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'Dimagi Naxals' Misleading People, Undermining Democracy: PM Modi

Says Govt Kept Promise Of Removing Article 370 From J&K



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jagdalpur, Nov 8: Targeting political opponents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said armed Maoists have been eliminated, but "dimagi Naxals" have infiltrated several political parties and organisations and are instigating people against the Constitution and democracy.

"We must identify and defeat such elements and secure the country," Modi said, while celebrating Diwali with security personnel at a CRPF camp in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, continuing his tradition of spending the festival with India's brave men and women in uniform.

The government declared the country free of Naxalism on March 31 this year.

The threat of Naxalism has not ended. The government took decisions that "dealt very big blows to the funding of Naxals and secessionists," said Modi, dressed in a military-style camouflage uniform and a hat.

He said the Maoist terror elimination was a victory of the country's

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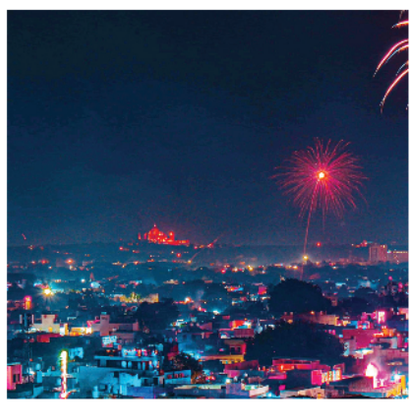
India revels in Diwali celebrations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Days of bustle and hectic shopping culminated in a resplendent Diwali evening on Sunday, with people decorating their houses with strings of lights, shopkeepers placing diyas to invoke blessings, and crackers going off intermittently to round off the celebrations in customary fashion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with security personnel in freshly Naxal-free Chhattisgarh's Bastar.

"Heading to Bastar to celebrate Diwali with our brave security forces," Modi said on X in morning.



Bastar is an area where Naxalism once held sway but now, development is flourishing, the prime minister said.

"I am going to salute our brave security personnel for their sacrifices, selfless service and unwavering devotion to the nation," he said.

On Saturday, Modi conveyed his Diwali greetings to the nation, saying that, like in previous years, he will celebrate the festival with soldiers.

"My heartiest greetings to all of you for Diwali. I wish for peace, prosperity and happiness for all of you in the coming days. I also celebrate Deepavali like you with great enthusiasm," he said in a video message.

Modi, as well as Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and exchanged Diwali

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Iconic Ghanta Ghar illuminated as tourists, locals celebrate Diwali



KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 8: Thousands of lamps illuminated the iconic clock tower at Srinagar's Lal Chowk as tourists and locals celebrated Diwali here on Sunday.

Dozens of tourists assembled at the clock tower, popularly known as Ghanta Ghar, in the evening and lit earthen lamps, turning the area around the city's iconic tourist spot luminous.

Local Hindus and Muslims joined the celebrations by lighting firecrackers.

Ankush Chatterjee, a tourist from Kolkata, said, "We are delighted to celebrate this

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CM receives public delegations on Diwali in Jammu



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 8: Several public delegations and citizens on Sunday called on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his residence here to extend Diwali greetings, an official said.

The chief minister warmly received the visitors, interacted with them and reciprocated their wishes, extending greetings for a happy, peaceful and prosperous festival of lights, the official said.

Abdullah also

See on Pg. 10

Army Commander Reviews Preparedness

Srinagar, Nov 8: Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited units deployed in North Kashmir to review operational preparedness and the security scenario.

As per a local news gathering agency, he was briefed on key operational aspects, including vigilance, training, synergy and innovative practices adopted to maintain a dominant posture for robust security along the LoC and hinterland.

Extending warm festive greetings, the Army Commander interacted with all ranks and lauded their unwavering commitment, operational alertness, professionalism and dedication to duty.

Serving far from their homes and families, amidst challenging conditions, the brave soldiers of the Indian Army

See on Pg. 10

PM calls on President, exchanges Diwali greetings

KA NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here and exchanged Diwali greetings.

The President's office shared pictures of the meeting in a post on X.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and exchanged Diwali greetings," the post read.



Earlier in the day, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan had also called on President Murmu and exchanged Diwali greetings.

Meanwhile, Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan visited a forward operating base of the Navy in Gujarat and celebrated Diwali with naval personnel there, officials said.

During the visit, he also reviewed the operational readiness, infrastructure development plans and capabilities of units

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4 cops injured as bus hits police vehicle

KA NEWS DESK

Ramban/Jammu, Nov 8: Four police personnel, including a Station House Officer (SHO), sustained minor injuries after their vehicle overturned when it was hit by a bus on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Chanderkote in Ramban district on Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred shortly after the police vehicle joined the escort of BJP leader

See on Pg. 10

'Your service to nation will never be forgotten': Rajnath pays homage to war heroes

KA NEWS SERVICE

Gangtok, Nov 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Sherathang near Nathu La in Sikkim on Sunday and paid homage to fallen soldiers at the war memorial.

Addressing Army personnel stationed at the India-China border, Singh said such memorials served as a lasting tribute to war heroes who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation and would continue to inspire generations of young Indians.



Lauding the courage and dedication of security personnel deployed along the frontiers under difficult and challenging conditions, he said the

See on Pg. 10

Retd cop's son held for threatening neighbour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 8: Police on Sunday arrested the son of a retired police officer for allegedly brandishing an assault rifle to threaten his neighbour in Srinagar's Saderbal area.

The issue was highlighted through a social media post in which a neighbour of the retired deputy superintendent of police pleaded with authorities to ensure his safety.

The social media post included a video in which the accused was allegedly brandishing an AK-47 rifle outside the neighbour's house.

"With reference to a social media post alleging threatening of neighbours with an AK-47 at Saderbal, Hazratbal, Srinagar Police has already taken cognizance and registered FIR No. 123/2026 under relevant sections of law at Police Station Nigeen. The accused, Junaid Ahmad Band, son of a retired DySP, has been

See on Pg. 10

Banner seeking info on 4 wanted terrorists surfaces in Lal Chowk

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 8: A banner seeking information about the whereabouts of four terrorists wanted by security forces surfaced on Sunday in Srinagar's Lal Chowk area.

A flex banner was found hanging early in the morning on the wall of Pratap Park here, seeking information about the four terrorists, including Mohammad Lateef Bhat, involved in the killing of a cop in Anantnag in July this year.

The others include Bilal Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Umar Mir and Abid Qayoom Lone, all from Baramulla district.

While Bhat, a resident of Kulgam district in south Kashmir, is active in the Kashmir Valley, the other three terrorists are currently believed to be operating from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), officials said here.

"Anyone who can provide credible information regarding the movement/presence of these terrorists, the identity of the informant will be kept strictly confidential and a handsome reward will be given for reliable information," the banner reads.

Anger against Trump policies, not US stance towards India guided Indian-American voters: Expert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 8: Indian Americans voted against the Republicans largely due to anger against the policies pursued by the Trump administration and not on the issue of foreign policy or the US attitude towards India, said Sumitra Badrinathan, who closely studies voting patterns in the US.

In an interview with PTI, Badrinathan said despite the challenging environment due to President Donald Trump's immigration policies, Indian Americans still find the US better suited for pursuing studies and careers than European countries.

"We've consistently asked Indian Americans whether they care about their politicians' stance towards India, and the answer always seems to be a 'no'," said Badrinathan, assistant professor of Political Sciences at American University.

Badrinathan, along with Milan Vaishnav, Director of the South Asia Program



See on Pg. 10

2 suspected OGWs arrested

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 8: Security forces on Sunday arrested two suspected overground workers of terrorists in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Muneeb Yaseen Rather and Tahir Bilal were apprehended after they allegedly tried to flee a naka checking at Kulgam town by a joint team of police, the Army and CRPF, officials said.

They said a pistol and two grenades were recovered from the possession of the duo.

A case under

See on Pg. 10

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Jammu: Fire breaks out at historic Nehru Market; fire tenders rushed to spot

Press Trust Of India



JAMMU, NOV 8 :A fire broke out at a historic market in the heart of Jammu city on Sunday night, prompting the Fire and Emergency Services Department to rush fire tenders to the spot to bring the blaze under control and prevent it from spreading to adjoining establishments, officials said.

The incident occurred at the Warehouse Nehru Market, one of Jammu's oldest and most prominent commercial

hubs known for its wholesale trade in food grains, essential commodities and other daily-use items.

The market has been serving traders, retailers and consumers since the 1950s, playing a significant role in the city's commercial and economic activities.

The fire reportedly originated in one of the shops at around 9.15 pm and quickly spread to adjoining establishments, an official at the Fire and Emergency Services told PTI.

He noted that fire tenders from various fire stations across Jammu city were immediately rushed to the spot.

Firefighters launched a coordinated operation to douse the flames and prevent the fire from spreading to other adjoining shops and commercial establishments, the official said.

He added that an adequate number of fire personnel were deployed to contain the blaze, as the closely packed shops and warehouses in the busy market posed a major challenge to the firefighting operation.

The fire broke out amid widespread bursting of firecrackers in different parts of the city in connection with Diwali celebrations.

However, it was not immediately clear whether the fire was linked to the bursting of crackers or had originated due to some other reason.

Further details regarding the cause of the fire and the extent of damage are awaited, he said.

Thick smog blankets Delhi on Diwali night

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 :A smoky haze hung over Delhi on Diwali night, blurring streetlights and blanketing neighbourhoods as celebrations intensified across the capital, pushing air quality at 20 monitoring stations into the 'severe' category, with the overall Air Quality Index standing at 371 at 10 pm.

The haze grew denser as the evening progressed, with



smoke from firecrackers hanging over roads and residential neighbourhoods. The smell of burnt crackers lingered in the air, while visibility dropped in several parts of the capital and residents reported difficulty breathing.

Despite restrictions on bursting firecrackers, several parts of Delhi continued to witness their use on Sunday evening, with reports of fireworks emerging from areas, including Pitampura, Burari, Mayur Vihar and parts of Lutyens' Delhi.

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government had appealed to people to comply with the Supreme Court's directions on sale and use of green firecrackers.

The District Magistrate (East), in an order, had permitted the bursting of green firecrackers only on November 7 and 8, between 6 am and 7 am and 8 pm and 10 pm.

Residents reported that firecrackers were being burst in outer Delhi's Pitampura and Burari, with the intensity particularly high in Burari.

Similar reports came from Mayur Vihar, while people in the Bishambardas Marg area and Lutyens' Delhi said fireworks continued, although the intensity had reduced slightly.

Of the 59 monitoring stations that recorded air quality at 10 pm, 20 recorded AQI in the 'severe' category, six in the 'poor' category and the remaining 33 in the 'very poor' category.

Sonia Vihar recorded the worst air quality, with an AQI of 463, followed by Jahangirpuri at 450. Burari, Alipur and Punjabi Bagh were among the other areas recording high pollution levels.

Sonia Vihar, Jahangirpuri, Punjabi Bagh, Burari, Okhla and Rohini were among the monitoring stations that remained in the 'severe' category throughout the day.

Police issue lookout notice for doctor booked in rape case

Press Trust Of India



KOCHI, NOV 8 :Police on Sunday issued a lookout notice against a doctor booked in a rape case, who had earlier accused Malayalam actors Athulya Chandran and Bibin Perumpally of assaulting and robbing him at a flat in Ponnurunni here, officials said.

Infopark police, probing the sexual assault case against Dr Johnson Varghese, issued the notice as he has been absconding since Friday.

The rape case was registered based on a complaint by a woman who is a relative of Chandran, officials said.

The lookout notice was issued to prevent the doctor from leaving the country.

Besides, the search is being conducted in various parts of the state, and his relatives are also being put under surveillance, officials said.

Police said an examination of two mobile phones belonging to the doctor revealed videos and photographs of intimate moments involving several women.

The hospital where he worked had already dismissed him, police said.

The investigation is being expanded based on the digital evidence recovered from his mobile phones. More cases will be registered if women appearing in the photographs and videos approach the police with complaints, officials said.

In the present case, the complainant alleged that the doctor sexually assaulted her and recorded the incident on his mobile phone.

Major fire breaks out in Mumbai's Dongri

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 8 :A major fire broke out in Mumbai's Dongri area late Sunday night, engulfing several shops and hutments, civic officials and residents said.

The fire broke out at Haji Kasam Chawl, near Datta Mandir, on Dr Maheshwari Road, and spread across a large area.

While residents also reported hearing loud "explosion-like" sounds, it could not be independently confirmed.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) declared it a Level-1 fire call at 10.11 pm, deploying a large number of its personnel along with those from the police, BEST, ward and 108 ambulance service for dousing operations.

"Efforts to bring the blaze under control are underway.



Further details about the extent of damage and possible casualties are awaited," an official said.

In another incident, a fire broke out at Kamgar Stadium in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagar in Dadar West at around 10.15 am on Sunday.

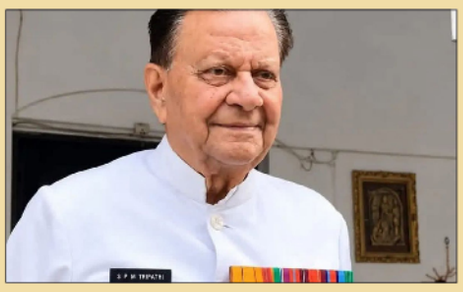
The blaze, involving wooden and bamboo materials, was extinguished by the fire brigade at 10.32 am. No injuries were reported, an official said.

Meanwhile, a person was killed in a fire that broke out at a highrise residential building in Lokhandwala in Andheri West on Saturday night, officials said.

Former Deoria MP Prakash Mani Tripathi passes away at 91

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW, NOV 8 :Former Lok Sabha MP from Deoria in Uttar Pradesh, Lieutenant General (retired) Prakash Mani Tripathi, who had been ill for some time, passed away in New Delhi on Sunday. He was 91. Current Lok Sabha MP from Deoria Shashank Mani (Tripathi's son), in a post on X in Hindi, said, "Deeply saddened and heartbroken. My revered father, former Member of Parliament from Deoria and a senior military officer of the country, Lieutenant General Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, passed away



today at 11:15 am in Delhi."

He said his father dedicated his entire life to serving the nation, fulfilling his duties with integrity, and serving society.

"Losing my father is not just the loss of a father to me, but the passing of the person who was always my guide, my source of inspiration, and the strongest pillar of support in my life. His affection, discipline, devotion to the nation, and spirit of public service are an invaluable legacy in my life. As a son, I cannot find the words today, but the values and ideals he instilled in me will guide me throughout my life," Shashank said.

Tripathi's close bond with the people of Deoria and his simplicity and popularity among them will always be remembered, he said.

"Though he is no longer physically with us today, his ideas, values, and legacy of service will live on forever," the Deoria MP said.

"May God grant my revered father's blessed soul a place at His divine feet and give all of us in the family, his loved ones, and his countless well-wishers the strength to bear this immense and unbearable grief. Father, your blessings and memories will remain with me until my last breath. Om Shanti. A humble tribute," he said on X.

According to the Lok Sabha website, Tripathi was a two-time MP from Deoria. He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha in 1996 and to the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999. Tripathi was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army in June 1955 and served in J&K.

Little regard for cracker ban in Delhi on Diwali

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 :Despite restrictions, several parts of Delhi continued to witness cracker-bursting till late Sunday evening as people celebrated Diwali, with reports of fireworks emerging from areas including Pitampura, Burari, Mayur Vihar and the posh Lutyens' Delhi.

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government had appealed to people to comply with the Supreme Court's directions on the sale and use of green firecrackers.

The district magistrate (East), in an order, permitted the bursting of green firecrackers only on November 7 and 8, between 6 am and 7 am and 8 pm and 10 pm.

Residents reported the use of firecrackers in outer Delhi's Pitampura and Burari, with the intensity particularly high in Burari.

Similar reports came from Mayur Vihar, while people in the Bishambardas Marg area and Lutyens' Delhi said fireworks continued, although the



intensity had reduced slightly as the day wore on.

A local reported cracker-bursting to be non-stop in the Jangpura area. Lound sounds were heard across sectors of Rohini till way past permissible time.

The city's air quality remained in the very poor category, with the instantaneous Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 371 at 7 pm, close to the severe threshold.

Of the 59 monitoring stations, 19 were in the 'severe' category at 7 pm, seven in the 'poor' category, and the remaining 33 in the 'very poor' category.

Jahangirpuri recorded the highest AQI at 460.

