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Valley Braces For Wet Spell From Nov 12

Snowfall Likely Over Higher Reaches, Says MeT



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 9: After several weeks of prolonged dry weather, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a fresh spell of rain and snowfall from November 12, with the Meteorological Department forecasting widespread precipitation, snowfall over higher reaches and a subsequent considerable drop in temperatures.

According to the weather forecast, a feeble Western Disturbance is approaching the region on Monday, which may bring light snowfall over a few higher-altitude areas, particularly in the hilly regions of North and Central Kashmir. The weather is also expected to become partly cloudy towards late afternoon and evening.

A feeble to moderate intensity Western Disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir around November 12, resulting in widespread rainfall, with moderate precipitation at a few places.

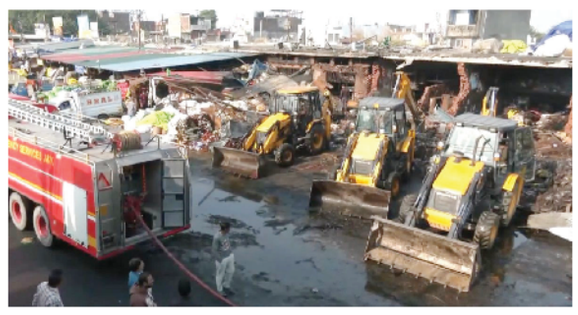
Snowfall is expected over the higher reaches of South, North and Central Kashmir,

■See on Pg. 10

Blaze Guts Historic Market In Bikram Chowk Jammu

LG Sinha Reviews Situation, Directs Immediate Relief To Victims

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, Nov 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the devastating fire incident in the Warehouse area of Jammu and directed officials to ensure immediate relief to all those affected.

Several shops were gutted in a major blaze late Sunday night at the historic market in the Bikram Chowk area.

The market, one of the oldest commercial hubs of Jammu, is known for wholesale trade in foodgrains, edible oil, essential commodities and other

■See on Pg. 10

CM Omar expresses grief

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, November 09: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep grief over the massive fire incident at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, conveying his heartfelt sympathies to all those affected.

The Chief Minister directed the district

■See on Pg. 10

Over 60 fire incidents reported across Jammu region on Diwali night



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 9: As many as 64 fire incidents were reported across Jammu region during the Diwali celebrations, causing extensive damage to commercial properties and other assets, officials said on Monday.

Jammu district accounted for the highest number of 30 incidents, including at the historic Warehouse Nehru Market in the heart of the city, the officials of the Fire and Emergency Services said.

Of the 64 incidents, 11 were reported till 5 pm on Sunday, while the remaining 53 occurred between 5 pm and 3 am, coinciding with

■See on Pg. 10

JKBOSE targets January 10 for Class 10, 11, 12 results



KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is targeting January 10 for the declaration of Class 10, 11 and 12 examination results.

JKBOSE Chairman Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said the Board was making efforts to announce the results within the targeted timeline, following the completion of the ongoing examinations.

"After the last paper, it takes around 8 to 10 days to conduct practical examinations and examinations for vocational subjects. We will try to declare the results of all classes by January 10," Sheikh

■See on Pg. 10

Amit Shah Seeks Public Support To Eradicate Drug Menace



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

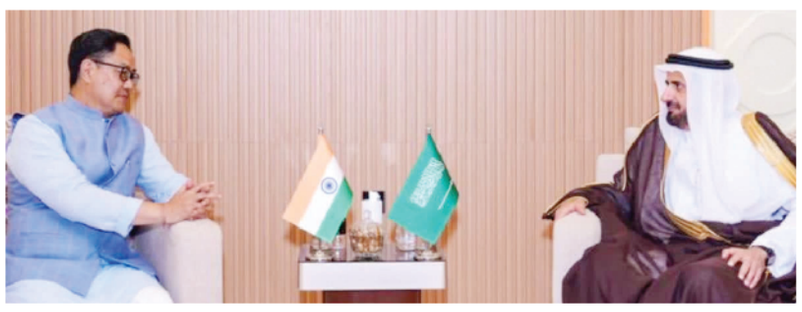
Ahmedabad, Nov 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted that governments alone cannot eradicate narcotics without active public support, and urged citizens to report drug abuse to authorities via dedicated helplines.

Addressing a gathering here after launching development projects worth Rs 1,024 crore, Shah said that while the deadline to make India drug-free is December 31, 2029, Gujarat needs to achieve the status by December 31, 2028.

"Drug

■See on Pg. 10

India gets quota of 1.75 lakh pilgrims under Saudi Arabia's Haj agreement



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 9: India and Saudi Arabia on Monday signed the bilateral Haj agreement for 2027, under which 1,75,025 Indians will be allowed to undertake the annual pilgrimage, the Indian Consulate in Jeddah said.

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, held a bilateral meeting with Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah before signing the agreement in Jeddah.

"The Ministers reviewed the ongoing preparations for Haj-2027, discussed measures to strengthen bilateral coordination and logistical support, and reaffirmed their shared commitment to a safe, smooth and comfortable pilgrimage for Indian Haj pilgrims," the consulate said in a statement.

Haj, an annual

■See on Pg. 10

Lok Bhavan Celebrates Foundation Day

Uttarakhand's Spiritual Heritage, Cultural Richness Inspire Nation: LG Sinha

KA NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan today celebrated 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Uttarakhand. He said that the day celebrates the rich cultural, spiritual and civilisational heritage of the State.

Paying homage to the former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lieutenant Governor recalled his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment that led to

■See on Pg. 10

2 killed, six injured in accidents

KA NEWS SERVICE

Banihal/Jammu, Nov 9: A father-son duo were killed and six others injured in two separate road accidents along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Banihal in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

Khalid Muzamil Wani, a teacher, and his father Ghulam Mohammad, a retired lecturer, lost their lives when their private car hit a roadside wall near Kharpora in Banihal late this afternoon,

■See on Pg. 10

Custody Of Public Servant Beyond 48 Hours Is Deemed Suspension: SC

KA NEWS SERVICE



New Delhi, Nov 9: If a public servant is arrested and kept in judicial custody for more than 48 hours, there is a deemed suspension, the Supreme Court has said.

bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manmohan made the observation while restoring the bail granted to Vishwajeet Singh, the administrator of Sadar Hospital at Samastipur in Bihar.

Singh was accused of demanding a bribe of Rs 4,000 for clearing a contractual worker's pending wages of Rs 36,421.

The top court set aside a Patna

■See on Pg. 10

2 JKAS officers transferred

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: In the interest of administration, two JKAS officers were transferred with immediate effect on Monday.

According to an order, Muddasir Latif Tasir, JKAS, Officer on Special Duty with Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Triba! Affairs and Transport, has been transferred and shall await further orders

■See on Pg. 10

PMEGP 'irregularities': ED attaches assets worth over Rs 10 crore in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 9: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has attached 11 properties worth Rs 10.63 crore in Srinagar and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

The case relates to alleged misuse of funds under the PMEGP and the attached properties were in possession of suppliers-cum-brokers and officials of J&K Bank, the central agency said in a statement.

The ED investigation was initiated on the basis of

■See on Pg. 10

Jitendra Singh announces pre-clinical trials of cannabis-based drugs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 9: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday announced that pre-clinical trials of cannabis-based drug candidates will be undertaken in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, to develop export-quality painkillers from the plant.

Highlighting the potential of cannabis beyond its association with drug addiction, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said the initiative aims to harness its medicinal properties to develop effective pain-relief solutions.

Reviewing progress of India's first-of-its-kind Cannabis Medicinal Research Project at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), here, the minister said the project is now moving towards pre-clinical trials, for which engagement has been established with Tata Memorial Centre, one

■See on Pg. 10

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MLA Bedar inaugurates tesla scan, advanced ultrasound, diagnostic centre in Pattan

Kashmir Press Service
Sahil Nazir Wani



PATTAN: A positive step towards strengthening healthcare facilities in the area, Tesla Scan Advanced Ultrasound and Diagnostic Centre was formally inaugurated by MLA Pattan Javid Reyaz Bedar on Monday.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several prominent citizens, local residents and other dignitaries, who welcomed the establishment of the new diagnostic centre.

The facility will offer advanced ultrasound and diagnostic services with the expertise

of Dr Khursheed Ali (MBBS, MD Radiology, SKIMS Soura) and Dr Bilal Ahmad Pala (MBBS, MD Radiology, SKIMS Soura).

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Javid Reyaz Baidar appreciated the initiative and said that the availability of advanced diagnostic facilities in Pattan would provide considerable relief to local residents, particularly patients who otherwise have to travel to Srinagar, Baramulla and other places for medical investigations.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening healthcare infrastructure in rural and semi-urban areas to ensure accessible and quality medical services for the general public.

Located opposite Community Health Centre (CHC) Pattan, the newly established centre is expected to benefit residents of Pattan and adjoining areas by reducing travel-related inconvenience, time and expenses associated with diagnostic investigations.

Local residents also welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that the establishment of such facilities would further improve access to essential healthcare services in the region.

The inauguration marks a positive development in bringing modern diagnostic facilities closer to the people of Pattan and its adjoining areas.

AIP offers condolences to Altaf Bukhari

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) delegation led by Party Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi visited Sheikhpora, Budgam to offer condolences to Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and his family over the demise of his sister-in-law.

Inam Un Nabi expressed deep sorrow over the loss and conveyed the delegation's heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. He prayed for Jannat Ul Firdouse to the departed soul and strength and patience for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Inam Un Nabi conveyed its deepest condolences to Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and assured him of AIP's solidarity and support during this difficult time.

M Altafdar Rajbagh calls for protection of Kashmir's wetlands

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: M Altafdar Rajbagh has expressed serious concern over reports of unauthorised earth filling and alleged encroachments in the wetland area of Uch Nambal, Pampore–Frastabal, warning that such activities pose a grave threat to the natural habitat of migratory birds and the ecological balance of Kashmir.

He said that Kashmir's wetlands are invaluable environmental assets and provide essential shelter, food and breeding grounds for thousands of migratory birds that arrive after travelling thousands of kilometres.

He emphasised that the protection of Uch Nambal must be treated as an urgent priority, while other important wetlands, including Hokersar, Wular Lake, Dal Lake, Anchar Lake, Haigam, Shallabugh and Mirgund, also require continuous monitoring and effective conservation measures.

M Altafdar Rajbagh appealed to the Government, the Department of Wildlife Protection, the J&K Wetland Authority, the Pollution Control Committee and the district administration to:

"Immediately investigate reports of unauthorised earth filling and encroachments. 2. Stop all illegal filling and construction activities in protected wetland areas. Identify those responsible and initiate appropriate legal action wherever violations are established. Conduct regular inspections and strengthen monitoring, particularly during night hours. Prepare effective restoration and conservation measures to safeguard



these natural habitats."He further stated that development must never come at the cost of destroying nature and biodiversity."Wetlands are not vacant plots for construction; they are living ecosystems and the natural homes of countless birds and wildlife. If we fail to protect them today, future generations will pay the price."

He appealed to environmentalists, civil society organisations, local communities and responsible citizens to collectively raise their voices for the protection of Kashmir's natural heritage.

Pulwama Admin launches awareness sessions on financial literacy, cyber security



Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 09: District Administration Pulwama commenced the series of awareness sessions on Financial Literacy, Cyber Security Awareness and the Probationary Officers (PO) Programme.

The first session was held today at Government Degree College (GDC) Pampore in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

The session focused on enhancing students' understanding of financial literacy, safe banking practices and the importance of securing digital financial transactions.

It also sensitized participants to various forms of cyber fraud and the precautionary measures required to protect themselves against online financial scams.

An important component of the programme was an introduction to the Probationary Officers (PO) Programme, offering students insights into career prospects in the banking sector, professional requirements and opportunities for pursuing a career in banking.

Sukhnag Block celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas with enthusiasm

Kashmir Age News



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 09: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was celebrated with great enthusiasm and public participation at Ringzabal, Block Sukhnag, with the objective of honouring the rich heritage, culture and contributions of tribal communities while creating awareness about various government welfare schemes and initiatives.

The programme witnessed the presence of several senior officers and dignitaries, including Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, Javaid Ahmad; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri; and Project Officer ICDS Budgam, Samar Naik, besides various departmental heads and officials from different government departments.

During the programme, officers and representatives from various departments interacted with the general public and provided detailed information about different government-sponsored schemes, welfare initiatives and development programmes available for the benefit of the people.

They also highlighted the eligibility criteria, benefits and procedures for availing these schemes, encouraging people to take maximum advantage of the opportunities provided by the government.

A large number of people from Ringzabal and adjoining areas participated in the programme, with particularly encouraging participation from members of the tribal community.

The event served as an important platform for strengthening public awareness, promoting government-public interaction and ensuring that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach deserving and eligible beneficiaries, especially those belonging to tribal and other underserved communities.

The celebration reaffirmed the importance of inclusive development, community participation and the preservation of the rich cultural heritage and identity of tribal communities.

Diwali celebrated with religious fervour at historic Sharda temple along LoC in Teetwal

Kashmir Press Service
Peerzada Sayeed

TEETWAL (KUPWARA): The festival of Diwali was celebrated with great religious fervour, enthusiasm and communal harmony at the historic Sharda Temple, situated near the Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The temple premises were beautifully illuminated with traditional earthen lamps (diyas), creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere. Members of the Sharda Committee participated in the celerations and offered prayers for peace, prosperity, happiness and communal harmony.

A notable highlight of this year's celebration was the participation of members belonging to different faiths, reflecting the spirit of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect. Their presence added special significance to the occasion and conveyed a strong message of communal harmony from this historic border area.

Chairman of the Save Sharda Committee Kashmir



(Regd.), Ravinder Pandita, extended warm Diwali greetings to the people and wished everyone peace, prosperity and happiness.

The celebrations also highlighted the historical, spiritual and cultural significance of Sharda Temple, which stands as an important symbol of Kashmir's shared heritage and civilisational legacy.

Located close to the LoC, the shrine has emerged as a significant centre of cultural and religious heritage, representing the enduring connection of people with their ancestral traditions.

The Diwali celebrations at Sharda Temple once again conveyed a meaningful message of peace, unity, religious

harmony and brotherhood, reaffirming that festivals are an opportunity to bring communities together beyond religious boundaries.

Building Centre Srinagar organises 2-day training programme

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 09: A two-day training programme-cum-workshop on Cost-Effective, Eco-Friendly and Innovative Construction Technologies and Materials was organised at Building Centre Srinagar, functioning under the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The programme witnessed the participation of around 50 final-year Civil Engineering students from various technical institutions, providing them an opportunity to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical applications in the construction sector.

The primary objective of the training programme was to disseminate information about various low-cost, sustainable and innovative construction techniques developed by Building Centre Srinagar, while familiarising the participants with their practical applications and benefits.

During the workshop, demonstrations were conducted on low-cost housing technologies and alternative construction materials. The participants were also introduced to modular construction practices, standardisation techniques, and the development of testing and quality-control facilities to ensure the durability and reliability of construction materials.

Emphasis was laid on technology transfer and promoting the adoption of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction practices by taking innovations from the laboratory to the field, thereby encouraging future engineering professionals and construction stakeholders to adopt sustainable building solutions.

On the occasion, Project Manager, Building Centre Srinagar, Masroor Ahmad Shah, briefed the participants about the various benefits, structural viability and practical applications of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction materials.

In addition to technical briefings, detailed presentations on specialised structural aspects and hands-on practical sessions were conducted to provide students with comprehensive exposure to sustainable and hazard-resistant construction methodologies.

DC Shopian inaugurates JK Bank branch at Mini Secretariat Complex

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep singh today inaugurated newly established JK bank branch at the Mini Secretariat Complex, Shopian.

Present on the occasion were Zonal Head, Pulwama, J&K Bank, Masood Ahmad Lanker, senior bank officials, representatives of the district administration, local stakeholders and prominent citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role of accessible, efficient and customer-oriented banking services in promoting economic development, strengthening financial inclusion and facilitating institutional credit.He added that the establishment of the branch would significantly enhance banking convenience for government departments, employees, business establishments and the general public. Zonal Head, Pulwama, reiterated the Bank's commitment to expanding its banking network and delivering efficient, accessible and technology-driven financial services. He highlighted the Bank's ongoing efforts towards strengthening customer services, promoting financial inclusion and extending the benefits of various government-sponsored schemes to eligible beneficiaries.

