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Rajnath Flags New-Age Warfare Threats

Says Modern Conflicts Now Extend Beyond Conventional Cross-Border Firing





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bagdogra (WB), Nov 7: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the security landscape had become increasingly complex, with warfare extending beyond conventional cross-border firing to include cyberattacks, drone swarms, proxy wars and information operations.

Addressing Indian Air Force personnel at Bagdogra airfield on the eve of Diwali, Singh said adversaries were increasingly seeking to exploit vulnerabilities without engaging in direct conflict.

"Warfare is no longer limited merely to cross-border firing. It has expanded greatly to encompass asymmetric warfare, proxy wars, cyberattacks, drone swarms, information operations, and narrative management," he said.

The defence minister said, "Today, the enemy often avoids direct conflict and instead tries to exploit our vulnerabilities."

Through social media, the enemy also attempts to sow seeds of doubt among local populations and soldiers by spreading misleading information, Singh said.

Emphasising the changing responsibilities of armed forces personnel, he said soldiers must remain vigilant not only in their operational domains but also against emerging cyber and information threats.

"In such a scenario, your role is no longer that of an ordinary soldier. You are required to simultaneously maintain domain awareness, cyber resilience, and information integrity," he said.

"It is solely through your vigilance and discretion that we can foil every attempt of

LG, CM Extend Diwali Greetings, Hope For Prosperity

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, Nov 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and others celebrating Diwali, wishing them happiness, peace and prosperity on the occasion.

In his message on the eve of Deepawali, the Lieutenant Governor said the festival symbolises the eternal victory of light over darkness, virtue over vice and justice over injustice.

He called upon people to rededicate themselves to bringing happiness and prosperity into the lives of

Govt Notifies Private Universities Rules

New Framework To Attract Reputed Institutions: CM

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, Nov 7: The government has notified the Private Universities Rules, paving the way for the establishment of reputed national and international institutions of higher learning in the Union territory, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah describing it as a significant milestone in the government's efforts to expand access to quality higher education and strengthen the region's academic ecosystem.

The rules provide for streamlined approval procedures, 25 percent reservation for J&K domiciles in admissions and employment, effective regulatory oversight and stringent penalties for violations, with a focus on transparency, accountability and academic standards, the Office of the Chief Minister said in a post on X on Saturday.

Congratulating Minister for Education Shamim Firdous on the notification, Abdullah said the move marked a significant step towards facilitating the establishment of reputed national and international institutions of higher learning in the Union territory.

Abdullah said the new Rules establish a

Govt approves Rs 7.93 crore project to boost border tourism in Uri

KA NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded Administrative Approval for the creation of tourist infrastructure to promote border tourism in Uri at an estimated cost of Rs 7.93 crore.

The comprehensive project envisages infrastructure development across five locations — Uri Town, Bosiyan-Gingal, Mahura, Garkote and Bela Boniyar — with a focus on enhancing tourist facilities and improving the overall visitor experience.

The proposed interventions include the development of tourist huts, facilitation centres, riverfront and scenic parks, viewpoints, trekking paths and public conveniences. The initiative aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure while providing visitors with better facilities to explore the region's scenic landscapes and natural attractions.

The project is expected to

Govt announces 5% increment for NHM contractual staff

KA NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 7: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced a 5 per cent annual increment for eligible contractual employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) for the financial year 2026-27, providing relief to healthcare workers across the Union Territory.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo said the decision fulfils the government's promise to NHM contractual employees and recognises their dedication and contribution towards strengthening healthcare delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

"As promised by the government, a five per cent annual increment has been sanctioned for eligible contractual employees engaged under the NHM, J&K, for FY 2026–27," Itoo said in a post on X.

She said the decision was an important step towards recognising the commitment and hard work of the NHM workforce.

"Our commitment to the welfare of healthcare workers remains steadfast. We will continue working towards a stronger, more responsive and inclusive healthcare system under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah," she added.

MeT Predicts Rain, Snowfall Across J&K From Nov 12



Srinagar, Nov 07: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a spell of rain and snowfall from November 12 onwards as a fresh Western Disturbance is expected to affect the region, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Saturday.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said weather is expected to remain generally dry on November 8 and 9, while generally cloudy conditions are likely on November 10 and 11.

"Light rain over the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches at scattered places is expected towards the evening or night of November 10," the official said.

The official further said that generally cloudy conditions are likely to prevail on November 12 and 13, with light to

AIIMS Jammu Expands Advanced Surgical Facilities

Union Minister Says 20-OT Block To Boost Super-Speciality Care

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 7: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated a dedicated block housing 20 state-of-the-art operation theatres at the AIIMS, Jammu, saying the facility would reduce the need for patients to seek advanced medical treatment outside the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters after the inauguration, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office described the development as another milestone in the medical institute's journey.

He also expressed satisfaction over the institute's rapid progress in infrastructure, faculty strength and medical facilities.

However, he acknowledged that faculty shortages in certain

Modi, Yogi two yogis following ideals of Lord Ram: VP Radhakrishnan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Ayodhya, Nov 7: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan described Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday as "two yogis" who follow the ideals of Lord Ram, saying their leadership helped fulfil the centuries-old aspiration of millions of devotees to see a grand temple in Ayodhya.

He also credited the Ram Temple

'Move on': DyCM seeks end to rumours over NC discontent



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 7: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday sought to end the ongoing rumours of discontent among a group of National Conference MLAs, maintaining that the party leadership has addressed

JKB's Residency Road Branch In Srinagar Distributes Fresh Notes Ahead of Diwali

Customers appreciate customer-friendly initiative

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar: Ahead of Diwali, the Residency Road branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Srinagar has facilitated the distribution of fresh currency notes to customers, making festive preparations more convenient for the public.

The initiative, which has been underway for the past week under the supervision of Branch Manager Tajamul Qadri, has received an encouraging response from customers, who have appreciated the branch management for making fresh currency notes readily available ahead of the festival.

With the demand for fresh currency notes increasing during Diwali, the branch made

Compulsory retirement order is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court has held that an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character and does not cast any aspersion on the conduct of an employee, nor does it imply any finding of misconduct.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Shree Chandrashekhar, which upheld the Chhattisgarh government's order of compulsory retirement to five of its 14 employees, said it was based on subjective satisfaction of the competent authority that the employee's continued retention in service is no longer conducive to public interest.

"...an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order

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Commissioner SMC reviews NGT Action Plan, AMRUT 2.0 Projects

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to assess the implementation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Action Plan and review the progress of ongoing projects under AMRUT 2.0.

The meeting took stock of the progress achieved under various components of both initiatives, with particular focus on water supply augmentation, quality parameters, inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of approved works.

Reviewing the progress under AMRUT 2.0, the Commissioner stressed that strengthening the city's water supply infrastructure and addressing areas facing water shortages must remain a priority. He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the ongoing works and ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed technical and quality standards.



The Commissioner observed that the commissioning of the approved AMRUT 2.0 projects is expected to bring further improvement in supply of different localities of Srinagar, including Batamaloo, Aloochibagh, Jenab Saheb Soura, Bagwanpora, Lal Bazaar, Natipora, Malbagh, Jawahar Nagar, HMT and Lawaypora.

Emphasising the importance of quality in public infrastructure, Dr. Basharat directed the concerned officers to ensure that all prescribed quality parameters are duly addressed during execution, with no compromise on technical specifications or standards. He called for closer field-level supervision, regular assessment of physical and financial progress and prompt resolution of bottlenecks affecting the pace of work.

The Commissioner remarked that the people of Srinagar deserve better basic civic facilities and that ongoing developmental initiatives must translate into tangible improvements in the quality of services delivered to citizens. He stressed that all concerned departments and executing agencies must work in close coordination and with a clear sense of responsibility to address existing infrastructure gaps and improve the availability and reliability of essential civic services. Taking up the NGT Action Plan, the Commissioner reviewed the status of various environmental

interventions and stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholder departments to ensure effective implementation of the prescribed measures and compliance with the directions of the National Green Tribunal.

Zonal-level symposium on "Truth and Non-Violence" held at GHS Singhpora Pattan

Kashmir Press Service
Sahil Nazir Wani

PATTAN: A Zonal-Level Symposium on the theme "Truth and Non-Violence" was held today at Government High School (GHS) Singhpora Pattan, with enthusiastic participation from students of various schools of Zone Singhpora Pattan.

The participating students presented their views on the importance of truth, peace and non-violence, highlighting their significance in building a peaceful and harmonious society.

Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Singhpora Pattan, Mr. Ch Hassan, and Headmistress CHS Singhpora, Farhat Masoodi, were present on the occasion. They encouraged the participating students and appreciated their efforts and active involvement in the symposium.

Meanwhile, Seerat-ul-Nisa, Daughter of Mohd Ashraf wani a student of MS KP Seri, Secured first position in the symposium and was selected to participate at the District Level. Her achievement was appreciated by her teachers and the Headmistress, who congratulated her for her impressive performance.

The ZEO also congratulated all the participating schools and appreciated the efforts of the students, teachers and school heads for ensuring active participation in the event. Prizes and certificates were distributed among the participants.

Farhat Masoodi, Headmistress GHS Singhpora, was also appreciated by the Zonal Education Officer for her efforts and support in successfully conducting the programme. Cultural Coordinators, teachers and the Headmaster of GMS KP Seri expressed happiness over the successful participation and achievement of the students and congratulated Seerat-ul-Nisa for bringing laurels to the school. The symposium provided students with an opportunity to express their thoughts on the values of truth, peace and non-violence while promoting confidence, creativity and positive social values among young learners.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

Kashmir Age News

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and review the status of solid waste management in both urban and rural areas of the district. The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) towards effective solid waste management and identify areas requiring further improvement.



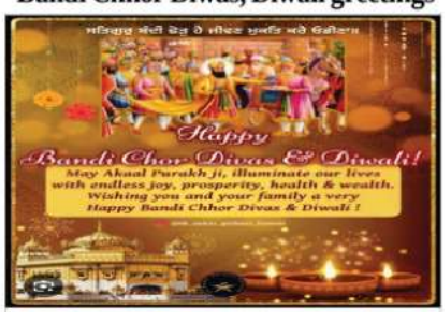
During the meeting, officers of the concerned departments, including Rural Development Department, and Executive Officers of all Municipal Councils and Committees apprised the DC of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention. The meeting also reviewed the status of solid waste management in rural areas, with particular focus on coverage of villages and households under door-to-door garbage collection.

ACD, CPO and Block Development Officers participated in the deliberations and shared the progress made in their respective areas.

Various key aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspection and functioning of waste processing plants, four-way segregation of waste at source, retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal, enforcement of penalties against violations, management of seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and preparedness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were also reviewed.

The DC stressed the need for strict enforcement of the prescribed rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door waste collection and scientific processing and disposal of waste. He directed all BDOs to ensure coverage of every village and household under the door-to-door garbage collection mechanism and take necessary measures to strengthen.

Taranpreet Singh extends Bandi Chhor Diwas, Diwali greetings



Kashmir Press Service

POONCH: Taranpreet Singh has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasions of Bandi Chhor Diwas and Diwali, wishing peace, prosperity, happiness and harmony for all.

In his message, Singh said that Bandi Chhor Diwas commemorates the historic release of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji from Gwalior Fort and reminds people of the timeless values of justice, freedom, compassion and standing up for righteousness.

He said the festival inspires everyone to spread kindness, uphold truth and work towards a society based on mutual respect and brotherhood.

Extending Diwali greetings, Singh said the festival celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. He expressed hope that the divine blessings of Lord Rama would bring peace, prosperity and renewed hope into people's lives.

He further said that the twin celebrations provide an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of love, communal harmony and brotherhood.

Emphasising the importance of unity and mutual respect, Singh said that the people of Poonch should celebrate these festivals with traditional enthusiasm and work collectively towards maintaining peace and harmony in the region.

He wished everyone and their families a very happy Bandi Chhor Diwas and a prosperous Diwali.

FDA intensifies festive food safety enforcement across all districts ahead of Diwali

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: In view of the forthcoming Diwali festivities, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has intensified its festive enforcement-cum-sampling drive across all districts to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food products to consumers.

During the two-day enforcement drive, 276 inspections were conducted and 132 food samples were lifted from various food establishments for analysis. The enforcement activities also resulted in the compounding of 34 cases under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with a total fine of 39,000 realised.

Furthermore, 13 cases were recommended for legal action under Sections 56 and 58 of the Act for violations relating to unhygienic and insanitary conditions in food processing and handling. Section 56 of the Act provides for a penalty extending up to 1 lakh for carrying out food processing or manufacturing under unhygienic or insanitary conditions, while Section 58 provides for a penalty extending up to 2 lakh for contraventions for which no specific penalty has been separately provided under the Act.

In addition, two food business licences were suspended for violations of the conditions of licence.

Further, 14 Improvement Notices were issued under Section 32 of the Act, directing the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs) to rectify the identified deficiencies within the stipulated period and ensure compliance with the prescribed food safety and hygiene requirements. As part of the enforcement action, 800 kg of sweets were destroyed in Jammu and Kathua districts after being found processed under poor sanitary and unhygienic conditions. The estimated value of the destroyed sweets amounts to 1,44,000. The FDA, J&K, has appealed to the general public to remain vigilant while purchasing food articles during the festive season and to procure food products only from licensed or registered Food Business Operators. Consumers are also advised to check the labelling, manufacturing and expiry dates.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Gram Sabhas, awareness activities held across Bandipora

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, a series of activities were organised across District Bandipora to promote tribal welfare and create awareness about government initiatives. At Block Gurez, a special block-level Gram Sabha was convened with the participation of Panchayat Secretaries, elected representatives and frontline workers. The deliberations focused on strengthening grassroots governance, promoting community participation, identifying developmental priorities and ensuring effective implementation of government schemes. Similarly, a special Gram Sabha was held at Panchayat Halqa Chithi Bandi-C, Block Bandipora, with a focus on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and VB-G RAM G. Meanwhile, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), in collaboration with the Health Department, organised a special health and awareness camp at Anganwadi Centre Wampora.

Educated youth to be trained for PO examination, educated in financial literacy, cyber hygiene

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a Financial Literacy programme at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, organised in collaboration with ICICI Bank.



The programme focused on promoting financial literacy, safe banking practices, awareness about digital and financial frauds, and providing awareness about ICICI Bank's PO Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called for structured, day-wise awareness programmes across all colleges of the district, commencing next week, aimed at sensitising students about financial literacy, Cyber Security and the PO Programme of the bank. He further instructed the ICICI Bank representatives to prepare an informative pamphlet detailing the available opportunities, eligibility requirements and application procedures for wider circulation among students to facilitate awareness and informed participation.

The Chief Education Officer Pulwama was also directed to facilitate similar programmes in educational institutions in coordination with the Zonal Education Officers.

DC Pulwama reviews Diwali arrangements

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today visited various areas of the district ahead of Diwali and reviewed the arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful celebration of the festival.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm Diwali greetings and interacted with the residents. He listened to their issues and concerns and took stock of the availability of essential services and civic amenities in these areas.

The DC reviewed the status of drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, cleanliness, road connectivity, street lighting, illumination and other essential facilities. He also assessed the arrangements for uninterrupted power and water supply, proper waste disposal and maintenance of public spaces to ensure that residents face no inconvenience during the festive period.

As part of the visit, the DC visited Pandit Colony Hawal, Murran and Batnag Noorpora, where he interacted with community members and reviewed the arrangements on the ground. On the occasion, he also distributed sweets and presented flowers to community members for the Puja on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.



He also paid obeisance at the Murran Temple and extended his wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Executive Engineer, PWD; concerned Tehsildars and Block Development Officers, besides other officers from various line departments.

SYSF Foundation's NEXGEN organises students–administration interactive session at GDC Sopore

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 07: Continuing its efforts to promote meaningful youth participation and strengthen engagement between students and public institutions, Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSF), through its Students' Wing, NEXGEN, organised the second session of its Students–Administration Interactive Series at Government Degree College (GDC), Sopore.