The city's average AQI for the day settled at 376 in the 'very poor' category, compared to 369 on Saturday, amid a layer of smog and reduced visibility. The court prohibited bursting of firecrackers within 300 metres of hospitals, nursing homes, health centres, old-age homes, educational institutions and other notified silence zones.

Bengaluru multiple murders: 2 more bodies recovered near Mysuru

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU, NOV 8 :Two more bodies have been recovered by the police from a forest area near Chamundi Hills in Mysuru district in connection with a series of murders allegedly committed by a cab driver over domestic disputes, taking the total number of bodies recovered so far to five.

"Two more bodies identified as Shivakumar and Divya have been found near the Chamundi Hills forest area," police said on Sunday.

The latest recovery follows the discovery of the bodies of the cab driver's wife and mother-in-law in the Yercaud forest area of Tamil Nadu's Salem district on Saturday.

On Friday, police had recovered the body of a seven-year-old boy, identified as Puneeth, near Nandi Hills.

The accused, cab driver Indusekar alias Sekar, allegedly murdered seven members of his wife's family, including the child, over domestic disputes in Bengaluru.



Police suspect the killings took place over the last 15 to 20 days. The accused allegedly committed the murders at his house within the Rajajinagar police station limits and disposed of the bodies at different locations across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Police are yet to recover the remaining two bodies.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly revealed the locations where he had disposed of the bodies, following which police teams launched searches at various places. Investigators suspect that the accused may have administered sedatives to the victims before killing them. They are also probing whether he turned up the television volume to drown out the noise during the assaults and prevent neighbours .

3 relatives accompanying deceased in ambulance killed in Odisha accident

Press Trust Of India

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 8 :At least three persons accompanying a deceased man in a private ambulance from Bhubaneswar to Bolangir were killed, and another was critically injured after the vehicle crashed into a roadside boundary wall in Odisha's Nayagarh district on Sunday, police said.

The accident took place around 5.30 pm near Shalabhanga forest on National Highway-57 within Banigochha police station limits.

The vehicle was allegedly speeding along the deserted forest stretch when its driver lost control, leading to the fatal accident.

The ambulance was carrying the body of Iswar Sahu, a resident of Deogaon village within Tikrapada gram panchayat in Balangir district, who had died at a hospital in Bhubaneswar.



His relatives were accompanying the body, they said.

Police rescued four occupants of the ambulance and rushed them to the nearby Daspalla Community Health Centre (CHC), where three succumbed to their injuries.

Raju, son of the deceased Iswar Sahu, was initially admitted to the health centre.

Cop Run Over By Liquor Mafia In Dewas

Absconding accused dies of brain stroke in Gujarat

Press Trust Of India

INDORE, NOV 8: An absconding accused in the November 2 killing of a police station in-charge in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district during an operation against liquor smuggling died of suspected brain stroke in neighbouring Gujarat on Sunday, an official said.

Khategaon Police Station House Officer (SHO) Dilip Puri was trying to stop a truck carrying more than 1,800 litres of illicit liquor near the Narmada Dhaba at Sandalpur crossing on the Indore-Betul highway when the driver allegedly drove the vehicle over him, killing him on the spot.

"Mohin Jaiswal, who was absconding in the case, was admitted to a hospital in Gujarat following a suspected brain stroke and died during treatment. He was a native of Gujarat," Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Aditya Tiwari told PTI.

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Peace and progress two faces of same coin: GOC Maj Gen Rakesh Nair

Says Karnah can emerge as a new hub for border tourism, progress

Kashmir News Observer



KUPWARA, NOV 8: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 28 Infantry Division (Vajra Division), Major General Rakesh Nair on Sunday said that peace and progress are two faces of the same coin.

Addressing the Karnah Youth Festival 2026 at Tithwal, organised by the Indian Army in collaboration with the District Administration Kupwara under the theme "Jashn-e-Karnah: Rang, Riwaayat aur Riwaaj", the GOC said, "Where peace prevails, education flourishes, businesses grow, tourism opens new doors and prosperity finds its way."

He said the celebration of Jashn-e-Karnah is a reflection of Karnah's history, legacy, courage and spirit.

GOC Nair said efforts were being made to showcase Karnah's natural beauty, cultural heritage and educational landscape to the wider world, while positioning the border region as an emerging destination for tourism and development.

"Today, we envision Karnah being recognised for border tourism, its rich culture, its natural splendour and as a new hub for progress. We strive to showcase Karnah's breathtaking valleys, its educational landscape, its traditions and the lives of its people to the entire world," he said.

Notably, the festival witnessed participation of people from different villages of Karnah, including elders, children, youth and women, celebrating the region's cultural identity and community spirit. Various stalls showcasing local art, traditional practices, gardening, livestock rearing and government welfare schemes were set up during the event.

Teachers' fraternity felicitates Tameel Irshad Bureau Chief Sahil Nazir Wani



Kashmir Press Service

PATTAN: In a proud and memorable moment, Sahil Nazir Wani, Bureau Chief of Tameel Irshad, received an Award of

Appreciation from the Teachers Fraternity in recognition of his journalistic contributions.

The award was presented in the gracious presence of Provincial President JKTF Javid Ahmad Bhat, ZEO Singhpora, District chief organizer Riyaz Rabbani and other distinguished dignitaries.

The recognition reflects the value of responsible

journalism and the strong bond between the media and the education fraternity.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Programmes held across Bandipora

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 08: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, a series of outreach, awareness and community participation activities were organised across District Bandipora to promote tribal welfare, health awareness and environmental conservation.

A Community Outreach-cum-Awareness Camp was organised by the Warden, Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel, Bandipora, at the far-flung tribal habitation of Chanpal, Chattibandy, to sensitise the tribal community about various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

Meanwhile, Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was observed at Anganwadi Centre Kanzalwan, where the Health Department conducted screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and facilitated the generation of ABHA cards for beneficiaries.

Additionally, a plantation drive was organised at Government Degree College Tulail, encouraging environmental awareness and active community participation in protecting the natural environment. The activities highlighted the commitment of District Administration Bandipora towards tribal welfare, inclusive development and awareness generation in remote tribal habitations.

KVK / MAR&ES Gurez strengthens institutional collaboration with Agriculture Deptt



Kashmir Press Service

BANDIPORA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) / Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) Gurez in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Gurez organized a mega training programme on the Commercial Cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) for livelihood generation in Gurez Valley. The programme aimed at conservation of indigenous biodiversity, capacity building through knowledge & skill, potential for value addition followed by market linkages.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hilal Ahmad Malik, senior scientist & Head KVK / MAR&ES Gurez highlighted the ongoing initiatives underway in the backdrop of cultivation, conservation and value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants. Under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the continued support of Director Extension, Prof. Habib Kanth and valuable guidance being provided by the Director Research Prof Syed Zameer in making concerted efforts to promote MAP cultivation in the valley resulting in establishment of the first Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Distillation Unit at the Kendra to facilitate farmers in the processing and value addition of aromatic crops, he added.

Shri Sanjay Sharma, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO), Gurez, highlighted various Government schemes and support mechanisms being made available to farmers for the commercial cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Gurez valley was the best and most favourable place of cultivation of MAPs given the most suitable agro-eco-system and vast biodiversity while the support under HADP: 05 entitled, "Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) has been an instrumental support across J&K, added Shri Sharma.

Dr Jauhar Rafeeq, Scientist (Agroforestry), KVK Gurez, delivered a detailed presentation on the potential and prospects of various medicinal and aromatic plants suited to the agroclimatic conditions of Gurez Valley. He sensitised the participants about their cultivation practices, agro-technologies, value addition and market-oriented opportunities.

Gagandeep Singh extends Diwali greetings, calls for unity, brotherhood



Kashmir Press Service

MUMBAI: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, BJP Minority Morcha Vice President, Mumbai (Maharashtra), and Actor Gagandeep Singh extended his warmest greetings to the people across the country, wishing everyone happiness, prosperity, good health and success.

In his message, Gagandeep Singh said, "Diwali is not just a festival of lights; it is a celebration of hope, positivity, humanity and the victory of good over evil. May the light of countless diyas remove darkness from our lives and fill every heart with love, compassion and happiness."

He further emphasised that the true message of Diwali is to spread love, strengthen brotherhood, respect every religion and bring people closer beyond all differences.

He expressed his heartfelt wish that this festival brings peace to every home, prosperity to every family and new opportunities for everyone. He also appealed to people to celebrate Diwali with joy, harmony and responsibility.

Concluding his message, Gagandeep Singh wished everyone a very Happy Diwali and said, "May the divine light of Diwali illuminate our lives and inspire us to build a society filled with peace, unity, humanity and brotherhood."

DC Kupwara concludes 2-day tour of Karnah

Reviews Winter Preparedness and Essential Services

Kashmir Age News



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 08: Following the conclusion of his two-day visit to the border Sub-Division of Karnah, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at Karnah to review the winter preparedness of various departments and assess the arrangements being put in place ahead of the forthcoming winter season.

During the two day visit, the DC undertook a night stay and interacted with members of the civil society and the general public to take stock of local issues, developmental concerns and public grievances,

The meeting was attended by SDM Karnah, Firdous Ahmad Qadri, Tehsildar, BMO, BDO, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer Hydraulic, and representatives of PDD, PMGSY and FCS&CA.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the preparedness measures initiated by various departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential services and minimise public inconvenience during the harsh winter months, particularly in view of the challenging geographical and climatic conditions of the border Sub-Division.

Key areas of review included adequate stocking and timely availability of essential commodities, uninterrupted power supply, timely snow clearance, maintenance of road connectivity, and availability of adequate medical facilities, essential medicines and emergency healthcare services.

The Deputy Commissioner took department-wise stock of the arrangements and directed all concerned officers to ensure advance preparedness and put in place effective response mechanisms to deal with any eventuality arising from heavy snowfall or adverse weather conditions. He stressed the need for adequate availability of essential supplies, timely restoration of disrupted services and prompt response to emergencies, particularly in far-flung and snowbound areas.

Emphasising the importance of maintaining road connectivity, he directed the concerned engineering departments to ensure adequate arrangements for snow clearance machinery and manpower so that essential roads and important link routes are cleared in a timely manner. The concerned departments were also directed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply and make necessary arrangements for addressing any disruption during the winter season.

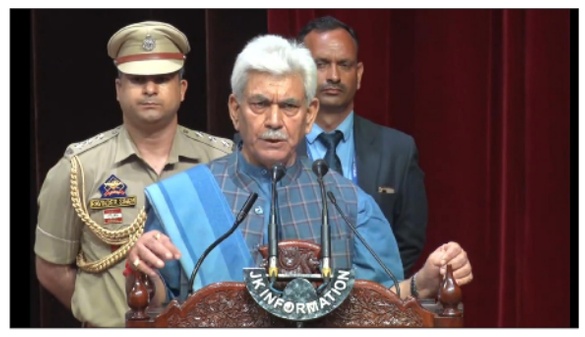
Reviewing the healthcare arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for adequate stocking of essential medicines, availability of medical staff and proper functioning of healthcare facilities. He directed the health authorities to ensure that emergency medical services remain accessible to the public, particularly during periods of heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the effective implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in the Sub-Division, highlighting the strategic importance of its seven strategic Vibrant Villages. He underscored the need for focused developmental interventions, strengthening of basic infrastructure, improved connectivity and enhanced access to essential services in these villages.

JKSA seeks LG Sinha's intervention over J&K Bank recruitment age limit

Demands relaxation to 40 years; stresses priority to merit

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Sunday expressed serious concern over the upper age limit prescribed in the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's latest recruitment notification for Probationary Officers (PO) and Banking Associates, urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene and take up the matter with the J&K Bank management and other competent authorities in the larger interest of educated unemployed youth in the region.

National Spokesperson of Association Dr Zubair Reshi said that while the announcement of fresh recruitment after a prolonged gap of nearly six years is a welcome development, restricting the upper age limit to 30 years has left thousands of otherwise eligible and deserving aspirants disappointed and effectively excluded from an opportunity they have waited years to pursue.

He said that the recruitment process must take into account the extraordinary delay in announcing vacancies and the ground realities confronting educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of candidates have spent years preparing for banking examinations, investing considerable time, resources and effort, only to find themselves rendered ineligible because of an age restriction that fails to account for the prolonged recruitment gap.

The Association particularly highlighted that the upper age limit for PO posts in the previous J&K Bank recruitment was 32 years, whereas the latest notification has reduced it to 30 years. This reduction, coupled with the nearly six-year gap since the previous recruitment cycle, has further compounded the difficulties of aspirants who have lost valuable years waiting for fresh employment opportunities. JKSA maintained that young people should not be made to bear the consequences of delayed recruitment and administrative inaction.

The Association pointed out that the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) provides an upper age limit of up to 40 years for Open Merit candidates in its recruitment processes. It urged J&K Bank to adopt a more inclusive and equitable approach by extending the upper age limit to 40 years, in line with the prevailing age criteria followed in government recruitments in the Union Territory. At the very least, the Bank should restore the previous upper age limit of 32 years for PO aspirants and consider special age relaxation in view of the prolonged recruitment hiatus.

Reshi also flagged concerns over the distribution of vacancies under the existing reservation framework, noting that only 542 of the 1,356 advertised posts fall under Open Merit, with the remaining vacancies allocated to reserved categories. The Association urged the authorities to examine these concerns while ensuring equitable opportunities for all eligible candidates, keeping in view the unemployment situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the aspirations of educated youth who have spent years preparing for competitive examinations.

Mission Vatsalya organises exposure tour for children

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA: With an aim to promote the overall development, learning and recreational well-being of children, the District Child Protection Unit Bandipora, under Mission Vatsalya, organised a one-day exposure tour for children residing in Child Care Institutions.

The children visited Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Garden), where they got an opportunity to explore the beautiful surroundings, appreciate nature and enjoy recreational activities.

The exposure tour was organised to provide children with an opportunity to explore new places, gain practical knowledge, interact with their surroundings and enjoy recreational activities beyond the institutional environment.

District Child Protection Officer Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad Malik, said that such exposure tours play a significant role in the overall growth and development of children, particularly those residing in Child Care Institutions.

He said that every child deserves opportunities to learn, explore, participate in social activities and experience a healthy and joyful childhood. He further emphasised that the objective of Mission Vatsalya is not

only to ensure the care and protection of children but also to create a supportive environment for their emotional, educational, social and psychological development.

He also added that department remains committed to organising more such educational, recreational and exposure activities for children of Child Care Institutions so that they can develop confidence, broaden their horizons and become responsible members of society.

The children expressed happiness and enthusiasm over the tour, describing it as an enjoyable and memorable experience.

The initiative is part of the continued efforts under Mission Vatsalya to ensure the

protection, welfare, rehabilitation and holistic development of children in need of care and protection.

Kashmir Age
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Actors should not blame industry for typecasting, it's their limitation: Saurabh Sachdeva



Mumbai, Nov 8 (PTI) Actor and acting coach Saurabh Sachdeva says he does not view negative roles as mere antagonists but as individuals with distinct personalities and motivations.

Sachdeva, known for playing intense and morally complex characters in films such as "Animal", "Vadh", "Jaane Jaan" and "Dhadak 2", believes audiences may see his characters as negative but he approaches each of them differently, looking for nuances in human behaviour.

"People can typecast you, but it is the shape that I have to give to the characters. If you see all my negative characters, you might say, 'Oh, it's a negative character', but they are different human beings, different personalities," Sachdeva told PTI in an interview.

"There's so much to explore in human behaviour. That's what we don't see. If we see that, then there is so much work to do for me," he added.

Sachdeva, who currently stars in a key role in Nitesh Tiwari's "Ramayana", said actors should not blame the industry for typecasting as he believes it is up to them to decide whether they allow themselves to be confined to a particular image.

"If I say I've been typecast, then it's my limitation, then I'm putting myself in a box and people will see from that box. Like, you see a negative character, I see different human beings, which have their own problems, struggles and barriers, which I've to cross.

"And those barriers should be so strong that it enhances the protagonist. Like, in 'Vadh', if the antagonist is not so strong, then the protagonist won't be able to do anything. So, I have to take it to that level."

Before foraying into acting, Sachdeva worked behind the camera as an acting coach and he attributed his delayed start as an actor to personal self-doubt.

He has trained an array of actors including John Abraham, Bobby Deol, Varun Dhawan, Arjun Kapoor, Richa Chadha, Dulquer Salmaan, Rana Daggubati, Triptii Dimri, Avinash Tiwary, Harshvardhan Rane, and Raghav Juyal, among others.

