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Kashmiri Pandits Are Kashmir's soul: LG Sinha

Inaugurates 1416 Transit Accommodation Flats For PM Package Employees In Valley

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, November 01: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated the newly constructed Transit Residential Complex at Zewan here for PM Package Employees. The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated residential complexes at Kakan Maran in Budgam and Kulangam Bagh in Kupwara through virtual mode.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that the inauguration of 1,416 flats across the three locations marked a significant step towards improving the living conditions of employees appointed under the PM Package and advancing the vision of the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandit families to the Valley. He noted that each flat represented aspirations, resilience, and hopes of a family seeking a secure future in Kashmir.

The transit accommodation project consists of 6,000 flats across 342 blocks at 20 locations in 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley. The project was accelerated in 2020 in mission mode. Of the 6,000 sanctioned flats, construction of more than 5,200 flats has been completed and over 3,800 flats have already been allotted.

Highlighting the achievements of the three newly inaugurated complexes, the Lieutenant Governor

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Shailendra Kumar To Look After CS's Charge, Several IAS Officers Shifted

Shaleen Kabra Posted As DG IMPA; Chandraker Bharti Gets Additional Charge of FC Revenue

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, Nov 1: The Government on Sunday ordered a reshuffle in the administration, assigning the charge of Chief Secretary to senior IAS officer Shailendra Kumar, while transferring and assigning new responsibilities to several other senior officers.

According to separate orders, Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, has been asked to look after the charge of the post of Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, till Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), joins the Union Territory. The

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LG Extends Greetings On Foundation Day Of 13 States, UTs

Calls For Stronger Cultural Unity, Commitment For Viksit Bharat

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, November 01: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Keralam, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu on their Foundation Day.

Addressing a commemorative programme marking the occasion at Lok Bhavan, the Lieutenant Governor said that the celebration of Foundation Days of different States and Union Territories reflects India's enduring civilisational ethos of unity in diversity. He expressed gratitude to Hon'ble

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DARBAR MOVE

Omar's People-Centric Governance Shifts Focus to Jammu

K A NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, November 1: As the offices are set to reopen in Jammu tomorrow following the Darbar Move, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's governance approach over the past year has remained firmly focused on responsive, inclusive and people-centric development, with sustained public outreach and a commitment to addressing the concerns of people across Jammu and Kashmir.

Leading from the ground, the Chief Minister has undertaken extensive visits across Jammu and Kashmir, reaching remote villages, towns and urban centres to interact directly with people, listen to their grievances and understand their aspirations. These engagements have helped shape the Government's priorities, with a focus on improving everyday life through better road connectivity, safe drinking water, reliable power supply, environmental protection, quality healthcare, education, skill development, sports and modern

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No force, temptation or greed for power can shake my loyalty to NC: MLA Lone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Srinagar, Nov 1: National Conference MLA Hilal Akbar Lone on Sunday dismissed speculation of a rebellion within the party, asserting that no force, temptation, or desire for a position could shake his loyalty to the party and its leadership.

His remarks come amid speculation of discontent within the ruling NC following Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's expansion of the Council of Ministers on October 27.

Lone, who was among the MLAs who attended the gathering at a colleague's residence a day after the cabinet expansion, said his presence there was not intended to signal any dissent or disloyalty towards the party or its leadership.

"It is unfortunate that some people have tried to give a different colour and meaning to the gathering at one of our colleague's residences the other day. I had not gone there with the intention to ditch my leader or my party.

"The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has breathed political life into us. We are what we are because of the National Conference, and our fidelity to the party goes far beyond posts and positions," the Sonawari MLA said in a post

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Road crash in Kathua leaves boy dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 1: A 13-year-old boy was killed and seven people sustained injuries after a speeding truck collided with two mini-buses and an auto-rickshaw in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

The accident took place at 8.30 am when the driver of a truck, which was on its way from Jammu towards Lakhanpur,

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India's flight disruptions to Saudi Arabia continue



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 1: Flight disruptions between India and Saudi Arabia continue, with Akasa Air on Sunday extending the suspension of its services to Jeddah until November 18 amid the prevailing security situation in the Gulf kingdom. The airline said flights to and from Riyadh would remain suspended until November 30.

The announcement came two days after Air India and Air India Express said their flights to and from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam would remain suspended until November 14.

The flight disruptions have continued amid attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including airports.

In a statement on October 22, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said one Indian national was killed and two others injured in the October 21 attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. Another Indian national was injured in an attack on Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province.

The Embassy said it was in contact with Saudi authorities and would provide all possible assistance to the affected Indians.

Earlier, India had condemned

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If you want to become PM, stay in mock parliament: Amit Shah on Rahul Gandhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Chandigarh, Nov 1: In a blistering attack on Rahul Gandhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the country will never forget that the Congress leader held a 'jalsa' on the anniversary of the "Sikh genocide" of 1984, and that if he wanted to become the prime minister, he should stay in a "mock parliament" his entire life.

Speaking at an event in Chandigarh, he also slammed opposition parties, saying that telling lies, spreading anarchy and negativity, and not letting Parliament function was their true nature.

He was addressing a gathering here after the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremony of various development projects worth Rs 258 crore.

The

See on Pg. 10

Army's peacetime role as important as its wartime contribution: Jitendra Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 1: Underscoring the Army's invaluable contribution beyond its conventional role of safeguarding the nation's borders, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said its role during peacetime was as important as its contribution during war.

He particularly highlighted the Army's efforts to assist civilians in remote and geographically challenging areas through humanitarian initiatives, disaster relief and healthcare outreach.

Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, was speaking

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Jammu Airport initiates consultations for commencement of Int'l flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 1: Jammu Airport has initiated consultations with stakeholders to evaluate the feasibility and preparedness to launch international flight operations, an official said on Sunday.

A planning and coordination meeting on Saturday, chaired by Airport Director Devender Yadav, brought together representatives of airlines, security and regulatory agencies, government departments, tourism bodies and other stakeholders.

Potential international destinations, passenger demand, operational requirements and roadmap to enhance Jammu's global air connectivity were discussed in the meeting, a Jammu Airport spokesperson said.

Highlighting Jammu's potential for international air connectivity, Yadav underscored the region's strong prospects, supported by religious tourism, strategic geographical location, educational institutions, business activities and

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Joint inspection drive conducted against unregistered clinical establishments, chemist shops in Kulgam



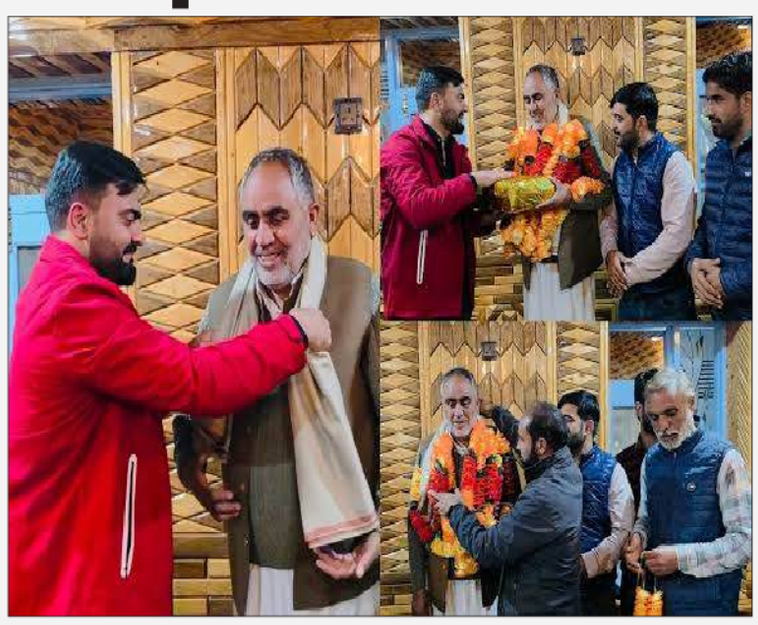
Kashmir Age News

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 01: A joint inspection drive targeting unregistered clinical establishments, diagnostic laboratories and chemist shops was conducted today across District Kulgam by a special team constituted under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kulgam and Drug Control Department Kulgam.

The inspection team comprised the District Health Officer (DHO), Kulgam, Drug Control Officer, Kulgam, and other officials from the CMO Office.During the inspection, several clinical establishments and diagnostic laboratories found operating without valid registration under the Clinical Establishments Act were sealed/closed down, while heavy fines were imposed on violators under the relevant provisions of law.The team also examined CCTV footage and computerized billing records of various establishments to identify discrepancies and ensure adherence to prescribed regulatory norms.

DIPR Kupwara bids warm adieu to Ghulam Nabi Mir on his superannuation

Kashmir Press Service



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 01: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kupwara, today organised a warm and heartfelt farewell function to bid adieu to Ghulam Nabi Mir on his superannuation after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the department.

The farewell function was held at Handwara under the chairmanship of District Information Officer (DIO), Kupwara, Aadil Manzoor Wani.

Speaking on the occasion, the DIO lauded the sincere, dedicated and unblemished service rendered by Mir during his tenure in

the department. He described him as an honest, hardworking and committed official who consistently discharged his duties with dedication, sincerity and professionalism.

On behalf of the entire staff, the DIO extended his best wishes to the retiring official for a happy, healthy and fulfilling post-retirement life.

Colleagues and staff members also shared their experiences of working with the retiring official and appreciated his cordial disposition, punctuality and ever-helpful attitude towards colleagues.

In his remarks, Ghulam Nabi Mir expressed gratitude to the DIO and all staff members for the affection, respect and cooperation extended to him throughout his service career.

As a token of appreciation and affection, the DIO, along with the staff, felicitated the retiring official with a memento and a shawl.

DC Kupwara distributes Keys to PM Package Employees at transit accommodation Kulangam Bagh

Kashmir Age News

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 1: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today distributed keys to PM Package Employees at the Transit Accommodation, Kulangam Bagh, Handwara, following its virtual inauguration by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha.



SSP Handwara, ADC Handwara, ACR Kupwara, SE R&B, XEN R&B and other senior officers, including concerned officers from the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Police and Civil Administration were present on the occasion.

Initiated in 2021, the Transit Accommodation Project has been successfully completed on November 1, 2026. The project comprises 18 buildings, each housing 16 flats, with a total of 288 residential units, constructed at an approximate project cost of 62 crore.

Congratulating the beneficiaries on taking possession of their new homes, the DC extended his best wishes and inspected the colony to review the facilities and arrangements put in place for the residents

The DC expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for his support and guidance and acknowledged the contributions of the R&B, Revenue .

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada commences in Doda

Kashmir Age News

DODA, NOVEMBER 1: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Krishan Lal today e-inaugurated the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada here from the Conference Hall DC Office Complex to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda.



The Fortnight long campaign will run from November 1 to November 15, 2026, featuring cultural and educational activities and IEC campaigns aimed at celebrating tribal heritage, promoting inclusivity and highlighting the contribution of tribal freedom fighters and communities towards the nation's development.

The inaugural event was attended by PO ICDS Akhter Qazi; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi; Cultural Officer Salauddin; Wardens and students from Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys and Girls Hostels.

The DC highlighted the life, valour and sacrifices of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, describing his contribution to the tribal community and the freedom movement as a lasting source of inspiration. He emphasised the importance of preserving tribal culture, traditions, language and heritage while ensuring the educational, social and economic empowerment of tribal communities.

The DC also stressed the need for active participation of all concerned departments in organising meaningful activities throughout the Pakhwada to spread awareness about the history, achievements and contributions of tribal communities. He encouraged students to draw inspiration from the life and ideals of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and contribute positively towards society and nation-building.

Meanwhile, a programme under Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada was organised today at Forest Complex Bhaderwah.

Local Member Legislative Assembly Daleep Singh Parihar attended the function along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) and other officers and officials were present.

DC Pulwama conducts surprise Inspection of SDH Pampore

Calls for strict action against Absentees

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today conducted a surprise inspection of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Pampore to assess the functioning of the healthcare facility, staff attendance and the availability of medical services.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner found that only one doctor was present on duty. Taking serious note of the staff absence,

the Deputy Commissioner ordered strict action against the absentees and held the Block Medical Officer (BMO), Pampore, accountable for ensuring proper staff attendance and effective functioning of the hospital.

Emphasising that healthcare institutions must function efficiently and

remain accessible to the public, the DC stressed that punctuality, duty adherence and uninterrupted delivery of medical services are non-negotiable.

He further stated that negligence in public service delivery, particularly in the healthcare sector, would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against those found derelict in their duties.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebrations kick off in Baramulla

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 01: The District Administration Baramulla today kick-started the fortnight-long celebrations of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026 with an inaugural programme in a tribal-populated area, marking the beginning of a series of activities scheduled to be held across the district from November 1 to November 15.

The inaugural programme featured the launch of the district activity calendar, an exhibition highlighting the contributions of tribal heroes, their rich cultural heritage and various government welfare schemes, besides cultural activities and community outreach initiatives. The participating departments showcased information relating to nutrition, early childhood care, healthcare, education, social welfare, forest conservation, agriculture and horticulture, with a focus on creating awareness about various government schemes and entitlements among tribal communities.As part of the



opening-day activities, the ICDS Department mobilised tribal families through its field functionaries to disseminate awareness about nutrition and early childhood care, while the Health Department organised health outreach initiatives in tribal-populated areas. The Education Department facilitated student participation and awareness about tribal heroes and heritage. Social Welfare, Forest, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments also contributed through information displays highlighting welfare schemes, environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture and livelihood opportunities.The Department of Youth Services and Sports and MY Bharat facilitated youth participation and volunteer mobilisation, while the District Information Office coordinated media coverage, publicity, approved branding and documentation of the inaugural programme.

Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel

90 battalion CRPF organises 'Run for Unity'

Kashmir Press Service



ANANTNAG:The 90th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India, by organising an inspiring 'Run for Unity' on October 31, 2026.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff members of Saint Xian's International School and was organised to promote the ideals of national unity, integrity and social harmony championed by Sardar Patel.

Shri Ashish Bharti, IPS, DIG, Operations Range Anantnag, along with Commandant 90 Bn CRPF, Shri Kamlendra Pratap Singh, addressed the gathering and highlighted Sardar Patel's historic contribution towards the political integration and unity of India.

They emphasised the continued relevance of his ideals in the country's diverse and dynamic society and called upon participants to uphold the spirit of brotherhood, mutual understanding and collective strength for national progress.

On the occasion, Shri Ashish Bharti also administered the National Unity Pledge to the participants, urging them to contribute towards strengthening national integration and promoting unity among people.

Teachers and students participated enthusiastically in the Run for Unity, demonstrating their commitment to the values of peace, brotherhood and national solidarity.The 90th Battalion CRPF reiterated its commitment to honouring the contributions of great national leaders and organising initiatives that promote patriotism, social harmony and the spirit of unity among citizens.

KU's SACMS, Sahitya Akademi holds 'Evening with a Critic' featuring Iqbal Nazki

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR NOV 01: The Shaikh-ul-Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies (SACMS), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, organised a literary programme titled 'An Evening with a Critic' at the Main Campus,

featuring eminent Kashmiri literary critic Iqbal Nazki.The programme provided a platform to discuss the role of literary criticism in interpreting texts and understanding the wider cultural and social contexts of Kashmiri literature.

Sharing reflections on his literary journey, Iqbal Nazki spoke about the importance of critical inquiry in appreciating literary works and engaging with their deeper meanings.

He said, "Literary criticism helps us look beyond the surface of a text and understand the ideas, experiences and cultural realities it reflects."

Particular emphasis was placed on the richness of Kashmiri literary traditions and the need to nurture a vibrant culture of literary criticism and scholarly dialogue.

Prof. Aadil Amin Kak, Chairman, SACMS, said that such literary interactions create opportunities for sustained engagement with critical thought and encourage students and scholars to approach literature from diverse perspectives.

The session was presided over by Prof. Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, while Prof. Shad Ramzan delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of literary criticism in enriching the understanding of Kashmiri literature and its literary traditions.

Dr. Satish Vimal, Professor of Practice at SACMS; Prof. Noor Ahmad Baba; Dr. Maroof Shah; Mohammad

Amin Bhat; and Shakeelur Rehman were among the participants who contributed to the discussion.

MLA Billawar inaugurates paddy procurement Mandi at Damara

Kashmir Age News



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 01: MLA Billawar Satish Kumar Sharma, in presence of Director, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department Jammu Anil Gupta and ADC Vishavjeet Singh, today inaugurated the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre) here at Damara.

The initiative aims to facilitate smooth, transparent and hassle-free procurement of paddy from local farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 2,441 per quintal for Paddy (Common) and 2,461 per quintal for Paddy (Grade-A).