Following the successful first session at Government Degree College, Baramulla, the Sopore interaction brought together students from different localities to engage directly with administrative and police leadership.

The programme was attended by Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, as the Chief Guest, along with Neha Jain, SP Sopore; Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation, Anika Nazir, Head of the Women's Wing, College Principal, faculty members, other dignitaries and students were also present.

During the interactive session, students shared their concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding academic facilities, career opportunities, employment, youth welfare and various civic and developmental issues affecting their villages and towns. The interaction provided them with an opportunity to discuss their everyday challenges and present constructive suggestions directly to the concerned authorities.

Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid listened attentively to the students, responded to their queries and assured them that the issues and suggestions raised would receive due consideration. He further assured necessary administrative assistance and support through the concerned departments.

SP Sopore, Neha Jain, also interacted with the students, heard their concerns and assured them that matters falling within the purview of the police administration would be taken up appropriately and addressed.

Kashmir parents seek change in school timings

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 |Amid freezing morning temperatures, parents of school children of winter zones of Kashmir division on Saturday demand for a change in school timings.

The news agency KNO received calls from several parents of school children—urging School Education Department to revise the timing in educational institutes of the region from 10 am to 3 Pm in Srinagar and 10:30Am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits.

One of the parents, Nasreena Jan said, "My two kids are primary-level students, and for more than a week now, they have been constantly telling me that they shiver in the cold when they leave for school."

She said, "There is a dire need for a change in school timing for the students. The winter has already arrived and the government must take a call on revising the school timing."

Another parent, Showkat Ahmad Dar narrated the same ordeal. He said, "As the new academic session started this week, the School Education Department must revise its current school timing in both the Srinagar and peripheries of Kashmir region."

Search process for SKUAST-Kashmir VC begins

LG constitutes selection panel, applications invited from eligible candidates

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :The process for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has begun, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha constituting a selection committee to recommend a panel of suitable candidates for the post.



The selection committee has started its task by inviting applications from eligible candidates for the position.

According to a notification issued by the Agriculture Production Department the Vice-Chancellor's post will be filled on a tenure basis for a period of up to three years or until the incumbent attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Candidates applying for the post should not be more than 62 years of age as on the closing date for submission of applications. As per the eligibility criteria, applicants must be eminent agricultural scientists or academicians with outstanding credentials and a Ph.D. in Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences, or a related discipline. They should have at least 10 years of experience as a Professor or in an equivalent position in a reputed academic institution. The candidates must also possess a minimum of three years' administrative experience as a Dean, Joint Director, Director, or in an equivalent position at a university or national institution.

Another eligibility criterion is at least five years of experience as the Head of a Department, Division, or an equivalent academic unit in a reputed institution, along with a minimum of 20 research publications in peer-reviewed national or international journals, including books, and demonstrated experience in leadership. The process has begun before the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ganaie, completes his extended tenure. Prof. Ganaie was granted a two-year extension with effect from December 16, 2024, and is scheduled to complete the term on December 15, 2026.

DGP Prabhat, IGP Kumar Extend Diwali Greetings





Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 7 :Director General of Police J&K, Nalin Prabhat on Saturday extended Diwali greetings to the Police Fariwar and to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Lights of Happiness, Sweets of Prosperity, Memory of Fallen Heroes," the DGP said in his message.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar-IPS also extended warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

"May this Festival of Lights illuminate our lives with happiness and prosperity and usher in lasting peace, harmony and brotherhood in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and across the nation," IGP Kashmir said.

J&K NHM employees to get 5% annual increment from April 1; employees say it's nothing new

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :The Jammu and Kashmir Government has sanctioned a 5% annual increment for eligible contractual employees engaged under the National Health Mission (NHM) for the financial year 2026-27, a move that will benefit thousands of healthcare workers across the Union Territory.

However, the announcement has drawn a lukewarm response from NHM employees' representatives, who have termed the increment a routine annual exercise rather than any special concession, reiterating their demand for salary enhancement, job security and other service-related benefits.

According to an order issued by the Mission Director, NHM J&K the increment will be applicable to eligible contractual employees working at the State, Divisional, District and Block levels, including those engaged under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) and various disease control programmes.

The order states that the sanction has been accorded in pursuance of the approval of the NHM State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP) 2026-27 for Jammu and Kashmir, conveyed by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on June 19, 2026. As per the notified schedule, contractual employees who completed one year of service on or before March 31, 2026, will be entitled to the increment with effect from April 1, 2026.

Digital Verification Ration dealers question advance payment demand

Raise concerns over Rs 1 lakh security deposit, e-KYC machines

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :Fair Price Shop dealers in Kashmir have raised concerns over additional financial requirements, including a Rs 1 lakh security deposit, licence fee and advanced demand of cash before taking a ration digital verification.

A ration dealer said the new face authentication system could create difficulties for beneficiaries, particularly elderly and ailing people.

"If this system is implemented, it will create many problems," he said.

Another dealer said arranging the required equipment and meeting additional financial requirements was becoming difficult with their existing earnings.

"We are being asked to arrange mobile phones for the new system. These things involve considerable expenses. How are small dealers supposed to manage all this with their existing income?" he said..

The dealers also expressed concern over the requirement of a Rs 1 lakh security deposit, saying such a financial burden would be difficult to manage.

They also flagged the proposed licence fee



of Rs 2,000 and the demand for advance payments, questioning why dealers were being asked to pay before procuring the required machines and other equipment.

On face authentication, they sought continuation of fingerprint and OTP-based verification options alongside face recognition to ensure elderly and ailing beneficiaries do not face difficulties in collecting ration.

Kashmir markets wear festive look on Diwali eve

Sweets, lamps and decorations in demand

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :Markets across Kashmir wore a festive look on Saturday as people thronged shopping areas for last-minute purchases ahead of Diwali, with shops decorated with colourful lights, flowers and other festive items.

Sweet shops, firecracker stalls and stores selling decorative items witnessed a rush of customers, while families were seen purchasing sweets, lamps, gifts and other items associated with the festival.

"The markets look beautiful with colourful lights and decorations. We have come out with our family to buy sweets and other items and enjoy the festive atmosphere," Rahul Sharma a resident said.

Shopkeepers said the demand for sweets, decorative lights, traditional lamps and gift items had picked up ahead of the festival, with customers continuing to visit markets for last-minute shopping.

Markets across the city were illuminated with colourful lights and decorations, adding to the festive atmosphere as people prepared to celebrate the festival with their families.

Diwali, the festival of lights, will be celebrated across the country on Sunday, with people marking the occasion by lighting lamps, offering prayers and exchanging sweets.

Rs 7.93 cr approved for border tourism infrastructure dev in Uri

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :The government has accorded administrative approval for the creation of tourist infrastructure to promote border tourism in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district at an estimated cost of Rs 7.93 crore.

According to a post shared by the Office of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on X, the project will cover Uri town, Bosiyan-Gingal, Mahura, Garkote and Bela Boniyar.

The project includes the development of tourist huts, facilitation centres, river front and scenic parks, viewpoints, trekking paths and public conveniences.

Rare female Sambar Deer spotted in Sinthan Top Forest

Kashmir News Observer

ANANTNAG, NOV 07 :A female sambar deer has been spotted in the forests of Sinthan Top in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, with wildlife officials describing the sighting as rare.

The animal was reported edly sighted by passengers travelling on the Kashmir side of Sinthan Top near Daksum. Officials believe the deer may have become separated from its group.

Wildlife Warden South, Bijbehara, Sajad Ahmad Bhat said the Sinthan Top forest area is connected to the Kishtwar belt, and the animal may have either migrated from that side or moved to lower elevations in search of habitat.

"Our men are deployed in the area and are receiving such inputs, Wild goats have also been sighted there," he said.

Another wildlife official said sightings of female sambar deer in Kashmir are uncommon, as the species occurs in relatively smaller numbers in the Valley and is more commonly found in the Jammu region. The sambar (Rusa unicolor) is the largest deer species found in the Indian subcontinent. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the sambar has been listed as a Vulnerable species on its Red List since 2008 due to significant popu lation declines caused by hunting and habitat loss. Jammu and Kashmir is home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including several rare and endangered species such as the Hangul, Kashmir musk deer, Markhor and Asiatic ibex.

Gulmarg 12K run to be held on Nov 29

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: Gulmarg will host the first-ever Gulmarg 12K Run on November 29, bringing together runners from across Kashmir for a sporting event amid the picturesque surroundings of the Gulmarg Bowl.

In a statement the organisers said the event is expected to witness the participation of around 120 athletes and will be flagged off from Pine Palace Resort, Gulmarg, at 9:00 AM.

The run will be conducted along the Gulmarg Bowl Road and is being supported by the Gulmarg Development Authority, with M&G and Pine Palace Resort Gulmarg backing the initiative.

One of the organisers said the event aims to encourage young people to embrace running, adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute towards building a fitter and drug-free society.

"The objective is to encourage young people to embrace running, adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute towards building a fitter, more active and drug-free society," the organiser said. The proposed route will feature a loop of approximately six kilometres or more, with participants completing two laps to cover the 12-kilometre-plus distance. The final route and distance will be confirmed after a technical assessment and consultations with the concerned authorities.

AIIMS Awantipora to start OPD services this month: Sakina Itoo

Kashmir News Observer

KULGAM, NOV 07 :Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday said that Outpatient Department (OPD) services at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora, are expected to commence during the ongoing month.

Taking to reporters on the sidelines of inauguration of developmental projects at Gudder here in South Kashmir', Itoo said that the OPD facility getting operational at AIIMS would provide much-needed respite to the people. "It would be an important step towards ensuring access to advanced healthcare facilities closer to people's homes, reducing their dependence on hospitals outside the Union Territory."



She said Union Health Minister J P Nadda, who visited AIIMS Awantipora earlier this week to review the progress of the institute, had issued necessary directions to the concerned authorities for expediting the process and starting OPD services at the earliest.

The Health Minister further said she had raised the issue of increasing MBBS seats at AIIMS Awantipora from the existing 50 to 100 with the Union Health Minister, adding that the demand stands accepted.

Itoo said the increase in MBBS seats would create additional opportunities for aspiring medical students from Jammu and Kashmir while also strengthening the region's medical education infrastructure.

She added that she had also urged the Union Health Minister to ensure the availability of advanced medical machinery, modern diagnostic equipment and adequate infrastructure at the institute so that patients could receive specialised treatment without being compelled to travel to other states.

CANCER CASES INCREASING AT ALARMING RATE

Highlighting the growing burden of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir, Itoo said she had specifically requested the installation of advanced cancer diagnostic equipment at AIIMS Awantipora to facilitate early detection and timely treatment.

"Cancer cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Jammu and Kashmir. I have requested the Union Health Minister to ensure that advanced

machinery and diagnostic facilities, particularly for cancer detection, are made available at AIIMS Awantipora. Early diagnosis is crucial, as it can help patients receive timely treatment and improve their chances of recovery," she said.

She said the availability of modern diagnostic and treatment facilities at the institute would help strengthen the healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir and provide significant relief to patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections who often face difficulties travelling outside the Union Territory for specialised medical care.

7 drug peddlers arrested across Kashmir: Police

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 07: Police have arrested seven alleged drug peddlers in separate operations in Anantnag, Baramulla and Handwara districts of Kashmir, recovering heroin, charas and other narcotic substances from their possession, officials said on Saturday.

In Anantnag, Police Post Sangam apprehended Riyaz Ahmad Mir, son of Ab Rehman Mir, a resident of Khelen Litter, during naka checking and recovered heroin from his possession.

In a separate operation at Marhama, another police team from the same police post arrested Zubair Sultan Reshi, son of Mohd Sultan Reshi, a resident of Sether Sangam, and recovered charas from his possession.

Meanwhile, Police Post DK Pora apprehended Rayees Ahmad Khan, son of Gh Mohi-ud-Din Khan, a resident of Damhal, and recovered charas from his possession.

In two separate operations, Police Post Dialgam arrested Yawar Ahmad Gani, son of Mohd Iqbal Gani, and Ubaid Manzoor Doobi, son of Manzoor Ahmad Doobi. Both are residents of Fathepora. Charas was recovered during their personal searches.

In Baramulla, a police team intercepted a passenger vehicle (Sumo), bearing registration



number JK05N-9646, during a naka checking operation at Cheradari. The vehicle was travelling from Baramulla towards Chandoosa.

During checking, a passenger identified as Ubair Ahmad Mochi, son of Abdul Ahad Mochi, a resident of Kalantara Bala, was found carrying a bag containing two polythene packets of bhang-like substance weighing approximately 822 grams.

The police called the concerned Magistrate and independent witnesses to the spot and completed the requisite legal formalities, including seizure proceedings, in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

In Handwara, police intercepted a tipper bearing registration number JK05B-5479 during naka checking at Bataguind. Achara s-like substance concealed inside the vehicle's dashboard was recovered. The driver, identified as Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Gh Nabi Dar, a resident of Shanoo Langate, was arrested.

All seven accused have been taken into custody, and further investigation into the cases is underway. Police reiterated their commitment to intensifying the crackdown on drug trafficking and urged the public to cooperate in the collective fight against the drug menace.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my J&K Bank Account bearing No. 0006040100046028 as MIS INSHA NISAR D/o Nisar Ahmed Bhat while as per my Aadhaar & PAN Card my correct name is INSHA D/o Nisar Ahmad Bhat.

Now, I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the office of Manager J&K Bank Branch, Safa Kadal within 07 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Insha
D/o Nisar Ahmad Bhat
R/o Patlipora, Bala Chattabal
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khushboo Sultan, Daughter of Mohd Sultan Sheikh, Resident of Rajpora, Rajwar, hereby inform the general public that my name was previously recorded as Tabasum in the bank records, which has now been changed to Khushboo Sultan.

I am applying for the release of payment against my Fixed Deposit Account maintained with Kamraz Rural Bank. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid change of name may submit their objection to the Head Office, Kamraz Rural Bank, Sopore, within the stipulated period, failing which the bank may proceed with the necessary formalities for the release of payment.

008

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dilshad Akhtar, W/o Mohammad Shafi Wani, R/o Village Brenwar, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Dilshad a Akhtar" instead of my correct name Dilshad Akhtar, and my Date of Birth has also been incorrectly recorded as 18.03.1982 instead of my correct Date of Birth 11.06.1980 in my Aadhaar Card.

My correct name and Date of Birth are duly reflected in my school records and other educational documents, I have initiated the necessary process for correction of the aforesaid discrepancies in my Aadhaar records. Henceforth, my correct name shall be read as Dilshad Akhtar and my correct Date of Birth as 11.06.1980 for all official and other purposes.

Anyone having any objection to this correction may file their objections in writing within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Dilshad Akhtar
W/o Mohammad Shafi Wani
R/o Brenwar Tehsil Chadoora District Budgam
R-978

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Geeweerah Iqbal D/o Mohd. Iqbal Bandh, R/o Kaichkoot, Awantipora, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for a Fertilizer Licence for establishing a sales outlet under the trade name and style of "SALES-MAN-COOPRATIVE DEPUK-KOOT." Any person having any objection to the issuance of the said Fertilizer Licence may submit his/her objection, in writing, before the Chief Agricultural Officer, Pulwama, within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Geeweerah Iqbal
D/o Mohd. Iqbal Bandh
R/o Kaichkoot, Awantipora
(LOLI NEWS)



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Block Medical Officer Zachaldara

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

Sealed Tenders affixed with Rs. 10/- revenue stamp along with CDR worth Rs. 5,000/- pledged to Block Medical Officer Zachaldara are invited from authorized/registered dealers for supply of filled commercial gas LPG cylinders, preferably from Handwara and adjacent areas, under certain terms and conditions.

Cylinders should be sealed with requisite weight.
Supply in all weather conditions at short direction notice.
Rates should be maintained along with carriage.
Provision for replacement of domestic cylinders with commercial cylinders as per cost.

The tender should reach this office within five days after publication of this tender notice in the newspapers and will be opened on the same day at 3.00 p.m, or any subsequent day, as may be convenient by the purchasing committee nominated for the purpose in presence of renderers, who may like to be present.

