towards building 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'," he said.

Rebellion

"Widespread rumours began circulating, with some claiming 18 MLAs were involved, others said 27, and some cited 11. The BJP even claimed that for the first time, Jammu & Kashmir would see a BJP chief minister. All of this is sheer speculation and unsubstantiated rumour; there is no truth to it."

Mir said those who attended included senior legislators -- leaders who have served as Cabinet ministers, Deputy Speakers, Speakers, and individuals who have won four consecutive electoral terms. "If they discuss matters within their own party family about the challenges ahead, it is conducted within a friendly and internal atmosphere. Nobody gave a press statement against the party organisation or against the government," he said.

Mir, however, said the party discipline is paramount. "These are seasoned, experienced politicians. Whatever needs to be discussed will be handled internally within the party family; there is no scope for taking such matters into public confrontation,' he said.

On reports of displeasure over the expansion of the council of ministers, Mir said, naturally, everyone aspires to become a minister, especially those who have won three or more consecutive terms. "But responsible members of the press understand that Omar Abdullah currently has only eight ministerial berths available. That is precisely why on day one, he inducted only five ministers, keeping three berths vacant," he said.

Mir said the expansion took place owing to the limitations of a UT. "We remain hopeful that if the Central government honours its commitment to restore full statehood, our ministerial quota will expand to 22-24 berths, allowing everyone deserving to be accommodated," he said.

The NC provincial secretary said even within a family, an individual might feel aggrieved or upset temporarily, but they remain an integral and valued member of the family.

When asked about the party president Farooq Abdullah asking Ali Mohammad Sagar to continue as general secretary -- a post given to senior leader and six-time MLA Mubarak Gul after Sagar joined the council of ministers -- Mir said the move was taken in view of the local body elections in Kargil.

He said Gul mentioned in his address at the party headquarters (on Tuesday) that he needed time to consult and reconcile with party workers from his constituency before deciding, and that he would pacify them. However, one or two days ago, the election authorities announced local body elections for Kargil.

"Today, the Member of Parliament representing Kargil left from here. We had to issue mandate forms. In mandate forms A and B, the party president authorises the general secretary to nominate candidates contesting the elections," he said.

Mir said after Gul sought time, the party president, exercising his powers, asked Sagar to continue as general secretary until further orders under an interim arrangement to sign these documents so the party would not miss out. "If anyone reads more into it, there is no truth to that," he said.

Mir said, "A rift occurs when two factions develop deep ideological opposition against each other. Within internal democracy, people have the right to claim, 'This is my right.' The leadership will convince them. But the talk of a revolt, the way it is being hyped up, is completely untrue; there is no reality to it."

Rana said the BJP has wanted to break the National Conference since 2019, but it has not succeeded.

He said, "The party remains united and connected to the people. Nobody can break it, and those attempting to do so will not succeed...the operation Lotus will not succeed."

He said the party has remained intact despite political challenges, particularly after August 5, 2019, when the erstwhile state of J&K was bifurcated into two Union Territories, and its special status under Article 370 was revoked, and during the 2024 Assembly elections.

"Everyone wants to become a minister, but it is not possible to accommodate everyone. When Jammu and Kashmir regains full statehood, more people will get the opportunity to become ministers," he said.

Referring to the shifting of government from Srinagar to Jammu under the bi-annual Darbar move from November 2, the minister said this will provide a significant boost to the region's economy, particularly its business and commercial activities.

He recalled that Jammu's markets suffered when the Darbar Move was discontinued from October 2021 to October 2025, adding that reopening government offices in the city would generate economic activity and benefit local traders.

"Earlier, when the Darbar was not held here, Jammu's markets used to remain deserted. Now there is considerable activity in the markets, and the Darbar Move will bring substantial benefits to the region," Rana said.

He reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir Government was committed to equal treatment and balanced development of both regions.

The minister also visited the fire-ravaged Shiv Market near Jammu Tawi Railway Station and assessed the damage caused by the blaze. During his visit, he interacted with affected shopkeepers, listened to their grievances, and assessed their losses.

He assured the traders that the government stood firmly with them and that it would extend all possible assistance to help them recover from the losses and resume their business activities at the earliest. He also said the local administration had been directed to facilitate the necessary repair and renovation work and ensure that the affected traders received adequate support.

