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'Terrorist Killed In Kulgam Gunfight; Search On For Associate'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Srinagar, Nov 16: One of the terrorists allegedly involved in last week's attack on CRPF personnel in south Kashmir's Kulgam district was killed in an encounter, while security forces have launched a search for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Lateef Bhatt, who is believed to have escaped the initial cordon, officials said on Monday.

Recounting the sequence of events leading to the encounter, officials said the Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a cordon-and-search operation after local police received intelligence inputs that two youths suspected of involvement in the attack were moving near the Laru bypass in Kulgam.

On noticing the movement of security forces, the two suspects fled to two nearby schools located near an apple orchard, where students were present.

After being alerted, nearby Army units and the CRPF joined the operation and an initial cordon was established. The immediate priority was to evacuate the children from the two schools to prevent any civilian casualties, a process that took around 90 minutes, officials said.

After the area was cleared of civilians, security forces launched the operation, killing Umar Dar, a resident of Arreh village, who had been reported missing from his home on November 11, the day of the attack on the CRPF personnel.

Dar was

See on Pg. 10

J&K almost near normalcy, but challenges remain: CRPF Special DG

KA NEWS SERVICE/PTI



Srinagar, Nov 16: Amid the ongoing anti-terror operations in south Kashmir, Central Reserve Police's top most officer in union Territory, on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir is almost near normalcy, although some challenges remain.

Special Director General of CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar expressed confidence that security forces, the administration and people would jointly overcome the remaining challenges.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the 4th edition of the CRPF Cup 2026, SDG, J&K Zone, Khirwar said peace and tranquillity in Jammu and Kashmir is a shared goal and responsibility of everyone, not just security forces and the administration.

See on Pg. 10

School timings changed in Valley amid cold weather

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 16: Authorities in Kashmir on Monday revised the timings in the schools across the valley in view of the cold conditions.

In an order, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) notified the changes in school timings for all schools of Kashmir division from Thursday.

The order said that classes from nursery to 8th standard shall function from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, while classes 9 to 12 shall conclude by 3:30 pm.

It also said that the timing shall be applicable in both rural and urban schools -- government as well as recognised

See on Pg. 10

Army opens fire after suspicious movement



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 16: Army troops opened fire after observing suspicious movement in a forest area near the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir early Monday, officials said.

Alert troops guarding the border in the Kanari area of the Sawjian sector noticed suspicious activity around 1.30 am, the officials said.

They said the

See on Pg. 10

CIK files chargesheet against six in TRF funding conspiracy case

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 16: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Monday filed a chargesheet against six accused, including three alleged absconders based abroad, in a case involving an alleged conspiracy to raise and channel funds to the banned outfit The Resistance Front (TRF) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The chargesheet was filed before the Court of Special Judge Designated under the NIA Act (TADA/POTA), Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 04/2026 registered under Sections 13, 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Sections 61(2) and 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to statement, the investigation revealed that Mukhtar Ahmad Baba, a TRF-linked terrorist operating from Pakistan, allegedly used hawala and other covert channels to funnel money into Jammu and Kashmir.

The agency

See on Pg. 10

FDA Inspected 85 Meat Units, 16 Issued Notices Across J&K: Minister

KA NEWS DESK



Jammu, Nov 16: Jammu and Kashmir Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Monday said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has inspected 85 meat units across the Union Territory, issued 16 notices and recommended 11 cases for legal proceedings as part of its intensified drive to ensure food safety.

The action comes close on the heels of the recovery of around 1,600 kg of allegedly rotten meat in Budgam district on Saturday, triggering concerns over food safety and the quality of meat being supplied to consumers.

"Food safety is non-negotiable, and violations will invite strict action. FDA has inspected 85 meat units across J-K, issued 16 notices and recommended 11 cases for legal proceedings", she said in a post on X.

The minister said food safety was non-negotiable and warned that violations of prescribed standards

See on Pg. 10

Politics of performance replaced policy paralysis during PM Modi's rule: Amit Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nov 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said politics of performance replaced policy paralysis of earlier times during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule since 2014.

He was speaking at the Ramoji Excellence Awards function instituted by Ramoji Group in memory of its founder and veteran journalist Ramoji Rao here. Shah heaped praises on Ramoji Rao, saying he fought for values and established them.