The purchasing committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning reason thereof.

Complete mail address and phone number be also given on the tenders.

Cylinders will be only received after proper Weightage by concerned Store keeper and if found not as per weight schedule the concerned vendor will be blacklisted.

No. BMOZ/2026/527-28
Dated: -07-11-2026

Sd/-
Block Medical Officer
Zachaldara

R-979

Karnah Youth Festival 2026 witnesses massive public participation at Shaan-e-Tithwal Stadium



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED

Karnah,: The border subdivision of Karnah witnessed a grand celebration of youth, culture, sports and community spirit as the Karnah Youth Festival 2026 was organised at Shaan-e-Tithwal Stadium, Tithwal, on Saturday, drawing thousands of people from different parts of the region.

The festival turned into a vibrant gathering, with a large number of locals, youth, women, children, civil society representatives and visitors participating in the celebrations. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Karnah, the sporting potential of its youth and the message of unity, social harmony and national integration.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Abdul Rashid Qureshi, who warmly welcomed the dignitaries, guests and participants. The General Officer Commanding (GOC) arrived at the venue around 3 PM and was accorded a warm and traditional welcome. On the occasion, Abdul Rashid Lone presented a traditional cap to the GOC as a mark of respect and honour.

The programme featured an impressive Gatka performance, welcome Bhangra and a series of cultural presentations reflecting the diversity and artistic traditions of the region.

Artists from outside Karnah, including Srinagar, also participated in the festival, adding further attraction to the celebrations. The Yamberzal Dance Group presented captivating cultural performances and other artistic presentations, adding diversity to the cultural segment.

The Pahari Culture Centre presented special Pahari cultural performances, highlighting the rich traditions and heritage of the Pahari-speaking community. Popular local singer Shazia Basheer enthralled the audience with her melodious voice, while artist Abid Ali also presented musical performances, receiving appreciation from the gathering. The Shining Karnah Musical Band further entertained the audience with its energetic performance.

The Pahari Culture Centre also presented a special skit highlighting women empowerment and the Nasha Mukti campaign, conveying an important message against drug abuse and encouraging positive social change among the youth.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Abhishek Sharma, IAS, also attended the festival and interacted with the media. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the initiative taken by the Indian Army, stating that providing young people with opportunities in sports and constructive activities was a positive step towards keeping them away from drug abuse and engaging them in productive pursuits. He emphasised the importance of encouraging youth participation in sports and other positive activities.

One of the major attractions of the festival was the exhibition of stalls set up by various government departments and institutions. Departments including Agriculture and Horticulture, along with financial institutions such as the State Bank of India and Jammu and Kashmir Bank, participated in the event. The stalls provided visitors with information about departmental schemes, services, financial facilities and opportunities available to the local population.

The festival also witnessed a successful blood donation camp under the aegis of PSC 328 Field Hospital And SDH Kupwara where more than 100 people reportedly donated blood, making it an important contribution towards community welfare and humanitarian service. The enthusiastic participation in the blood donation drive reflected the spirit of voluntary service and social responsibility among the people of Karnah.

Sports competitions remained another major highlight of the celebrations. Girls participated in athletic events, including shot put and 100-metre races, while the inter-village tug-of-war final attracted considerable enthusiasm. The occasion also featured the distribution of mobility equipment among beneficiaries.

The prize distribution ceremony honoured winners and participants of various sporting events, including the Karnah T-20 Men's Cricket Tournament, Karnah Volleyball League, Girls Under-17 Badminton Competition, Karnah T-10 Girls Cricket Premier League, Girls Athletics Competition and Tug-of-War Competition.

The entire programme was anchored by Javed Qureshi, RJ Angela Khanim and Aaliya Khurshid, whose energetic presentation and effective coordination kept the audience engaged throughout the event. Their stage management and lively interaction added to the overall success of the celebrations.

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CoF North Kashmir inspects Jhelum Valley Forest Division, reviews ecotourism, conservation initiatives

Kashmir Press Service



BARAMULLA: Conservator of Forests, Kashmir North Circle, Sopore, Irfan Ali Shah, IFS, on Saturday conducted an extensive day-long inspection of Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Baramulla, to review ongoing developmental works, biodiversity conservation, plantation initiatives, ecotourism potential and forest protection measures.

The inspection, which commenced at 9 am from the Divisional Forest Office campus and concluded around 6:30 pm, covered various locations and facilities under the division.

The Conservator was accompanied by Divisional Forest Officer, Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Zahid Aslam Moghal; Deputy Director, Forest (Protection Force, Baramulla, Javed Iqbal; Range Officer Baramulla, Javed Iqbal Kerna; Range Officer Soft Farhan Mir and other concerned officers and field functionaries.

During the visit to the divisional campus, Shah inspected the newly constructed DFO Office, ongoing upgradation of the DFO Residence and other infrastructure facilities. He reviewed works executed during the current financial year and directed preparation of a comprehensive proposal for beautification and modernization of the Forest Department campus under the CAPEX budget for the next financial year.

At Central Nursery, Baramulla, he called for developing the facility into a high-tech forest nursery equipped with a modern mist chamber and improved plant-propagation infrastructure. He stressed species diversification, scientific seed and soil preparation, improved nursery beds and production of quality planting material, particularly of indigenous and ecologically important species.

He also directed preparation of a proposal for fencing, landscaping and planned development of old staff quarters and adjoining land along the River Jhelum.

Later, at Bosian Biodiversity and Conservation Unit in Doabgah Range, the Conservator reviewed conservation initiatives for rare, endangered and threatened (RET) species, particularly Himalayan Yew (Taxus baccata) and Chilgoza Pine (Pinus gerardiana).

The field establishment of nursery-raised Chilgoza Pine at the unit was highlighted as a pioneering initiative in the Kashmir Valley. Around 150 additional Chilgoza Pine saplings are proposed to be transplanted into the conservation plot during the current season. He also directed further propagation of Taxus species through vegetative cuttings.

On the occasion, Shah inaugurated a Guard Hut at Bosian and participated in a ceremonial plantation, marking the commencement of the Winter Plantation Programme 2026–27 in Baramulla.

Recognizing the area's ecotourism potential, he directed preparation of proposals for developing ecotrekking routes from Bosian towards Khadiyar and Rafiabad, besides establishing a Forest Rest House and environmentally compatible visitor facilities.

During the afternoon, the Conservator visited Namblan Waterfall in Baramulla Range, where he inaugurated ecotourism facilities and reviewed the potential of the approximately 29-kilometre Namblan–Botapathri–Gulmarg trekking route.

He called for preparing proposals for improvement of trekking trails, designated sitting areas, gazebos, wooden benches and pedestrian wooden bridges across streams, besides other eco-friendly amenities.

He observed that the proposed trekking corridor could provide a significant boost to sustainable tourism, environmental awareness and livelihood opportunities for local communities, subject to ecological safeguards and necessary technical approvals.

During the concluding phase of the inspection, Shah visited Fatehgarh Forest to assess forest protection arrangements and field vigilance. During the visit, two horses allegedly used for transporting illicit timber and firewood were seized, while two persons suspected of involvement in the forest offence were apprehended.

Further proceedings in the matter are being undertaken under the relevant provisions of forest laws.

SWD Srinagar organizes community awareness programmes

Kashmir Age New

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Srinagar, organized a series of Community Awareness Programmes at Khonikhan, Dalgate, with the objective of empowering women and community members through awareness, information and access to various government welfare initiatives.

A Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes was organized at Khonikhan, Dalgate. The programme aimed at educating participants about the importance of financial independence, responsible financial management, savings and awareness of various government-sponsored financial assistance and social security schemes. Participants were sensitized about the benefits, eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing these schemes so that eligible beneficiaries could avail themselves of the available government support.

Additionally, an awareness programme was organized at Mission POSHAN Zone Khonikhan on the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day 2026. Resource persons from the Department of Health imparted valuable information regarding cancer prevention, early warning signs, risk factors, preventive measures and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment. Special emphasis was laid on breast and cervical cancer awareness, regular health screenings and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

The programmes witnessed active participation from women and beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN. The participants were encouraged to utilize the information shared and disseminate awareness within their families and communities.

Sagar says power amnesty scheme in pipeline



Kashmir Age New

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 7: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Disaster Management and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today visited the 220/132/33 KV Grid Station at Alusteng to review the power supply scenario and assess the preparedness of the department for the upcoming winter months.

During the visit, the Minister took a detailed assessment of the functioning of the grid station, its existing capacity, power distribution arrangements and measures being undertaken to ensure adequate and reliable electricity supply to consumers, particularly in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

Emphasising the need for uninterrupted power supply during the winter months, the Minister directed the officers to minimise unscheduled power cuts and ensure that consumers are provided adequate electricity as per the prescribed curtailment schedule. He stressed that effective planning, timely maintenance and better coordination among field functionaries were essential to address the challenges associated with increased power demand during winter.

The Minister asked the Chief Engineers and other senior officers to maintain close coordination with local representatives and residents, regularly assess ground-level requirements and address public grievances promptly to ensure positive feedback from consumers. He also directed the officers to pay special attention to Kangan and adjoining areas and take appropriate measures to resolve issues related to power supply.

The Minister also stated that an amnesty scheme for electricity consumers is in the pipeline, adding that the proposal is under consideration.

The Minister was informed that the Alusteng Grid Station, having an existing transformation capacity of 320 MVA, caters to several areas of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts, including Alusteng, Shuhama, Nagbal, Gadoora, Tulbagh and adjoining areas through its associated receiving stations. To strengthen the transmission infrastructure and meet the growing power demand, the capacity of the grid station is proposed to be augmented from the existing 320 MVA to 475 MVA at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 56.78 crore.

Jashn-e-Harud celebrated with enthusiasm in Shopian

Kashmir Age New

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 07: The First-ever 'Jashn-e-Harud', organised by the District Administration Shopian, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in Shopian today, witnessing an overwhelming public response and huge participation from people from different parts of the district.

MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Deputy Commissioner Charandeep Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, other officers and people from all corners of Shopian participated in the festival.

The event showcased the rich heritage, vibrant culture, traditional art and timeless traditions of Shopian through a variety of activities and exhibitions.



A number of departmental and thematic stalls were set up on the occasion, showcasing various welfare schemes, developmental initiatives, local products, traditional crafts, artefacts, horticulture produce and achievements of different departments.

Cultural programmes, including traditional performances, folk songs, and other activities, further added colour to the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the unique significance of the Harud season for Shopian, described it as not merely a season but an integral part of the district's identity, deeply connected with its horticultural economy and way of life.

He said that Shopian is predominantly a horticultural district and Harud marks the period when farmers reap the fruits of their hard work. He added that for the people of Shopian, Harud represents not only an season but also an economic harvest, given the central role of horticulture in the district's economy.

The DC said that there is significant scope for further development of horticulture-related enterprises and value addition in the district. He emphasised the need to establish and promote more horticulture-based enterprises to generate employment, strengthen the local economy and provide greater returns to farmers.

He assured that the District Administration is committed to promoting horticulture-related enterprises and supporting initiatives aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the people.

RTO Kashmir reviews functioning of ARTO Office Bandipora

Kashmir Age New

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, Qazi Irfan today visited the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Bandipora, and reviewed its overall functioning, administrative performance and delivery of public services.



During the visit, the RTO reviewed various citizen-centric services, including issuance of driving licences, vehicle registration, permits and fitness certification. He also assessed the pendency of applications and progress in service delivery through the SARATHI and VAHAN portals.

Emphasising accountability and efficiency, the RTO directed the officers and officials to ensure timely disposal of applications in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act. He stressed that the public should not face unnecessary delays or repeated visits to the office for availing services.

The RTO also stressed transparency, proper record maintenance, public-friendly behaviour and regular monitoring of pending cases. He called for intensified enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules, with special focus on road safety and compliance with traffic regulations.

Mission Director NHM J&K reviews Health Sector in Anantnag

Inspects GMC Associated Hospital and SDH Achabal

Kashmir Age New

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 07: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Amir ul Shafi Khan, today visited District Anantnag and reviewed the implementation of various national health programmes and healthcare services in the district.



The Mission Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, Dialgam, attended by Principal GMC Anantnag, Heads of Departments, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers and district and block programme management teams.

During the meeting, he took a detailed review of key health programmes, including Maternal and Child Health, Routine Immunisation, JSY, JSSK, PMSMA, RBSK, National NCD Programme, Ambulance Services, Blood Bank Services, Dialysis Services, Critical Care Services, PM-ABHIM infrastructure projects and the DNB Programme at GMC Anantnag.

NDRF conducts tabletop exercise at Handwara, Zachaldara to strengthen disaster preparedness

Kashmir Age New

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 07: District Administration Kupwara organised a Tabletop Exercise in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Handwara and Zachaldara, aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness, enhancing inter-departmental coordination and ensuring an effective response to emergency situations.

The programmes were coordinated by Tehsil Handwara and Tehsil Zachaldara, with Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan, presiding over the session at Handwara and Revenue officials at Zachaldar. The exercise focused on reviewing disaster management plans, assessing the preparedness of concerned departments and discussing coordinated response mechanisms to deal with potential disasters and other emergency situations. The participating officials deliberated on the roles and responsibilities.

SSS Campaign launched from Sharshali Pampore to empower youth

Kashmir Age New

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: In a significant initiative aimed at empowering youth and opening new avenues for their personal, educational and economic development, the District Administration Pulwama today launched the district-wide SSS (Skill Development, Self-Employment and Sports/Studies) Campaign from Sharshali, Pampore.

The campaign is designed around three key pillars, focusing on equipping young people with employable skills, promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment, and encouraging greater participation in sports and education.

It aims to identify the aspirations, interests and potential of local youth and connect them with suitable opportunities, institutional support and various government-sponsored schemes.

The initiative follows the announcement made by District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, during a recent Block Diwas programme, wherein he highlighted the need for a dedicated campaign to guide, support and empower local youth through coordinated departmental efforts.

The launch programme was held under the overall supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushaq Ahmad Lone, with the active participation of various district and sectoral departments.

Under the Skill Development component, the campaign seeks to encourage youth to acquire practical, vocational and market-oriented skills that can enhance their employability and enable them to explore diverse career opportunities.

Through the Self-Employment component, aspiring entrepreneurs are being encouraged to establish their own ventures by accessing government-sponsored schemes, financial assistance, credit facilities, subsidies and necessary institutional guidance. The Sports and Studies component aims to provide opportunities to young people interested in sports, while also identifying those who have discontinued their education and facilitating their connection with suitable educational avenues. The initiative seeks to promote sporting talent through guidance, coaching and available facilities, while ensuring that educational aspirations are not left unaddressed.

On the occasion, various district and sectoral departments established dedicated stalls and interacted with visiting youth and members of the public, sensitising them about government schemes, welfare initiatives, skill development programmes, employment opportunities, financial assistance, subsidies and other available benefits.

Guidance regarding eligibility criteria, application procedures and registration facilities was also provided, with on-the-spot registrations and counselling facilitated wherever required.

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Bharat Ratna LK Advani Ji at 100!



BY SHRI NARENDRA MODI
(The Prime Minister of India)

Shri Lal Krishna Advani Ji enters the hundredth year of his life today, 8th November. This year, his birthday fittingly coincides with Diwali, a festival associated with Prabhu Shri Ram and the Diya at a time when we are marking 75 years since the inception of the Jana Sangh, 125th Jayanti of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and recently celebrated a hundred years of the RSS.

There are very few people whose lives have touched so many different chapters of modern India. Advani Ji was born on 8th November 1927, on Dev Deepawali. As a youngster in 1947, he experienced the pain of leaving behind his familiar world in Sindh. He rebuilt his life from scratch without bitterness. This trait of being able to build from scratch, against all odds, has stayed with him throughout. It was seen while he was strengthening the Jana Sangh and later building the BJP. His tenures as BJP President saw the Congress falling sharply from 400 to below 200 in 1989 and the BJP becoming the single largest party for the first time in 1996. Advani Ji nurtured generations of Karyakartas and gave the Party a clear foundation rooted in the principle of Nation First.

