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India's economic growth high despite West Asia crisis: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India's economic growth is strong despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, and the country is set to add about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity over the next 10-11 years.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, Modi said that the country's non-fossil fuel capacity is over 300 GW and expressed confidence that India will achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

He said that over the next 10 to 11 years, about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity will be added. He noted that it is a tough call, but "we have to do it".

"If India had not created renewable energy capacity in the last 10 years, then the energy crisis in India could have been worse than in other parts of the world... India's economic growth is high despite

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Darbar Move Offices Reopen In Jammu

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 2: The administration resumed functioning from the winter capital, Jammu, on Monday, with the Civil Secretariat and other government offices, including the Lok Bhawan, reopening here as part of the 154-year-old biannual Darbar Move practice, officials said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour upon his arrival at the Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Union Territory government, and took the salute as the offices resumed functioning, two days after closing in the summer capital Srinagar.

Abdullah conducted a whirlwind tour of various offices at the Secretariat and interacted with officials.

The reopening marks the resumption of the biannual administrative arrangement under which the government shifts its offices between Jammu and Srinagar, officials said.

Security arrangements have been strengthened in Jammu, with police and paramilitary personnel deployed in key areas, particularly around the

See on Pg. 10



CM inaugurates Rs 189 lakh infrastructure works

KA NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated infrastructure works worth Rs 189 lakh at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, aimed at strengthening

See on Pg. 10

Porter loses foot in landmine blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 2: An Army porter was seriously injured after accidentally stepping on an anti-personnel mine near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, officials said.

Krishan Lal, a resident of Langar village, accidentally triggered the mine while moving through a forward area in the Nowshera sector at 11.30 am,

See on Pg. 10

CM Omar calls for accelerating pace of development works

Directs Ministers To Review Performance Of Their Departments, Budget Commitments

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, November 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired an introductory meeting with Ministers and senior officers of the Civil Administration at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, following the resumption of the traditional bi-annual Darbar Move.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, all Ministers, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries,

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Amit Shah dares Rahul Gandhi to debate SIR issue

Says Govt Ready To Convene Special Session Of Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Hyderabad, Nov 2: In a blistering counterattack on the INDIA bloc over its 'vote chori' allegation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government is ready to convene a special session of Parliament on the issue and dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to debate the matter in the House.

Dismissing the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi on Sunday as a "save infiltrator" rally, he wondered how the Congress formed governments in states, including Telangana, "if the EVMs are bad," and said that Rahul Gandhi can become Prime Minister only in mock Parliament.

Leading the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' padayatra

See on Pg. 10

CM visits fire-ravaged Jammu market, assures full assistance



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 2: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday visited the fire-ravaged Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station and took stock of the damage caused by a massive blaze that recently gutted dozens of shops, reducing a bustling commercial stretch to rubble.

The chief minister assured the affected shopkeepers that his government would extend all possible assistance to help them overcome the difficulties arising from fire incidents.

During the visit and inspection, the chief minister assessed the losses suffered by the affected shopkeepers and interacted with them to understand their concerns and difficulties, an official spokesman said.

Abdullah

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IGP Kashmir reviews security grid of Srinagar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 2: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar on Monday reviewed the security grid in Srinagar city, a police spokesperson said.

He said Srinagar city's security grid will be further

See on Pg. 10

VDG member, wife die of gunshot injuries in Reasi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 2: A Village Defence Group (VDG) member and his wife died of gunshot injuries under mysterious circumstances at their residence in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday evening, officials said.

Preliminary investigations suggest that both were hit by bullets fired from the VDG member's weapon at their residence in Bralkund Mora village of Baggodas in Mahore tehsil, they said.

It is suspected that Javed Ahmed (26), a VDG member, was cleaning his weapon when it discharged, causing bullet injuries to him and his wife, Shaheena Akhter (22), the officials said.

The two were rushed to the local

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Rajnath meets new IAF chief

Praises Him As 'Distinguished Air Warrior'



KA NEWS DESK/PTI

New Delhi, Nov 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met the newly appointed Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, and praised him as a "distinguished air warrior" known for excellent leadership.

In a post on X on Monday, Singh also shared some photos of their meeting.

The air officer assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on October 31, succeeding Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, who superannuated the same day.

"Met with the newly appointed Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit. He is a distinguished air warrior known for excellent leadership. I wish him a wonderful tenure ahead," Singh said.

Air Chief Marshal Dixit on Sunday said restoring the Indian Air Force's sanctioned fighter squadron strength, accelerating indigenous programmes like the Tejas and the Advanced Medium Combat

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Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi Set To Resign From NC, Parliament Today

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, Nov 2: As announced earlier, National Conference (NC) Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi is set to resign from the party and his Srinagar parliamentary seat on November 3, maintaining that his decision stems from what he termed the party leadership's "collective betrayal" of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and its retreat from the commitment to fight for the restoration of Article 370.

Mehdi, who had announced his decision to quit the party and Parliament, has remained firm on his stand, accusing senior NC leaders, including party president Farooq Abdullah, of prioritising "comfortable politics" over principles and electoral commitments.

Explaining the significance of November 3, Mehdi said the date coincides with the death anniversary of his father, late Aga Syed Mehdi, who was assassinated on the same day.

"November 3 is the death anniversary of my father. His legacy shapes my politics, efforts and moral compass. Symbolically, that day is synonymous with directions in my life," he had said, adding that the delay also allowed him to utilise his MPLADS funds for developmental works.

Rejecting criticism that his resignation would amount to abandoning his constituents, Mehdi said he felt "collectively betrayed" by the NC's change in political position after the 2024

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ED attaches properties in Patnitop hotel land encroachment case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 2: The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 10.66 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with the Patnitop Hotels land encroachment case, an official said on Monday.

The attached properties include the land and buildings of Hotel Holiday Inn, Hotel Broadway, Hotel Hollywood and Hotel Mountview, located in Patnitop hill resort in Udhampur district, an ED spokesperson said in a statement.

Earlier, the ED had issued two provisional attachment orders in 2025, attaching properties worth approximately Rs 30.72 crore in the same case.

With the latest attachment of Rs 10.66 crore, the cumulative value of properties provisionally attached in the case has reached approximately Rs 41.38 crore, he said.

The ED initiated its investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu, against various owners and directors of hotels, guest houses, resorts, cottages and residential properties in the Patnitop area, as well as officials of the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA).

The allegations

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Shaleen Kabra assumes charge as Director General, J&K IMPA&RD



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2: Shaleen Kabra, a 1992-Batch IAS Officer today assumed charge as Director General, Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPA&RD).

Following the assumption of charge, Shaleen Kabra held an introductory meeting with the officers, faculty members and staff of the Institute. He discussed various administrative and institutional matters and sought their feedback on issues and challenges concerning the functioning of the Institute.

The Director General also took stock of the overall functioning and infrastructure of the IMPA&RD campus and discussed measures for addressing the issues identified and ensuring their timely resolution.

Later, Shaleen Kabra interacted with the Officer Trainees of the Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu & Kashmir Accounts (Gazetted) Service and Jammu & Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, who are presently undergoing training at the Institute. He exchanged views with the trainees on the ongoing training programmes and sought their feedback on various aspects of the training.

Shaleen Kabra also reviewed the facilities and amenities being provided to the Officer Trainees, including the academic and training-related arrangements.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Director General expressed satisfaction over the facilities and arrangements available to the Officer Trainees under the ongoing training programmes.

Civic Reforms Forum Rajbagh Zero Bridge holds emergency meeting



Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: An emergency meeting of the Civic Reforms Forum Rajbagh–Zero Bridge was successfully held on Monday at 4:00 PM (after Namaz-e-Asr) at Masjid Owasia, Kursoo Rajbagh.

The meeting was attended by local residents, General Body members of civic Reforms Forum and representatives of various Masjid Intizamia Committees, Mohalla Committees

Several important community issues were discussed, and collective decisions were unanimously adopted to promote unity, discipline, mutual cooperation and social responsibility.

It was resolved that all collectively adopted decisions of the Forum, an amalgam of Masjid Intizamia Committees and Mohalla Committees, must be respected and implemented in letter and spirit.

Any deliberate non-compliance may invite appropriate community-level action, including social boycott, strictly through a fair, transparent and lawful process, while respecting individual rights and dignity. The Forum appeals to all residents and committees to cooperate in maintaining unity, discipline and social harmony.

AIACATFF organises 'Sadbhavana Rally, Goodwill Conference' in Srinagar

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Wing of the All India Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorist Front Foundation (AIACATFF) organised a Sadbhavana Rally and Goodwill Conference in Srinagar, with the objective of promoting peace, communal harmony, national unity and a society free from corruption and terrorism.

Acharya Shradhye Mahant Shree Dr. Vivek Guru Maharaj Ji, All India Chairman of AIACATFF, attended the conference as the Chief Guest. Khalil Ahmad Mughal, All India Vice Chairman of the organisation, was also present on the occasion.

The conference witnessed the participation of hundreds of people from different walks of life. During the programme, speakers highlighted the importance of maintaining peace, strengthening communal harmony and promoting mutual understanding among different sections of society. They also laid emphasis on the need to make Jammu and Kashmir free from terrorism and its adverse effects, stating that violence and terrorism have serious consequences for society, particularly for the younger generation and the overall development of the region.

The speakers stressed that lasting peace, social stability and progress could be achieved through collective efforts, public awareness, unity and active participation of people. They also called for strengthening the spirit of brotherhood and goodwill to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Khalil Ahmad Mughal expressed gratitude to all participants, guests and those associated with the successful organisation of the conference. He appreciated their participation and support and reiterated his commitment to taking the organisation to greater heights.

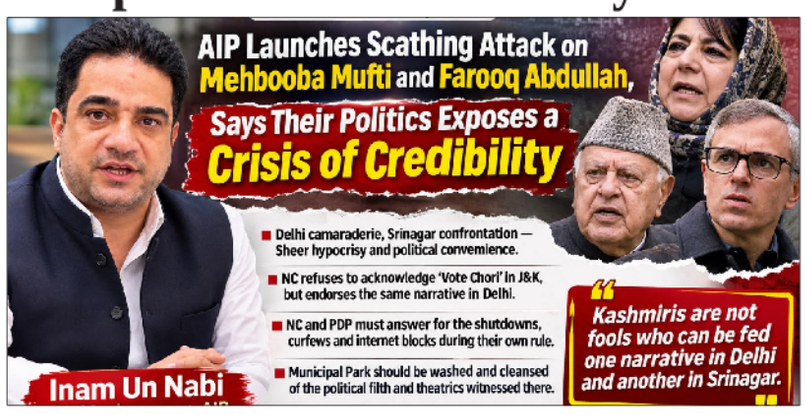
Mughal pledged that AIACATFF would continue working with dedication towards the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, promoting peace, harmony, national integration and a society free from corruption and terrorism.

He also thanked everyone for making the Sadbhavana Rally and Goodwill Conference a meaningful occasion and called for continued cooperation in the larger interest of society.

It is worth mentioning that all the arrangements were finalised by Khalil Ahmad Mughal, All India Vice Chairman of the organisation. All major activities of the organisation, from Kashmir to Delhi, are being carried out under his guidance and supervision.

The party appreciated his dedicated efforts and contributions and expressed hope that he would continue to serve the organisation with the same commitment and dedication in the future.

Mehbooba, Farooq's politics exposes crisis of credibility: AIP



Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi launched a blistering attack on PDP President Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah, accusing both of exploiting Kashmir's political and emotional sentiments through blatant double standards, opportunistic alliances and selective outrage.

Inam said Mehbooba Mufti's attack on Farooq Abdullah barely 24 hours after sharing the stage with him in Delhi exposes the sheer hypocrisy of her politics.

"If Farooq Abdullah is so objectionable to Mehbooba Mufti, why was she sharing the stage with him yesterday? Why the silence in Delhi and the sudden outrage in Kashmir? This is not political conviction; it is political convenience. Kashmiris are not fools who can be fed one narrative in Delhi and another in Srinagar." On electoral integrity, Inam questioned the National Conference's contradictory stance, saying that while the party refuses to acknowledge allegations of vote theft in J&K, its president Dr Farooq Abdullah shared a platform with Congress in Delhi, participating in the very 'Vote Chori' campaign the NC refuses to endorse at home.

Taking Mehbooba Mufti to task for invoking the suffering caused by shutdowns and restrictions, Inam said both NC and PDP must answer for their own records in government.

"Mehbooba Mufti cannot conveniently erase the past. Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have all been part of governments under which Kashmiris endured curfews, shutdowns, restrictions and internet blockades. Those who have presided over such restrictions cannot suddenly pose as the exclusive custodians of people's pain. Stop shedding crocodile tears and start answering for your own record." Taking a sharp dig at the PDP rally at Municipal Park, Inam said:

"Municipal Park should be washed and cleansed of the political filth of hypocrisy, deceit and theatrics displayed there today. Kashmir's public spaces should not be turned into platforms for manufactured outrage and political deception. Yesterday's companions cannot become today's enemies simply to keep their politics alive."

Sheikh Mehraj-ud-din bids tearful farewell to outgoing Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR, NOV. 2: Sheikh Mehraj-ud-din, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Pharmacists Association, bid an emotional and tearful farewell to outgoing Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on his superannuation, paying rich tributes to his distinguished administrative career, visionary leadership and significant contributions towards the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The farewell occasion witnessed heartfelt emotions and expressions of gratitude from officers, colleagues and other distinguished personalities, who acknowledged the remarkable services rendered by Atal Dulloo during his tenure in public administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Mehraj-ud-din highlighted the outgoing Chief Secretary's administrative integrity, visionary approach, commitment to public welfare and result-oriented leadership. He described Atal Dulloo as a dedicated, compassionate and approachable administrator whose contributions would remain memorable in the administrative history of Jammu and Kashmir.

He particularly recalled Atal Dulloo's significant role in the reorganisation



of the Pharmacist cadre, which subsequently paved the way for the restructuring of other technical cadres in the Health and Medical Education Department.

Sheikh Mehraj-ud-din termed these initiatives historic achievements, stating that they had strengthened the professional structure of the department and contributed towards the welfare and career prospects of technical employees.

Digital Life Certificate Campaign 5.0

Special camps organised for pensioners in Jammu

Kashmir Press Service

JAMMU: To facilitate retired railway employees and pensioners, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway organised special camps under the nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 5.0 at Jammu Tawi Divisional Office and Budgam Railway Station in Kashmir Valley on Monday.



The camp was organised under the guidance of Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Seema V. Verma and chaired by Assistant Personnel Officer Sunil Kumar Badoni. A large number of retired railway employees and their family members participated in the programme and submitted their Digital Life Certificates (Jeevan Pramaan).

During the camp, railway officials provided detailed guidance to pensioners on submitting Digital Life Certificates from home through face authentication, biometric systems and the Jeevan Pramaan App. Digital Life Certificates of several elderly pensioners were also generated on the spot.

The initiative aims to promote digitalisation and make the process of submitting life certificates easier for pensioners, eliminating the need for them to visit banks or government offices. Through this facility, pensioners can conveniently submit their life certificates from the comfort of their homes.

The Jammu Division will organise similar camps at all major railway stations across the division, including those in the Kashmir Valley.

The division has appealed to all pensioners to submit their Digital Life Certificates by November 30, 2026, to ensure uninterrupted continuation of their pension.

All Chief Welfare Liaison Inspectors (CWLIs) of Jammu Division actively contributed to the successful organisation of the camps.

Padma Shri Dr Sanjay receives wellness eminence award for social service

Kashmir Press Service

DEHRADUN: Padma Shri awardee Prof. Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Singh Sanjay, a renowned orthopaedic and spine surgeon, academician, author, poet, columnist and social worker, has been conferred the prestigious Wellness Eminence Award at the Third International WellnessCon-2026, held at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur.

The award recognises his outstanding and sustained contributions to orthopaedics, social service, public health awareness and the promotion of holistic wellness.

His professional journey has reached global audiences, and he has shared his experience through academic lectures and professional orations in more than 50 countries.

Beyond his clinical and academic achievements, Dr. Sanjay has devoted considerable time and effort to social service.



His initiatives in disability prevention, corrective surgeries for children affected by polio and cerebral palsy, road safety awareness and community healthcare reflect his commitment to

improving the quality of life of underprivileged sections of society. He has also organised and participated in more than 300 free medical and corrective surgery camps.

A passionate advocate of preventive healthcare, Dr. Sanjay promotes two simple yet comprehensive concepts for holistic wellness: HEN (Health, Education and Nutrition), emphasising the importance of these three fundamental pillars in human development, and DEWS (Diet, Exercise, Work and Sleep), highlighting four essential components of a healthy and balanced lifestyle. He believes that awareness, early screening and preventive healthcare are key to building a healthier society.

His achievements have been recognised through several national and international honours, including the Padma Shri, Guinness World Records and Limca Book of Records recognitions.