DLSA Shopian celebrates Legal Services Day 2026

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian, today celebrated Legal Services Day 2026 with a grand function at the Court Complex, Shopian.

The event started with the reading of Natinal Song and National Anthem and NALSA theme song. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all Judicial Officers, advocates, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), and a large number of litigants from across the district.

The programme was presided over by Mehmood Ahmad Chowdary, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Chowdary highlighted the significant achievements of DLSA Shopian over the past year, particularly in the areas of legal aid, awareness campaigns, and the resolution of disputes through Lok Adalats and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. He reiterated the Authority's commitment to ensuring that justice reaches every section of society, especially the marginalized and underprivileged.

The Chairman also praised the dedicated work of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel in the district,



commending their commitment to providing competent legal representation to undertrial prisoners and indigent litigants. He acknowledged their role in safeguarding the rights of the accused and ensuring that no person is denied justice due to poverty or lack of legal knowledge.

In his address, the Chairman made an earnest appeal to all participants, including litigants and advocates, to refer their cases to the DLSA for amicable settlement. He emphasized that mediation and conciliation not only reduce the burden on the courts but also provide parties with faster, cost-effective, and mutually satisfactory outcomes.

"The DLSA is not just a forum for legal aid; it is a bridge to justice. I urge every citizen to come forward and utilize our services for the peaceful resolution of their disputes," Chowdary said.

On the occasion Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rayaz Ahmad Chowdary and Principal Magistrate JJB Shopian, Mudasir Bashir also addressed the gathering.

JKCCTU reviews preparations for Dec 12 Karmchari Aakroosh Rally in Delhi

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Committee of Trade Unions (JKCCTU), affiliated with the All India State Government Employees Federation, on Sunday convened a State Committee meeting in Srinagar to review preparations for the upcoming Karmchari Aakroosh Rally scheduled to be held on December 12, 2026, at Ramlila Ground, New Delhi.

The meeting held detailed discussions on organisational arrangements and strategies to ensure maximum participation in the proposed rally. Participants stressed the need to strengthen the organisational network, expand outreach activities and bring more stakeholders into confidence to make the programme a success.

The meeting also emphasised the importance of organising regular training programmes for trade union cadres to develop class consciousness, strengthen ideological understanding and promote awareness about workers' rights, responsibilities and trade union activities.

Speakers underlined that a strong organisational structure, collective participation and continuous cadre development were essential for strengthening the trade union movement and effectively addressing the emerging challenges faced by employees.

Those who participated in the meeting included Abdul Rashid Najar, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Shahnawaz Ahmad Bhat, Mohammad Amin Dar, Mohammad Rafique, Nazir Ahmad Tantary, Reyaz Ahmad Bhat, Bashir Ahmad and others.

The committee reiterated its commitment to mobilising employees and strengthening the organisational groundwork ahead of the December 12 rally in Delhi.

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Govt to audit private schools violating fee, other norms: Edu Minister

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 09 :Amid growing complaints of financial exploitation by private institutions, Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister, Shamima Firdous Monday said that private schools cannot burden parents with unnecessary charges and the government will ensure audit and proper accountability against those violating fee and other norms.

Speaking to the reporters here the Education Minister said, "We started supplying textbooks to the educational zones of Srinagar district today and the concerned officials in those zones will ensure distribution of free textbooks at earliest."

"There is no shortage of textbooks, in fact we have started distributing the free textbooks at the very appropriate time in comparison to the previous years," she said.

About the miscellaneous charges by some private schools, the minister said, "There will be a proper audit and accountability will be enforced against those violating the government norms. We won't allow any private school to impose an unnecessary burden on parents."

Pertinently, the educational institutions across Kashmir Valley begin academic session 2026–27 from November-02 for KG to Class-10 students.

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

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

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

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

Moreover, a stake-holders meeting was held to ensure the clarity on fee, availability of

textbooks in schools and coordination between government and private educational institutions in Kashmir.

No house will be demolished: Minister Altaf Kaloo assures forest dwellers



Kashmir News Observer

RAMBAN, NOV 09 :Asserting that the government would not allow any further encroachment of forest land, Forest Minister Altaf Kaloo on Monday assured the forest dwellers that no existing house would be demolished in any area.

Talking to reporters here, Kaloo said the Forest Department is committed to ensuring that no one's house would be demolished and that fresh encroachments would not be permitted. "This is a commitment from my department," he said.

On the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), the Minister said the matter was being discussed with the department and that the file had already been taken up. "We are discussing the Forest Rights Act. I have already spoken to my department. We will get it done. We have kept the file of the Forest Rights Act ready," he said.

He said he had taken up issues concerning the Forest Department, including pending annuities and the process of obtaining necessary clearances for road-related works.

Regarding the road development review, Kaloo said he had not yet reviewed the department's progress as he had assumed charge only a few days ago. He said he would review the functioning of various departments and categories, including GRS, CIC operators, TATA operators, AEMs, assistant panchayat officers and DBCs, after completing the initial review.

LoP Sharma visits fire-hit Nehru Market, forms 6-member committee

'Panel to assess losses at Nehru, Shiv markets; seek time-bound relief for affected traders'

Kashmir News Observer



JAMMU, NOV 09 :Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday visited the fire-hit Warehouse Complex near Nehru Market in Jammu, where a massive fire broke out on Sunday evening, completely damaging more than 15 shops.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sunil Sharma said that in consultation with BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, he had constituted a six-member committee to assess the losses suffered by traders at both Nehru Market and Shiv Market and prepare a comprehensive list of affected traders.

The committee will be headed by MLA Sham Lal Sharma (Jammu North) and comprise Dr Narinder Singh, MLAs Yudhvir Sethi, Vikram Randhawa and Arvind Gupta, and BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billowria.

The committee will subsequently take up the matter with the

Government to ensure time-bound relief and rehabilitation. It will also pursue the demand for allowing MLAs to utilise their Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to extend assistance to the affected traders.

During the visit, Sunil Sharma met the affected traders, many of whom suffered losses worth crores of rupees within

minutes. He expressed solidarity with the victims and assured them that the Bharatiya Janata Party stands firmly with every family affected by the tragedy.

Public representatives, delegations, citizens call on CM Omar in Jammu



Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 09: Several public representatives, delegations, professionals and citizens today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of issues concerning public welfare, development and various sectors.

Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance.

MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia met the Chief Minister and discussed developmental issues, public welfare concerns and other matters pertaining to his Assembly constituency.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed various matters related to the university.

A delegation of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), led by its Chairman Sanjay Aggarwal, met the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning the automobile industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Abhinav Gupta of ASCOMS, Jammu, also called on the Chief Minister. The interaction provided an opportunity to acknowledge his professional accomplishments.

A delegation led by Principal of British International School, Sainik Colony, Jammu, accompanied by teachers and students, also called on the Chief Minister. The students interacted briefly with him during the meeting.

Several other individuals and citizens also called on the Chief Minister during the day.

Adnan's mortal remains arrive in Delhi, to reach Srinagar by first morning flight

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 09 :The mortal remains of Kashmiri MBBS student Adnan Altaf Ratharreached New Delhi on Monday evening, days after his death in Bangladesh and are scheduled to be flown to Srinagar City by the first morning flight on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri students in Bangladesh offered funeral prayers in absentia for their fellow student ahead of the repatriation of his mortal remains.

According to the details Adnan, resident of Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, was pursuing MBBS in Bangladesh where he died on November 4. His death left his family and fellow Kashmiri students in shock, following which student organizations and the Jammu and Kashmir administration took up the issue of facilitating the repatriation of his mortal remains with the Centre.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Monday said the mortal remains were brought to New Delhi aboard an Air India flight, which landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport this evening.

The association said it was coordinating with the Chief Minister's Advisor regarding the onward transportation of the mortal remains from Delhi to Srinagar. It added that an ambulance and other necessary arrangements had been made at Srinagar Airport to take the body to the family's native place in Sopore. Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, President of the Federation of Indian Medical Associations (FIMAA), confirmed that the mortal remains have landed in Delhi and were being kept at Jammu and Kashmir House. Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had earlier directed the Jammu and Kashmir Resident Commissioner in New Delhi to make arrangements to receive the mortal remains and facilitate their return to Srinagar.

Salman Sagar emerges as top contender for NC ticket for Srinagar parliamentary constituency

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 09: The ruling National Conference (NC) is seriously considering fielding senior party leader Salman Sagar as its candidate for the by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the party leadership is considering nominating Salman, who is currently serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Hazratbal constituency, as its candidate for the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

"A final decision is yet to be taken, but Sagar has emerged as the frontrunner for the prestigious parliamentary seat," the sources said. Known for his organisational skills, Salman enjoys significant support in parts of Srinagar. His family has a long-standing association with National Conference. Salman, a former Mayor of Srinagar, won the 2024 Assembly election from the Hazratbal segment by defeating PDP's Asiea Naqash by a margin of 10295 votes. While Salman secured 18890 votes, Asiea polled 8595 votes

Jammu warehouse fire: Dr Jitendra Singh calls for proper SOP during festive seasons

Kashmir News Observer



JAMMU, NOV 09 :Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said the massive fire at a warehouse in Jammu, which broke out on Diwali, has exposed the need for a proper Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) during festive seasons, particularly at sensitive locations where fireworks and firecrackers are likely to be used. He directed that Fire and Emergency Services teams remain on standby for immediate response.

Speaking to reporters here, Dr Singh, expressed grief over the incident, saying it was fortunate that no loss of human life was reported. He said the incident was particularly unfortunate as it occurred on the day of Diwali, and noted that workers often stay inside the shops but had probably gone home to celebrate the festival with their families, preventing a potentially bigger tragedy.

The Union Minister said the administration reached the spot during the night and remained there until 6:00 am. However, he acknowledged complaints

regarding the response of the Fire and Emergency Services, saying the matter had been taken up with the concerned authorities.

Sagar reviews winter power preparedness in Srinagar

Zainkote Grid Station to be augmented at cost of Rs. 89.46 Crore

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today visited Zainkote and Bemina to review the power supply scenario, assess winter preparedness and inspect key power infrastructure in Srinagar.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, Managing Director JKPTCL, Managing Director KPDCL, Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the Power Development Department.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the functioning of the existing power infrastructure and stressed the need for ensuring reliable, uninterrupted and quality power supply, particularly during the winter months when electricity demand witnesses a significant increase.

At Zainkote Grid Station, the Minister was informed about the proposed major augmentation of its capacity from the existing 450 MVA to 780 MVA at an estimated cost of Rs. 89.46 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening the transmission network and meeting the growing electricity requirements of Srinagar and its adjoining areas, including Shari-Khas.

Alarm bells ring: Apple orchard residue burning adds to Kashmir's pollution woes

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 09 :The burning of fallen leaves, dried branches and other orchard residue following the conclusion of the apple harvesting season has sent alarm bells ringing over deteriorating air quality across Kashmir.

Environmentalists and agricultural experts warned about possible impact of the air pollution on public health and soil fertility. They called for sustainable alternatives to open burning.

According to the details orchardists across the Valley are engaged in post-harvest activities, smoke rising from orchards has become a common sight in several rural areas, particularly in the apple-producing districts of Kashmir.

The practice, which has been followed for generations, is largely associated with the collection of charcoal from dried branches and twigs for use in Kangris, the traditional firepots that remain an important source of warmth for households during the harsh winter months.

However, experts cautioned that burning agricultural residue in the open releases fine particulate matter and harmful gases, contribute to air pollution at a time when falling temperatures and stagnant atmospheric conditions make it difficult for



pollutants to disperse.

The smoke can particularly affect people suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other respiratory ailments, while children, elderly people and those with cardiovascular conditions are considered more vulnerable to prolonged exposure. Residents in several areas said smoke from nearby orchards often spreads towards residential localities during evenings, causing discomfort to people with existing respiratory problems. Sameer Ahmad, a resident of south Kashmir, said his father suffers from a pulmonary illness and experiences breathing difficulties whenever smoke from nearby orchards spreads across the area.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

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

Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR26-55	**Auction Start:** 25/11/2026 at 11:00 Hrs.

Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12138/R1, 04638/F1 & 12484/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3917/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Irfan Alam to Irfan Alam Sidiqi. In future I will be known as Irfan Alam Sidiqi If anyone is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

8279

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR GOGJIBAGH, SRINAGAR

Subject: Issuance of Legal Heir/Dependent Certificate in favour of Ajaz Ahmad Reshi S/o Abdul Rashid Reshi R/o Art Institute Raj Bagh, Srinagar

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this connection it is requested that the report has been obtained from the concerned patwari which reveals that the father of the applicant namely Abdul Rashid Qureshi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Qureshi R/o Art Institute Raj Bagh, Srinagar expired on 06/11/2025 as per death certificate the deceased has left behind the following legal heirs at the time of his/her death.

S.No	Name of the Legal Heirs	Age	Relationship with deceased	Marital Status
01	Nayeem Shahnaz	80 Years	Wife	Widow
02	Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi	54 Years	Son	Married
03	Ajaz Ahmad Qureshi	52 Years	Son	Married
04	Munir Hussain	50 Years	Son	Married
05	Tabish Kouser	53 Years	Daughter	Married
06	Masrat Jan	51 Years	Daughter	Married
07	Farhat Qureshi	34 Years	Daughter	Married

The applicant seeks issuance of Legal Heirs/Dependent Certificate. If anyone is having any objection in this regard he/she may intimate this office of undersigned either personally or through an authorized agent within three days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of said period no claim shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar
(MIB)

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR/EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS CENTRAL, SRINAGAR

In the case of:
Mohamamd Hidayat Ullah S/o Abdul Rashid Baba
R/o Hamdan Abad, Lane No. Aribagh, B.K Pora, Srinagar
…..Petitioner/Decree Holder through Advocate Mir Rashad.
V/S
Sikander House Bulding Corporation Ltd
Through its Secretray Sikander Khursheed Dar,
Darish Kadal Chowk Karan Nagar, Srinagar
Al Mehmood Builders Ltd.
Through its Managing Director, Sikander Khursheed Dar,
Darish Kadal Kak Saria, Srinagar.
Sikandar Khursheed Dar
S/o Khursheed Ahmad Dar
R/o H.No. 15 Chinar Colony, Baghat, Srinagar.
…….Respondents/Judgment Debtors through Nemo.

AUCTION NOTICE

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble Court of Additional District Judge and Tehsildar Central Srinagar, it is hereby notified for the information of public that an open auction notice vide this office No. 118/MN/LW/CS/26 dated: 31/10/2026 followed by corrigendum vide No. 121/MN/LW/CS/2026 dated: 02/11/2026 for land measuring 12 Marlas and 224 sqfts falling under survey No. 1311/104 situated at Mujgund which issued for auction and scheduled on 07th of November, 2026 shall be now conducted on 11th of November, 2026 at 11:00 AM for execution of the Court order vide order dated: 03-10-2026 for the recovery of amount of Rs. 32.00 Lacs alongwith the interest. All interested parties are requested to contact on this number (Shri Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat DA Nayabat Lawaypora 9906615925) on or before 10th Nov, 2026 for any kind of query.

No. 124/MN-lw/cs/26
Dated: 07-11-2026
Sd/- Naib Tehsidar/ Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Central, Srinagar R-1146

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Government of India
Farogh-e-Urdu Bhawan,FC-33/9,Institutional Area,Jasola,New Delhi-110 025
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Display of selected candidate list	:	14th December, 2026
Last date for Submission of fee	:	18th December, 2026
Commencement of Classes	:	1st January, 2027

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Farah Khan calls out fake news over fire in her house

Mumbai (PTI) Filmmaker Farah Khan has called out online portals for sharing videos that falsely claimed a fire had broken out at her Mumbai home. The filmmaker clarified that the fire was at an under-construction building and not her residence. She also asked media platforms to check their facts before sharing such videos.

Farah shared one of the viral videos on her Instagram Story on Sunday. Reacting to the reports, she wrote, "Online portals, please be responsible!! This is an under-construction building!! Clickbait can't be everything!"

The videos went viral on November 8 and 9.