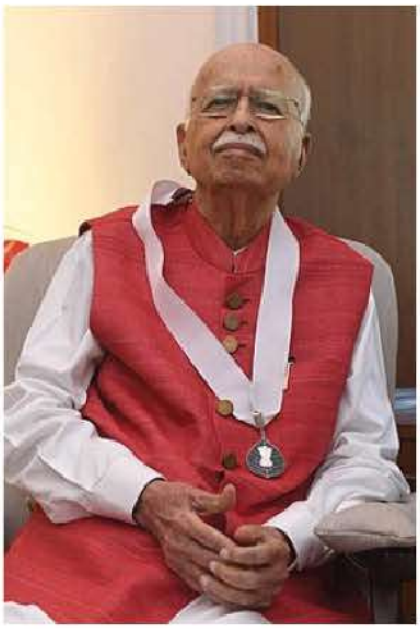
Two qualities always set Advani Ji apart as a leader. First, his ideological clarity and intellectual sharpness. This was reflected in his speeches and writings. The Jana Sangh and BJP resolutions he authored remain worth reading even today, while his interviews were consistently incisive and precise. Second, the manner in which he exposed the pseudo-secularism propounded by a large section of the Indian polity for many years.

Advani Ji took up every responsibility with immense diligence. As an RSS Pracharak, Advani Ji first worked in different parts of Rajasthan. From there, he went to the national capital, where he started working closely with Atal Ji. History shows that it is rare for two towering political leaders to work together for several decades, cooperating with each other without becoming competitors. Advani Ji and Atal Ji set a remarkable example. Together, they changed the course of Indian politics.

The Delhi that Advani Ji came to was coming to terms with the horrors of Partition. He immersed himself in making the Jana Sangh stronger. In 1967, Advani Ji became the Chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council, where he worked alongside the late Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji (who became Chief Executive Councillor).

In 1970, Advani Ji's Parliamentary innings began. His interventions have won appreciation across the political spectrum. He made a mark as an MP and later, as Leader of Opposition in both houses and from the treasury benches too. Despite parliamentary commitments, he frequently travelled across India meeting people.

I vividly recall the 1991 Lok Sabha elections. It was decided that Advani Ji would contest the Lok Sabha elections from two seats, one of which was Gandhinagar. He had an old link with Gujarat. His father had settled in Kutch after Partition. Advani Ji had also served as a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat. So, it was a homecoming of sorts. Being involved in the BJP organisation, I had the honour of helping prepare his papers and assisting him throughout the campaign. The people of Gandhinagar sent him to Parliament time and again. As a voter of Gandhinagar, I also had the honour of voting for Advani Ji



on numerous occasions. The care and attention he devoted to his constituency is something to learn from.

The Emergency was a watershed moment in Advani Ji's life. He was at the forefront of saving democracy and protecting the Constitution. His experiences found their way into his book, 'A Prisoner's Scrap-Book.' One part of that book, titled 'A Tale of Two Emergencies', beautifully explained the striking similarities between the events in India starting June 1975 and those in Nazi Germany in 1933.

Advani Ji was a fiery Opposition leader but an equally excellent administrator. When the Janata Government came to office in 1977, Advani Ji became Minister for Information and Broadcasting. It is widely accepted that his work in this department was extremely impactful. As Deputy Prime Minister and one of India's longest-serving Home Ministers, he was instrumental in strengthening India's security apparatus. His work in improving the lives of our security forces is remembered with great fondness. His unequivocal stand against terrorism ensured India got a tough anti-terror law.

Of course, an iconic moment in Advani Ji's life was the Somnath to Ayodhya Rath Yatra. It changed the course of Indian society for the better. I consider it a privilege that I got the opportunity to be involved in this Yatra from the ideation stage to execution. Being present at Somnath when the Yatra began was particularly special. A Yatra can be very demanding, requiring long hours, constant travel, physical endurance and an ability to remain focused despite fatigue. Advani Ji embodied this endurance.

I also have memories of the saddening moments of Advani Ji's arrest in Bihar. Then, in Gujarat, the BJP withdrew support from the Chimanbhai Patel Government. With this, a simple message was given, that when it comes to our ideology and the Ram Temple, there will never be any compromise. Many of our senior leaders and Karyakartas took an oath that, come what may, a Ram Temple will be built. And, years later, with the blessings of the people of India, a grand Mandir for Prabhu Shri Ram became a reality in Ayodhya.

There is so much more of Advani Ji that is outstanding. His simplicity, for example. After the Navnirman Movement, Advani Ji had come to Junagadh and stayed for a month as an ordinary Karyakarta, preparing the Party for the Assembly elections in which Congress was rejected. He has always shown what probity in public life is about. He is a voracious reader. Those who have spent time with him know how carefully he goes through newspapers. He is a big fan of cinema and theatre, and has been an enthusiastic film critic. His sense of history and the need to preserve it is visible in his book, 'My Country My Life.'

Advani Ji always remained in touch with Sindhi culture. Another effort he undertook was the popularisation of Sindhu Darshan Puja near Leh. I myself had been to one Puja with Advani Ji and George Fernandes Ji.

Any account of Advani Ji's remarkable journey would be incomplete without mentioning Kamla Advani Ji. She was a constant source of strength and support throughout his public life.

Growing up in Karachi, Advani Ji could hardly have imagined the path his life would take. In an expression of gratitude, the people of India conferred upon him the Bharat Ratna in 2024. As Advani Ji enters the hundredth year of his life, I pray that he be blessed with good health and that he continues to inspire us all as he has always done.

There are very few people whose lives have touched so many different chapters of modern India. Advani Ji was born on 8th November 1927, on Dev Deepawali. As a youngster in 1947, he experienced the pain of leaving behind his familiar world in Sindh. He rebuilt his life from scratch without bitterness. This trait of being able to build from scratch, against all odds, has stayed with him throughout. It was seen while he was strengthening the Jana Sangh and later building the BJP. His tenures as BJP President saw the Congress falling sharply from 400 to below 200 in 1989 and the BJP becoming the single largest party for the first time in 1996. Advani Ji nurtured generations of Karyakartas and gave the Party a clear foundation rooted in the principle of Nation First.

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

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Keeping Your Eyes Safe Amid Diwali Celebrations



DR. NIKHIL PRAJAPATI

Diwali celebrations bring lights, gatherings and festivities, but certain aspects of the celebrations can also affect eye health. Exposure to smoke and dust can cause irritation, while firecracker sparks, flying particles and chemical substances can lead to more serious injuries. Knowing the difference between temporary discomfort and symptoms that require medical attention can help prevent complications and protect your vision.

Smoke and air pollution can irritate the surface of the eyes, causing redness, watering, itching and a gritty sensation. People who already experience dry eyes or allergies may find these symptoms particularly uncomfortable during the festive season. Moving away from smoky surroundings and avoiding rubbing the eyes can help reduce irritation. If symptoms persist or worsen, an eye specialist should be consulted rather than relying on home remedies.

Dust and other foreign particles can also enter the eyes during outdoor celebrations. Rubbing the eyes may scratch the delicate surface and make the irritation worse. If a loose particle enters the eye, gently rinsing it with clean water may help remove it. However, if the particle remains stuck, appears embedded or causes significant pain, it should not be removed by force. Medical attention is necessary if discomfort continues or vision is affected.

Firecracker injuries require particular caution. Sparks, heat and flying debris can cause burns, scratches and damage to deeper structures of the eye. Such injuries can affect both people handling firecrackers and those watching from nearby. Maintaining a safe distance, following safety instructions and avoiding attempts to relight firecrackers that fail to ignite can reduce the risk. If an injury occurs, the eye should not be rubbed or pressed, and urgent medical assessment should be sought, even if the damage initially appears minor.

Chemical exposure is another concern. If a chemical or irritating substance enters the eye, rinse it immediately with plenty of clean running water and seek medical advice. Do not try to neutralise the substance with another product or apply unprescribed eye drops. If the injury involves a penetrating object, an embedded particle or significant trauma, avoid applying pressure or attempting to remove anything lodged in the eye and seek emergency care.

Certain symptoms should never be ignored, regardless of their cause. Sudden blurred vision or loss of sight, severe pain, marked sensitivity to light, bleeding or difficulty opening the eye may indicate a serious problem.



These symptoms warrant urgent medical attention rather than waiting to see whether they improve. Even when symptoms seem mild, persistent redness, watering or discomfort deserves attention if it does not settle.

Simple precautions can help reduce the likelihood of eye problems during Diwali. Keeping a safe distance from firecrackers, limiting exposure to heavy smoke, avoiding rubbing the eyes and taking care when handling substances that may cause irritation are all sensible steps. People should also avoid using home remedies or medication without knowing the cause of their symptoms, as these may delay appropriate treatment.

Diwali is a time to enjoy the celebrations with family and friends, and eye problems need not become an unwelcome part of the festivities. Taking a few precautions and getting eye problems checked without delay can help you enjoy the festive season without putting your vision at risk.

Author is Head of Clinical Services, Centre for Sight, Ahmedabad

Smoke and air pollution can irritate the surface of the eyes, causing redness, watering, itching and a gritty sensation. People who already experience dry eyes or allergies may find these symptoms particularly uncomfortable during the festive season.

The Forgotten Parents

Changing family values, modern lifestyles and the growing emotional distance between generations raise important questions



MUDASIR GANI KHAN

Success is one of the greatest aspirations in human life. Every parent dreams of seeing their children educated, independent, financially secure and respected in society. They work hard, make sacrifices and often put their own wishes aside to provide their children with better opportunities. However, an important social concern is gradually demanding our attention: Why do some parents experience loneliness and neglect when their children become successful?

This is not simply an issue concerning a few families. It reflects changing attitudes, weakening family relationships and the growing gap between generations.

Those 'Who Built Our Future, Why Are They Left Behind?

Behind every successful individual, there are often countless sacrifices made by parents. A father may spend his entire working life earning for his children's education and future, while a mother may sacrifice her comfort, sleep and personal aspirations to raise them.

Parents rarely calculate the cost of their sacrifices. Their greatest satisfaction comes from watching their children achieve something meaningful in life.

Unfortunately, after achieving professional and financial success, some children become so occupied with their careers, personal commitments and social lives that they gradually reduce their interaction with parents. Telephone conversations become less frequent, visits become occasional and family gatherings lose their earlier importance.

The people who once made their children's happiness their first priority sometimes begin waiting for a little attention from them.

Changing Family Structures and Modern Lifestyles

Traditionally, the joint family system played an important role in our society. Different generations



lived together, shared responsibilities and supported one another. Grandparents were respected members of the household, and their experience was considered valuable for family decisions and children's upbringing.

Today, education, employment, urbanisation and migration have transformed family structures. Many young people move to other cities or countries in search of better opportunities. Such decisions are often necessary for professional growth and should not automatically be considered a sign of neglect.

The real concern arises when physical distance gradually becomes emotional distance. Living separately does not mean forgetting parents. Regular communication, visits and emotional involvement can keep family relationships strong despite geographical separation.

Financial Support Is Not Enough

Some people believe that providing money, paying medical expenses or sending monthly financial assistance is sufficient to fulfil their responsibilities towards elderly parents. Although financial support is important, the emotional needs of older people deserve equal attention. Parents also need companionship, meaningful conversations, respect and the feeling that they remain an important part of their children's lives.

Sometimes, a simple telephone call, a family meal or a few minutes spent listening to their experiences can bring happiness to an elderly parent. Expensive gifts can not always replace genuine affection and personal attention.

Many parents hesitate to express their loneliness because they do not want to disturb their children's busy schedules. Their silence should not be mistaken for the absence of emotional needs.

The Role of Sons, Daughters and Other Family Members

Caring for elderly parents should not be considered the responsibility of sons alone. Daughters also have an equal emotional and moral role in maintaining relationships with their parents.

Teachers and parents have an important role in developing these values among children. Schools can organise discussions and activities highlighting the importance of grandparents, elderly people and intergenerational relationships.

A highly qualified individual may achieve professional excellence, but education becomes truly meaningful when it also develops a sense of humanity and social responsibility.

Respecting the Dignity of Elderly Parents

Caring for parents does not mean limiting their independence or making decisions without considering their opinions. Elderly people deserve dignity, privacy and respect for their personal choices.

They should be treated as valued members of the family, not as burdens or responsibilities that must simply be managed.

At the same time, parents and children should understand each other's circumstances, professional commitments and personal needs. Strong relationships grow through communication, patience and mutual respect.

Let us make time for our parents, listen to their concerns, respect their experiences and ensure that they never feel forgotten.

The real success of children is not measured only by the positions they achieve or the wealth they accumulate, but also by the dignity, love and happiness they bring into the lives of their parents. A successful child should never become the reason for a parent's loneliness.

Why heatwaves hit women harder



EMILY ATKINSON



Overwhelmed, irritable, dizzy, bloated, exhausted.

These are the words coming up frequently in comments sent to the BBC by women who, having barely recovered from the record-breaking heat in June, are bracing for more hot weather.

Extreme heat can affect anyone. But heatwaves are a "stress-test" for women's cardiovascular systems, and hit them harder than men, Dr Nighat Arif, an NHS GP who specialises in women's health, told the BBC.

Women may also be marginally more vulnerable to heatwave-related death than men, though more evidence is needed, said Dr Cat Pinho-Gomes, an academic public health consultant at UCL's Institute for Global Health.

So as climate change drives increasingly intense and frequent heatwaves to the UK, experts are calling for better awareness of the risks to women and more targeted efforts to protect them.

Biologically, women's greater risk comes down to two things: the natural rise and fall of our hormone levels and our body's response to heat, which are different to men's, Dr Arif said.

Women produce less sweat and start sweating at a higher temperature, research – including this 2025 study – shows.

This impairs our ability to quickly shed excess heat and makes it harder to judge when our bodies are under burden, simply because we can't see as much sweat on our skin or clothing.

The same research found that women also have a higher core body temperature and body fat percentage than men, which acts like an extra insulating layer.

Now combine this with the natural fluctuations of women's hormones, which already put our brain's temperature regulation systems "out of kilter", according to Dr Arif.

Our levels of oestrogen and progesterone shift most substantially during the menstrual cycle, perimenopause, menopause, pregnancy and while breastfeeding – which can make you less able to regulate your temperature.

All of this is hard work for our cardiovascular systems, especially in hot weather.

But it's not just biology that puts us more at risk, said Dr Pinho-Gomes, co-author of a review into sex differences in heatwave-associated deaths.

Our socioeconomic circumstances – such as being lower paid or the most likely caregiver to loved ones – can have an even greater impact on how well we are able to look after ourselves in hot weather, she said.

Age is another factor. The older you are, the more vulnerable you are to heat – and since women live longer on average than men, we are more at risk of health impacts, Dr Pinho-Gomes explained.

Elderly people are also more susceptible to dementia, which can limit the ability to recognise thirst, or conditions that require diuretics, used to lower blood pressure – both of which can further expose you to heat stress, she said.

As hormone levels dip and rise throughout your menstrual cycle, so does your sensitivity to heat, Dr Arif explained.

Progesterone rises during the second half of your cycle, before your period begins. This can raise core body temperature, only adding to the discomfort when you're already hot, she said.

Then the period hits and oestrogen – the hormone which drives your thermoregulatory system – drops to its lowest level, putting more pressure on your heart to cool down.

"I bled a normal amount but noticed a big increase in fatigue, dizziness, anxiety and sleepless nights," said Michaela Finn, from north London, who was on her period during the late June heatwave.

"My shifts at work landed on the same days, too. During my morning shower, I felt faint; I had to be realistic and call in sick. My body was completely exhausted, aching and cramping."

Charlie Paddock, 27, from south London, also said she "nearly fainted twice and the hot flushes were unreal", while Jess Allingham, 26, said she was "absolutely exhausted, more than normal", and had "total brain fog".

When you lose blood through menstruation, you also lose iron, which can affect your sleep, Dr Arif highlighted.

Low iron – which studies show is especially common for women with heavy periods – also affects oxygen delivery, giving our cardiovascular systems even more work, she said.