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satish Kumar Sharma reiterated the government's commitment to the welfare of farmers through improved procurement facilities, enhanced transparency and timely disbursement of payments. He emphasized that such centres

would play a significant role in strengthening the rural economy, reducing the role of middlemen and empowering local farming communities by providing farmers with convenient access to procurement facilities.

In his address, Director Agriculture Jammu informed that the Agriculture Department, in coordination with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has made elaborate arrangements for efficient procurement operations and timely payments to farmers. He directed the field officers to extend full support to farmers throughout the procurement process and ensure that no farmer faces any inconvenience.

Among others present on the occasion were District Agriculture Officer, Kathua; SDAO; Subject Matter Specialists; officers from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and several local farmers, officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

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Agriculture graduates call off 42-day strike after talks with Javed Dar

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOV 1: Unemployed agriculture graduates in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday called off their 42-day-long strike following a meeting with Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, who assured them that their genuine demands would be addressed soon.

The breakthrough came after the minister discussed two key proposals with the protesting graduates — a 50:50 recruitment formula for gazetted posts and the merger of two non-gazetted cadres to create a common post at the panchayat level.

Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar said the government was committed to addressing the genuine concerns of unemployed agriculture graduates.

"I met the delegation and listened to their concerns. Their demands are genuine, and I have assured them that these will be fulfilled soon. We will hold further discussions to resolve the outstanding issues," Dar said.

Following the meeting, representatives of the graduates announced their decision to end the ongoing agitation, saying the assurances had provided a basis for further engagement with the government.

"The meeting was constructive. We discussed our demands in detail, and the minister acknowledged our concerns. On the

gazetted cadre, he proposed a 50:50 recruitment formula, with half the posts reserved for direct recruitment and the remaining half for departmental candidates," a representative of the delegation said.

On non-gazetted recruitment, the delegation said the minister had proposed merging the Agriculture Extension Assistant (AEA) and Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAEO) posts into a single cadre without reducing their combined strength.

The proposed common post would be available at the panchayat level, potentially creating a unified recruitment structure within the Agriculture Department.

The graduates said the proposals would require further discussions before a final decision could be taken.

"We are calling off our strike for now on the strength of the assurances given by the minister. We will continue to follow up on these issues and expect the government to take concrete steps," the representative said.

Delegation of All J&K Specially-Abled Employees Association, others call on LG Sinha



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 01: A delegation of All J&K Specially-Abled Employees Association called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and highlighted the issue pertaining to reservation in promotions for eligible Persons with Benchmark Disabilities in the Union Territory. Dr. Touseef Bhat, President, Rotary Club of Kashmir, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and briefed him about the ongoing activities, initiatives and community service programmes of Rotary International.

Dr. Bhat also discussed important matters related to conservation of water bodies, climate change, air pollution, biodiversity protection and the need for greater public participation in environmental conservation. Mohammad Iqbal Ahangar, former Chairman, Municipal Committee Dooru-Verinag and Chairman, Coordination Committee J&K, called on LG Sinha, and put forth various issues related to youth and women empowerment and other public important issues of Dooru.

Action Against Illegal Mining

J&K Police seizes 3 vehicles in Baramulla

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA: In a continued drive against illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of minerals, J&K Police in Baramulla seized three tippers loaded with mining material for being operated without valid legal documents at Kunzer.

The action was carried out by Police Station Kunzer during routine enforcement. The seized vehicles bear registration numbers JK04-5545, JK05L-1109 and JK05A-0308. The vehicles were found transporting mining material without the requisite documentation and were accordingly seized under relevant legal provisions. Further legal proceedings have been initiated in the matter.

Police reiterated its commitment to curbing illegal mining and taking strict action against those involved in the unlawful extraction and transportation of minerals.

J&K Police solves 2-month-old fatal hit-and-run case in Pulwama

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA: J&K Police has successfully solved a fatal hit-and-run case registered at Police Station Pulwama, nearly two months after the incident.

On 04 September 2026, FIR No. 161/2026 under Sections 281 and 125(A) of BNS was registered at Police Station Pulwama following a fatal road accident in which an unidentified vehicle hit a pedestrian at Babhar area, identified as Inthakab Khan, son of Sheraz Khan, resident of Rajouri, resulting in his death on the spot. The driver had fled the scene taking the advantage of darkness, leaving behind no immediate trace of the offending vehicle.

Acting swiftly, the investigating team of Police Station Pulwama pursued multiple investigative leads, technical assistance and undertook sustained efforts to identify and trace the vehicle involved in the accident. Their persistent efforts eventually



led to the identification of the offending vehicle, a Hyundai Venue bearing registration No. JK13F-9915, which was seized on October 30, 2026. The accused driver, identified as Asif Illahi, son of Ghulam Mohidin, resident of Shadimarg, has also been arrested in connection with the case.

The successful tracing of the accused and the offending vehicle reflects the dedication, perseverance and professional approach of Police in pursuing investigations and ensuring that the culprits do not evade the law by fleeing the scene.

The successful outcome has been widely appreciated by the general public in general and by the bereaved family in particular, who lauded Police for its sustained efforts, effective investigation and commitment to deliver justice to the bereaved family.

J&K Police arrest drug peddler in Awantipora

Kashmir Age News

AWANTIPORA: Continuing its sustained drive against drug Peddlers, J&K Police in Awantipora apprehended one drug peddler in Reshipora and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A police party from Police Post Reshipora, headed by the In-Charge Police Post Reshipora, apprehended one person at Ghat Tokina, namely Imtiyaz Ahmad Naikoo son of Gh. Mohd Naikoo resident of Reshi Mohalla, near Masjid, Tral Payeen, along with a black-coloured pithu bag. During the search of the bag, police recovered 1.20 kg of semi-dried cannabis-like substance, 109.97 grams of dark-brown compressed cannabis-like substance wrapped in maize husk, and 4.96 grams of dark-brown round shaped compressed cannabis-like substance. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 257/2026 under relevant



sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Awantipora, and further investigation has been taken up. Police reiterates its firm commitment to combating the drug menace and urges the general public to share information regarding drug trafficking and other unlawful activities to help build a drug free and safer society.

Operation Sadbhavana

Army organises mega medical camp at Kishtwar

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: The Indian Army, under Operation Sadbhavana, successfully conducted Day 1 of the two-day Mega Medical Camp at Advance Landing Ground (ALG), Kishtwar, on Sunday.

The camp witnessed an overwhelming response, with approximately 3106 beneficiaries, including women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities from Kishtwar and adjoining remote areas. Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to extend essential healthcare services to remote communities. A multidisciplinary medical team comprising physicians, ophthalmologists, paediatricians, orthopaedic specialists, nephrologists, anaesthetists, ENT specialists and dental professionals provided free consultations, medical assessments and medicines. Diagnostic facilities, including Complete Blood Count (CBC), Haemoglobin (Hb) and Random Blood Sugar (RBS) tests, were also provided free of cost.

A dedicated Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) registration facility was established to facilitate digital health ID creation. Special emphasis was placed on healthcare for women, children, senior citizens and vulnerable sections. Assistive devices, including wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, walking sticks and hearing aids, were distributed to eligible beneficiaries following medical assessments. Dedicated stalls for Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen provided assistance with pensions, documentation, welfare schemes and grievance redressal. A separate Youth Facilitation Stall offered guidance on Agniveer recruitment, eligibility criteria, selection procedures and career opportunities in the Defence Forces. Representatives from J&K Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India (SBI) and the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Health provided guidance on banking services, government welfare schemes, agricultural practices, horticulture, animal husbandry and livelihood opportunities, ensuring comprehensive.

DC Budgam hands over keys to PM Package employees at transit accommodation Kakanmaran

Kashmir Age News



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 01: PM Package Employees of District Budgam along with officers of District Administration Budgam today attended the virtual inauguration of transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees at Kakanmaran Budgam.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Jatin Kishore, handed over keys to the beneficiary employees for their allotted residential quarters and interacted with them.

He also inspected various residential blocks and reviewed the availability and functionality of essential facilities, including water supply, lifts, internal roads, electricity and other civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of proper maintenance and uninterrupted functionality of all essential facilities to ensure a safe and comfortable living environment for the beneficiary families. Congratulating the beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner termed the inauguration a significant milestone towards addressing the residential needs of Kashmiri migrant employees.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Relief Commissioner office for successfully completing the project. He added that an effective mechanism would be put in place to ensure timely resolution of any issues faced by the resident families. The transit accommodation complex at Kakanmaran comprises 12 residential blocks housing 192 quarters, besides a community centre and other common facilities, aimed at providing safe, secure and comfortable residential accommodation to Kashmiri migrant employees.

Grand book release ceremony of Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi's book "Yel Posh Phooli" held in Handwara

Kashmir Press Service



HANDWARA: "Joie Adab Qaginagh organises a prestigious literary event at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Handwara; writers, poets and intellectuals appreciate the book and the literary contributions of its author."

A prestigious book release ceremony of "Yel Posh Phooli", the latest literary work of renowned writer and author Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi, was organised today by Joie Adab Qazinagh at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Handwara.

The event was attended by Mohammad Amin Bhat, Head of Adabi Markaz Kamraz and Dr. Hafiz Masoodi, Special Secretary, IT Department was as chief guest.

On the occasion, several prominent writers, poets, intellectuals and literary figures from across the Valley participated and spoke in detail about various aspects of the book "Yel Posh Phooli". The speakers highlighted Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi's literary journey, his intellectual and scholarly contributions and his valuable efforts towards the promotion and preservation of Kashmiri literature.

The speakers described the book as an important addition to the literary treasure of Kashmir and observed that among the literary works published by Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi so far, "Yel Posh Phooli" holds the distinction of being one of his representative works. They emphasised that the book deserves special attention from readers because of its subject matter and literary significance.

During the programme, participants also stressed that such literary gatherings play a vital role in connecting the younger generation with their language, heritage, culture and literary traditions. The speakers encouraged literature lovers and readers to read the book and benefit from the literary contributions of Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi.

Overall, the programme turned out to be a memorable and dignified literary gathering, during which Ghulam Nabi Inqalabi's personality, literary achievements and his book "Yel Posh Phooli" were widely appreciated and acknowledged.

Inspector Khalid Fayaz Posted as SHO Bandipora

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOV 1: The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Tahir Saleem Khan (JKPS), has ordered the transfer and posting of three Inspectors in the district police as part of an administrative reshuffle.

According to an order issued by the Office of the SSP Bandipora on November 1, Inspector Khalid Fayaz has been transferred from District Police Lines (DPL) Bandipora and posted as the new Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station Bandipora.

Inspector Parvaz Ahmad has been posted as SHO, Police Station Sumbal. At the same time, Inspector Mohd Manzoor has been assigned the charge of In-charge, Crime and Establishment at District Police Office (DPO) Bandipora. The transfers have been ordered in the interest of administration and will take effect immediately, as per the order.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name : Zarifa Begum) to (New name = Zareefa Begum
Ro /Langate handwara. In future I will be known as (New Name) Zareefa Begum. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
Old name: Zarifa begum
New name : Zareefa begum
Ro /Langate Handwara

SUN BEAM SCHOOL FRISAL, KULGAM KULGAM

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Managing Body of Sun Beam School, Frisal, Kulgam, has been constituted with the following seven members:

Mohd Ibrahim Ganai, S/o Ali Mohd Ganai, R/o Frisal
Umer Farooq Malla, S/o Farooq Ahmad Malla, R/o Zainapora
Junaid Bashir Lone, S/o Bashir Ahmad Lone, R/o Damidulla
Bilal Bashir Ganai, S/o Bashir Ahmad Ganai, R/o Frisal
Gh. Mohd Teli, S/o Ab Rehman Teli, R/o Frisal
Aijaz Ahmad Ganai, S/o Gh hassan ganai, R/o Frisal
Mudasir Ahmad Baba, S/o Mohd Ramzan Baba, R/o Frisal

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Jammu & Kashmir, vide verification report No. I9/NICSOH260083, Date 65/05/2226, has reported that nothing adverse has been found against the above-mentioned members.

Accordingly, any person from the general public having any objection regarding the constitution/membership of the Managing Body of Sun Beam School Frisal, Kulgam, may submit his/her written objection to the concerned authority within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period of seven days, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from the general public, and the matter shall be processed further as per rules.

Date: 02/11/2026

Sd/- Chairman/Manager
Managing Body
Sun Beam School Frisal, Kulgam

Bengali film industry guild elections

Kolkata, Oct 31 (PTI) Elections to several guilds representing different sections of the Bengali film industry, along with the election for the post of president of the Federation of Cine Technicians and Workers of Eastern India, were being held across four studios on Saturday.

Industry sources said elections are being held for five key guilds – make-up artist guild, cine video costume guild, craft work guild, cine writers' guild and the cine video assistant director guild.

On November 1 (Sunday), the remaining 11 guilds will vote—including sound, electrician, hairdresser, cinematographer, stunt and junior artiste guild, the sources said.

BJP MLA and Bengali film actor Rudranil Ghosh said the situation in Tollywood had been bad in the previous regime, but things had changed now.

"The situation in Tollywood was bad. Things have changed. People associated with the industry are now getting an opportunity to exercise their democratic rights through the elections," Ghosh said.

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 Mehmood 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mouris Raza Majeed, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for the issuance of a birth certificate for my son, Mohammad Shadab, who was born at home on 04-02-2017. Anyone having any objection regarding the issuance of the said birth certificate may submit their objection to the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Handwara, Registrar of Births and Deaths, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

R M

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta cremated at Versova crematorium



Mumbai, Nov 01 (PTI) Family and close friends from the Hindi film industry bid a tearful adieu to filmmaker Sanjay Gupta, known for films such as "Kaante", "Shootout at Lokhandwala" and "Kaabil", here on late Saturday evening.

His mortal remains were brought to his house in Versova from hospital in an ambulance. They were then carried to the crematorium in the same ambulance which was decked with white flowers.

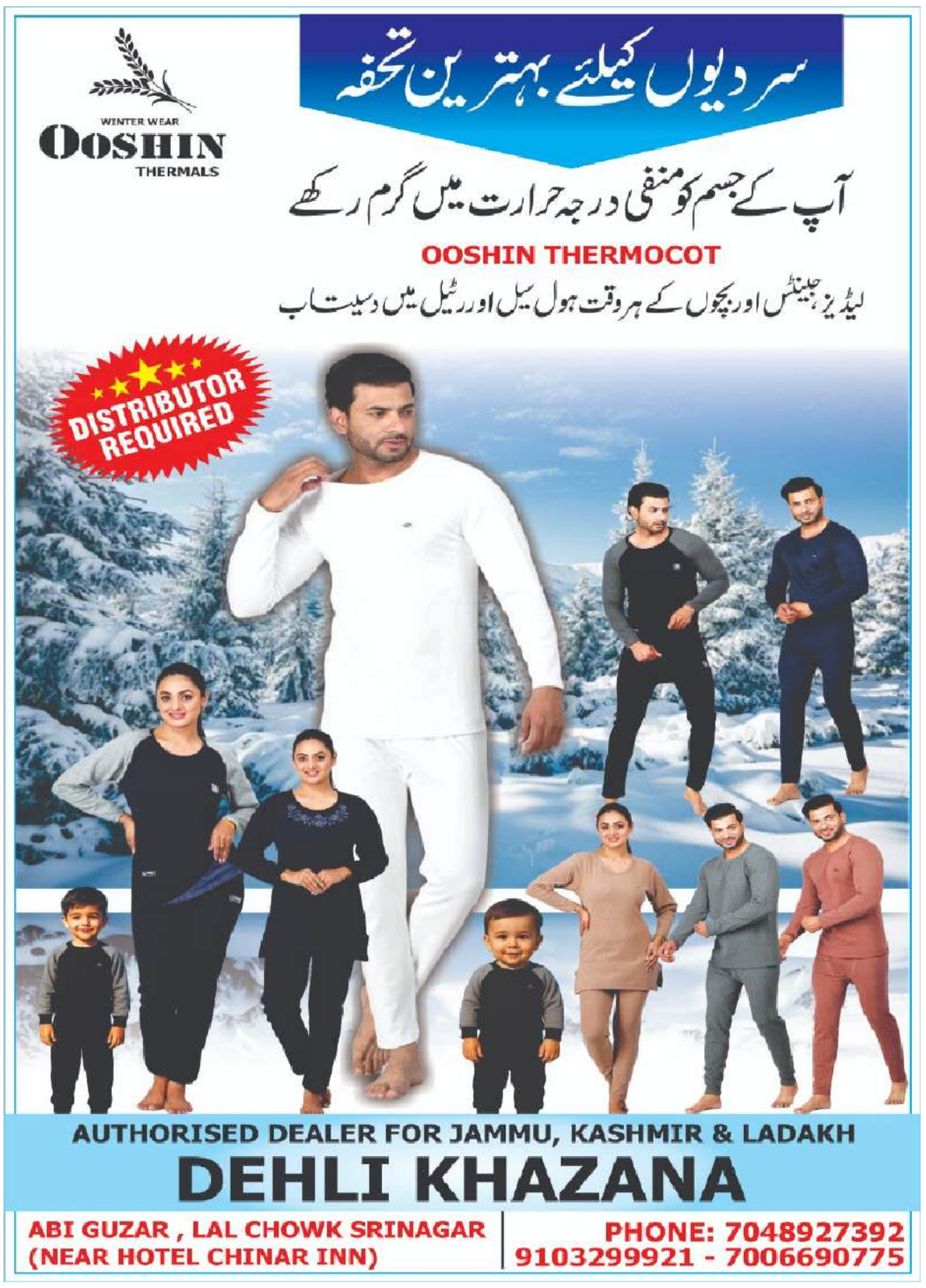
The last rites were concluded at around 8.30 pm at the Versova crematorium ground. The funeral pyre was lit by Gupta's son Shivansh and daughter Dalai.

Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit, who was present at the funeral, said it was an emotional moment for Gupta's friends from the industry.

"It is an emotional moment for all of us. He will be dearly missed. He was a fun-loving person and suddenly he has disappeared. His untimely demise is a shock, it will take time to sink in. We've lost so many people recently from the industry and everyone's contribution has been immense," Pandit told PTI.

Close friends from the industry including Milap Zaveri, Ronit Roy, Rohit Roy and Mansi Joshi Roy seemed inconsolable.

Apart from Pandit, actors Abhishek Bachchan, Rajpal Yadav, Rajat Bedi and filmmaker Rakesh Roshan were among those seen at the crematorium.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Mehboob Memorial Educational Institute, Kunnel (District Kupwara)

This is to inform the general public that the School Management Committee (SMC) of Mehboob Memorial Educational Institute, Kunnel Qaziabad, has been reconstituted for the academic session 2026–2027 as per the rules and guidelines of the School Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The names and details of the proposed Committee members are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the Member	Parentage	Residence
01	Syed Zia Ul Islam	Syed Mehboob Bukhari	Kunnel
02	Syed Suraya Nakashbandi	Syed Gh. Hassan Nakashbandi	Tangwari
03	Sajad Ahmad Lone	Gh. Nabi Lone	Ashpora
04	Mohd. Ibrahim Khan	Mohd. Yousuf Khan	Rengpath
05	Syed Umar Sajad	Syed Sajad Bukhari	Kunnel
06	Syed Suhail Farooq	Syed Farooq Tizmizi	Kunnel
07	Syed Naveed Manzoor	Syed Manzoor Ahmad Bukhari	Kunnel

The public is hereby informed that if there is any objection regarding the inclusion of any of the above-named members, the same may be submitted in writing to the office of the Principal, Mehboob Memorial Educational Institute, Kunnel Qaziabad, within 07 days from the date of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated time, the reconstituted Committee shall be considered final and approved.

Sd/Principal
Mehboob Memorial Educational Institute, Kunnel

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | MONDAY
02-NOVEMBER-2026

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Bangladesh garment workers protest over low pay; govt announces formation of wage board

Press Trust Of India



DHAKA, NOV 1: Garment workers in Bangladesh on Sunday staged protests in Gazipur and Dhaka over their longstanding demand for higher pay, prompting the government to announce the formation of a wage board, according to local media reports.

Garment workers chanting slogans blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur, demanding a minimum monthly wage of BDT 30,000 (approx INR 23,000), the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The country's garment industry has around 4,000 registered factories and employs more than four million workers, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Bangladesh is the world's second-largest apparel exporter after China, with garment exports reaching USD 38.70 billion in the 2025-26 financial year, according to the BGMEA. Its garments are exported to more than 150 countries.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) deployed five platoons to help control the situation in Gazipur, the report said.

Workers carrying sticks occupied Safipur Bazar, Chandra Polli Bidyut, Mouchak and Telichala in Kaliakair upazila and other points along the highway, it said.

Workers from nearby factories marked their attendance in the morning in their respective workplaces before joining the protests, the report said.

Protesters set fire to a police box located in the middle of the Dhaka-Tangail highway in the Konabari area, the newspaper quoted Iftekhar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Konabari police station, as saying.

In a similar protest, Garment workers blocked a road at the Mirpur 10 intersection in the capital, Dhaka, the Prothom Alo newspaper reported.

As a result of the blockade, the gates of Mirpur 10 metro station were closed, the report said.

Garment workers gathered from several locations in Mirpur Sunday morning and blocked Mirpur 10 intersection, the report quoted Saiful Islam, a sub-inspector (SI) at Mirpur Police Station, as saying.

Police were sent to the scene, he said.

Meanwhile, Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury urged the protesting garment workers to return to work after announcing the formation of a new minimum wage board, the bdnews24 web portal reported.

Speaking at a press conference at the Secretariat, Choudhury said that the government is treating the demands of workers with the "utmost importance", the web portal reported.

"Their demand was a wage board; today their wage board has been formed. The board has been formed with the members they provided as representatives. Now, I hope they will leave the streets and return to their factories," Ariful said.

The wage board is headed by Senior District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Ashfaqur Rahman as its chairman. The owners' representatives on the board are ABM Shamsuddin, director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Asif Ayub, joint secretary-general of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation, Prothom Alo reported.

The workers' representatives are Babul Akhter, general secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF), and Anwar Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, it said.

Professor Mosleh Uddin Ahmed of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka has been appointed as the board's independent representative, the report said. "We have been informed about the formation of the wage board. We hope the government will begin the board's activities soon," the report quoted Babul Akhter as saying. (PTI)

India's flight disruptions to Saudi Arabia continue amid security concerns

Press Trust Of India



DUBAI, NOV 1: Flight disruptions between India and Saudi Arabia continue, with Akasa Air on Sunday extending the suspension of its services to Jeddah until November 18 amid the prevailing security situation in the Gulf kingdom. The airline said flights to and from Riyadh would remain suspended until November 30.

The announcement came two days after Air India and Air India Express said their flights to and from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam would remain suspended until November 14.

The flight disruptions have continued amid attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including airports.

In a statement on October 22, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said one Indian national was killed and two others injured in the October 21 attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. Another Indian national was injured in an attack on Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province.

The Embassy said it was in contact with Saudi authorities and would provide all possible assistance to the affected Indians.

Earlier, India had condemned attacks targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, saying the targeting of civilian infrastructure was unacceptable.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for several attacks on Saudi targets, including airports and energy infrastructure. The group has carried out missile and drone attacks on the kingdom amid the wider regional conflict.

In its advisories, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh has asked Indian nationals to remain calm and vigilant, stay indoors in the event of an aerial attack and follow instructions issued by local authorities.

Turkey moves Kurdish militant leader Ocalan to a new part of an island prison under peace push

Press Trust Of India



ISTANBUL, NOV 1 : Turkey has moved the country's Kurdish militant leader to a newly built part of an island prison where he has been incarcerated since 1999 as part of efforts to end decades of conflict, a senior Kurdish official said.

Improving prison conditions for Abdullah Ocalan, who heads the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, has been a key Kurdish demand in the push to end the 42-year conflict between the militant group and Turkish authorities.

Ocalan has been imprisoned in a penitentiary on the island of Imrali in the Marmara Sea - which links the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea - since he was captured in 1999.

Mithat Sancar, the Kurdish official, confirmed Ocalan's relocation in an interview with Medya Haber TV on Saturday, without providing further details.

He did not confirm that the newly built section of the prison has better accommodations, though his remarks appeared to indicate that.

Sancar, a lawmaker for the pro-Kurdish DEM Party, also called for the peace process to be sped up and said it had been on "a pause" for the last two months.

Ocalan's move to the new facility, he said, "necessitates an acceleration of the (peace) process."

Sancar is among a group of DEM Party politicians who have been regularly visiting Ocalan since the militant leader called on the PKK to disband and disarm in February 2025. Ocalan remains an influential figure among Kurds and is seen as key in advancing the peace process.

Three months later, the PKK announced it would lay down its arms and end hostilities. That prompted the Turkish parliament to approve legislation in August offering a conditional pardon to thousands of PKK fighters, which Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan subsequently signed into law.

The conflict with the PKK - designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union - has killed tens of thousands of people since 1984.

Sancar stressed that Ocalan, who co-founded the PKK in the 1970s, must coordinate peace negotiations.

Mexico comes alive during annual Day of the Dead celebrations

Press Trust Of India

MEXICO CITY, Nov 1: Bright orange marigolds, glowing candles and faces painted like the elegant skeletons known as catrinas fill the streets of Mexico every year during the country's Day of the Dead celebrations.

Festivities begin in October and lead up to Nov. 1 and 2, when the souls of deceased loved ones are believed to temporarily return to earth to reunite with their families. No one knows when the first observance took place, but it is rooted in agriculture-related beliefs from Mexico's pre-Hispanic era. Catholic traditions were incorporated into the celebration after the Spanish conquest in 1521. Today, celebrations are marked by massive parades running along Mexico City's main avenue. Streets, businesses and markets are cloaked in orange Mexican marigold flowers, or cempasuchil, believed to light the path of the dead back to earth with their bright colours. Traditional pan de muerto, or bread of the dead, lines the display cases of bakeries. Families decorate altars to their loved ones in their homes, placing treats, food and mezcal as offerings next to photos of their loved ones. On the night of Nov. 1, families gather at cemeteries across the country to reconnect with their dead just as their ancestors have done for centuries.

Over 42 ready-made garment factories in Bangladesh suspend operations amid protests over wages

United News of India

DHAKA, Oct 31: At least 42 ready-made garment factories in the Bangladeshi cities of Ashulia, Gazipur and Mirpur suspended operations on Saturday amid protests over wages, vandalism and clashes between workers and police, as the Government promised to announce a minimum wage board on Sunday. Buy Maps

At least 30 factories in the Kathgram area of Ashulia halted production after protests turned violent and a police officer was injured by stones thrown by demonstrators.

Another 12 factories across the area between Konabari and Chandra in Gazipur suspended operations after workers blocked the Dhaka-Tangail Highway, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000 (about $242).

The protests began despite Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury's assurances on Friday that a wage board would be formed on Sunday and a natification issued to that effect.



Workers have also demanded an end to blacklisting and arbitrary dismissals.

In Ashulia, a section of workers at Naim Knitwear in Kathgram began a work boycott around 10am before leaving the factory and demonstrating on the streets. They subsequently threw brickbats at nearby factories, prompting police intervention.

A chase and counter-chase followed, during which a police officer sustained a head injury, said Md Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police Unit-1. Police continued efforts to calm the situation with support from factory owners, he added.

A labour group representative said workers had been demanding a Tk 30,000 minimum wage for a considerable period. He said the protests followed the failure to establish the promised wage board by 31 October.

Bulgarians vote in presidential runoff marked by regional security threats

Press Trust Of India



SOFIA, Nov 1: Bulgarians voted on Sunday in a presidential runoff marked by regional security threats and economic worries at home.

Acting President Iliana Yotova - who would become Bulgaria's first elected female president if she wins - faces opposition candidate and former interim Prime Minister Andrey Gyurov.

Yotova beat Gyurov by a narrow margin of 2.8 percentage points in the first round of voting on Oct 25, which drew record low turnout - only 23% of eligible voters cast a ballot, according to election officials.

Polls opened at 7 am for another highly polarized contest in which the candidates will be trying to attract voters with contrasting political visions. The first exit poll results are expected after polls close at 8 pm, with official results to be announced Monday.

Bulgarians are voting against a backdrop of growing economic hardship and increased drone attacks on Black Sea shipping, which have left several sailors dead or missing.

Yotova is running as an independent. As vice president, she automatically became acting president earlier this year when the former head of state, Rumen Radev, resigned to lead his party to victory in the general election.

The vote is the first major test for Prime Minister Radev's Moscow-friendly Progressive Bulgaria party, which has endorsed Yotova.

Yotova is expected to continue Radev's policy of keeping Bulgaria on its European path, while also supporting better relations with Russia and the lifting of sanctions.

Both Yotova and Radev have called for a diplomatic solution to end the war in Ukraine but remain evasive about possible Russian involvement in drone attacks in the Black Sea region.

During a TV debate between the two presidential contenders this week, Yotova advocated a settlement involving both Ukraine and Russia, saying that "peace could come only through negotiations." She also proposed a security meeting involving all six Black Sea countries to sign a moratorium on hostilities.

Observers say that a victory for Yotova would keep the presidency in the hands of the ruling majority.

Iran openly targeting commercial ships, threatening global energy security: Rubio

United News of India

ATLANTA, Oct 31: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio launched a scathing attack on Iran, accusing the regime of deliberately targeting commercial shipping and threatening the energy infrastructure of neighbouring countries, while warning that Tehran's nuclear ambitions pose a grave danger to regional and global security.

Rubio said Iran has turned attacks on civilian commercial vessels into an instrument of state policy, creating a dangerous situation for international shipping and the global economy.

He stressed that the vessels being targeted are carrying commercial cargo, including oil and natural gas, and are not military or naval assets. "We now live in a world where the Iranian regime actively and openly targets commercial vessels for attack. We are talking about them saying: Here's a commercial vessel with cargo, oil, natural gas, and we are going to try to sink it," Rubio said at a press availability after the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta.

"They are openly attacking vessels as a tool of statecraft. That's the world we live in," he added. The US Secretary of State said American forces has been defending commercial shipping from Iranian drones and missiles almost every night, adding that attacks are no longer confined to the Strait of Hormuz but were also being witnessed in the Bab al-Mandeb.

He said the volume of fuel passing through the Strait of Hormuz is now comparable to pre-conflict levels, but maintaining the flow require sustained military protection by the United States. Rubio warned that disruptions to vital maritime routes were having consequences far beyond energy markets, threatening food security by obstructing the movement of fuel, fertilisers and agricultural products.

"When energy and fertiliser and agricultural products can't reach their destinations, it threatens the most vital necessity for each and every one of our nations," he said. On the possibility of renewed

US military strikes against Iran, Rubio declined to disclose any plans, but made clear that Washington retained the military capability to act if President Donald Trump decided to do so. "The President's preference in any challenge around the world is to try to solve it diplomatically and peacefully, if possible," he said, adding that Trump has not taken any decision on fresh military action.

However, he warned that any diplomatic settlement would have to address Washington's core security concerns, particularly Iran's nuclear programme and its alleged role in destabilising the Middle East. "It can't be one that endangers our national security or one that doesn't meet our core concerns," Rubio said.

He asserted that Iran's nuclear ambitions could not be allowed to materialise, describing the country as being at the centre of instability across the region. Rubio also accused Tehran of supporting armed groups and militant organisations in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq, arguing that Iranian backing had enabled the Houthis to expand their military capabilities and threaten Saudi Arabia. In particularly sharp remarks, Rubio warned of the consequences of Iran acquiring weapons of mass destruction, saying the threat would extend far beyond attacks on energy infrastructure.

"Imagine if Iran had a nuclear weapon. Imagine if Iran had weapons of mass destruction of any kind, be they chemical, biological, or nuclear," he said. "What would they threaten their neighbours with then Then they wouldn't be threatening to blow up pipelines. Then they'd be threatening to kill tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people." Responding to questions about security guarantees for Gulf allies, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Rubio said the United States was already providing military protection to shipping and supporting regional air defence systems. He maintained that Washington recognised the risks faced by Gulf nations, whose economies depend heavily on energy exports passing through the Strait of Hormuz. "The United States is there now protecting it," he said, adding that American forces were regularly intercepting drones and missiles directed at vessels carrying regional energy supplies. On the Houthi threat to Saudi Arabia, Rubio said Washington would honour its defence cooperation commitments with Riyadh, although any decision to participate in offensive military operations would rest with the US President. "We have a defence cooperation agreement. We have defence understandings with Saudi Arabia. We intend to continue to live up to those commitments," he said. (UNI)

Editorial

Inclusive Education System

Education is too important a sector to be constrained by institutional boundaries, administrative rigidities or competition between public and private players.

Jammu and Kashmir needs an education system that is inclusive, accessible and responsive to the changing demands of society and the job market. The call for greater collaboration between government and private educational institutions therefore deserves serious attention and a coordinated policy response.

Healthcare and education must remain foremost priorities of the Government. Skill-based learning, optimum utilisation of resources and public-private partnerships remain pressing priorities for the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the years, the government has expanded the network of schools, including in remote and far-flung areas. Physical infrastructure, however, cannot be the sole measure of educational progress. The availability of classrooms and buildings must translate into better learning outcomes, improved enrolment and meaningful opportunities for students. This requires addressing teacher shortages in certain institutions, rationalising deployment and correcting disparities in teacher-student ratios.