PUBLIC NOTICE

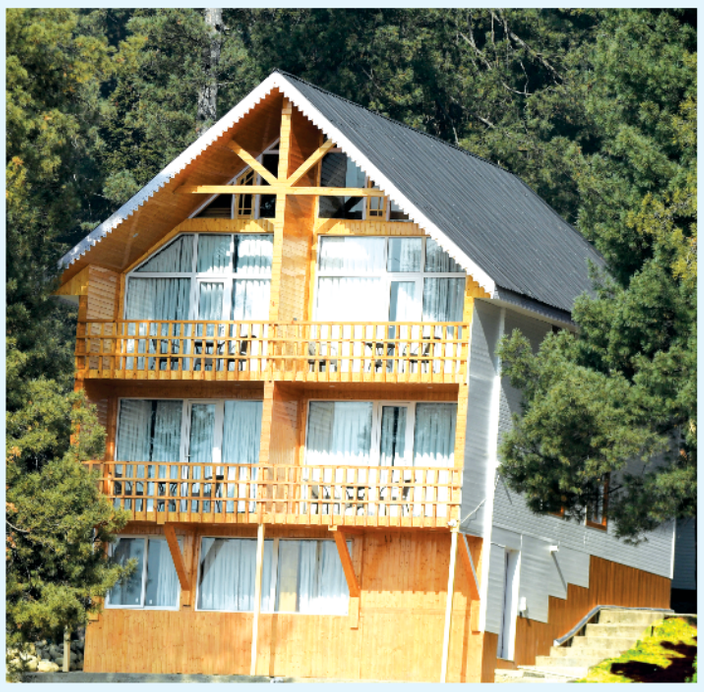
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Javid Dar assures JK NOPRUF delegation of examining teachers' service issues

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Old



Pension Restoration United Front (JK NOPRUF) led by its General Secretary, Sakoon Manir today called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar and apprised him of a range of long-pending service related issues concerning the teachers and employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation submitted a detailed memorandum seeking Minister's intervention for addressing the issues pertaining to pensionary benefits, career progression, transfer policy and other matters affecting the teaching fraternity.

During the interaction, the delegation sought extension of benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to eligible Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers whose recruitment advertisements were issued on or before December 24, 2009, including those engaged subsequently, in accordance with Government Order No. 305-F of 2026.

The delegation highlighted the need for convening regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings to clear the long-pending promotion cases of eligible teachers to the post of Masters. They also urged for formulating a separate, transparent and comprehensive transfer policy for ReT teachers.

Other major issues brought to the Minister's attention included formulation of a suitable transfer policy for Reserved Category and PM Package employees serving in Kashmir, acceptance and onward submission of OPS-related cases of all eligible employees to the Finance Department and expeditious disposal of pending intra-district transfer cases of Reserved Category and PM Package employees.

The representatives emphasised that these issues have a direct bearing on the professional security, career advancement, pensionary entitlements and overall welfare of teachers and other employees, warranting their timely consideration and resolution.

Javid Dar assured its members that the genuine issues raised in the memorandum would be examined and addressed in a phased manner. The delegation was comprised of Manir, UT General Secretary, JK NOPRUF; Binny Tandon, Provincial President, NOPRUF Kashmir; Sudesh Kumar, District Organiser, NOPRUF Doda and Faiz Ahmed, District Advisor, NOPRUF Doda.

ETK Elections 2026: Akhter Ali Gazi elected Prez , Er Ahmad Ali Chief Organiser, Dr Rather General Secy

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: The four-yearly election process of Educational Trust Kashmir (ETK) concluded on Sunday, November 8, 2026, with an overall voter turnout of 55 per cent. Out of a total electorate of 1,331 registered voters, 733 exercised their franchise at six designated polling locations across the Valley, reflecting an encouraging level of participation in the democratic process of the organisation.

In the keenly contested presidential election, Akhter Ali Gazi emerged victorious, defeating his opponent Dr Syed Nazim Hussaini, by a margin of 128 votes. Gazi secured 418 votes, the highest tally among the four contesting candidates, against 290 votes polled for Dr Hussaini.

In another closely fought contest, Er Ahmad Ali was elected Chief Organiser, defeating Ajaz Ahmad Dar by a narrow margin of just five votes by securing 355 votes.

Earlier, Dr Ali Muhammad Rather had been declared elected General Secretary unopposed completing the elections to the key positions of the Central Executive Council.

The polling witnessed considerable participation at different centres. Iqbal Khomeini Hall, Shribhat Hawal, which hosted two polling booths, recorded the highest turnout with 313 votes. Hyderia Hall, Dalgate, registered 154 votes, followed by Budgam with 116, Hanjivera Pattan with 113 and Magam with 37 votes. Notably, 64 votes were declared invalid across the six polling booths.

The entire election process, which witness keen competition and considerable enthusiasm among the voters, was conducted in a fair and transparent manner under the supervision of a five-member Independent Election Authority headed by Syed Afzal Rizvi. The smooth culmination of the exercise reflects the collective commitment of the stakeholders towards upholding the democratic traditions and institutional framework of Educational Trust Kashmir.

Akhter Ali Gazi, the newly elected President, brings with him nearly two decades of association and dedicated service to the institution. Having served ETK in various capacities, he was the Vice President of the outgoing Central Executive Council. His election marks the continuation of a long association with the organisation and its educational mission. He will take over the charge from Muhammad Shafi Khan, who served the institution in two terms since 2018.

The newly elected Chief Organiser, Er Ahmad Ali, has also been associated with the Trust in the past for several years and has served the institution in different capacities.

The conclusion of Elections-2026 marks an important moment in the institutional journey of Educational Trust Kashmir. The new leadership assumes responsibility at a time when the organisation continues to shoulder the significant task of providing educational opportunities through its network of Imamia Public Schools across the valley. The Patrons of the Trust headed by Justice Hakim Imtiyaz expresses their gratitude to all the voters, candidates, members, polling staff and election officials for their participation, cooperation and commitment in ensuring the successful completion of the electoral exercise.

Kulgam Police intensify crackdown on illegal mining, traffic violations

Kashmir Press Service



KULGAM: Kulgam Police has intensified its crackdown on illegal mining, unauthorized transportation of minerals and traffic violations across the district, registering cases, seizing vehicles and issuing challans against violators during multiple enforcement drives.

During naka checking at Vessu Crossing, a police team from Police Station Qazigund intercepted two tractors travelling from Sadoora towards Vessu. Both vehicles were found plying without registration number plates. Upon inspection, one tractor was carrying illegally extracted Nallah boulders, while the other was transporting sand without valid documents or authorization.

The drivers were identified as Sajid Amin Shan, son of Mohd Amin Shan, and Danish Rafiq Shan, son of Rafiq Shan, both residents of Nowpora Akhran, Mirbazar. Accordingly, FIR No. 276/2026 under Sections 305(e) and 326(b) of the BNS was registered at Police Station Qazigund, and investigation was initiated.

In a separate action, a police party from Police Post Mirbazar intercepted two more tractors at Palpora Crossing while they were travelling from Khrewan towards Palpora/Mirbazar. Both vehicles were found transporting illegally extracted riverbed material without valid royalty documents or requisite permission.

The drivers were identified as Fasil Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohd Yaqoob Bhat, a resident of Khrewan, Lassipora, and Naseer Ahmad Dar, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Tachloo, Qaimoh. Two separate FIRs, bearing Nos. 274/2026 and 275/2026, under Sections 305(e) and 326(b) of the BNS and Section 3 of the PPD Act, were registered at Police Station Qazigund for further investigation. Five heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) were also seized for violations under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Meanwhile, during naka checking at Kilam and Devsar, Police Station Devsar seized five motorcycles and one tractor found plying without High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), including two vehicles bearing Punjab registration numbers. Five challans were also issued to tippers and dumpers for traffic violations.

In another enforcement drive, Police Station Qaimoh issued challans to four dumper/tipper vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act. Similarly, Police Station Qazigund challaned four dumper/tipper vehicles and seized four two-wheelers for various violations during naka checking.

Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to curbing illegal mining, unauthorized transportation of minerals and traffic violations. It said special enforcement drives against heavy motor vehicles, particularly tippers and dumpers, would continue to ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations and prevent the illegal extraction and transportation of natural resources.

Police have appealed to the general public, transporters and vehicle operators to strictly abide by the law and cooperate with the police in maintaining road safety and protecting the district's natural resources.

Editorial note: The headline reflects the figures provided: four tractors involved in illegal mining cases, 10 vehicles seized under MV Act-related enforcement, and 13 HMV challans. The seizure figures are based on the supplied details.

EJAC expresses solidarity with Farooq Khan, condoles demise of his brother

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of the brother of Sr. Trade Union leader and Chairman of the Mechanical Irrigation Employees Federation, Farooq Ahmad Khan.

In a heartfelt condolence message, Sr. Trade Union Leader and EJAC President, Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam, extended his deepest sympathies and condolences to Farooq Ahmad Khan and the entire bereaved family during this difficult and painful time.

Shabnam said that Farooq Ahmad Khan has always stood firmly with people during their moments of grief, sorrow and distress and today when he is passing through this difficult phase following the demise of his brother, the entire employees fraternity stand shoulder to shoulder with him.

He further prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and beseeched Almighty Allah to grant the deceased the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. He also prayed that Almighty Allah grant Farooq Ahmad Khan and all members of the bereaved family patience, strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss. Meanwhile, an EJAC delegation led by President Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam attended the Nimaz-e-Janazah of the deceased and later visited the residence of the bereaved family

Farooq Rather mourns demise of Mirza Feroz Ahmad Beg, calls him 'hero of Akhal'

Kashmir Press Service

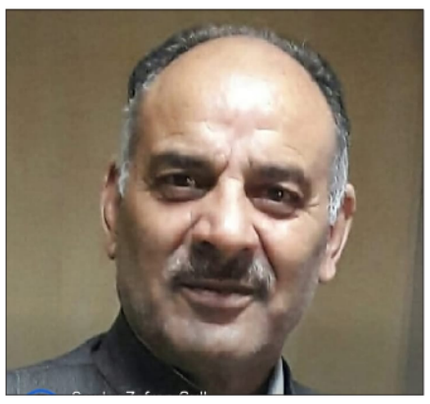
ANANTNAG: Journalist Farooq Rather has expressed profound grief over the demise of his close friend and relative, Mirza Feroz Ahmad Beg, a respected personality belonging to Akhal village, who was presently residing at his ancestral home in Anantnag.

In his condolence message, Rather described the deceased as a generous, kind-hearted, sympathetic and noble person who was always willing to extend help to others.

Remembering his contribution to society, he said that Mirza Feroz Ahmad Beg was popularly known as the "Hero of Akhal" for his kindness, compassion and selfless service to people.

He said the demise of Beg was an irreparable loss not only to his family and relatives but also to his friends and the entire community.

Farooq Rather conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannatul Firdous and give the family strength and patience to bear the irreparable loss.



He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

North Circle Forest Conservator tours Baramulla remote areas

Kashmir Press Service



BARAMULLA: Irfan Ali Shah, IFS, Conservator of Forests, North Forest Circle, conducted another extensive day-long inspection of various forest areas, ongoing developmental works, plantation sites and ecotourism locations across Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Baramulla.

The Conservator was accompanied by Zahid Aslam Moghal, DCF, Divisional Forest Officer, Jhelum Valley Forest Division, along with concerned Range Officers and field functionaries.

During the inspection, the CoF emphasised the development of eco-parks, nature trails, eco-trails and other environmentally sustainable tourism facilities at suitable locations in Baramulla and Boniyar Ranges.

He reviewed the potential for further development of ecotourism facilities in the forest areas of Kawhar and adjoining locations, including proposals for an Eco-Park at Kawhar. He stressed that such initiatives should preserve the natural character of the forests while providing recreational opportunities to visitors and livelihood opportunities to local communities.

The Conservator also inspected the ongoing development of an Eco-Park in Compartment 77, Heevan Block, Baramulla Range, and directed that all developmental activities be undertaken in an eco-friendly manner, with minimum disturbance to the natural landscape.

The Conservator inspected proposed Compensatory Afforestation sites in Gohan Ladi Forest, Ushkara Block, and other forest areas of Baramulla Range. He reviewed fencing arrangements, boundary demarcation and plantation planning, emphasising proper site selection, protection of forest boundaries and scientific plantation practices.

At Alraman Forest, the Conservator reviewed ongoing forest boundary protection and demarcation activities.

He also inspected the Deodar Preservation Plot in Heevan Block, containing more than 650 identified trees, and emphasised the importance of protecting valuable coniferous forest resources and maintaining the ecological integrity of designated preservation areas.

During the inspection of Galibal Forest Check Post, he reviewed the functioning of forest protection infrastructure and stressed the need for strengthening field surveillance and improving essential facilities.

Later in afternoon, the Conservator of Forests inspected Gantmulla Forest, Nowshera Block, in Boniyar Range and reviewed forest conservation measures in the vicinity of the Lift Irrigation Scheme.

He also inspected forest boundary demarcation works in Gantmulla, Burnate and Shaldajan forests, stressing the importance of proper demarcation, protection of forest land and timely resolution of pending field issues.

At Shaldajan Forest, Kramthalan Beat, he reviewed forest boundary protection in the vicinity of the FDC Coupe.

At Boniyar Forest Campus, the CoF formally marked the commencement of the winter plantation season through a fruit plant distribution programme amongst local residents. He highlighted the importance of community participation in plantation activities, environmental conservation and increasing green cover through the involvement of local communities.

The Conservator also reviewed the preparedness of the Forest Fire Control Room, Boniyar, where field functionaries demonstrated available firefighting equipment and explained the arrangements for early detection and response to forest fires.

Later, The Conservator of Forests inspected Boniyar Forest Nursery, where officials presented a collection of approximately 10–12 varieties of seeds intended for raising nursery stock. He directed improvements in nursery management, including systematic arrangement of first-year and second-year plants, species-wise segregation, proper labelling and raising of medicinal and other locally suitable plant species.

He also reviewed the existing Range Office and Forest Inspection Hut at Boniyar and discussed proposals for improving forest infrastructure during the forthcoming financial year under suitable Government schemes.

The CoF also inspected proposed plantation sites in Boniyar Block, where six Compensatory Afforestation units are planned during the current financial year.

A major highlight of the tour was the visit to Dudran, a remote village in Boniyar Range, where the CoF interacted with local residents and explored opportunities for developing the village as a model Eco-village. The proposed initiative envisages promotion of community-based ecotourism through identification of suitable camping locations, development of nature trails, establishment of a model eco-park and encouragement of homestay facilities in collaboration with local households. The Conservator also appreciated the traditional methods adopted by villagers for preserving milk and dairy products through naturally insulated underground storage chambers. He directed the field officers to explore permissible measures for supporting and improving these traditional facilities. He directed for providing space in Van Dhan Kendra outlet Baramulla for the value added products from this village to boost local livelihoods.

Late evening, the CoF inspected Vankara Biodiversity Park in Doabgah Range and reviewed the existing infrastructure, plantation areas, medicinal plant sections and facilities developed for visitors. He

emphasised proper upkeep of the Biodiversity Park, improvement of its landscaping, strengthening of medicinal plant conservation activities and effective maintenance of the assets created under various developmental programmes.

Editorial

Firefighting

The unusually high number of fire incidents reported across Jammu Province during the Diwali festive period has once again brought into focus the immense pressure on Fire and Emergency Services and the need to strengthen its operational preparedness. With 60 incidents reported in Jammu Province within 24 hours, including 35 in Jammu district alone, the scale of emergencies was extraordinary. More concerning was the fact that 16 incidents were reported in Jammu district within approximately five hours, several of them involving major fires.

The department deserves appreciation for responding to multiple emergencies under challenging circumstances. The warehouse-cum-shopping premises fire, which required the deployment of 18 fire tenders, was particularly demanding. Although around seven shops sustained damage, the timely intervention helped save numerous adjoining establishments. Fires at a residential-cum-commercial building, a marriage tent and Janta Medical Store further stretched the department's resources.

However, the episode should not be viewed merely through the lens of an official clarification against allegations circulating on social media. Questions about emergency response time are legitimate, particularly when fires threaten densely populated commercial areas, residential buildings and valuable property. Public scrutiny of emergency services should not automatically be dismissed as misinformation; equally, allegations must be assessed against verifiable evidence rather than speculation.

The department has cited its deployment records and CCTV footage from Asian Hotel Crossing to counter claims that it took one and a half hours for fire tenders to reach the warehouse. According to the official account, the emergency call was received at 9:18 PM, while CCTV footage showed fire tenders proceeding towards the site at 9:38 PM. Additional tenders arrived approximately ten minutes later. These details are important, but a transparent account should also establish when the first responding vehicle actually reached the incident site.