Hot flushes and night sweats are common for perimenopausal and menopausal women due to lowering oestrogen, according to Dr Arif.

The same can happen for women put in a chemical or surgical menopause, which is used to treat hormone-sensitive cancers and major gynaecological conditions, such as endometriosis and polycystic ovarian syndrome (PMOS).

During a heatwave, you may have more frequent and severe hot flushes and night sweats, Dr Arif said – which, according to a study on the impact of climate change on menopause, could be further exacerbated by global warming.

"Truly horrendous, especially at night time," is how Hilary Serif, 57, from Cheshire, characterised her hot flushes during the June heatwave.

"You're dozing off and then it hits you from nowhere. You're already warm, there's no relief at all. It's like a double whammy. The good old HRT helps a lot but doesn't control it."

Dr Rosaline West, 41, from Kettering, who is perimenopausal, said enduring the heatwave "was just about survival".

"I was regularly changing my underwear, and by the end... my friend and I had just given up on bras altogether because of that sweatiness, that discomfort."

Pregnancy can make you more prone to heat stress

Pregnant women have a harder time regulating body temperature due to increased metabolic heat and fluid needs, which can make you more prone to heat stress, according to research published in the Lancet earlier this year.

Fluctuating progesterone levels during early to mid-pregnancy can make you hotter, the same study shows. It then rises, along with oestrogen, during the latter stages, bringing your body temperature back down.

Your size also makes a difference. "Obviously, there is more cardiovascular burden on the body the bigger you are, because you're carrying a human inside you," Dr Arif explained.

The research also suggests that heat stress may increase the likelihood of adverse outcomes for the mother and child, particularly in higher-risk pregnancies.

Jess Bloom, 35, is expecting a baby at the end of July. "Being heavily pregnant in the thick of summer, it's hell – it's literally hell," she said.

She's explored sleeping on the kitchen floor and having a cold bath every night. "Sometimes a Mars ice cream would join me," she added.

Heat exposure has been linked to a higher risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, especially among women, a major review of studies on the effects of heat exposure found.

During heatwaves, the added strain on our hearts can cause our blood pressure to lower, which combined with the loss of fluids and salt from sweating, can lead to heat exhaustion.

If blood pressure drops too low, the risk of heart attacks also rises.

Dr Arif advised: "Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke... drink plenty of fluids, have your fans, your cooling stuff. Make sure you do your exercise before sunrise or after sunset. Use sun cream, track your periods.

"Treat the heat like a cardiovascular stress-test," she said. Slow down, take care of your body.

She also urged employers, colleagues and policymakers to be "more mindful" of women's sensitivity to hot weather.

Dr Pinho-Gomes agreed, adding: "We need more women sitting at the decision table... in positions of power and influence", who will be more aware of women's needs than men.

"This is not a woman's problem," Dr Arif said. "This is a societal problem. If we get it right for women, we get it right for everyone." (Source: BBC)

Biologically, women's greater risk comes down to two things: the natural rise and fall of our hormone levels and our body's response to heat, which are different to men's, Dr Arif said.

Force Motors to launch EV on Traveller platform in Q4 FY27

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 7: Force Motors plans to launch an electric model on its Traveller platform in the January-March period next year, according to a senior company official.

An electric ambulance is expected to be among the first set of offerings.

Electric vehicles on the Traveller platform have been developed and are undergoing final testing and homologation, Managing Director Prasan Firodia told PTI.

"We are scheduled to launch our electric vehicles on the Traveller platform in the first quarter of next calendar year," he said without disclosing further details.

"Our Traveller electric vehicles are currently under homologation. So, they are already developed. They are under homologation with ARAI and under final testing. Force Motors had showcased an electric variant of Traveller at the Auto Expo in 2024, but has not started sales yet."

The company plans to introduce multiple Traveller EV variants, followed by an electric version of its Urbania people carrier.

Urbania EV is under development and has a few months remaining before homologation, he said, adding that it plans to electrify its other platforms in stages.

Firodia said electric vehicle adoption in the passenger-carrier segment, particularly vehicles under seven metres, is still at

an early stage and the pace of adoption would be gradual.

He said the economics has to work for customers, while range limitations and charging infrastructure remain major hurdles for vehicles used on varied routes.

"I do not expect that the EV transition for us will be something very rapid like what you have seen in passenger cars or the significant transition that has taken place in two-wheelers or three-wheelers. In our segment, transition will happen, but it will be a slow transition comparatively," he said.

According to him, school transport could be the one to shift to electric vehicles sooner because routes and daily distances are more predictable.

Vehicles used for tourism and travel can cover changing routes, making operating costs and charging needs harder to estimate.

The Traveller range serves healthcare, education, employee transport, tourism and other passenger-transport uses. Its applications include ambulances, school buses, police vans and delivery vehicles.

IL JIN Electronics files draft papers for Rs 2,500-cr IPO



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: IL JIN Electronics (India) Ltd, an arm of Amber Enterprises India Ltd, has filed preliminary papers with the market regulator Sebi to raise Rs 2,500 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO is entirely a fresh issue of equity shares, with no offer for sale (OFS) component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) dated November 6.

The company plans to use the proceeds to repay or prepay certain outstanding borrowings, including accrued interest, availed by the company and its subsidiaries, Ascent Circuits and Shogini Technoarts. The funds will also be used to purchase plant, machinery, and equipment for its manufacturing units, as well as for general corporate purposes. IL JIN Electronics is a vertically integrated, technology-driven electronics design and manufacturing company operating across four business verticals -- electronics manufacturing services (EMS), bare printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing, power electronics and industrial automation.

The company is a subsidiary of Amber Enterprises India Ltd, a major player in India's room air-conditioner original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and original design manufacturer (ODM) industry.

IL JIN Electronics operates 11 manufacturing facilities, including 10 in India and one in Israel. Its Indian facilities are located in Noida and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharashtra, Chennai and Hosur in Tamil Nadu, and Bengaluru in Karnataka.

Six additional manufacturing facilities are currently under construction and are expected to support its future capacity expansion.

On the financial front, IL JIN Electronics' revenue from operations rose to Rs 3,268.47 crore in FY26 from Rs 1,240.41 crore in FY24. Its EBITDA grew from Rs 321.07 crore in FY26 from Rs 71.42 crore in FY24.

India focused on becoming world's AI application capital: Vaishnaw

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 7: India remains focused on becoming the application capital of the world for artificial intelligence (AI), Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said today.

Global technology stocks plunged on Friday amid fears that tighter AI regulations following Democrats' victory in the US midterm elections could slow investments.

Responding to a question on the global meltdown in AI stocks and whether the situation presents an opportunity for India, Vaishnaw said the industry is witnessing a period of rapid change and uncertainty.

"The AI industry is going through a very tumultuous, and very, very rapidly changing environment. In this kind of environment, there will be many changes which come," the minister said.

He said India's focus remains on deploying AI across sectors and building applications that can bring about large-scale transformation.

"We are very focused on making India the application capital of the world," Vaishnaw said, pointing to the use of AI models in enterprises and their potential to transform agriculture, healthcare and education.

India, EU conclude multi-billion Euro global innovation programme

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 7: India and the European Union have concluded negotiations on New Delhi's association with a Euro 93.5 billion flagship research and innovation programme, paving the way for expanded collaboration under their broader strategic partnership.

The decision comes weeks before India and the 27-nation bloc are set to seal a landmark free trade agreement -- billed as the "mother of all deals" -- to create a market of two billion people.

The European Commission and India have successfully concluded negotiations on New Delhi's association to Horizon Europe programme, the EU said.

This marks an important step forward for EU-India relations, strengthening scientific cooperation, creating new opportunities in research, and deepening the strategic partnership, it said.

India's association with the Horizon programme is seen as part of the comprehensive strategic agenda of the two sides for the next five years.

For researchers, businesses and research organisations across Europe, India's association will open up more opportunities to collaborate with Indian partners and build lasting scientific and technological links, the EU said.



Once the agreement is signed and the necessary procedures are completed on both sides, researchers and organisations in India will be able to receive funding directly from Horizon Europe and lead collaborative projects under its Pillar II: 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', it said.

This is the largest part of the programme which funds collaborative, multi-national research and innovation projects tackling societal and technological issues, such as health, digital, industry, space, climate, energy, and bioeconomy.

The EU said the move will create new opportunities for European and Indian partners to pool expertise, develop technologies and address shared challenges.

Association is the closest form of cooperation offered by the EU to non-EU countries under Horizon Europe.

E20 petrol supplied by PSU oil firms meets prescribed quality standards: Oil Min



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: The Government on Saturday defended the 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol programme, saying tests of 893 samples collected across 27 states and Union Territories, including 56 in Karnataka, found them compliant with prescribed quality standards, as state-run oil companies challenged the Karnataka government's claims of excessive ethanol content in fuel sold at some retail outlets.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in a statement, said Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) had found ethanol content in all 893 samples within the prescribed 19-21 per cent range under the Bureau of Indian Standards' IS 17021 specification.

The 56 samples tested in Karnataka, covering different locations and all three oil marketing companies (OMCs), recorded ethanol content of 19-20 per cent, averaging 19.30 per cent, the ministry said.

The findings directly contradict a recent press release by Karnataka's Department of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology, which claimed that petrol samples collected from certain retail outlets in the state contained 26-31 per cent ethanol.

The three OMCs have questioned the sampling and testing procedures adopted in Karnataka's October 2026 exercise, arguing that the reported results cannot be independently validated without compliance with prescribed statutory procedures and disclosure of the technical details of the tests.

The dispute comes at a time when India's nationwide E20 programme, aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil and lowering emissions, has come under scrutiny over concerns about vehicle mileage, engine compatibility and the potential cost to consumers.

Stock markets on fire; Sensex jumps 1,718 points, Nifty reclaims 25,000

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 7: Benchmark indices registered their seventh day of rally on Friday, defying a global market rout, with the Sensex climbing 1,718 points and the Nifty regaining the 25,000 level, as sustained foreign fund inflows and easing crude oil prices boosted optimism among investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,718.01



points, or 2.17 per cent, to settle at the day's high of 81,028.02.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 490.75 points, or 2.01 per cent, to end at the day's high of 25,030.35.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra climbed 6.15 per cent after the automaker on Thursday reported a 25 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the second quarter ended September to Rs 4,587.88 crore, backed by strong revenue growth, particularly for the auto segment, despite headwinds emanating from the West Asia conflict-linked commodity price pressures.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the winners.

Power Grid was the only laggard from the blue-chip pack.

In the past seven consecutive sessions, the Sensex has surged 7,781.99 points, or 10.62 per cent, and the Nifty rallied 2,331.5 points, or 10.27 per cent.

On Thursday, the Sensex zoomed 2,008.61 points, or 2.60 per cent, to settle at 79,310.01. The Nifty surged 576 points, or 2.40 per cent, to end at 24,536.60.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.50 per cent to USD 96.82 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 14,974.68 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi tanked 6.02 per cent and Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 5.96 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended over 1 per cent lower.

Markets in Europe were trading in negative territory. The US equity markets ended sharply lower on Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite tumbled 5.52 per cent, the S&P 500 dropped 4.36 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3.44 per cent.

"Indian equities defied a global rout, extending their winning run as investors treated the home market as a relative safe harbour amid turmoil abroad. Wall Street was hammered by a sharp tech sell-off as investors weighed the prospect of tougher regulation under Democrats," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. (PTI)

Airtel surpasses Jio Platforms to become India's second most valuable company again

United News of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 6: Bharti Airtel has reclaimed its position as India's second-most valuable listed company, overtaking Jio Platforms in terms of market capitalisation, following a rise in its share price today.

Shares of Bharti Airtel gained 1.66 per cent to close at Rs



2,096.25 on the BSE. During the trading session, the stock advanced as much as 2.81 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,120.

In contrast, Jio Platforms shares declined 0.90 per cent to settle at Rs 1,405.75. The stock had fallen as much as 2 per cent to an intraday low of Rs 1,390 during the session.

With the new arrangement coming into place, the top five order in the market capitalisation (mcap) ranking are Reliance Industries with a valuation of Rs 17,83,723.93 crore, Bharti Airtel Rs 13,08,165.03 crore, Jio Platforms Rs 12,94,559.51 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 12,14,530.78 crore and ICICI Bank Rs 11,26,722.63 crore.

Notably on Thursday, Bharti Airtel reported a 24 per cent increase in consolidated profit to Rs 10,710 crore in the second quarter ended September 2026, citing higher per-user revenue after a rejig in mobile phone tariffs.

Gold may glitter at Rs 1.68 lakh as global uncertainties bolster outlook: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: Gold prices in the domestic market could climb to Rs 1.60-1.68 lakh per 10 grams over the next 6-12 months, with price corrections offering buying opportunities amid sustained investment demand and central-bank purchases, according to a report.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), in its latest precious metals quarterly report, projected international gold prices to reach USD 4,500-4,700 per ounce in the medium term, while domestic prices could touch Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the short term.

In its report titled 'Gold's Rally: Deferred, Not Derailed', MOFSL said precious metals have witnessed volatility in 2026 following an exceptional rally in the previous year, amid changing expectations around US interest rates, persistent inflation, elevated bond yields and geopolitical developments.

Unlike the largely one-directional rally in 2025,



International gold prices surged to a record of nearly USD 5,600 per ounce in January 2026 before correcting below USD 4,000 and subsequently recovering. Silver also rallied beyond USD 100 per ounce before witnessing a sharper correction. Fluctuations in the rupee-dollar exchange rate further added to volatility in domestic bullion prices.

precious metals have experienced sharper price swings this year, reflecting changing global macroeconomic conditions and monetary policy expectations, it added. In the domestic market, gold prices during Diwali have risen from around Rs 30,000 per 10 grams recorded in 2016 to nearly Rs 1.5 lakh in 2026, highlighting the significant.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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Three arrested for arranging bank accounts for cyber fraud gangs

Press Trust Of India



KOCHI, NOV: Kochi City Cyber Police have arrested three persons for allegedly collecting bank account details and documents from individuals and supplying them to gangs involved in financial frauds across the country, police said on Saturday.

The arrested were identified as Vipin Vincent (32) of Thoppumpady, Ajith Varghese (27) of Kumbalangi, both in Ernakulam district, and Mohammed Roshan (28) of Alathur in Palakkad district.

The accused allegedly lured people with offers of money in exchange for their bank accounts and collected their passbooks, ATM cards and cheque books before handing them over to gangs involved in cyber fraud activities, police said.

The arrests were made by a joint team of Kochi City Cyber Police and Cyberdome following cyber patrolling initiated on the directions of City Police Commissioner R Nishanthini to strengthen action against cybercrimes.

The accused were arrested near the Ernakulam KSRTC bus stand while allegedly collecting bank account details from other persons, police said.

Police said the accused communicated with one another through fake profiles created on various social media platforms.

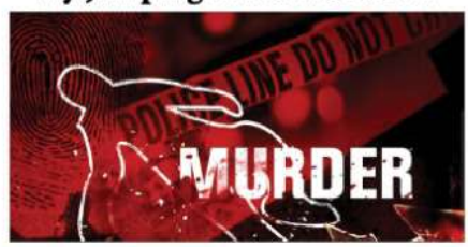
Police said that Vincent has two cases registered against him at Koothattukulam and Aroor police stations for similar offences, while a case is registered against Ajith Varghese at Veeyapuram police station. Police are also examining whether cases have been registered against the accused in other states.

Further investigation is underway to identify other members of the alleged network and establish the extent of its operations.

Commissioner Nishanthi niwarned that strict legal action would be taken against those who hand over their banking credentials for easy money and those acting as interrnediaries in such transactions. Police said that Vincent has two cases registered against him at Koothattukulam and Aroor police stations for similar offences, while a case is registered against Ajith Varghese at Veeyapuram police station. Police are also examining whether cases have been registered against the accused in other states.

Further investigation is underway to identify other members of the alleged network and establish the extent of its operations.

Man murders wife in Palghar's Nalasopara, ends life by jumping in front of train



Press Trust Of India

PALGHAR, NOV 7 : A man allegedly murdered his wife over suspicion about her character in Nalasopara in Palghar district on Saturday and then ended his life by jumping in front of a train in south Mumbai, a police official said.