Equally concerning are issues of declining enrolment and student dropouts, particularly in rural areas. These challenges cannot be addressed through infrastructure development alone. Quality teaching, accountability, community participation and a supportive learning environment are equally essential. The education system must ensure that children not only enter schools but also remain there and acquire knowledge and skills that prepare them for life.

Government and private schools should complement rather than compete with each other. Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford underutilisation of educational infrastructure on the one hand and resource constraints on the other. A transparent mechanism for sharing surplus classrooms, facilities and other resources could help improve efficiency and expand access, provided the interests of students and institutional responsibilities remain protected.

The National Education Policy also offers an opportunity to move beyond conventional classroom learning. Vocational and skill-based education must become an integral part of the curriculum rather than remain an additional option. Students, especially those belonging to economically weaker sections, need practical skills that improve their employability and enable them to participate in the emerging economy.

Opening opportunities for private universities and encouraging investment in higher education can further strengthen the sector. However, private participation must be accompanied by effective regulation, quality standards, affordability and accountability. Education should remain a means of social empowerment, not become inaccessible because of financial barriers.

Ultimately, Jammu and Kashmir needs a comprehensive education strategy that combines public investment, private participation, skilled teachers and employment-oriented learning. Collaboration must translate into measurable improvements in classrooms and opportunities for students. The real success of educational reforms will not be determined by the number of institutions established, but by the quality of education delivered and the future they secure for the younger generation.

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

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Architecture Of Trust



BY: YASHEE JHA

The answer to what makes a society trustworthy and cohesive is a complex one. While culture, history and shared values are crucial components of solidarity, focusing exclusively only on cultural explanations overlooks the material conditions that make cooperation sustainable in the long term. When public systems are predictable and individuals can depend on shared spaces and services to work as expected, trust becomes less of an abstract virtue and more of an everyday experience. Japan, in particular, demonstrates how robust infrastructure connects individual autonomy to collective responsibility.

A unique feature of Japanese cities are Koubans (local Police Boxes) that can be found in every neighbourhood. Unlike regular police stations that are daunting and for reporting serious crimes, police personnel in Koubans assist citizens with mundane tasks such as providing directions, assisting people who are lost or receiving lost property reports. In case one loses an item, they can approach a Kouban and fill in a document known as the Ishitsubutsu Todoke (lost property report). When the item has been found, the Shutokubutsu Todoke (retrieved item report) successfully closes the request and prevents unnecessary administrative backlog. The Tokyo Metropolitan Department records that out of approximately 4.5 billion Yen missing cash, 3.2 billion Yen (73 per cent) was returned. The lost smartphone return rate sits even higher, at 83 per cent. Koubans are an example of how an accessible institution avoids an administrative void by giving culturally embedded honesty a place to be recognised.

Another revealing example of high trust in Japan is that it is routine for children as young as six years old to walk to school alone and unaided by their parents. While the degree of independence may vary by age, neighbourhood and family circumstances, a large chunk of children navigate their commute themselves, be it by foot, buses or trains. Parents can express confidence that their children will be safe, because the community is regarded as a collective guardian, aided by the infrastructure system. For instance, streets near elementary schools in Japan have designated holders attached to poles, where bright yellow flags are placed. Local volunteer guards comprising parents, neighbourhood association members and even children themselves participate in this process called Hatafuri Touban (flag duty). These bright yellow flags signal incoming vehicles to stop to let the children cross the roads safely. In this manner, even in the absence of adults, children have a reliable apparatus that ensures their safety without curbing their independence.

An extension of this is captured in a famous series called "Hajimete no Otsukai", which translates to "My First Errand" and focuses on a similar aspect: children are sent on errands such as buying groceries or delivering items to their neighbours from the age of four or five onwards. Supported by helpful shopkeepers, pedestrians and adults, children learn beyond what is taught at school or home; they learn through experience and interactions with their surroundings and institutions. When children are given the opportunity to act independently within a framework that supports it, trust becomes generational.

It is not unusual to see people leaving their high-value items such as phones, bags or laptops at the table in restaurants while ordering at the counter or going to the restroom. These objects become a placeholder that indicate the seat is occupied, and the items are unlikely to be touched or stolen. However, umbrellas are an amusing exception, given that they are extremely cheap and replaceable. Umbrella mix-ups and opportunistic taking are so common that umbrellas being semi-communal property is a widespread joke in Japan.

Japan's expanding use of self-checkout kiosks and unmanned shops provides another illustration of how voluntary cooperation coupled with efficient infrastructure creates a high trust environment. Customers scan and pay for the items they buy without needing direct human supervision.

A particularly compelling example of how trust flows bilaterally from individual citizens towards the system and vice versa occurred during a major outage of Japan's Electronic Toll Collection system in April 2025. The outage lasted for about 38 hours across 8 Prefectures, and affected 106 toll gates. Rather than keeping the gates closed, Central Nippon Expressway decided to let all vehicles pass, and asked commuters to pay the outstanding toll later. While not every single person offered to settle the outstanding charges, 24,000 commuters contacted the operator and offered to pay. In May, the payments were ultimately waived for causing inconvenience to the users, but this lapse in technology revealed willingness to pay in honour of the rules.

These examples become even more meaningful when considered through the lens of cultural concepts such as Omotenashi (attentive, wholehearted hospitality) and Omoiyari (consideration for other people's feelings, circumstances and needs before they express or ask for it). While these concepts cannot explain the entirety of Japanese thought process and public behaviour, they provide a referential framework for understanding why considerate conduct goes beyond personal relationships and is a part of the overall collective consciousness.

Respecting another person's belongings, or maintaining a shared facility reflects an awareness that our actions affect other people. Infrastructure provides a practical setting where such consideration can be expressed and enacted. There is another concept, known as Heiwa Boke (complacency arising from peace or excessive assumption of safety). Unlike Omotenashi or Omoiyari, Heiwa Boke has a critical connotation and warns that people who become accustomed to stable conditions may underestimate risks or take their security for granted.

Trust is valuable precisely because it allows people to live without treating every stranger as a threat. However, if trust becomes an unquestioned assumption, it can also make people vulnerable. A high-trust society must therefore maintain the institutions and practices that make trust reasonable. The Japanese social experience suggests that trust is neither purely a cultural inheritance nor an automatic consequence of prosperity. It emerges through the interaction of social expectations, institutional reliability, physical design and repeated everyday experiences. Ultimately, the achievement of a trustworthy society is not that nothing ever goes wrong, or that every individual behaves impeccably.

Rather, it is that ordinary life does not require constant suspicion and people can move through public spaces, conduct transactions, ask for help and interact with strangers with a reasonable expectation of cooperation. Social cohesion, therefore, is about creating the conditions in which trust is not an extraordinary act of faith, but an ordinary part of everyday life and Japan has showcased that, brilliantly indeed. (Source: News 18)

Justice inverted between crime and settlement



BY: C K G NAIR

Consider two recent events. The CEO of Eiffel Tower's managing company stepped down owing to a simple, though sensitive, administrative issue of segregating female employees during the visit of a team of monks. On the other hand, Mark Zuckerberg, the high-profile founder-CEO of Meta Platforms who commands 61 percent voting power in the tech giant, did not lose a single dollar after what the courts agreed were his company's major and deliberate violations relating to child safety, data misuse and platform addiction. Accountability works only if applied universally.

Meta, in August, settled a set of suits by agreeing to pay four US states about $18 billion. Two months later, another US court ordered Meta to pay $25 billion to the state of New Mexico in a separate suit alleging sharp practices on data privacy. But for the magnanimity of the judge, this penalty could reportedly have been up to $260 billion.

These are not first-time violations by Meta. Previous penalties on the company and its associates for privacy violations include the 2019 Federal Trade Commission settlement of $5 billion, the 2022 Irish authority's penalty of 405 Million, the 2023 European Union fine of 390 million, just to mention a few. So it's a series of continuing offences of the same nature; apart from competition violation.

However, Mark and Meta are not the only beneficiaries of the new pattern of settlement with cash penalties on the companies (with or without some modification of their companies' business practices). As if the persons-in-charge, the conscience keepers, of the companies have nothing to do with the violations. Big CEOs and other top leadership seem to be too big for jail or even for personal fines.

Here are some big examples. Through the 1998 landmark Master Settlement Agreement, Big Tobacco companies committed $206 billion to 46 US states to offset the systemic public healthcare expenditures associated with smoking-related problems. BP settled the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for $20.8 billion in 2016. Volkswagen incurred a $14.7-billion liability the same year on account of its emissions-cheating setup.

In the financial sector, Bank of America's record $16.65-billion settlement in 2014 and JPMorgan Chase's $13 billion resolution in 2013 were stemming from the proliferation of toxic mortgage-backed securities. BNP Paribas agreed to $8.97 billion forfeiture in 2014 for illicitly processing transactions for embargoed jurisdictions. Except in a few cases the CEOs/top management of those companies did not suffer personally.

The central argument for settlement is rooted in public interest and speedy justice. In tune with this, State and regulatory frameworks have leveraged unprecedented, multi-billion-dollar financial settlements as the primary mechanisms to mitigate widespread harms on people; including children, the economy and environment.

The increasing shift towards out-of-court settlements and plea bargains, is reshaping the relationship between crime and punishment. It is blurring the lines of justice by turning criminal accountability into a financial, commercial or administrative transaction. The practical logic of such light-touch approach to justice and inverted proportionality emanates from politico-economic consequences of the fall of big companies in terms of production, unemployment and the deficiencies in the investigative-judicial machinery to deal with the increasing incidence of large and complex violations.

Even the Supreme Court of India travelled this path while closing the Sterling Biotech bank fraud case in 2025, after the promoters agreed to pay a recovery package. This was despite the hitherto strong stand that settling criminal offences was a crime against society. That weight must have forced the court to emphatically add that the judgement should not be treated as a precedent. However, this case provides a real-world example of how the line between crime and punishment can blur when pragmatism intersects with criminal accountability.

The traditional ideal of criminal justice envisions a binary system: a crime is committed and proved; a proportional punishment is handed down. Even small crimes used to invoke serious punishments in some jurisdictions. Like Jean Valjean, the protagonist in Victor Hugo's Les Misérables was awarded five years' imprisonment by the then French judicial system for stealing one loaf of bread.

However, the modern shift towards negotiated settlements, plea bargains and deferred prosecution agreements is fundamentally challenging this paradigm in many countries. This evolution is increasingly blurring the boundary between crime and punishment, turning justice into a transaction—monetisation of justice. The message conveyed to the public is that the severity of a crime can be mitigated by the size of a corporate bank account.

This Western model risks transforming the judiciary into a marketplace where criminal liability is bargained away behind closed doors, often shielding the powerful from genuine accountability. While settlements do not entirely erase the jurisprudence, they do fundamentally alter justice delivery. Punishment is no longer a guaranteed, transparent consequence of a crime; instead, it has become a negotiable variable. A company-only-paying for settlement approach does not reduce repeated violations. Rather, it is encouraging repeat violations.

Artificial Intelligence is going to amplify this scenario many fold. The AI bosses themselves have called out loudly on the reality of some agents turning rouge and wreaking havoc with other systems. Expert explanations regarding the reasons for such a clarion call, that too from hitherto AI die-hards, vary. Many are not borrowing the 'end of humanity' type arguments too. However, going by even the reported incidents on rogue AI tools, the incidents will grow; in number and size, as AI becomes a stranglehold. Many of those incidents will come out as big disputes. How will those violations be punished? Punish those rogue AI? Their creators; the natural persons or the legal persons? Natural persons would say, we had warned you.

Ultimately it will be an increasing number of civil settlements; irrespective of the crime. Including, hypothetically, a nuclear disaster caused by a rogue AI tool. As long as such settlements do not affect the natural person/s responsible, the exchequers will have plenty of money coming in. Civil settlement with corporations may assuage monetary losses that can be remedied. But where harm to life is involved directly or indirectly, a monetary settlement with those companies only is truncated justice. The persons responsible should also face justice proportionately.

The world of justice should not be an inverted one. Where even small crimes of individuals get punished harshly but big corporate crimes get settled with a fine on only the company. The world of financial settlement needs a revisit. (Source: New Indian Express)

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LESS SUGAR MAY ASSIST IN MUSCLE REPAIR: STUDY

A diet low on sugar may help keep our muscles healthier for longer, suggests a study.

Healthy muscles are an important part of a healthy life. With the wear and tear of everyday use, our muscles continuously repair themselves to keep them in top condition.

Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan found that skeletal muscle satellite cells, key for muscle repair, rapidly increases in low glucose environments.

They produced pure cultures of skeletal muscle satellite cells in ultra-low glucose environments.

This is contrary to the conventional wisdom that says mammalian cells fare better when there is more sugar to fuel their activities.

The findings, published in the Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology, has the potential to boost biomedical research on muscle repair.

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While higher levels of glucose had an adverse effect on the cells, lower glucose led to a larger number of cells.

This seemed counter intuitive as glucose is considered to be essential for cellular growth, the researchers said. It is converted into ATP, the fuel that drives a lot of cellular activity.

The team added glucose oxidase, a glucose digesting enzyme, to get to even lower levels of glucose, and grew the satellite cells in this glucose-depleted medium.

Shockingly, the cells seemed to fare just fine, and proliferated normally, the researchers said.

GENES PREDICTING HEALTHY AGEING IDENTIFIED

A team of researchers has identified a set of genes that can tell whether people are heading towards healthy ageing or not.

Accumulation of unrepaired DNA damage has been one of the main causes of ageing. These can also lead to neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The study, published in the journal Ageing, targetted SIRT6 gene -- known to play an instrumental



role in DNA repair.

The SIRT6 gene was found to have an effect in pathological ageing, but not in normal ageing, said Debra Toiber, from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.

The team also determined which genes are better candidates for targeted therapies and whose damage can be reversed by interventions such as calorie restriction.

"My research for the last several years has focused on unlocking the secrets of SIRT6, which we discovered, plays a number of prominent roles in ageing," Toiber said.

Previous studies show that SIRT6 plays an instrumental role in DNA repair.

Its levels were found to decrease in the ageing brain. It serves as a first responder in DNA double strand breaks, immediately going to work but also signalling to other proteins to come help repair the damage.

Since there are many changes in ageing and in these pathologies, the researchers compared SIRT6-impaired mice to regular mice, both the same age and compared to older mice.

They were able to identify these changes and also find the genes that could predict whether a brain is moving towards healthy ageing or pathological ageing.

Smartphone camera can help doctors measure pulse, breathing rate

Researchers have developed a method that uses the camera on a person`s smartphone or computer to take their pulse and respiration signal from a real-time video of their face. The development comes at a time when telehealth has become a critical way for doctors to provide health care while minimising in-person contact during Covid-19.

The University of Washington-led team`s system uses machine learning to capture subtle changes in how light reflects off a person`s face, which is correlated with changing blood flow. Then it converts these changes into both pulse and respiration rate. The researchers presented the system in December at the Neural Information Processing Systems conference. Now the team is proposing a better system to measure these physiological signals. This system is less likely to be tripped up by different cameras, lighting conditions or facial features, such as skin colour, according to the researchers who will present these findings on April 8 at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Health, Interference, and Learning. "Every person is different," said lead study author Xin Liu, a UW doctoral student.

"So this system needs to be able to quickly adapt to each person`s unique physiological signature, and separate this from other variations, such as what they look like and what environment they are in." The



first version of this system was trained with a dataset that contained both videos of people`s faces and "ground truth" information: each person`s pulse and respiration rate measured by standard instruments in the field.

The system then used spatial and temporal information from the videos to calculate both vital signs. While the system worked well on some datasets, it still struggled with others that contained different people, backgrounds and lighting. This is a common problem known as "overfitting," the team said. The researchers improved the system by having it produce a personalised machine learning model for each individual.

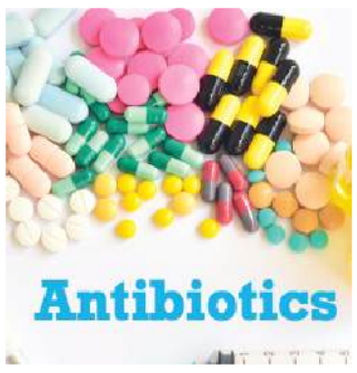
Specifically, it helps look for important areas in a video frame that likely contain physiological features correlated with changing blood flow in a face under different contexts, such as different skin tones, lighting conditions and environments. From there, it can focus on that area and measure the pulse and respiration rate. While this new system outperforms its predecessor when given more challenging datasets, especially for people with darker skin tones, there is still more work to do, the team said.

Why antibiotics may not be good for infants

Exposure to antibiotics in utero and infancy can lead to an irreversible loss of regulatory T-cells in the colon, a valuable component of the immune system's response toward allergens in later life, after only six months, finds a new research.