The Third International WellnessCon-2026, organised at CSJMU, Kanpur, brought together national and international experts to deliberate on different dimensions of health and wellness. The Wellness Eminence Award recognises Dr. Sanjay's lifelong dedication to medical excellence, social service and the advancement of community health.

China's Yao/Hu break world records to win 10m air pistol mixed team gold at World Cup

United News Of india

HANGZHOU, JULY 22: China's reigning world champions Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai broke world records in both qualification and final to win 10m a

DC Anantnag tours various areas to identify suitable land for key projects

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today visited various locations, including Lalan, Bumthan and the Rehmat-e-Alam Hospital area to assess and identify suitable land for the establishment of various developmental projects.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected different sites for the proposed establishment of public infrastructure, including Marriage halls, Maternity and

Child Care Hospital, playgrounds and other facilities aimed at addressing the developmental needs and aspirations of the local population.

During the field visit, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised by the concerned revenue officials about the availability of State land at the identified locations.

Detailed information regarding the Khasra numbers, revenue maps, extent of land available and other relevant revenue particulars was also presented for examination and consideration.

The DC directed the concerned officers to prepare a comprehensive report of all the locations visited, incorporating complete revenue records, land particulars, maps, Khasra numbers and the exact extent of land available at each site.

He stressed the importance of maintaining proper documentation and ensuring that all necessary details are compiled for further examination and appropriate action regarding the proposed projects.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that identification of suitable land is an important prerequisite for taking forward developmental projects

and reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring the creation of essential public infrastructure and facilities in different areas of the district.

During the visit, the DC also interacted with local residents who also brought various developmental issues and demands pertaining to their respective areas to his notice.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the public and directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely resolution of the issues raised.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), concerned Tehsildars, Patwaris and other field-level officers.

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International players call on LG Sinha



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR: Aqsa Gulzar and Muskan Shaban, International Pencak Silat players from J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today, and projected various issues pertaining to promotion of sports in Shehr-e-Khaas area of Srinagar. They were accompanied by Shri Mohammad Iqbal, National Coach.

During 'Operation Sindoor' IAF demonstrated capabilities of decisive air power: New Air Chief

Thanks his predecessor for handing over a force in high state of readiness

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR, NOV 02 : Newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Monday recalled the Indian Air Force's role in Operation Sindoor, saying the force demonstrated the capabilities of precise and decisive air power under the leadership of his predecessor, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

In his first address after taking over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, Dixit said, the security environment remained demanding and the changing character of warfare required the Air Force to maintain high operational readiness. "I take over from Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, under whose leadership in 'Operation Sindoor,' the Air Force displayed what precise and decisive air power can achieve. I thank him for handing over a force in a high state of readiness," he said.



Dixit, who previously served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, said, "Modern warfare is being reshaped by emerging technologies, including drones, long-range precision weapons, space, cyber, artificial intelligence and the electromagnetic spectrum."

He said the IAF, while transforming into the force India would need in the next decade, must always remain ready to fight and win.

Outlining his priorities under the 'VAYU' vision, Dixit said the focus would be on vigilance and readiness, self-reliance, innovation and unity of effort among the armed forces.

He said restoring the IAF's combat strength towards its sanctioned level would be a foremost priority, while indigenous platforms, sensors and weapons would be central to strengthening operational capabilities.

Dixit also stressed the need for innovation in technology, doctrine and operational procedures, and greater coordination among the Army, Navy and other national agencies to strengthen joint operations.

Pertinently, Air Chief Marshal Dixit assumed charge on October 31, succeeding Air Chief Marshal

As paddy loses ground, Kulgam bets big on apple economy

Kashmir News Observer

KULGAM, NOV 02: Once widely known as the 'Rice Bowl of Kashmir', Kulgam district is witnessing a big shift in its agricultural landscape, with apple cultivation increasingly replacing paddy fields and



emerging as a major driver of its rural economy.

In a major push to strengthen the growing apple economy, two cold storage facilities with a combined capacity of around 10,000 metric tonnes have become operational in the district, while the administration has identified around 250 kanals of state land at Adipora for establishing a second fruit mandi.

Bashir Ahmad Lone, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam, said both cold storage facilities were functional, had received bookings and could collectively accommodate around five lakh apple boxes.

"Both facilities are operational, have received bookings and are currently functioning. Their combined capacity is approximately five lakh apple boxes," he said.

Lone said that work was underway on two additional cold storage projects, each having a proposed capacity of around 10,000 metric tonnes. "Taking all four projects together, the total investment is expected to exceed Rs 100 crore," he said.

The General Manager said the projects are expected to generate around 120 permanent employment opportunities, besides providing seasonal employment to nearly 200–250 people at each cold storage facility.

He said the facilities would also generate indirect employment for truck operators, auto drivers, apple box suppliers and other associated workers, giving a further boost to economic activity in the district.

Inviting entrepreneurs to invest in the sector, Lone said the Single Window Portal was currently open for applications for land allotment. He added that entrepreneurs could also establish cold storage units on private land after completing the required formalities, including Change of Land Use (CLU).

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Shahzad Alam said around 250 kanals of state land at Adipora had been identified for establishing a second fruit mandi.

He said the existing fruit mandi, located near District Hospital Kulgam, frequently witnesses traffic congestion, particularly during the apple season, prompting demands for an additional facility.

"Keeping in view the growing demand, around 250 kanals of state land at Adipora have been identified for the proposed fruit mandi. A proposal for transfer of the land has already been submitted to the government," Alam said.

The DC said the initial steps would include clearing encroachments and undertaking walling work to secure the site, followed by preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and development of the mandi in phases.

J&K Tourism bags Best Tourist Destination Award at ITM Goa-2026

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 02: Jammu & Kashmir Tourism has added another significant milestone to its achievements by securing the Best Tourist Destination Award at ITM Goa–2026, reaffirming the Union Territory's growing prominence as a preferred tourism destination.

The award was received by Rashid Raina, Deputy Director Tourism Publicity, Kashmir, and Pankaj Sasan, Deputy Director Tourism Publicity, Jammu, on behalf of Jammu & Kashmir Tourism.

The J&K Tourism Pavilion witnessed encouraging footfall and generated considerable interest among members of Goa's travel trade fraternity, with numerous enquiries about the Union Territory's diverse tourism offerings.

The visiting officers actively engaged with travel professionals, addressed their queries and highlighted J&K's rich tourism potential, including its scenic landscapes, cultural heritage, adventure activities and emerging tourism experiences. On the sidelines of ITM Goa–2026, the visiting officers also visited the National Institute of Water Sports, Goa, to explore possibilities for institutional collaboration and identify new avenues for promoting water sports and adventure tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. The recognition further strengthens Jammu & Kashmir's position on the national tourism map and reflects the continued efforts of the Tourism Department to expand its outreach, forge industry partnerships and showcase the Union Territory as a year-round tourism destination.

Surprise inspection at Baramulla Boys' College opens 'Pandora's Box'

Kashmir News Observer

BARAMULLA, NOV 02: A surprise inspection at Government Degree College (Boys), Baramulla, on Monday reportedly exposed premature departure of staff, with nearly 50% of employees, including Heads of Departments (HODs), Assistant Professors and Lecturers, found absent from the premises before the scheduled closing time.

An Official said that the inspection was conducted by a team of the District Administration, headed by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Baramulla, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, following reports of staff leaving the institution before the prescribed time.

"During the inspection in the early afternoon, the team reportedly found that around half of the college staff had left the premises," he added.

Taking serious note of the matter, the administration has obtained biometric attendance records of the employees concerned to verify their attendance and ascertain the circumstances surrounding their early departure.

Officials said further action would be initiated in accordance with applicable rules and procedures after examination of the attendance records.

Pertinently, the district administration has stressed the need for punctuality, accountability and strict adherence to prescribed working hours in government institutions.

Pertinently, the district administration has stressed the need for punctuality, accountability and strict adherence to prescribed working hours in government institutions.

Kishtwar youth postpones wedding to attend Ruhullah's resignation gathering in Budgam

Kashmir News Observer

BUDGAM, NOV 02 : In strong display of political support, a youth from Kishtwar has postponed his wedding to attend the public gathering scheduled to be addressed by Srinagar Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday at Behisht-e-Zehra Park, Budgam, where the MP is expected to announce his resignation from the National Conference and Lok Sabha.

The youth, identified as Abrrar Ahmad, said that his wedding had been scheduled for November 2-3, but he decided to reschedule it after Ruhullah announced the date of his resignation programme, so that he could participate in the gathering.

Ahmad said he had met Ruhullah earlier and informed him about his fixed wedding date. However, following the announcement of November 3 for the public gathering, he decided to postpone the wedding to attend the event.

Explaining his admiration for the MP, Ahmad said he was impressed by Ruhullah's commitment to his words and promises, adding that he believed principles and commitments should take precedence over political positions.

He said that despite holding the position of an MP, Ruhullah has decided to relinquish his seat, which, according to him, reflects his commitment to the concerns of the people.

Asked whether Ruhullah would receive widespread public support after resigning, Ahmad said, "Standing up for what one believes to be right requires courage," he added.

He also referred to Ruhullah's parliamentary speeches, particularly his interventions on Article 370, and said issues concerning unemployment, youth distress and drug abuse needed greater attention. Ahmad argued that addressing unemployment and the lack of opportunities for young people was important in tackling the growing problem of drug abuse, adding that the government should focus on creating employment opportunities alongside anti-drug initiatives.

Weather to remain dry till Nov 9

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 02 : Weather is expected to remain largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9, with brief spells of light rain and light snowfall over higher reaches possible on November 5 and 6, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, dry weather is likely to prevail on November 3 and 4. However, isolated areas may witness light rain or snowfall in higher reaches during the evening of November 5 and 6.

The department said dry conditions are expected to resume from November 7 to 9, with no significant weather activity forecast during the period.

Meanwhile, Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir at minus 0.2 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kupwara and Kokernag recorded 2.8 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees Celsius, 4.3 degrees Celsius and 4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Ahead of Diwali, security beefed up along J&K borders

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 02 : To prevent any attempt to disrupt the festive celebrations authorities have beefed up the security along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Diwali.

An official said that security forces are conducting a series of joint mock drills and stepping up surveillance along vulnerable border stretches. "Security grids particularly along sensitive stretches in Poonch and Rajouri districts of the Jammu region, have been strengthened, while additional vigilance is being maintained along traditional infiltration routes in Kathua district," the official added.

He said, "A joint mock exercise was recently conducted by security forces along old infiltration routes in Kathua to assess preparedness and strengthen coordination in responding to possible security threats."

Another official said that in North Kashmir, heightened vigilance is also being maintained in Gurez, Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar sectors, while Sunderbani remains among the sensitive areas in the Jammu region.

Along the International Border, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have intensified round-the-clock patrolling and surveillance, particularly at vulnerable locations. Electronic monitoring systems, drones and other modern equipment are being used to detect suspicious movement.

Officials said troops deployed along the LoC have also increased area domination exercises and maintained close coordination with other security agencies to respond promptly to any infiltration attempt or ceasefire violation.

MOCK EXERCISES IN BANDIPORA

Meanwhile, security forces in Bandipora district have conducted several counter-terrorism exercises over the past few days to assess their operational readiness.

Bandipora Police, Army's 13 Rashtriya Rifles and 45 Battalion CRPF, along with other agencies, conducted a joint Cordon, Intervention and Rescue (CIRS) drill at PM High School, Gundgahagir in Hajin.

The exercise was based on a simulated situation in which two civilians were held hostage by terrorists inside the school building. After receiving information at 11 am, participating teams reached the location within 15 minutes, cordoned off the area and evacuated students and other civilians.

A coordinated intervention was subsequently carried out in which both simulated terrorists were neutralised. One hostage was rescued unharmed, while another, who was shown injured during the exercise, received first aid and CPR before being shifted to hospital.

A thorough search of the school and adjoining areas was conducted following the operation.

A day earlier, Bandipora Police and 13 RR held an anti-fidayeen mock drill at Aragam, where a simulated terrorist hiding in an under-construction building was neutralised. Joint teams subsequently sanitised the area to check for suspected explosive material and assessed casualty evacuation arrangements.

Meanwhile, District Police Bandipora conducted another anti-fidayeen exercise at the District Police Lines, involving SOG Bandipora, 3rd Battalion CRPF, 14 RR and 27 Assam Rifles.

During the exercise, four simulated terrorists hiding in two under-construction buildings were neutralised, followed by an area sanitisation operation involving an explosive detection team and a sniffer dog.

GMC Jammu's Pediatric Surgery Dept wins best Paper award at national conference

Kashmir News Observer

JAMMU, NOV 02 : The Department of Pediatric Surgery, SMGS Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, has brought laurels to the institution by winning the Best Paper Award at the 14th National Conference of the Society of Pediatric Urology, held at King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow. The award-winning paper, titled "Laparoscopic and Endourological Management of Rare Urological Disorders in Children," was presented by Dr Saalim Nazki, Head of the Department of Pediatric Surgery, GMC Jammu. The department presented three scientific papers at the national conference, reflecting its growing academic and research activities. Notably, one of the papers was presented by a resident doctor, highlighting the department's commitment to academic growth, research and nurturing young surgical talent. Expressing his happiness, Dr Nazki said the achievement was a matter of great pride and prestige for the department as well as the institution. He added that despite being a recently established department, it has already earned recognition and won several awards at various academic and scientific forums. Dr Nazki expressed his gratitude to the GMC administration and the Government for their continued support and encouragement, which has enabled the department to showcase its clinical achievements and academic work at national and international platforms—(KNO)

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | TUESDAY
03-NOVEMBER-2026
04
www.kashmirage.net facebook.com/kashmirage youtube.com/@kashmirAge dailykashmirage@gmail.com

Public Notice

This is an information for General Public that the Birth certificate of my Wards issued by Registrar (Birth & Death) Muncipal Council Bandipora, their names and Parentage has been Mistakenly mentioned as Sameer Saleem Sofi, S/O Mohd Saleem Sofi, and Arish Saleem Sofi, S/O Mohd Saleem Sofi, while as the Actual and correct name and Parentage of my Wards is, Sameer Salim Sofi, S/O Mohd Salim Sofi, and Arish Salim Sofi, S/O Mohd Salim Sofi. Now i want to apply for it's correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the objections in office of the Registrar (Birth & Death) Muncipal Council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Salim Sofi.
F/O: Sameer Salim Sofi. and Arish Salim Sofi.
R/O: Brar Bandipora, District Bandipora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) NASEEMA to (New name) NASEEMA AKHTER. In future I will be known as (New name) NASEEMA AKHTER. If anybody having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

Naseema Akhter
Passport No. N843526
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

I,Abdul Majeed Beig, son of Ab Samad Beig, resident of Warpora, hereby inform the general public that I have lost the number plate of my EECO Vehicle bearing Registration No. JK09D8621 while travelling from Handwara to Zachaldara.I have already lodged a missing report at the concerned Police Station and am now applying for a duplicate number plate.Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate number plate may contact the ARTO Kupwara, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objections shall be entertained.

008

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHAMMAD USMAN DANGA, S/o Aadil, R/o Rmpora, Chattabal, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as "USMAN AADIL", whereas my actual and correct name is "MOHAMMAD USMAN DANGA". Now I have applied for the correction of the same, Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may submit the same before the concerned authorities within the period of 7 days, after that no objection will be entertained.

8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the name of my daughter's mother has been wrongly mentioned as "Gulnaz Sultan" in the school records of my daughter, Hurmat Muzaffar Lone, instead of her correct name, "Gulnaza Bano." In this regard, any person having any objection to the correction of the said name may submit their objection to the office of Iqbal Memorial Institute, Bemina Srinagar, within a period of 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Gulnaza Bano
Mother of: Hurmat Muzaffar Lone
Permanent Residence: Bakiaker, Handwara
Present Address: Shah Wilayat Colony, Sector 08, HMT, Srinagar
6650

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SAJAD AHMAD BHAT, S/o MOHAMMAD YOUSF BHAT, R/o BOHIPORA, KUPWARA, hereby notify the general public that my original Class 9th Certificate/ Marks Card pertaining to the year 2007, issued by Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kupwara, bearing Admission No. 5170, is presently unavailable. The original document could not be traced in the school's records. I intend to apply for the issuance of a duplicate certificate/marks card from the concerned authority. Any person having any objection or claim regarding the issuance of the duplicate document may submit the same to the concerned authority within the prescribed period, as per applicable rules. This notice is being published for the purpose of completing the necessary formalities for issuance of a duplicate certificate.

SAJAD AHMAD BHAT
S/o MOHAMMAD YOUSF BHAT
R/o BOHIPORA, KUPWARA 6650

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showkat Ali Khan, S/o Habibullah Khan, hereby inform the general public that my Date of Birth (DOB) has been wrongly entered on my Driving Licence. My DOB has been incorrectly mentioned as 04/04/1986, whereas my actual and correct Date of Birth is 01/04/1986. Therefore, this notice is being published for the information of the concerned authorities and the general public. Anyone having any objection may submit the same to the concerned authority within the stipulated period.