"It was my own incompetence and I was operating from, 'I'm not enough, I'm small', I was operating from this thought process. Some of my coaches helped me to rectify that and compete with that and move on. So, ever since it was rectified, I've been moving forward and forward," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Abass Paswal, S/o Alam Din Paswal, R/o Gundjahangeer Shumriyal, Tehsil & Distt Kupwara, have sworn an affidavit declaring that my name and date of birth in my Aadhaar card (No. 6913 2063 7099) were incorrectly recorded as Mohd Abass (04.03.2003) due to a clerical error. My correct name and date of birth are Mohammad Abass Paswal (04.09.2003). All concerned please note.

Mohammad Abass Paswal
Gundjahangeer Shumriyal, Kupwara
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Reyaz Ahmad, S/o Abdul Aziz, R/o Ibkote, Karnah, District Kupwara, J&K, hereby notify the general public that my daughter's correct name is ZOHA REYAZ and her actual date of birth is 10-06-2014. However, due to inadvertent clerical errors, her name and date of birth have been incorrectly recorded in the school records as ZOYA REYAZ and 18-10-2016, respectively. The concerned authorities are requested to make the necessary corrections in their official records. Any person having an objection may approach the competent authority in accordance with the applicable rules.

Contact No.: +91 60061 32619
REYAZ AHMAD
(Father)
8279

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Russia targets emergency crews at site of deadly strike in southern Ukraine

Press Trust Of India

ZAPORIZHZHIA (UKRAINE), NOV 8 A Russian drone struck emergency workers on rescue missions in southern Ukraine on Sunday, hitting a former school and nearby shelter that had been earlier blasted by multiple Russian guided bombs as residents waited for humanitarian aid, authorities said.

No one was injured in Sunday's strike on the village of Komyshuvakha, but specialised rescue equipment

was damaged, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service.

Ukraine said Monday's attack on the same location killed at least 55 people, near the front line in the Zaporizhzhia region.

As of Sunday afternoon, 45 people were listed as missing, according to the acting head of the regional military administration, Mykhailo Semikin. Many of the bodies recovered have not been identified and DNA analysis is ongoing.

Village resident Mykola Krasnov, 72, told The Associated Press on Saturday that he was



still looking for his wife, but had heard no word from rescuers.

"She went to get humanitarian aid, and a 3-ton bomb was dropped there. Where is she?" he said. "She didn't come home, and they didn't find her body there. She isn't in the morgue, and she isn't here alive."

Ukraine has routinely accused Russia of conducting multiple strikes at the same site in quick succession to target emergency crews responding to the initial attack.

The community bids farewell to police officers and neighbours

On Saturday, police officers and relatives gathered in Zaporizhzhia for a farewell ceremony for six officers killed in Russian strikes on Komyshuvakha, including four who died near the former school.

Rain fell as families wept beside the coffins, and officers held portraits of their fallen colleagues.

"They used every skill at their disposal to protect themselves. But when the enemy deliberately gathered civilians in one place and then launched strikes against them, no skills could have helped," said Andrii Khomenko, a police lieutenant colonel who had worked alongside the victims.

The community also said goodbye to three residents among the dead. Among those mourning was Yurii Karapetian, whose wife Natalia was killed. He said she was distributing bread to those in the shelter when the Russian bombs struck.

"This pain, I would say, is unbearable," he said, and urged the international community to act.

"The whole world must understand that if (the Russians) are not stopped, they will not stop. They will not stop at Ukraine. They will not stop anywhere," he said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday called the attack on emergency crews in Komyshuvakha "absolute cynicism and brutality" in a post on X.

Poles mourn rare mass killing as authorities say attacker had far-right views

Press Trust Of India

KRAKOW (POLAND), NOV 8 : Poland began two days of national mourning on Sunday, after a 24-year-old man with far-right views drove into a busy central square in Krakow and opened fire, killing six people and wounding 15 others before police shot and wounded him.

The attack, which Poland's defence minister described as an "act of terror," happened on Saturday in the Main Square, in the heart of Krakow's Old Town. It is a major



tourist hub in the country's second-largest city.

By Saturday evening, mourners had left candles in memory of the victims. The square remained partially closed on Sunday as authorities continued their investigation.

St. Mary's Trumpet Call, a traditional five-note melody played every hour from the highest tower of St. Mary's Basilica on the Main Square, was paused overnight in tribute to the victims. It was the first time the call had been missed since World War II.

On Sunday afternoon, St. Anne's Church in Krakow filled with mourners attending a memorial service for the victims of the tragedy.

Authorities also found the bodies of the assailant's sister, mother and father at the man's family home in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, a city about 150 kilometres northeast of Krakow. They likely died from gunshot wounds.

Witnesses hid in nearby shops to avoid bullets

Marie-Ange Collaer wrote on Facebook that she and her family survived the shooting during a trip to Krakow from Brussels.

"We literally ran for our lives and managed to hide from the bullets flying around," she wrote. "Lying on the floor in a shop like in a bad police movie whilst you hear bullets everywhere."

UK resident Neil Thaxton and his wife also lived through the attack.

"We had just walked through the main square and heard the gunshots," Thaxton wrote on Facebook. "We thought it was fireworks then people started running, we went into a gift shop and the staff took us in the back of the shop and locked the doors and turned the lights off."

Alexandros Maronitis, a tourist from Greece, told The Associated Press that he couldn't get back to his lodgings for five hours after the tragedy.

"We saw the shooter when they picked him up with the ambulance," Maronitis said. "So, we're a bit afraid. It's our first time in Poland. We heard it's a safe country."

American tourist Marylin Green mourned the losses in the "beautiful city" during her first trip to Poland that also included the capital.

"I'm Polish, my parents were from here," she said. "I loved Warsaw. So I was really looking forward to coming here, too."

Witness Andy Hill told the BBC that he'd felt like he was in a movie scene.

"It doesn't feel real," the British tourist said. "And the trouble is, you have such an instantaneous moment to make a decision: Run. Stand still. There's an element of shock. But I just thought the easiest thing to do is dive through a doorway and just take refuge behind the windows." Police officers described as heroes

Prosecutors said Sunday they opened an investigation into the murder and attempted murder of numerous people, including police officers, with the act "constituting a terrorist offense."

Far-right activists disrupt Diwali celebrations in Seattle; spark outrage

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON, NOV 8 : Far-right activists led by Jake Lang stormed Diwali celebrations in Seattle, carrying racist placards, an act that was swiftly condemned by US lawmakers and community leaders.

Lang and fellow activist Thomas Allen waved the American flag and carried placards with slogans "Deport All Dot Heads" and "Stop Hindu Replacement of Christians" in front of



a stage at the Seattle Centre Armoury, where a dance performance was underway on Saturday.

Videos of the storming of the Diwali celebrations in Seattle went viral on social media. A large number of families and children were in attendance at the event.

The disruption by the far-right activists came a day after Trump lit the traditional diya at the Oval Office and Washington Governor Bob Ferguson joined the Diwali celebrations at the Indian Consulate General in Seattle.

The activists were soon escorted out of the Diwali celebrations, which were part of Seattle Centre Festival, a series of 25 free cultural festivals that collectively draw about 400,000 visitors annually.

Lang is associated with an organisation, 'White Replacement,' and was among the attackers of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. He served a four-year jail term and was later pardoned by US President Donald Trump on the first day of his second presidency in 2025.

He said Hindu-Americans flipped Texas in favour of Democrats and claimed that recent US midterm elections were "rigged". Lang also called for a demonstration at the US Capitol on January 3.

US lawmakers Pramila Jayapal and Raja Krishnamoorthi condemned the incident, saying such hate has no place in the US.

"I am beyond disgusted by this vile and racist display. Diwali is an important holiday and our community should feel safe to celebrate it. This hateful display has no place in our city or this country," Jayapal, the Congresswoman from Washington, said in a post on X.

Saudi Arabia intercepts missiles as Aramco building in Riyadh is damaged, and other Mideast news

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI, NOV 8 : Saudi Arabia said it intercepted incoming missiles targeting the kingdom's capital and other regions on Sunday, with falling debris damaging a building belonging to the state-owned oil giant Aramco



in Riyadh's financial district.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates said it rescued 22 crew members after a fire broke out aboard a cargo ship in the Sea of Oman, as risks to commercial shipping in the region remain high.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Sunday.

Aramco building in Riyadh damaged after missile interceptions

Witnesses in Riyadh said they heard a loud explosion Sunday morning and described damage across multiple floors of an Aramco building in the King Abdullah Financial District in Riyadh. Some floors appeared to be heavily damaged.

The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

The Saudi-led coalition said its air defences intercepted two ballistic missiles and two cruise missiles targeting Riyadh and other regions early Sunday, accusing the Houthis of launching the weapons.

The Saudi Energy Ministry said the attempted attack resulted in "falling shrapnel that caused minor damage to the building." It added that there were no casualties.

The Saudi Centre for International Communication and Aramco did not immediately respond to a request for comment by The Associated Press.

Also, the Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted a ballistic missile overnight targeting Saudi Arabia's southern region, which borders Yemen and has repeatedly come under Houthi attacks. The latest developments follow Saudi airstrikes on Saturday near Sanaa, Yemen's capital that is held by the Houthis. Houthi officials said the strikes killed at least 27 people.

Collision between 2 trains in Egypt kills 4, injures 88

Press Trust Of India

CAIRO, NOV 8 : At least four people were killed and almost 90 others were injured when two trains collided Sunday south of the Egyptian capital, Cairo, authorities said.

The crash occurred in al-Ayyat district in Giza province, about 52 kilometres south of Cairo, when a train travelling to the southwestern Fayoum province crashed into the rear of a train heading to the southern province of Aswan, according to the Transportation Ministry. One of the trains derailed, it said, but did not specify which.

The Health Ministry said at least four people were killed and 88 others were wounded. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment, it said.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said in a social media post that he ordered a prompt investigation into the crash to hold those responsible accountable.

Emergency teams and cranes were dispatched to the scene to clear the wreckage and restore train services to their normal schedule as soon as possible, the Egyptian Railway Authority said.

US: 2 shootings at Winston-Salem State during homecoming weekend leave 1 dead

Press Trust Of India

WINSTON-SALEM (US), NOV 8 : Two separate shootings during homecoming weekend at a historically Black college in North Carolina have left one person dead and three injured, police said Sunday.

Assistant Police Chief Jason Swaim of the Winston-Salem Police Department said both shootings occurred on Saturday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, but that it was too early to tell whether the shootings were connected.

Authorities are investigating, and the campus is safe. An earlier lockdown has been lifted. He did not say whether any arrests have been made.

"At this point, the investigation is still very early in its preliminary stages," Swaim said at a press conference early Sunday.

Chancellor Bonita J. Brown issued a statement Sunday morning, saying "this senseless violence" has shaken the community and that all remaining homecoming events were cancelled. Instead, a local church planned to lead a call for prayers in support of the university.

Brown said additional law enforcement would remain on campus while the investigation continues and that counselling was available for anyone who needed.

Tens of thousands march in Amsterdam, pressing Dutch government on Gaza, Israel

Press Trust Of India

AMSTERDAM, NOV 8 : Tens of thousands of people, many of them dressed in red, marched through Amsterdam on Sunday in a mass demonstration aimed at pressing the Dutch



government to take more decisive action against Israel over Gaza.

The organisers of "Red Line" demonstrations in the Netherlands called for measures including stricter trade sanctions on Israel, officially declaring that Israel's actions in Gaza amount to genocide and halting all arms sales to Israel.

The Dutch branch of Amnesty International, one of the organisers, said in an online post that more than 200,000 people joined the march.

"What is happening there is inhumane," Mike van Dongen said as he walked in the huge throng of people. He was critical of the Dutch government's actions. "As far as I'm concerned, they are doing nothing," he said. "They don't dare take any serious steps."

As the protesters marched along a normally busy Amsterdam street that was closed to traffic on Sunday, a man stood on a bus stop with a loudspeaker shouting, "Free, free Palestine!" Many of the marchers echoes his cry as they passed.

Israel strongly rejects suggestions it is committing genocide in Gaza in its military campaign that followed the attacks by Hamas-led militants in southern Israel on October 7, 2023. Militants killed around 1,200 people and took 251 hostages. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and destroyed much of Gaza.

More than 1,550 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by the Israeli military since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas began in October 2025, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, doesn't distinguish between civilians and militants, though it says women and children make up roughly half of the dead.

The campaign in Gaza has strained relations between the Netherlands and Israel. The Dutch foreign minister resigned last year after failing to secure new sanctions against Israel.

Since then, a new minority coalition government has taken power and introduced an import ban on products from Israeli settlements, which the Dutch

government and most of the international community consider illegal--a move that provoked a diplomatic spat with Israel.

Nepalese Hindus celebrate Diwali across Himalayan nation

Press Trust Of India

KATHMANDU, NOV 8 : Hindus across Nepal on Sunday celebrated Diwali by worshipping Goddess Laxmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, decorating their homes with lamps and offering prayers as part of the five-day Tihar festival.

People cleaned and decorated their homes to welcome Goddess Laxmi on the occasion of Laxmi Puja, which falls on Kartik Amavasya, the new moon day of the Hindu lunar calendar.



President Ramchandra Paudel and Prime Minister Balendra Shah extended greetings to Nepalis on the occasion of Tihar, wishing them happiness, peace, prosperity and progress.

President Paudel said Tihar, Nepal's second-largest festival, played an important role in bringing people of different castes, languages and cultures together and strengthening unity in diversity.

Nepalese Hindus also celebrated Kukur Tihar, a festival dedicated to worshipping dogs, which coincided with Laxmi Puja this year according to the lunar calendar.

At Sneha's Care, an animal rehabilitation centre in Lalitpur, over 100 dogs were honoured with tika made of vermilion powder, curd and rice, garlands and special food.

Animal rights activist Sneha Shrestha organised the celebrations at the centre, attended by Rastriya Swatantra Party MP Toshima Karki, animal rights activists, journalists and foreign tourists.

The dogs were offered biscuits, cookies, eggs and other meals after the rituals.

Dogs are worshipped during Tihar as they are traditionally regarded as messengers of Yamaraj, the Hindu God of death.

Prime Minister Shah expressed hope that the festival would strengthen

coexistence and harmony with other living beings, describing the bond between humans and animals as one of the most beautiful aspects of Nepalese festivals.

Editorial

Winter Power Supply

The onset of winter in Kashmir brings with it an annual test of the administration's ability to ensure uninterrupted and reliable electricity supply. As temperatures dip and dependence on electricity increases for heating, lighting and other essential domestic requirements, the demand for power rises sharply. For thousands of households, particularly in areas experiencing harsh winters, electricity is not merely a convenience but an essential necessity. Recently, the concerned Minister reviewed power supply scenario and preparedness of the department and the same is a timely exercise. The Minister's directions to minimise unscheduled power cuts, adhere to prescribed curtailment schedules and strengthen coordination among field functionaries reflect an understanding of the difficulties faced by consumers during winter. However, the real measure of such inspections lies not in the assurances given during official visits but in their translation into tangible improvements on the ground.

Over the years, erratic power supply, unscheduled curtailments and prolonged outages have remained recurring complaints across several areas of Kashmir. Consumers are often compelled to endure interruptions beyond the announced schedules, while frequent fluctuations and inadequate voltage further compound their difficulties. Such disruptions become particularly distressing during prolonged spells of cold weather when households have limited alternatives.

The proposed augmentation of the Alusteng Grid Station's transformation capacity from 320 MVA to 475 MVA, at an estimated cost of Rs 56.78 crore, is an encouraging development. The project has the potential to strengthen the transmission network and improve the availability and quality of electricity in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts. However, infrastructure expansion must be accompanied by timely execution, regular maintenance and adequate power allocation. Increasing transformation capacity alone cannot resolve every supply-related problem unless the entire distribution network is equally strengthened.

Equally important is the Minister's direction to pay special attention to Kangan and adjoining areas, where geographical and climatic conditions make reliable electricity supply particularly important. Field officers must remain accessible and responsive rather than waiting for public complaints or ministerial interventions.

The proposed amnesty scheme for electricity consumers also deserves consideration. A well-designed scheme could provide relief to financially burdened households while encouraging consumers to clear outstanding dues and regularise their connections.