T cell is a type of white blood cell that is of key importance to the immune system and is at the core of adaptive immunity, the system that tailors the body's immune response to specific pathogens.

According to the study, published in the journal mBio, it is already known that the use of antibiotics early in life disrupts the intestinal microbiota, the trillions of beneficial microorganisms that live in and on our bodies, that play a crucial role in the healthy maturation of the immune system and the prevention of diseases, such as



obesity and inflammatory bowel disease.

However, less is known about how disruption of the microbiota, which produce short chain fatty acids that regulate T-cells, effects T-cells in the colon.

"By studying the exposure to newborns through lactating mothers, we see how the offspring acquire their mothers' antibiotic-impacted microbiota, which compromises their ability to generate a pool of CD41 T cells in the colon, resulting in long-term damage," said researcher Martin Blaser from the Rutgers University.

"The consequences persist into adulthood, compromising the body's ability to turn off allergic responses," Blaser added.

For the study, based on a mouse model, the team looked at fetal and newborn exposure to antibiotics through the mother in the weeks immediately preceding and after birth, the time when microbial communities assemble and are prone to disruptions, to investigate how this reduction in beneficial bacteria affects neonatal immune system development. These effects were specific to the colon and not observed in the lungs, upper gastrointestinal tract or spleen, the researchers said.

Early TV time not linked to attention problems in kids: Study

The new research, published in the journal Psychological Science, re-examined previous work that claimed to show a direct link between early screen time and attention problems in children.

"The findings from the original study, upon further scrutiny, are not borne out. We found that there is still no evidence that TV, by itself, causes ADHD or any kind of attention problems in young children," study co-author Wallace Dixon, Professor of Psychology at East Tennessee State University in the US, said "Our research also tells us that it's important to be skeptical of earth-shattering findings



that come in the form of 'something that everybody is doing harms our children'."

The newly-reported research involved looking at the same data as the 2004 study and using multiverse analyses -- a technique that involves asking a research question hundreds of different ways to determine if the answers are similar each time.

This method was used to create 848 analyses to find out if early TV viewing causes later attention problems. A vast majority of results showed no link between the two. The few that did, the authors believe, reflect some oddities in the data set that are not likely to represent the real world.

"What excites us about the research is that we can ease up on blaming parents or making them feel guilty for letting their children watch television when they are very young," said Dixon.

This is how chronic stress leads to hair loss

If you have been wondering if pandemic hairfall is real, rest assured that it is. Harvard University researchers have identified the biological mechanism by which chronic stress impairs hair follicle stem cells, confirming long-standing observations that stress might lead to hair loss.

In a study on mice published in Nature, the researchers found that a major stress hormone puts hair follicle stem cells into an extended resting phase, without regenerating the follicle or the hair. The researchers identified the specific cell type and molecule responsible for relaying the stress signal to the stem cells, and showed that this pathway can be potentially targeted to restore hair growth, writes Jassica Lau in The Harvard Gazette.

"My lab is interested in understanding how stress affects stem cell biology and tissue biology, spurred in part by the fact that everyone has a story to share about what happens to their skin and hair when they are stressed. I realized that as a skin stem cell biologist, I could not provide a satisfying answer regarding if stress indeed has an impact — and more importantly, if yes, what are the mechanisms," said Ya-Chieh Hsu, the Alvin and Esta Star Associate Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard and senior author of the study. "The skin offers a tractable and accessible system to study this important problem in depth, and in this work, we found that stress does actually delay stem-cell activation and fundamentally changes how frequently hair follicle stem cells regenerate tissues."

The researchers studied a mouse model of chronic stress and found that hair follicle stem cells stayed in a resting phase for a very long time without regenerating tissues. A major stress hormone produced by the adrenal glands, corticosterone, was upregulated by chronic stress; giving mice corticosterone reproduced the stress effect on the stem cells. The equivalent hormone in humans is cortisol, which is also upregulated under stress and is often referred to as the "stress hormone."

"This result suggests that elevated stress hormones indeed have a negative effect on hair follicle stem cells," Hsu said. "But the real surprise came when we took out the source of the stress hormones." Under normal conditions, hair follicle regeneration slows over time—the resting phase becomes longer as the animals age. But when the researchers removed the stress hormones, the stem cells' resting phase became extremely short and the mice constantly entered the growth phase to regenerate hair follicles throughout their life, even when they were old.

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PNB Housing aims for a 4x growth in corporate loan book to Rs 3,000 cr

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 1: PNB Housing Finance is aiming to expand its corporate loan book by over four times to around Rs 3,000 crore by the end of March 2027, a top official has said.

The company will continue to focus predominantly on retail housing finance even as it accelerates its corporate loan book.

"We expect the corporate loan book to reach around Rs 3,000 crore by the end of this

financial year," Ajai Kumar Shukla, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of PNB Housing Finance, told PTI in an interview.

Its corporate loan book more than doubled to Rs 689 crore in the year to September 30, 2026.

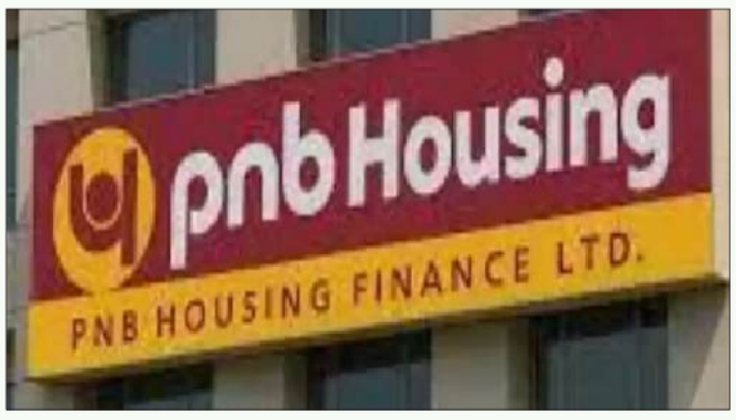
The corporate loan portfolio accounts for around 3 per cent of the company's overall loan book, which stands at approximately Rs 95,000 crore.

Shukla expects the share of corporate lending to increase to 8-10 per cent over the next three years, while retail lending will continue to contribute 90-92 per cent of its portfolio.

"The corporate loan book is still very small compared with our overall loan book," Shukla said, adding that the business had commenced only around six months ago and was growing from a relatively low base.

He said the sharp growth in the corporate portfolio in percentage terms should be seen in the context of its small initial size.

The company expects to gradually scale up corporate lending, with the



segment potentially accounting for around 5 per cent of the loan book at an intermediate stage before reaching 8-10 per cent over the next three years.

On the overall business outlook, Shukla said PNB Housing Finance is maintaining its loan growth guidance of 18-20 per cent for the financial year.

The company has already achieved loan growth of 19 per cent and would like to exceed its guidance, although it is retaining the current target, he added.

He said the company had not witnessed any significant impact on loan demand following the recent 25-basis-point repo rate increase by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October's monetary policy and expects demand in the second half of the financial year to be better than in the first half, supported by the festive season.

"We are closely monitoring competition, and most institutions are performing better than they did in the second quarter," Shukla said.

"The rate increase may not dampen or reduce overall

market demand. Typically, demand improves in the third and fourth quarters because of the festive season," Shukla added.

On the impact of rising interest rates, Shukla said borrowing costs would increase, but the company will also have the flexibility to revise lending rates.

Around 60 per cent of a repo rate increase is expected to translate into higher borrowing costs for the company, Shukla said.

For instance, a 25-basis-point increase in the repo rate could result in an increase of around 15 basis points in borrowing costs, he pointed out.

The company expects a marginal improvement in net interest margins as it passes on higher interest rates to existing borrowers, although the benefit is likely to materialise gradually.

Shukla said the company's borrowing mix is well diversified, with around 39 per cent of borrowings linked to external benchmarks, and it does not expect any significant change in the overall composition.

Coal imports by imported fuel-based power plants increase marginally in August

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1: Coal imports by thermal power plants that depend on imported fuel rose marginally to 18.31 MT in August 2026 from 18.13 MT in the same month last year, even as the government continues to push for lower import dependence in the power sector.

These plants are designed to operate primarily on imported coal.

However, the country's total coal import dropped by 5.83 per cent in August to 104.57 million tonnes (MT) from 111.05 MT in August last fiscal.

The decline reflects the continued efforts of the coal ministry to enhance domestic coal production, improve availability and strengthen the supply chain, with a view to reducing the country's dependence on imported coal.

Coal imports by power plants dropped by 6.39 per cent to 21.32 MT in August from 22.77



MT in August 2025, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The decline is consistent with efforts to improve domestic coal availability and reduce dependence on imported coal for blending at domestic coal-based power plants. The share of imported coal in India's total coal consumption also witnessed a drop in August this year, over August last fiscal. Coking coal imports decreased by 4.18 per cent to 27.30 MT in August 2026 from 28.49 MT in August 2025. Coking coal is an important input for the steel industry, and domestic availability remains constrained by the quality and characteristics of indigenous reserves. Import requirements in this category therefore depend on the steel sector's specific raw material needs.

FPIs pull out Rs 34,843 cr from equities in Oct; turn net buyers last week

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew Rs 34,843 crore from Indian equities in October, marking the second consecutive month of heavy outflows, amid concerns over elevated crude oil prices, global interest rates and the corporate earnings outlook.

However, foreign investors turned net buyers towards the end of the month, infusing around Rs 6,300 crore during October 26-30 compared to net

outflows of nearly Rs 2,700 crore in the week ended October 23.

According to data from the Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL), FPIs withdrew Rs 35,861 crore in September. Before that, they had invested Rs 20,200 crore in July and Rs 29,631 crore in August.

With the latest withdrawals, cumulative FPI outflows from Indian equities in 2026 have reached Rs 2.95 lakh crore.

The recent improvement in flows signals a shift in near-term sentiment, but one week of buying does not necessarily indicate a sustained reversal, market experts said.

"For October as a whole, foreign selling



remained significant, reflecting concerns around elevated crude oil prices, global interest rates and the outlook for corporate earnings," Anand K Rathi, co-founder of MIRA Money, said.

Higher crude prices pose risks to India's inflation and corporate margins, and attractive yields in the US continue to influence global capital allocation, he added.

GST mop-up grows 23 pc to over Rs 2.31 lakh cr in Oct

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: Gross GST collections increased 23 per cent to over Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October, driven by strong mop-up from domestic activities and imports, according to Government data released on Sunday.

Gross GST collections from domestic sales rose 16 per cent to over Rs 1.59 lakh crore, and revenues from imports climbed 42 per cent to Rs 72,246 crore.

The Rs 2.31 lakh crore collection includes Central GST mop-up of 42,935 crore, State GST of Rs 51,340 crore and Integrated GST of over Rs 1.37 lakh crore, data showed.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds increased 6.5 per cent year-on-year to

Rs 27,934 crore in October.

After adjusting for refunds, net GST collections rose 26 per cent to over Rs 2.03 lakh crore in October.

During April-October, gross GST collection grew 13.2 per cent to over Rs

14.77 lakh crore. Net collections rose 13 per cent to over Rs 12.69 lakh crore. (PTI)

BoB ups cyber defences after attack, sees tech spend topping normal thresholds

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 1: State-run Bank of Baroda has scaled up its cybersecurity framework across technology, personnel, and operational processes following a July 2026 incident, with overall IT defence spending set to exceed 10 per cent of its operating profit, a senior official said.

It is very difficult to estimate the exact jump in tech spending above normal thresholds at this point



in time, its managing director and chief executive Debadatta Chand told PTI, adding that the July incident involving a compromised employee email was a "huge wake-up call".

Listing out the additional spends being incurred by the lender, Chand said, "Obviously, it (technology spend) will be going above 10 per cent of the operating profit".

Tech spending, including capital investments and operating expenses, has been restricted to within 10 per cent of operating profit for many years and accordingly, the bank makes its annual budgets, Chand said.

Some of the spends will be incurred in FY27, while some may also go into the next fiscal year, he said.

The elevated spending includes efforts to improve the culture within the organisation, given that the last incident was due to a compromise at the people end, he said, adding that the bank has also updated software versions and processes.

An important aspect was to strengthen user access management by having multiple checks before someone can log on to a system, he said.

The bank engaged an external consultant to upgrade its processes, and has also been working closely with government agencies, including Cert-in, to have defences at par with the best in the world, he said. Chand said the bank will be in a position to reveal the extent of higher spending after December this year.

India's record crude imports signal strong refinery runs, Russian oil buying to remain flexible

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1: India's crude oil imports surged to a record high of about 5.6 million barrels per day in October, with refiners stepping up purchases from the Middle East and Russia despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, according to data from energy intelligence firm Kpler.

Middle Eastern supplies accounted for about 2.3 million barrels per day, and Russian crude flows remained strong at around 2 million bpd, Kpler lead analyst Nikhil Dubey said in a post.

Higher ship-to-ship transfers helped move more crude through the Strait of Hormuz, supporting a recovery in Gulf supplies

during September and October and giving Indian refiners greater flexibility in sourcing.



Russian shipments could moderate in November and December as attacks in the Black Sea push up freight rates, making those barrels less competitive on a landed-cost basis. At the same time, Gulf suppliers are offering competitive delivered prices to regain market share in India, Dubey said.

However, any renewed disruption to flows through the Strait of Hormuz could prompt Indian refiners to return to Russian crude, even if transportation costs rise.

The October 16 waiver under the Graham Act could also ease concerns among some Indian buyers about the risks associated with purchasing Russian oil, giving refiners greater flexibility in procurement, he said.

India imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil requirements, making the availability and landed cost of alternative supplies critical to refinery economics.

The choice between Russian and Middle Eastern barrels is therefore likely to remain driven by commercial considerations and supply security rather than geopolitics alone.

Sona Comstar expects annual investments to rise from Rs 500-600 cr as business grows: MD

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1: Auto component maker Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar) expects its annual investments, currently at Rs 500-600 crore, to rise as it scales up operations, with a focus on R&D, capacity expansion and new capabilities, its Managing Director and Group CEO Vivek Vikram Singh said.

In an interview to PTI, Singh shared that the company will continue investing across all its three business lines, adding that it had introduced three new products during the September quarter.

"Annual investment is currently around Rs 500-600 crore. This should increase as we grow over the decade," he said.

Singh said investments would cover multiple areas, including R&D, capacity additions, capability additions and new processes, with the company focusing on developing entirely new products.

According to the company's Q2 results release, the three products commercialised during the quarter were a helical limited slip differential for EVs, air springs for railway coaches and rear radar sensors for two-wheelers.

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd reported a 31 per cent rise in consolidated profit for the September quarter at Rs 223 crore, from Rs 170 crore a year ago.

Its revenue from operations grew to Rs 1,535.84 crore, from Rs 1,138.29 crore, during the July-September period of the last fiscal year. On the company's geographical growth outlook, he said India contributes around 50 per cent of its business and the share is expected to remain in the 50-55 per cent range as it expands in other markets. "Orders already won will begin to convert, and North America should see good growth next year, with India keeping pace. India's contribution should remain in the 50-55 per cent range," Singh said. The company secured new orders worth Rs 3,600 crore during the quarter, marking its third-best quarter in terms of order bookings.

Singh said these orders would translate into revenue over different timelines, depending on the stage of vehicle development and model cycles. On opportunities arising from global companies diversifying supply chains away from China, Singh said India could gain significantly, provided domestic suppliers develop the necessary design and manufacturing capabilities.

SEBI working to delist companies with no economic activity to protect investors: Chairman

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA, NOV 1: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working towards removing companies with no economic activity from the stock exchanges, as their continued presence in the listed space poses a potential risk to investors, a top official said.

There are a number of listed companies with no economic activity, SEBI chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

"They pose a potential danger to investors, and therefore, it is necessary to remove them from the listed space. We are making efforts towards their delisting," Pandey said here on Saturday during a programme.

From the perspective of market integrity, it is important to address the presence of such companies, as their continued listing could expose an increasing number of investors to potential risks through social media groups,



he said.

These stocks are used in "pump and dump operations" by some manipulators, the SEBI chairman said.

He said SEBI was using AI techniques to track and scrutinise such accounts, along with numerous other interventions to protect retail investors from getting trapped.

On the small and medium enterprises (SME) listing board, Pandey said SEBI has proposed several changes through a consultation paper to improve the framework, while acknowledging that some older companies remain a concern.

Commenting on foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), he said the regulator would soon come out with another consultation paper, proposing easing of certain norms, particularly relating to disclosures and concentration limits.

The consultation paper is likely to be issued in the coming weeks, rather than months, he said. Pandey said FPIs operate across global markets and their investment decisions are influenced by post-tax returns in dollar terms.