The larger lesson is that emergency preparedness cannot depend solely on festive-season arrangements. Advance deployment at strategic locations such as Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar and Gangyal is commendable, but the scale and frequency of incidents underline the need for adequate equipment, trained manpower, strategically located fire stations and effective coordination among agencies.

Jammu and Kashmir must also strengthen fire-safety compliance in commercial establishments, warehouses, residential-cum-commercial buildings and temporary marriage structures. Regular inspections, accessible firefighting equipment, functional emergency exits and public awareness can significantly reduce losses.

The department's response deserves recognition, but accountability and preparedness must go hand in hand. Every fire incident should be an opportunity to identify gaps, improve response mechanisms and prevent future tragedies. Saving lives and property must remain the ultimate measure of an emergency service's

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

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Why is love marriage still a taboo?



RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Costly marriages, unnecessary events on marriages, loud music and how many people are unmarried because of unwanted spending per and post marriage have become hot topics because they have started to effect people in way that everyone wants these practices to stop. Just some 10 years back the lane marriages used to be fun and where not as costly as they are today. But nowadays the marriages are have become a battle ground where one wants to succeed the other one in spending. But we can't put the whole burden on the person who's getting married. The responsibility for costly marriages also weights on the relatives who have fixed one line to everything "Hath kha osukh. Shikaslad, kha ouskh rounmut". The expression of displeasure leads to over spending but one must know come what may some relatives shall never express happiness even after the best possible is offered. Such negative people shall not be considered for opinion they must be treated as noise and ignored. Even though the overspending and wastage has become topics that are being discussed and how to control the growing hazards one important thing is yet to recognized and needs to be discussed more than the other problems. The important thing that's missing the recognition and discussion is "Who shall decide who to marry ". Before spending and many other things comes who shall be the bride or the bridegroom. You might be thinking how's that important. Let me tell you, choosing a life partner is much more important than to decide how much to spend or how many to invite. If the couple doesn't the compatibility to live together everything will go waste.

"Love marriage" a word that still makes people rise the eyebrows and also makes people judge the character of the bride and the bridegroom. But is it actually bad? No, it's not, love marriage is in any way a bad way of getting married and people need to stop judging others from love marriages.

I fail to understand how do people call a man or a woman "Good man" or a "Good woman" who gets married to person chosen by his or her family or at times by relatives. Who made it a measuring scale for character? The one who did is for sure dead by now and his or her mess shouldn't keep troubling generations after generations. Many would not want this article to be read by their son or daughter and honestly even I don't want them to read this article, I want the whole parent community to read my article and understand that choosing life partner for their son or daughter isn't their job and nor is it an obligation for them. The obligation for them is to facilitate the marriage not to decide who their son or daughter should get married to because it's not them who have to get married it's their children who have to get married.

"Amm kar na love marriage" people whisper that to each other on marriage ceremony and then have a long discussion on "how his or her behaviour always used to make them suspicious" while happily enjoying the feast of the love marriage they never wanted to happen. Why do they not wanted it to happen? Because "Malis tie maji drav paith". The explanation looks more of a victim card than an explanation. There has to be a concrete reason to oppose the marriage because simply getting married against the will of parents is in no way a reason to oppose marriage. And the relatives need to stay out of it because they have no role to play in their marriage, they should come and leave. Instead of appreciating the arrangements and giving courage to the one hosting the wedding they take up issues to create more troubles. Some relatives have only one motivate and that's to be upset during the whole wedding just because things are the way they aren't.

It needs to be understood that love marriage is in no way a bad thing, instead it's the best way to get married. Parents need to understand when their son or daughter marries of their own will it in no way makes any difference to their reputation in the society. More than "Loukh kha wanna" they must worry about the happiness of their son or daughter. The society that comes to put their leg in every affair should know because of them many things have been going wrong and those who are going through the burden are dealing with so many unnecessary things just because society wanted things to happen their way. The marriage is between two people but uncounted people come to give their opinion regarding it. Who should one get married should be left to one who's getting married the relatives may have their say regarding how should marriage functions be conducted but who should one get married should be none of their business.

While I advocate love marriage, I must make it clear that while choosing someone for getting married it must be kept in mind that they are choosing someone who they are going to spend the rest of life. Marriage isn't relationship, it can't end by "Blocking" it ends on divorce and it isn't as easy as breaking up. And each one of us know that even break up isn't easy it takes long time to actually end things so imagine how difficult will it be to separate after officially holding each other's hand. Marriage isn't just between two people it connects two tribes not just families. While choosing partner don't get emotional be wise and enough mature to say no to someone you feel you can't have future with. Both parents and children need to understand that marriage is a very big decision and a single wrong decision can ruin the whole life.

There are many people out there who are living life of compromise just because their parents forced them into the marriage that they never wanted to happen. And in today's time when stress has become a common thing a wrong marriage can lead to many untoward things. Let those who are getting married choose who they want to get married and let everyone else stay out of it.

Raqif makhdoomi is a law student and a human rights activist.

Distinguished Journey Of Excellence



BY BASIT LONE

There are certain professions that go beyond the boundaries of ordinary responsibilities, professions in which knowledge becomes a source of hope, dedication becomes a symbol of commitment, and the ability to serve humanity becomes the greatest achievement of all. Medicine is undoubtedly one of those noble professions. It is a journey that demands extraordinary patience, unwavering determination, intellectual excellence and above all, a deep sense of responsibility towards human life. Among the medical professionals whose academic accomplishments and specialized expertise deserve recognition is *Dr Mudasir Muzammil* a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist whose educational journey reflects dedication, perseverance and a pursuit of professional excellence.

An accomplished medical professional, Dr Mudasir Muzammil completed his MBBS from the prestigious Government Medical College Srinagar and subsequently pursued his MD Medicine and DM in Cardiology from the renowned Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences earning the distinguished honour of being a Gold Medalist. This remarkable academic achievement speaks of an individual who has embraced the challenges of medical education with determination, discipline and an unwavering commitment to excellence. A Gold Medal is never merely a decoration or an addition to a professional title it represents years of intellectual dedication, countless hours of preparation, personal sacrifices and the determination to stand among the best.

Today as a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist Dr Mudasir Muzammil belongs to a highly specialized field of medicine where scientific knowledge, clinical judgement and technical precision come together in the service of human life.

Cardiology is not simply the study of the heart it is the science of understanding one of the most extraordinary organs of the human body. The heart works silently, tirelessly, and continuously, sustaining life with every beat. Its importance is beyond description because behind every heartbeat lies a story, a family, a dream and a world of emotions.

A heart related illness can transform the lives of individuals and their families in ways that are difficult to express. A diagnosis often brings uncertainty, anxiety and countless questions. In such circumstances, the importance of a qualified cardiologist becomes even more significant. People seek not only medical expertise but also clarity, reassurance and confidence in the treatment process. They look towards medical professionals who possess the knowledge to understand complex cardiac conditions and the ability to guide patients through difficult medical circumstances with professionalism and compassion.

However, the true significance of the medical profession extends far beyond academic qualifications and professional designations. Degrees establish educational credentials, achievements demonstrate perseverance, and professional experience develops expertise, but the nobility of medicine lies in its ultimate purpose serving humanity. A doctor's contribution is not measured solely by the qualifications written after their name, but also by the responsibility they carry, the trust they inspire and the positive difference their professional knowledge can make in people's lives.

There is something profoundly meaningful about the relationship between a doctor and a patient. For patient a hospital visit may be one of the most difficult experiences of life, while for a doctor it is an opportunity to fulfil a responsibility that demands knowledge patience and integrity. A reassuring explanation a thoughtful conversation and an honest approach can help patients and their families navigate moments of uncertainty with greater confidence. This is why the combination of medical excellence and human values remains one of the most respected aspects of healthcare.

In my personal experience, he never makes a distinction between patients and their attendants, nor does he ever make anyone feel that he is such a senior and distinguished doctor. What makes him truly special is his way of treating people. I genuinely feel that



sometimes patients recover not only because of the medicines he prescribes but also because of the comforting and reassuring words he shares with them.

He always treats his patients like friends, with warmth, kindness, and genuine care. When you sit in front of him, you never feel as though you are sitting before a doctor instead, it feels as if you are talking to someone from your own family, someone who understands your pain, listens to you patiently, and makes you feel comfortable. His humble nature and the personal connection he builds with every patient make him truly exceptional. Doctors like him are not just known for their medical knowledge but are remembered for the humanity, compassion, and kindness they bring into their profession.

The academic journey of Dr Mudasir Muzammil from Government Medical College Srinagar to specialized postgraduate training at SKIMS culminating in the distinction of a Gold Medal is certainly an achievement worthy of appreciation. Such accomplishments remind us that excellence is never accidental. It is built through consistency, determination, discipline and the willingness to overcome challenges.

For young medical aspirants, such academic journeys serve as a reminder that meaningful success requires more than ambition. It requires patience when circumstances become difficult, determination when challenges seem overwhelming and the courage to continue pursuing one's goals despite obstacles. The medical profession demands lifelong learning, because medicine continues to evolve, discoveries continue to emerge and the responsibility of delivering quality healthcare requires professionals to remain informed skilled and dedicated.

In a world where professional recognition is often measured by titles, achievements and public appreciation, it is equally important to acknowledge the responsibility that accompanies those accomplishments. A medical professional has the privilege of working in a field where knowledge can make a meaningful difference and where every opportunity to serve another human being carries immense value. The true spirit of medicine is reflected in the commitment to continuous improvement, respect for patients, professional integrity and the desire to contribute positively to society.

As a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, his professional journey represents the importance of specialized cardiac expertise in a healthcare system where awareness, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment of cardiovascular diseases remain essential.

A society is truly fortunate when it has medical professionals who dedicate their knowledge and abilities to the well being of others.

On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and sincere best wishes to Dr Mudasir Muzammil. May Allah bless him with excellent health, immense happiness, continued success and countless opportunities to achieve even greater milestones in his professional journey. May his knowledge continue to grow, his dedication remain unwavering and his future be filled with remarkable accomplishments. May he continue to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular healthcare and inspire future generations of medical professionals through his commitment to excellence.

Because ultimately, *The greatness of a medical professional is not defined merely by the letters written after a name, but by the knowledge they acquire, the responsibility they embrace and the difference they make through their profession.*

A qualification may establish one's identity, an achievement may earn recognition, but dedication to humanity gives a profession its true dignity.

May your journey always be illuminated by knowledge, guided by excellence and remembered for its contribution to humanity.

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Can people be allergic to exercise?

Imagine a woman has a few drinks one night, pops some ibuprofen in the morning for her hangover, and goes for a run. She's never had an issue with alcohol, ibuprofen or exercise before. But this time, some combination of the three triggers a life-threatening allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis.

This is a real case that happened to a patient of Dr. Andrew Murphy, an allergist at Suburban Allergy Consultants in Pennsylvania. So, is it possible to be allergic to exercise?

Not technically, Murphy said. When a person is exposed to something they're allergic to, a protein from the allergen, for example peanuts, grass or cat dander, interacts with antibodies on immune cells in their body. The immune cells fire off chemicals like histamine that cause sneezing, hives, wheezing and other symptoms. There's no protein that enters the body when a person works out, so it's not possible to be allergic to running.

But, exercise can trigger the same array of symptoms in people with a rare condition called exercise-induced anaphylaxis. "It's not necessarily antibody-mediated, but exercise is a trigger and the allergy [immune] cells are still activated," Murphy told Live Science.

Exercise alone is enough to trigger an allergic reaction in some people, but the way it does so is unknown. One theory proposes that exercise causes a release of endorphins, which triggers certain immune cells to release chemicals such as histamine, according to a 2010 review in the journal Current Allergy and Asthma Reports.

Other people, like Murphy's patient, have a condition known as food-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis, or FDEIA. For them, eating a certain food before working out can cause symptoms such as wheezing or hives — even if they have no reaction to that food when lounging. In the case of Murphy's patient, the "food" was either alcohol, ibuprofen, or a combination of the two. There are several theories why certain foods in combination with exercise can cause an allergic reaction, including that working out makes the gastrointestinal tract more permeable, allowing allergens to come into better contact with the immune system. Ibuprofen can further increase permeability and the body's uptake of foreign allergens, and it may directly interact with immune cells, according to the review.

Exercise-induced anaphylaxis is rare. About 2% of people in the Western world experience anaphylaxis, and 5% to 15% of cases are exercise-induced, according to the review. The food-dependent version of the condition is less common and represents between a third and a half of all cases. Not many children come into the office with either condition, Murphy said, and it generally appears in teens and adults.

Treatment for food-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis is simple: Don't eat for four hours before and after working out, according to a review in the journal Expert Review of Clinical Immunology. Another option is to avoid the triggering foods entirely, if those foods are known.

When exercise is the sole trigger, managing the condition can be harder than managing FDEIA, but doctors can help patients develop specialized exercise regimens, Murphy said. The amount of exertion someone with the condition can do safely varies. A casual stroll can trigger a reaction in some people, but others can ride a bike with no issues. Each patient must work with a doctor to figure out their own limits. Murphy always prescribes an EpiPen in case of emergency, and antihistamines can help prevent episodes, according to a 2001 review in the journal American Family Physician.

Serious reactions in response to exercise are rare. In 25 years of practice, Murphy has only seen one person pass out from it.

Do Fats Make You Fat? **Nutritionist** Tells What You Really Should Believe About Fats



Here are some of the most common myths about fats: eating fats will make you fat; fats are good for you; fats are bad for heart health... and so on. If you are in a complicated, consufed kind of relationship with fats, then you have landed at just the right place. Celeb nutritionist Pooja Makhija recently took to Instagram to talk about all things fat, bust some of the most common myths around this macronutrient. In her IGTV, the Mumbai-based nutritionist clarifies that eating fat certainly does not make you fat.

The truth about fats you must know

Eating the wrong kind of fat or eating too much fat can make gain weight, she adds. Fats can conveniently be divided into two categories: good fat and bad fat.

Bad fats

Processed, refined and fried foods are usually the ones which contain bad fat. These include trans fats and the inflammatory vegetable oil. "Increased intake of these fats can make you gain weight and also result in an increase in inflammation. Inflammation plays a role in nearly every chronic disease that you can think of," says Makhija.

Good fats

Natural food sources are considered to be good sources of fat. These include poly and monounsaturated fats. Eating these fats can help in increasing metabolism, stimulate fat burning, reduce hunger, optimise cholesterol levels and even reverse type 2 diabetes. "These are heart-healthy fats and can even reduce the risk of heart diseases," she adds.

These fats can lower bad (LDL) cholesterol, increase good (HDL) cholesterol, and also lower down the level of triglycerides. "Fats are a source of fatty acids which you are body cannot manufacture itself. Our brain is largely made up of fat, and require a steady stream of fatty acids to function properly," she explains while adding that a big portion of these fats come from omega-3 fatty acids.

Almonds, walnuts, salmon, chia seeds and flaxseeds are some popular sources of omega-3 fatty acids.

Including good quality fats in your diet can boost your mood, cognitive function, learning and memory. "Deficiency of omega-3 fatty acids have also been linked to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and even schizophrenia," she says.

Other reasons why you need sufficient fats

Vitamins A, D, E and K are four fat-soluble vitamins. This means that the body can assimilate these nutrients from food only in the presence of good and healthy sources of fat.

Eating sufficient fats can promote hormonal balance. Extremely low-fat diets can lead to hormonal issues and may increase the risk of infertility in women.

How much fat do you need?

According to Makhija, about 20 per cent of your daily calorie intake must come from fats.

Popular **breast cancer** drugs don't work the way we thought they did

Some of the most commonly used drugs for treating hereditary breast and ovarian cancers may not work the way we thought they did, according to new University of Colorado Boulder research.

"Despite the success of these drugs which sell in the billions of dollars per year and treat many thousands of patients, there are many unknowns about their potency and efficacy that if better understood could lead to improvements," said senior author Karolin Luger, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry. "Our paper provides a fuller picture."



The research centers around a class of drugs known as PARP-inhibitors, broadly prescribed to target cancers fueled by a mutation in the BRCA, or BReast CAncer, gene.

When functioning properly, the BRCA gene plays a key role in repairing damaged DNA inside cells. When the gene is mutated or missing, cancer risk rises.

About one in 10 of the quarter-million women diagnosed with breast cancer annually have a BRCA mutation. And BRCA-fueled cancers tend to come earlier, be more aggressive, and resist treatment.

Enter PARP inhibitors.