Ultimately, winter preparedness must be measured by the experience of ordinary consumers. The government and PDD must ensure that announced curtailment schedules are respected, breakdowns are addressed promptly and accountability is fixed for avoidable disruptions. People do not expect electricity without any interruption under all circumstances; they expect fairness, predictability and a responsive system. Winter power management must move beyond inspections and assurances to deliver dependable electricity when people need it most.

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

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Silent Majority



MUDASIR GANI KHAN

Every society has people who recognise injustice, understand what is wrong and privately disagree with harmful practices. They see dishonesty, discrimination, corruption, exploitation and the misuse of power, yet often choose to remain silent. They are neither supporters of wrongdoing nor necessarily indifferent to the suffering of others. However, their silence sometimes allows problems to continue.

This raises an important question: Why do good people remain silent when society needs their voices the most?

The problem is not limited to one country, community or institution. It is a global social concern that affects families, workplaces, educational institutions and public life.

The Fear of Speaking Out

One major reason behind public silence is fear. People worry about damaging relationships, losing opportunities, facing criticism or becoming targets of unnecessary controversy.

An individual may know that someone is being treated unfairly but hesitate to speak because the person responsible holds authority or influence. Similarly, people sometimes avoid questioning harmful practices because they fear being excluded from social circles.

Gradually, silence becomes a convenient choice. People convince themselves that remaining uninvolved is safer than expressing an honest opinion.

However, when everyone waits for someone else to speak, injustice often finds the space to grow.

The Influence of Society

Modern society has developed an uncomfortable tendency to judge people who raise difficult questions. Instead of examining an issue objectively, people sometimes focus on the individual who speaks about it.

A person highlighting an important social problem may be labelled negative, troublesome or controversial. As a result, many individuals prefer private disagreement over public discussion.

This attitude weakens healthy debate and discourages responsible citizenship.

A progressive society should welcome respectful questions and constructive criticism rather than treating every disagreement as a personal attack.

Social Media: Many Voices, Little Courage?

We live in an age when millions of people express their opinions through social media. A single post can reach thousands of individuals within minutes. Yet, having a platform does not necessarily mean having the courage to address meaningful issues.

People frequently share motivational quotations, celebrate achievements and comment on popular trends. However, when an issue involves discrimination, public accountability or the suffering of vulnerable people, many hesitate to express an independent opinion.

Sometimes, online reactions replace meaningful action. Sharing a message may create awareness, but genuine social improvement requires responsibility, consistency and participation beyond digital platforms.

The Classroom and the Responsibility of Teachers

Educational institutions have an important role in developing a generation that can think independently and express opinions responsibly.

Students should not be taught merely to memorise information and reproduce answers. They should also learn to question, analyse, discuss and distinguish between right and wrong.

Teachers can encourage respectful disagreement, classroom discussions and activities that develop confidence and critical thinking.

A student who learns to speak respectfully against unfairness today may become a responsible citizen tomorrow.

Education must develop not only knowledgeable individuals but also courageous, thoughtful and compassionate human beings.

Silence in the Face of Global Problems

The silent majority is not only a local social phenomenon. Across the world, people witness poverty, war, displacement, discrimination, environmental destruction and violations of human dignity.

While governments, international organisations and institutions carry significant responsibilities, ordinary citizens also influence public attitudes through their choices, awareness and participation.

Silence does not always mean agreement, but persistent indifference can make serious problems easier to ignore.

Humanity needs people who are willing to defend dignity, support vulnerable communities and demand accountability through peaceful and responsible means.

Speaking Up Does Not Mean Creating Conflict

It is equally important to understand that speaking out does not require aggression, disrespect or unnecessary confrontation.

There is a difference between raising a genuine concern and spreading accusations without evidence. Responsible voices depend on facts, fairness, patience and respect for others.

People can question wrongdoing through lawful channels, constructive dialogue, responsible journalism and democratic participation.

Courage is not about shouting louder than everyone else. It is about standing by what is right, even when doing so is uncomfortable.

A Society Must Move Beyond Silence

Every individual has some responsibility towards the society in which they live. Parents can teach children to speak honestly. Teachers can encourage independent thinking. Journalists can highlight neglected issues, and community members can support those who face unfair treatment.

We do not need everyone to become an activist or public speaker. We need ordinary citizens who refuse to normalise dishonesty, discrimination and injustice.

Sometimes, a simple question, a fair observation or a respectful objection can begin an important conversation.

The greatest danger to society is not always the presence of people who do wrong. It is also the absence of people willing to question what is wrong.

Good people do not have to become loud to make a difference, but they must not allow fear, convenience or social pressure to permanently silence their conscience. A better society begins when responsible people understand that silence is also a choice, and every choice has consequences.

Learning From Kerala's Ulema

Institutional Service To Muslim Community



PROF. HAMID NASEEM RAFIABADI

I have had the privilege of meeting Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad, widely known as Kanthapuram A. P. Aboobacker Musliyar, on several occasions in Kochi and Calicut. I have also had the opportunity to listen to his speeches and personally visit some of the educational institutions established through his vision and leadership. These encounters have given me an opportunity to appreciate not merely his religious scholarship and public stature but, more importantly, his commitment to institutional development, education and the socioeconomic welfare of the Muslim community.

Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad represents a significant tradition of religious leadership in Kerala in which scholarship, spirituality, institutional development and social responsibility are brought together. His contribution deserves to be examined beyond the conventional parameters through which religious personalities are generally evaluated. What makes his work particularly noteworthy is the transformation of religious commitment into tangible institutions serving education, healthcare, orphan care, housing, drinking water and community development.

His initiative, which began with taking responsibility for the care of 25 orphaned children during the 1960s, gradually developed into an extensive network of educational and humanitarian institutions. The establishment of Markazu Saquafathi Sunniyya (Markaz) in 1978 provided an important institutional foundation for this broader vision.

According to figures published by his official office and affiliated charitable organisations, his network has provided care and support to 18,745 orphans, undertaken approximately 72,500 drinking-water projects across 6,028 villages and constructed houses for 16,937 families. Its educational initiatives reportedly include more than 12,000 primary and secondary schools and over 600 colleges and technical institutions. These figures, which should be understood as institutionally reported statistics, indicate the considerable scale of the humanitarian and educational activities associated with his leadership.

The broader significance of the Kerala Ulama, however, lies not in the achievements of one individual alone. There is a remarkable tradition among several sections of the state's religious leadership of establishing educational institutions, hospitals, orphanages, community centres, charitable organisations and other structures of social welfare. Religious scholarship has, in this context, been translated into institutional responsibility and community empowerment.

This is an important lesson for the Ulama and religious leadership in northern India.

Unfortunately, in several parts of northern India, we do not find a comparable degree of institutional engagement and organised social intervention. There are, of course, notable exceptions, and many religious scholars and organisations have made commendable contributions. Nevertheless, a considerable section of our religious leadership appears to devote disproportionate attention to polemical controversies, sectarian disagreements, political alignments and the propagation of competing religious identities. Such activities may occasionally be part of intellectual or theological discourse, but they cannot become the principal preoccupation of religious leadership.

The community requires far more than polemical victories. It needs educational institutions capable of producing intellectually competent and professionally qualified generations; hospitals and healthcare facilities accessible to the poor; orphanages that provide children with dignity, education and opportunities; vocational and technical institutions that facilitate economic independence; and community centres that promote social cohesion, mutual assistance and constructive engagement.

The question that needs to be asked is not merely how many theological controversies we have won, how many opponents we have refuted or how many followers we have gathered around particular sectarian positions. A much more meaningful question is: How many schools have we established? How many poor families have we helped? How many orphans have we educated? How many hospitals have we built? How many young people have we equipped with professional skills? How many communities have benefited from our institutional initiatives?

Religious leadership must be measured not merely by its ability to command public attention or mobilise followers, but also by its capacity to transform society through education, compassion, service and institution-building.

The Kerala experience demonstrates that religious commitment and modern education, traditional scholarship and professional competence, spirituality and social development need not be treated as competing priorities. They can complement and strengthen one another. The Ulama can preserve the intellectual and spiritual heritage of Islam while simultaneously establishing institutions that respond to the practical needs of contemporary society.

We particularly need to move beyond the artificial opposition between religious and modern education. Institutions should cultivate Qur'anic literacy, Islamic ethics, intellectual inquiry, scientific awareness and professional excellence. Such an integrated educational vision would enable Muslim youth to become religiously conscious, intellectually accomplished and socially responsible citizens.

Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad's institutional initiatives offer an important example of how religious leadership can be translated into organised and sustained public service. His work should not be approached merely through the lens of sectarian affiliations or theological differences. Rather, it deserves an objective assessment in terms of its contribution to education, humanitarian service and community development.

The Ulama of northern India would do well to study these institutional models, understand the organisational mechanisms behind them and adapt their successful features to their own social and regional circumstances. We need greater cooperation among religious scholars, academics, philanthropists, professionals and civil society organisations. We also need a transition from personality-centred activities towards sustainable institutions governed by transparency, professional management and long-term planning.

Ultimately, the credibility of religious leadership is strengthened when its teachings find expression in the improvement of human lives. The Prophet Muhammad was not merely a teacher of religious doctrines; he was also a builder of a morally conscious, socially responsible and mutually supportive community.

We must learn to move from polemics to productive engagement, from sectarian competition to institutional cooperation, and from rhetorical religiosity to meaningful social transformation. The greatest contribution of religious leadership is not simply to produce followers, but to build institutions, empower communities and serve humanity.

This is one of the most important lessons that we can learn from the educational and humanitarian initiatives associated with Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad and several other Ulama of Kerala.

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High Protein Diet For Weight Loss: Avoid These Common Mistakes For Effective Results

One of the most popular macronutrients that you are suggested to when trying to lose weight is protein. This is not surprising given that they are the building blocks of tissue. Protein also plays an important role in building your muscles and keeps you full for longer. With all these benefits, it is quite possible to get carried away and follow a diet that has a little too much protein. Overconsumption of protein can impact your health and lead to some side effects. Too much protein intake can lead to calories accumulation, and jeopardise your weight loss plans. To prevent this, here are some common mistakes that you should avoid when on a high protein diet.

Weight loss: Avoid these mistakes when on a weight loss diet

1. Type of protein

Make sure you consume proteins from lean sources. This includes protein such as fish, chicken and white-meat poultry. On the other hand, lamb, bacon and pork should be avoided so that you don't go overboard with your intake.

2. Include carbohydrates

Just because you are on a protein diet, does not mean you should completely avoid eating carbohydrates. Carbohydrates, in a limited quantity, is necessary for overall good health and energy.

3. Protein in all meals

It is important to include protein-rich food in all your meals so that you divide the consumption into smaller quantities through the course of the day. Consuming protein at regular intervals instead of eating it in bulk will do you good. For snacks or smaller meals, nuts, eggs or protein-rich milkshakes are good options to start with.

4. Check water intake

When on a high-protein diet, one has to stay amply hydrated. Proper water consumption also helps deal with constipation issues, which may occur while following this type of diet. Besides, water is filling and automatically helps you eat less.

A FATTY LIVER CAN BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEART

'Fatty Liver' commonly finds mention in an ultrasound examination report and is often passed off as an incidental finding, it may not be innocuous after all, suggest recent studies in reputed medical journals.

Japanese and European scientists were the first to report a strange four-fold increase in heart disease in these patients compared to those of the same age and sex who had normal livers. And their observations are proving true across the world.

Using sophisticated techniques, doctors have found the wall of arteries to be thicker and the lumen narrower, causing reduced flow of blood to their heart muscles and brains, in these patients. Their findings support the clinical observation that those with excess fat in their livers are more vulnerable and die earlier from heart problems.

The appearance of a 'bright' and swollen liver suggesting excess fat deposition is a common finding on ultrasound examination. While it is commonly seen in drinkers, it is often seen in tee-totallers too, and is referred to as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or NAFLD in them. Although the risk of liver damage due to this fat is modest and occurs in only 20 per cent when present for over 20 years, proneness to heart attacks grossly increases.

If a fatty liver is detected or suspected, a reliable simple way to find out "how much fat" and "how bad the liver's condition is" can be answered by a test called Liver Fibroscan (with CAP), a simple, painless, non-invasive test that takes only 10 minutes and gives you the important answer.

NAFLD is usually associated with obesity, diabetes, hypertension or high amounts of circulating fats in the blood, and is often called a "Lifestyle Disorder". Lack of adequate exercise and consumption of excess calories have been shown to lead to obesity and excess fat deposits in the liver. The mechanism underlying this disorder called Insulin Resistance, is like that which occurs in diabetics of the Type 2 variety or the common adult type, in which patients have high circulating levels of Insulin that prove ineffective in driving sugar into cells. Insulin Resistance also causes excess accumulation of fat in liver cells, as well as thickening of arteries that cause heart or brain disease.

Regular exercise and reduction of weight form the fulcrum of treatment for this disorder. Apart from helping reduce weight, aerobic excercise up-regulates a protein (glut-4) that restores the sensitivity of cells to circulating insulin. Hence insulin and sugar levels both come down, fat gets mobilised from the liver, buttocks and abdomen, and the increased risk of heart disease is restored to normal levels.

India is in the eye of an emerging global epidemic of diabetes and heart disease. While our genes may be partly accountable for our misfortune, the greater share of blame lies in our reluctance to exercise regularly. While vagaries of weather and unsafe roads may come as handy excuses, we Indians, more than any other race, need to shake off our laziness and indulge ourselves in far more and regular exercise than what we are doing at present. And we need to start quite urgently if we need to live longer and healthier lives.

Effective medications are now available to help you shed fat from your liver. But much depends on your motivation and will power to adhere to a "diet-and fitness" regime to get your liver and heart into good shape.

Heart Health: 5 Tips You Should Follow To Boost Cardiovascular Health

Taking care of the heart is important as it is one of the most vital organs in the body. It is the heart that keeps one alive by pumping blood to all the other organs. The incidence of heart diseases has majorly risen over the years due to factors such as diabetes, hypertension, unhealthy diet and obesity, sedentary lifestyle, and consumption of alcohol and tobacco. It is vital to take immediate action and bring about modifications in your lifestyles to reduce the burden of heart diseases. One must lead a heart-healthy lifestyle, as the benefits of a healthy heart can also have a positive impact on overall well-being. Having a strong heart can protect against complications linked with several chronic conditions. While age has been a primary risk factor for heart diseases, over the years, more and more youth are getting detected with heart ailments due to the evolution of lifestyles. Therefore, it is important to start taking care of the heart from early on in life to prevent fatalities at a later stage.



Steps to have a healthy heart:

1. Making healthy food choices -

- Whole Grains - It is recommended to include at least one type of whole grain in daily meals such as cereals and millets
- Omega 3-rich foods - Seeds like flax seed and chia seeds are best sources for omega-3
- Green leafy vegetables - Include more greens in daily diet as they are excellent sources of vitamins and minerals, especially, heart-friendly vitamin K
- Herbs - Avoid table salt and add herbs to add flavour to the food
- Olive and mustard oil - Use olive and mustard oil to cook as they contain healthy fats, which are good for the heart
- Nuts and seeds - A handful of almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, walnuts etc. every day must be consumed

2. Hydrate yourself -

Besides drinking water throughout the day, keep yourself hydrated with other healthy drinks like coconut water, lemon, smoothies and homemade drinks with low sugar and salt content.

3. Exercising regularly -

Exercise can lower the risk of developing plaque in the arteries which reduce blood flow. The key is to get up and move, go for a walk, or do some push-ups or sit-ups. As per WHO, it is recommended to do at least 150-300 minutes of physical activity/ workout every week.

4. Managing stress and mental well-being -

Managing stress can help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. Stress is often associated with high blood pressure and exposes the body to elevated levels of stress hormones. There are breathing exercises and meditation which can help manage stress.

5. Controlling blood pressure-

High blood pressure is a common ailment and one of the leading causes for heart diseases such as heart attacks, failure, and others. One must keep a regular check on the blood pressure and consume a diet that helps reduce hypertension.

Importance of monitoring the heart:

While the above precautionary measures can help keep heart health within check, it is important, especially for heart patients to monitor their heart regularly. The advent of medical technologies like remote monitoring has now made it possible for patients to monitor their heart within the comfort of their home and transmit information about the same to their doctor remotely. Early reaction also helps improve patient outcomes.

When to consult a doctor?

Most people might avoid consulting a doctor due to the commonalty of the symptoms experienced in heart diseases, however, it is important to seek medical help if experiencing symptoms like shortness of breath, palpitations, dizziness, chest pain, shortness of breath, pain in the neck, jaw, throat, rapid or irregular heartbeat.