Showkat Ali Khan
S/o Habibullah Khan
R/o Awoora Distt & Teh Kupwara P/o Trehgam
Cell No. 9906435784 6650

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHEIKH MOHAMMAD AAQUIB , S/O of GH MOHD SHEIKH , resident of REGIPORA KUPWARA , , Jammu and Kashmir, have changed my legal name to MOHD AAQIB S/O GH MOHD SHEIKH , resident of REGIPORA Kupwara, . Henceforth, I shall be known as MOHD AAQIB for all purposes and records, including my Aadhaar details.

(Tahir War)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 12/2026-27 Date:- 02.11.2026
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due date
1.	94265641	Supply of SMPS based integrated power su	08 Nos.	30.11.2026
	[Supply of SMPS based integrated power supply for interlocked LC gate in RE area confirming to RDSO spec no. RDSO/SPN/165/2023 Version 4.0 with amdt. 1 or latest amendment as on date of opening of tender]			

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3830/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K, Northern Railway, invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed Contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.

Name of Work	Finish painting with full gloss Polyurethane Enamel with dressing, touching repair, writing and stencilling work of DMU Coaches at DEMU Car shed Budgam for a period of 02 Years
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	**Rs.68,36,717.60** (Rs. Sixty-Eight Lakh thirty-six Thousand Seven Hundred seventeen and sixty Paise Only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 1,36,700.00 (Rs. One Lakh thirty-six Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale on website	As per **www.ireps.gov.in**
E-Tender closing Date & Time	23.11.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	23.11.2026 at 15:15 Hrs.
Contract Period	24 Months (02 Years)
Type of Tender	Open Tender **(Single Packet System)**
Validity of Tender	60 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Website	**http://www.ireps.gov.in/**
Tender No. 09-2026-DEMU_BDGM Dated 30.10.2026	**3810/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GDC Anantnag hosts Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, Yuva Samvaad



KASHMIR AGE NEWS

ANANTNAG,: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Anantnag, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Anantnag, today organised the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Yuva Samvaad at the college, with around 200 youth from across the district participating in the event.

The programme was organised on the theme "One Nation, One Election", providing young participants an opportunity to deliberate on important constitutional, electoral and governance-related issues.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Mahima Madan, attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Principal GDC Anantnag, Dr. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, was the Guest of Honour.

At the outset, Deputy Director MY Bharat Anantnag, Khushal Gupta, in his introductory address, highlighted the objectives of the initiative, emphasising its role in strengthening democratic values, nurturing leadership qualities and encouraging youth participation in the democratic process. He said the platform enables young citizens to develop critical thinking, public speaking and deliberation skills.

Dr. Peerzada Yasir Yousuf briefed the participants about the programme format and guidelines, while Principal GDC Anantnag appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to make effective use of such platforms to enhance their knowledge and leadership abilities.

Addressing the gathering, Mahima Madan appreciated the efforts of MY Bharat Anantnag and GDC Anantnag in providing youth with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. She stressed the need to organise such programmes regularly to promote democratic awareness and leadership among young citizens.

During the Youth Parliament session, participants presented their views and arguments on the theme "One Nation, One Election", reflecting on its various constitutional, electoral and governance-related dimensions.

A Yuva Samvaad session was also organised, during which Youth Icon Vinod Kumar Pandey delivered an informative presentation on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and "Know Your Vote", sensitising participants about electoral processes and the importance of informed voter participation.

The programme also featured the administration of the Loktantrik Pledge, reaffirming the participants' commitment to democratic values and responsible citizenship, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

Later, the results of the Youth Parliament were announced, and certificates and mementos were distributed among participants in recognition of their participation and contribution.

The programme concluded with a call for greater youth engagement in democratic processes and nation-building.

The meeting was attended ADDC, SDM Pahalgam, Bijbihra, ASP, ACR, ACD, GDC Principals, ACP, CEO, DIO and other officers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR26-54	23/11/26 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 04652/R1, 04652/F2, 20808/F1, 20498/R1, 14628/F1, 05006/F1 & 04634/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 3829/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on **https://www.ireps.gov.in** against Tender Notice no. **433-Sig-T-61-26-27** Closing Date/Time **23/11/2026** 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed

Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Reliability Improvement of OFC communication over firozpur division		
Tender closing Date Time	23/11/2026 15:00	**Date Time of Uploading Tender**	30/10/2026 18:36
Advertised Value (Rs.)	1579328.62	**Bidding Start Date as per IREPS**	09/11/2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	31600.00	**Period of Completion**	03 Months
NOTE	Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.		

Tender Notice No:433-Sig-T-61-26-27 Date:- 02/11/2026
Closing Date/Time 23/11/2026 15:00

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3831/26

NIT Srinagar concludes Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 with sports events

KASHMIR AGE NEWS

Srinagar: As Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 celebrations concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, the Institute organised friendly cricket and football matches between faculty members and non-teaching staff, highlighting the importance of integrity, teamwork, discipline and fair play in institutional life.

The sporting events witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty and non-faculty members, providing an opportunity for employees to engage in healthy sporting activities while reinforcing the spirit of unity, cooperation and collective responsibility.

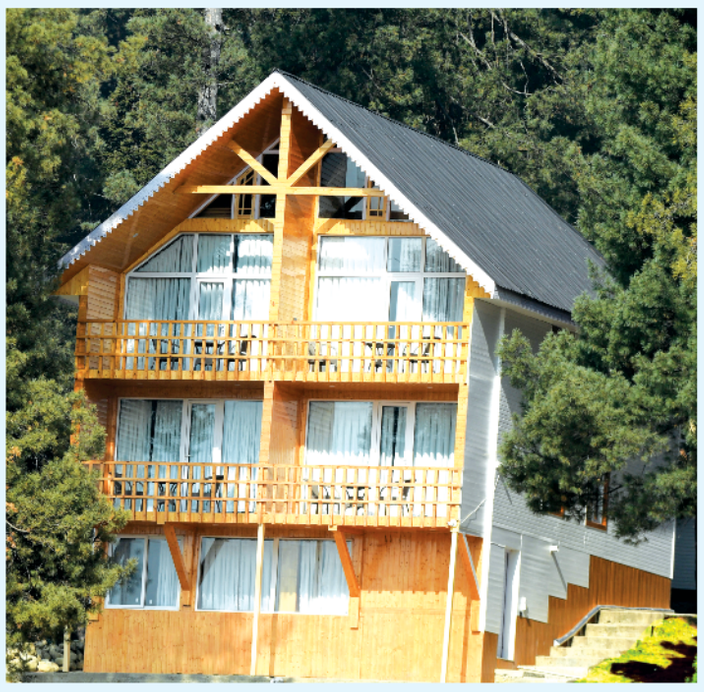
The initiative was organised under the guidance of the Institute's Chief Vigilance Officer and Dean Faculty Welfare, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahangar, as part of the Institute's broader efforts to create awareness about transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public institutions.

Dr. Shakeel Waseem from the faculty side and Faisal Irshad Ganai from the non-teaching faculty represented the cricket teams. Similarly, Dr. Manoj Kumar captained the faculty football team, while ASO Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat represented the non-teaching faculty team.

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Kashmir Age
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SRINAGAR | TUESDAY
03-NOVEMBER-2026

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Raah-e-Roshan Conference 2026 brings together 30+ educational institutions in Karnah

Kashmir Press Service

Peerzada Sayeed



TANGDAR, KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 2: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting educational excellence, moral values, intellectual development and youth empowerment, Government Degree College (GDC) Tangdar on Sunday hosted the Raah-e-Roshan Conference 2026, organised by Roshan Kal Welfare Foundation. The conference witnessed an impressive gathering of hundreds of participants, with representatives from more than 30 educational institutions, including government schools, private schools and madrasas from different parts of the Karnah region.

The conference emerged as a meaningful platform for bringing together the educational, intellectual, religious and social communities under one roof, highlighting the importance of knowledge, faith, character building, mutual respect and collective responsibility in shaping the future of society.

The event witnessed the participation of distinguished personalities from diverse fields, including senior educationists, academicians, professors, lecturers, doctors, teachers, government officials, Army and Police officers, religious scholars, Muftis, poets, journalists, social activists, students and prominent members of civil society. Their presence added significance to the occasion and reflected the collective interest of the community in strengthening the educational environment of Karnah.

The conference was presided over by Qazi Abdul Hameed Sahib, a senior-most retired educationist and former Principal, alongside the Principal of Government Degree College Tangdar. Dr. Hafeez Masoodi (JKAS), Special Secretary, Information Technology, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the programme as the Special Guest. A senior Indian Army officer, representing the Commanding Officer, also graced the occasion as a Special Guest.

Among other distinguished personalities present were renowned poet Abdul Rashid Ghamgeen, poet Gh. Haider Nadeem, Shameem Ahmad Sheikh, Zonal Physical Education Officer, senior journalist Ishfaq Sayeed, Civil Society Chairman Peerzada Siraj-ud-Din and social activist Mohammad Hafeez Mir. The programme also witnessed the participation of the Principal and faculty members of GDC Tangdar, madrasa scholars, Muftis, school teachers, community representatives and several other prominent personalities.

A major attraction of the conference was the series of educational, literary and intellectual competitions organised to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, creativity, confidence and communication skills. Competitions included debates, Naat-e-Sharif, Urdu speeches, English speeches and other student activities.

Students from government schools, private educational institutions and madrasas participated enthusiastically, presenting their ideas and perspectives on subjects connected with education, faith, moral values, character development and social responsibility. Their performances reflected the considerable talent, intellectual potential and confidence of the younger generation in the region.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the event was the participation of students belonging to different educational systems on a common platform. The coming together of modern educational institutions and traditional religious seminaries conveyed a powerful message of educational harmony, mutual understanding and respect for diverse learning traditions. It also highlighted the importance of balancing modern education with moral and spiritual development.

The organisers emphasised that education should not remain limited to textbooks and classroom learning but must also equip students with confidence, leadership qualities, communication skills, ethical values and a sense of responsibility towards society.

The felicitation ceremony formed another important part of the conference. Students securing first, second and third positions in all five competitions were honoured with appreciation awards in recognition of their performances, dedication and hard work. All participating students were also acknowledged for their enthusiasm and contribution, ensuring that every participant felt encouraged and valued.

Participating educational institutions, sponsors and supporters were also felicitated for their valuable cooperation and contributions. Distinguished guests received special tokens of appreciation and Guest of Honour recognitions as a gesture of respect and gratitude.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Hafeez Masoodi (JKAS), Special Secretary, Information Technology, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, appreciated Roshan Kal Welfare Foundation for taking the initiative to organise such a meaningful educational programme in a far-flung border region like Karnah.

He particularly appreciated the foundation for bringing more than 30 educational institutions together on a common platform and acknowledged the efforts of the organisers, teachers, students and participating institutions. He underlined the importance of creating opportunities for young people to explore their abilities, develop confidence and prepare themselves for future responsibilities.

The Principal of Government Degree College Tangdar also appreciated the foundation for selecting the college as the venue for the conference and organising an event of educational and intellectual significance. He described the initiative as commendable and encouraged the organisers to continue such programmes in the future, assuring institutional cooperation and support.

Qazi Abdul Hameed Sahib, who presided over the conference, also appreciated the dedication of the organising team. Highlighting the importance of education and character development, he stressed that academic achievements must go hand in hand with moral values, discipline, intellectual maturity and positive engagement with society.

Other speakers and dignitaries echoed similar sentiments, observing that platforms such as Raah-e-Roshan could play an important role in identifying young talent, encouraging healthy competition and creating a culture of learning and mutual respect among students.

The conference was organised under the banner of RoshanKal Welfare Foundation under the leadership and guidance of its Director, Dr. Ashfaq Lone, who has been actively working towards educational awareness, youth empowerment and community welfare in Karnah.

Joye Adab Kashmir honours Principal GHSS Handwara with award of appreciation

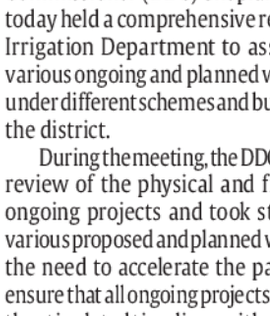
Kashmir Press Service

HANDWARA: The cultural and literary organization Adbi Jorgan (Joye Adab) Kaajnag Kashmir, Handwara, today honoured the Principal of Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Handwara with an Award of Appreciation in recognition of his outstanding contributions.

The award was presented during a book release programme held yesterday at GHHS Handwara. The recipient received the award from Arshid Mohiuddin, General Secretary of Joye Adab Kashmir.

The honour reflects the organization's appreciation of his valuable contributions and dedication to the field of education and literature.

Civil Society Forum, JKPUF Kupwara delegation meets Executive Engineer Farooq Ahmad Shah



Kashmir Press Service

KUPWARA: A delegation of Civil Society Forum / JKPUF District Kupwara, led by Chief Patron Gh Nabi Mir Sahib, met Executive Engineer Mr. Farooq Ahmad Shah.

The delegation comprised District President Malik Ghulam Hassan, Chief Advisor Gh Nabi Dar, Financial Secretary Ab Ahad Bhat, Joint Secretary Inayatullah Khaqi Shah and Ali Mohammad.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed various pending developmental works in Handwara and Langate, particularly issues concerning public welfare and basic infrastructure.

The delegation specifically highlighted the need for immediate commencement of work on the canal near Zargar Mohalla, Handwara, keeping in view the difficulties faced by the local residents.

Mr. Farooq Ahmad Shah gave the delegation a patient hearing, appreciated the concerns raised and issued directions for initiating the necessary work on the concerned canal without unnecessary delay.

DC Srinagar underscores need for proactive health monitoring,

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today



inaugurated a Special Health Check-up Camp at the premises of the DC Office Complex, with the objective of promoting health awareness and facilitating access to essential healthcare services for employees and visitors.

The camp was organised by the District Red Cross Society, Srinagar, in collaboration with Government Gousia Hospital Khanyar and Office of the Chief Medical Office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative was aimed at encouraging preventive healthcare, early detection of potential health issues and regular health monitoring. He emphasised the importance of prioritising health and well-being and encouraged people to make regular health check-ups an integral part of their routine.

The camp provided an opportunity for participants to avail themselves of medical consultations and basic health screening services.

The DC underscored the need for proactive health monitoring and timely medical intervention to promote a healthy workforce across the District.

The DC complimented the Health Department and the District Red Cross Society for organising the healthcare camp at the DC Office Complex.

During the camp, more than 100 employees and incoming public at the DC Office and allied Offices located in Amar Niwas Complex, besides a large number of visitors, were screened for diabetes, blood pressure-related issues, ophthalmological conditions and other health related concerns. The camp was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Accounts Officer, Mohammad Iqbal, Officials of DC Office, members of District Red Cross Society and other concerned.

DC Kulgam chairs district-level task force meeting

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM 2 Nov :Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), on Monday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Task Force at the Video Conference Hall of the DC Office, Kulgam, to review the effective utilisation of AgriStack data and identify innovative, farmer-centric initiatives suited to the agricultural needs of the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the participants about the framework, objectives and significance of AgriStack in establishing a digital foundation for the agriculture sector. He highlighted its potential to improve the delivery of government schemes and services, facilitate access to agricultural information and provide data-driven solutions to support the farming community. The DC stressed the need to identify bottlenecks and challenges faced by farmers at the grassroots level, particularly in accessing government schemes, agricultural services, credit facilities and crop insurance. He directed the concerned departments to conduct consultations with farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives and other stakeholders to understand their practical difficulties and propose effective solutions.



Emphasising the wider potential of AgriStack, he called for exploring its use in providing location-specific agricultural advisories, developing early-warning systems, ensuring timely delivery of benefits, facilitating crop insurance, improving market intelligence and strengthening disaster response mechanisms.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Task Force members to identify and prioritise innovative use cases in accordance with the local agricultural conditions of the district. He also stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective implementation of the proposed initiatives and maximise benefits for farmers.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam Viqar Ahmad Giri (JKAS), Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kulgam, Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Kulgam, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Kulgam, District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) Kulgam, Assistant Director Fisheries Kulgam, Programme Coordinator KVK Kulgam, DIO NIC Kulgam, DDM NABARD Kulgam, LBM Kulgam and concerned Naib Tehsildars of the district.

DC Anantnag chairs NCORD Meeting

Kashmir Age News

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse and strengthen enforcement against drug trafficking in the district.

The meeting focused on reviewing the action taken by various departments, strengthening inter-departmental coordination and intensifying efforts towards drug prevention, awareness and rehabilitation.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse. He emphasised strict action against drug peddlers, enhanced surveillance and sustained awareness campaigns, particularly among youth.

He also reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre and stressed the need to further strengthen its services.

The meeting was informed that 792 kanals of wild cannabis growing along riverbeds and other areas had been destroyed.

The chair was also informed that 100 percent CCTV cameras have been installed in pharmacies across the district. The concerned department was directed to intensify inspection and checking of pharmacies to ensure strict compliance with prescribed regulations.