First unveiled clinically in 2014, the drugs target a ubiquitous family of proteins called PARPs (poly-ADP-ribose), which were discovered in the 1960s and are also instrumental in fixing broken DNA.

"PARPs are the first responders," explains first author Johannes Rudolph, a senior researcher in the Department of Biochemistry who worked with graduate student Genevieve Roberts on the study. "DNA damage happens, PARP goes in and finds it, and then it sends out a signal to other proteins to come in and help with repairs."

Because both PARP and BRCA also serve to repair DNA damage inside cancer cells, disabling the PARP first-responder in someone who doesn't have a functioning BRCA repair crew delivers what Rudolph describes as a lethal "double whammy" to cancer cells.

With this in mind, pharmaceutical companies have raced to develop more PARP inhibitors, with at least four in use today and others being explored to treat different forms of cancer.

But as it turns out, PARP is not acting alone.

Scientists recently discovered that another protein called HPF1 (histone PARylation Factor 1) is attached to the PARP protein at precisely the location where all the action happens, working closely with it in its role as first responder.

Doctor-led AI platform offering 24x7 monitoring outside hospital settings launched in Chennai

In a move to expand its footprint in southern India and bolster preventive healthcare, a doctor-led, AI-enabled ecosystem offering real-time medical supervision beyond hospital settings was launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The initiative aims to improve clinical outcomes for patients with chronic conditions preventing their escalation into serious illness and reduce the risk of sudden cardiac events.

At the core of the ecosystem -- iLive Connect -- is a small wireless biosensor patch paired with a wearable wristband, which monitors vital parameters such as heart activity and blood pressure in realtime.

As part of the system, data is tracked 24x—7 by experienced doctors at a remote command centre, who alert patients and their families in case of any abnormality.

Around 40 doctors, including Dr Thillai Vallal, Managing Director of Venkateswara Hospitals; Dr MA Raja, Director and senior consultant in Medical Oncology at MGM Healthcare; Dr Amit Kumar, critical care physician; Dr Prashanth Krishna, MD of Prashanth Group of Hospitals and Dr Manoj SivaramaKrishnan, senior interventional cardiologist at Kavery Hospital, were present during the launch event held at Chennai on Sunday.

After Chennai, the platform will gradually be launched soon in the remaining southern states as well, cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon and founder of iLive Connect, Dr Rahul Chandola, said.

India faces a substantial cardiovascular burden, with nearly 8,000 deaths reported daily due to heart disease, he said. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 heart attacks occur every day, of which 3,000 to 5,000 prove fatal, often without prior clinical warning, said Dr Chandola.

He stated that traditional symptom-driven care is increasingly proving inadequate, particularly as cardiac conditions are being detected more frequently among younger and asymptomatic individuals.

In response, clinicians are adopting continuous cardiac-monitoring platforms such as iLive Connect, which allow real-time tracking of physiological parameters and enable early identification of potential risks.

According to Dr Chandola, continuous monitoring across more than 1,000 patients has demonstrated the ability to detect subclinical and transient abnormalities that may be missed during conventional episodic evaluations.

"Realtime physiological data allows earlier recognition of cardiac instability, enabling timely intervention and potentially preventing acute events," he said.

Dr Viveka Kumar, co-founder of iLive Connect and a senior cardiologist, said these platforms act as an extension of clinical care beyond hospitals, allowing doctors to monitor patients remotely and make data-driven decisions even in ambulatory settings.

A key feature of the system is multi-day heart health screening, particularly useful for asymptomatic individuals.

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RBI's USD 239 bn forward dollar position to limit rupee gains despite FPI inflows: Report

Press Trust Of India



MUMBAI, Nov 9: The Reserve Bank of India's net short position of USD 239 billion in the forward market is likely to limit the rupee's appreciation despite a recovery in foreign portfolio investor (FPI) inflows, according to a report.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forward book stood at a net dollar short position of USD 239 billion as of September 2026, reflecting its commitment to provide dollars when buy-sell swaps mature. This will require the central bank to accumulate dollars as capital inflows improve, limiting the rupee's appreciation, IDFC First Bank Economic Research report said.

Around USD 40 billion of the short position matures within a year, USD 56 billion in one to three years and the remaining USD 143 billion in three to five years. The longer-duration positions are largely linked to the FCNR (B) scheme, it added.

"The large negative forward book implies that the RBI will need to accumulate dollars in order to meet the commitments when these buy-sell swaps mature. Hence, any improvement in capital inflows will be absorbed by the RBI, limiting the downward move in USD/INR," the report said.

The large forward position also limits the RBI's ability to sell dollars in the spot market, as its capacity to sterilise such sales through additional buy-sell swaps is constrained. The central bank's focus over the next few years will be to gradually reduce its forward book.

The report said the rupee could see near-term appreciation if US-Iran tensions ease further and American AI stocks correct. A pickup in FPI inflows in November has also improved investor sentiment towards India.

However, competition from the US for global capital and elevated US Treasury yields are expected to limit sustained gains in the domestic currency.

IDFC First Bank expects the rupee to trade at 92-94 per US dollar by December 2026, weaken to 94-95 by March 2027 and touch 96 by June 2027.

Highlighting pressure on India's external balances, the report said the balance of payments (BoP) is tracking a surplus of USD 65 billion in the first half of FY27. However, without RBI's swap windows, the underlying BoP deficit would have been USD 85 billion.

The central bank's FCNR (B), external commercial borrowings and overseas foreign currency borrowing swap windows have attracted cumulative inflows of USD 150 billion. These are borrowed dollars that will have to be repaid over three to five years.

The report also flagged a decline in India's unencumbered foreign exchange reserves, which exclude the forward book. Import cover on this measure fell to around seven months in October 2026 from 10 months a year earlier.

Meanwhile, RBI's measures to curb dollar demand, including a special window for oil marketing companies and the Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR) for importers, have reduced pressure on the spot market.

The gap between client forward dollar purchases and sales declined to USD 17 billion in October, a 12-month low, from USD 197 billion in the first seven months of FY27. However, the report cautioned that importer hedging could pick up again if expectations of the rupee depreciation persist.

The improved currency outlook has also reduced the need for an aggressive interest rate defence. IDFC First Bank expects the RBI to raise rates by 0.25 per cent each in December and February, with a possible final 0.25 per cent hike in April. The report expects India's crude oil basket to average around USD 85 per barrel in the remaining months of FY27, against USD 102 per barrel in the first seven months. A possible US-Iran agreement could trigger a sharper correction in crude prices, further supporting the rupee. (PTI)

Asian markets bounce back after recovery for AI stocks on Wall Street

Press Trust Of India

TOKYO, NOV 9: Asian shares and US futures advanced Monday after artificial intelligence stocks recovered some ground lost in last week's sell-offs.

Taiwan's Taiex led gains with a 5.6% jump, thanks to a rebound in computer chipmaker TSMC, which also surged 5.6%.

Regional tech stocks benefited from gains Friday in the



US, where AI stocks got some relief from their sell-off earlier in the week on worries that Democratic victories in the midterm elections could slow construction of AI data centres, particularly in Texas. Voters across political parties say they are wary about AI and don't like increases to power bills caused by data centres.

The rest of the US stock market was mixed as investors mulled over what the sweeping victories by Democrats will mean for markets and the broader economy.

Monday trading started out strong in Tokyo, where the Nikkei 225 index gained 3.4% to 59,411.34.

Chip equipment maker Tokyo Electron gained 6.5%, while Advantest, which makes testing equipment, was up 5.1%.

SoftBank Group's shares fell 2.9% as the company maneuvered to salvage a $5.4 billion robotics deal with Switzerland's ABB, which Chinese regulators have rejected.

In South Korea, the Kospi advanced 1.5% to 5,137.22. Samsung Electronics Corp. gained 2.7% and chipmaker SK Hynix jumped 3.9%. Those are relatively modest gains for companies whose share prices have yo-yoed as investors dumped and then snapped up AI-related shares over the past few weeks.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.2% to 24,525.58 and the Shanghai Composite index added 0.4% to 3,663.91.

Comm Min for imposition of antidumping duty on Thai, Malaysian medical grade rubber gloves

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 9: The commerce ministry's investigation arm, DGTR, has recommended imposing up to



USD 565 per one lakh pieces anti-dumping duty on imports of medical examination rubber gloves imported from Thailand and Malaysia for five years, according to a notification.

The duty will help guard domestic manufacturers of the product from cheap imports from these two countries.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) recommended the duty after probing the impact of alleged dumping of these goods into Indian markets by makers in Thailand and Malaysia.

"The authority considers it necessary and recommends the imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject countries," the DGTR has said in a notification.

The recommended duty ranges between USD 442 per one lakh pieces and USD 565 per one lakh pieces, it said.

The final decision to impose the duty will be taken by the finance ministry.

In its final findings, the DGTR concluded that "the domestic industry, which is at a nascent stage, has suffered material injury" due to the dumped imports.

"The imposition of anti-dumping duty is not against the public interest. The impact of the duty on the users and consumers is

not significant, and the duty would restore fair competition in the Indian market,' the notification added.

The probe was conducted following an application by Navco Industries and Wadi Surgicals.

In a separate notification, the DGTR has recommended continuation of antidumping duty (USD 1,296 per ton) on imports of 'Untreated Fumed Silica' imported from China.

It is used in a variety of sectors such as pharmaceuticals, foods and agrochemicals.

Anti-dumping duties are trade measures used to address imports that are found to be dumped and causing injury to domestic industry. Such measures are imposed under the multilateral framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

MakeMyTrip's India arm gets SEBI nod to float IPO



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 9: Nasdaq-listed travel booking platform MakeMyTrip's India subsidiary has received Sebi's approval to launch an initial public offering (IPO), according to an update available on the markets regulator's website on Monday.

MakeMyTrip (India) Ltd (MMT India) had filed draft papers with Sebi in July through the confidential route. After examining the draft documents, the regulator issued its final observations on November 6.

Sebi's observations mark an important step in the IPO process, allowing the company to proceed with preparations for its public issues, subject to applicable regulatory requirements.

The proposed IPO is expected to comprise a sale of equity shares in MMT India by its parent MakeMyTrip and its wholly-

owned subsidiary, ibibo Group Holdings (Singapore) Pte Ltd, the Gurugram-headquartered company said in a regulatory filing with Nasdaq.

Following the completion of the proposed IPO, MMT India will continue to remain a subsidiary of MakeMyTrip, with its financial results continuing to be consolidated with those of the parent company, it had said.

"MakeMyTrip expects the proposed initial public offering and listing of MMT India to enhance its brand

visibility and support MMT India's ability to incentivise and promote talent in a competitive technology recruitment landscape," the filing stated.

The net proceeds received by MakeMyTrip and ibibo Group Holdings from the sale of shares in MMT India are expected to strengthen the parent's cash position.

The proceeds will be utilised for long-term growth, strategic inorganic initiatives and repurchases of different classes of securities, including convertible securities, by MakeMyTrip, the filing stated. (PTI)

L&T bags Rs 1,000 - Rs 2,500 cr order from Noida Metro Rail Corporation for Aqua Line extension

Press Trust Of India

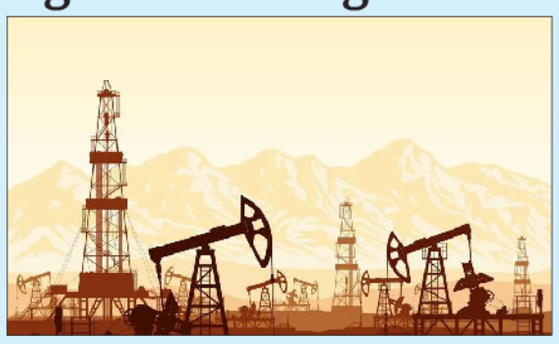
NEW DELHI, NOV 9: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday said it has secured an order ranging between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore from Noida Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. The scope of the project covers the part design and construction of a 15.1-km elevated viaduct from Botanical Garden to Noida Sector-142 and from the Depot Station to Boraki, along with the construction of 10 elevated metro stations, including architectural finishes.

The order has been bagged by L&T's heavy civil infrastructure business vertical for the part design and construction of the Noida Metro Aqua Line Extension Project, the company said in a statement.

Noida Metro Aqua Line Extension is poised to become a landmark urban transit project, significantly enhancing regional connectivity and commuter accessibility. The project will play a crucial role in supporting Noida's expanding urban landscape. It is scheduled to be completed within a stringent 36-month timeline, the statement added. Larsen & Toubro is a USD 32-billion Indian multinational engaged in engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) projects, hi-tech manufacturing, products and services, operating across diverse domains and multiple geographies. (PTI)

Govt extends OALP-X, XI bidding deadlines again to Dec 10

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 9: The Government has extended the deadline for submitting bids for deepsea oil and gas exploration blocks under its 10th and 11th Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds by almost a month, giving prospective investors until December 10, 2026, to submit offers for deepwater and ultra-deepwater acreage.

The latest extension marks the seventh postponement for OALP-X and the third for OALP-XI, underscoring the challenges of attracting investment into India's technically complex offshore exploration sector despite a series of policy and fiscal measures aimed at improving its attractiveness.

The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the upstream oil and gas nodal agency of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on its website that bids for the deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks offered in OALP Bid Round-X and OALP Bid Round-XI is now December 10.

While the DGH did not specify the reasons for the latest postponement, industry sources said the move may be linked to the recently announced Rs 84,084 crore Samundra Manthan National Offshore Exploration Scheme.

The guidelines of the scheme, under which the Government will bear up to 50 per cent of the cost of drilling deepsea and ultra deepsea wells, were announced on October 22 and the extension gives companies additional time to evaluate the revised policy and financial support framework, they said.

OALP-X: The The tenth bid round under OALP was launched in February 2025, offering 25

blocks covering about 1,82,589 sq km across 13 sedimentary basins, making it the largest bid round by acreage at the time.

The round included six onshore blocks, as many shallow-water blocks, one deepwater block and 12 ultra-deepwater blocks. Of the total acreage, 19 blocks are offshore, with 13 deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocks covering about 124,327 sq km.

According to the DGH, bidding for onshore and shallow-water blocks closed on June 19, 2026, while the deadline for deepwater and ultra-deepwater acreage was subsequently extended first till September 17, then to November 15. The deadline has now been extended till December 10.

OALP-X has now seen seven extensions of its bid deadline. Bidding was originally scheduled to close at the end of July 2025, but the deadline was extended to October 31 and again to December 31, 2025. The deadline was then extended till February 18, 2026 before being extended to June 19.

Stock markets end higher amid easing crude oil prices, buying in banks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 9: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Monday amid a correction in crude oil prices and buying in blue-chip bank and financial stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 107.25 points, or 0.13 per cent, to settle at 81,106.65. During the day, it climbed 340.01 points, or 0.41 per cent, to 81,339.41.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose 58.25 points, or 0.23 per cent, to close at 25,044.65.

In the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India, Trent, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank were among the major winners.

In contrast, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were among the major laggards.

Last week, the BSE benchmark soared 6,568.49 points, or 8.82 per cent, and the Nifty jumped 1,977.25 points, or 8.57 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.04 per cent to USD 97.46 per barrel.

"Indian equities traded range-bound with a positive bias, as intermittent profit booking following the recent rally capped gains. Weakness in IT and metal stocks also weighed on the benchmarks.



"Improving FII participation and better-than-expected corporate earnings have strengthened expectations of an upgrade to the FY27 earnings outlook, supporting market sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

While several key macro tailwinds appear to be increasingly priced in, valuation comfort, particularly in large caps, easing geopolitical concerns, moderation in crude oil prices from

recent peaks, and prospects of a double-digit earnings recovery provide a constructive medium-term backdrop, he added.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended higher, and South Korea's Kospi and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower.

Markets in Europe were trading in positive territory in mid-session deals.

The US equity markets ended mostly higher on Friday.

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in the special Diwali Muhurat trading session on Sunday amid profit-taking after a seven-day rally.

After starting the special trading session to mark the beginning of Hindu calendar Samvat 2083 on a bullish note, the BSE benchmark Sensex failed to sustain the rally. The barometer dipped 28.62 points, or 0.04 per cent, to settle at 80,999.40.

The Nifty declined 43.95 points, or 0.18 per cent, to close at 24,986.40 after a positive beginning.

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25-year-old man killed in clash over scooter brushing against man's foot in Noida

Press Trust Of India



NOIDA, NOV 9 :A 25-year-old man was allegedly killed following an altercation with a group of youths at a park in Noida after a scooter he was riding allegedly brushed against another man's foot, police said on Monday.