The Nalasopara police station official identified the deceased as Takipada residents Majid Khan (50) and his wife Tabassum Khan (41).

"Tabassum conducted tuition classes at home. Majid grew suspicious of her character because the fathers of several of her students frequently visited their house, which routinely triggered arguments between the couple," he said.

Early this morning, Khan strangled Tabassum and then fled the house, the official added.

"He then travelled to Grant Road railway station in south Mumbai and ended his life by jumping in front of a moving train. A case of murder has been registered against Khan. Further probe into the murder and suicide is underway," the official said.

Missing Bihar constable found dead in river after clash with suspected drug smugglers

Press Trust Of India

JEHANABAD, NOV 7 : A police constable was found dead in Dardha river in Bihar's Jehanabad district on Saturday, two days after he went missing during a clash with suspected drug smugglers while attempting to arrest a supplier, officials said.

The body of the Tiger Mobile constable, identified as Dhaneshwar, was recovered near a Chhath ghat under Kako police station limits.

Jehanabad SP Kota Kiran Kumar said three Tiger Mobile personnel from Jehanabad Town police station had gone to SS College following information that a drug supplier from Belaganj in neighbouring Gayaji district was arriving to deliver a consignment of smack.

A clash broke out between the police personnel and members of the alleged drug trafficking gang when the constables tried to apprehend the supplier, he said. Two of the three personnel managed to arrest the supplier and take him to the police station, while Dhaneshwar went missing during the confrontation, Kumar added.

Two arrested for stealing ventilators from hospital in Telangana

Press Trust Of India



HYDERABAD, NOV 7 : Two persons were arrested for allegedly stealing four ventilators from the government-run RIMS hospital in Adilabad, as part of an inter-state medical equipment theft racket, police said on Saturday.

On October 30, two persons, identified as Sajjan Basanth M and Abhijit, residents of Chandrapur in Maharashtra, entered the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Adilabad, posing as medical technicians, Adilabad District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan said in a press release.

They stole four ventilators from wards on the hospital's second floor, where critically ill patients were receiving emergency treatment, he said.

The stolen equipment was subsequently transported to Maharashtra, he said.

The accused later contacted Konda Reddy, a Hyderabad-based medical equipment sales and service dealer, to sell the ventilators.

Despite knowing that the equipment had been stolen, Reddy agreed to purchase it and travelled to Chandrapur, Mahajan said.

While the accused were transporting the equipment towards Hyderabad in a car, police personnel conducting vehicle checks near the Adilabad Regional Transport Office (RTO) noticed their suspicious movements, he said. When the occupants attempted to flee upon noticing the police, they were intercepted and taken into custody, he added.

Man shot dead by neighbour over parking dispute in Faridabad; main accused arrested

Press Trust Of India

FARIDABAD, NOV 7 : A 42-year-old man working with a private company in Singapore was allegedly shot dead by his neighbour over a parking dispute in Sector 21C here, police said on Saturday.

The accused allegedly fired around 15 rounds at Paramjeet Dhankhar with his licensed pistol on Friday night, with nine bullets hitting him. He died on the spot, police said, adding that the main accused has been arrested.

According to police, Dhankhar's family lives on the first floor of a building in Sector 21C, while the accused, identified as Monu Sharma, lives on the third floor of the same building.

The two families had a dispute over a dog defecating in the parking lot and the parking of vehicles, police said.

On Friday night, when Dhankhar returned from the gym and asked Sharma to move his car from its designated parking spot, the latter allegedly opened fire at him.

The accused fled with his family after the incident. Police reached the spot after receiving information from Dhankhar's son, Shaurya, and recovered cartridge cases.

Dhankhar, who lived in Singapore, had arrived in India on November 5 to celebrate Diwali with his family. He was also scheduled to attend his nephew's wedding on November 24.

One Home Guard personnel among 10 held for selling newborn; baby rescued

Press Trust Of India



THANE, NOV 7 : Police in Maharashtra's Thane have arrested 10 members of a gang, including a Home Guard personnel, involved in selling a newborn baby, and rescued the infant, an official said on Saturday.

The personnel from the Mumbra police station rescued the 20-day-old infant unharmed on Friday, within 24 hours of receiving the complaint, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-1) Balasaheb Patil said at a press conference.

The complainant, 19-year-old Anisa Rafiq Shaikh, who earns her living by seeking alms near the Mumbra railway station, was coerced by an accused, identified as Rehan Rizwan Shaikh (22), into selling her baby boy for Rs 2.5 lakh, he said.

Rehan initially handed over Rs 1.2 lakh to Anisa. However, he and his associate later beat Anisa and her sister and forcibly took the money back, he added.

Following the incident, a case was registered at the Mumbra police station on November 5, 2026, under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 143(3), 143(4), 308(2), 61(2), 309(6), 352, 115(2), and 351(2).

A police team was formed to track down the gang and rescue the child.

Within 24 hours, police apprehended from Thane seven suspects — Jyoti Naresh Patil (35), Rehan Rizwan Shaikh (22), Farhan alias Feraz Rehan Shaikh (21), Farida Akbar Sayyed (52), Hurna alias Husna Altaf Shaikh (27), Anita Gopinath Dhotre (42) and Sunita Pravin Khairnar (30).

Further investigation led the police team to Jalna district, where they detained Gopinath Kisan Dhotre (46), a Home Guard stationed in Mumbai's Ghatkopar, who assisted in the child's sale.

Simultaneously, another team located the infant in Ratnagiri and brought the child back safely to Thane.

The remaining two accused, Pratima Prakash Parab (46) of Dombivli (West) and Shilpa Pradeep Sathe (34) of Diva, were arrested on November 6.

The police are presently probing whom the child was sold, the official said.

Man who alleged fake sports certificate in police recruitment hangs self; kin claim harassment

Press Trust Of India



BEED, NOV 7 : A 28-year-old police aspirant who had complained about the alleged fraudulent selection of an applicant into the force under the sports quota, triggering an inquiry, committed suicide in Maharashtra's Beed district after recording a voice note naming those responsible for driving him to take the extreme step, an official said on Saturday.

Vaibhav Chhagan Chavan (28), a resident of Navgan Rajuri in Beed tehsil, was found hanging from a tree near a temple on the outskirts of Imampur village on November 5, the official said, adding that he had recorded the voice note on November 1.

Chavan, who had been preparing for the police recruitment examinations for the past three-and-a-half years, had complained recently about the selection of one Nagnath Sable under the sports quota. Chavan had alleged Sable had submitted a sports certificate from Kurash association and that it was fake, the official informed. "He had lodged an official complaint with the Commissioner of Sports and Youth Services in Balewadi, Pune, resulting in an inquiry into the alleged fake sports certificate scam. Chavan's family has told police that he was being harassed and intimidated for being a whistleblower," the official said.

A case of abetment of suicide and other offences was registered against Sable, Kurash association and others under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on Friday night, he said. "The voice note has been sent for forensic analysis. A probe into the alleged fake sports certificate racket is also underway. No arrest has been made so far," Beed Rural police station inspector Somnath Jadhav said.

MP criminal arrested with pistol in Maharashtra's Beed

Press Trust Of India

BEED, NOV 7 : The Local Crime Branch of Beed Police on Saturday arrested a 42-year-old history-sheeter from Madhya Pradesh and recovered a country-made pistol from his possession, officials said.

Police also recovered two live rounds from Karan Durga Bhatnagar (42), a resident of Indore, who was intercepted outside a travel firm's office in Shivaji Chowk area, an official release said.

Bhatnagar had a criminal record, it said, adding that Amalner Police in Maharashtra had booked him in an alleged attempt to murder case in 2020. He also had a case under the Arms Act registered against him at Jamkhed police station in Ahilyanagar district in 2021.

A fresh case was registered against him under the Arms Act upon his arrest in Beed and further probe was on, the release said.

Allahabad HC directs FIR registration against IO for fabricating reasons of arrest

Press Trust Of India

PRAYAGRAJ (UP), NOV 6 : The Allahabad High Court has directed the Farrukhabad superintendent of police to register an FIR against an investigating officer, after finding that he appeared to have inserted additional particulars in the 'reasons for arrest' column in a case at a later point in time.

A bench comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Achal Sachdeva was of the view that the investigating officer appeared to have committed an offence under Chapter XIV of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with false evidence and offences against public justice.

Hearing a habeas corpus petition, the court also declared the arrest of the accused-petitioner unlawful and ordered his immediate release, while holding that the reasons for arrest and grounds of arrest had not been communicated to him in accordance with law.



According to the arrest memo, the petitioner, Mohammad Yaseen of Farrukhabad, was arrested on September 14, 2026.

Yaseen's petition claimed that he had actually been taken into custody on September 13, when he had gone to the police station along with his lawyer to join an investigation into the death of the complainant's daughter.

The complainant's daughter had allegedly died by suicide on account of harassment by the petitioner. The court concerned had also rejected Yaseen's bail application.

The high court found that the arrest memo placed on record was deficient in material particulars related to the reasons for his arrest.

However, the state submitted that the reasons for arrest had been separately prepared and supplied to the petitioner on September 14, 2026, and that the document purportedly bore his signature.

Vijayapura murder: Prime accused shot at, arrested

Press Trust Of India

VIJAYPURA (KARNATAKA), NOV 7 : The prime suspect in the murder of a man who was gunned down two days ago in this district was shot at and arrested on Saturday after he pointed a pistol at them, police said.

The accused, identified as Samir Mulla, allegedly pointed the country-made pistol at the police team and attempted to flee, they said. Mul la was shot at in his leg.

During the scuffle, a policeman was also injured. Both the injured accused and the policeman are stated to be in stable condition, police said.

According to police, Yasin Zubair, a resident of Takike locality in Vijayapura taluk, was shot dead by a group of assailants outside Mundewadi Hospital on the evening of November 5 while he was leaving after getting his wife medically examined.

Superintendent of Police Laxman B Nimbargi said four people have been arrested so far in connection with the killing of Zubair.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say.... come what may"
SRINAGAR | SUNDAY
08-NOVEMBER-2026
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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Rajnath

discretion that we can foil every attempt of the enemy," Singh added.

He also underscored the importance of discipline and conduct, saying the behaviour of personnel at their respective postings shaped public perception of the armed forces.

"Your discipline is your greatest strength. Whatever post you are stationed at, your conduct, your uniform, your language, and your restraint shape the image of the armed forces in the minds of the local people," Singh said.

He advised the personnel to strengthen their ties with civilians.

"The more you engage with local civilians, the weaker the adversaries' conspiracies will become," the minister said.

Singh said his visit to the Bagdogra airbase was made with the intent to share his Diwali greetings with the airforce personnel and expressed his gratitude to the families of the jawans who remained separated from their loved ones during the festivities.

"I am aware that you must be missing your families during this festive season. But I also know you have buried those emotions in your hearts and have dedicated yourself to safeguarding the nation. I salute your austerity and believe that words will fall short in describing your sacrifice," the defence minister told the personnel in uniform.

Singh underscored the strategic importance and sensitivity of the Bagdogra air base, calling it an integral component of India's defence network to oversee strong security of the north-eastern region.

"Your deployment at this station means you are actively engaged in maintaining a firm shield to secure the country's eastern frontier. Hence, it is important for that you keep your combat readiness at the highest level," the defence minister said.

Highlighting the motto of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Singh said that India's startups and indigenous industries are now making drones, developing anti-drone technologies and manufacturing improved products for soldiers.

"I am proud to declare that our jawans are steadily adapting to the indigenous developed in our own country," he said, asserting on the need to make soldiers more technology-driven and have them future ready.

Singh stressed the need to keep the morale of soldiers high and drew an example of IAF fighter pilots.

"We are aware of the paramount role of pilots in our air force. But pilots can deliver optimal performance when they have full faith in members of their team – aviation, logistics, engineering, ground support and air traffic control – knowing they are standing steadfast behind them," he said.

Singh congratulated Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit for assuming charge of the Indian Air Force on October 31, stating this was the defence minister's first public programme since the appointment.

"Delighted to visit the Bagdogra Air Force Station today and interact with our brave Air Warriors on the eve of Diwali. The Indian Air Force stands as a formidable pillar of unwavering vigilance, immense skill, and steadfast readiness in safeguarding our nation's skies," Singh later said in an X post.

He also held a personal interactive session with the IAF personnel.

"Meeting the men and women serving on the frontline and witnessing their boundless energy, devotion to duty, and high morale is truly inspiring. Every Bharatiya in our country is celebrated with joy and peace because our Armed Forces stand guard round-the-clock. The entire nation takes immense pride in their valour and selfless service. Jai Hind!" he added in his post.

Diwali

happiness and prosperity into the lives of fellow citizens while spreading the warmth of compassion and solidarity.

Sinha also urged people to reach out to those in need and extend support and happiness to them.

He expressed hope that Maa Lakshmi, Bhagwan Ganesh and Prabhu Shri Ram would bless every household, and it at the festival would illuminate lives with hope and joy.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to all those celebrating Diwali across the country and abroad.

In his message, the Chief Minister said Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolises the triumph of good over evil and the victory of truth and righteousness.

He observed that the festival conveys an enduring message of hope, harmony and compassion while reinforcing the values of unity and mutual respect that define India's rich cultural diversity.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household.

"May the festival of Diwali illuminate every home with happiness and usher in peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir and across the country," he said.

Children

said the new Rules establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for setting up and operating private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, creating an enabling environment for reputed national and international institutions to establish their campuses in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the simplified approval mechanism, including a provision for preliminary scrutiny within 30 days, would facilitate a more efficient and trans parent process for institutions seeking to invest in the higher education sector.

At the same time, the framework provides for effective regulatory oversight to ensure accountability, quality assurance and adherence to prescribed academic standards, the chief minister said.

Emphasising the importance of safeguarding local interests, the chief minister said the provision for a minimum 25 per cent reservation for J&K domiciles in student admissions, as well as teaching and non-teaching positions, would help ensure that the benefits of institutional expansion translate into meaningful educational and employment opportunities for local youth.

He said the Rules also envisage a dedicated regulatory mechanism to monitor admissions, fee structures and academic standards, backed by stringent penalties for violations, including irregularities in admissions, excess fee collection, issuance of invalid degrees, deficiencies in faculty strength and qualifications, and inadequate infrastructure.

Abdullah said the new framework would open avenues for the establishment of institutions across a wide range of disciplines, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), medicine, law, business studies and liberal arts. This, he observed, would broaden academic choices for students, promote interdisciplinary learning and create greater opportunities for teaching, research and innovation within Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that the entry of reputed institutions would enable local students to access quality, globally benchmarked education closer to home while attracting leading academics, researchers and scholars, besides encouraging research collaborations and institution al partnerships from across the country and abroad.

The chief minister reiterated that the government was committed to creating a transparent, predictable and investor-friendly environment that encourages respons ible private investment while protecting students' interests and maintaining the highest standards of academic quality.

He also acknowledged the contribution of Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, who holds the Education portfolio at the time the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill was passed during the budget session of the J&K Legislative Assembly earlier this year, and appreciated her role in advancing the legislative process.

The chief minister said the notification of the Rules marks an important step towards translating the legislative initiative into an effective institutional framework for the growth and modernisation of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

UT

The project is expected to give fresh impetus to tourism-related economic activities in Ukt, create livelihood opportunities for local communities and strengthen the area's potential as an emerging border tourism destination.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed hope that the initiative would enhance Ukt's profile on the tourism map, promote its rich natural heritage and generate wider economic growth for the local population.

Nikhil

leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdull ah," she added.

Nikhil Jammu and Kashmir Minis on Director Athar Aamir Khan has issued a formal order sanctioning the 5 per cent annual increment for eligible contract actual employees engaged at state, divi sional, district and block levels, including those working under NHM and Disease Control Programmes.

According to the order, employees who completed one year of service on or before March 31, 2026, will be entitled to the increment with effect from April 1, 2026.