He further called for strengthening rehabilitation and counselling facilities for persons affected by substance abuse and directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to achieve the objective of a drug-free Anantnag.

Principals of colleges and representatives of other departments were directed to ensure sustained awareness programmes and actively engage students and youth in the fight against drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, SDM Pahalgam, Bijbihra, ASP, ACR, ACD, GDC Principals, ACP, CEO, DIO, and other officers.

Irrigation Department works reviewed in Shopian

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 02: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today held a comprehensive review meeting of the Irrigation Department to assess the progress of various ongoing and planned works being executed under different schemes and budgetary heads across the district.

During the meeting, the DDC undertook a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and took stock of the status of various proposed and planned works. He emphasised the need to accelerate the pace of execution and ensure that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on the quality of works.

The meeting was also apprised that the district has a total Command Area (CCA) of 19,700 hectares, out of which 16,693 hectares has been achieved. The district has an irrigation network comprising approximately 212 km of main canals and 602 km of distributaries.

The DDC directed the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Shopian and his team of officers and field staff to remain vigilant, maintain close field supervision and ensure effective monitoring of all ongoing works. He emphasised that any unnecessary delays, lack of coordination or administrative bottlenecks must be addressed promptly to facilitate smooth execution of projects.

It was further informed that a total of 60 irrigation schemes are presently being managed in the district, comprising 36 Gravity Schemes and 24 Lift Schemes,



including 3 Major/Medium Schemes and 57 Minor Schemes.

The DDC further emphasised the importance of proper planning, technical assessment and field verification before preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), observing that all proposed works must be based on actual field requirements, technical feasibility and the anticipated benefits to the public. He directed that DPRs should be comprehensive, realistic and properly vetted to avoid deficiencies and delays at subsequent stages.

Taking serious note of delays in execution by certain contractors, the DDC directed the Irrigation Department to strictly monitor the performance of contractors and take appropriate action against those failing to execute the allotted works as per the prescribed timelines and contractual obligations. He made it clear that accountability must be fixed wherever negligence or undue delay is noticed.

The DDC emphasised that development of irrigation infrastructure is crucial for strengthening the agricultural economy of the district and ensuring adequate irrigation facilities to farmers. He stressed that the interests of the district and its people must remain paramount and that no negligence or laxity in the implementation of development works would be tolerated.

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Shopian, assured the District Development Commissioner that all necessary measures would be taken to expedite the execution of ongoing works, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure timely completion of projects. He also assured full commitment and coordination from the officers and staff of the Division in achieving the targets set for the department.

Editorial

Scientific Temperament

Democracy is sustained not merely by elections, institutions and constitutional guarantees, but by an informed citizenry capable of questioning authority, distinguishing facts from falsehoods and exercising independent judgement. Scientific temperament, therefore, is not simply an academic virtue or a quality confined to laboratories. It is an essential democratic value that determines how societies think, question and respond to power.

The observation of Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan that "scientific temperament lays the foundation for the rule of law" deserves serious reflection. His assertion that arbitrary power thrives on ignorance, fear and unexamined beliefs captures a fundamental truth about the relationship between knowledge and constitutional democracy. Where critical thinking is discouraged, misinformation finds fertile ground, prejudice becomes normalised and authority can increasingly operate without accountability.

Scientific temperament does not mean that every citizen must possess specialised scientific knowledge. It means cultivating a habit of reasoning, questioning established assumptions, examining evidence and remaining open to correction. These qualities are equally relevant to governance, public administration, judicial institutions and everyday civic life. A society that values evidence over speculation and reason over prejudice is better equipped to resist arbitrary decisions and demand transparency from those entrusted with public power.

The connection between scientific thinking and the rule of law is particularly significant. The rule of law requires that decisions be guided by established principles, objective standards and constitutional safeguards rather than personal preferences, inherited prejudices or the whims of those in authority. Scientific reasoning reinforces precisely this approach: conclusions must be supported by evidence, procedures must be rational and claims must withstand scrutiny.

Educational institutions have a crucial responsibility in nurturing this outlook. Universities must go beyond producing graduates and awarding degrees. They must encourage intellectual independence, promote debate, develop analytical abilities and create an environment where questioning is welcomed rather than discouraged. The graduation of 1,469 students at the 12th convocation of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya is a reminder that the true measure of education lies not merely in the number of degrees conferred, but in the quality of minds shaped.

This responsibility extends beyond classrooms. Families, public institutions, governments and the media must collectively promote rational discourse and resist the spread of misinformation. Scientific temper is also a constitutional duty under Article 51A(h), which calls upon every citizen to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

At a time when misinformation, superstition and polarised narratives can influence public opinion, Justice Bhuyan's message assumes added importance. Democracy cannot flourish where questioning is discouraged and blind acceptance replaces informed reasoning.

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

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Remembering Visionary: Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji



BY: TARANPREET SINGH

Every passing year reminds us of great souls whose lives serve as a beacon of light, guiding humanity on the path of selfless service, spirituality, and social upliftment. On the solemn occasion of the death anniversary of Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji, we pause to reflect upon a towering legacy that continues to inspire generations. A revered saint, visionary leader, and humanitarian, Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji dedicated his entire existence to preserving faith, fostering communal harmony, and empowering the youth through education.

INSPIRING LEGACY:

Rebuilding Dera Nangali Sahib After 1947: Following the turbulent times and devastation of the 1947 partition, when the historic Gurdwara Dera Nangali Sahib in Poonch suffered heavily, Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji displayed unmatched resilience. He traveled from village to village, mobilizing the Sangat, and painstakingly led the reconstruction of the shrine to restore its glorious spiritual heritage. Daily Excelsior

CHAMPIONING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Mahant Ji strongly believed that true empowerment comes through knowledge. He laid special emphasis on grooming children and youth by expanding educational avenues, ensuring that deserving students from remote and border regions could access quality learning. Institutional Development for the Community: His visionary outlook transcended spiritual boundaries into practical welfare. Through his dedicated efforts, major educational institutions-including technical and professional colleges-were established in Jammu (such as around Digiana), changing the academic landscape for Sikh youth and underprivileged students. SikhiWiki

UPHOLDING THE TRADITION OF LANGAR AND SEVA:

Despite severe infrastructural challenges, including major floods and displacement, Mahant Ji ensured that the eternal tradition of Guru Ka Langar (community kitchen) at Dera Nangali Sahib never stopped, exemplifying boundless compassion and hospitality.

LIFELONG SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji was more than a religious head; he was a social reformer who bridged faith with societal welfare. His life taught us that true leadership lies in serving the marginalized and investing in the future of our children.

As we pay our heartfelt tributes to him on his death anniversary, let us pledge to walk on the path shown by him-upholding values of education, community service, and spiritual dedication. His noble legacy will forever remain etched in the hearts of the Sangat and the history of Jammu & Kashmir.

The people who only need four hours' sleep

AMANDA RUGGERI

Some people really are fine with remarkably little sleep. But it can be hard to tell if you're one of those people.

For as long as she can remember, Aimee Pugh Bernard hasn't needed much sleep. Today she tends to go to bed around 22:00 and wake up around 04:30. "I'm wide awake. I cannot stay in bed," she says.

Sometimes Bernard, an immunology professor at the University of Colorado, can't fall asleep right away. Then she'll log only five hours' slumber.

Perhaps most surprisingly, Bernard usually still feels energised the next day. She'll walk her dog, sweat through an hour-long gym session, and clock 1.5 hours of work before 08:00. Friends gawk at Bernard's ability to do so much on so little sleep. But in her family, it's normal – her father and brother are the same.

Most of us, of course, require more. The average adult aged 26-64 years needs about seven to nine hours of sleep in every 24, according to the US National Sleep Foundation's latest review of the evidence.

Why there is such a wide variation in how much sleep people need has been a long-standing mystery. Yet over the last few years, scientists have pinpointed a wealth of ways in which genetics play a role. From the rare mutations carried by people like Bernard, to hundreds of much more common variants, here's why some people get away with very little sleep. In the future, these findings could be used to help protect those who can't get enough from some of the usual consequences.

In 2019, Bernard learned the likely reason for her own sleep superpower.

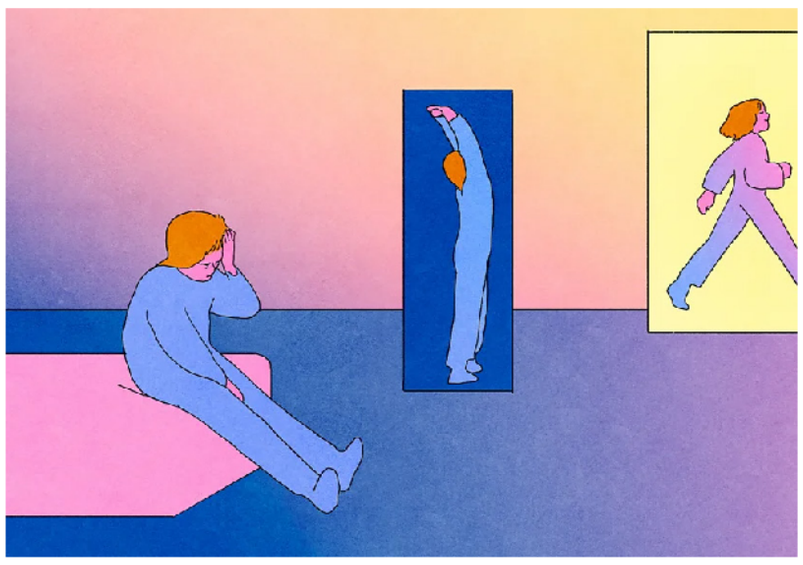
A research team from the University of California, San Francisco had discovered a genetic mutation related to sleep duration in humans. Although the people who carried it went to bed at fairly conventional times, they woke up very early, often getting anywhere from four to six-and-a-half hours' sleep a night. After sending a blood sample to the research team, Bernard found out that she was one of them.

This rare, heritable condition is called familial natural short sleep (FNSS). In the years since, several other mutations associated with FNSS have been identified.

One of the biggest mysteries about FNSS is that those who have it seem "fine" on so little sleep, says the team's lead investigator, molecular biologist Ying-Hui Fu. Exactly why is still being worked out.

There is intriguing evidence that FNSS-linked genetic variations might not only cause short sleep but protect those who have it from the consequences. This includes memory impairment, for example.

One 2019 experiment led by Fu introduced a mutation linked to FNSS in mice. The team found that the mice with a related variant not only slept less, but seemed to be protected from memory deficits. Another test found that mice with some of these variants were less likely to develop a mouse version of Alzheimer's.



In 2014, an international research team investigated a pair of human fraternal twins where one twin had a short-sleep mutation and the other did not. They found that the carrier twin regularly slept about an hour less than their sibling. They also discovered that when both twins were kept continuously awake for 38 hours, the carrier twin had about 40% fewer performance lapses than the other twin.

The researchers also found some intriguing differences between how the two twins slept. Even though the carrier twin slept less, he had almost the same amount of non-REM sleep as his brother. This includes slow-wave or "deep" sleep, which could mean that he was, in some ways, getting more benefits from the sleep he did obtain.

Still, research in the area is ongoing – and critical, says Fu.

Over the last few years, there has been increasing interest in how our understanding of these genetic variations could be harnessed to help people. Within the pharmaceutical industry, there are hopes that one day discoveries about short sleepers could lead to drugs for treating sleep disorders or help military personnel to get by on less sleep, for example.

For that, scientists not only need a clear idea of whether the variants protect short sleepers from negative consequences, but also exactly how they do so. Without this information, you could wind up creating a drug with unexpected side effects. "You have to understand how it works," says Fu. "You don't want to sleep less and then get Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or cancer after 10 years, or five years, or 20 years."

While the genetic mutations associated with FNSS are one of the more extreme and exciting examples, they are only a handful of those that can shape our sleep duration.

Overall, how long we sleep for is estimated to be anywhere from 30 to 65% heritable, meaning that up to 65% of the difference in sleep duration between us can be explained by genetics. So far, several hundred different parts of the genome have been identified as influencing sleep duration. In one new analysis that looked at data from nearly 650,000 adults, there were around 244. (The research has not yet been published and is currently in preprint.)

If you took any single one of these common mutations on its own, it would only be linked to a difference in sleep duration of about a minute, says the paper's lead author, geneticist Isabelle Austin-Zimmerman at King's College London.

But combined, the effects can add up. For the average person, genetic differences might account for around 20 minutes' difference in sleep duration between us, says Austin-Zimmerman.

But there hasn't yet been much research on which of these more common variations can help to protect people from the effects of short sleep.

However, a recent study led by Chiara Petrosellini, a clinical academic obstetrician and gynaecologist at University College London, found evidence of one. The research team investigated the genetics of 343 women with bipolar disorder who had given birth.

Their genetics were scored for their likelihood of being a short sleeper, based on the presence of mutations suspected to be involved. Those who scored as most likely to be short sleepers had half the risk of developing postpartum psychosis, compared to women who scored as least likely to be short sleepers. The same trend was found for insomnia.

More studies are needed, but it's possible that these individuals may have developed a higher tolerance to sleep disruption earlier in life, suggested the researchers. That may be mitigating the impact of disrupted sleep in the postnatal period on their mood.

Unfortunately, though, being genetically susceptible to short sleep isn't always good for you. In fact, research by Austin-Zimmerman and her team on a much larger population (not specifically mothers with bipolar disorder) has found that, in general, genetic variants associated with shorter sleep were associated with a higher risk of insomnia and of feeling tired. They were also linked to various mental and physical health conditions. This included ADHD, depressive symptoms and type 2 diabetes.

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Rockstar Baby! How Qazi Touqeer Turned Bigg Boss into a Comedy Circus





RAMEEZ BHAT

If Bigg Boss 20 ever decides to appoint a full-time Minister of Entertainment, it can save itself the trouble of conducting auditions. Srinagar-born Qazi Touqeer is already doing the job, without a salary, without a script and, most importantly, without giving anyone a chance to understand what exactly he is up to.

While other contestants enter the Bigg Boss house with strategies, secret alliances and carefully prepared arguments, Qazi seems to have entered with one straightforward mission: entertain the nation, confuse his housemates and keep Instagram meme pages busier than a Srinagar shopkeeper during Eid shopping.

Nearly two decades after becoming a household name through Fame Gurukul, Qazi has returned to national television, but this time his biggest competition is not another singer. It is the entire meme industry. The man who once competed for musical recognition is now producing comedy content at a speed that would make professional comedians consider changing careers.

And the best part? He doesn't even seem to realise how much entertainment he is providing.

His signature declaration, "I am a Rockstar, baby!", has become something of a national anthem among his admirers. The catchphrase, accompanied by his trademark hand gestures, has travelled from television screens to Instagram reels, Facebook memes and WhatsApp groups. Even Salman Khan has imitated his style. At this point, Qazi is not merely promoting himself; he is building a brand. Someone should probably inform the local printing shops in Kashmir before they start producing Rockstar Baby T-shirts without paying him royalties.

His popularity has also created a familiar Kashmiri situation: people may disagree about politics, cricket, traffic and even the price of vegetables, but when Qazi declares himself a Rockstar, everyone seems to have an opinion.

However, his real talent became evident when he decided to explain Gen-Z relationship terminology to Olympic boxing champion Mary Kom. The discussion involved words such as situationship and benching. What followed was less of an English lesson and more of a linguistic emergency.

According to Qazi, a situationship involves two people travelling on a ship, getting into a situation and eventually becoming stranded when the ship stops somewhere in the ocean. Benching, meanwhile, apparently means a boy sitting on a bench while a girl lies underneath, cleaning his shoes.

At that point, even the Oxford Dictionary might have considered applying for early retirement.

One can only imagine what would happen if Qazi were invited to teach English in a government school in Kashmir. Students would enter the classroom expecting grammar and leave with a complete geography lesson involving ships, oceans, benches and confused relationships.

Social media immediately connected his explanations with Praful from the legendary television comedy Khichdi. The comparison was almost unavoidable. Just imagine Hansa asking, "Praful, yeh situationship kya hota hai?" and Praful replying, "Hansa, jab do log ship mein situation banate hain." Qazi would probably appear from behind the sofa to add that the ship had stopped in the middle of the ocean.

The difference is that Praful had Hansa to confuse. Qazi has an entire nation.

Then came his Oscar-level performance. During one dramatic episode inside the house, Qazi deliberately started behaving strangely, leaving fellow contestants wondering whether something had gone wrong. Once they moved away, he revealed that he had been controlling his laughter and acting for the audience. He proudly described his performance as Oscar-worthy and claimed that he was entertaining 100 crore people.

For the contestants, it was a matter of concern. For the viewers, it was comedy. For meme creators, it was nothing short of a government-approved employment scheme.

One can imagine Bollywood casting directors watching the episode and wondering why they have spent years searching for actors when a ready-made superstar has been available since 2005. Forget auditions, acting schools and workshops. Just give Qazi a camera, ask him to look serious and wait for the Oscars committee to call.