Another youth sustained injuries in the incident Sunday night and is undergoing treatment. He is out of danger, police said, adding that efforts are underway to apprehend the accused who fled the spot.

Abhay Kumar Mishra, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP), Noida, said the deceased, identified as Amit, was at a park near Naya Bans village under the Phase 1 police station area with his friends Shivam, Yashpal, Akash and Vinod.

"As Amit and his friends were leaving the park on a scooter, the vehicle brushed against the foot of another youth. The latter was celebrating a friend's birthday in the park with a group of associates, following which an altercation broke out between the two groups," Mishra said.

During the ensuing scuffle, Amit sustained a serious head injury, while Shivam also suffered a head injury, he said. Their friends took both injured youths to a hospital, where doctors declared Amit dead. Shivam was referred to a higher medical facility for treatment and is now out of danger, the ADCP said.

Based on a complaint received in the matter, an FIR has been registered at Phase 1 police station under relevant sections of law, they said.

"Four police teams have been formed to arrest the accused. Efforts are underway to apprehend them at the earliest," police added. During the ensuing scuffle, Amit sustained a serious head injury, while Shivam also suffered a head injury, he said. Their friends took both injured youths to a hospital, where doctors declared Amit dead. Shivam was referred to a higher medical facility for treatment and is now out of danger, the ADCP said.

Man kills juvenile with iron rod after firecracker dispute in Central Delhi, two apprehended



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 9 :A man allegedly beat a juvenile to death with an iron rod in central Delhi's Anand Parbat area on Monday, police said. The attack followed a dispute involving the man's child and the victim over bursting firecrackers.

"The argument soon escalated into a physical confrontation, following which the father of one of the juveniles allegedly intervened and attacked the other boy with an iron rod," a senior police officer said.

The victim sustained serious injuries in the assault and was rushed to Lady Hardinge Hospital. However, doctors declared him brought dead, the officer said.

Following the incident, a police team from Anand Parbat police station reached the spot and initiated an investigation. The circumstances leading to the altercation and the sequence of events preceding the fatal assault are being examined.

Police have apprehended both accused, including the juvenile allegedly involved in the initial altercation. The role of each accused in the incident is being ascertained as part of the investigation. An FIR was registered at Anand Parbat police station under section 103(1) (murder) of the BNS.

Further investigation is underway, police said.

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Cop hit-and-run
MP police nab another accused from Gujarat; six arrested so far

Press Trust Of India

INDORE, NOV 9 :An absconding suspect has been arrested from Gujarat in connection with the killing of a police official in an anti-liquor operation in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district earlier this month, an official said on Monday.

The accused, Manish Jaiswal, a key partner in the illicit liquor syndicate, was brought to Dewas for questioning, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDOP) Aditya Tiwari said.

Khategaon Station House Officer (SHO) Dilip Puri was killed, and a constable was injured while trying to intercept a truck laden with 1,800 litres of illicit liquor on Indore-Betul Highway on November 2.

The police had earlier arrested five other accused, including alleged syndicate kingpin Rahul Jaiswal and truck driver Gajendra alias Akku Rawat, in connection with the officer's murder, while another suspect, Mohin Jaiswal, died of a brain stroke while absconding.

Investigations have found that Patendra Jaiswal of Barwani district held a 10 per cent stake in the illegal



operation, while Rahul Jaiswal, Manish Jaiswal, and Mohin Jaiswal held 30 per cent each, another official said. "Rahul Jaiswal operated the network, procuring liquor from three licensed shops in Harda district. He collected the trade proceeds and distributed shares to his partners," the official said.

Recounting the incident, the official said Puri and his team intercepted the vehicle following a tip-off about a consignment heading to Gujarat.

"Puri stopped the truck and attempted to question the driver, who drove onto a road divider to escape. The rear wheel of the vehicle ran over the station in-charge, killing him on the spot," the official added.

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.

V Selvi, the petitioner, the mother of V Arul Perumal, the convict prisoner submitted a representation to authorities seeking six days of emergency leave without escort for her son.

However, the Superintendent of Central Prison, Palayamkottai, by the impugned order, granted only three days of leave and it was also with police escort.

Against this background, the petitioner submitted that her son had earlier availed leave without escort. He maintained good conduct and has not come to any adverse notice of the prison authorities. Further, the petitioner is not in a position to bear the expenses towards police escort.

It was also submitted that the petitioner's husband, the father of the prisoner, is an elderly gentleman suffering from age-related ailments.

The petitioner herself had met with an accident and sustained a fracture, for which she requires medical treatment.

In such circumstances, the presence of her son is very much necessary to provide moral and emotional support to his parents.

Hence, she sought six days of emergency leave for her son without escort. In support of her contentions, the petitioner enclosed a medical certificate.

Delhi Police solves fatal hit-and-run case on Naraina flyover, driver arrested

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 9 :Delhi Police has arrested a 34-year-old truck driver for allegedly fleeing after hitting a scooter rider, who later died, on the Naraina flyover in west Delhi last month, an officer said on Monday.

The accused, Innas Khan, of Rajasthan, was arrested following an investigation involving examination of CCTV footage and verification of around 50-60 vehicles that crossed the flyover around the time of the accident, he said.

The incident took place on October 24 when police received a PCR call about a road accident on the Naraina flyover, on the carriageway from Dhaula Kuan towards Mayapuri.

"A police team rushed to the spot and found a man lying unconscious near his damaged scooter.

He was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead," said the officer.

He further said that preliminary investigation suggested that an unidentified vehicle had hit the scooter and fled without stopping. As there were no eyewitnesses at the spot or hospital, police registered



an FIR and launched an investigation.

A team examined CCTV footage from the flyover and adjoining roads to establish the approximate time of the accident. The team subsequently identified and verified around 50-60 vehicles that had crossed the stretch during

the relevant period. During the verification, one driver told police that a red open-body vehicle travelling ahead of him had allegedly hit the scooter.

Police traced the vehicle's registered owner, who identified Khan as its driver on the day of the accident and produced him along with the vehicle.

During interrogation, Khan disclosed that the accident occurred around 4.30 am and that he continued driving without stopping. He subsequently unloaded goods at his delivery destination in Delhi before heading towards Gujarat on another assignment.

The vehicle was seized and further investigation is underway, police said.

Assam firm duped by fake Army supply gang; one held from Bengal

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI, NOV 9 LPolice have busted an interstate financial fraud network that defrauded a company in Assam of more than Rs 11.5 crore by posing as suppliers of goods to the Army and arrested one person from West Bengal, officers said on Monday.

A team from Panbazar Police Station in Guwahati, led by Officer-in-Charge Sankar Jyoti Nath, cracked the case involving forged Indian Army supply orders, impersonation of Army officers and fabricated financial documents. Through meticulous investigation, analysis of financial transactions, digital evidence and sustained intelligence gathering, the police uncovered the alleged conspiracy and established the role of one person, Harsh Agarwal (30), who allegedly masterminded the deception, officers said. The accused allegedly introduced his brother, Ayush Agarwal, to the complainant as a distant relative involved in Army supply contracts, police said. The police team launched an inter-state operation, tracked down Harsh Agarwal to Siliguri in West Bengal, and arrested him. The accused allegedly exploited an existing business relationship to gain the confidence of Global Traders of Guwahati, facilitating fraudulent transactions amounting to Rs 11,50,56,180, it added.

Girl (3) sexually assaulted in Goa, hospitalised; minister blames outsiders for 90 pc of such crimes

Press Trust Of India



PANAJI, NOV 9 :A three-year-old girl, daughter of a balloon seller, was allegedly sexually assaulted by an unidentified man in a dilapidated building in North Goa district, leaving her in a critical condition, police said on Monday.

The child was found crying on Sunday evening outside the building near a taxi stand in Mapusa, 9 km from Panaji. A passerby noticed the child and rushed to help her, following which locals alerted the police.

The survivor was initially rushed to the Mapusa District Hospital in a critical condition and later shifted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital in Panaji for further treatment, a police spokesperson said.

The girl's family sells balloons, and she had accompanied them to the Mapusa market for Diwali, a police official said.

Superintendent of Police (North) Rahul Gupta, who rushed to the spot late Sunday evening, said efforts were underway to trace and arrest the culprit.

The girl's condition was stable, he said.

The Mapusa police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the accused, officials said.

Reacting to the incident, Goa Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar claimed "90 per cent" of such crimes in the tourist state are committed by "outsiders".

Tawadkar termed the brutal incident as unfortunate, describing the perpetrator as a person with a "demonic mentality" and calling for stricter police enforcement to prevent such crimes.

Such crimes should not happen in Goa or anywhere else in the country, he said, adding "The person who has committed this crime has a demonic mentality."

"Goa is a tourist state. People from outside the state come here and 90 per cent of people involved in such cases are those who have come to Goa from outside," he claimed.

He, however, maintained people could not be stopped from coming to Goa to earn their livelihood.

"The government is playing its role to control such crimes. Police should also tighten enforcement in the state to prevent such incidents," he said.

The BJP minister emphasised on responsibility of parents in ensuring the safety of their children, saying society must collectively work towards protecting minors.

The Opposition Congress demanded a time-bound investigation into the crime and trial by a fast-track court, while calling for stronger measures to protect children.

Leader of Opposition in the Goa Assembly, Yuri Alemao, demanded that the perpetrator be arrested immediately.

"No delay, no leniency," he said in a statement, adding the Opposition

would pursue the case until justice was delivered.

The Congress leader urged the BJP government to ensure the child receives the best possible

medical care, counselling and family support.

Raising concerns over crimes against women and children in Goa, Alemao cited National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data to claim the state recorded 13 rape and child sexual abuse cases per lakh population in 2024, the highest among all states and more than three times the national average.

After minor girl's sexual assault, Goa minister says 90 pc of such crimes committed by 'outsiders'

Press Trust Of India

PANAJI, NOV 9 :Reacting to the alleged sexual assault of a three-year-old girl in Goa's Mapusa town, Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar on Monday claimed "90 per cent" of such crimes in the tourist state are committed by "outsiders".

The girl, daughter of a balloon seller, was sexually assaulted by an unidentified man in a dilapidated building in North Goa district on Sunday.

Tawadkar termed the brutal incident, which left the survivor in a critical condition, as unfortunate, describing the perpetrator as a person with a "demonic mentality" and calling for stricter police enforcement to prevent such crimes.

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Valley

besides the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions of Jammu . Some higher-altitude areas may receive moderate snowfall as well.

The system may also trigger thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places.

The weather is expected to improve from November 14, although brief spells of cloudiness may persist intermittently on November 14 and 15. No significant weather activity is expected during this period.

The MeT Department has forecast dry weather from November 16 onwards until November 18.

Meanwhile, a considerable drop in temperatures is likely following the precipitation, with day temperatures expected to remain around 5-8 degrees Celsius below normal.

In its latest temperature update, the Meteorological Department said minimum night temperatures had remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Jammu division at 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In view of the forecast snowfall, particularly over higher reaches, the MeT Department has advised travellers, tourists, transporters and the general public to plan their journeys accordingly, especially around November 12 and 13, and check the status of highways before undertaking travel.

Slippery road conditions and possible traffic disruptions are expected over higher-altitude routes and mountain passes, including Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Zojila, Mughal Road and Sinthan Top.

Blaze

daily-use items.

"I am deeply saddened by the devastating fire incident at Warehouse, Jammu. I reviewed the situation last night and spoke with senior officials today, directing them to ensure immediate and comprehensive relief for all those affected," Sinha said on X.

He also extended his heartfelt sympathies to the business community and traders who suffered losses in the incident, wishing them strength during this difficult time.

This is the second major fire incident in Jammu in a little over a fortnight, resulting in the gutting of two major marketplaces in the winter capital.

A massive fire broke out at Shiv Market on the night of October 25 and continued till the morning of the next day, engulfing at least 40 shops and destroying property worth crores of rupees.

CMOmar

administration to ensure immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to the affected persons.

He also instructed the administration to undertake a thorough assessment of the damage and take appropriate measures to address the needs of those affected.

A massive fire broke out at the Ware House near Bikram Chowk last evening, spreading to several adjoining structures, including business establishments.

Fire

Diwali celebrations and widespread bursting of firecrackers, officials said.

Samba and Kathua districts together recorded 10 incidents, including the one at district police lines Kathua followed by Doda nine, Udhampur and Reasi eight and Kishtwar district three, Rajouri-Poonch belt three and Ramban one, the officials said.

Among the major incidents, four devastating fires were reported in Jammu district, including one at Pahari Mohalla, where a five-storey commercial building housing cloth, footwear shops and a basement was gutted.

Another major blaze broke out at Shalimar, damaging a third and fourth floor of a five-storey medical store building, while a hardware godown at Gangyal was also affected, the officials said.

They said the most devastating incident, however, was reported at the Warehouse Nehru Market, where a massive fire broke out around 9.15 pm on Sunday night, engulfing several shops.

The market, one of the oldest commercial hubs of Jammu, is known for its wholesale trade in foodgrains, edible oil, essential commodities and other daily-use items.

Officials said the fire reportedly originated in one of the shops and spread rapidly to adjoining establishments, with the presence of large quantities of edible oil adding to the intensity of the blaze.

Fire tenders from different stations across Jammu city were rushed to the spot, and firefighters launched a coordinated operation to contain the flames. The closely packed shops and warehouses posed a major challenge to the firefighting teams which managed to put off the fire by mid night, the officials said.

They said two fire tenders are still at the scene and a detailed report about the damage was awaited.

However, Warehouse Association President Deepak Gupta alleged that a delayed response by the Fire and Emergency Services Department allowed the blaze to spread.

"What started as a small fire has engulfed around 15 shops...this is a complete failure and gross negligence on the part of the fire brigade. Despite the fire station being barely five minutes away, only two fire engines arrived after an hour and a half," he alleged.

He demanded accountability for the delay, including the suspension of officials concerned. He also threatened an indefinite strike if the demand was not met.

owever, officials maintained that the fire call was attended to at the earliest possible, with two fire tenders from the nearest station immediately rushed to the spot, while additional fire tenders were mobilised from other stations to support the firefighting operation.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel were hard-pressed to respond to the large number of fire incidents reported simultaneously at different locations across the Jammu region during Diwali night, they said.

With multiple calls being received within a short span, the officials said firefighting teams were mobilised from various stations and rushed to the affected areas to contain the blazes and prevent them from spreading to adjoining structures.

They said despite the challenging circumstances, firefighters responded promptly and worked through the night to bring several fires under control.

The officials said personnel and fire tenders were deployed in large numbers at the affected locations, while efforts were made to minimise further damage to property and prevent the fires from spreading to neighbouring establishments.

AmitShah

abuse hollows out our youth and the future generations. It undermines our country's future by impairing the minds, bodies, cognitive abilities, and sensory faculties of our young people. Moreover, money generated from the drug trade is used to fuel terrorism within the country," the Union home minister said, urging citizens to report any instances of drug sales to the authorities.

He noted that while the government has succeeded in making the country free from Naxalism, it cannot afford to rest.

"Our goal is to build a drug-free India by December 31, 2029. Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and I hail from Gujarat, we need not wait until 2029. It is our responsibility to ensure that Gujarat becomes drug-free well before December 31, 2028," he said.

Shah stressed that creating a drug-free nation is a collective societal responsibility.

He said that every teacher must remain vigilant and report changes in a student's behaviour — such as bloodshot eyes, sleeping in class, or lack of focus — and ensure the student is tested. Similarly, guardians must keep a close watch on adolescent children.

"It is also the responsibility of citizens to report any instances of drug consumption or sales in their vicinity by calling the toll-free number. Please note that your identity will be kept confidential, and strict action will be taken against those involved in the drug trade, ensuring they are put behind bars," he said.

Shah urged people of Ahmedabad to utilise a dedicated state control room, which will be operational in Gujarat from December 1, to report about drug use. He added that rehabilitation centres will also be set up to help individuals recover from addiction.

"We launched this campaign on the auspicious day of Kali Chaudas. Before achieving a drug-free India, we must begin by making Ahmedabad and Gujarat drug-free," he said.

During the event, Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various civic and infrastructure development projects undertaken by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation across the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, which he represents.

The programme also included a computerised draw for housing allotment under government welfare schemes and a tree plantation drive. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Ahmedabad Mayor Hitesh Barot were present alongside other dignitaries.