PM Modi

he said. He further accused the Opposition of violating constitutional norms.

"These people are engaged in shredding the boundaries of the Constitution," said the PM.

In a veiled reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's foreign trips, he said, "Due to the frustration of more than a decade, these people have now come out in the open. Who is secretly meeting whom abroad? Whom are the anti-India forces supporting? Who is speaking the language of India's enemies? We will have to recognise all these patterns."

He alleged that some forces were conspiring to divide the country and incite fights among citizens.

"These forces are constantly engaged in conspiracies of division in the country. Vicious cycles are being spun to divide and instigate fights among the children of Mother India," he said.

Jammu

Sunday, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the biannual Darbar Move from Srinagar to Jammu for the winter season 2026-27, with the offices of the Chief Minister and ministers, and other government departments scheduled to resume functioning in the winter capital on November 2 after six months of functioning in the summer capital Srinagar.

Offices observing a five-day work week closed in Srinagar on October 30, while those following a six-day schedule will cease operations after office hours on October 31.

Officials said preparations for the 'Darbar Move' have gathered pace across Jammu, with the administration undertaking an extensive makeover of the winter capital ahead of the government's return.

Alongside the beautification and infrastructure improvement drive, security arrangements have also been strengthened across the city, they said.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh, chaired a high-level security review meeting here on October 24 to finalise security and coordination arrangements for the 'Darbar Move'.

Chargesheet

consultancy was registered as an excursion agent for tour and travel services and not as a recruiting agent, and was operating without the requisite registration for overseas recruitment, they said.

It was further established that both accused received lakhs of rupees in their respective personal bank accounts from complainants on the pretext of providing overseas employment, but failed to fulfil their promises, they added.

The officials said that despite sustained efforts, Tanky could not be traced and has been absconding since 2025.

The investigation was concluded as proved, and the chargesheet has been filed before the competent court for judicial determination, they said.

Indian shooters eye LA 2028 quota places at ISSF Worlds

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, OCT 31 :Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, Elavenil Valarivan and Asian Games double gold medallist Neeru Dhanda will spearhead India's challenge at the ISSF World Championship (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun), which gets underway in Doha on Sunday, as the country's leading shooters look to put their recent disappointment in Aichi-Nagoya behind them and begin their quest for 2028 Los Angeles Olympic quotas.

With the competition also marking the start of the Olympic qualification cycle, the Indian contingent will have a significant opportunity to regain lost ground and set the tone for the road to Los Angeles.

India returned from the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with 15 medals - three gold, eight silver and four bronze - a considerable drop from its 22-medal haul at Hangzhou, where the shooters had won seven gold, nine silver and six bronze. The Doha championship will offer an early indication of how the team has responded to that setback.

A total of 36 quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will be available across 12 individual events, raising the stakes for the competition. Indian shooters will be keen to make an early mark in the qualification race while also measuring themselves against a strong international field. Neeru will be among the shooters carrying confidence into the championship after her impressive showing at the Asian Games, where she won gold in both the individual and mixed team events, besides adding a team silver. Manu and Esha will lead the country's hopes in pistol, while Elavenil will be a key figure in the rifle section. Suruchi Inder Singh is another shooter to watch as India looks to strengthen its presence across the disciplines.

The men's team will also have important contributions to make, with Samrat Rana and Varun Tomar among the names expected to shoulder responsibility. The performances in Doha will be closely assessed as India looks to address the gaps exposed in Aichi-Nagoya and build a settled combination for the Olympic cycle. India's campaign will be started by the 10m air rifle teams from November 3. Parth Mane, Himanshu Dhillon and Paarth Makhija form the men's team, while Shambhavi Kshirsagar, Sonam Maskar and Elavenil Valarivan will represent the country in the women's event. The championship will take place amid heightened attention to security in the region. The International Shooting Sport Federation said: "In light of recent developments in the region, the ISSF is closely monitoring the security situation in cooperation with the Qatar Shooting & Archery Association.

Auqib Nabi joins India squad for full NZ ODI series



United News Of India

AUCKLAND, OCT 31 :India have bolstered their pace-bowling options ahead of their five-match ODI series against New Zealand, as the Men's Selection Committee have added Auqib Nabi to India's squad for the first three ODIs of the upcoming series.