Then arrived the NASA chapter, perhaps the most scientifically ambitious episode of his Bigg Boss journey.

Qazi's claims about his extraordinary energy, including his humorous assertion that he had slept for barely an hour in three days and was still full of energy, led him to suggest that scientists should study him. He even joked about being around 140 years old. Salman Khan joined the fun by calling him Scientist Qazi and joking about NASA's interest in him.

Now, Kashmir has many things to offer the world: breathtaking mountains, beautiful lakes, saffron, apples and some of the finest hospitality. But apparently, we have also produced a man who can challenge the entire sleep industry.

Imagine NASA scientists arriving in Chenth with sophisticated equipment, only to discover that Qazi's secret is simply Rockstar energy. Scientists would be checking his sleep cycle while his neighbours would probably be asking whether he has had his noon tea.

His fans took the joke to another level by carrying his promotional posters to the public visitor centre at Space Center Houston, associated with NASA's Johnson Space Center. It was a fan campaign, not an official NASA endorsement, but the photographs provided another round of entertainment. For a moment, it seemed that Kashmir had finally found someone capable of reaching space without needing a rocket.

And just when the audience thought the Rockstar had exhausted his characters, Commando Qazi arrived.

His energetic movements, dramatic expressions and unpredictable performances have inspired action-hero-style edits on social media. In these imaginary films, fellow contestants are villains, nominations are national emergencies and every argument requires a special military operation.

The trailer would probably sound something like this:

"When the nominations begin, when the arguments get serious, when the housemates lose their patience, one man stands between the nation and boredom. He sleeps for one hour, performs for 100 crore people and speaks an entirely different version of English. He is not a contestant. He is Commando Qazi!"

Even Bollywood action directors might struggle to come up with a more entertaining character.

His supporters have also taken his popularity beyond the television screen, promoting him through Times Square billboards and international campaigns. His followers, popularly known as the Qazi Army, are so enthusiastic that the Bigg Boss house sometimes looks less like a reality show and more like an election campaign.

At this rate, the Qazi Army may soon release an election manifesto promising free entertainment, uninterrupted Rockstar declarations, compulsory laughter and a situationship dictionary in every household.

For Kashmiris, however, there is something more meaningful about watching Qazi represent the Valley on a national platform. His journey from Chenth to national television has generated excitement among people back home. His exchange with fellow Kashmiri contestant Farrhana Bhatt, when the two switched to Kashmiri and spoke about the Valley, was particularly enjoyable.

Farrhana's encouragement to bring the trophy home sounded almost like an official message from Kashmir. One could imagine people in the Valley watching that moment and saying, "Bas, hun kya, trophy yethiv Kashmiras manz!" (Now, just bring the trophy to Kashmir!)

The conversation also gave the Kashmiri language some welcome national television exposure. After all, if Qazi can introduce the country to his own interpretation of English, he might as well introduce everyone to the beauty of Kashmiri.

His story also takes us back to 2005, when he won Fame Gurukul alongside Ruprekha Banerjee. Another contestant from that competition, Arijit Singh, went on to become one of India's biggest playback singers. Both took different roads after the show. Arijit conquered the music industry with his voice, while Qazi has returned to television to conquer meme pages with his expressions, explanations and extraordinary confidence.

There is, of course, a serious side to all this. Not everyone appreciates his dramatic behaviour, and his style has attracted both criticism and admiration. But reality television thrives on personalities that create reactions. In a house where contestants sometimes spend an entire day planning how to start an argument, Qazi has managed to turn even a discussion about English vocabulary into a national comedy event.

Whether he wins the Bigg Boss trophy remains uncertain. But his contribution to the meme economy is already substantial. Somewhere, an Instagram administrator is probably thanking him for ensuring that the page will never run out of content. Another meme creator might even be praying that Qazi gets more screen time because the monthly content calendar is practically writing itself.

> His signature declaration, "I am a Rockstar, baby!", has become something of a national anthem among his admirers. The catchphrase, accompanied by his trademark hand gestures, has travelled from television screens to Instagram reels, Facebook memes and WhatsApp groups. Even Salman Khan has imitated his style. At this point, Qazi is not merely promoting himself; he is building a brand. Someone should probably inform the local printing shops in Kashmir before they start producing Rockstar Baby T-shirts without paying him royalties.



From situationship ships and imaginary benches to Oscar performances, NASA investigations and Commando Qazi missions, his journey has become an entertainment package that nobody ordered but everybody seems to be discussing.

Perhaps the biggest irony is that Qazi entered the television industry as a singer and has returned as a walking comedy franchise. His fans want a trophy, NASA has become part of the running joke, Bollywood has a potential action hero and social media has found its favourite supplier of free content.

And somewhere in Chenth, people are probably watching every episode, discussing his latest performance over a cup of noon chai and wondering what he will come up with next.

One thing is certain: Kashmir has produced many famous personalities, but Qazi Touqeer may be the first man to make situationship sound like a geography chapter, sleeping one hour sound like a scientific achievement and calling himself a Rockstar sound like a national emergency.

Bigg Boss has contestants. Kashmir has Qazi. And the meme industry has absolutely no complaints.

"I am a Rockstar, baby!"

Bas, yi chhu Qazi! The show may belong to Bigg Boss, but the entertainment department clearly belongs to Chenth.

TajGVK renamed Krishna GVK Luxury Hotels; to continue operating under Taj brand

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2: TajGVK Hotels and Resorts Ltd on Monday announced that its new name, Krishna GVK Luxury Hotels, has taken effect following a change in ownership of the hospitality player.

The name change came into effect after the Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued a fresh Certificate of Incorporation to the company on October 30.

Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) sold its entire 25.52 per cent stake in TajGVK Hotels and Resorts to the GVK-Bhupal promoter family and IHCL's nominee directors stepped down from the Board on December 30, 2025.

However, IHCL will continue to operate the hotels in its portfolio under the Taj brand through long-term hotel management agreements.

Formed in 1995 as a joint venture between the GVK-Bhupal family and Tata Group-owned IHCL, the company is now owned and led entirely by the promoter family.



"The new name, Krishna GVK Luxury Hotels Ltd, reflects this structure and the company's focus on the luxury segment. While the corporate name has changed, the hotels themselves remain Taj. IHCL continues to operate all our hotels in the portfolio under the Taj brand through long-term hotel management agreements, and guests, employees and partners will see no change in brand, service or standards," Krishna GVK Luxury Hotels said in a statement.

Krishna GVK currently owns six operating hotels across Hyderabad, Chennai, Chandigarh and Mumbai: Taj Krishna, Taj Deccan and Vivanta Begumpet in Hyderabad; Taj Club House in Chennai; and Taj Chandigarh and Taj Santacruz in Mumbai.

The next phase of growth begins in Bengaluru. Taj Yelahanka will be the first hotel to open under the Krishna GVK name, taking the portfolio to seven hotels. It follows the same model as the rest of the portfolio â€“ owned by Krishna GVK and operated by IHCL under the Taj brand, the company stated.

Krishna Bhupal, Joint Managing Director, said, "Krishna GVK is built to grow, with a clear focus on expanding our portfolio into India's high-potential hotel markets. Taj Yelahanka, a 256-key luxury hotel, will be the first to open under our new name towards the end of November, taking us into Bengaluru, one of India's most dynamic hotel markets. Even after completing this landmark property, our net debt remains minimal, and our strong balance sheet puts us in a great position to pursue growth through both organic and inorganic routes."

Reliance shares surge over 7 pc; market valuation jumps by Rs 1 lakh cr on record quarterly profit



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: Shares of Reliance Industries on Monday surged over 7 per cent after the firm posted a record quarterly profit of Rs 29,550 crore for July-September, up 33.8 per cent from a year earlier.

The bellwether stock jumped 7.12 per cent to Rs 1,246.45 on the BSE. At the NSE, it climbed 6.79 per cent to Rs 1,244. The company's market valuation went up by Rs 1,00,208.45 crore to Rs 16,74,786.99 crore.

Reliance was the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty firms during early trade, driving the rally in the equity market. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 935.82 points to 75,390.02. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 248.15 points to 23,300.05.

Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday posted a record quarterly profit of Rs 29,550 crore for July-September, up 33.8 per cent from a year earlier, as its oil-to-chemicals business rode a surge in global fuel margins and growth in its telecom arm offset the relatively subdued performance in retail.

Profit after tax, including share of associates and joint ventures, in the same period last year was Rs 22,092 crore. Net profit attributable to owners of the company was up 40 per cent at Rs 25,548 crore.

Consolidated revenue rose 27.8 per cent to Rs 362,268 crore, and EBITDA climbed 23.9 per cent to a record Rs 62,409 crore. The latest profit also surpassed the previous quarter's Rs 23,196 crore, making it a record for the country's largest listed company by market capitalisation. The strong earnings were driven primarily by a sharp recovery in the oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business, where elevated transportation fuel cracks and improved petrochemical margins boosted profitability.

India's manufacturing sector activity growth eases in Oct on softer rise in output, new orders

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2: India's manufacturing sector activity growth eased in October as output and new orders rose at softer rates, while moderate cost pressures provided support and a buffer against a sharper decline, a monthly survey said on Monday.



The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 54.7 in October from 55.1 in September. Still, it remained above its long-run average and comfortably above the neutral mark of 50.0.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

A sustained improvement in demand was reflected in a further sharp rise in new business. Growth eased only marginally from September's seven-month high and remained strong by historical standards, the survey said.

India's manufacturing sector kept up a strong expansion in October even though output and new orders increased at a milder pace. Firms continued to add jobs and build inventories, although hiring was subdued and business confidence weakened.

"India's manufacturing PMI softened to 54.7 in October from 55.1 in the previous month, but remained firmly in

expansionary territory and above its long-run average," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Bhandari further said that "strong international demand pushed growth of new export orders to a six-month high, supporting a robust rise in output. Producers also increased input inventories to the greatest extent in eight months, building precautionary buffers to mitigate potential shortages and meet rising production requirements amid a volatile global environment."

Companies reported gains from a broad range of destinations, including Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the UK, the US and UAE.

On the job front, higher production requirements and rising workloads encouraged a second successive monthly increase in factory employment, but the pace of job creation eased.

Notwithstanding continued demand growth, business confidence slipped from September and remained below its long-run average. Close to 18 per cent of manufacturers anticipated higher output over the coming year, while the remainder were neutral. Meanwhile, cost pressures moderated across all three broad areas of India's manufacturing industry monitored by the PMI survey.

Coal India's arm files IPO papers with SEBI; promoter to offload shares

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2: South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), an arm of Coal India Ltd, has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi for its Initial Public Offering (IPO).



The proposed IPO is entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 66.81 crore equity shares by its promoter Coal India with no fresh issue component, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) dated November 1.

Since the issue is entirely an OFS, SECL will not receive any proceeds from the offering, with the entire proceeds going to Coal India.

Incorporated in 1985 and headquartered in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, SECL is among India's largest coal producers.

It produced 176.29 million tonnes of coal in FY26, accounting for 16.94 per cent of the country's total coal production, DRHP said citing a Crisil report.

It is the second-largest coal-producing subsidiary of Coal India, contributing 22.95 per cent to the parent company's total production in FY26. SECL's coal production increased 5.25 per cent to 176.29 million tonnes in FY26 from 167.49 million tonnes in the preceding fiscal.

The company was accorded Miniratna Category-I status in March 2007 and completed 40 years of coal mining operations in 2025.

As of April 1, 2026, SECL had total coal geological resources of about 47.55 billion tonnes, accounting for around 11.50 per cent of India's total coal geological resources.

Its audited coal reserves stood at 4.61 billion tonnes, sufficient to sustain production for around 26 years at FY26 levels, according to the draft papers.

Its Gevra and Kusmunda opencast mines in Chhattisgarh's Korba coalfield are among the world's largest coal mines.

As of September 30, 2026, the company operated 53 producing mines, comprising 19 opencast and 34 underground mines, across 13 operating areas in the Korba, Mand-Raigarh and Central India coalfields.

Opencast mines accounted for 93.64 per cent of its total coal production in FY26. On the financial front, SECL reported a 37.6 per cent increase in revenue from operations to Rs 16,593.7 crore for the six months ended September 30, 2026, compared with Rs 15,090.2 crore in the year-ago period.

Its net profit nearly doubled to Rs 2,174.3 crore during the period from Rs 1,140.9 crore a year earlier.

India, EU discuss FTA implementation issues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: India and the European Union have discussed implementation issues of the free trade agreement (FTA), which is scheduled for signing in December, an official statement said on Monday.

The issues were discussed during the visit of Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal to Brussels last week.

Agrawal met with Ditte Juul Jorgensen from the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security; Koen Doens from the Directorate-General for International Partnerships; and Gerassimos Thomas from the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, European Commission.

The meetings, according to the commerce ministry, focused on customs cooperation, trade facilitation, and preparations for the implementation of the India-EU FTA.

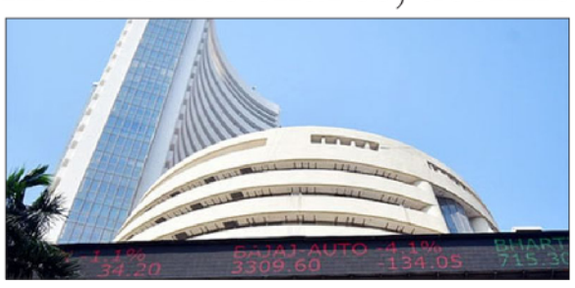
"Both sides recognised the importance of efficient, transparent, and digitally enabled customs procedures in supporting businesses,

reducing transaction costs, and ensuring the smooth movement of legitimate trade," it said.

Sensex jumps 765 points during early trade on sharp rally in Reliance shares, decline in oil prices

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, Nov 2: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Monday, driven by a sharp rally in bellwether Reliance Industries post earnings announcement and cooling crude oil prices.



Foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in Asian equities also added to the markets optimism during the initial trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 764.72 points to 75,216.80 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 201.40 points to 23,255.90.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Reliance Industries jumped over 6 per cent after the firm posted a record quarterly profit of Rs 29,550 crore for July-September, up 33.8 per cent from a year earlier, as its oil-to-chemicals business rode a surge in global fuel margins and growth in its telecom arm offset the relatively subdued performance in retail.

NTPC, Tata Steel, Power Grid, Maruti and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

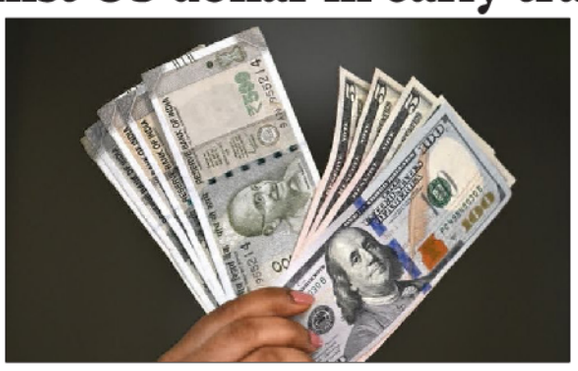
Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Infosys were trading lower. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 3 per cent lower at USD 110 per barrel.

"The slight cooling of Brent crude prices from last week's high of USD 118 to USD 110 now is a relief. Equally important is the decline in the US 10-year bond yield to 4.93 per cent. But, perhaps, more important than these external tailwinds, is the sharp weakening of the AI trade which pulled down the Nasdaq by 2.8 per cent last Friday. Weakening trend in AI trade is beneficial for India .

Rupee falls 21 paise to 94.97 against US dollar in early trade

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 2: The rupee depreciated 21 paise to 94.97 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday pressured by the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market.



Forex traders said a positive domestic market and softening of crude oil prices cushioned the downside.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.90, then fell to 94.97 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 21 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 94.76 against the American currency.

"USDINR is likely to trade within 94.40â€“95.60 after ending October near 94.95. RBI measures and market operations have helped contain volatility, supported by reserves of around USD 720 billion," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak NEO.

Banerjee further noted that softer crude would help the rupee; renewed oil strength would push USDINR towards the upper end.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.94, higher by 0.07 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 3.07 per cent at USD 109.95 per barrel in futures trade.

PhonePe Invest witnesses 50 pc growth in new customer additions

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU, NOV 2: PhonePe Invest, the investing and trading platform of PhonePe, witnessed strong customer growth in October 2026, with the baseline of platform registrations increasing by 80 per cent and new customer additions rising by 50 per cent .

The growth follows the platform's evolution from Share. Market to PhonePe Invest in October 2026, alongside the introduction of new tools and capabilities aimed at empowering investors with deep, actionable insights on their portfolios.

A key addition to the platform is Portfolio Optimiser, a holistic portfolio intelligence tool that brings together three capabilities -- Build, Review and Optimise -- within a unified experience. The tool addresses three key needs of retail investors. Build - simplifies the investment journey for beginners by guiding them through portfolio construction.

Review - offers deeper portfolio analytics and research-backed insights to investors to assess the health of their investments not only on PhonePe Invest but also of all other demat accounts in one place.