Natural Vs Refined Sugar: Nutritionist Decodes The Difference

Simply put, sugar is a form of simple carbohydrate that the body converts into glucose and uses for energy. But the effect on the body and overall health depends on the type of sugar one is eating, either natural or refined. Natural sugars are found in fruit as fructose and as lactose in dairy products, such as milk and cheese. They contain essential nutrients that keep the body healthy and help prevent disease. The natural sources of sugar are digested slower and help you feel full for longer. It also helps keep your metabolism stable.

Natural vs refined sugar

Refined sugar such as: white sugar, brown sugar, cane sugar, coconut sugar, palm sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, etc. All these sugars mainly come from plants but have been processed in some way to a simple, sweet form, thus they are processed or refined. Due to which an increase in the consumption of refined sugar has led to the rise in obesity rates, which is associated with higher risks of cancer.

Fibre is a huge key.

When sugar from fruit is taken



up, the fiber that comes with it slows down the absorption rate of sugar. This is so, because natural sugars found in whole foods don't increase blood sugar levels as fast as refined sugar. Adding up, to help slow down the absorption of the fruit even more is to pair your fruit with a meal, including a protein.

Berries such as strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are lowest in natural sugar, while the highest are dried fruits, bananas, and mangoes. Fruit juices are also high in sugar, so opt for whole fruit instead. Even though if one consumes the same number of calories from whole fruit and juice, the metabolic effects are very different. Thus, metabolically speaking, juice is more or less similar to soda than it is to whole fruit.

Metabolism Matters

The way body metabolizes the sugar in fruit and milk differs from how it metabolizes the refined sugar added to processed foods. The body breaks down refined sugar rapidly, causing insulin and blood sugar levels to skyrocket. Because refined sugar is digested quickly, one doesn't feel full after you're done eating, no matter how many calories you consumed. Hence, the fiber present in fruit brings down metabolism, as fruit in the digestive tract expands to make you feel full.

To understand better about added and natural sugar, the best piece of advice we have now is to simply eat less sugar, with the whole fruit as a notable exception to this rule. Ideally, our diets should be low in sugar and high in fibre, consisting primarily of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Thus, there is not much difference between sugar that is present in food naturally and the one that is added. Yet, how it's presented to the body, what comes with it, and the quantity is masks much, much difference.

This human molecule is helping Covid virus escape antibodies

A natural molecule called biliverdin present in human body is helping SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, escape antibodies - a discovery that can help explain why some Covid patients become severely ill despite having high levels of antibodies against the virus, report researchers.

When SARS-CoV-2 infects a patient's lungs, it damages blood vessels and causes a rise in the number of immune cells.

"Both of these effects may contribute to increasing the levels of biliverdin and bilirubin in the surrounding tissues. And with more of these molecules available, the virus has more opportunity to hide from certain antibodies," said Annachiara Rosa, first study author at the Francis Crick Institute in the UK.

"This is a really striking process, as the virus may be benefiting from a side-effect of the damage it has already caused," Rosa said in the paper published in the journal Science Advances.

In their research, teams from the Francis Crick Institute, in collaboration with researchers at Imperial College London, Kings College London and UCL (University College London), found that biliverdin and bilirubin, natural molecules present in the body, can suppress the binding of antibodies to the coronavirus spike. As vaccines are rolled out globally, understanding immunity to SARS-CoV-2 and also how the virus evades antibodies is critically important.

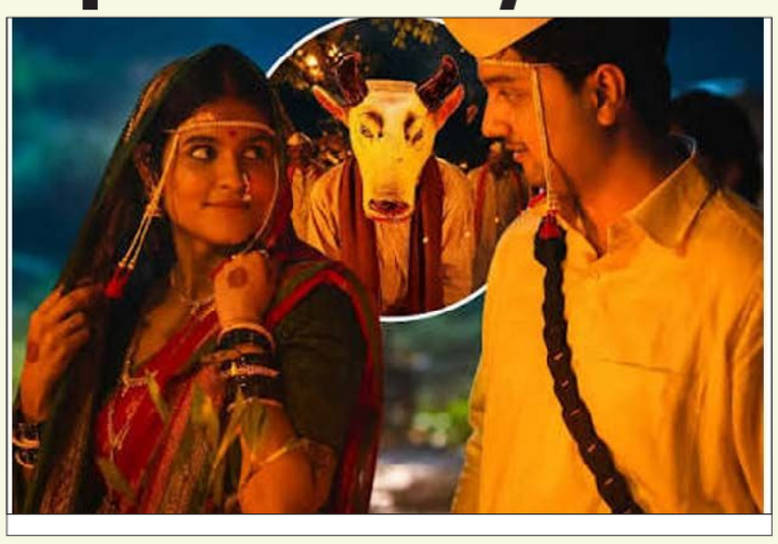
The ability of the immune system to control the infection and the quality of the antibody response are highly variable, and not well correlated, between individuals. The scientists discovered that the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein strongly binds to biliverdin, a molecule which was giving these proteins an unusual green colouration.

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Marathi film 'Gondhal' builds up Oscar entry buzz in UK

Press trust Of India



LONDON, Nov 8 : The team behind 'Gondhal', the Marathi film selected as India's entry to the Oscars 2027, was in the UK this week to build up some hype in the lead-up to the coveted Academy Awards in Hollywood next year.

Tongues on Fire, behind the annual UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF), came together with the High Commission of India in London for a special screening at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) in London on Thursday.

"India is a country of immense diversity and bringing stories to you from different parts of our country, and in different languages, helps demystify the country to cinema lovers across the world," said Saloni Sahai, First Secretary at the Indian High Commission in London.

"This film is nominated for the Academy Awards next year, so we are hoping that this screening contributes in a small way towards its journey to global recognition," she said.

The London screening was followed up by a Diwali celebration screening backed by the Consul General of India (CGI) in Manchester on Friday."The Manchester presentation of 'Gondhal', following its London screening, represented a further opportunity to connect audiences with Indian cinema and its rich cultural traditions", said Vishakha Yadhuvanshi, CGI in Manchester.

The screening was followed by interactions with lead actor Yogesh Sohoni and producer Adhish Desai of Cocktail Studios."By showcasing films in regional Indian languages, initiatives such as this continue to broaden the international conversation around Indian filmmaking, creating greater visibility for diverse narratives, emerging perspectives and authentic cultural expression", said Rahul Kale, the lead coordinator behind both events.The screenings coincided with a celebration of the Festival of Lights this weekend, bringing together artists, cinema lovers and members of the diaspora.

"The event reflected the growing appreciation of Indian cinema in the United Kingdom and the important role of cultural initiatives in bringing communities together through the universal language of storytelling", said Ani Kaprekar, who helped facilitate the screening in Manchester.

Punjab govt hikes DA for 6,507 computer teachers: Mann



Press trust Of India

CHANDIGARH, NOV 8 : The Punjab government on Saturday announced a 40 per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) for 6,507 computer teachers and regularised services of 1,007 non-teaching employees working under Samagra Shiksha.

"On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, the Punjab government has announced a major benefit for its employees. The government has approved a historic 40 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for 6,507 Computer Teachers (PICTES), taking it from 181 per cent to 221 per cent," Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said in a statement.

The state government has also regularised the services of 1,007 non-teaching employees working under Samagra Shiksha. This decision will provide greater stability and security to these employees, he added.

The state government has also decided to extend salary-related benefits to these employees. The government is fully committed to the welfare of its employees and ensuring their secure future, Mann said.

"No stone is being left unturned by the state government to ensure the welfare and well-being of its employees. We are committed to providing them with a secure future and ensuring that they receive the benefits they deserve," he noted.(PTI)

Himachal executes first inter-state Golden Mahseer fingerling shipment to West Bengal

Press trust Of India



BILASPUR (HP), NOV 8: In a significant step towards exploring new horizons in fisheries and aquaculture, Himachal Pradesh's Department of Fisheries achieved a milestone by undertaking the first-ever interstate supply of Golden Mahseer (Tor putitora) fingerlings to West Bengal.

This initiative marks an important step towards establishing Himachal Pradesh as a potential source of quality fish seed and promoting the commercial value of its indigenous fish species beyond the state, officials said on Saturday."The first-ever interstate supply of Golden Mahseer fingerlings to West Bengal represents a significant achievement for the Department and reflects the growing technical and institutional capacity of the state in fish seed production," said Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, Om Kant Thakur.

He said the state has immense potential in coldwater fisheries and indigenous fish species, and the department is committed to exploring new avenues for expanding the fisheries sector through scientific fish breeding, quality seed production, conservation and commercialisation.

In the first phase, a consignment of 2,000 Golden Mahseer fingerlings has been supplied to West Bengal. The initial consignment has been deliberately kept limited to assess and monitor various transportation-related challenges, survival rates and acclimatisation requirements of the fingerlings under the climatic and environmental conditions of the destination state.

Based on the successful transportation, survival and acclimatisation of this consignment, the department plans to supply the next lot of 10,000 Golden Mahseer fingerlings in the second phase.

The fingerlings were raised at the National Mahseer Farm, Machiyal, District Mandi, an important facility for propagation and conservation of this valuable indigenous fish species. The consignment was sold to Subrata Mandal, a young fish entrepreneur from Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal.

Trade margin cap: Revised prices of 137 anti-cancer drugs to come into effect on Nov 9



Press trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 : Prices of 137 anti-cancer drugs from various brands will be significantly reduced from November 9, following the government's decision to cap trade margins, resulting in an estimated annual savings of Rs 3,502.31 crore for consumers.

According to an official release by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped trade margins on 137 anti-cancer medicines.

This followed recommendations made on October 17 by an expert committee constituted under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

So far, 76 pharmaceutical companies have submitted revised maximum retail prices (MRPs) for 1,225 formulations covering 121 drugs. Price reductions have been reported across 1,031 formulations, with 600 brands reporting cuts exceeding 50 per cent and the steepest decline reaching 96.45 per cent, the release stated.

Around 10-15 identified drugs not yet launched in India will also fall under Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) upon release.

The revisions lead to massive reductions in several vital cancer treatments. For instance, breast cancer capsule Palbopro (Palbociclib 125 mg) by RPG Life Sciences has dropped from Rs 40,421.33 to Rs 2,720.

Prostate cancer tablet Abirone (Abiraterone acetate 250 mg) by Arvincare Pharma has been slashed from Rs 41,250 to Rs 3,218.23.

Lung and cervical cancer injection Bryxta (Bevacizumab 100 mg) by Zydus Lifesciences is down from Rs 25,995 to Rs 3,318, and Reliance Life Sciences' DenOsteoRel (Denosumab 60 mg) dropped from Rs 24,955 to Rs 6,240.

Breast cancer injection Lupiher 2 (Pertuzumab 420 mg) by Lupin Limited will now cost Rs 37,358.30 against its earlier MRP of Rs 83,520.

Punjab emerges as model state in digital governance, environmental stewardship in mining: Minister

Press trust Of India

CHANDIGARH, Nov 8: Punjab has emerged as a model state in digital governance and environmental stewardship in the mining sector, Mines and Geology Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said on Saturday.

Through systematic integration of technology and transparent governance mechanisms, the state's annual mining revenue has surged nearly sevenfold, from Rs 123.5 crore in FY 2017-18 to Rs 799 crore in 2025-26, he said.

Goyal, during the 'Conference of Mining Ministers on Reforms in Mines and Coal Sector' held in Goa on November 5-6, presented the state's crucial mining issues and policy demands, according to an official statement.

The conference, chaired by Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy, witnessed Punjab highlighting its remarkable advancements in mining governance while seeking equitable central support for states mainly dependent on minor minerals, it added.

The Union minister assured complete cooperation in resolving Punjab's concerns and agreed to examine the state's representation regarding the



SASCI framework, it said.

"Under an MoU signed in March 2025, a Centre of Excellence has been established at IIT Ropar to strengthen scientific mining management. The department is undertaking DGPS, drone mapping and bathymetric surveys for river replenishment studies through this initiative," Goyal said.

UP govt hikes DA by 5 pc for employees

Press trust Of India

LUCKNOW, NOV 8: The Uttar Pradesh government has hiked the Dearness Allowance (DA) by 5 per cent for state government employees, staff in aided educational and technical institutions, regular and full-time employees of urban local bodies, work-charged employees, and those serving on UGC pay scales.Employees will now receive a Dearness Allowance of 63 per cent, up from 58 per cent. The increased rate will be effective from July 1, 2026, the state government said in a statement on Saturday.A government order was also issued in this regard on Saturday.The enhanced dearness allowance will be paid along with the regular salary for November 2026.This government decision will benefit lakhs of employees across the state. The move by the Yogi Adityanath government will provide relief not only to the state's regular employees but also to staff in aided educational institutions, urban local bodies, and other eligible categories of employees, the statement said. (PTI)

India on right track in AI; firms moving from pilots to production: Oracle's Kumar

Press trust Of India



LAS VEGAS, NOV 8 : Indian businesses have moved from testing artificial intelligence in pilot projects to deploying it at full scale over the past year or so and are seeing real benefits, though cost, skills and infrastructure pose some challenges, Oracle India head Shailender Kumar has said.

"Around a year and a half back, we were talking about pilots. Now, we are seeing full-scale productions and the productions where the benefits are very, very real," Kumar, Senior Vice President and regional Managing Director, Oracle India and NetSuite JAPAC, told PTI on the sidelines of Oracle AI World 2026.

Indian companies are not wary of new technology but want proof that it works, he said.

"What they want to see is what will come to them: whether they save time, cost or anything else. Years back, there were a lot of reservations because people were not sure in terms of security, in terms of performance," he said, noting that once tangible benefits become visible, Indian enterprises swiftly move to adopt the technology.

Asked what could slow AI adoption in India, he said cost is "certainly one of them".

On skills, he said Oracle was working with universities, colleges and state governments to train students.

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

Press trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 8: 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.

Newsrooms, journalists not covered under DPDP Act, say government sources

Press trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 8: Journalists and news organisations do not fall under the definition of 'data fiduciaries' under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and are therefore not covered by its provisions, government sources said on Saturday, seeking to allay concerns that the legislation could restrict press freedom and investigative journalism.

The definition of a data fiduciary is "clear" and "proper" and covers entities such as banks, insurance companies, telecom operators and e-commerce platforms that collect and process personal data, sources said.

Journalists and newsrooms do not come under the definition of data fiduciary, so the rules do not apply to them, they added.

Sources also indicated that the government has kept its mind open.

Asked whether the government had finalised its position on the need for an amendment in law to explicitly safeguard journalistic activities, a source said: "We have always said we are very open-minded on this. Whatever action is needed, we will take it".

The DPDP Act places obligations on data fiduciaries, defined as persons or entities that determine, alone or jointly with others, the purpose and means of processing personal data.



These include obtaining consent, providing notice to individuals, ensuring data security, reporting personal data breaches and erasing information once the purpose for which it was collected has been fulfilled.

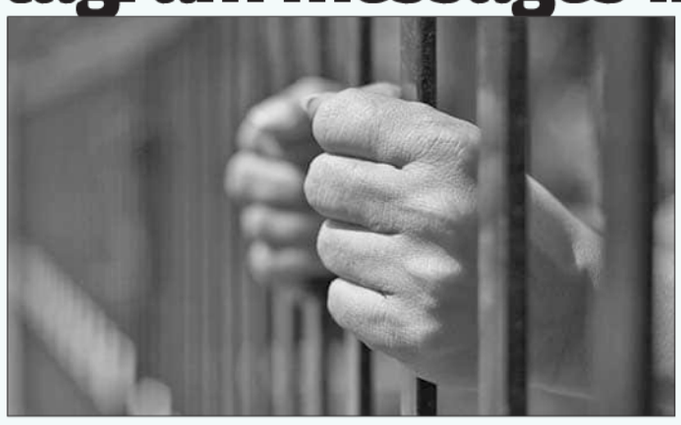
The government's clarification comes amid concerns among news publishers that the absence of an explicit exemption for journalistic activities could complicate reporting on matters of public interest, particularly investigations involving personal information obtained without the consent of the individuals concerned.Publishers have argued that the law could create difficulties for investigative journalism, potentially affecting the use and retention of personal data, protection of confidential sources and preservation of material necessary for public-interest reporting.