Nabi was initially named in the unit for the fourth and fifth ODIs but will now be available from the beginning of the series, starting, November 4.

The 29-year-old made his debut in last month's second ODI against the West Indies. India have also retained the rest of their originally announced squad

for the first three matches, with Nitish Kumar Reddy available only for the opening ODI.

Earlier, India had announced that Prasidh Krishna will sit out the ODI series after being unable to secure a fitness clearance.

The two sides are currently engaged in a five-match T20I series, where India have a unassailable 3-1 lead with the final T20I set for Sunday, November 1.

Nabi has thus far featured in a solitary ODI in which he was wicketless against the West Indies. But the right-arm pacer impressed in the recent India 'A' outing against New Zealand 'A', picking six wickets across two innings of the first-class game, acording to ICC. India's updated ODI squad for the first three ODIs: Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), KL Rahul (WK), Axar Patel, Naman Dhir, Anshul Kamboj, Gurnoor Brar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Arshdeep Singh, Ishan Kishan (WK), Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy (first ODI only), Auqib Nabi.

Jurel, Padikkal steady India A after early collapse against NZ A in 2nd unofficial Test

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, OCT 31 :India A recovered from an early setback through substantial contributions from Devdutt Padikkal (80) and captain Dhruv Jurel (99 not out), reaching 291/7 at stumps on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against New Zealand A at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Saturday.

Jurel struck 11 fours and three sixes during his 155-ball stay and took charge in the final session, scoring 131 runs with the loss of two wickets in 35 overs. He found useful support from Manav Suthar, who made 22, in a 62-run stand for the seventh wicket. Akash Deep then joined the captain to add an unbeaten 69 for the eighth wicket, finishing the day on 25 not out.

Earlier, Padikkal steadied the innings after Yashasvi Jaiswal was dismissed for a four-ball duck in the opening over. The left-hander scored 80 off 10 boundaries and shared a 91-run partnership with Sai Sudharsan, who contributed 41. India A went to lunch at 87/1 after being put in to bat.

Sudharsan fell soon after the break, triggering a collapse in which India A lost three wickets for six runs in six deliveries. Yash Rathod was dismissed for 13 before Fraser Sheat bowled Padikkal off an inside edge and trapped Ravichandran Smaran lbw for a first-ball duck. Washington Sundar also fell lbw to Sheat for eight. Sheat was the pick of the New Zealand A bowlers, returning figures of 4/50 from 19 overs, while Randell, McKay and Jayden Lennox picked up a wicket apiece.

Jaiswal's early dismissal added to his recent struggles. He had managed scores of 17 and five in the first unofficial Test, following returns of 77 runs across the two-Test series in Sri Lanka. The opening four-day match between the two sides ended in a draw after bad light brought an early close. Brief Scores: India A 291/7 (Dhruv Jurel 99 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 80; Fraser Sheat 4/50) vs New Zealand A.

Badminton: Sindhu, Anmol set up all-Indian semifinal; Lakshya also enters last four



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 :India will have a guaranteed representative in the women's singles final of the Hylo Open Super 500 after P V Sindhu and Anmol Kharb booked their places in the semifinals with contrasting victories in Saarbrücken on Friday.

Lakshya Sen also kept India's hopes alive in the men's singles, battling past Finland's Kalle Koljonen to reach the last four.

Sindhu made short work of Germany's Amalie Schulz, registering a 21-12, 21-10 win in 28 minutes. Coming off a runner-up finish at the French Open, the double Olympic medallist maintained her momentum and controlled the match from the outset, taking 42 of the 64 points played.

Her next opponent will be Anmol, who had to work much harder to get past sixth seed Unnati Hooda. The youngster recovered from losing the second game to prevail 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 in a contest lasting an hour and eight minutes.

The all-Indian semifinal means one of the two will advance to the title round, giving India a chance to fight for the women's singles crown.

Sen, meanwhile, showed resilience to overcome a slow start against Koljonen. After losing the opening game 14-21, the former World Championships bronze medallist raised his intensity to take the next two 21-17, 21-13 and complete the 66-minute contest.