PhonePe Invest users can seamlessly import holdings from all demat accounts and view their consolidated portfolio in one place. This provides a holistic view of portfolio health, asset allocation and sector exposure, along with insights to identify under-rated assets and concentration risks at zero cost.

Optimise - take one click action to optimise the portfolio by swapping under-rated stocks with better-rated stocks.

Speaking about the development, Vijay Ajmera, Head of Business, PhonePe Invest said, "We are encouraged by the response to PhonePe Invest's evolution and the early traction we are seeing from the customers. The growth in new customer additions reinforces our belief that there is an opportunity to build a more comprehensive investing experience that goes beyond enabling transactions."

He further added, "We believe the next phase of investing is also about helping people to better understand, evaluate and manage their investments. With capabilities such as Portfolio Optimiser, we aim to democratise research-backed portfolio insights and tools and make them accessible for every Indian.

"By enabling users to review consolidated holdings across multiple demat accounts, we help them make informed decisions while remaining in control of their investment decisions. As we build out PhonePe Invest, we will continue to launch a suite of powerful new features for smart investing for every Indian investor."

With this evolution, the platform brings its investing and wealth offerings under the PhonePe brand, making investing more accessible to a wider set of users.

PhonePe Invest offers access to a range of investment products, including stocks, ETFs, IPOs, mutual funds and Futures & Options (F&O), complemented by research-backed tools and insights designed to support investors across different stages of their investment journey. (PTI)

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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Missionary school principal booked for 'raping' tribal woman in Jharkhand's Godda

Press Trust Of India

GODDA, NOV 2 :Police booked a principal of a private missionary school for allegedly raping a tribal woman in Jharkhand's Godda district, an officer said on Monday.



The incident took place within Sunderpahari police station limits. Based on the statement of the tribal woman, an FIR was lodged on Sunday under multiple sections of the BNS.

"We have booked Thomas Soren (32), the principal of a missionary school, for raping and sexually exploiting a 40-year-old woman cook. The victim has been sent to a government hospital for medical examination on Monday," Sunderpahari police station officer-in-charge Vidhanchandra Patel told PTI.

The victim was employed as a cook in the principal's kitchen, while her husband cooked for the school children, he said.

"The victim was sexually exploited by the accused for over four to five months. During this period, she became pregnant, and the accused gave her abortion pills. After taking the pills, her health deteriorated, and she was admitted to a hospital," the OC said. "The accused allegedly threatened the woman against disclosing the incident to anyone, and if she disclosed it, he would expel their child from the school and also remove them from their jobs," another officer said. Police have launched a detailed investigation into the matter. The accused is currently absconding. Teams are conducting raids to apprehend him, the officer added.

SC cancels anticipatory bail granted to Karnataka IPS officer in corruption case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 :The Supreme Court has cancelled the anticipatory bail given to IPS officer Srinath Joshi Mahadev, accused of allegedly abusing his official position in a corruption case being investigated by the Karnataka Lokayuktha Police.

Setting aside the Karnataka High Court's anticipatory bail order, a bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva on October 29 directed Mahadev to surrender within three weeks from the date of its order. The apex court clarified that he would be at liberty to seek regular bail before the appropriate court in accordance with law.

The bench had allowed an appeal filed by the Karnataka Lokayuktha Police challenging the high court's September 1, 2025 order granting pre-arrest bail to Mahadev, who was then serving as a superintendent of police in the Lokayuktha.

Referring to the material procured by the prosecution, the bench said it warranted "deeper examination" and "the high court was not justified in foreclosing the possibility of custodial interrogation by granting anticipatory bail to the respondent".

The case stems from an FIR registered on June 2, 2025 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Initially, the FIR named only Ningappa Savantha, a dismissed police constable, as an accused.

According to the prosecution, Savantha allegedly impersonated an official of the Lokayuktha's office and extorted money from public servants by threatening them. Mahadev was subsequently implicated in the case on the basis of disclosures made by



Savantha and was arraigned as accused No. 2.

The prosecution alleged that the two accused were in contact with each other and that Savantha frequently visited the Lokayuktha office to meet Mahadev.

During the investigation, two mobile phone handsets were seized from Mahadev.

The top court noted that the devices were found to have been tampered with and extensively damaged.

They were subsequently sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination, but the report was still awaited when the high court granted him anticipatory bail.

The top court observed that the allegations against Mahadev warranted serious consideration, particularly in view of his position as a senior police officer in an institution established to combat corruption.

"The very objective of the Lokayuktha's establishment is to check corruption," the bench observed, adding that the allegation that an officer serving within the institution was himself involved in corruption required serious examination.

The court also said Mahadev, being a senior officer of the uniformed service, could not claim parity with an ordinary individual seeking protection from investigation and arrest.

Mahadev had approached the special court seeking anticipatory bail, but his applications were rejected. He subsequently moved the Karnataka High Court, which granted him relief in September last year. The high court took into consideration the fact that Mahadev had appeared before the investigating officer in response to a notice and had not been arrested. It consequently observed that there was no apprehension of his arrest and granted him anticipatory bail.

Delhi HC stays JNU order dismissing professor and Congress MP Akoijam from services

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 :The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration's decision to terminate the services of professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam over allegations of sexual harassment.

Justice Anup J Bhambhani issued notice to the university on Akoijam's petition challenging the dismissal order and listed the case for hearing in January.

Akoijam -- the Congress MP from the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat -- was a professor at the JNU's School of Social Sciences.

According to reports, at least 11 female students filed sexual harassment complaints against the professor in May. The complainants alleged that Akoijam invited students to his campus residence under the pretext of meetings or gatherings and attempted to sexually harass them. Some students have also alleged that he made obscene and inappropriate remarks during classes.

On October 9, JNU dismissed Akoijam over the sexual harassment complaints. The termination order, signed by Vice-Chancellor Santishree D Pandit, said the university's internal complaints committee had conducted an inquiry and recommended disciplinary action based on its findings.

"Upon following the due process and considering all available facts and as per the report of the Internal Committee, the punishment of dismissal from the services of the university is hereby imposed," the order stated. The Congress MP has denied all allegations.

Delhi court grants CBI 2 days' transit remand of Sourabh Chandrakar



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 :A Delhi court on Monday granted the CBI two days of transit remand of Sourabh Chandrakar, alleged kingpin in the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting app case.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Nikhil Chopra allowed the agency's plea seeking the transit remand to produce Chandrakar before a special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Chandrakar's counsel opposed the agency's plea, saying his client had been extradited from Oman in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case and not in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said that a non-bailable warrant (NBW) had also been issued against Chandrakar in the money laundering case, and so it also wanted to arrest him. Earlier on Sunday, the CBI extradited Chandrakar from Oman.

Chandrakar is wanted in two CBI cases and one ED case in which chargesheets have already been filed.

Sexual harassment case: Minor victim identifies granite baron Veeramani during prison parade

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI, NOV 2 :A minor victim identified the main accused, granite baron R Veeramani, in an alleged sexual harassment case during an identification parade



conducted at Puzhal Central Prison, police said.

Veeramani, who already has eight cases pending against him, is among eight individuals arrested by the Greater Chennai Police's Anti-Vice Squad for multiple cases of sexual harassment against minors, they said.

The other arrested suspects, who have also been remanded to Puzhal Central Prison, were identified as Shanthi, Mahendrasimhan, Lasar, Ganesan, Babu, Parthiban, and Sakthivel, an official release said on Monday.

Formal arrests were recorded on October 28 for Veeramani in three of the eight registered cases, and for Shanthi, Mahendrasimhan, and Lasar in one case. Advancing the probe, police authorities conducted raids at the Kolathur residence of Ganesan and a dance school run by Shanthi in Neelankarai. Crucial evidence related to the investigation was seized during these searches, the release said.

To prevent the suspects from fleeing the country, Look Out Circular (LOC) notices have been issued against the accused connected to Veeramani's cases. Authorities are also taking action to impound the passport of an individual named Prakash, who allegedly assisted Veeramani in attempting to cover up his crimes before fleeing abroad, and efforts are currently underway to bring him back to India.

5 held for murder of VCK functionary in TN's Tuticorin over banner row

Press Trust Of India

TUTICORIN (TN), NOV 2 :Five people, including a DMK functionary, have been arrested in connection with the brutal murder of a VCK functionary at a petrol pump here,



police said on Monday.

The Police apprehended all five suspects within six hours of the incident after reviewing CCTV footage from the fuel station.

The deceased, Balamurugan (40), was a former VCK union secretary for Ottapidaram who ran a vegetable shop and worked as a van driver.

According to the police, the murder was the fallout of a dispute over the placement of flex banners on the Sottaiyan Thoppu main road.

The fatal attack occurred around 6 am on November 1. Balamurugan had gone to a fuel outlet on Sethupathi Road to refuel his two-wheeler when a five-member gang arriving on two motorcycles surrounded him. They hacked him with sickles, and he died on the spot.

The Thalamuthunagar police recovered the body and sent it to the Tuticorin Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Based on a complaint filed by Balamurugan's wife, Sudha, a case was registered at the Thalamuthunagar police station.

The incident triggered tension in the highly populated area. Hundreds of locals and relatives of the victim staged a road blockade on the Sottaiyan Thoppu main road, disrupting traffic and demanding immediate action against the killers. The protest was withdrawn after senior police officials held talks and assured them of swift arrests. Over 200 police personnel have been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure.

Thane, Hingoli, Pune and Beed courts receive bomb threat emails; nothing suspicious found



Press Trust Of India

THANE/HINGOLI/PUNE, NOV 2 :The district and sessions courts in Maharashtra's Pune, Thane, Hingoli and Beed received emails threatening bomb blasts on the premises on Monday, triggering a security scare and a police search.

Police said nothing suspicious was found on the premises of courts in Thane, Hingoli and Beed, while a search is underway at the district and sessions court in Shivajinagar, Pune.

According to police, the court building in Thane city was evacuated in the afternoon as the office received a message that a bomb would explode at 3.30 pm.

"Personnel from Thane Nagar police station evacuated the entire court complex. Judges, advocates and other staffers were safely led out of the premises. A dog squad and BDDS personnel then carried out a thorough search," an official informed.

The search is underway, though nothing suspicious has been found so far, he added.

In Pune, the Shivajinagar court premises were evacuated after the court administration received a bomb threat, a Pune Police officer said.

"The court administration received a bomb threat through an email stating that a bomb has been placed in the court building.

"After receiving the mail, the court premises were evacuated, the Bomb Detection & Disposal Squad (BDDS) has been summoned, and the search for any suspected object is on," he said.

In Hingoli in the Marathwada region, an email threatening to blow up the court building came to light after the court opened in the morning.

The court authorities immediately informed the police, following which a police team, accompanied by the BDDS, rushed to the spot and launched a thorough search.

A police official said the email might have been a hoax, adding that the Hingoli cybercrime unit has launched a probe to trace the email's source.

A similar email was received in Beed, also in Marathwada, at 11:52 am, warning of a bomb blast at 3:11 pm, following which the court complex was evacuated, local officials said. "A contingent of police, BDDS and LCB personnel, along with a dog squad, reached the court complex. Teams are carrying out a sanitisation and search operation," Additional Superintendent of Police Shaikh Sameer said.

Man allegedly kills mother, wife and two children in Bhopal, ends life on railway tracks nearby

Press Trust Of India

BHOPAL, NOV 2: Four members of a family were found with their throats slit at their home in Malikhedi area of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal on Monday, while their kin, suspected to have killed them, was found dead on a railway track, a police official said.

The official said it is suspected that Narendra Sahu (35) killed his mother Saraswati (50), daughter Kirti (10), wife Somlata

(29) and son Kush (6) in their house under Chhola Mandir police station limits with a sharp-edged weapon before jumping in front of a train under Sukhi Sewania police station area.

Bhopal Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Adarshkanth Shukla, who was present at the crime scene, told PTI that the throats of all four victims had been slit.

He added that police were notified about the incident around 12:30 pm.

A forensic team was examining the crime scene, after which the bodies would be sent for post mortem, the DCP said.

Sukhi Sewania police station house officer Arun Sharma told PTI that the body of Narendra Sahu is being sent for post mortem after completion of formalities.

61 illegal immigrants, mostly Bangladeshis, detained in Ahmedabad ahead of Diwali: Police

Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD, NOV 2 :The Ahmedabad Crime Branch has detained 61 illegal immigrants, predominantly from Bangladesh, during a city-wide crackdown ahead of the Diwali festivities aimed at ensuring public safety, police said on Monday.



Legal procedures for deportation of the detained persons were underway, the Crime Branch said in a press note.

The drive was conducted through intelligence gathering and coordinated raids across multiple zones of the city to identify foreign nationals residing in India illegally, it said.

The operation, which resulted in the detention of 61 illegal immigrants, was aimed at strengthening public safety and security ahead of the festive season, the police said.

Verification drives and legal action against illegal immigrants would continue, they said.

Last year, the Ahmedabad police detained more than 200 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly living illegally in different parts of the city. In April 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, the city police raided the Chandola Lake area and detained over 200 Bangladeshi nationals residing there illegally with the help of a local strongman, officials earlier said. In another operation in October last year, police detained 17 Bangladeshi women living illegally in rented houses in different localities of the Sola area by concealing their identities, they said.

Drunk truck driver, handyman attack personnel inside police station in Assam's Nagaon

Press Trust Of India

NAGAON (ASSAM), NOV 2: Four police personnel were injured after they were attacked allegedly by a drunk truck driver and a handyman inside Samaguri Police Station in Assam's Nagaon district, officials said on Monday. Their truck allegedly hit a vehicle in Sonaribali area on National Highway-127, which connects Kaliabor and Nagaon, around 11 pm on Sunday and fled.

Acting on information, a team from Samaguri Police Station intercepted the truck and brought the driver and handyman to the police station for interrogation. During questioning, the two, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, attacked the police personnel, a senior officer said.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi

the ongoing West Asia crisis." West Asia crisis disrupted energy supplies worldwide earlier this year and created difficulties for many countries.

Modi also asked investors to invest in India, saying the country offers huge investment opportunities in renewable energy as it provides political and policy stability.

The Prime Minister stated that by the end of the decade, investment opportunities worth over Rs 20 lakh crore will emerge in the renewable energy sector. Modi also said that India is among the top three countries in the solar and renewable energy sector.

"We need to connect every government building, school, college, hospital, street-lighting system to solar energy ...We need an indigenous storage solution and must develop new battery storage capacity," he stated.

India is progressing rapidly to take a big leap in green hydrogen and has a target of annual production capacity of 50 lakh tonnes, Modi said while highlighting progress in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

He also highlighted the Green Energy Corridor (inter-state transmission lines), which will help evacuate power from the upcoming renewable energy capacity.

The govenrment has provided an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the second phase of Green Energy Corridor.

Modi said the future of energy security lies in clean power. He noted that more than 44,000 govt buildings have been connected to solar energy, resulting in annual savings of about Rs 700 crore.

Darbar

Secretariat. Security has also been stepped up along important roads and around vital installations, they said.

The Civil Secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, ministers, chief secretary and other senior government functionaries, underwent renovation and facelift ahead of the reopening. Government buildings and residential accommodation for employees were also renovated.

Introduced by the Dogra rulers in 1872, the Darbar Move was aimed at allowing the administration to escape the harsh winter conditions of the Kashmir Valley by shifting its base to Jammu during the colder months.

The practice continued after Independence and evolved into an important administrative and economic link between the two regions.

The biannual movement of thousands of government employees and their families to Jammu provided a significant boost to the local economy, particularly businesses and markets during the winter season.

However, the practice was discontinued in 2021 by the Lieutenant Governor-led administration, citing the transition to e-office and the need to save crores of rupees in expenditure.

The decision had triggered criticism, particularly from the business community in Jammu, which viewed the movement of the administration as a major source of economic activity.

The Omar Abdullah-led government restored the Darbar Move in October 2025, fulfilling an electoral promise and reviving the decades-old administrative arrangement between Jammu and Srinagar.

Inaugurates

office infrastructure and improving facilities for employees and visitors following the resumption of the traditional Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the newly constructed pre-fabricated office accommodation block, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 158.09 lakh under the CAPEX budget.

He also inaugurated the renovated Reception Hall at the entrance gate of the Civil Secretariat, completed at a cost of Rs 31. 10 lakh under the Maintenance and Repairs (M&R) component.

The inauguration of these facilities marks another step towards strengthening infrastructure and enhancing the working environment at the Civil Secretariat following the reopening of offices in Jammu under the traditional Darbar Move.

The concerned engineers briefed the Chief Minister about the projects, highlighting the facilities created and the infrastructure developed as part of the works.

The Chief Minister also took a round of the newly created facilities and inspected the arrangements put in place to facilitate the smooth functioning of offices at the Civil Secretariat.