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Woman held for joining son, friends in assaulting 17-year-old boy over Instagram messages in Kochi

Press Trust Of India



KOCHI, NOV 8: A 40-year-old woman was arrested on Sunday for allegedly joining her son and his friends in assaulting a 17-year-old boy over a dispute linked to Instagram messages in Edappally, police said.

The assault took place on Friday at the woman's rented house on Changampuzha Road in Edappally North, leaving the boy injured, they said.

According to police, the boy and the woman's son had studied together until Class 10 and were now doing Plus Two in different schools. The boy and some of his friends had created a common Instagram account for online gaming. A few months ago, his mobile phone was damaged, after which he lost access to the account.

When he recently regained access, he found that his friends had sent obscene messages to several women through the account. He questioned them about it, police said.

On Friday, one of the friends called him to a location in Elamakkara to settle the dispute. He was later taken to the woman's rented house in Edappally, where the woman and seven juveniles allegedly assaulted him and recorded the incident on video, police said.

The boy did not initially tell his parents about the assault. They noticed his injuries, questioned him and admitted him to a hospital.

Based on his complaint, Elamakkara police registered a case on Sunday and arrested the woman. A report will be submitted to the Juvenile Justice Board against the seven juveniles, including her son, police said.

The case has been registered under Sections 3(5), 110, 127(2), 189(1)(c), 190, 296(b) and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The boy's mother told reporters that her son had been assaulted earlier as well. "We had lodged a police complaint then, following which the boys were summoned to the police

Remove unauthorised encroachments on NH744 near Aryankavu temple: Kerala HC



Press Trust Of India

KOCHI, NOV 8 :The Kerala High Court has directed the NHAI, police, and the Kollam district administration to coordinate to remove unauthorised encroachments and illegal parking on NH 744 near the Aryankavu Sree Dharmasastha Temple, where Lord Ayyappan is worshipped.

A bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghava V and K V Jayakumar directed authorities to ensure the entire stretch of NH 744 to the temple, near the Keralam-Tamil Nadu border, is maintained in a safe, traffic-worthy condition, especially in view of the upcoming pilgrimage season.The court further said that the formulation of an action plan and the conduct of review meetings must translate into effective action on the ground.

It directed the authorities concerned to ensure that all unauthorised encroachments are removed, illegal parking is prevented, and the road margins are kept free from obstructions.

"These measures assume particular significance during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, when there is a substantial increase in the movement of pilgrims and vehicles along this stretch," it said.The court issued the directions in a petition initiated by it on its own following a report by the Sabarimala Special Commissioner regarding the unauthorised encroachment.

Ahmedabad woman stabs husband to death over domestic dispute; held

Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD, NOV 8 :An ex-serviceman was allegedly stabbed to death by his 34-year-old wife following a quarrel at their home in Ahmedabad's Naroda area, police said on Sunday.

The accused, Nirmala Kharadi, allegedly attacked her husband Dilip (39) with a kitchen knife, fatally stabbing him in the chest late Thursday night, an official said.

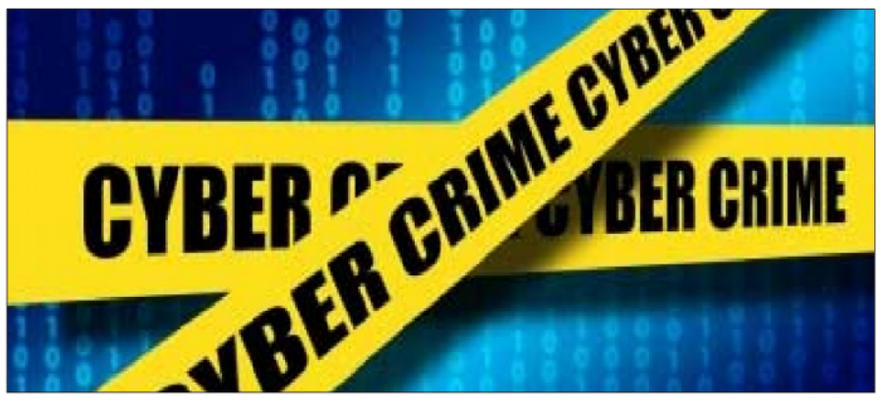
The victim sustained serious injuries and died on the spot, he said.

The couple, who have two children, had argued over household matters before the quarrel turned violent, the official added.

Based on CCTV footage and specific intelligence inputs, Nirmala was apprehended on Friday within hours of the crime, Naroda Inspector B M Katariya said.

A case has been registered under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and relevant provisions of the Gujarat Police Act, he said.

Two arrested in Bihar's East Champaran for cyber fraud, alleged links to Pakistani contacts



Press Trust Of India

MOTIHARI, NOV 8 :Two persons were arrested in Bihar's East Champaran district for their involvement in cyber fraud and alleged links to Pakistani contacts, police said on Sunday.The arrests were made on Saturday following a raid at a rented house in Belisarai locality under the Town police station limits of the district.

According to a statement issued by the SP office, police received a tip-off that the two occupants of the rented house were in contact with individuals in Pakistan and were planning to carry out mobile-based fraud in the area.A team led by Sadar SDPO-1 Dilip Kumar conducted the raid and arrested Pankaj Gupta, a resident of Sembhuapur village under Dumariya Ghat police station, and Raju Kumar Kushwaha alias Raju Kumar Bhagat, a resident of Shyampur Barwa village under Sangrampur police station.

Pune man duped of Rs 3.49 lakh after clicking fake traffic challan payment link

Press Trust Of India



PUNE, NOV 7 :A 37-year-old man from Katraj in Pune was allegedly cheated of Rs 3.49 lakh after clicking on a link sent to him for payment of a traffic violation fine, a police official said on Saturday.

The incident took place between October 16 and 26, he said.

"Complainant Shailendra Sanjay Tilekar received a link claiming he had violated traffic rules and was required to pay a fine. After clicking on the link, he received messages about multiple transactions being carried out from his mobile phone," he said.

A total of Rs 3,49,989 was allegedly withdrawn from his bank account without his permission, the official said.

Man throws acid on friend after argument; 4 persons, including girl, injured in attack

Press Trust Of India



PUNE, NOV 8 :A man was arrested for allegedly throwing acid on his friend following a dispute in Yerawada area of Pune, injuring him, his mother and two other persons, including a six-year-old girl, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident took place near Ramnagar Masjid at around 4 pm on November 6, he added.

"Nitin Sundar Jadhav (52), a plumber, used to have frequent arguments with his friend Ashish Indrapal Dingya (40) over minor issues. After one such argument, Jadhav purchased acid from a hardware shop and threw it on Dingya's face," Lakshmi Nagar police station senior inspector Yuvraj Nandre said.

When Dingya's mother, aged 65, tried to intervene, the accused threw acid on her as well, causing injuries to both her hands, he added.

"Vishal Shankar Jadhav (32), who was passing by on a two-wheeler with his six-year-old daughter, also sustained acid burns. He suffered injuries to his right arm and right leg, while the girl sustained injuries to her left leg. Dingya suffered injuries to his face, eye and hands," he said.

Vishal Jadhav is undergoing treatment at Sassoon General Hospital, while the other injured persons were discharged on the same day.

A case was registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for causing hurt by use of acid, acting in a way that endangers human life, and other offences. The accused is in judicial custody, the official

added. When Dingya's mother, aged 65, tried to intervene, the accused threw acid on her as well, causing injuries to both her hands, he added.

Man's eardrum ruptured after 'assault': Gujarat court orders criminal proceedings against cop

Press Trust Of India



VADODARA, NOV 8 :A Vadodara court has ordered criminal proceedings against the then police inspector for allegedly assaulting a man in 2024, which left him with a ruptured eardrum.

Prima facie, a case was made out against the then Gorwa police station inspector, K N Lathiya, Judicial Magistrate First Class Supriya Sanyal said in an order passed on November 4.

She directed the issuance of process against Lathiya under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions dealing with voluntarily causing grievous hurt and intentional insult.

As per complainant Moin Pathan, he was driving a car in the Gorwa area of Gujarat's Vadodara city on the night of November 4, 2024, when he was attacked by four-five men on motorcycles. Pathan called his brother, Mohammad Ahmed Khan, for help, who then called up the police control room. Despite his call, no police assistance arrived.When Lathiya later arrived at the scene, he was in a private black car and not in his uniform. "He took both parties (the car driver and the individuals on the motorcycle) to the Gorwa police station."There, he subjected the two complainants (Pathan and his brother) to a severe beating, which caused Moin's eardrum to rupture," the complainant's lawyer, Darshan Patel, alleged.

Pathan received medical treatment the following day.

The police inspector filed a case under the Prohibition Act against Pathan and his brother.Following the alleged police brutality, the brothers approached the police commissioner, the state Director General of Police, and the Home Minister .

Madras HC grants leave to convict prisoner, dispenses with police escort considering good behaviour

Press Trust Of India

MADURAI, NOV 8 :The Madras High Court has directed the Superintendent of Palayamkottai Central Prison to grant six days of emergency leave without police escort to a convict prisoner after considering the health of his parents and his good conduct.A Division Bench of Justices M Nirmal Kumar and N Gunasekaran considered the good conduct of the prisoner while hearing a writ petition from his mother and noted her plea expressing inability to bear expenses towards police escort and also the submission requesting the presence of her son to provide moral and emotional support."Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, particularly, the medical condition of the convict prisoner's parents, the good conduct of the convict prisoner and the fact that he had earlier availed leave without escort, this court is of the view that the request for six days of emergency leave in one spell deserves consideration," the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court said.

378 arrested, drugs worth Rs 64 crore seized in week-long anti-narcotics drive in Bengal: CM

Press Trust Of India



KOLKATA, NOV 7 :A total of 378 people were arrested, and narcotics worth around Rs 64 crore were seized during a week-long crackdown on drug trafficking and illicit cultivation in West Bengal, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said on Saturday.

The special drive, conducted between October 31 and November 7, led to the registration of 212 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Adhikari said in a social media post.

He said law enforcement agencies also seized Rs 17 lakh in cash and

disposed of narcotic substances worth around Rs 101 crore during the period.

"Our government maintains a zero-tolerance policy against illicit narcotics," he said.

He added that illegal ganja cultivation spread across 300 bighas, with an estimated yield of 10,000 kg, was destroyed during the operation.

Properties worth Rs 1 crore were also attached, while 68 financial investigations were initiated against 110 accused persons, Adhikari said.

The drive also featured 215 public awareness campaigns to highlight the dangers of drug abuse.

"I commend our police personnel for their relentless commitment to keeping West Bengal safe and drug-free in line with the #NashaMuktBharat Abhiyan," he said.

"I commend our police personnel for their relentless commitment to keeping West Bengal safe and drug-free in line with the #NashaMuktBharat Abhiyan," he said.

Two arrested for firing at cloth shop owner in Punjab's Hoshiarpur

Press Trust Of India

HOSHIARPUR (PUNJAB), NOV 8 :Police have arrested two persons for allegedly opening fire at a cloth shop owner in Mahilpur town in September this year and recovered a .30-bore pistol and four live cartridges from one of them, police said on Sunday.

The incident happened on September 18, when two unidentified persons riding a Splendor motorcycle entered a readymade clothes shop on Shaheedan Road in Mahilpur around 7 pm and allegedly opened fire at its owner, Jasvir Chand, a resident of Gajjar village.

Chand sustained life-threatening injuries, following which police registered a case against unidentified persons at Mahilpur police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act.During the investigation, police used technical and intelligence inputs to identify, trace, and arrest the accused.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi

right policies and strong political will.

"Amid the successes, we must remember one more thing. Naxalites have been eliminated, but the threat is not over yet. Armed Naxalites have disappeared from the forests, but 'dimagi Naxals' (their ideological supporters) have taken control of several organisations," he said.

"Even today, they are instigating people against the country's Constitution and democracy. They have infiltrated several political parties and different organisations. We must identify and defeat them and secure the country," he added.

On his Independence Day in August, Modi had also referred to 'dimagi Naxals', saying the country succeeded in removing armed Naxalism, but its ideological supporters were seeking opportunities to promote violence.

Recalling the fight against Naxalism in Bastar, Modi on Sunday said it was not easy, as at one point over 230 districts across nearly 20 states were affected by Left-Wing Extremism.

After sunset, life would come to a standstill. Thousands of villages and crores of people were affected, with around 2,000 Naxalite attacks taking place annually, he said.

"This land had become soaked in the blood of our brave personnel, but not a single sigh of grief was heard from any of the 'naamdaar' (powerful people) living in palaces. Not a single tear rolled down their eyes. Such attacks continued to take place somewhere or the other almost every day," he said, targeting previous governments.

Between 2004 and 2013, every year, more security personnel were killed than the number of Naxalites eliminated, he stated.

"Unfortunately, the governments of that time treated Naxalism as an incurable disease and left it unaddressed. No country can function with such an approach towards its enemies. To take the country forward, its enemies have to be crushed with unwavering determination and a well-planned strategy," he asserted.

"The lack of political will that the country faced was addressed in 2014, when you gave this Pradhan Sevak the opportunity to serve Mother India," Modi said.

The situation and morale of security forces began changing after 2014. For the first time in 47 years, not a single CRPF personnel lost his life while on duty over the past year, he noted.

"This is a victory of the country's right policies and strong political will. This is a victory of your valour, courage and restraint," he said.

The PM further said the government has tough decisions to strengthen national security, including measures not widely known.

"These decisions and efforts dealt a major blow to the funding networks of Naxalites and secessionists. The fake currency nexus was destroyed. This not only broke their financial backbone but also choked their entire supply lines. As a result, the supply of weapons was stopped, and the recruitment of Naxalites was curbed," he said.

Modi alleged that previous governments tied the hands of security forces during ground operations and denied them the freedom to retaliate effectively against Maoist attacks.

"We gave security forces the freedom to take every necessary decision. We also worked to stop the support that Left-Wing Extremism received from certain people within the government and the system," he said.

The PM said his government's objective was to ensure that no mother lost her child, no family was pushed into devastation, no child took up arms, and no youth's future was destroyed.

"We remained committed to this resolve until the goal was achieved. Without publicity or showmanship, we worked with sensitivity and broke the backbone of Maoist terrorists. We transformed the lives of people in Naxal-affected areas through a spirit of service, which led those suffering from Naxalism to stand firmly with the government and security forces," he said.

In the past 12 years, the country not only won the battle against Naxalism and secessionists, but has also achieved a major victory in its fight against poverty, he said.

Modi cited a World Bank report that 50 crore people had come out of extreme poverty in India over the last 12 years. What decades of 'garibi hatao' slogans could not achieve, the country accomplished in just 12 years, he highlighted.

Modi said India has the capability to fulfil its resolutions, citing the abrogation of Article 370, construction of household toilets and vaccination coverage expansion.

"When we speak of eliminating poverty, building a drug-free India, creating a developed India and making India self-reliant, the country will achieve these goals as well," he added.

Diwali

greetings with her.

Modi also commended Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for spending time with drought-hit farmers in Nagpur on Diwali.

Fadnavis said wiping away the tears from farmers' eyes is the true Diwali for him.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi shared a video on Instagram, recalling how her family celebrated Diwali when they lived at 1, Safdarjung Road, the residence of prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Sitting in the garden of the house with her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and granddaughter Miraya Vadra, Sonia said she loved Diwali and that the celebrations in those days were lovely.

Sonia recalled how a Ganesh statue at the entrance used to be decorated, while diyas were lit along the pathways and on the roof of the house.

She tells her granddaughter that people used to go "berserk" with firecrackers in those days, adding that she particularly liked 'phuljhadi'.

Sonia also reminisced about the blue skies and pleasant weather "in those days" around this time of the year.

Priyanka recalled how her father, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, used to take them to Old Delhi to buy firecrackers.

Sonia said the family would have Kashmiri food during festivals.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath prayed at Hanumangarhi and Ram temples.

Adityanath, who is also the Gorakshapeethadhishwar, began his visit by praying at the Hanumangarhi temple. He was welcomed by saints and priests amid chants of "Jai Shri Ram" as he arrived at the temple.

He then reached the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex, where he performed a prayer for Ram Lalla.

Iconic

year's Diwali in Kashmir. The atmosphere here is radiant."

Over the last few years, Diwali is being celebrated at Ghanta Ghar as tourists and locals assemble here for the festival.

Elsewhere in the Valley, security forces celebrated Diwali by lighting lamps in their camps and distributing sweets.

Army

remain resolute in their commitment to safeguarding the nation, exemplifying the true spirit of courage, sacrifice and selfless service. (GNS)

Mumu

located in the state.