The top-ranked Indian in the men's singles will now face France's Toma Junior Popov for a place in the final.

Chiranth Vishwanath notches brilliant win in Super Sport race, Savion Sabu, Surya Reddy score; Double for Anandhu

United News Of India

CHENNAI, OCT 31 :Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath breezed to a brilliant win in the premier Super Sport 301-400cc Open class upstaging pole-sitter, Petronas TVS Racing team-mate and arch-rival Sarthak Chavan in the third round of the MRF Indian National Racing Challenge 2W 2026 at the Madras International Circuit at Irungattukottai, about 40 km from here, on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Chiranth, starting the race from P8 due to a penalty, moved into second spot by Turn-4 in the very first lap before slipping past leader Sarthak, who turned 20 yesterday, half-way through the six-lap race. Thereafter, he stepped up the pace even more, setting a lap record of 01 minute 47.198 seconds in the process for a commanding win. Sarthak, realising he couldn't keep up with Chiranth, decided to maintain his P2 position for points while 18-year-old Rakshith Dave completed a podium sweep for Petronas TVS Racing team.

Bengaluru's Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) scored a fine win in the Pro-Stock 200cc Open race that was reduced to three laps following two red-flag stoppages due to on-track incidents. It was 19-year-old Savion's second victory in five starts this season.

Earlier, KK Anandhu from Chennai delivered two wins for Veedol C2 Racing for a grand double. In the morning, he won the Stock 301-400cc race starting from P7 on the grid and then topped the Super Stock 165cc Intermediate later in the day after pole-sitter Ann Jennifer retired in the very first lap which ended her unbeaten run across two rounds.

Similarly, young Kabilesh Rajini Krishnan's (RACR Castrol Power1) sequence of three wins ended as he finished third in the Super Stock 301-400cc Open race behind the experienced Rockers Racing pair of Senthil Kumar and Mathana Kumar.

Fifth T20I vs NZ: India look to plug bowling gaps, fine-tune combination

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 31 :India's team combination will be the central talking point as the world champions look to make a few adjustments for the fifth and final T20 International against New Zealand in Hamilton on Sunday, with the series already secured at 3-1.

While the result may not have a bearing on the series outcome, the contest offers the team management an opportunity to assess its bench strength and address a few concerns before shifting focus to the upcoming five-match ODI series. The heavy defeat in the fourth T20I could also prompt the think tank to revisit its combination, particularly in the batting and bowling departments. The possible return of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is one of the key selection questions. Sanju Samson could make way for the youngster after an inconsistent run at the top of the order.

Wrestling: Manisha becomes India's first women's wrestling world champion

United News Of India



ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN), OCT 31 :Manisha Bhanwala became the first Indian wrestler to win a women's freestyle gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships after a stunning comeback victory in the 59kg final here.

The 29-year-old Manisha, competing at the World Wrestling Championships 2026, came back from 6-0 down to beat reigning Pan American champion Abigail Nette of the USA 8-6 in the gold medal bout on Friday. Manisha became only the second Indian wrestler to win a senior world title. Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar was previously India's only world champion, having won the men's 66kg freestyle crown in 2010, according to olympics.com.

The gold marked a new high in the career of Manisha, the 2025 Asian champion, who had competed at three previous senior World Championships without winning a medal. She made it to the bronze medal bout in the non-Olympic 65kg division in Tirana in 2024 but lost 8-2 to Japan's Miwa Morikawa. Earlier this month, Manisha competed in the 57kg division at the Asian Games 2026, where she ran into Japanese star Akari Fujinami in the quarter-finals. Fujinami, the Paris 2024 Olympic champion and a two-time world champion, beat Manisha 3-0 in a closely fought contest.