Those completi ng one year of service between April 1 and September 30 will receive the benefit from October 1, 2026, while employees completing one year of service after September 30 will be eligible from April 1, 2027, the order said.

The concerned drawing and disbursing officers and controlling officers have been directed to extend the benefit only to eligible employees after verifying their qualifying service and satisfactory performance in accordance with applicable NHM guidelines.

AIIMS

acknowledged that faculty shortages in certain specialities were limiting resident seats in some depart ments and occasionally affecting examination of courses.

Singh noted that MD and DM programmes had already been introduced at the institution, adding that faculty-related issues were discussed separately with AIIMS Jammu Director Sangeev Sinha and were also being taken up with Delhi.

Singh said Jammu and Kashmir was perhaps the only Union Territory in the country having two AIIMS, one at Vijaypur in Jammu's Samba and another at Awantipora in Kashmir.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal intervention for the establishment of the second AIIMS in Jammu, saying he insisted that if one institution was sanctioned for Srinagar, another should also come up in Jammu.

He said the availability of adequate land at all the sites at AIIMS Jammu would reduce the need for patients to travel to other states for specialised treatment and surgeries.

Highlighting the progress made over the past eight to ten years, Singh said the institution had expanded its medical facilities and introduced diverse specialties at a pace not commonly witnessed in medical colleges.

"Had we done institutions well developed into a state-of-the-art healthcare centre with integrated facilities, particularly at its satellites AIIMS services. It will serve not only as an referral hospital for the Jammu region but also for neighbouring states, including Himachal Pradesh and Punjab," he said.

Nikhil

the Ram Temple movement and the sacrifices of devotees for paving the way for Modi. he became prime minister., Adityanath chief minister, and himself Vice-President.

Addressing the 18th Deepotsava celebrations here with UP Governor Anandiben Patel and Adityanath on the ghats, Radhakrishnan said Modi and Adityanath had worked towards realising the dream of a grand Ram temple, which he described as "a symbol of Hindu self-respect".

"One is Yogi Adityanath ji, and another is Karmayogi Modi ji. Both are following the path shown by Lord Ram," he said.

The Vice President expressed confidence that Uttar Pradesh would emerge as a major growth engine of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, crediting the state's improved law and order situation for creating an environment conducive to development.

He said, "After everything time, a saint (Adityanath) has become the chief minister of a state. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, who comes from a very humble family, has been leading this country very effectively for the past 12 years. I come from an ordinary farming family, yet I became the Vice President of India. How did this happen? It happened only because the Ram temple movement in Ayodhya was launched and countless devotees of Lord Ram sacri ficed their lives for it."

The Vice President shared a personal account of his mother's participation in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, recalling that she had carried a brick on her head for the construction of the Ram temple.

He said following a nationwide call by Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal, his mother had fed the Ram Shila Pujan in their hometown. "She would never have imagined that one day her son would become the Vice President of the country and participate in a Ram Katha and the temple ceremony in Ayodhya," he said.

Radhakrishnan said the temple represented the fulfilment of a wish cherished by millions of Ram devotees for nearly 500 years, and paid tribute to those who had made sacrifices during the movement.

On his association with Adityanath during his tenure in Parliament, he said the latter spoke with the same force and conviction he displayed as chief minister.

Recalling his interactions to lift the Vice President said he had "not felt safe" during those trips and that "people generally did not feel secure at the time". He said the situation had changed, with "law and order now being handled by the police and administration" rather than "hooligans".

Radhakrishnan also narrated an interaction with a small trader in Varanasi who, he said, told him he had earlier been involved in petty criminal activities and was known as a rowdy, but had shifted to legitimate business under the current government. The Vice President said the man's account was significant because it showed how someone previously involved in criminal activities had become a businessman supporting his family.

Linking security with economic progress, Radhakrishnan said BJP contributed around nine per cent to India's GDP and had set its sights on becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy. He also referred to the state's 2026-27 budget of more than Rs 9 lakh crore.

Citing the Mahakumbh held in Prayagraj in 2025, he said more than 66 crore pilgrims visited the event over 45 days, with no serious incident reported. He said the successful organisation of such a massive gathering reflected the state's administrative capacity and improved law and order.

Radhakrishnan said peace and security were essential for development and expressed confidence that UP would play a leading role in India's progress towards the Viksit Bharat goal.

"I am sure, dhrman Yogi ji, that your state will emerge as the magic growth engine of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047," he said.

Prediction

are likely to prevail on November 12 and 13, with lighter to moderate rain over the plains and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches at many places, particularly towards the evening or night of November 12.

Meanwhile, a separate forecast issued by Kashmir Weather Forecast indicated that the second Western Disturbance has gained intensity and is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir between November 12 and 14.

It said moderate to heavy snowfall is possible over higher reaches, while the plains of Jammu and Kashmir are likely to receive rainfall.

The forecast also indicated the possibility of the season's first snowfall in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, and the plains of Pahalgam.

Higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora may receive moderate snowfall, while upper reaches of central and south Kashmir are likely to experience light to moderate snowfall.

By CM

MLAs, maintaining that the party leadership has addressed the issue through discussions with the legislators.

Talking to reporters after paying obeisance at Bawe Wali Mat a temple on the eve of the Diwali festival, Choudhary said National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had held discussions with all the MLAs and that there was no reason to prolong the controversy, urging the media to focus on other pressing issues confronting Jammu and Kashmir.

On Friday, the National Conference leadership met with the rebel MLAs in Srinagar, dismissing speculation about internal rifts within the party as "baseless rumours".

The meeting was held to pacify party legislators reportedly unhappy at being omitted from the council of ministers.

"The expressions on their faces make it quite clear... When my leader, the NC president, and the chief minister discussed the matter with all the MLAs, that was the end of it," the deputy chief minister said.

He urged the media to move on to other pressing issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir, questioning whether speculat ecourage of controversies surrounding the National Conference would help resolve unemployment or irrivate the regularisation of daily-wage workers.

He also accused sections of the media of focusing more on political controversies than on issues concerning the people of the J&K.

Choudhary questioned the media's incr edible representation in key administrat ive positions, citing the retirement of former chief secretary Atul Dulloo and the absence of an extension.

"... If officials in other parts of the country were granted extensions, why was Dulloo not given one (after his retirement on November 1)? If a chief secretary has to be appointed in J&K, why can't someone from the region itself be appointed? If Dulloo was not to be given an extension, they could have appointed someone local from here, whether Hindu or Muslim. At least that person would have been a son of the soil," he said.

Choudhary questioned whether the BJP had ever raised the issue, alleging that the party appeared to be following a narrative rather than highlighting concerns specific to J&K.

J&K Bank

notes increasing during Diwal i, the branch made special arrangements to facilitate customers and ensure that they could avail themselves of the facility without unnecessary inconvenience.

The Branch Manager has been personally overseeing the arrangements to ensure smooth distribution. Customers visiting the branch said the initiative had saved them the inconvenience of approaching different banks or currency exchange outlets in search of fresh notes.

Several customers appreciated the efforts of Qadri and his team, describing the initiative as a thoughtful gesture reflecting the bank's commitment to customer convenience.

SC

neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order does not carry any aspersion upon the conduct of the employee nor does it imply any finding of misconduct," it said.

"The ultimat e assessment as to whether an officer has become dead wood or whether his continuance would be detri mental to administrative efficiency falls within the domain of the executive. However, such satisfaction cannot be found upon mere conjecture or when it must rest upon objective and relevant material available on record," it held.

The top court on Friday upheld that the April 12, 2023 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court upholding the single-judge bench's order affirming the 2017 government circular to compulsor ily retire the employees, and rejected their contention that other similarly placed employees were not retired.

"An employee cannot successfully invalidate an order of compul sory retirement merely by contending that another officer possessing a comparable service record was not subjected to a similar action," it said, adding that the evaluation of an employee's utility, integrity, efficiency and overall service profile is essentially an individualised exercise undertaken by the competent author ity based on the material available on record," it held.

The top court said the principle in well settled that judicial interference with an order of compul sory retirement i s warranted only where the decision is shown to be based on no evidence, suffers from non-application o f mind, is manifestly arbitrary or perverse or is vitiated by mala fides.

With regards to the aggrieved employees, the top court said the process was followed in retaining the incompulsorily and the recommendations made by the screening committee were founded upon an objective evaluation of the utility, efficiency and suitability of the employees concerned, with a view to maintaining administrative standards and ensuring efficiency in public service.

"Consequently, this court is satisfied that the parameters and standards applied while considering the cases of the appellants for compulsory retirement were uniformly applied to all similarly situated employees and that no element of discriminatory treatment or selective application of criteria has been established," it said.

The bench said the parameters had been applied uniformly and comprehensively to all eligible employees and only after there examination that the Screening Committee identified five employees, whose overall service-record assessment fell below the prescribed benchmark and whose recent confidential reports disclosed patterned indicative of unsatisfactory performance, declining efficiency or lack of utility in public service.

It said the remaining nine employees, having satisfied the prescribed standards, were found fit for continued retention in service.

China's swimmer Chang wins two golds at Dakar 2026 YOG

United News Of India

DAKAR, NOV 7 :Chang Mohan claimed gold in both the women's 200m freestyle and 200m butterfly as the swimming competitions at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games concluded on Friday, while China's women's 3x3 basketball team made a winning start to its campaign, winning both group-stage games to reach the quarterfinals.

Chang staged a late comeback to win the women's 200m freestyle in 1:59.59, edging out Croatia's Ana Bobanovic.

The 15-year-old followed that with another commanding performance in the 200m butterfly, leading from start to finish to take gold in 2:09.93.

The two victories brought Chang's tally at the Games to two golds and two silvers, providing a fitting end to her Youth Olympic journey.

Speaking after the races, Chang said she had felt under pressure after narrowly missing out on gold in her first two events, adding that she had also been troubled by fever and diarrhea, which made the competition particularly challenging.



"I didn't want to leave the final day with regrets, so I tried my best to adjust my form. I faced a lot of uncertainty coming into today, because I didn't know how well I could bounce back on the deck," Chang said.

"Winning these two gold medals on the final day is a huge inspiration. Although there are many things I could have done better in the earlier events, it ended up being a deeply memorable and successful meet for me," she added..

In the other swimming finals, Russia's Bogdan Toropkin won the men's 200m freestyle in 1:47.78, claiming his second gold of the Games after winning the 100m freestyle.

Egypt's Zain Ali took gold in the men's 200m butterfly, securing his third title at the Games.

In women's 3x3 basketball, China opened its campaign with a commanding 21-4 victory over Fiji before beating Kenya 20-15 to secure a place in the quarterfinals with two consecutive wins.

In women's triathlon, Switzerland's Kirney Casanova claimed the gold medal in the competition held in Sal, while China's Xu Enge finished 13th.

Reflecting on her performance, Xu said she was satisfied with her swimming leg but suffered a setback during the cycling leg after accidentally riding into sand at the turning point and crashing.

She also conceded that she struggled with running on soft sand and needed to train more to improve in that area. In the equestrian individual jumping final, Switzerland's Mike Smits claimed gold with a fault-free round in 37.81 seconds aboard Barentin De Rampan, according to Xinhua.

China's Sun Ruirui was eliminated with her horse Astra I Z. On Saturday, Chinese athletes will compete in men's artistic gymnastics, while four gold medals will be awarded in beach wrestling in Sal.d gold of the Games after winning the 100m freestyle.

Egypt's Zain Ali took gold in the men's 200m butterfly, securing his third title at the Games.

In women's 3x3 basketball, China opened its campaign with a commanding 21-4 victory over Fiji before beating Kenya 20–15 to secure a place in the quarterfinals with two consecutive wins.

In women's triathlon, Switzerland's Kirney Casanova claimed the gold medal in the competition held in Sal, while China's Xu Enge finished 13th.

Reflecting on her performance, Xu said she was satisfied with her swimming leg but suffered a setback during the cycling leg after accidentally riding into sand at the turning point and crashing. She also conceded that she struggled with running on soft sand and needed to train more to improve in that area. In the equestrian individual jumping final, Switzerland's Mike Smits claimed gold with a fault-free round in 37.81 seconds aboard Barentin De Rampan, according to Xinhua.

Tempone sends Independiente into last 16 in Argentina's Clausura tournament

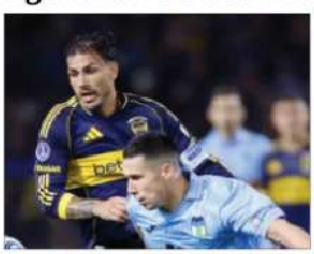
United News Of India

BUENOS AIRES, NOV :Felipe Tempone struck late as Independiente secured a playoff berth with 2-1 home win over Deportivo Riestra in Argentina's Clausura tournament.

It took just 11 minutes for the hosts to take the lead as Matteo Perez finished clinically after combining with Josias Palais on the counterattack on Friday.

The visitors equalized through Alexander Diaz, who latched onto Tomas Gonzalez's cross with a first-time effort that left goalkeeper Santiago Mele with no chance.

Tempone restored his side's lead in the 87th minute when he ran onto a long clearance from Mele before chipping a first-time effort over the onrushing Ignacio Arce.



"I've always dreamed about a moment like this," Tempone said after the match. "It makes me extremely happy to have scored and helped the group advance to the playoffs. We have a tight-knit group and a great bunch of guys that deserve this more than anyone."

While Independiente finished sixth in the 15-team Zone A standings with 23 points, Deportivo Riestra ended its campaign in 14th place with just two wins from 16 games.

Elsewhere in Argentina's top flight on Friday, Santiago Lopez's second-half goal gave Tigre a 1-0 home win over nine-man Sarmiento, whose playoff hopes hinge on other results.

The visitors were handed a double blow when Gaston Gonzalez and Lucas Suarez were shown red cards earlier in the second half, according to Xinhua.

Lopez broke the deadlock with a 70th minute goal, leaving Sarmiento clinging to eighth place in Zone B, two points ahead of Huracan, which can take its spot with a win against Argentinos Juniors on Saturday.

Hamburg eases relegation pressure as Gronbaek inspires Gladbach victory

United News Of India

BERLN, NOV 7 :Hamburger SV defeated 10-man Borussia Monchengladbach 3-1 in the Bundesliga, with Albert Gronbaek scoring once and setting up another.

Both sides approached the ninth-round encounter aggressively, with Shuto Machino narrowly missing the target for Gladbach before Hamburg's Patson Daka was denied by goalkeeper Daniel Batz.

Hamburg broke the deadlock in the 11th minute when Miro Muheim collected Albert Sambi Lokonga's pass and unleashed a powerful strike from 30 meters into the bottom corner on Friday.

The hosts maintained their attacking momentum, but Batz produced important saves against Alexandre Moller Wolfe, while Gladbach threatened through Ko Itakura and Uno.



Despite Hamburg's pressure, the visitors equalized shortly before halftime. Warmed Omari's attempted clearance fell to Joe Scally, whose volley took a deflection off Robin Hack before

inding the net in the 44th minute.

Gladbach's hopes suffered a major setback four minutes after the restart when Itakura received his second yellow card for fouling Gronbaek, leaving the visitors with 10 men.

The hosts capitalized on their numerical advantage in the 60th

minute, Lokonga initiated the move with a precise pass before Gronbaek laid the ball off for defender Shafiq Nandja, who celebrated his first Bundesliga goal.

Gronbaek then extended Hamburg's advantage 10 minutes later, driving a spectacular effort from approximately 28 meters into the top corner to put Hamburg firmly in control.

Gladbach nearly responded when Scally threatened following a defensive mistake, but Hamburg survived before goalkeeper Daniel Heuer Fernandes denied Florian Neuhaus late on, according to Xinhua.

"It was a special evening for me to contribute a goal and see everyone celebrating with me. It was the most beautiful moment of my life. I had tears in my eyes. Being able to help the team like that

Valverde recalled to Uruguay squad for FIFA window

United News Of India

MONTEVIDEO, NOV 7 :Midfielder Federico Valverde has been recalled to Uruguay's squad for friendlies against Argentina and the Dominican Republic, the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) said on Friday.