Their investment decisions are shaped by the earnings potential of companies, emergence of new sectors, currency movements, US Federal Reserve interest rates and global bond yields, Pandey said.

ATF prices increase by Rs 1.37/litre; commercial LPG rates up Rs 10

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices rose by Rs 1.37 per litre from Sunday, and commercial LPG rates increased by Rs 10 per 19-kg cylinder in step with firming international benchmarks, according to state-owned oil firms.

ATF prices were increased to Rs 138.50 per litre from Rs 137.12 per litre.

This is the fourth straight monthly increase in jet fuel (ATF) prices, necessitated by firming rates of international benchmarks.

Prices were last raised by a steep Rs 16 a litre on October 1. Prior to that, ATF prices were hiked by Rs 6.28 per litre on September 1 and by Rs 5 a litre on August 1. Jet fuel accounts for up to 40 per cent of the operating cost of airlines, and the price hike will further push up carrier expenditure.

Alongside, rates of commercial LPG - cooking gas used in hotels and restaurants - were hiked by Rs 10 per 19-kg cylinder to Rs 2,820, according to the oil companies.

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UP woman dies after childbirth, ANM arrested on culpable homicide charge

Press Trust Of India



BALLIA (UP), NOV 1 :A 25-year-old woman died following childbirth here, prompting police to register a case of culpable homicide against an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM), who was arrested on Sunday, officials said.

According to the complainant Naseem, his wife Shabina Khatoon died due to excessive bleeding allegedly after the ANM did not let him take her to a hospital following complications during childbirth.

The case was registered at Bairia police station on Saturday based on a complaint filed by Naseem, a resident of Mun Chhapra village, against ANM Lakshmi Devi under Section 105 (culpable homicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the police said.

Naseem said that he took his pregnant wife, Shabina Khatoon, to Lakshmi Devi's residence in Bibi Tola village for delivery on October 30. The ANM allegedly assured him that she would oversee the delivery at her home and charged Rs 15,000 for the service.

As his wife continued to experience severe labour pain, Naseem allegedly requested Lakshmi Devi to let him take her to a hospital. However, the ANM did not allow this, the complaint alleged.

Shabina delivered a baby boy in the early hours of October 31, but her condition deteriorated due to excessive bleeding.

She died on the way while her husband was taking her to Ballia for medical treatment, police said. Following her death, family members gathered at the ANM's residence and created a commotion. Police reached the spot and pacified the agitated relatives.Bairia SHO Rajendra Prasad Singh said the woman's body had been sent for post-mortem examination.A named case was registered against Lakshmi Devi, and she was arrested on Sunday, the officer said.

Former deputy tahsildar gets 8 years in jail in bribery case



Press Trust Of India

KOLLAM (KERALAM), NOV 1 :A Vigilance court has sentenced a former deputy tahsildar of Kunnathur taluk to eight years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh in a bribery case.

Kollam Vigilance Court Judge Mohith C S found S Baburaj (62), a native of Karunagappally, guilty of accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a complainant in exchange for taking steps to release an excavator seized by the Revenue Department over alleged illegal laterite stone quarrying in 2014.

According to the prosecution, the Revenue Department had seized the complainant's excavator, which was being used for laterite stone quarrying in Karunagappally village, alleging that the activity was illegal.

The complainant subsequently approached Baburaj, who was then the deputy tahsildar of Kunnathur taluk, seeking his intervention to secure the release of the excavator.

Baburaj demanded and accepted Rs 5,000 from the complainant for taking steps to release the vehicle.

The Kollam Vigilance Unit caught him red-handed while accepting the bribe, the prosecution said.

Public Prosecutors Divya P S and Siju Rajan appeared for the Vigilance Department.

Former Deputy Superintendents of Police Rex Bobby Arvin, R Jayashankar and Ashok Kumar K conducted the investigation, officials said.

Six, including 3 directors, booked for Rs 1.69 cr fraud at Hingoli credit society

Press Trust Of India

HINGOLI, NOV 1 :Six persons, including three directors, of a credit society in Hingoli in Maharashtra were booked for allegedly cheating 61 depositors of Rs 1.69 crore by promising attractive returns and insurance cover, a police official said on Sunday.

The six, comprising three directors and three staffers of Hingoli Urban Nidhi Ltd in New Mondha area here, were booked on the complaint of one Vaibhav Fatale, who, along with kin, had invested Rs 14.25 lakh, he said.

"The case was registered at Hingoli city police station. The probe is being carried out by the Economic Offences Wing. As per the complaint, the credit society offered 12 per cent interest on deposits and promised insurance cover for investments of up to Rs 3 lakh. Attracted by these assurances, several people invested their savings between May 2020 and March 2024," he said.

The company failed to make repayments after the deposits matured and eventually shut its office, he said.

"Fatale and other investors subsequently approached the cooperation department, which conducted an inquiry and found that 61 depositors had allegedly lost a total of Rs 1,69,15,493," the official informed.

He identified the accused as Hingoli Urban Nidhi Ltd directors Jayesh Khargule, Santosh Dhudkekar and Rohin Khargule, and employees Dinesh Anekar, Monali Ambekar and Ajinkya Khargule.

22,000 litres of 'adulterated' ghee seized; 3 arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR, NOV 1 :Three people were arrested and over 22,000 litres of suspected adulterated ghee worth around Rs 1.60 crore were seized during raids at two firms in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district ahead of Diwali, police said on Sunday.



CID Crime Branch, along with local police and food safety officials, conducted the raids as part of a statewide campaign against adulterated food products.

A total of 22,138 litres of ghee was seized from the two premises, along with Rs 3.50 lakh in cash allegedly earned from its sale, police said.

The arrested accused were identified as Ram Tayal (26), Mukesh Kumar (24), and Vikas Kumar (42).

Police said the first raid was conducted at the warehouse and factory of Ananya Trading Company, where 16,394 litres of suspected

adulterated ghee was found packed under different brand names, including Trisalwa, Bansuri, Shrinand and Mayra.

Expired ghee, unlabelled containers, packaging materials, stickers, a packing machine and other equipment were also recovered from the premises.

During preliminary questioning, the accused allegedly admitted that expired and returned ghee was repackaged with fresh labels and sold in the market.

Police said the accused were also suspected of sourcing palm oil and vanaspati from Gujarat and using them to prepare adulterated ghee, which was then supplied to dealers in Sri Ganganagar and surrounding areas.

The warehouse was sealed after food safety officials collected samples for testing.

In a separate raid at New Vijay Trading Company on Suratgarh Bypass, the joint team seized another 5,744 litres of suspected adulterated ghee.

Samples from the second premises were also collected and sent for laboratory examination.

Police said further action would be taken based on the test reports.

Four get life imprisonment for attack on Dalit farmer over land dispute in UP's Muzaffarnagar

Press Trust Of India

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), NOV 1 :Four people, including a man and his son, have been sentenced to life imprisonment by a special SC/ST Act court here for attempting to murder a Dalit farmer during a land dispute in 2010, a prosecution official said on Sunday.



Special Judge Vijay Kumar on Saturday also imposed a fine of Rs 1,05,500 each on the convicts -- Ramavatar, his son Pradeep, and two others, Kunwarpal and

Javeshwar-- after finding them guilty under relevant IPC sections, including 307 (attempt to murder) and Section 3 of the SC/ST Act.

Government counsel Ashish Kumar told PTI that the incident took place on March 28, 2010 in Husainpur village under the Ramraj police station area of the district.

The accused allegedly attacked Dalit farmer Vikas and his family members over a land dispute. Vikas sustained bullet injuries during the clash, while other members of his family were also injured, the prosecution said.

According to the prosecution, the accused had objected to the farmer's possession of the land and were cutting crops from it. When Vikas opposed the act, the accused allegedly attacked him and his family members and made casteist remarks against them. Police had registered a case against the four accused in connection with the incident.

FIR against man over AI-generated video 'tarnishing' Meerut jail officials' image

Press Trust Of India

MEERUT (UP), NOV 1 : A man was booked for allegedly circulating an AI-generated video on social media to tarnish the image of officials of the district jail here, officials said on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Arun Kumar Mishra, has been previously booked in cases related to cheating, forgery and the Information Technology Act, police said.

An FIR was registered at the Medical College police station on October 30 against Mishra, based on a complaint filed by Meerut District Jail Jailer Manish Kumar.

The case has been filed under sections 308(3) (extortion), 336(4) (forgery), 340(2) (use of forged documents or electronic records), 351(3) (criminal intimidation) and 356 (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with section 66D (cheating by personation using computer resources) of the Information Technology Act.

In his complaint, the jailer alleged that an AI-generated video purportedly related to Meerut District Jail was circulated on social media around 10 pm on October 29. The video used a photograph of Senior Superintendent of Jail Viresh Raj Sharma.

According to the complaint, Mishra, who is associated with a channel named SZN Media, shared the video on YouTube and other social media platforms.



The complaint alleged that the video was intended to damage the reputation of jail officials and exert pressure on them over certain demands.

The FIR also mentions the accused's alleged criminal history, and a case registered against him at the Cantt police station in Lucknow in 2016.

Another case involving allegations of cheating, forgery and violations of the IT Act was registered in Meerut the same year, while a further case was registered at the Civil Lines police station in Meerut in 2017, according to the FIR.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Vinayak Gopal Bhosale said the accused will be arrested soon. Further investigation is underway.

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Cow smuggler injured in encounter with police in Haryana, arrested

Press Trust Of India

GURUGRAM, NOV 1 :A suspected cow smuggler was arrested after an encounter with police near Ghasera village in Haryana's Nuh district on Sunday, officials said.

The accused, identified as Dilshad alias Dilla, a resident of Sudaka village, sustained a bullet injury in his leg during the exchange of fire and was admitted to Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Medical College in Nalhar, police said.

An illegal country-made pistol, a cartridge and three cows were recovered from the spot, they added.

According to police, the encounter took place on Sunday morning near Ghasera village under the jurisdiction of Sadar Nuh police station.

A team of the CIA Nuh, led by Inspector Vinod Kumar, was on patrol when it received information about the suspected cow smuggler, a police spokesperson said.

When the team approached him, the accused allegedly opened fire at the police, prompting retaliatory action.

Dilshad was injured in the exchange of fire and taken to the hospital in Nalhar, the spokesperson said.

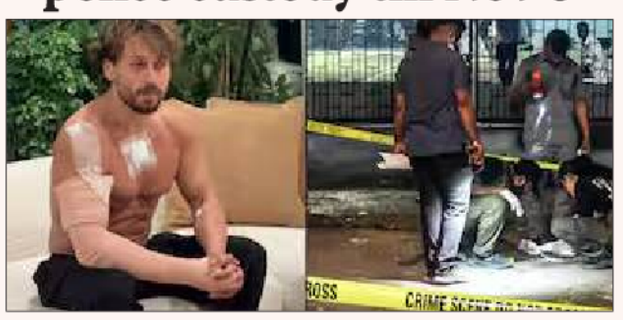
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Tiger Shroff firing case: MCOCA court remands 12th accused in police custody till Nov 6



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, OCT 31 :A special MCOCA court here on Saturday remanded the 12th accused in the actor Tiger Shroff firing case in police custody till November 6. Amar Mundiya, who was held from Sonipat in Haryana, had transferred money from his bank account to other co-accused in the case, police told court.The prosecution argued that his police custody was essential to trace the source of the money and examine the digital applications used by the accused to facilitate transactions. Advocate Ajinkya Mirgal, representing Mundiya, opposed the remand, arguing that several co-accused had already been arrested in the case.Mirgal said police was repeatedly citing identical grounds to secure custody, adding that extracting technical and banking details did not require physical custodial interrogation. After reviewing the case diary and considering the severity of the charges under MCOCA, Special Judge Pradhan ruled that Mundiya's presence in police custody was necessary for further investigation and remanded him until November 6.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha

stated that the Zewan complex, the largest under the project, comprises 936 flats across 39 blocks, all of which have been allotted. The Kulangam Bagh complex in Kupwara consists of 288 flats across 18 blocks, while the Kakan Maran complex in Budgam comprises 192 flats across 12 blocks. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all pending works are completed without delay. Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Shri Anil Kumar Singh, assured that the remaining flats will be completed by December this year.

The Lieutenant Governor applauded the contributions of labourers, engineers, officials of the Public Works Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, district administrations, J&K Police, Security forces and agencies responsible for water and electricity infrastructure. He also commended the dedicated service of employees working in the Valley under the PM Package Programme.

Emphasising that the completion of the flats marks the beginning of a new responsibility, the Lieutenant Governor called for uninterrupted electricity and water supply, robust security arrangements, effective waste management, and prompt grievance redressal. He said that the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandit families is integral to preserving the cultural, spiritual, and civilisational heritage of Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor said that Kashmir's literary consciousness, spiritual heritage, and cultural splendour cannot be imagined without the contribution of Kashmiri Pandits.

"Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits and it is deprived of a precious part of its soul. Dignified return of Kashmiri Pandit families is a commitment to restoring the historical heritage and human dignity of the Kashmir Division.

This entire region's natural, cultural, and spiritual beauty will attain completeness only when Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters return to their homeland with respect, security, and confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary; Public Works (R&B) Department; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Sujit Singh, IGP Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner; senior officials, prominent citizens and PM Package employees attended the inaugural ceremony.

Shaleen

order comes as Atal Dulloo, retired on superannuation as Chief Secretary last month.

Meanwhile, as per separate order, Shaleen Kabra, IAS (AGMUT: 1992), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department, holding additional charges of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, and Administrative Secretary, Estates and Revenue Departments, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPA).

Chandraker Bharti, IAS (AGMUT: 1996), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, has been asked to hold the additional charge of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, besides his own duties, till further orders.

M. Raju, IAS (AGMUT: 2005), Commissioner/ Secretary, General Administration Department, who is also holding additional charges of Hospitality and Protocol and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Departments, has been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Estates Department.

Similarly, Saugat Biswas, IAS (AGMUT: 2006), Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, has been asked to hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, till further orders.

Meanwhile, Rehana Batul, IAS (AGMUT: 2010), Director General, IMPA, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/ Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, relieving Avny Lavasa of the additional charge.

Avny Lavasa, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Secretary, Tourism Department, has been divested of the additional charge of Tribal Affairs Department. She has been asked to hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, besides her own duties, till further orders.

LG Extends

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for strengthening the spirit of coordination, harmony and emotional integration among various regions of the country and advancing the vision of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

The Lieutenant Governor noted that India's identity is rooted not only in geography but also in a shared cultural consciousness that has bound together diverse traditions, languages, customs, knowledge systems and artistic expressions for centuries. Highlighting ideals of ancient Indian scriptures and literary traditions from different regions, he said that India's rich heritage continues to nurture a sense of belonging that transcends geographical boundaries.

"Our literary and spiritual heritage, from Keralam to Madhya Pradesh, from Andaman and Nicobar to Andhra Pradesh tells us that we are integral parts of the same stream of life, and geographical distances can never erase our emotional closeness and the spirit of oneness," he said.

Highlighting the cultural contributions of the States and Union Territories being celebrated, the Lieutenant Governor said that each region has enriched the national fabric while preserving its unique identity. He also referred to Keralam's literary and artistic heritage, Andhra Pradesh's contributions to literature, spirituality and the freedom movement, Karnataka's saint-poet tradition, Punjab's profound spiritual legacy, and Haryana's contribution to devotional literature. He also underlined the significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in showcasing India's cultural diversity, Chandigarh's place as a symbol of modern urban planning, and Delhi's role as a vibrant confluence of cultures from across the country.

"Indian traditions demonstrate how diversity and unity coexist harmoniously. Our cultural practices, faith traditions and literary heritage reinforce the idea that people from different regions remain connected through shared values and collective national consciousness," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Foundation Day celebrations provide an opportunity to understand one another's heritage, strengthen mutual respect and foster deeper people-to-people connections. He called upon citizens, particularly the younger generation, to draw inspiration from the ideals of the nation's ancestors and contribute actively to nation-building.

"We have the responsibility to internalise the ideals of our ancestors, walk the path they showed us, and make our role in nation-building more effective," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the goal of Viksit Bharat and urged all citizens to work towards a future where diversity is respected, knowledge and innovation flourish, culture and heritage are preserved, and every individual is assured dignity, opportunity and meaningful participation in the country's progress.

Darbar

public infrastructure.

Several major initiatives undertaken by the Government reflect this development-oriented approach. These include the proposed modern solid waste management facility at Achan in Srinagar, a mega water supply scheme in Udhampur, the development of new industrial estates across Jammu and Kashmir, Tawi Wonderland, the establishment of Unity Malls and the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiatives are aimed at strengthening infrastructure, expanding economic opportunities, promoting tourism and improving the delivery of public services. Together, they reflect the Government's commitment to addressing the developmental needs of different regions while creating avenues for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Through regular field visits, sustained public outreach and a focus on resolving people's concerns, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah continues to pursue the vision of an inclusive, progressive, prosperous and happy Jammu and Kashmir, where development reaches every region and its benefits touch every section of society.