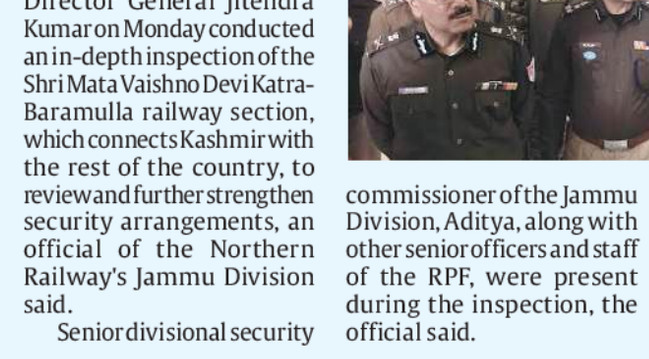
Recalling the stellar contributions of Ramoji Rao, Shah said the former's contributions in journalism can only be compared with that of veteran Ramnath Goenka.

The union minister said abolition of Article 370, ending Naxalism, ensuring national security and economic progress were among the good work carried out during the Modi rule.

See on Pg. 10

BJP threatens FIR, legal action against Karra

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA



Srinagar, Nov 16: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday threatened to file an FIR and initiate legal action against Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Karra over his remarks on the killing of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in Kishtwar, accusing him of attempting to create a rift between the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Addressing a press conference, BJP J&K spokesperson Altaf Thakur termed Karra's statement irresponsible and alleged that it amounted to an attempt to demoralise security forces and give a clean chit to Pakistan and terrorists.

"On what basis are you saying that the Army killed them? What evidence do you have? The administration and police have already clarified that terrorists kidnapped them and subsequently killed them," Thakur said.

He warned that the BJP would file an FIR against Karra and initiate legal action, asking him to apologise to the country, the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Thakur alleged that Karra's remarks were aimed at creating a confrontation between the Army and police in Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that Congress did not want peace and stability in the region.

Referring to Karra's remarks about the two SPOs allegedly going hunting, Thakur questioned who had sent them hunting and demanded that Karra disclose the source of the information.

He also recalled Karra's earlier remarks on dual currency during his tenure as Finance

See on Pg. 10

JK Assembly Environment Panel Flags Gaps In Civic Infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 16: The Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday conducted an on-the-spot inspection of various areas in the city to assess environmental concerns and civic infrastructure deficiencies, particularly those related to sewerage management, drinking water supply and sanitation.

Headed by CPI(M) MLA M Y Tarigami, the Committee started its tour with a visit to the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and adjoining localities of the old city, with one of its members and National Conference legislator Salman Sagar calling for a detailed examination of the shortcomings in the smart city projects and fixing accountability.

Talking to reporters, Tarigami said the committee was constituted under the mandate of the Legislative Assembly to examine environmental issues and work toward improving citizens' quality of life.

The objective was to ensure that people have access to clean air, safe drinking water, better sanitation and properly maintained streets, emphasising that environmental concerns should remain above political considerations," he said.

"We

See on Pg. 10

RPF's director general takes stock of security on Katra-Baramulla railway line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 16: Railway Protection Force (RPF) Director General Jitendra Kumar on Monday conducted an in-depth inspection of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Baramulla railway section, which connects Kashmir with the rest of the country, to review and further strengthen security arrangements, an official of the Northern Railway's Jammu Division said.

Senior divisional security commissioner of the Jammu Division, Aditya, along with other senior officers and staff of the RPF, were present during the inspection, the official said.

He said the inspection covered various railway stations, tunnels, bridges, tracks, signalling system and sensitive

See on Pg. 10

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17-NOVEMBER-2026

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FDA conducts 108 Inspections, suspends 3 FSSAI licenses

Destroys expired food articles worth ₹77,500 across J&K

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: Continuing its enforcement activities to ensure food safety and prevent the sale of substandard, unsafe and expired food products, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K (FDA), conducted inspections of meat processing units, meat shops and other establishments dealing with meat and meat products.

During the latest enforcement drive, a total of 108 inspections were conducted across various districts, and five food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis to assess their compliance with the prescribed standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As part of the enforcement action, five cases were recommended for proceedings under Section 56 of the Act, which provides for a penalty of up to 1 lakh for manufacturing or processing food under insanitary or unhygienic conditions.



Additionally, one case was initiated under Section 58 in connection with the sale of expired food articles, attracting a penalty of up to 2 lakh, subject to adjudication.

Taking cognizance of violations of food safety requirements, the FSSAI licences of three establishments, viz. M/s Nadam Poultry, Anantnag; M/s Asalam Chicken, Anantnag; and M/s The Frozen Hub, Kothanwal, Jammu, were suspended for violations of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Furthermore, expired food articles worth approximately 77,500 were destroyed to prevent their further sale and consumption. In another enforcement action, three cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Act, with a total compounding fee of 3,000 realized.