The announcements regarding the anti-drug campaign follow a high-level review meeting on law and order held by Shah in Ahmedabad on Saturday, where he directed enforcement agencies to formulate strict action plans to combat narcotics and expand control room mechanisms.

Haj

Islamic pilgrimage to the city of Mecca, is required once in a lifetime for all physically and financially capable adult Muslims. It takes place during the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar and consists of a series of mandatory rituals performed over five to six days.

Saudi Arabia sets annual Haj quotas for countries to regulate the number of pilgrims visiting Mecca, as space and facilities at the holy sites are limited. The quotas are generally allocated based on each country's Muslim population, with the Saudi authorities determining the number in consultation with the respective governments.

India's Haj quota has increased over the years, from 1,36,020 in 2014 to 1,75,025 for 2025, according to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The quota has remained unchanged this year and next year.

Rijiju, accompanied by Joint Secretary (Haj) Mohammad Afzal, is on a visit to Saudi Arabia from November 6 to 9.

On Sunday, Rijiju attended the inaugural ceremony of the sixth Hajj Conference and Exhibition in Jeddah and participated in the ministerial conference chaired by Al Rabiah.

He conveyed India's appreciation for the Saudi leadership's continued commitment to pilgrims' welfare and reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to close bilateral cooperation for Haj 2027, the consulate said.

Rijiju also joined visiting ministers in an interaction with Prince Saud bin Mishaal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Governor of the Makkah Region.

Rijiju, in a post on X, said the visit aimed to strengthen the India-Saudi Arabia partnership, with a shared commitment to pilgrims' welfare and the successful conduct of Haj 2027.

During the visit, he attended the Noor-e-Diwali celebration at India House in Jeddah, where he interacted with Saudi friends and members of the Indian community in western Saudi Arabia.

He also chaired a review meeting with officials of the Indian Consulate, the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Haj Committee of India to assess preparations for Haj 2027 and appreciated the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, the statement said.

"The visit further strengthened the longstanding India–Saudi Arabia partnership, reaffirming the shared commitment to enhanced bilateral cooperation in Haj management, pilgrims' welfare, cultural exchange and people-to-people ties," the consulate said.

JKBOSE

told reporters on the sidelines of a function.

He, however, cautioned that certain factors could affect the timeline, making it difficult to give a 100 percent assurance on the result declaration date.

On the ongoing examinations, Sheikh said the Class 10 main subject papers had been completed, with only a few additional and vocational subject papers remaining. Most of the main papers for Class 12 had also been conducted, while Class 11 examinations were underway, with three papers completed in each stream.

He said the examinations were being conducted smoothly.

The BOSE chairman Sheikh said the distribution of free textbooks among students of government schools from Classes 1 to 8 had begun alongside the academic session, describing it as the first such exercise in several years to start on time.

He said the distribution would be completed across Kashmir within 8 to 10 days, with books being supplied to Zonal Education Officers for further distribution to schools.

According to the chairman, around 8.2 lakh students in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir are covered under the free textbook scheme, including approximately 3.31 lakh in the Kashmir division.

LGSinha

the creation of Uttarakhand. He noted that Shri Vajpayee understood the long-standing aspirations of the people of the hill region and transformed them into reality.

Describing Uttarakhand as "Devbhoomi", the Lieutenant Governor said that the State embodies India's spiritual consciousness through the grandeur of the Himalayas, the sacred flow of the Ganga and the rich traditions of faith and devotion. Referring to the revered shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, he said the pilgrimage of faith represents India's cultural continuity and civilisational values.

"In the caves of the Himalayas, our sages and seers kindled the light of knowledge. On its peaks, the tradition of austerity flourished, and in its valleys flowed the streams of devotion, compassion, and humanity. The Ganga and Yamuna flowing from Gangotri and Yamunotri, Badrinath dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and Kedarnath, the sacred abode of Lord Shiva, all are invaluable symbols of our faith, our cultural continuity, and our civilisational identity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the Ganga is not merely a river but a symbol of India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and life-giving values. He urged the younger generation to recognise the importance of preserving the purity and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, describing it as both an environmental and moral responsibility.

Highlighting Uttarakhand's inclusive spiritual heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said Hemkund Sahib, Gurudwara Meetha Reetha Sahib and the Mindrolling Monastery are symbols of harmony, coexistence and mutual respect among diverse faiths. He observed that the State's fairs and festivals reflect the vibrancy of its cultural life and folk traditions.

"The proclamation of our ancient Vedic tradition is 'Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti', truth is one and the wise describe it in many ways. I believe that this diversity of Uttarakhand tells us that India's strength lies in the coexistence, mutual respect, and harmony of its diverse faiths. This is the distinctive character of our cultural heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded Uttarakhand's contribution to literature, art, music and national service. Describing the State as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", he expressed gratitude to the armed forces, veterans and families of brave soldiers from the region who have served the nation with distinction.

"In the field of painting, the Garhwal style, which developed in the seventeenth century, and the contribution of its great artists are invaluable chapters of our artistic heritage. In the world of music, Uttarakhand's folk songs are extremely popular both in India and abroad. It is our responsibility to make these traditions part of the creativity, innovation, and life of the new generation," he said.

Commending the developmental progress achieved under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted historic transformation in connectivity, education, healthcare, digital infrastructure and local economic activities such as homestays, organic farming, handicrafts, tourism and start-ups.

"Just as the Ganga and Yamuna, emerging from the soil of Uttarakhand, connect many regions and nourish India's public life, in the same way the cultural consciousness of "Devbhoomi" binds the entire nation in a thread of emotional unity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Killed

the officials said.

Wani's daughter Toyba Nabi, uncle Abdul Qayoom and Nephew Mohd Hussain were injured in the accident and shifted to hospital, they said.

The officials said they were returning to their Gund Adalkoot village in Banihal when the accident occurred, apparently after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Earlier during the day, a car travelling from Delhi to Srinagar rolled down into a deep gorge at Shagaldi near Chamalwas, resulting in injuries to three persons travelling in the vehicle.

A police team led by Banihal SHO Ashiq Hussain Lone, along with volunteers of the NGO Banihal headed by its president Mohammad Idress Wani, launched a rescue operation and successfully evacuated all three occupants from the gorge and shifted them to Banihal hospital, the officials said.

Police identified the injured as Mohd mammd Javaid and Rohit of Delhi and Adnan Sami of Uttar Pradesh.

Custody

High Court order cancelling his bail nearly a year after it was granted.

The bench said that although the amount of bribe demanded was not a relevant consideration for deciding a bail plea, the high court could have made that observation without cancelling the bail.

While restoring the bail, the apex court also flagged a "disturbing feature" concerning the accused's service status and subsequent posting.

"However, there is one disturbing feature which we should not ignore. It appears that upon arrest, the appellant accused was in judicial custody for almost a period of 15 days.

"Once a public servant is arrested and remains in judicial custody for more than 48 hours, there is a deemed suspension. Being a public servant, he could be said to have been placed under deemed suspension. No specific order is required to be passed in this regard," Justice Pardiwala said in the order dated November 6.

The bench noted the information that Singh was placed under suspension but later, the suspension order came to be revoked.

"And, shockingly, he has been once again posted in the very same hospital and that too on the very same post. This aspect shall be looked into by the state at the earliest... We expect the state to do the needful in the matter in accordance with law," the bench said.

Singh challenged a July 1, 2026, order of the Patna High Court, which allowed a plea filed by the complainant and directed that the accused be taken into custody after cancelling the regular bail granted to him by the sessions court.

According to the case records, an FIR was registered at the Vigilance police station in 2025 under Section 7(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The accused was serving as the administrator at the government-run Sadar Hospital in Samastipur when he allegedly demanded Rs 4,000 as illegal gratification for clearing the complainant's outstanding wages amounting to Rs 36,421.

Following his arrest, the accused was granted bail by the sessions court.

The complainant subsequently challenged the bail order before the high court, which set it aside.

The top court took note of the fact that the high court had interfered with the bail order almost a year after the accused was released.

It observed that the tenor of the high court's order indicated that the sessions court's reference to the bribe amount being paltry had weighed with it while deciding to cancel the bail.

"Ordinarily, in cases of this type, having regard to the maximum punishment that the trial court would impose, ultimately, if the accused is held to be guilty, bail is to be granted," the bench said. It added that bail may be declined in cases involving criminal antecedents or where the facts are particularly grave, it added.

JKAS

of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Mohd. Raiyaz, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Special Assistant with the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Tribal Affairs and Transport.

PMEGP

FIRs of ACB and CBI, Srinagar alleging misappropriation of PMEGP scheme's loan amounts in criminal conspiracy with the PMEGP borrowers, officials of Sumbal Branch and Gamud Gadkhud Branch of J&K Bank and other unknown persons.

The agency said its probe found that a man named Hilal Ahmad Wani along with some others played a major role to avail PMEGP loans fraudulently using KYC and other documents of the borrowers and also using "fake" invoices of non-existing firms registered in the name of suppliers-cum-brokers and/or in the name of their family members.

This act was undertaken in alleged conspiracy with J&K Bank officials from the Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud Branch, it said.

The accused persons cheated the bank and misappropriated funds to cause wrongful loss to the bank and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves, the ED said.

"Investigation revealed PMEGP loan amounts availed by projecting dummy PMEGP borrowers, by using fake invoices of non-exist firm/companies and in criminal conspiracy with bank officials branches Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud of J&K Bank by private persons-cum-brokers," it added.

During investigation, survey conducted at the Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud branches of J&K Bank revealed 270 term loan accounts along with 270 working capital accounts pertaining to PMEGP scheme had turned NPA. The NPA amount was found to be Rs 32 crore, the ED said.

"The suspected proceeds derived from the scheduled offences were diverted through bank accounts in multiple transactions and part of it was utilised for construction/renovation of assets and personal enrichment," it alleged.

The agency said that its investigation has been able to trace generation of proceeds of crime (PoC) to the tune of Rs 11.37 crore.

"Bulk of the PoC has been siphoned, thereby establishing the accused persons' involvement in diversion, concealment, apart from possession and use of the PoC. Therefore, identified 11 assets held under the control of suppliers-cum-borrowers/brokers and one bank officer are provisionally attached to safeguard the value of the proceeds of crime under section 5(1) of PMLA," the agency said.

Jitender

of the leading institutions in cancer treatment and research.

He said that following successful completion of the pre-clinical studies and requisite regulatory processes, the project would move towards drug production.

"It is expected to pave the way for the development of export-quality medicines for neuropathies, cancer, epilepsy and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)," Singh said.

The Cannabis Research Project, which received permission from the J&K government in 2017 for scientific cultivation and research, is among the pioneering initiatives in the country to examine the medicinal properties of cannabis.

CSIR-IIIM has established protected cultivation facilities and developed a repository of more than 500 cannabis accessions to support research and identify varieties with potential therapeutic applications.

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Badminton: Lakshya Sen, Sat-Chi continue World Tour Finals push in Japan

United News Of India

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), NOV 9 :Lakshya Sen will look to strengthen his push for a place at this year's BWF World Tour Finals when he competes at the Kumamoto Masters Japan 2026 badminton tournament, starting on Tuesday.

The BWF Super 500 badminton tournament will be held at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium from November 10 to 15, according to olympics.com.

Lakshya climbed eight places to 10th in the Race to Finals standings after winning the Hylo Open earlier this month.

The Indian shuttler is now looking to break into the top eight to enter the cut-off zone for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals.

World No. 13 Lakshya, seeded eighth this year, also recorded India's best finish at the Kumamoto Masters Japan last year, reaching the men's singles semi-finals before losing to home favourite Kenta Nishimoto in three games.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth is India's other entry in the men's singles draw.

India will also have a strong presence in men's doubles with world No. 6 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded fifth, leading the challenge.

West Indies clinch WTC27 series after stalemate in Sylhet

United News Of India



SYLHET, NOV 9 :Towhid Hridoy and Mushfiqur Rahim produced a memorable batting performance to help Bangladesh secure a draw in the second Test against West Indies here on Monday.

Despite the hosts' spirited fightback on the final day, the visitors claimed the two-match series 1-0, thanks to their eight-wicket victory in the first Test in Dhaka.

Resuming their pursuit of a challenging 369-run target, Bangladesh finished on 184/4, with Hridoy scoring 82 and Mushfiqur contributing 49. The pair's 135-run partnership for the third wicket ensured the hosts avoided defeat after a difficult start to the final day.

Hridoy had already made history with an unbeaten 242 in Bangladesh's first innings. His second-innings contribution took his match aggregate beyond 300, the first Bangladesh batter to achieve the feat in a Test. He also became the ninth batter to aggregate 300 or more runs against West Indies in a Test.

Mushfiqur reached a landmark of his own, becoming the first Bangladesh batter to score 7,000 runs in Test cricket, according to ICC. Earlier, Jomel Warrican put Bangladesh under pressure with two wickets in the morning session, dismissing Tanzid Hasan and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto. Warrican also reached the significant milestone of 100 Test wickets during the match, adding another achievement to an impressive career.

West Indies had declared their second innings at 398/6, with Kavem Hodge scoring 142 and Kevin Wickham contributing 78. Nayeem Hasan claimed 2/72, while Amir Jangoo remained unbeaten on 39. Although Bangladesh could not complete the chase, Hridoy and Mushfiqur's resistance ensured a hard-earned draw and provided a positive finish to the home side's campaign.

Uncapped batter Mahfijul Islam named in Bangladesh's WTC27 squad for South Africa



United News Of India

DHAKA, NOV 9 :Bangladesh have announced their 16-member squad for the two-match ICC World Test Championship series against South Africa.

Uncapped batter Mahfijul Islam has earned a call-up following an impressive run of form in the ongoing first-class season in the National Cricket League, where he has a double century and a century across the last three games.

Overall, the 22-year-old has aggregated over 1000 runs in 19 first-class appearances so far at an average of 33.67.

The squad, largely unchanged from the one currently facing West Indies, sees

the return of Khaled Ahmed, replacing Nayeem Hasan in the squad owing to the expected pace-friendly South African conditions.

Opener Naim Sheikh has also earned a recall, having last featured in a Test in 2022, which was also his red-ball international debut against New Zealand.

Shadman Islam, meanwhile, misses out, having suffered a freak ankle injury while fielding during the ongoing second Test against the West Indies. The opener was stretchered off the field and has been ruled out of the remainder of the match, according to Xinhua.

Mominul Haque, however, returns after missing the second Test due to a mandatory seven-day concussion protocol, having suffered a head injury in the first match.

Bangladesh are currently fifth in the World Test Championship standings, currently 1-0 down in the series against West Indies and facing an uphill battle chasing 369 in the final innings.

Blair Tickner ruled out as New Zealand shuffle ODI squad for India

United News Of India

HAMILTON, NOV 9 :New Zealand have been forced into more changes to their squad for the next two games of their five-match ODI series at home against India.



Fast bowler Blair Tickner was struck by a ball while batting during the second match of the series in Wellington and the 33-year-old will be forced to sit out the next two fixtures with India as a result.

His absence sees fellow quick Kristian Clarke added to the Black Caps' squad for the next two matches in the series, while there are further blows for the Kiwis with a pair of other quicks set to miss Tuesday's fixture in Hamilton.

Matt Henry will miss this clash as he continues to recover from the knock he received from teammate Devon Conway at training, while Lockie Ferguson will be sidelined for the remainder

f the series as he battles his quad issue, according to ICC.

The Black Caps are yet to announce their squad for the fifth and final match of the ODI series, though they have confirmed that Test stars Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips and Nathan Smith

will depart Hamilton on Wednesday and be unavailable for the ODI series finale as they begin their preparations for the ICC World Test Championship series against India.

India currently lead the five-game ODI series 2-0 ahead of the third fixture in Hamilton on Tuesday.

New Zealand squad: (Game 3 only) Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Kristian Clarke, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Tim Seifert, Nathan Smith, Will Young

New Zealand squad: (Game 4 only) Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Kristian Clarke, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Dean Foxcroft, Mitch Hay, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Tim Seifert, Will Young.

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India's Women's squad for all-format tour of South Africa announced



United News Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 9 :The Women's Selection Committee has selected India's squad for the upcoming all-format tour of South Africa in December. India will play one Test, three ODIs and three T20Is.

Smriti Mandhana is India's skipper across the formats. The big news in India's camp is return of Jemimah Rodrigues from injury. The batter had picked a hamstring injury during her outing in the Hundred in August, and subsequently missed India's assignments in the Asia Cup and the Asian Games. This is India's second visit to the African nation in this year. The sub-continental team had toured South Africa in April, ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, and lost the five-game T20I series 1-4.