As the Civil Secretariat and other offices resume functioning in Jammu, the Government's focus remains on carrying forward this agenda of development, public service and responsive governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Hilal Lone

on X. The party had earlier dismissed reports of a rebellion, with NC provincial secretary (Kashmir) Showkat Mir describing Friday's gathering of MLAs as a cordial get-together ahead of the Darbar Move, a practice under which the government functions six months each in Jammu during winter and in Srinagar during summer.

Lone said his father, Mohd Akbar Lone, a former MP and minister, had devoted his life to the party, which, in turn, had supported him in every possible way to help him realise his political aspirations.

"Moreover, when I was chosen as the candidate from Sonawari, (Chief Minister) Omar Abdullah himself announced my name. Neither my father nor I lobbied with anyone to secure the party mandate. I owe everything to my party and my leader, and my loyalty to them is strengthened by the trust and support of the party and the people," he said.

The legislator asserted that like his father, he remained steadfastly loyal to the party and its leader Omar Abdullah.

"No force, temptation, greed for power or desire for a position can shake my loyalty to the party and its leadership," he said.

However, he said if the legislators have any concerns, they will place them before the chief minister once he returns from Delhi.

"He is our leader, and nobody can stop us from bringing to his notice whatever we genuinely feel needs to be brought to his attention," he said.

"Let us put an end to this discussion and instead start discussing how we can work together to improve the lives of our people. That is what should matter to all of us," he added.

Lone also accused those giving a different interpretation to the gathering of attempting to create unnecessary confusion, either at the behest of the opposition or due to vested interests.

"J&K National Conference is J&K. To weaken the National Conference would be to weaken the very fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, and we will never let that happen," he asserted.

Road

lost control and hit the vehicles at the busy Kalibari crossing, the officials said.

They said a boy identified as Shivam lost his life while seven other persons were injured in the accident.

The injured, including a 10-year-old boy, have been shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, Kathua.

Flights

attacks targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, saying the targeting of civilian infrastructure was unacceptable.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for several attacks on Saudi targets, including airports and energy infrastructure. The group has carried out missile and drone attacks on the kingdom amid the wider regional conflict.

In its advisories, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh has asked Indian nationals to remain calm and vigilant, stay indoors in the event of an aerial attack and follow instructions issued by local authorities.

It also urged them not to circulate or repost videos or news related to the ongoing developments.

The Consulate General of India in Jeddah has been coordinating with airlines, local authorities and community organisations to assist affected Indian nationals, particularly Umrah pilgrims, and facilitate alternative travel arrangements.

With the latest announcements, Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo have suspended services to several Saudi destinations until November 14, while Akasa Air's suspensions extend until November 18 for Jeddah and November 30 for Riyadh.

However, Saudi carriers continue to operate some flights to India.

The Indian Embassy had earlier said limited operations had resumed at Riyadh airport, including India-bound flynas services, while Saudi carriers were operating flights from Dammam, Jeddah and Madinah.

Passengers have been advised to check flight schedules with airlines before travelling.

Saudi Arabia has a large Indian expatriate population and is also a major destination for Indian pilgrims travelling for Umrah.

Amit Shah

opposition INDIA bloc on Sunday held the 'Chalo Dilli' protest at Ramlila Maidan in the national capital as part of its campaign against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral irregularities.

On Saturday, the opposition alliance carried out a symbolic "public impeachment" of CEC Kumar, accusing him of deleting votes to steal elections and demanding that he be tried in court for treason and jailed. The meeting was held in a setting resembling Parliament proceedings at the lawns of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. The BJP has described it as a "mockery" of Parliament.

Referring to the INDIA bloc rally, Union minister Shah on Sunday said, "If you desire to hold a 'jalsa' for the Congress party on such a dark day of genocide, then Rahul ji, no one will be able to take away anything except hatred from your 'mohabbat ki dukaan'."

Shah said the Congress has been losing elections for 15 years, and its leader Sonia Gandhi's dream of her son becoming the prime minister remains unfulfilled.

"So, they have found a new way: conducting a mock parliament. I want to tell Rahul ji, if you want to become the prime minister, stay in the mock parliament your entire life. Your turn (as PM of India) is never going to come," he said.

He lashed out at the INDIA bloc leaders for not listening to Delhi traders' request to defer their rally until after Diwali.

"The traders of Delhi pleaded with them, saying, 'We have just one day, one week in the entire year when our business thrives. If we stock up on sweets and they don't sell, what will happen? It will lead to losses. If we buy firecrackers and they don't sell, what will happen? It will lead to losses'," said Shah.

"A trade worth Rs 25,000 crore takes place in these 3-4 days. The whole of north India comes to Delhi's wholesale market to buy Diwali goods," he said.

"But no, on the very day the Sikh riots happened, the Sikh genocide happened, on that very day, on that same dark day, they had to hold a rally," he said.

"Now remember my words: for the next three elections, your account is not going to open there," he added.

On the anti-Sikh riots, he said, "On November 1, 1984, thousands of Sikhs were brutally murdered in Delhi during riots incited by the Congress party.

"Thousands of Sikhs were burnt alive. Many Sikhs had to leave their homes, many children were orphaned, many sisters were widowed, and homes of many were burnt," Shah said.

He recalled remarks by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi that "when a big tree falls, the earth shakes."

"I saw that statement on television, and I can never forget it in my lifetime," Shah said of Rajiv Gandhi's remarks in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984.

To describe the brutal killing of thousands of Sikhs in such a way is something that only Congress leaders could do, he said.

"Today, his son Rahul Gandhi organised a 'bada jalsa' in Delhi to rub salt into the wounds of the victims of the 1984 riots and their families."

The BJP held a press conference and had asked the INDIA bloc not to hold its rally on November 1, 2 and 3, as on these days, the anti-Sikh riots took place, Shah said.

"This deeply hurt our Sikh brothers, mothers, sisters, and children. Yet they insisted. From abroad, an order was issued to their party for holding the 'jalsa' on the very same day when thousands of Sikhs were set ablaze," he said.

Shah said he strongly condemns and criticises their "malicious attempt". "India and Punjab will never forget this."

Shah said when the Modi government came to power, it reopened all the cases related to the anti-Sikh riots.

"We provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the riot victims and ensured that prominent Congress leaders involved in the riots were sent behind bars," he said.

India had never witnessed politically instigated riots of this nature before, and I hope it never has to witness such riots again, he asserted.

Shah said the Narendra Modi government is taking the country forward by leaps and bounds.

Jitender

to reporters after inaugurating a two-day mega medical camp organized by the Army under Operation Sadbhavana at its Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The medical camp is expected to benefit around 5,000 people by providing access to specialist doctors, free diagnostic facilities, medicines and assistive aids. The camp also features ABHA registration facilities, dedicated welfare stalls for Veer Naris and ex-servicemen, a youth guidance stall, besides awareness stalls set up by banks and various government departments.

Singh appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Army, specialist doctors, civilian medical practitioners, chief medical officers and the local administration in organising the camp and said such initiatives are particularly important for rural and remote areas where access to specialised healthcare facilities remains limited.

He pointed out that several diseases, which can be prevented or treated through timely intervention, often go undiagnosed because people living in far-flung villages are unaware of their medical conditions.

"One of the distinguishing features of this camp is that it offers several medical specialities that are otherwise not readily available in this area. There are many diseases that can be prevented, but people living in remote villages often remain unaware of their conditions. As a result, these ailments sometimes reach a serious stage before they seek medical attention," the minister said.

Highlighting the importance of eye care, he said a considerable number of patients attending the camp were found to be suffering from cataracts, many of whom had not been aware of their condition.

"In medical terminology, cataract is considered a preventable cause of blindness. In today's world, nobody should lose their eyesight because of cataracts. If that happens, it is certainly not a good reflection of our healthcare system," he remarked.

Singh said such medical camps serve a dual purpose: providing immediate medical assistance to people while also generating valuable information about the prevalence of diseases and the specific healthcare requirements of different areas.

He said the initiative had been started earlier this year with a particular focus on rural and geographically challenging regions where all medical specialities and healthcare facilities are not readily available.

"Based on the findings of these camps, we prepare a report and share it with the civilian authorities and the chief medical officer. This helps them understand which diseases are more prevalent in particular areas and what kind of specialised medical facilities are required there," he said.

"The Army is active during wartime, and its activities naturally receive considerable media attention. However, its contribution during peacetime, particularly in our region, is equally invaluable.

"Whether it is a flood, an outbreak of disease, or a medical camp like this, the Army always comes forward to help. In these mountainous and remote areas, which have also witnessed the shadow of terrorism, the Army not only protects the people but also extends valuable assistance to the local population," the Udhampur MP said.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the response received during the initial hours and said "I am confident that more than 5,000 people will benefit from the services being provided over two days."

The two-day medical camp under Operation Sadbhavana reflects the Army's continued efforts to supplement civilian healthcare services and extend specialised medical assistance to people living in geographically challenging areas of Jammu and Kashmir, an Army spokesman said.

With specialist consultations, diagnostic facilities, free medicines, dental procedures and various welfare and awareness initiatives under one roof, the camp is aimed at improving access to healthcare while strengthening coordination between the Army, civil administration and the health department, he said.

Jammu

defence-related passenger movement.

He informed participants that as envisaged under the airport's master plan, the existing terminal building would be utilised for international operations once domestic flights are shifted to the new terminal building.

He also apprised stakeholders that Jammu Airport has been included under the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Hub-and-Spoke Model, the spokesperson said.

Emphasising the need for a sustainable approach, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Jammu Chamber, Rahul Sahai said the international sectors selected for Jammu should be commercially viable and supported by consistent flight operations.

He stressed that airlines should ensure continuity of services rather than withdrawing routes shortly after their commencement.

Sahai suggested prioritising connectivity to West Asia, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Europe, keeping in view the potential demand arising from Umrah travel, pilgrimage tourism, scenic rail tourism and international education.

Chairman, Tourism Federation of Jammu, Rajesh Gupta highlighted the initiative's potential to give a significant boost to Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, while also facilitating trade and broader economic activities.

The deliberations covered a range of issues, including passenger demand, airline interest, potential international destinations, air cargo prospects and operational feasibility, the spokesperson noted.

He said requirements relating to immigration, customs, security, regulatory approvals, infrastructure and manpower were also examined, including coordination with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and other concerned agencies.

The initiative aims to strengthen Jammu's international connectivity and support regional economic growth, subject to requisite approvals, stakeholder concurrence and operational readiness, he added.

The meeting on Saturday was attended by representatives of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Jammu Chamber, and Tourism Federation of Jammu, along with officials from airlines, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Intelligence Bureau (IB), Customs, Health Services, ground handling agencies, the Department of Civil Aviation, J&K, the Tourism Department and other concerned agencies.

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"Truth we say..... come what may"
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Manu headlines India's Olympic quota quest at ISSF World Championship

United News Of india



DOHA (QATAR), NOV 1 :India have sent a 54-strong shooting contingent to the ISSF World Championship 2026, scheduled to start here on Sunday with two-time Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker spearheading the challenge.

This year's shooting world championship brings together the rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines and also opens the qualification route to shooting at the LA 2028 Olympics.

A total of 36 LA 2028 quota places will be secured in Doha, with three on offer in each of the 12 individual Olympic shooting events, according to olympics.com.

It is the single largest qualification opportunity in the LA 2028 cycle for the sport. As National Olympic Committees have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective teams at the Olympic Games, athletes' participation at the LA Games depends on their NOC selecting them to represent their delegation at LA28.

India has entered 54 shooters across the Olympic and non-Olympic programmes and will field 35 contestants across all 12 individual Olympic events.

Manu Bhaker is doubling up in the women's 10m air pistol and 25m pistol. Bhaker will be looking to bounce back after a disappointing showing at the Asian Games 2026, where she struck out despite having four opportunities at winning a medal across individual and team events.

One Indian shooter who arrives in Doha in red-hot form, however, will be Neeru Dhanda, who won two gold medals and a silver in trap shooting at Aichi-Nagoya.

Also carrying momentum from those Games are Suruchi Singh and Kamaljeet Sohlot, who struck mixed 10m air pistol gold at the 2026 Asian Games.

The rifle group features Asian Games silver medallists Elavenil Valarivan and Himanshu Dhillon. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar takes on the men's 50m rifle 3 positions, while Olympian Anjum Moudgil contests the women's version.

Olympian Anant Jeet Singh Naruka will also line up for India in the men's skeet. Paris 2024 bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale is among the 54 entries but has been named only for the non-Olympic men's 50m rifle prone event in Doha. Sarabjot Singh, who partnered Manu Bhaker to win the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze in Paris, was not selected in the squad. Over 1000 shooters from 90 NOCs, along with neutral athletes, will be in action in Doha.

Where to watch ISSF World Championship 2026 live in India Live streaming of the ISSF World Championship 2026 will be available to watch on the ISSF YouTube channel in India.

Sindhu, Lakshya Sen one win away from titles in Germany



United News Of india

BERLIN, NOV 1 :Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be in action in the women's and men's singles finals, respectively, at the Hylo Open 2026 badminton tournament in Germany on Sunday.

Sindhu will face Denmark's Line Kjærsfeldt in the women's singles final, while Lakshya Sen will take on Indonesia's Jonatan Christie, according to olympics.com.

After falling short in the French Open final last week to reigning Olympic and world champion Sindhu, the 31-year-old Indian badminton player will be looking to make amends as she eyes her seventh BWF World Tour title and a second of the season.

Sindhu won the Japan Open 2026 crown in July after beating three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the final and claimed her first BWF title since December 2024. It was also her maiden Super 750 crown.

A win in the Hylo Open final will give the former world champion two titles in the same season for the first time since 2022.

World No. 8 Sindhu reached the Hylo Open badminton final after beating compatriot Anmol Kharb 21-13, 21-16 in an all-Indian semi-final.

Sindhu has been in imperious form at the BWF Super 500 tournament in Germany and is yet to drop a single game. Line Kjærsfeldt enters the final after a marathon semi-final win over top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand. The Dane won 8-21, 21-19, 28-26.

Ryan Abiang lifts 2026 Parkour World Cup freestyle trophy

United News Of india

BEIJING, OCT 31 :American teenager Ryan Abiang lifted the men's freestyle trophy at the 2026 Parkour World Cup here on Saturday.

The overall Parkour World Cup champion is the athlete with the highest points total in the relevant ranking after all events in the series have been completed, with points calculated from an athlete's best two results.

The 18-year-old won bronze in



Montpellier, France, in May, earning 35 world ranking points. Abiang faced a strong challenge from 17-year-old Chinese rising star Fu Kaige, who was making

is Parkour World Cup debut.

Fu topped qualification with 31.4 points after an impressive display of high-speed spinning skills, while Abiang was 1.4 points behind.

However, Fu struggled with the pressure in the final. Starting last, he competed in front of a packed and enthusiastic crowd after strong performances from Abiang and France's Eloan Hitz.

Despite attempting more difficult skills, Fu stumbled several times and was marked down on execution, taking bronze with 30.3 points on his World Cup debut. Abiang claimed his first World Cup title with 31.0 points and added 50 points to his world ranking tally. Hitz earned his first World Cup silver medal with 30.5.

"The performance was pretty, pretty crazy at first. I was like actually really scared," said Abiang. "I feel really crazy about winning the season title. It was pretty unexpected. But future goals? I would say go undefeated from this." World Games freestyle champion Noa Man claimed the women's speed title in the 2026 Parkour World Cup series after sweeping all three World Cup events this season. Man became the first parkour athlete to win a gold medal in women's freestyle at the World Games in 2022, the first edition of the Games to feature the sport. The 21-year-old Dutch athlete won both women's speed titles at the World Cups in Montpellier and Istanbul, securing top spot in the world rankings before completing her sweep with a third victory this year in 35.12 seconds, according to Xinhua.

Teenager Chiranth Vishwanath roars to another victory, double delight for Savion Sabu, Senthil Kumar, Anandhu



United News Of india

CHENNAI, NOV 1 :In what turned out to be the race of the weekend, 19-year-old Chiranth Vishwanath from Bengaluru held off his arch-rival and Petronas TVS Racing team-mate Pune's Sarthak Chavan, for the second time in two days to complete a superb double in the premier Super Sport 301-400cc Open class as the third round of the MRF Indian National Racing Challenge 2W concluded at the Madras International Circuit at Irungattukottai, about 40 km from here, today. The six-lap race, delayed by about 30 minutes following sharp showers in the afternoon, provided high drama and thrills as the country's top riders battled it out. Chiranth, winner of Race-1 on Saturday with a record lap time, Sarthak and their younger team-mate Rakshith Dave, took turns to lead the pack.