Diwali -- the festival of light -- is being celebrated on November 8.

"Adm Krishna Swaminathan, #CNS, visited a forward operating base and outlying units of the #IndianNavy in Gujarat, sharing the festive spirit of Diwali with naval personnel deployed at these locations," the Navy posted on X.

The occasion also provided the Chief of Naval Staff an opportunity to celebrate Diwali together with forward-deployed units, acknowledge the dedication of personnel serving away from their families, and share the warmth and camaraderie that define the Indian Navy, the officials said.

CMOmar

extended Diwali greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and all those celebrating the festival across the country and abroad.

He expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household and further strengthen the bonds of harmony, goodwill and togetherness.

Meanwhile, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti visited the fire-ravaged Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station on Sunday to assess damage from a blaze that gutted dozens of shops last month.

Mehbooba arrived in Jammu on Saturday, on her first trip to the winter capital since being unanimously re-elected party president for her fifth consecutive term on November 5. She is scheduled to return to Srinagar on Monday.

During her visit to Shiv Market, Mehbooba met with the affected shopkeepers, expressed solidarity, and offered her sympathy for the losses suffered in the fire. She supported their demand for a special relief and rehabilitation package to help them rebuild their businesses and restore their livelihoods, a party leader said.

The massive fire broke out in Shiv Market on the night of October 25 and continued for several hours, engulfing at least 40 shops and destroying property worth crores of rupees.

The PDP chief assured the affected traders of her support and stressed the need for appropriate assistance to help them overcome the financial losses and resume their commercial activities.

Injured

and Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma as his convoy entered Chanderkote jurisdiction while travelling from Srinagar to Jammu, the officials said.

The bus hit the police vehicle at a crossing, causing it to overturn on the highway. Four police personnel, including the SHO -- Inspector Vicky Thapa -- were injured in the incident. They were taken to District Hospital Ramban for treatment, officials said.

Sharma, who stopped his convoy and joined the rescue efforts after witnessing the accident, said the police vehicle suffered extensive damage, but all personnel on board were safe.

"Vehicles travel at high speeds on national highways, and failure to exercise caution while approaching crossings can lead to such accidents. The manner in which the bus hit the police vehicle underscores the need for greater vigilance at crossings, particularly those along national highways," he said.

Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Ramban, Dr Mohammad Rafi Wani, said the condition of the four police personnel was stable.

"After receiving first aid and undergoing necessary scans, the injured policemen were discharged," he said.

Rajnath

country could celebrate Diwali peacefully because of the armed forces.

The defence minister also paid tribute to the families of armed forces personnel who lost their loved ones while serving the nation, acknowledging their contribution and sacrifice.

"India stands with you for the contribution you have made," Singh said, assuring the bereaved families that the nation would always remember the sacrifices of their loved ones.

Describing Diwali, the festival of lights, as an occasion for families to come together, he said soldiers often set aside their personal emotions and remain away from their loved ones to fulfil their duties towards the country.

ingh interacted with Army personnel stationed at the high-altitude location and distributed sweets and gifts among them.

"Your service to the nation will never be forgotten. Every generation of Indians will remember your sacrifice," he told the soldiers, adding that the country would remain indebted to them.

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and senior Army officers accompanied the defence minister during the visit.

Singh later visited the Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir, a shrine dedicated to Indian Army soldier Harbhajan Singh in the eastern sector of Sikkim.

Retired

taken into custody," police said in a statement here.

A police spokesperson said the incident allegedly involved the official weapon of the personal security officer (PSO) deployed with the retired police officer.

"The role of the PSO and all circumstances surrounding the incident are being investigated," he added.

Trump

at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and others, released the Indian American Attitudes Survey aimed at understanding how the Indian diaspora approaches electoral politics in the US.

In the recently concluded midterm elections, six Indian American candidates were elected to the US House of Representatives, while over 30 won seats in state legislatures and other public offices.

Republican Vivek Ramaswamy lost a bitterly contested election for the post of Governor of Ohio, his home state and that of Vice President J D Vance.

Republicans lost control of the US Congress to Democrats, turning Trump into a lame duck president in the final two years of his tenure.

Trump acknowledged that his party lost the elections due to anger among the people facing high inflation caused by the Iran war.

However, Badrinathan argued that blaming just inflation and high oil prices for the Republican loss would be oversimplistic.

"We found that the issues that motivate Indian Americans are actually the same issues that motivate general Americans. They talk about jobs, the economy, cost of living. It's possible that this time, H-1B, discrimination, and those sorts of issues played a slightly larger role," she said.

Anti-India sentiment dominated the election campaign in Texas, the state with the second-highest Indian-American population in the US, and remarks by Republican leader Bo French targeting University of Texas students triggered widespread outrage cutting across party lines.

"It's hard to say if the Bo French tweet alone pushed people to vote a certain way, as opposed to what came with it: changes around actual immigration policies, the rhetoric around it, and changes in the economy making people's lives harder. So, yes, it probably played a part," Badrinathan said.

She said Indian Americans on average tend to have a pretty negative view of specific Trump policies around immigration, tariffs and H-1B visas.

Badrinathan refused to hazard a guess on the policies Democrats are likely to pursue towards India now that they have control of both the US House and the Senate.

"It's a new dawn. It's really hard to say whether the majority that the Democrats now hold in the House and Senate as well as multiple state legislatures is going to translate to policy or whether it's going to lead to gridlock," she said.

It's also hard to say whether the discourse is going to change because establishment Democrats have now seemingly taken a little bit of a backseat to let in some space for newcomers across states," she said, referring to the number of Democratic Socialists of America candidates emerging victorious in the midterm elections.

rinathan said despite the tough immigration policies and discrimination against Indians, the interest in studying in the US continues to remain high.

"But it seems like even despite the perception that there is discrimination and one in two people saying they do experience some form of discrimination, mostly on the basis of skin colour, exit from the US is not happening. People are still encouraged to come to the US to both work and to study," Badrinathan said.

OMG

relevant sections of law has been registered at the Kulgam police station, and further investigation has been taken up, the officials added.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas announces "Ventilator 2", film set for 2027 release



Mumbai, Nov 8 (PTI) Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Saturday announced "Ventilator 2", a sequel to her 2016 Marathi film "Ventilator", with filmmaker Rajesh Mapuskar set to return as writer and director.

The film will be produced under Chopra Jonas' banner Purple Pebble Pictures, which backed the original film.

The sequel, also produced by Dr Madhu Chopra and Mapuskar under Purple Pebble Pictures and Magij Pictures, is scheduled for release in 2027.

Sharing the news on Instagram, Chopra Jonas said the original film was among the important stories she wanted to tell when she established her production banner a decade ago.

"10 years ago, with @purplepebblepictures, I decided I want to tell stories that mean something. Ventilator was one of those very important stories to us at the company. A decade later, we're coming back to it, with so much more..." she wrote.

Directed by Mapuskar, the original "Ventilator" revolved around the Kamerkar family, whose members gather at a hospital after an elderly relative is placed on a ventilator just before Ganesh Chaturthi.

The film blended humour and emotion while exploring family relationships, generational differences, unresolved tensions and reconciliation.

The Marathi film featured an ensemble cast and won three National Film Awards, including Best Director for Mapuskar, Best Editing and Best Sound Mixing.

Apart from "Ventilator", the production banner's filmography includes "Pahuna: The Little Visitors", "Firebrand", "Paani", "The Sky Is Pink", "The White Tiger", "To Kill a Tiger" and "Anuja".

Mridangam player Sridhar Parthasarathy dies during Diwali concert in Pune



Pune, Nov 8 (PTI) Renowned mridangam player Sridhar Parthasarathy (54) died of cardiac arrest while performing at a Diwali concert in Pune on Friday morning.

The highly esteemed Carnatic percussionist was performing for nearly an hour at the 'Diwali Pahat' (Diwali morning) programme when he suddenly collapsed on stage at around 7 am on November 6.

Several doctors present in the audience tried to help him. He was rushed to Manipal Hospital in a cardiac ambulance where doctors administered him cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), said senior inspector Chandrashekhar Sawant of Baner Police Station.

However, he could not be revived and was declared dead at the hospital, Sawant said.

Composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan expressed grief over Parthasarathy's death, remembering him as one of the finest percussionists and an exceptional musician.

In an emotional post on social media, Mahadevan recalled that Parthasarathy was part of his first Carnatic classical concert nearly 40 years ago.

"I just cannot digest this. A huge loss for me and the music fraternity," Mahadevan said, describing Parthasarathy as a dear friend with whom he had shared countless hours of music, humour and laughter.

Mahadevan said he was particularly devastated by the circumstances of his friend's passing.

"Can you imagine? What a way to exit this planet!" he said.

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"Truth we say..... come what may"
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Four DPS Srinagar Shuttlers Qualify for National Badminton Championships

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR: Delhi Public School, Srinagar, celebrated a major sporting milestone this November as four student shuttlers secured coveted places in two prestigious national badminton tournaments. These consecutive qualifications at the Union Territory level highlight the rigorous sports training culture at the school and place its young athletes at the forefront of regional competition.

The latest triumph unfolded during the Union Territory Level Badminton Championship held from 5 to 6 November 2026 at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex in Gogji Bagh, Srinagar. The Directorate of Youth Services and Sports organised the two-day tournament to identify top regional talent for the upcoming National Level SGFI Badminton Championship. Three DPS Srinagar students distinguished themselves in the Under-14 category through superior court coverage and tactical discipline. Yahya Ajaz of Class VI, Inaaya Raafi Baba of Class VII and Mohammad Moosa of Class IX claimed top honours and earned direct entry into the National School Games.

This November victory built upon an earlier breakthrough at the Union Territory selection trials conducted from 10 to 14 October 2026. Following five days of intense matches against top contenders from across the region, two students from the school earned the right to represent the Union Territory at the Federation National Badminton Championship scheduled for December 2026. Yahya Ajaz of Class VI achieved a rare double qualification across both national circuits through his relentless speed and shot precision. Tarahum Sadiya of Class XI distinguished herself in the senior category with remarkable composure and secured her place on the Union Territory squad through decisive victories.

Securing multiple berths across both the School Games Federation of India circuit and the Federation Nationals reflects the structured athletic programme at Delhi Public School Srinagar. These achievements have been made possible, in no small measure, by the sporting facilities available at the school, including a dedicated indoor badminton court and the guidance of a dedicated badminton coach. The physical education faculty and coaching staff work closely with student-athletes to combine high-intensity conditioning with academic focus. The four qualified shuttlers have now begun specialised training sessions as they prepare to represent both the school and the Union Territory on the national stage this winter. Congratulating the students on their achievements, Principal Ms Shafaq Afshan remarked, "True education extends far beyond the classroom walls and finds expression in the resilience of our athletes on the court. Watching Yahya, Inaaya, Moosa and Tarahum earn national representation fills our entire academic community

with immense pride. Their success proves that disciplined preparation and mental fortitude yield extraordinary results when young minds receive the right guidance."

Niveditha bags 25m standard pistol bronze at World Championships

United News Of India

DOHA (QATAR), NOV 8 :Niveditha Veloor Nair won the individual bronze medal in the women's 25m standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2026 here on Sunday.

The Indian shooter finished with 567-13x, placing third. The People's Republic of China's Xiao Jiaruixuan topped the field in the non-Olympic shooting event with 569-10x while Hungary's Veronika Major took silver with 568-13x, according to olympics.com.

Both Xiao Jiaruixuan and Veronika Major are individual Olympic medallists in the women's 25m pistol discipline. Niveditha's compatriots Manvi Jain and Simranpreet Kaur Brar finished eighth and 10th in the individual standings, scoring 560-10x and 555-10x, respectively.

In the team event, the trio of Niveditha Nair, Manvi Jain and Simranpreet Kaur Brar combined for 1682-33x to take the silver. China claimed gold with a world-record 1698-43x, while Hungary rounded out the podium with a combined tally of 1676-30x.

In the men's 25m standard pistol event, Indian shooters struck out with Harsh Gupta finishing fifth with 573-13x, Udit Joshi 18th with 562-13x and Jatin 28th with 559-5x.

India finished fourth in the team standings behind Latvia, the Republic of Korea and Ukraine. The Sunday medals lifted India's tally at the Doha meet to seven - one gold, five silvers and one bronze.

The only gold came in the men's 50m pistol team event while Ravinder Singh bagged an individual silver in the same non-Olympic discipline. Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar and Shambhavi Kshirsagar combined for the women's 10m air rifle team silver.

Manu Bhaker, a two-time Olympic medallist,



was part of the trio - with Suruchi Singh and Sainyam - which

finished second in the women's 10m air pistol team event standings Jaypal Malviya's individual silver in the men's 10m air pistol handed India its first shooting quota place for the LA 2028 Olympics.

Yang's Flames beat Wang's Flyers in WNBL

United News Of India

SYDNEY, NOV 8 :Yang Shuyu and Wang Siyu had an absorbing battle on Sunday in a clash of Chinese basketball stars as the Sydney Flames defeated the Southside Melbourne Flyers 86-69 in the WNBL.

The Flames (5-1) cemented their spot at the top of the ladder much to the delight of their fans at Afterpay Arena.

All eyes were on the Chinese players, with Yang (14 points, 3 assists) starting fast for the Flames while Wang finished with 7 points, 6 assists and 2 steals as the Flyers slumped to a 1-4 record.

Both players scored 11 points in the Flames' 77-73 season-opening victory over the Flyers last month. The Flames bounced back from their first defeat of the season when they fell 93-85 to the Tasmania Jewels on October 31.

"It was really exciting basketball towards the end," said Flames player Jazmin Shelley, who top-scored with 22 points.

"Our defense really picked up and we were able to move the ball a lot better in the second half."

Yang came out in attack mode after a couple of quiet games, tallying five quick points after nailing

a three-pointer followed by a layup. She kept the Flames afloat in the early exchanges after Wang's clever passing skills inspired the Flyers to a 16-9 lead.

Wang had three assists while also playing strong defense, picking up two steals in a determined

two-way effort. But the Flames clawed back and led 21-18 at the end of the first quarter after

Yang capped her strong start with a slick assist to Maya Dodson.

Yang continued to be aggressive and started the second quarter with a drive to the basket, where she was fouled by Wang. Wang tried to respond by driving to the paint only to be blocked by the towering Dodson.

China, Senegal shine in beach wrestling at Dakar 2026 YOG



United News Of India

DAKAR, NOV 8 :China's Zhao Min won the women's 75kg beach wrestling gold at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), while host nation Senegal also had a successful day in beach wrestling, winning its first-ever two gold medals at YOG.

Zhao went unbeaten in her three group-stage bouts before defeating Senegal's Elisabeth Ebedo Diatta in the semifinals. She then beat India's Taniya in the final.

Taniya scored the opening point, but Zhao quickly drew level. The two wrestlers then engaged in a tight contest, with Zhao scoring a decisive point just 1.2 seconds before the final whistle to clinch the gold.

"Perhaps I had too long a break after the semifinal and my body had cooled down. In those final few seconds, I wasn't thinking about anything. I was just focused on wrestling," Zhao said.

"I just kept telling myself not to think too much. Once you step into the circle, before the wrestling even begins, you never know who is stronger," she added.

In other beach wrestling events, Venezuela's Wilfredo Grabiel Rodriguez Gonzalez won the men's 60kg title, while Senegal's Elisabeth Diatta and Maguette Diop triumphed in the women's 55kg and men's 80kg categories, respectively.

Diop said the victory was particularly meaningful as Senegal became the first African nation to host an Olympic event.

"Winning the gold medal here in Senegal with my people, I'm just so proud. It was not easy at all, but we did it," he said. Four more gold medals will be up for grabs in beach wrestling on Sunday in Saly. In gymnastics, China's men's team, comprising Yang Lanbin, Li Lezheng and Zhao Ruiyang, topped the qualification standings with a total of 159.228 points to book its place in Monday's team final. The Chinese gymnasts delivered solid performances in floor exercise, rings and vault. As for the individual all-around qualification.

Gurdial Bhangu, coach of CWG 2002-gold medal winning Indian team, dies

United News Of India

SURREY (CANADA), NOV 7: Former Indian women's hockey team coach Gurdial Singh Bhangu, who guided the country to a historic gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2002, died here. He was 86.