The newly developed infrastructure is aimed at providing improved working facilities for government employees while ensuring a better reception environment for visitors and the public.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Estates M. Raju, Secretary Revenue Avny Lavasa, Director General Estates Jammu Mushtaq Ahmed and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Porter

officials said.

Lal lost his right foot in the explosion and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, they said.

The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines to prevent cross-border infiltration. However, some of these mines occasionally get dislodged and washed away due to heavy rains, resulting in accidents and posing a threat to people residing in forward areas, officials said.

CM Omar

heads of departments of several departments and other top civil and police administration.

Outstation officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

At the outset, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar briefed the meeting on administrative arrangements and key issues concerning the functioning of various departments, including preparation of the Budget for 2027-28.

Deputy Chief Minister and other Ministers also highlighted various issues of public importance and sought the administration's cooperation for timely resolution.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister congratulated the Ministers and officers on the commencement of the Darbar Move in Jammu and stressed that administrative functioning must remain focused and unaffected by external distractions.

Observing that the next six months are crucial for accelerating developmental activities and ensuring optimal utilisation of funds allocated to various departments, the Chief Minister urged all departments to enhance the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of developmental works.

He asked newly inducted Ministers and those assigned new portfolios to undertake a detailed review of their respective departments and assess the implementation status of commitments made during the last Budget.

The review, he said, should clearly identify completed projects, ongoing works and projects yet to be initiated, along with reasons for delays and measures required to expedite their implementation.

The Chief Minister also called for a comprehensive review of the Government's manifesto commitments to assess progress and identify further steps required for fulfilment.

Emphasising the need for close monitoring of developmental projects, particularly those being implemented under SASCI, the Chief Minister directed Ministers to regularly review their progress and ensure timely execution.

For the financial year 2027-28, he directed all departments to prepare project proposals and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) well in advance for projects proposed under SASCI. Departments were asked to keep DPRs and tender documents ready so that tendering and other preparatory formalities could be completed ahead of time, enabling immediate commencement of works once allocations are received.

He said these directions had already been conveyed to the departments and reiterated the need for their effective implementation.

The Ministers were also asked to undertake reviews of the districts assigned to them at the earliest and ensure close monitoring of developmental works.

The Chief Minister reviewed winter preparedness and stressed the importance of maintaining uninterrupted essential services through effective inter-departmental coordination. Taking note of concerns regarding ration dumping in certain areas, he asked the concerned department to address the issue and ensure adequate availability of essential commodities.

Calling for a proactive approach towards budget formulation, the Chief Minister directed departments to initiate consultations with the Finance and Planning Departments well in advance for preparation of the next financial year's Budget.

He observed that early identification of priorities and preparation of realistic proposals would provide adequate time for proper consideration and help avoid last-minute inclusion of commitments that may be difficult to implement.

The Chief Minister also emphasised the need to ensure comfortable working and living arrangements for employees who have shifted to Jammu in connection with the Darbar Move.

He directed the administration to address shortcomings relating to accommodation, office facilities and other essential requirements to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the Secretariat.

Calling upon Ministers and officers to work in close coordination, the Chief Minister stressed the need for a focused approach towards effective implementation of developmental commitments and public welfare initiatives.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the chambers of the newly inducted Ministers and inspected various rooms, sections and offices of the Civil Secretariat. He interacted with staff and officials and took stock of the facilities and arrangements put in place following the reopening of the Civil Secretariat after the Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues and other senior officers.

Amit Shah

here, Shah said: "Rahul holds the Constitution in hand, but doesn't respect the Constitution. Rahul ji, you don't allow Parliament to run. Be it EVMs, SIR, infiltrators, I challenge you from Hyderabad. We are ready to convene a special session of Parliament. Come for debate."

Further, he said: "We will remove every infiltrator from the electoral rolls."

If a Parliament session is held, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will "shred Congress into pieces," he said and accused the Congress of wishing to be in the limelight through anarchy.

Meanwhile, Union Minister SP Singh Baghel also accused the Congress of blaming the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls for its political failures, advising the opposition party to introspect and not create controversies.

Addressing a press conference in Gujarat's Rajkot as part of the BJP's 'Loktantra Bachavo, Arajakta Hatavo' (Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy) campaign, Baghel emphasised that voter roll revisions have occurred regularly since 1952, and the recent purges had successfully identified millions of duplicate and deceased voters across Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.

The Election Commission had undertaken the SIR without violating its constitutional limits, he asserted, challenging the Opposition to provide evidence of eligible voters being wrongly removed from electoral rolls.

"If the Opposition alleges that voters have been deprived of their right to vote, it should present evidence, supported by affidavits, showing which eligible voters' names have been wrongly removed," the BJP leader said.

Baghel said that the SIR was not a new exercise and had been conducted several times since before the first Lok Sabha elections in 1952.

He noted that the Congress had not questioned the constitutionality of the exercise when it was carried out under previous governments, but was now opposing the process for political reasons.

Baghel said the electoral rolls must be periodically updated to remove the names of deceased persons, duplicate registrations and voters who permanently migrated elsewhere or are ineligible.

"Purifying the electoral roll by verifying and removing the names of deceased, duplicate and migrated voters is essential for the credibility of democracy," he said.

CM Visits

expressed concern over the damage caused by the fire and the hardships faced by the traders.

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, briefed the chief minister about the extent of losses suffered by the traders due to the fire incidents.

He apprised Abdullah of the damage caused to shops, goods and other business assets, besides highlighting the concerns of the affected shopkeepers.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Ali Mohammad Sagar, and other senior government officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit, the spokesman said.

Late Sunday night, the massive blaze broke out in the market and continued for several hours, engulfing at least 40 shops and destroying property worth crores.

Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister Javed Ahmed Rana visited the fire-affected shopkeepers last week to assess the situation and express solidarity with the victims.

VDG

Primary Health Centre (PHC), where doctors declared them dead, the officials said.

They said a police team has reached the spot and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact sequence of events and determine whether the firing was accidental or deliberate.

IGP

strengthened in line with the winter security strategy.

"The IGP Kashmir chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the Srinagar City Security Grid today at Cargo, attended by DIG CKR, DIG SKR, SSPs Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Awantipora, along with concerned Zonal SPs and SP SOG," the police spokesperson said in a post on X.

He said during the meeting, the prevailing security scenario, threat inputs concerning Srinagar and adjoining districts and measures to further strengthen the security grid under the Winter Security Strategy were discussed in detail.

"The security arrangements and ongoing operational measures along the Jhelum Corridor, particularly in Pulwama and Awantipora, were also reviewed, with emphasis on enhanced inter-district coordination and effective implementation of the Winter Security Strategy," he added.

Rajnath

Aircraft (AMCA), and strengthening tri-services synergy will be his top priorities.

He had outlined his core focus areas under the acronym VAYU, defining his vision as Vigilance and operational readiness, Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance), Yukti (tactical innovation), and Unity of effort across the tri-services.

Ruhullah

Assembly elections.

"We committed one thing to the people, and after winning elections, we turned away from those commitments. The consistency and conviction with which I fought were maligned by my own party, casting aspersions on my struggle," he had said.

Mehdi alleged that differences with the party leadership reached a breaking point when he was asked to step aside.

"When the head of the party asks you to resign and ease them of any accountability, that's when you have to take a call. He precisely said if I think Article 370 can be restored, I should go and fight for that," Mehdi had alleged, interpreting the remark as an indication that the party was unwilling to continue the struggle or remain accountable for its promises.

Taking aim at the Omar Abdullah-led government's two-year performance, Mehdi questioned its position on restoration of special status, alleging that the party had diluted its own stand within two years.

He referred to the resolutions passed in 2024 and subsequently, arguing that the party had moved away from its earlier position on special status.

"Their chief, on record, said multiple times that his fight is only for the restoration of statehood, forgetting the constitutional protections Article 370 on face value".

Unfazed by criticism that his decision could prove to be a political blunder, the outgoing MP said he was not guided by electoral calculations or material considerations.

Expressing his desire to return to grassroots politics, Mehdi said he would seek out like-minded individuals committed to principles and the fight for the constitutional rights of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I would want to go back to the people and search for like-minded individuals who believe in principles and can fight this fight with conviction," he had said.

On the possibility of joining hands with other regional political forces, Mehdi maintained that his priority remained the restoration of constitutional rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that he would explore any avenue that could advance that objective.

Patnitop

relate to the commercial use of residential buildings, construction beyond approved limits and operation of commercial establishments in prohibited areas, including dense forest, agricultural and residential zones, the spokesperson said, adding the investigation also revealed alleged lapses on the part of PDA officials in ensuring compliance with the prescribed rules and regulations.

In 2023, the CBI filed six chargesheets against eight hotel owners associated with six hotels and several PDA officials under various provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Ranbir Penal Code, Registration of Tourist Trade Act, and Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act.

The ED investigation revealed that Hotel Holiday Inn, despite having sanctioned building permission, had raised unauthorised construction measuring 7,552.74 square feet beyond the approved building plan, the spokesman said.

He said it was further found that Hotel Broadway, Hotel Hollywood and Hotel Mountview were being commercially operated without obtaining the requisite permissions for running hotels.

Accordingly, the hotel buildings, unauthorised constructions, appurtenant land and identified properties equivalent in value to the proceeds generated through such unauthorised commercial exploitation have been provisionally attached as Proceeds of Crime under the PMLA, the spokesperson said.

He said further investigation in the case is underway.

North Kashmir: Patients suffer as GMC Baramulla sans MRI, Cath Lab facilities

Srinagar, Nov 02 (KNO): Residents of North Kashmir continue to face difficulties in accessing advanced diagnostic and cardiac care at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla due to the absence of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility and a Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory (Cath lab).

Residents said that patients have to travel to Srinagar for specialised investigations and treatment. "The absence of these essential facilities at a major government healthcare institution is causing immense hardships to patients, particularly those suffering from serious illnesses, who require timely diagnosis, specialised cardiac procedures and regular medical follow-ups," they added.

Residents said that patients from Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts often have to travel long distances to undergo MRI scans or seek specialised cardiac interventions that are not available at GMC Baramulla.

They said the additional travel not only increases the financial burden on patients and their attendants but also causes inconvenience to those who are already dealing with serious health conditions.

"People come to GMC Baramulla with the hope of receiving treatment close to their homes, but return disappointed," said Shabir Ahmad, a resident.

Another resident said: "Cardiac patients often need immediate medical attention and patients lose the golden period while travelling to Srinagar. Travelling for specialised treatment becomes stressful for both patients and their families. A Cath lab at GMC Baramulla can provide much-needed relief to people across North Kashmir."



Residents said that elderly patients and those from economically weaker sections were among the worst affected.

They urged the authorities to expedite the establishment of both facilities at GMC Baramulla, saying that strengthening specialised healthcare services at the institution would reduce the need for patients to seek treatment outside the region.

MRI ORDERED, CATH LAB UNDER TENDERING PROCESS: PRINCIPAL

Principal GMC Baramulla, Majid Jahangir said that the process for establishing the MRI facility had been initiated, but the machine has not yet been received. "The MRI machine has been ordered through the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL), but it has not been received yet," he said.

Regarding the Cath lab, Jahangir said the project was currently at the tendering stage through JKMSCL.

He said the establishment of these facilities would help strengthen specialised healthcare services at the medical college.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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Khelo India Wushu Centre Handwara clinches 4 Bronze Medals at Junior National Championship

Kashmir Press Service



HANDWARA: Athletes from the Khelo India Wushu Centre, Handwara–Kupwara, have brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by winning four bronze medals at the 25th Junior National Wushu Championship held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from October 28 to November 2, 2026.

A total of six players, including four girls and two boys, represented the centre at the national-level championship. Out of the six participants, four athletes secured bronze medals in their respective weight categories, marking a significant achievement for the centre and the region.

The medal winners include Mahvish Rashid, who secured bronze in the girls' under-52 kg category, and Zainab Javid, who won bronze in the girls' under-75 kg category. Among the boys, Umer Riyaz clinched bronze in the under-85 kg category, while Towheed secured bronze in the under-48 kg category.

The achievement reflects the dedication, discipline and hard work of the young athletes, along with the consistent guidance and efforts of their coaching staff. The centre congratulated all four medal winners and their parents for their remarkable performance, while appreciating the support and encouragement extended by everyone associated with the athletes.

The centre's representatives said that sending six players to the national championship and returning with four medals was a matter of immense pride. They said the achievement had brought recognition not only to the Khelo India Wushu Centre, Handwara–Kupwara, but also to Handwara, Kupwara and the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

They added that the success of the young athletes demonstrated the immense potential of local talent to excel at the national level and underscored the importance of continued support for sports and young players. The centre expressed hope that the athletes would continue to work hard, achieve greater success and bring further glory to the region in future competitions.

Manisha credits PWL experience for building mental toughness behind historic gold



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 : For Manisha Bhanwala, the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) has been more than just a platform to compete against top wrestlers.

The experience of handling intense contests in quick succession, sharing training space with international stars and learning to recover from setbacks helped shape the mental strength that eventually took her to the top of the podium at the Senior World Wrestling Championships.

The 29-year-old made history in Astana last month by becoming the first Indian woman to win gold at the Senior World Wrestling Championships, claiming the women's 59kg title. Her achievement came shortly after a disappointing Asian Games campaign, but Manisha believes the challenges she faced in the PWL helped her respond positively when it mattered most.

The league's fast-paced format, she said, taught her to deal with pressure, manage her emotions and switch focus quickly between demanding bouts.

"In traditional tournaments, you get weeks between events, but the Pro Wrestling League throws you straight into the fire. You wrestle a world-class bout today and have to reset your mindset immediately for another one tomorrow. That routine taught me to control my emotions and stay calm," she said. That ability to move on from disappointment was particularly important after the Asian Games, where she lost in the quarterfinals to Japan's Akari. With little time between the continental event and the World Championships, Manisha chose to get back to work rather than dwell on the defeat.

"I landed in India on a Monday morning and was back at the training hall by evening. My coach told me to rest and focus on recovery, but I asked him, 'Did I win a medal that I should sit back and recover?' In those ten days between the Asian Games and the World Championships, I pushed myself without stopping," she said.

The exposure to international wrestlers in the PWL was another

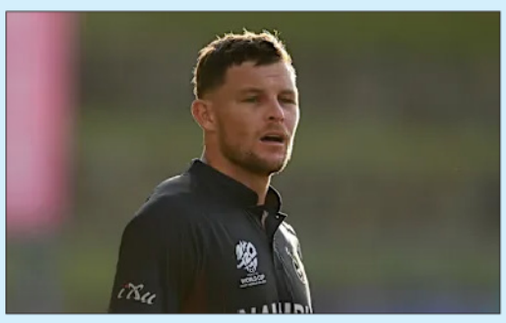
factor that helped her grow. Training and interacting with accomplished opponents gave her a better understanding of their techniques and helped her approach international contests with greater confidence.

Namibia captain Erasmus reprimanded for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

United News Of India

DUBAI, NOV 2 : Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the fourth ODI against Ireland in Windhoek on Friday.

Erasmus was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's



decision during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Erasmus, for whom it was the second offence in a 24-month period, taking his tally of demerit points to two.

Erasmus received his earlier demerit point for an offence during an ODI against the Netherlands on March 13, 2025.

Friday's incident occurred in the 16th over of Namibia's innings, when Erasmus, after being adjudged leg-before wicket, gestured to the umpire that he was not out before leaving reluctantly, and continued to gesture even after leaving the field.

Erasmus admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Dean Cosker of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Ewoud Lassen and Jayaraman Madanagopal, and reserve umpire Claus Schumacher levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association announces selection trials in Anantnag

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR, NOV. 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Tennis Ball Cricket Association has announced selection trials for Sub-Junior and Junior categories, scheduled to be held at Sports Stadium Anantnag on November 6 and 7, 2026.

In this regard, the Association has issued a circular directing all District Secretaries to nominate eligible players for participation in the trials. Each district has been asked to depute two boys and three girls in both Sub-Junior and Junior categories. As per the prescribed eligibility criteria, players born after December 1, 2009, are eligible for the Sub-Junior category, while those born after December 20, 2007, can participate in the Junior category.

The trials will be conducted from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on both days. All participating players have been instructed to report in proper cricket sports kits and bring photocopies of their Date of Birth (DOB) certificates and Aadhaar cards.

The Association has also directed District Secretaries to thoroughly verify the age eligibility of nominated players and ensure strict compliance with the prescribed guidelines.

The selection trials aim to identify promising cricketing talent from

across Jammu and Kashmir and provide deserving players an opportunity to represent the Union Territory at higher levels of competition.

Singpora clinch Zangam Premium League Cricket Title

Kashmir Press Service

ZANGAM: Singpora emerged victorious over Zangam in the final of the Zangam Premium League Cricket Tournament, lifting the championship trophy after an exciting contest at Zangam.

The final match witnessed an enthusiastic display of cricket, with both teams competing for the coveted title. Singpora eventually defeated Zangam to emerge as tournament champions.