In fact, Rakshith looked set for a win when he led comfortably before almost slipping when negotiating a puddle of water which cost him three spots and he eventually finished fourth behind Thiruvallur's Mohamed Mikail (Mad Rabbit Racing). Up ahead, leader Sarthak and Chiranth were locked in a titanic fight. The decisive moment in the closing stages when Chiranth roared past Sarthak who had a "moment" and lost position. The Bengalurean went on to register his second win of the weekend while Sarthak again had to be content with a P2 finish. Earlier, Bengaluru's 19-year-old Savion Sabu delivered another strong performance as he led a maiden podium sweep for Mad Rabbit Racing team besides achieving a double this weekend in the Pro-Stock 200cc Open class. Savion managed to stave off close attention from team-mates Mohamed Mikail (Thiruvallur) and AS James (Bengaluru).

Dakar 2026 in numbers: A historic milestone for Africa and a celebration of youth

United News Of india

DAKAR, NOV 1 :From 2,655 young athletes competing in 153 medal events to more than one million schoolchildren reached through Olympic education programs, the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games are bringing together sport, education and youth development on an unprecedented scale in Africa.

As the Games opened in Senegal on Saturday, a series of figures underlined the historic significance of the event, which marks the first time an Olympic sporting event has been held on African soil.

Around 2,655 athletes aged between 14 and 17 are expected to compete at Dakar 2026, representing 204 national and regional Olympic committees, alongside the Refugee Olympic Team.

The Games, running from October 31 to November 13, feature 25 competition sports and 153 medal events, as well as 10 engagement sports designed to encourage wider participation among young people.

Another milestone is the participation of a Refugee Olympic Team at the Youth Olympic Games for the first time. Six athletes based in Africa will compete in athletics, judo and taekwondo.

Dakar 2026 is also the first Youth Olympic Games to achieve full gender parity across athlete quotas, sports, disciplines and events. Female and male athletes each account for 50 percent of the allocated quota places.

The competition program includes 73 women's events and 73 men's events, alongside seven mixed events. The achievement represents an important step in the Olympic Movement's efforts to promote equal opportunities and greater representation in international sport. Beyond the competition venues, youth engagement and education are central to Dakar 2026. More than one million schoolchildren across 11,000 schools in Senegal have already been reached through the Brevet Olympique Civique et Sportif (BOCS).

16 years of Youth Olympic Games

United News Of india

DAKAR, NOV 1 :From Singapore in 2010 to Dakar in 2026, the Summer Youth Olympic Games have evolved from a new Olympic initiative into a global sporting event that provides a platform for the next generation of athletes.

Launched by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Games made their debut in Singapore in 2010. Dakar 2026, the fourth edition, marks a historic milestone as the first Olympic sporting event to be held on African soil. The inaugural Youth Olympic Games were held in Singapore from August 14 to 26, 2010, bringing together young athletes from around the world for a new Olympic experience. The opening ceremony took place on a floating platform in Marina Bay, with the city's skyline providing a spectacular backdrop. On August 15, Japan's Yuka Sato won the women's triathlon, becoming the first gold medalist in Youth Olympic history.

4th Youth Olympic Games opens in Dakar, Senegal

United News Of india



DAKAR, NOV 1 :The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) opened on Saturday, marking the first time an Olympic event has been hosted on African soil.

The opening ceremony took place at the 55,000-seat Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniadio, a new city located 30 km from Senegal's capital of Dakar.

According to the organizing committee, Khady Niang, the ceremonies director, said the show allows Africa to "tell the world who we are, where we come from and where we want to go."

Held in Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly from October 31 to November 13, the fourth edition of the YOG will bring together more than 2,600 athletes from over 200 delegations.

Twenty-five sports will feature on the official competition program, alongside 10 engagement sports.

Meanwhile, Dakar 2026 will also see the Youth Olympic debuts of wushu, baseball5 and skateboarding, as well as the historic first appearance of the Refugee Olympic Team.

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Cummins hints at changes after South Africa series loss

United News Of india



CAPE TOWN, NOV 1 :Australia captain Pat Cummins has criticized the team's top order's decision-making, admitting his side overplayed spinner Simon Harmer during a final-day collapse that handed South Africa a 2-1 series victory at Newlands.

Chasing a fourth-innings target of 288, Australia were bowled out for 111 on day five to suffer a 176-run defeat in the deciding Test of the ICC World Test Championship series against South Africa.

"Everyone had a little bit of a different plan," Cummins said.

"There was a bit of rough there, but perhaps we overplayed the spin, we could have backed our defence a little bit longer.

"Again those little things, you hang in there and you find a way, whereas I just think a lot of the times we just didn't really give ourselves a chance."

The loss saw Australia surrender the top spot in the ICC Men's Test Team ranking to South Africa, while New Zealand moved to the top of the World Test Championship Standings, according to ICC.

The defeat marked Australia's third loss in their past five Tests, with top-order batting collapses proving a reoccurring issue.

"A few really poor decisions. I know it's a day-five wicket, but I don't think it was drastic," Cummins stated.

"Start in the first couple overs where you're behind it - maybe you're chasing a little bit harder than maybe when you turn up and think 'this is how you think the day is going to go'."So we've got to get better. It's happened a few times, we thought that chase was very achievable."

16 years of Youth Olympic Games

United News Of india

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Singapore 2010 also introduced mixed-National Olympic Committee (NOC) events, in which athletes from different countries and regions competed on the same team. The Games also featured 3x3 basketball in international competition, a format that would later become an Olympic discipline. Saudi Arabia's Dalma Malhas made history as the first Saudi woman to compete in an Olympic event, winning bronze in individual show jumping.

Nanjing hosted the second edition of the Games from August 16 to 28, 2014. A total of 3,579 athletes from 203 teams competed in 222 medal events. The sports program expanded to include golf, which returned to the Olympic program for the first time since 1904, and rugby sevens.

Beyond the main competition program, the Games also gave young people opportunities to explore other sports. At the Sports Lab, athletes and spectators could try activities such as skateboarding, sport climbing, roller sports and wushu.

Education was another key component of the Nanjing Games. Through the IOC's Culture and Education Program, Athlete Role Models shared their experiences with young competitors, while activities in the Youth Olympic Village covered topics including healthy eating, injury prevention, career planning and the dangers of doping.

The third edition was held in Buenos Aires from October 6 to 18, 2018, attracting around 4,000 athletes. For the first time in Olympic history, the Games achieved equal participation by male and female athletes.

The Argentine capital gave the event a distinctly urban character. Rather than holding the opening ceremony in a traditional stadium, organizers transformed it into a street celebration. Competitions and activities were spread across four areas of the city, while free public access helped attract more than one million spectators.

The Games also reached audiences far beyond Buenos Aires through extensive online coverage, generating millions of users and video views and bringing the competition to young sports fans around the world.

CISF rolls out 'functional command' to strengthen security of India's critical infrastructure





KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

New Delhi: In modern warfare, battles aren't just fought on the borders. Today, an adversary can paralyze a country without ever crossing it—by targeting power grids, oil refineries, or ports. To counter these next-generation threats and secure the industrial backbone of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has introduced a landmark overhaul to its security strategy, effective today.

With the Ministry of Home Affairs' approval, the CISF has transitioned from its traditional 'territory-based' command structure to a highly specialized, 'functional' sector model.

WHY THE CHANGE? (THE CORE LOGIC)

Under the old system, a single regional headquarters managed a mixed bag of over 50 drastically different installations. One Sector IsG was simultaneously overseeing coal mines, power plants, and maritime ports. However, the security dynamics of a coal mine are fundamentally different from those of a high-tech seaport or a volatile oil refinery. To combat modern threats like drone swarms, cyber-attacks on industrial control systems (OT/ICS), and coordinated sabotage, the Force needed leadership equipped with deep, industry-specific expertise.

Therefore, supervision has now been reorganized by the type of installation rather than its geographical location. The newly operationalized functional commands include:

* Power Sector: Power-I (New Delhi) and Power-II (Kolkata)
* Coal Sector: Ranchi
* Steel Sector: Bhilai
* Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector: Guwahati
* Port Sector: West Coast (Mumbai) and East Coast (Chennai)
* Government Buildings, Museums, Monuments & Metro (GBMM & MRTS) Sector: New Delhi

These commands join the highly successful Aviation Sector (functional since 2001) and the Atomic Energy & Space (DAE & DoS) Sector (functional since 2018), bringing the entire Force under one proven, unified framework.

Ground Realities Unchanged, but Sharper

Will this massive structural overhaul change the everyday security checks for plant employees and the general public? The CISF has explicitly clarified that ground-level procedures (SOPs), access control, and Quick Reaction Team (QRT) deployments remain exactly as they were.

The change is purely at the supervisory level. Moving forward, unit-level operations will be backed by expert guidance. When a crisis hits, specialized senior officers can instantly roll out tailored contingency plans and deploy sector-specific technology, making the overall security apparatus much more agile and responsive.

Leadership Vision

Highlighting the strategic benefits of this momentous change, the Director General, CISF stated: "Firstly, in a multi-stakeholder environment of our Units, it will promote better inter-agency coordination and communication, specially with the respective managements as a single point of contact from either side. Secondly, a dedicated nodal head in a functional sector would reduce operational bottlenecks, resulting in timely and informed decision-making in tactical and strategic matters, and effective crisis management. And finally, such a revamped structural setup will establish a protocol of efficiency, professionalism, and accountability, which are the defining benchmarks for any organisation."

The Way Forward

This structural reset elevates the CISF from a conventional guarding force to an intelligence-led, tech-savvy security apparatus. By blending specialized sectoral knowledge with cutting-edge counter-drone strategies and cyber-physical security measures, the CISF is now structurally empowered to keep India's interconnected industrial engine running securely and without interruption.

Dedikote faces water crisis, residents urge LG, CM, DC for urgent intervention

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kupwara: Residents of Dedikote area of Kupwara district have been facing a severe drinking water crisis for the past 15 years, with nearly 7,000 people struggling to access a reliable supply of potable water.The residents said the absence of a proper drinking water supply has made their lives difficult, forcing them to endure hardships to meet their daily water requirements.

They expressed concern that despite the passage of 15 years, the long-pending issue remains unresolved, leaving thousands of people deprived of one of the most basic necessities of life.

The residents have appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Commissioner Kupwara to intervene and direct the concerned Jal Shakti Department to take immediate steps to address the crisis.

They said the prolonged water shortage has caused immense inconvenience to the local population and urged the administration to prioritise the issue and ensure a regular and reliable drinking water supply to the area.

90 battalion CRPF organises Volleyball tournament at Bijbehara

Kashmir Press Service



Anantnag: The 90th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organised a volleyball tournament for local youth under its Civic Action Programme at SICOP, Bijbehara, in Anantnag district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from teams representing different villages.

A total of six teams from various areas, including Jablipora, Bijbehara and Rakhmoman, participated in the tournament, displaying remarkable sportsmanship, enthusiasm and competitive spirit.

The tournament concluded on November 1, with Titans Club Bijbehara emerging victorious after defeating Young Striker in an exciting final match.

During the closing ceremony, Shri Amarendra Kumar Singh, Second-in-Command (2IC), 90th Battalion CRPF, congratulated the winning and runner-up teams as well as all participating players. He highlighted the importance of sports and physical activities in promoting a healthy, disciplined and active lifestyle, particularly among youth.

AIP condoles demise of retired DySP, brother of senior AIP leader

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Pulwama, November 1: High level delegation of AIP led by AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi today visited Zadoora to offer condolences to Senior Party Leader Mohammad Altaf Bhat and his family on the demise of his brother, Retired DySP Mohammed Asgar Bhat.

During the visit, Inam Un Nabi conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, particularly the deceased's brothers, Senior Advocate Mohammed Ayoob Bhat, Javid Ahmed Bhat, Bashir Ahmad Bhat and AIP senior leader Mohammad Altaf Bhat.

Horticulture Dept Kulgam honors Fayaz Ahmad Bhat on his retirement



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Kulgam Nov. 01: The Horticulture Department Kulgam today bid a warm and affectionate farewell to Fayaz Ahmad Bhat on the momentous occasion of his superannuation, marking the culmination of a dedicated and exemplary career in public service.

During a special gathering organized by the department, colleagues and officers lauded Fayaz Ahmad Bhat for his unwavering commitment, stellar work ethic, and remarkable contributions to the horticulture sector in the district. Throughout his tenure, he discharged his official duties with utmost sincerity, professionalism, and dedication, earning the deep appreciation of his peers and superiors alike.

The officers and staff of the Horticulture Department Kulgam expressed their heartfelt congratulations to Fayaz Ahmad Bhat on successfully completing his active service.

They extended their best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous post-retirement life.

MLA, SDM, SDPO Inaugurate MALA Gaming Lounge in Pattan



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Pattan: MLA Pattan Javaid Reyaz Baidar, along with SDM Pattan and SDPO Pattan, inaugurated MALA Gaming Lounge in Pattan on Sunday, marking a new initiative to provide recreational facilities for local youth.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the President of the Traders Federation Pattan, members of the Civil Society Forum Pattan and people from various walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Javaid Reyaz Baidar said that teenagers are increasingly facing challenges such as anxiety and depression. He appreciated the initiative, stating that the gaming lounge would provide young people with a positive recreational space where they could relax, enjoy themselves and engage in healthy activities.

He described the establishment of the gaming lounge as a welcome step towards promoting the well-being of teenagers and encouraging social interaction among youth.

The participants appreciated the initiative and expressed hope that MALA Gaming Lounge would become a popular destination for local youth, offering them a healthy and enjoyable way to spend their leisure time.

Farewell function organised at State Taxes Department Solina Srinagar

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar: The Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir, Shri Parveez Ahmad Raina, JKAS, extended a warm and gracious gesture of appreciation to Mr. Syed Iftikhar Ahmad Siddique, AEDP, and Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Geelani, Senior Assistant, on the occasion of their superannuation.

His thoughtful interaction, warmth and words of appreciation reflected the values of compassion, dignity and mutual respect that strengthen the bonds within the Department.

Such heartfelt moments go beyond official formalities. They create lasting memories and remind us that years of dedicated service deserve not only recognition but also affection, gratitude and respect.

A beautifully organised function made the occasion even more special, turning a formal farewell into a memorable celebration of dedication, commitment and years of valued service.The employees present on the occasion wished both the officers a happy, healthy and peaceful retired life!

Bookaroo draws 5,000 children, parents and educators to DPS Srinagar

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: The magic of books, storytelling and imagination came alive at Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar, Athwajan, on Sunday as the eighth Srinagar edition of Bookaroo – Festival of Children's Literature witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 5,000 children, parents, teachers and literary enthusiasts from across the Kashmir Valley.

Organised under the aegis of the D.P. Dhar Memorial Trust, the day-long festival brought together young readers from several districts, including Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Baramulla and Ganderbal, among others, turning the DPS Srinagar campus into a vibrant space of creativity, discovery and literary exploration.

The festival was supported by Encash Mahindra and Amandeep Ujala Hospital, Bemina, whose support contributed to making the literary celebration possible.

With this year's theme, "Where Books Come Alive," the festival offered children an opportunity to move beyond conventional reading experiences and immerse themselves in a world of storytelling, art, illustration, music, drama and interactive learning.

The festival featured 11 speakers from eight cities across India, with a carefully curated programme of 21 sessions catering to children between the ages of 4 and 14. Acclaimed authors, storytellers, illustrators, artists and creative practitioners engaged young participants through imaginative storytelling, hands-on workshops and thought-provoking interactions.



From tales of talking animals and magical mangroves to mountains of adventure, nature, history and environmental awareness, the sessions encouraged children to explore new ideas, ask questions and express their creativity. Art-based activities, interactive storytelling and opportunities to meet authors further enriched the experience.

Speaking on the occasion, Swati Roy, Co-founder of Bookaroo, said, "Bookaroo has always believed that reading should be an experience children look forward to, rather than something they associate only with classrooms and textbooks. The enthusiasm we witnessed in Srinagar, particularly the participation of children from different districts, reflects the power of stories to bring young minds together. We hope every child who attended today leaves with a new story, a new idea and, most importantly, a greater love for books."

Shafaq Afshan, Principal, DPS Srinagar, said, "It is heartening to see nearly 5,000 children, parents and educators come together to celebrate the joy of reading and learning. At DPS Srinagar, we believe that education is about nurturing imagination, encouraging independent thinking and helping children discover their individual strengths. Bookaroo provides exactly this kind of enriching environment, where children learn through stories, creativity and meaningful interactions.