The 28-year-old missed the South American team's friendlies against Japan, South Korea and India in September and October due to a sprained ankle.

As expected, head coach Diego Forlan also called up Liverpool defender Ronald Araujo, Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur and Diriyah striker Darwin Nunez.

The only player included from a local club was uncapped goalkeeper Sebastian Jaume, who plays for Montevideo-based club Albion FC.

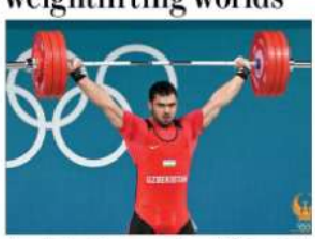
Uruguay will face Argentina at La Bombonera in Buenos Aires on November 13 before hosting the Dominican Republic four days later. Uruguay squad:

Goalkeepers: Santiago Mele, Cristopher Fiermarin, Ignacio de Arruabarrena, Sebastian Jaume.

Djuraev sets two world records to claim men's 110kg crown at weightlifting worlds

United News Of India

NINGBO, NOV 7 :Uzbekistan's Olympic gold medalist Akbar Djuraev delivered a dominant performance in the men's 110kg at the world weightlifting championships here, breaking world records in both the snatch and the total to sweep all three gold medals.



Djuraev, the Tokyo Olympic champion and Paris Olympic silver medalist, was among the leading contenders for the title.

Romania's Lauret Rodriguez emerged as his only serious challenger in the snatch. Both lifters opened at 190kg and cleared their first two attempts.

Djuraev then lifted a world-record 198kg on his third, while Rodriguez failed, giving Djuraev gold and Rodriguez silver. Chinese Taipei's Chen Po-jen, who competed in Group B, took bronze in the snatch.

Djuraev lifted 228kg and 234kg in the clean and jerk before failing at 238kg in his bid for another world record. His 234kg lift secured clean and jerk gold, while his total of 432kg set a world record and gave him the overall title, according to Xinhua.

Iran's Alireza Nasiri lifted 233kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 418kg, earning two silver medals. Turkmenistan's Shahzadbek Matyakubov took two bronze medals, with a clean and jerk

f 230kg and a total of 417kg. delivered a dominant performance in the men's 110kg at the world weightlifting championships here, breaking world records in both the snatch and the total to sweep all three gold medals,

Mohammed Shami announces retirement from Tests

United News Of India

KOLKATA, NOV 6": Mohammed Shami has announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing an end to a career that saw him become one of India's most dependable fast bowlers across conditions and on the biggest stages.



The 36-year-old shared the news through a post on Instagram, drawing the curtain on his journey in the longest format. Known for his ability to generate seam movement and swing with both the new and old ball, Shami leaves behind a record of 229 wickets from 64 Tests, including six five-wicket hauls.

Shami made his Test debut against West Indies in 2013 and quickly established himself as a key part of India's pace attack.

His ability to deliver in challenging conditions made him particularly valuable away from home, with 131 wickets coming in 35 Tests across India, South Africa and the West Indies, at an average of under 25.

South Africa was among the places where Shami produced some of his most memorable performances.

During India's 2018 tour, he took 5/28 in the second innings of the Johannesburg Test to help secure a consolation victory. On the next tour, he claimed eight wickets in the first Test at Centurion as India registered another memorable win.

His final Test appearance came in the 2023 ICC World Test Championship final against Australia. While injuries interrupted different phases of his career, his contributions with the ball remained an important part of India's success. His ability to deliver in challenging conditions made him particularly valuable away from home, with 131 wickets coming in 35 Tests across India, South Africa and the West Indies, at an average f under 25,

Gurnoor leads India demolition, NZ bundled out for 134

United News Of India

WELLINGTON, NOV 7 :New Zealand's batting frailties were laid bare as India's bowling attack, spearheaded by Gurnoor Brar's four-wicket burst, bundled out the hosts for a paltry 134 in 41 overs in the second ODI here on Saturday.

Gurnoor returned impressive figures of four for 30 from 10 overs, while India's collective bowling effort ensured New Zealand failed to recover from an early collapse despite a fighting half-century from Daryl Mitchell.

Sent in to bat after losing the toss in a rain-shortened 47-over contest, India made an immediate impact as Auqib Nabi struck in the second over, dismissing Tim Seifert for a duck. Seifert mistimed a drive off Nabi's delivery and chipped the ball to Anshul Kamboj at mid-on, who completed a fine diving catch.

Nabi struck again in the sixth over, having Will Young (16) caught behind by KL Rahul, reducing New Zealand to 11 for two. Anshul Kamboj tightened India's grip by dismissing Henry Nicholls (11) in the ninth over, bowling him after the left-hander failed to negotiate a delivery that came back into him. The hosts were struggling at 23 for three.

Mitchell, however, resisted with a patient 55 off 104 balls, including five fours and two sixes. He was fortunate to survive on 21 when India skipper Shubman Gill dropped a straightforward catch off Kamboj in the 17th over.

Gill had ample time to get under neath a mistimed shot directed towards mid-off but failed to hold on despite getting both hands to the ball. Mitchell had turned around and begun walking back, believing he was out, before realising that he had been given a reprieve. The missed opportunity proved costly as Mitchell went on to register his half-century.

It was his seventh score of 50 or more against India in his last nine ODIs, a sequence that also includes four centuries.

Captain Mitchell Santner provided support with 31 off 38 balls, striking a four and two sixes. The pair added 59 runs for the sixth wicket, helping New Zealand recover from



the early setbacks and take the total past 100.

Santner also took the attack to the Indian bowlers, striking Axar Patel and Gurnoor for sixes, However, Gurnoor responded emphatically after being hit for a maximum, dismissing the New Zealand captain in the 36th over. Santner attempted to steer a short delivery behind square on the off-side but managed only an outside edge, which KL Rahul collected.

Axar then ended Mitchell's resistance in the same over, having him caught by Kamboj at long-off. Mitchell attempted a big lofted shot but mistimed it as the ball held up on the surface.

Gurnoor continued his impressive spell by dismissing Glenn Phillips for a duck in the 20th over and later Nathan Smith (3), who edged a hard-length delivery to Rohit Sharma at first slip. He also accounted for Tom Latham (7), who top-edged a pull to Naman Dhir at deep square leg.

Axar claimed his second wicket by bowling Kyle Jamieson (7) with a quicker delivery that crashed into the leg stump. Kamboj then wrapped up the innings by bowling Blair Tickner (2) in the 41st over.

New Zealand, who were 112 For six after Mitchell's dismissal, lost their remaining four wickets for just 22 runs, folding for 134.

Apart from Gurnoor's four wickets, Kamboj and Axar claimed two wickets each, while Nabi also finished

with two wickets from seven overs. Arshdeep Singh went wicketless but was economical, conceding just 16 runs in seven overs, including a maiden.

India need 135 runs to win the second ODI. It was his seventh score of 50 or more against India in his last nine ODIs, a sequence that also includes four centuries.

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Imtiyaz Chesti launches KD News Magazine, KDTV Digital Channel in Srinagar

Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam congratulates KDN, calls initiative significant addition to J&K's media landscape



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
AIJAZ RASHID DAR

Srinagar: A new media venture, bringing together print and digital journalism under one platform, was formally launched in Srinagar with the introduction of Key Dispatch, a monthly English magazine, Key Dispatch Digital Media (KDTV) and Key Dispatch News Agency (KDN).

The initiative, launched under the banner of KDN LLP, is spearheaded by Imtiyaz Chesti, Managing Director of the organisation. The launch marks a new step towards strengthening the media landscape of Jammu and Kashmir by combining traditional print journalism with the expanding reach of digital news platforms.

On the occasion, Grand Mufti Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, congratulated KDN LLP on the launch of KD News Magazine and KDTV digital channel, describing the initiative as a significant addition to the region's evolving media environment.

Appreciating the efforts of Imtiyaz Chesti, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said the introduction of a monthly magazine along side a digital news platform reflected a forward-looking vision at a time when journalism was undergoing rapid transformation. He observed that the integration of print and digital media could provide new opportunities for responsible journalism, public engagement and the dissemination of information.

Addressing the gathering, the Grand Mufti emphasised that the greatest responsibility of contemporary journalism was not merely to break news before others but to ensure accuracy, credibility and public trust. He stressed that professional integrity, factual reporting and responsible presentation of information must remain the guiding principles of every media organisation.

He expressed hope that Key Dispatch magazine would provide adequate space for serious journalism, investigative reporting, research-based articles and meaningful analysis of issues affecting society. He also hoped that KDTV would effectively utilise the growing potential of digital platforms to disseminate verified information, highlight public concerns and provide a voice to different sections of society.

Congratulating Imtiyaz Chesti and the entire KDN LLP team, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam extended his best wishes for the success of the new media venture. He expressed confidence that the organisation would maintain high professional journalistic standards, give meaningful representation to public issues and contribute towards strengthening informed democratic discourse in Jammu and Kashmir.

The launch event was attended by several prominent personalities, including AIP Spokesperson Inam-ul- Nabi ,Dr Faiz Fazili, Mujtaba Nazki, senior journalists including Jehangir Bukhari and President PSA JK, G. N. War, among others.

At KD news launch, Inam Un Nabi calls for journalism beyond TRPs

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar, November 7 : Awami Ittihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi on Friday congratulated KDN LLP on the launch of KD News Magazine and KDTV digital channel, describing the initiative as a significant addition to Jammu and Kashmir's evolving media landscape.

Inam appreciated the initiative of Imtiyaz Chesti, Managing Director of KDN LLP, for bringing together a magazine and a digital news platform at a time when journalism is undergoing a major transformation. He said the initiative reflected a forward-looking approach to combining traditional print journalism with the growing reach of digital media.

Addressing the launch function, Inam said the real challenge before contemporary journalism was not merely to break news first but to ensure accuracy, credibility and public trust.

Inam Un Nabi observed that the growing influence of social media and artificial intelligence had made verification and responsible reporting more important than ever, warning against misinformation, sensationalism and the race for online engagement.

Emphasising the media's role in Jammu and Kashmir, he said news platforms must move beyond routine reporting and provide sustained coverage to issues concerning unemployment, education, healthcare, youth aspirations and the everyday challenges faced by people, particularly in remote areas.

He said journalism should neither be reduced to supporting nor opposing political establishments, but must retain the independence to question authority and strengthen democratic accountability.

"An effective media institution is not one that simply breaks news first, but one whose reporting people can trust. Ratings and views may bring temporary popularity, but credibility is built through years of responsible journalism," Inam said.

He expressed hope that KD News Magazine would create space for serious reporting, research and meaningful analysis, while KDTV would utilise the reach of digital platforms to bring verified information and diverse public voices to a wider audience.

Neighbourhood Youth Parliament on "Nasha Mukt Yuva" organised at GDC Sumbal

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED



BANDIPORA 7 NOVEMBER 2026/, Bandipora: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Bandipora, organised a Neighbourhood Youth Parliament under the theme "Nasha Mukt Yuva" (Drug-Free Youth) at Government Degree College (GDC), Sumbal, with the objective of raising awareness among young people about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, drug-free society.

The programme was attended by Prof. Shabeena Iqbal, Principal, GDC Sumbal; Dr. Zaara, Medical Officer, Sumbal; Prof. Ishfaq Hussain; Dr. Ajaz-ul-Rehman, Convener, NMA; Dr Showkat Hussain; Dr. Mehraj-ud-Din Gojree, NCC Coordinator; along with other youth club members and students.

The speakers highlighted the growing menace of drug abuse and stressed the need for collective efforts by educational institutions, healthcare professionals, youth organisations and civil society to combat this social evil.

SHD distributes 46 elite Texel Rams among progressive farmers across Kashmir

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar, November 7: The Department of Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir, today organised a special programme at Sheep Breeding Farm, Khimber, for the distribution of 46 elite Texel male sheep among progressive farmers across different districts of Kashmir.

The programme was chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Production, Jenab Javed Ahmad Dar, in the presence of MLA Khansahib Jenab Saif-ud-Din Bhat, MLA Hazratbal Jenab Salman Sagar and Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Basharat Amin Kuthu and other senior officers of the Sheep Husbandry Department.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts of the Department in strengthening the sheep sector and emphasised the need to introduce improved breeding practices, enhance meat production and improve the economic condition of sheep farmers.

The Department imported 450 elite Texel sheep from Australia in April 2025 under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), at a total cost of approximately 13.50 crore. The imported consignment comprised of 338 ewes and 112 rams.

Following their establishment at Sheep Breeding Farm, Khimber, the Department initiated pure-line Texel breeding as well as cross breeding with Kashmir Merino sheep to improve the genetic potential and productive performance of the local sheep population.

As part of today's initiative, 46 selected elite Texel male sheep, weighing more than 35 kg, were distributed among progressive farmers across different districts of Kashmir.

The animals are being provided for one breeding cycle, after which they shall be returned to the Department. The initiative aims to assess their performance under field conditions and evaluate the growth and adaptability of their progeny.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones of 2 flood protection projects in Kulgam



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 07: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, today visited Asthal village in Kulgam district, where she held a Public Darbar to interact with people and take stock of their developmental demands and grievances.

During the interaction, people from the area projected various issues and developmental demands before the Minister. She gave a patient hearing to the public and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

On the occasion, the Minister laid the foundation stone of a flood protection project at Asthal, being executed under NABARD at an estimated cost of 834.44 lakh. The project is being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag through Flood Control Sub-Division DH Pora. It aims to safeguard the area against flood threats and protect agricultural land and public infrastructure.

She also laid the foundation stone of another flood protection project at village Reshipora under UT Capex, at an estimated cost of 75.27 lakh. The work is being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag through Flood Control Sub-Division DH Pora.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the Government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to ensuring inclusive and equitable development across the region. She said public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people play a vital role in ensuring responsive and accountable governance.

Medical Officers posted in Karnah for first time

People hail MLA Karnah, media fraternity for continuously highlighting issue

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED

KARNAH, November 7: In a significant and much-awaited development for the people of Sub-Division Karnah, 11 Medical Officers have been posted to various healthcare institutions across the remote border subdivision, marking an important step towards strengthening the region's healthcare infrastructure.

The simultaneous posting of 11 doctors is being described as a first for Karnah and is expected to provide some relief to thousands of residents who have long faced difficulties due to the shortage of medical professionals and limited access to healthcare facilities.

According to the official posting list, two Medical Officers, Suhail Shafi and Assim Ghyas, have been posted at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tangdhar, while Shah Tarjuman Ul Haq and Kamraan Arif Mir have been posted at PHC Teetwal.

Similarly, Kousar Mushtaq has been posted at NTPHC Gundishot, Mir Darakshan Abid at NTPHC Chiterkote, Farhat Nazir at PHC Chiterkote, Amir Maqsood Mughal at NTPHC Hajinar, Farrah Nissar at PHC Gabra, Gosia Bashir at NTPHC Kandi, Block Tangdhar, and Bashir Ahmad Mir at NTPHC Shamaspor.



Welcoming the decision, MLA Karnah Javaid Ahmad Mirchal expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Director Health Services Kashmir and all concerned officers for their cooperation and efforts in facilitating the posting of 11 Medical Officers to Karnah.

Chairman Civil Society Karnah, Peerzada Siraj-ud-Din Qureshi, also welcomed the decision and extended his sincere gratitude to the Health Department, district administration, concerned authorities, MLA Karnah Javaid Ahmad Mirchal and the media fraternity of Karnah for their continuous efforts in highlighting the healthcare challenges faced by the people.

The media fraternity of Karnah has also played an important role in bringing the region's healthcare concerns into the spotlight. Journalists and media professionals from the area have consistently raised the issue of doctor shortages and inadequate healthcare facilities through print media, digital and social media platforms, as well as broadcasts on All India Radio, Radio Kashmir and Shaurbeen.

Through regular news reports, ground stories, public interactions and repeated coverage, the media fraternity has ensured that the genuine concerns and voices of Karnah's residents reach the concerned authorities and the wider public. Their consistent efforts have helped keep this long-pending public demand alive and brought much-needed attention to the difficulties faced by people living in remote border villages.