India's Test Squad: Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma, Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh [WK], Yastika Bhatia [WK], Deepti Sharma [VC], Sree Charani, Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Sayali Satghare

India's ODI Squad: Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma, Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh [WK], Yastika Bhatia

[WK], Deepti Sharma [VC], Sree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Sayali Satghare

India's T20I Squad: Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma [VC], Jemimah Rodrigues, Harmanpreet Kaur, Niki Prasad, Richa Ghosh [WK], G. Kamalini [WK], Anushka Sharma, Deepti Sharma, Sree Charani, Prema Rawat, Amanjot Kaur, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy.

Shourya Ambure first Indian woman to win Youth Olympics medal in athletics

United News Of India

DAKAR (SENEGAL), NOV 9 : India's Shourya Ambure won the bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles event at the Youth Olympic Games 2026 here.

The 17-year-old Indian athlete clocked a new personal best of 13.59 seconds to finish third in the nine-woman final at the Complexe Iba Mar Diop on Sunday, according to olympics.com.

The People's Republic of China's Zhang Keyi won the gold medal with a personal best of 13.17s, while France's Anna Peeters took silver in 13.57s.

Shourya now stands as the first Indian woman to win a Youth Olympics medal in athletics. Overall, it was the country's fifth podium finish in track and field at the junior meet.

Durgesh Kumar Pal won silver in the boys' 400m hurdles at Singapore 2010, where Arjun Kumar also claimed silver in the boys' discus throw. At Buenos Aires 2018, Suraj Panwar won silver in

he boys' 5km race walk while Praveen Chithravel took bronze in the boys' triple jump. Earlier, Shourya Ambure clocked 13.77s, also a personal best, to finish second behind Peeters (13.62s) in the second semi-final and qualify for the medal race.

Australia make big call on former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne

United News Of India

PERTH, NOV 9 :Australia have confirmed former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne won't be considered for selection for their upcoming four-match ICC World Test Championship series against New Zealand.



Labuschagne has struggled for form in recent times, with the right-hander managing just 131 runs from six innings during Australia's recent three-game series in South Africa and you have to go way back to 2023 to find the last time he scored a Test century.

It's been a fall of grace for Labuschagne since he reached the pinnacle for Test batters in 2021 when he was ranked as the No.1 batter in the world, with the 32-year-old now slipping back to equal 40th in the category.

With one month until the start of that series against New Zealand in Perth on 9 December, Australia have decided to make an early call on the short-term future of Labuschagne with selection Chair George Bailey confirming the out of form right-hander won't be considered for the trans-Tasman series. "At this stage we won't be considering Marn (Labuschagne) for selection for certainly that first Test, but for the New Zealand series," Bailey said on Monday.

"There's been a lot of speculation around his place in the team, and so I think this gives him a little bit of space and clears up a bit of conjecture as we work through the next round of Shield cricket."

Poland's Linette dethrones Janice of Indonesai, annexes WTA Chennai Open singles title

United News Of India



CHENNAI, NOV 9 :Down by a set, Magda Linette of Poland staged a remarkable come back, quelled a spirited challenge in the decider, dethroning Janice Tjen of Indonesia 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 to annexe the Singles title in the WTA Chennai Open tennis tournament on Monday.

In the singles final, which was deferred to today due to heavy rains last night, the Polish third seed completed the turnaround in two hours and 43 minutes, converting her first championship point to claim her fourth career WTA singles title and first of the 2026 season.

Switzerland's Simona Waltert and Naima Karamoko lifted the doubles title, signing off their fine run with a 6-2, 6-0 win against the Indian duo of Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale in the title clash last evening. The Indian pair had become the first all-Indian combination to reach a WTA Tour doubles final.

The single summit clash was a keenly contested one with Tjen winning the first set, become Linette came out with all guns firing in the second, before knotting up the keenly contested decider. The match began at a high intensity, with Tjen showing the form that gave her the title in Chennai last year. The 24-year-old Indonesian, currently ranked World no. 75, edged a closely contested opening set 7-5. Linette, ranked number 68 in the world, responded emphatically in the second, raising her level to take the set 6-1 and force a decider.

The turnaround was another demonstration of Linette's resilience across the tournament. The 34-year-old Pole, who reached a career

high ranking of World no.19 in March 2023, came from a set down in each of her last three matches in Chennai to claim the title.

Linette's all-round game was central to her turnaround. She served effectively, struck strong and deep groundstrokes, and was equally assured at the net with her volleys and smashes. A key tactical feature was the depth she generated with her shots to counter Tjen's backhand slice, preventing the Indonesian from using it to disrupt rallies and dictate play. The players also had to contend with particularly hot conditions in Chennai.

The deciding set saw Linette move ahead 3-1 after breaking Tjen's serve. The Indonesian fought back, breaking Linette in the 6th game to level the score at 3-3. However, the Pole immediately regained the advantage with another break in the seventh game.

The 2023 Australian Open semi-finalist then showcased her touch and excellent court coverage drawing Tjen forward with a deft drop shot, pushing her back with a lob and again drawing her cloe to the net with another drop shot. She finally closed out the match, finishing the rally with a down the line backhand winner. Serving at 5-4, she led 40-0 and earned three championship points. There was no more drama as she converted the first to complete a hard fought victory.

The final was the first meeting between the two players on the WTA Tour. Tjen had arrived in Chennai looking to defend the title that brought her maiden WTA singles crown in 2025. That victory made her the first Indonesian woman in 23 years to win a WTA singles title. She reached a career-high ranking of World no. 35 in August 2026 and today added a second title to her record.

T20 Challenge: CRPF Cup Edition-4 To Commence On Nov 16



Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 09: Cricket fever is set to grip Srinagar as 16 teams gear up to compete in the six-day CRPF Cup Edition-4 T20 Challenge, scheduled to begin on November 16 across three venues in the city.

According to the details matches will be played at three venues in Srinagar, with sixteen teams competing for the coveted title.

The submission of team registration forms ended today. The participating teams will be selected through a draw of lots, with the names of all registered teams included to ensure transparency and provide everyone with a fair chance of participation.

The six-day tournament is expected to provide a platform to local cricketers to showcase their talent and compete in the T20 format. The three venues selected for the tournament are Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, University of Kashmir and SP College Srinagar.

Notably, the CRPF Cup has emerged as a sporting event in Kashmir, with the previous three editions witnessing participation from teams across the Valley. The last edition, held in November 2025, featured 16 teams and followed a league-cum-knockout format. The detailed match schedule and fixtures for the fourth edition are awaited.

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Kulgam set to host 3-day 'Veshow Festival' from tomorrow; LG Sinha to attend as chief guest

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kulgam: Kulgam is all set to host the three-day Veshow Festival from November 11 to 13 at Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, with the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to attend the inaugural function as the Chief Guest.

The festival aims to celebrate the region's rich cultural heritage, promote local art, literature and traditions, while providing a platform for trade, business opportunities and youth entrepreneurship.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam(IAS), said the festival is being organised to bring together diverse forms of art, culture, literature and trade under one platform, while encouraging young people to explore entrepreneurship and emerging business opportunities.

He informed that around 60 writers and poets have been invited to participate in the festival, besides more than 30 entrepreneurs, industry experts and technology experts. Over 32 sessions covering various aspects of trade and entrepreneurship will also be organised during the three-day event.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that 17 stalls have been established at the venue, showcasing different trades, books, food items and other attractions. Special entertainment activities have also been planned for children to make the festival an engaging experience for visitors of all age groups.

The opening day on November 11 will feature an Antique Village, Book Fair, inaugural session, Muzakara, Qawwali and eight trade fair sessions. On November 12, the second day will witness college band and school programmes, Women and Literature, Koshur Mushaira, Sham-e-Ghazal and 16 trade fair sessions.

The concluding day on November 13 will feature Meet the Author, Kal, Aaj Aur Kal, Kul Hind Mushaira, a valedictory session and eight trade fair sessions.

Urging people, particularly the youth, to participate in the festival in large numbers, the Deputy Commissioner said the event would provide an important opportunity to showcase local talent, celebrate the district's cultural identity and promote entrepreneurship.

The three-day festival is expected to bring together prominent writers, poets, entrepreneurs, artists, students and members of the general public, highlighting Kulgam's rich cultural heritage, literary traditions and growing entrepreneurial potential.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of GMC Anantnag



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 09: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today evening conducted surprise inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag to take first-hand stock of healthcare facilities, patient-care arrangements and the overall functioning of the institution.

During the inspection, the Minister visited various sections and departments of the hospital and took detailed feedback from doctors, paramedical staff and other officials regarding the availability of medical facilities, diagnostic services, essential medicines and the delivery of healthcare services.

Emphasising that patient welfare must remain the foremost priority of every healthcare institution, Sakeena Itoo said that hospitals are meant to serve people with compassion, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility.

"Healthcare is not merely about infrastructure and medical equipment, it is equally about the quality of care, compassion and dignity with which patients are treated", the Minister said.

She stressed upon the hospital administration to ensure that all available facilities are optimally utilised and that no patient is made to suffer due to avoidable administrative delays or lack of coordination.

The Minister also underscored the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and sanitation across hospital premises, ensuring uninterrupted availability of essential medicines and strengthening emergency response mechanisms.

"Public healthcare institutions carry a huge responsibility towards society. There can be no compromise on patient care, hygiene, punctuality and accountability. Every doctor, paramedic and employee must perform their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication", she maintained.

Civil Society Forum Pattan holds meeting with MLA, raises key issues



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Pattan: A meeting of the Civil Society Forum Pattan was held with MLA Pattan Javaid Reyaz Baidar to discuss various public issues and developmental concerns concerning Sub-Division Pattan.

During the meeting, members of the Civil Society Forum highlighted several issues faced by the people of Pattan and its adjoining areas. The MLA gave a patient hearing to the representatives and assured them that all the issues raised during the meeting would be taken up and resolved on priority.

The Civil Society Forum also requested the MLA to install one additional dialysis machine at Community Health Centre (CHC) Pattan to reduce the rush and waiting time for patients requiring dialysis services.

Kashmir's Spirit Of Brotherhood

Muslims in large number attend Sikh man's funeral in Beerwah

Beerwah, Nov 9, KNT: In a moving demonstration of communal harmony and brotherhood, a large number of members of the Muslim community joined the funeral procession of S. Narinderpal Singh Bali in Beerwah, standing alongside the bereaved Sikh family in its hour of grief.

Bali, son of Late S. Jodh Singh Singhbali and a resident of Attina Beerwah, passed away on November 8. His funeral witnessed a significant participation of Muslim residents, reflecting the bonds of affection, solidarity and mutual respect shared by communities in the area.

The gathering sent a powerful message that human relationships and shared grief transcend religious boundaries, with residents turning out to express solidarity with the bereaved family.

IDA holds 17th annual dental conference in Srinagar

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar: The Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu & Kashmir State Branch, successfully organised its 17th Annual Dental Conference at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on November 8–9, 2026, under the theme "Shaping the Future of Dentistry."

The conference was inaugurated by Mr Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, in the presence of Dr Nighat Yasmeen, Director Health Services Kashmir; Dr A.M. Naqash, Conference Chairman; Dr Adil Rasool Malik, Organising Secretary; and Prof. Dr H.U. Malik, Conference Patron.

The two-day scientific event witnessed enthusiastic participation from eminent national and local dental experts, academicians, clinicians, postgraduate students and dental professionals. Renowned speakers from outside Jammu & Kashmir delivered insightful lectures on a wide range of contemporary dental topics, highlighting recent advancements, innovative technologies and evolving clinical practices.

The scientific sessions provided an excellent platform for academic exchange, professional interaction and knowledge sharing. Local dental practitioners and academicians also showcased their clinical expertise through case presentations, while students actively participated in scientific paper presentations, providing young dental professionals an opportunity to demonstrate their research and academic capabilities.

A Dental Trade Exhibition was also organised, with several leading dental companies and industry representatives showcasing the latest dental equipment, materials, technologies and innovations in dentistry.

The conference also featured a cultural evening highlighting Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

5-day training programme for FPO staff concludes at SKUAST-K

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar: A five-day training programme for Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) staff, including Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Managers and Accountants, concluded today at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The programme was organised by the Directorate of Research, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K, under the Upscaling Collectivization component of the JKCIP-SKUAST-Kashmir, an IFAD-sponsored project. Over all 50 FPO staff members including Board of directors, CEOs/ Managers and Accountants attended the programme from different FPOs representing all the districts of Kashmir valley.

The valedictory function was attended by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Chairperson, Upscaling Collectivization, JKCIP, SKUAST-K, Prof. Syed Zameer Hussain, Director Research, SKUAST-K, and Prof. Ashiq Hussain Pandit, Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Project Coordinator, JKCIP SKUAST-K along with Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Vertical Coordinator, Upscaling Collectivization JKCIP SKUAST-K.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, and Chairperson, Upscaling Collectivization, JKCIP, SKUAST-K, highlighted the pivotal role of extension services in connecting farmers with scientific technologies, market opportunities and institutional support. She stressed that well-trained FPO functionaries are essential for translating agricultural innovations into tangible benefits for farming communities.

She also highlighted the important role of professionally managed FPOs in strengthening farmer collectivisation, improving agricultural marketing and enhancing farmers' income. Prof. Syed Zameer Hussain, Director Research, SKUAST-K, emphasised the importance of research-driven interventions and institutional capacity building in strengthening FPOs.

He encouraged the participants to adopt professional approaches and utilise scientific knowledge and available university expertise to improve the performance and sustainability of their organisations. Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Project Coordinator, JKCIP SKUAST-K Prof. Ashiq Hussain Pandit highlighted the immense potential of horticulture-based FPOs in Kashmir and stressed the importance of collective marketing, value addition, quality management and market linkages for enhancing farmers' returns.

He encouraged FPO staff to adopt innovative approaches to make their organisations competitive and sustainable. He also underscored the need for strengthening FPOs through improved technical knowledge, efficient management practices and better coordination among stakeholders.

He encouraged the participants to work towards making FPOs economically viable and farmer-centric institutions. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat highlighted the significance of the Upscaling Collectivization initiative under JKCIP and the need to strengthen FPO institutions through structured capacity-building interventions.

He encouraged the participants to effectively utilise the knowledge and skills acquired during the training for improving the functioning of their respective FPOs.

He emphasised that the effective functioning of FPOs requires trained human resources, sound financial management, transparency, accountability and strong institutional governance. The speakers stressed that CEOs, Managers and Accountants are key pillars of FPO management and play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability, operational efficiency and long-term growth of farmer collectives.

Revised prices of 1,364 anti-Cancer medicine come into force

New Delhi: Revised maximum retail prices (MRPs) of anti-cancer medicines covering 1,364 formulations from 85 pharmaceutical companies came into effect across India on Monday, following the government's decision to cap trade margins on 137 anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of their MRP.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said the initiative is aimed at making cancer treatment more affordable by reducing the prices of essential medicines and limiting excessive trade margins.

According to the official information released by the department, the reform has expanded significantly since its pilot phase in 2019, when trade margin rationalisation was introduced for 42 anti-cancer drugs. At that time, the MRPs of 526 brands were reduced by up to 90 per cent.

The initiative now covers 137 anti-cancer drugs and 1,364 formulations, with revised prices reflecting reductions of up to 96.45 per cent, according to the government.

The implementation process was carried out in stages. On October 17, trade margins on 137 anti-cancer drugs were capped at 30 per cent of their MRP.

GDC Qazigund celebrates 'World Urdu Day'



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Qazigund: Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund celebrated World Urdu Day with great enthusiasm, highlighting the rich literary heritage, cultural significance and enduring contribution of the Urdu language to literature, intellectual thought and communal harmony.

The programme was organised by the Department of Urdu, which aimed to highlight the importance of preserving, promoting and appreciating Urdu across generations.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Dr. I. A. Shah, HoD Education, who spoke about the greatness of Urdu as a language of expression, knowledge and refinement. He described Urdu as more than just a language, calling it a rich repository of history, emotions, ideas and shared cultural values.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar from the Department of Urdu recited beautiful verses and stressed the importance of teaching and promoting Urdu to ensure that its rich linguistic and literary heritage continues to flourish among younger generations.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Zargar of the Department of Urdu delivered an insightful lecture on the origin and development of the Urdu language and literature.