Bhangu was at the helm when India defeated hosts England 3-2 in a dramatic final in Manchester - a win that later inspired the script of 2007 Bollywood film Chak De India, starring Shah Rukh Khan, according to olympics.com. The Indian women's hockey team, captained by Suraj Lata Devi, secured the gold after Mamta Kharab scored the golden goal in extra time, bringing a memorable end to their campaign.

The victory is considered one of the defining moments in Indian hockey history. While Shah Rukh Khan's fictional character Kabir Khan drew inspiration from former Indian goalkeeper Mir Ranjan Negi, it was Bhangu who served as India's chief coach during the Commonwealth Games triumph.

Bhangu's experience and understanding of the hockey rules proved crucial during the Commonwealth Games final.

Aware that an active penalty corner must be allowed to run its course even after the hooter, he had instructed his players never to switch off until the sequence was complete.

That advice proved decisive against England in extra time. As the hooter sounded, the English defenders relaxed, but the alert Indian players continued their attack, with Mamta Kharab slotting home a famous Golden Goal off a rebound.

Although the goal was initially disallowed, the officials eventually overturned the decision, confirming India's historic victory. Born in Lyallpur, now Faisalabad in Pakistan, Bhangu grew up in Ambala and played hockey at the university level. He later trained at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala, where he learnt under Indian hockey legend Dhyan Chand and Olympic gold medallist Balkishan Singh. Bhangu already had considerable international coaching experience before taking charge of the Indian team. He served as chief coach of the Nigerian women's team from 1972 to 1976, helping them qualify for their first Hockey World Cup in 1976.

Japan's Miura wins men's title at ISU Figure Skating Cup of China

United News Of India

SHENZHEN, NOV 8 :Japan's Kao Miura clinched the men's title with a personal-best total of 293.25 points at the ISU Figure Skating Grand Prix Cup of China here on Sunday, while Olympic gold medalist Mikhail Shaidorov finished fifth.

Miura, 21, scored a personal-best 190.35 points in Sunday's free skate, after leading Friday's short program with a season-best 102.90 points.

"I'm happy with my performance today. The competition at this year's Cup of China was quite f

ierce, and there were many amazing skaters. I was nervous and a little scared at the beginning, but I managed to stay focused and do my best," said Miura, who secured a place in the Grand Prix Final.

Individual Neutral Athletes Vladislav Dikidzhi and Evgeni Semenenko took silver and bronze with 282.44 and 281.62 points, respectively, according to Xinhua.



Kazakhstan's Shaidorov had several mistakes in his jumps to score 168.62 points in the free skate, finishing fifth overall with 263.49 points. China's Chen Yudong and Peng Zhiming finished ninth and 10th, respectively.

Valencia scores late winner for Boca Juniors in Argentina's Clausura tournament

United News Of India

BUESNOS AIRES, NOV 8 :Enner Valencia scored in second-half stoppage time as Boca Juniors secured a 1-0 home win over Defensa y Justicia in Argentina's Clausura tournament.

Both teams struggled for clear scoring opportunities until Valencia broke the deadlock with a 96th-minute strike after Lautaro Di Lollo's headed pass at La Bombonera on Saturday.

The result meant Boca finished the regular season with 33 points, a point behind Zone A leader Instituto Cordoba. Defensa y Justicia also secured a playoff spot by claiming fourth place in the 15-team group.

Elsewhere in Argentina's top flight on Saturday, Gimnasia Mendoza and Newell's Old Boys drew their final fixtures before the round of 16.

Independiente Rivadavia was reduced to 10 men in the 17th minute of its away clash with Gimnasia Mendoza when Paraguayan midfielder Jose Florentin was shown a straight red card for violent conduct.

German Guiffrey capitalized with a 45th-minute strike as the hosts appeared on course for victory. But the match took another turn six minutes from time when Luciano Cingolani was dismissed for a second yellow card following a rash challenge on Ivan Villalba.

Luis Diaz put his side on level terms with a clinical 96th-minute goal as Rivadavia finished seventh in Zone B with 23 points from 16 games, according to Xinhua.

Newell's, meanwhile, claimed sixth spot in Zone A after a 2-2 draw at Zone A leader Instituto. Independiente Rivadavia was reduced to 10 men in the 17th minute of its away clash with Gimnasia Mendoza when Paraguayan midfielder Jose Florentin was shown a straight red card for violent conduct. German Guiffrey capitalized with a 45th-minute strike as the hosts appeared on course for victory.

Brison & Irfan star as Chennaiyin FC rout defending champions East Bengal 5-3

United News Of India

CHENNAI, NOV 7 :Chennaiyin FC registered their first victory of the 2026-27 MG Indian Super League (ISL) season in emphatic fashion, humbling defending champions East Bengal FC 5-3 in an eight-goal thriller at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday. Brison Fernandes struck twice in the opening 18 minutes to put the hosts in control, while Ramon Tanque converted a first-half penalty. Irfan Yadwad then netted a brace after the break to cap a dominant attacking display, as East Bengal's first league defeat of the season came despite goals from Aké Loba, Dani Ramírez and David Lalhlansanga. Chennaiyin made a blistering start, with Fernandes opening the scoring in the fourth minute with right-footed finish, assisted by Yadwad. The winger doubled his tally in the 18th minute with a delightful finish that beat Prabhsukhan Gill all ends up, to make it 2-0 to the hosts.

Hridoy's marathon double-ton lifts Bangladesh in Sylhet

United News Of India

SYLHET, NOV 7 :Towhid Hridoy's scintillating double-century dragged Bangladesh out of the mire in the second World Test Championship Test between Bangladesh and West Indies.

A 117-run eighth wicket stand between Hridoy and Taijul Islam (22) helped the hosts recover to 301/8 before Taijul was stumped by Amir Jangoo off Jomel Warrican.

Bangladesh were staring down the barrel when Taijul walked into bat before the lunch break. By the time he left the crease, his side was just 55 short of West Indies' 356. Hridoy, batting on exactly 100 at the lunch interval, launched into an amazing array of stroke play, lacing the ball through point with several square-cuts, as well as five sixes from midwicket to extra cover.

When Towhid reached 172, he set the record for the highest individual score in Tests in Sylhet, passing Mahmudul Hasan Joy's 171 against Ireland last year.

The hosts started Day 3 at 88/3 with Mushfiqur Rahim and Towhid Hridoy on the crease and trailing by 268 runs.

West Indies' spinners got Bangladesh on the ropes in the day's first session. Warrican had both Mushfiqur Rahim (34) and Litton Das (8) caught at cover in consecutive overs. Mushfiqur drove

the ball on the up, while Litton tried to simply time it through the covers,

the ball lobbing easily

to Brandon King. Mushfiqur's catch went to Chase who dived to his left to complete a splendid grab, according to ICC.

Justin Greaves then took a smart catch running from slip towards the leg side, after Mehidy Hasan Miraz (16) played an uppish lap sweep. Warrican then got Hasan Mahmud (1) caught behind by Jangoo, as Bangladesh slipped into further danger.

Towhid Hridoy and Taijul Islam's resistance for the eighth wicket yielded 117 runs as Bangladesh went from 184/7 to 301/8.

However, despite the loss of a long partnership, Hridoy powered on as Bangladesh eventually took the lead with him

converting his maiden Test hundred into a double-hundred in Bangladesh's moment of need with the series on the line.

His score of 242 not out was laced with 22 fours and 11 sixes as he carried the bat as Bangladesh finished on 386 after the loss of Taskin Ahmed's (12) wicket off Jayden

Seales. Bangladesh were

batter down due to the injury sustained by opener Shadman Islam on Day 2 of the Test.

The visitors began their second innings in Sylhet, as they trailed by 30 runs, but however, the day was cut short by bad light with West Indies ending Day 3 at 7/0, trailing by 23 runs.

Sakeena Itoo distributes Rs 10.54 Lakh relief among 12 fire-affected families

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 08: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, today visited Tangmarg village in Kulgam district, where she held a Public Darbar and listened to the grievances, concerns and developmental demands of the local residents.

During the interaction, people from different areas projected various issues related to public welfare and development. The Minister gave a patient hearing to the people and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

On the occasion, the Minister distributed relief cheques amounting to Rs 10.54 lakh among 12 families affected by recent fire incidents in Bangiward and Watoo villages. Expressing solidarity with the affected families, she assured them of the Government's full support during these difficult times.

She also directed the district administration to ensure timely rehabilitation measures for the affected families and stressed the need to strengthen fire safety infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable areas.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a road from Main Road to Naka Dole Mohalla, Tangmarg-B, at an estimated cost of Rs 114.82 lakh. The project will be executed by the PWD (R&B) Division, DH Pora, and is expected to improve road connectivity and facilitate transportation for local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo reiterated the Government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, towards ensuring inclusive and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people play an important role in making governance more responsive and accountable.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure the timely completion of developmental projects. She assured the people that their welfare and developmental requirements would continue to remain a priority for the Government.

During her visit to DH Pora Constituency, the Minister also announced the provision of an ambulance for the local health centre. The facility is expected to strengthen emergency healthcare services and ensure timely medical assistance to residents, particularly during emergencies.

The Minister was accompanied by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti; Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B); BDO, DH Pora, and other concerned officers and officials.

Army Celebrates Diwali with civil society, school children in Karnah

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED



KARNAH, November 8: In a gesture aimed at strengthening the bond of friendship, mutual trust and goodwill between the Indian Army and the local population, the Indian Army celebrated the auspicious occasion of Diwali with great enthusiasm in Sub-Division Karnah on Saturday.

On the occasion, the Indian Army invited members of Karnah Civil Society, school children and people belonging to different sections of society to join the celebrations and share the happiness of the festival. The gathering witnessed an atmosphere of warmth, joy and mutual respect, as Army personnel interacted with the guests and exchanged festive greetings.

As part of the celebrations, sweets were distributed among school children, members of civil society and other participants. The initiative brought smiles to the faces of children and provided an opportunity for people from different walks of life to come together and celebrate the festival in a spirit of unity, brotherhood and communal harmony.

A special highlight of the occasion was the participation of Ex-Servicemen, who joined the celebrations and extended their heartfelt Diwali greetings to the Army personnel. Their presence added significance to the event, reflecting the enduring relationship between serving soldiers, veterans and the local community.

The Ex-Servicemen also interacted with Army personnel and conveyed their warm wishes, acknowledging the dedication and sacrifices of soldiers serving in the challenging border region of Karnah.

Heartline Ultrasound Center inaugurated in Pattan

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Pattan: Heartline Ultrasound Center was inaugurated near Community Health Centre (CHC) Hospital in Pattan, marking an addition to the healthcare infrastructure of the town and adjoining areas.

The centre will offer advanced diagnostic facilities, including ultrasound and Colour Doppler services, providing patients with access to modern medical investigation facilities closer to their homes.

Speaking to Gulistan News, Dr. Arshed Parry said that the centre aims to provide quality diagnostic services and ensure that patients from Pattan and nearby areas can access advanced ultrasound and Colour Doppler facilities without travelling to distant locations.

He also emphasised the importance of accessible diagnostic services in facilitating timely medical investigations and improving patient care.

The establishment of the centre is expected to benefit the local population by reducing the inconvenience and travel expenses associated with seeking diagnostic services outside Pattan.

The initiative is being viewed as a positive step towards strengthening local healthcare facilities and improving access to essential diagnostic services for residents of Pattan and its adjoining areas.

Himalayan Pastoral Trust organises 3-day training workshop for teachers

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar, 8 Nov: In a significant step towards rethinking conventional educational approaches and address the distinct learning needs of children from pastoral communities, the Himalayan Pastoral Trust, a Kashmir based non-profit organisation in collaboration with the ReRoot Foundation of India, organised a three-day residential workshop titled "Reimagining Education in Grasslands: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)" for seasonal mobile school teachers across Jammu and Kashmir from 6 to 8 November. Mr. Asif Mehraj Shah, Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha, J&K, graced the inaugural session on 6th Nov marking the commencement of three days of deliberations, interactive learning and collaborative engagement focused on strengthening seasonal education.

The programme focused on strengthening teachers' understanding of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) through practical teaching methodologies, innovative teaching-learning materials (TLMs) and activity-based learning. Through interactive sessions, teachers explored ways to make foundational learning engaging, meaningful and accessible for children experiencing educational discontinuity due to the seasonal mobility of their families. Particular emphasis was placed on nature education and the integration of community knowledge into teaching-learning processes, encouraging teachers to recognise the educational potential of the surrounding landscape, locally available natural materials, traditional knowledge, pastoral practices, folklore, local languages and children's lived experiences. These approaches aimed to develop learning environments rooted in the cultural and ecological contexts of pastoral communities. The workshop also provided a platform for teachers to exchange experiences, reflect on classroom challenges and collectively explore practical solutions to improving seasonal education.

Celebrate an Eco-Friendly Green Diwali for Cleaner Air

WWF-India EIACP appeals to citizens of Delhi-NCR to take the Green Diwali Pledge

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU



WWF-India's EIACP Programme Centre – Resource Partner (PC-RP), supported by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, has appealed to the people of Delhi-NCR to celebrate a cracker-free Green Diwali this year and help keep the air clean. The appeal is part of the nationwide Green Diwali Campaign 2026, running from 20th October to 8th November 2026 under Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with a special focus on the 130 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) across 24 States and Union Territories.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's air quality is in the 'Very Poor' category, and as per the Air Quality Early Warning System forecasts it may reach the 'Severe' category during the festive days. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) is implementing measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the region to prevent further deterioration of air quality. Citizens have been urged to support these efforts and follow the measures in force.

WWF EIACP has invited every citizen to take a Green Diwali Pledge to perform their part for clean air, good health and a pollution-free environment. It has also laid out simple steps towards a Green Diwali, as below:

Choose Eco-Friendly Diyas and Candles: Use traditional earthen diyas and eco-friendly candles, and avoid excessive energy consumption.

Go Sustainable with Gifts: Choose locally made, eco-friendly gifts with minimal packaging.

Say No to Firecrackers: Avoid firecrackers to help reduce air and noise pollution and protect public health.

Decorate Naturally: Make rangolis using natural materials such as flower petals, rice flour and turmeric, and try DIY decorations using upcycled materials.

Minimise Waste: Avoid single-use plastics, reuse decorations, and segregate waste for recycling.

Organise Community Events: Host plantation drives, neighbourhood clean-up activities and environmental awareness walks to encourage collective action.

Donate for a Good Cause: Donate old clothes and unused, usable household items to people in need, promoting reuse and reducing waste.

Adopt Greener Mobility: Walk, cycle or use public or shared transport for festive travel whenever practical.

Check Your Air: Follow the daily Air Quality Index (AQI) on the Central Pollution Control Board's SAMEER app and limit outdoor exposure on poor air days.

Citizens have also been encouraged to take WWF-India's Carbon Footprint Survey (https://wwfindiawebgis.in/Carbon_Footprint/Carbon_Footprint.html) to understand their environmental footprint and adopt more sustainable habits. Further, participating institutions and groups have been invited to share their activities through the online form - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15hDbjbqZze068kNjAxeHQA_SMIQ7lUlPdvCIi-gvwdY/viewform. Each submission should include the name and location of the institution or organisation, the activity details and date, the number of participants who took the pledge, geo-tagged photographs and a brief report.

KVK Kupwara Team condoles demise of Mohammad Sikander Bhat

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kupwara: The entire team of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara, headed by Dr. G. M. Bhat, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Mohd Sikander Bhat, a resident of Bahapurpora and an ex-Wadurian.

In a condolence message, Dr. G. M. Bhat, Head KVK Kupwara, on behalf of the entire KVK Kupwara fraternity, conveyed heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family members. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Dr. Bhat also conveyed condolences on behalf of the Directorate of Extension Education, SKUAST-Kashmir, particularly on behalf of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmed Ganie sb and Director Extension Education, Prof. Rehana Habib Kanth Sahiba. He expressed deep sympathy with the bereaved family and assured them of the collective prayers and support of the university fraternity during this difficult time.

Kulgam Police apprehends 2 persons during naka checking

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kulgam: Today at about 1130 hours; during naka checking conducted by a joint team of Police Station Kulgam, 09 RR and CRPF 18 BN two suspicious persons attempted to flee upon noticing the naka party but were tactfully apprehended.

During preliminary questioning, they were identified as *Muneeb Yaseen Rather and Tahir Bilal, both residents of Bugam*. Upon search, *one pistol along with a magazine* and *two live rounds* were recovered from Muneeb Yaseen Rather, while *two live hand grenades* were recovered from Tahir Bilal.