Srinagar: Khalsa Hockey Academy Amritsar players hold their winning trophy and celebrates victory cheering and lifting Winning Trophy of Women's Hockey Championship 2026 after beating Malik Hockey Academy, Rampur, in final match by 5-01 during Kashmir Hockey Academy Foundation Organises Women's Hockey Championship 2026 at Astro Turf Hockey Ground, Polo Ground, in Srinagar on Saturday 31 October 2026.Photo/Mohammad Amin War



Srinagar: Malik Hockey Academy, Rampur players hold their Runner up trophy and celebrates cheering and lifting Runner Up Trophy of Women's Hockey Championship 2026 at final match during Kashmir Hockey Academy Foundation Organises Women's Hockey Championship 2026 at Astro Turf Hockey Ground, Polo Ground, in Srinagar on Saturday 31 October 2026.Photo/Mohammad Amin War

Sixes galore & last-ball drama as Hong Kong Sixes 2026 finalists emerge

United News Of India

HONG KONG, OCT 31 :Hong Kong Sixes 2026 witnessed a spectacular day of cricket packed with last-ball thrillers, breathtaking six-hitting displays, remarkable individual performances and dramatic finishes as the tournament moved into its business end.

South Africa scripted a sensational last-ball victory over Bangladesh, with Jorich van Schalkwyk delivering a match-winning finish, while Blake Simpson endured a 6-sixes-in-an-over assault, conceding 36 runs in the 4th over by the Bangladesh batting duo of Habibur Rahman and Mrittunjoy Chowdhury.

The day also witnessed a flurry of explosive half-centuries, with Michael Leask (70 off 15), Habibur Rahman (60 off 14),

Max Bryant (60 off 15), Nick Hobson (53 off 11), Gulbadin Naib (51 off 16), Martin Andersson (51 off 13), Rahul Tripathi (54 off 12) and Abbas Afridi (55 off 13) leading the batting fireworks.

England edged India by 3 runs in another nail-biting finish, while Afghanistan overcame Scotland to set up a mouth-watering Cup Final against Australia.

With Australia and Afghanistan set to battle for the Cup, England and South Africa to contest the Bowl Final, and

Oman and Pakistan to clash in the Plate Final, the stage is set for an action-packed finale tomorrow at Hong Kong Sixes 2026.

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Pride of Kandi Karnah: LG Sinha felicitates Umar Peerzada at SKICC

UPSC CSE 2024 achiever brings honour to frontier area; recognition marks proud milestone

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED

Srinagar, October 31: In a moment of immense pride and honour for the people of Kandi Karnah, Umar Peerzada, IRS, who successfully qualified the prestigious Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination 2024, was felicitated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, during a special felicitation ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The recognition has brought immense happiness and pride to the Peer family of Kandi Karnah, as Umar Peerzada's achievement stands as an inspiring example of determination, perseverance, academic commitment and the power of pursuing one's dreams despite challenges.

The felicitation ceremony was organised by Exceptional IAS Academy to recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of successful candidates of the UPSC Civil Services Examination and Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) examinations. The event celebrated the hard work, dedication and perseverance of young achievers who have successfully crossed one of the most challenging competitive examination processes in the country.

The presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who personally felicitated the successful candidates, added further significance to the occasion. The ceremony also acknowledged the important contribution of parents, teachers, mentors and educational institutions in shaping the journeys of these young achievers.

Umar Peerzada's achievement is particularly significant for the remote and geographically challenging border region of Karnah, where young people often face limited educational resources, infrastructure constraints and several other difficulties while pursuing higher academic and professional goals.

His success has demonstrated that talent, determination and hard work can overcome geographical limitations and open doors to prestigious national-level opportunities. For the people of Kandi Karnah, his accomplishment is not merely an individual success



but a source of collective inspiration and encouragement for the younger generation.

His journey towards the prestigious civil services represents years of preparation, discipline, patience and unwavering commitment to his goal. Qualifying the UPSC examination, widely regarded as one of India's toughest competitive examinations, is itself a remarkable accomplishment, while his recognition at a high-profile ceremony in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor has added another memorable chapter to his success story.

The achievement has also placed the Peer family of Kandi Karnah in the spotlight, with relatives, well-wishers and members of the local community expressing happiness over the recognition bestowed upon Umar Peerzada.

The ceremony also carried an important message for the newly selected civil servants. While congratulating the successful candidates, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha urged them to uphold humility, compassion and integrity throughout their professional careers. He emphasised that public office is a trust placed in officers by the people and that the real measure of an administrator lies in the positive difference they bring to the lives of ordinary citizens.

He also encouraged the young officers to understand ground realities, strengthen transparent administrative systems, uphold institutional values and prioritise public welfare over the prestige associated with official positions.