The event was attended by people from different areas, members of the Civil Society Forum Pattan and other distinguished guests, who witnessed the thrilling final and appreciated the efforts of the organisers in promoting sports and encouraging local cricket talent. The tournament provided a valuable platform for local cricketers to showcase their skills and highlighted the growing enthusiasm for cricket among the youth.

The victory was celebrated by Singpora supporters, while the tournament concluded with appreciation for the participating teams and organisers for making the event a success.

Mukesh's fifer, Siraj's four wickets fail to stop NZ A fightback in 2nd unofficial Test

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 : Mohammed Siraj got a valuable workload under his belt ahead of India's two-Test series against New Zealand, claiming four wickets in 35 overs for India A, but New Zealand A's lower order came up with a spirited fightback to take a 78-run first-innings lead on the penultimate day of the second unofficial Test in Christchurch.

New Zealand A, responding to India A's first-innings total of 346, were in trouble at 338/8 but managed to stretch their innings to 424, securing a lead of 78 runs. Their final two wickets added 86 runs, frustrating the Indian attack and turning the contest in the hosts' favour.

Siraj finished with 4/118 from 35 overs, while Mukesh Kumar was the leading wicket-taker with 5/87 in 29 overs. India A reached 32 without loss in their second innings by stumps, with Yashasvi Jaiswal unbeaten on 20 and Sai Sudharsan on 11 after seeing off 11 overs.

For India's senior team management, Siraj's extended spell at Hagley Oval will be particularly encouraging. The venue is set to host the second Test of the upcoming series, which begins on November 19, and the fast bowler has now had the opportunity to warm up in conditions similar to those he will encounter with the senior side.

Completing 35 overs should also please head coach Gautam Gambhir and bowling coach Morne Morkel, with Siraj expected to join the ODI squad after the India A game. The pacer looked sharp with the older ball and found movement with the new one, while Mukesh was effective with both new balls but became less threatening as the Kookaburra lost its shine.

Siraj made an immediate impact on the third morning, striking with his very first delivery of the day. Bowling the second over, he found the

outside edge of overnight centurion Matthew Boyle, who had made 110 off 152 balls. Devdutt Padikkal completed a sharp diving catch to his left, ending a 208-run fourth-wicket partnership between Boyle and Dean Foxcroft.

Stay in shape and prepare well for Sri Lanka: Gambhir's message to T20I side

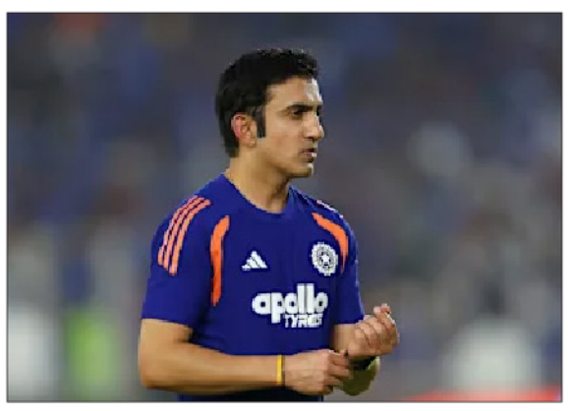
United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 : India head coach Gautam Gambhir wants the T20I players to make the most of their month-long break from international cricket by staying fit and continuing to work on their game, rather than allowing the gap between assignments to affect their preparation.

India may have lost the last two matches of the five-game series against New Zealand, but the visitors had done enough in the opening three encounters to clinch the series 3-2. The hosts managed to finish the contest on a positive note, but India had already achieved their primary objective by taking an unassailable lead.

Addressing the squad in the dressing room after the fifth and final T20I in Hamilton, Gambhir reflected on the team's achievement, pointing out that the players had very little time to prepare for the series and had to adjust quickly to conditions in New Zealand. He felt the effort deserved recognition, particularly against a competitive side playing at home.

"You can be extremely proud of the effort that you



guys have put in throughout the series. Winning the series, especially when you had just one day to prepare and were playing against a quality team like New Zealand in their own backyard, is a terrific achievement. You should be extremely proud," Gambhir told the players in the dressing room.

India also had to deal with a few setbacks during the tour. Ishan Kishan was forced to sit out two matches because of an injury concern, while the bowling combination lacked considerable experience in New Zealand conditions.

Young pacers Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav were among those who made their first appearances in the country.

Despite these challenges, India won the first three matches to take the series beyond New Zealand's reach.

Gambhir acknowledged that the team would have liked to complete a clean sweep, but said the players could take satisfaction from the way they had begun the tour. He also reminded them that the ODI and Test squads now had the responsibility of building on that start.

"You can go back with your heads held high. We wanted to win the last two games as well, but sometimes these things happen. I thought you guys have set the tone for the rest of the tour. Before

the start of the series, I said that you had the responsibility to set the tone. Now, it is up to the ODI and Test teams to continue from where you have left off," the former India opener said.

Stay fit, prepare well for Sri Lanka

The Indian T20I squad will not have another international assignment in the format until December, when Sri Lanka visit for a three-match series.

Chapman, Ravindra ruled out of India ODIs as NZ suffer double blow

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 2 : New Zealand will be without Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra for the five-match ODI series against India as both players continue their recovery from injuries, dealing a significant blow to the visitors ahead of the opening match in Auckland on November 4.

The two players also missed the T20I series, which New Zealand lost 3-2, and have not recovered in time for the 50-over leg of the tour.

Chapman picked up a left hamstring injury while playing in the European T20 Premier League. A recent MRI scan showed that the batter needs another two weeks of rehabilitation before he can return to full fitness.

Ravindra, meanwhile, dislocated his right shoulder during a promotional shoot. New Zealand Cricket said the all-rounder needs more time to recover before he can field at full capacity.

"Everyone knows what an asset Mark and Rachin are to this side so it's a shame they have to miss this series," head



coach Rob Walter said.

"I caught up with Mark last week and although he's disappointed he's working hard to get back on the field. With Rachin, his shoulder hasn't quite recovered to a position where he could field comfortably in white-ball cricket, so with the Test series later this month we don't want to take any undue risks."

New Zealand have made several changes to their squad to cover the absentees. Wicketkeeper-batter Tim Seifert, who was initially picked for the final two ODIs, has now been included for the first three matches as well. Left-handed batter Henry Nicholls has also been added for the opening three games, while all-rounder Dean Foxcroft will join the squad for the last two.

Pacer Matt Fisher, initially named only for the final two matches, will also be available for the first three ODIs.

There is still some uncertainty over Matt Henry's availability. The fast bowler missed the last three T20Is after suffering a low-grade tear in his right quadricep.

He is expected to join the squad on Monday (November 2), after which the team management will assess his fitness and decide whether he is ready to play.

New Zealand squad for first 3 ODIs: Mitchell Santner (captain), Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham (wicketkeeper), Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Tim Seifert, Nathan Smith, Will Young, Blair Tickner

New Zealand squad for 4th & 5th ODIs: Mitchell Santner (captain), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Kristian Clarke, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Dean Foxcroft, Lockie Ferguson, Mitchell Hay (wicketkeeper), Nick Kelly, Tim Seifert (wicketkeeper), Blair Tickner, Will Young.

Media serves as vital bridge between administration and public: DC Pulwama

Holds maiden interaction with media fraternity

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today held his first formal interaction with the media fraternity of the district after assuming charge, with the interaction focusing on strengthening coordination between the district administration and the media and ensuring effective dissemination of information and public-oriented initiatives.

The interaction was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Pulwama, Shahbaz Ahmad Bodha, District Information Officer Pulwama, Ms. Wajeeza, besides representatives of the print and electronic media, news agencies and social media content creators. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to the media fraternity for attending the interaction and appreciated its role in connecting the administration with the people.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized that the media is an integral part of the government-society-administration framework and serves as a vital bridge between the administration and the public. Describing the media as a mirror of society, he highlighted its important role in reflecting public concerns, disseminating information and creating awareness about government initiatives and social issues.

Emphasizing the wide reach and influence of both print and electronic media, the DC stressed that the information people read, watch and consume has a significant and lasting impact on public perception. He underlined that responsible journalism, accuracy, objectivity and credibility are therefore essential, particularly while reporting on sensitive issues concerning society.

Calling for greater professional learning within the media fraternity, the DC urged senior media persons to share their experience and professional wisdom with younger journalists. He observed that practical experience and wisdom are acquired through continuous engagement and learning and contribute to greater clarity, balanced reporting and credibility in journalism.

Highlighting the collective responsibility of the administration and media in



addressing social challenges, particularly drug abuse, the DC called for sustained and impactful awareness efforts aimed at reaching ordinary citizens and vulnerable sections of society. He said that visual content, in particular, has a strong recall value and can play an important role in creating social awareness.

The DC further emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability and objectivity in public communication, urging all stakeholders to guard against misinformation, bias and any form of malicious intent. He stated that responsible reporting contributes significantly towards strengthening public confidence in institutions and reinforcing trust between the administration and citizens.

Stressing the need to give greater visibility to welfare-oriented initiatives, the DC called for focused coverage of social security schemes and other government programmes so that eligible beneficiaries are adequately informed about the benefits available to them. He also underlined the importance of accuracy in census-related information and other official data, stating that correctness and integrity of data are fundamental to effective planning, governance and informed public discourse.

As part of strengthening institutional coordination, the DC proposed the formulation of a Common Minimum Programme between the district administration and the media fraternity, under which areas of common public interest would be identified and taken up collectively on a regular basis. He said that such coordinated efforts would help highlight developmental achievements, address public concerns and strengthen the support system available to citizens.

The DC also proposed holding media interactions at regular intervals, preferably once every three months, to ensure continuous dialogue, timely exchange of information and stronger coordination between the administration and the media.

Discussing the role of media in strengthening public trust, the DC emphasized that both the administration and media should work together to communicate to people that the system is accessible, responsive and supportive. He assured that whenever additional information, clarification or factual inputs are required for any news report, the concerned office would provide the necessary information, including a factual rebuttal wherever required.

The DC further said that a SWOT analysis be undertaken in the district to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in various areas of district development and governance and urged media professionals to play a positive role in generating awareness about the analysis among the public so that the objectives of SWOT analysis are achieved efficiently.

ICAR-IGFRI commemorates 65th Foundation Day with tribal farmers



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Bandipora: The ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI), Regional Research Station (RRS), Srinagar, commemorated its 65th Foundation Day by organising an Awareness-cum-Training Programme under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) at Aragam, Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, in collaboration with the Himalayan Pastoral Trust.

The programme witnessed participation of 52 tribal farmers, including 10 women, and aimed at strengthening fodder security, improving livestock health and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities among tribal communities.

As part of the programme, seeds of tall fescue, rooted slips of Phalaris, deworming medicines and calcium supplements were distributed among Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries to promote perennial fodder cultivation and improve livestock productivity and health.

The technical sessions focused on improved management practices of perennial grasses, scientific approaches to fodder production, livestock nutrition and health management, and the importance of youth participation in strengthening tribal livelihoods. Emphasis was also laid on sustainable utilisation of grassland resources and enhancing the availability of quality fodder to support livestock-based livelihoods.

SSP Kulgam chairs security, crime review meeting at DPO Kulgam

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Kulgam: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, chaired a security and crime review meeting at District Police Office (DPO) Kulgam to assess the prevailing security scenario and review the overall crime situation across the district.

During the meeting, SSP Kulgam took a detailed review of, security arrangements, crime investigation, pending cases, and the progress achieved in ongoing investigations. He stressed the need for enhanced vigilance, effective intelligence gathering, intensified patrolling and strengthened area domination to ensure a peaceful and secure environment.

While reviewing crime-related matters, SSP Kulgam directed officers to ensure timely and professional investigation, expedite the disposal



of pending cases and take stringent action against drug trafficking, illegal activities and other criminal elements.

He emphasised accountability, coordination and public-friendly policing, directing all officers to remain proactive and ensure effective policing at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by senior police officers and supervisory officers of District Police Kulgam.

SMC suspends 2 officials

Srinagar, Nov 02 (KNO): The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has placed two officials under suspension over alleged dereliction of duties and ordered a departmental inquiry into the matter.

The Commissioner SMC Dr Basharat Qayoom, IAS, placed an employee under suspension with immediate effect, pending an inquiry and until further orders.

The order also appointed Joint Commissioner (Administration), to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the supervision and monitoring of unauthorised constructions within the officer's jurisdiction.

The officer has been directed to submit a comprehensive report with specific recommendations.

In a separate order, Senior Building Inspector has also been placed under suspension for dereliction of duties, as per rules.

Boy dies in R S Pura accident

Jammu, Nov 02 (KNO): A boy was killed after being hit by a Scorpio vehicle in the R S Pura area of Jammu, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the vehicle, travelling at high speed on the wrong side of the road, struck the boy in R S Pura.

He said the boy was shifted to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead. His identity is being verified.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and further investigation is underway.

Ex-MLA passes away

Press Trust of India

Jammu, Nov 2: Former MLA Jagdish Raj Spolia passed away at the age of 80 after a prolonged illness at his residence in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, his family said on Monday.

Spolia is survived by his wife and two sons.

A two-time MLA from the Basohli constituency of Kathua, Spolia was first elected to the Assembly in 1987 on a Congress ticket.

However, he left the Congress and joined the BJP in 1999. He returned to the Assembly in 2008, winning the seat on a BJP ticket.

He later rejoined the Congress and unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Assembly elections.

He subsequently returned to the BJP but remained bedridden for a prolonged period due to illness. He breathed his last at his residence on Sunday evening.

His last rites were performed at Shanti Ghat in Basohli on Monday forenoon, with a large number of people attending the cremation to pay their final respects.

Union minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over Spolia's demise in a post on X, describing the news as "extremely heartbreaking and soul-wrenching".

"His commitment to public service and his contributions to the development of the region will always be remembered. In this hour of grief, my deepest condolences are with the bereaved family and his supporters," the minister said.

Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated in Shopian

KASHMIR AGE NEWS

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 02: On the eve of Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a Mega Gram Sabha was organized by the Tribal Affairs Department, District Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian.

The Gram Sabha was held for awareness and disposal of claims of ST community including AKs, ASKs, Dajgua and others under Forest Rights Act, 2006, which was presided over by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

The demands of ST community regarding road connectivity were also discussed. The issues regarding Potato Farm Road and Redh Agri-Bakerwal Check to Sedow Adda Road were highlighted. It was informed that both the roads have been tendered and the work will start within this week.

10th Battalion SSB Srinagar Inaugurates Disaster Preparedness Programme

Srinagar: The 10th Battalion, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Srinagar, inaugurated a one-month-long Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response and Food Beverage Training – Skill Development Programme aimed at equipping local youth with essential skills to effectively respond to emergency and disaster situations.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Sheikh Imtiaz Ismail Faruq, Deputy Inspector General, Special Operations, Srinagar, as the Chief Guest. The Commandant of



10th Battalion SSB and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Students from various areas of Srinagar have joined the programme and will undergo one month of training focused on enhancing their skills, awareness, and preparedness for disaster management and emergency response.

The initiative reflects SSB's commitment towards youth empowerment, skill development, community engagement, and building a disaster-resilient society.

SKIMS expands infrastructure, pushes referral reforms to reduce patient burden

Srinagar, Nov 02 (KNO): Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) is expanding infrastructure at its main campus and SKIMS Medical College, alongside procuring advanced medical equipment, to strengthen specialised healthcare services and reduce patient dependence on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Director SKIMS, Prof Mohammad Ashraf Ganie said new college, inpatient department (IPD) and outpatient department (OPD) blocks were under construction at SKIMS Medical College as part of efforts to expand capacity.

"We are not focusing only on the main campus. Both institutions are under the same administrative setup, and efforts



are being made to improve facilities at both places," he told reporters on the sidelines of a sports programme on Monday.

Prof Ganie said the institute was also acquiring new medical equipment and exploring additional funding sources beyond regular government support to upgrade services.

"Our priority is to continuously improve patient care so that people can receive the treatment they need here instead of having to travel outside Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On overcrowding and long waiting times, Prof Ganie said the heavy patient load reflected SKIMS' role as a tertiary-care referral centre, with many patients arriving from district and peripheral hospitals, including cases that could be managed at lower levels of care.

He said infrastructure expansion alone would not ease pressure unless the referral system was streamlined.

"As long as the referral system at the peripheral level is not properly organised, the rush at our hospitals will continue. Even when we expand facilities, people still prefer to come to SKIMS," he said.

According to him, the institute is working with peripheral hospitals to ensure that only patients needing specialised treatment are referred to tertiary-care centres.

"We want smaller medical issues to be addressed at the peripheral level and referrals to be made selectively. This will help us focus our resources on patients who genuinely require specialised care," he said.

He stressed that better coordination between district hospitals and tertiary institutions was essential to improve patient flow and optimise healthcare resources.

Meanwhile, Prof Ganie said SKIMS would continue promoting sports and cultural activities across its campuses to support the overall well-being of students and staff.

"We want our faculty, paramedical staff and particularly the students we are training to remain healthy mentally, physically and spiritually," he said.