Director of Exceptional Academy, Owais Ali Bhat, and other distinguished guests and officials were also present at the ceremony. The academy's initiative provided a platform to recognise the accomplishments of young civil services qualifiers and motivate aspiring candidates to work towards similar goals.

For Karnah, a border constituency in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Umar Peerzada's accomplishment carries special significance. At a time when the youth of remote areas need positive role models and greater motivation, achievements like his reinforce the belief that the dreams of young people from far-flung villages can reach the highest levels of national service.

His felicitation by the Lieutenant Governor will undoubtedly remain a memorable occasion for the Peer family and the people of Kandi Karnah. The achievement is expected to inspire many aspiring students from the region to pursue higher education, competitive examinations and careers in public service with confidence and determination.

Umar Peerzada's success is not just a personal milestone; it is a moment of collective pride for Kandi Karnah and a powerful reminder that the boundaries of geography cannot restrict the heights of ambition.

Maiden live streaming of 'Ekta Diwas' parade organised at Simari Village in Karnah

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED



Kupwara: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Jammu and Kashmir Police, District Kupwara, through Police Station Karnah, organised the live streaming of the Ekta Diwas Parade from Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, at Simari village in Karnah, recognised as the First Village of India, on October 31.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 500 people, including children and residents from Simari and adjoining villages. People gathered in large numbers to watch the live telecast of the parade and celebrate the spirit of national unity, integrity and brotherhood.

The initiative provided residents of the remote border villages of Karnah an opportunity to witness the national-level celebrations and participate virtually in the historic occasion.

The programme reflected the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police towards promoting national integration, community participation and a sense of unity among people living in border areas.

The event was organised by District Police Kupwara through Police Station Karnah.

Kupwara's Sufi heritage gets recognition through new book



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED

Srinagar: In a proud moment for Kupwara district, a book titled *"Kupwara: An Abode of Sufi Saints,"* authored by Khursheed Ahmad Dar, a resident of Pohrupeth, Handwara, was formally released by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar.

The book highlights the rich spiritual heritage, Sufi traditions and historical significance of Kupwara district. It aims to document the contributions of Sufi saints and preserve the region's centuries-old spiritual and cultural legacy for future generations. The publication is expected to serve as a valuable source of information for readers, researchers and those interested in Kashmir's Sufi history and traditions.

The release of the book marks an important contribution towards documenting and promoting the cultural and spiritual identity of Kupwara district.

Ganderbal Admin observes National Unity Day



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 31: In a spirited observance of National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the District Administration Ganderbal today organized a grand 'Run for Unity' march as the primary highlight of the day's celebrations.

The Run for Unity March commenced from the lawns of the DC Office Complex, Ganderbal, and concluded at Qamariya Ground. The march was led by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, and joined by SSP Ganderbal, Harshal Rajesh Mahajan, ADC Ganderbal, ADDC Ganderbal, ACR Ganderbal, DFO Sind Forest Division, and other district and sectoral officers.

A diverse cross-section of society participated in the march, including officers and officials from all government departments, students, teachers and the general public. The march was enlivened by pipe bands from JKP Ganderbal and J&K Sainik School Manasbal.

Following the march, a grand assembly gathered at Qamariya Ground, where DC Ganderbal administered the National Unity Pledge to all participants, pledging the district's collective commitment to upholding the unity, integrity, and security of the nation.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the district is celebrating the event on the lines of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to uphold the values and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. She expressed gratitude to all participants, students, officials, and civil society members for their active involvement. She further informed the media that similar programs and pledge-taking ceremonies are being organized at the sub-division, tehsil, and block levels across district Ganderbal so that the spirit of unity reaches every far corner of the district. The celebrations had earlier commenced with a vibrant Cyclothon under the banner of "Run for Unity," which was flagged off from the Clock Tower Ganderbal by ACR Ganderbal, and culminated at Gadoora College. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth.

ADDC Bandipora chairs meeting to review human-wildlife conflict

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: A meeting of the District Level Task Force (DTF) for Mitigation and Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir to review the prevailing situation and discuss preventive measures.

During the meeting, the Wildlife Department highlighted human-wildlife conflict hotspots, incidents of human casualties and injuries, and the need for adequate manpower and infrastructure, particularly in Gurez. Concerns regarding crop damage caused by wild boars and monkeys were also discussed.

The committee emphasised proper garbage disposal, community awareness, plantation on barren hills and improved inter-departmental coordination to minimise human-wildlife interactions.

On the occasion, the Wildlife Department was directed to submit a detailed requisition for infrastructure, while the proposed crop-damage insurance scheme was also discussed as a possible relief mechanism for affected farmers.

'Madad' Charitable Trust organises free medical camp at Habak

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar: Madad Charitable Trust, Lal Bazar, in collaboration with the Directorate of AYUSH and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organised a free medical camp at Shan Mohalla, Habak, to provide accessible healthcare facilities to the local population.

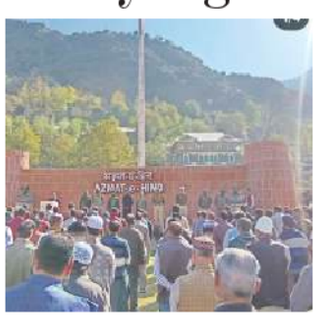
The medical camp witnessed an encouraging response, with a large number of people from Shan Mohalla and adjoining areas participating and availing themselves of the free medical services. During the camp, a team of qualified doctors examined patients suffering from various ailments and provided medical consultations, necessary guidance and healthcare advice. Free medicines and nutritional supplements were also distributed among the beneficiaries to help address their basic healthcare requirements.

As part of the initiative, special eye examinations were conducted on the spot, enabling local residents to receive essential eye-care services. Various medical tests were also carried out free of cost, providing people with an opportunity to assess their health conditions without bearing additional expenses. The initiative was aimed at taking essential healthcare services to the doorsteps of the community, particularly benefiting economically weaker sections and those who face difficulties in accessing medical consultations, diagnostic facilities and medicines.

The collaboration between Madad Charitable Trust, the Directorate of AYUSH and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted the importance of collective efforts by voluntary organisations, healthcare institutions and other stakeholders in strengthening community healthcare and promoting public well-being.

150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 'Run for Unity' organised in Karnah

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED



KARNAH, OCTOBER 31: The Sub-Divisional Administration Karnah, in collaboration with the Indian Army and other departments, organised a 'Run for Unity' at Tetwal on Saturday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and promote the message of national unity and integrity. The run commenced from Gundishath and culminated at Azmat-e-Hind, Tetwal, witnessing enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of the Civil Administration, Indian Army, BSF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Education Department and other departments, besides students and local youth. The programme was flagged off by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Mohammad Riyaz (JKAS). Among those present were the Principal of Government Degree College Karnah, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Naib Tehsildar Karnah, Horticulture Development Officer, SHO Teetwal, officers of the Indian Army and BSF, and officials from various departments. Addressing the gathering, the SDM highlighted the significance of National Unity Day and paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his historic contribution towards the unification of the country. He urged people, particularly the youth, to uphold the values of unity, integrity and communal harmony and contribute towards nation-building.

The event conveyed a strong message of 'Unity in Diversity' and highlighted the importance of collective participation and cooperation in building a peaceful and progressive nation.

Chairman DLSA Ganderbal reviews undertrial cases

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 31: The Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority), Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, conducted the 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting today, with the objective of ensuring timely review and release of undertrial prisoners, thereby promoting their rights and access to justice.

The meeting was held in the office chamber of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, and was attended by Shreya Singhal, District Magistrate, Ganderbal, Harshal Rajesh Mahajan, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, Bharat Sharma, Sr. Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar, Shafat Ahmad, Public Prosecutor, Sessions Court, Ganderbal, Shafakat Murtaza, APP, Additional District & Sessions Court Ganderbal, and Sajid Irfan, Deputy, LADC Ganderbal.

The UTRC convened to review the cases of two undertrial prisoners, shortlisted by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal for consideration, under category-12 (Women).

Upon examination of the cases, the Committee observed that both women undertrial prisoners were facing charges involving heinous offences. Accordingly, after due consideration of the nature and gravity of the allegations, the UTRC Committee decided not to recommend their release at this stage.

The meeting underscores the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority, to uphold the principles of justice and ensure the rights of undertrial prisoners are safeguarded.