FDA, J&K, reiterated that enforcement activities will continue across all districts, with particular focus on establishments involved in the processing, storage, transportation and retail sale of meat and meat products.

Food Business Operators have been advised to maintain the highest standards of hygiene during the handling, processing and storage of meat and meat products and to ensure that no expired, unsafe or non-compliant food articles are offered for sale. Any violation shall invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Consumers are also urged to remain vigilant and report any instance of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the official email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

DC Srinagar conducts tehsil wise review of revenue services



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: To conduct Tehsil wise review of Provision of Revenue Services and the progress of Farmer ID generation and implementation of AgriStack in the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of senior Officers from the Revenue Department and other stakeholder Departments at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Aijaz Hassan, Chief Horticulture Officer, Jyoti Prasad, all Tehsildars, District Manager CSC and other concerned. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive assessment of the provision of revenue services under PSGA timelines and progress made in generating Farmer IDs and implementing the AgriStack initiative across all Tehsils of the District. On the occasion, the DC was apprised that a total of 12545 Farmer IDs have been generated across the district so far. The meeting was further informed that 99.83 percent progress has been achieved in the implementation of AgriStack in the District. Taking stock of the progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed Revenue Officers and stakeholder Departments to expedite the enrolment of all remaining eligible farmers in Srinagar .

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora conducts awareness programmes in schools

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 16: Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), Bandipora organised awareness programmes in various schools to sensitise students and teachers about Child Rights, child protection mechanism and welfare services available for children.



During the programme officials provided detailed information about Child Helpline 1098, highlighted its importance as a crucial support service for children in distress and those requiring care and protection. The participants were also sensitised about various services, facilities, and welfare schemes available under Mission Vatsalya.

The officials emphasised the importance of identifying Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and ensuring that such cases are promptly reported to the concerned authorities through Child Helpline 1098. They also encouraged teachers and school authorities to play an active role in safeguarding children and creating a safe, supportive, and child-friendly environment within educational institutions.

The awareness initiative aimed to enhance understanding of child protection services, promote awareness about available government welfare schemes, and strengthen coordination between educational institutions and child protection authorities.

Through these outreach programmes, Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety, care, protection and well-being of every child and extending timely assistance to children in vulnerable circumstances.

World Diabetes Day 2026: Landmark Book "Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir" released



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day 2026, a special academic and awareness event was organised by a distinguished group of endocrinologists and physicians, to deliberate on the growing burden of diabetes and the need for region-specific approaches to its prevention and management.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Dr. M. Hayat Bhat, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, Government Medical College, Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of World Diabetes Day.

The highlight of the programme was the Lecture of Excellence delivered by Prof. Ab. Hamid Zargar, former Director, SKIMS, who provided valuable insights into the local diabetes scenario. He discussed the evolving challenges, regional issues and research contributions in the field of diabetes over the past three decades, underscoring the importance of locally relevant research and evidence-based interventions.

A major highlight of the occasion was the release of the book "Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir", jointly authored by Dr. Shahnawaz Mir, Associate Professor, Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar; Dr. Nasir Shamas, Consultant Physician and HOU, JLNM Hospital; and Prof. M. Hayat Bhat, Head, Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar.

The book is among the first comprehensive attempts to address diabetes through the lens of Kashmir's unique regional context. It offers insights into local dietary habits, cultural practices, food preferences, lifestyle patterns and their implications for diabetes, while providing practical, evidence-based recommendations for prevention and management. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application in the everyday lives of the local population.

The book was formally released by an

99 driving licenses suspended across Pulwama; action taken in NDPS Case

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA NOVEMBER 16: In an extensive enforcement drive aimed at curbing traffic violations and reinforcing commuter safety, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Pulwama has suspended 99 driving licenses across the district for breaches of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The penalised motorists were intercepted during joint checks conducted by enforcement squads of the MVD and Traffic Police, having been found compromising established safety norms and endangering both pedestrians and fellow commuters.

The infractions spanned a wide spectrum of serious non-compliance, including riding without helmets, driving without seat belts, rash and negligent driving, overspeeding, operating under the influence

of alcohol or intoxicants, jumping red lights, dangerous overtaking, carrying excess passengers or goods (overloading), unauthorized commercial plying, dangerous use of mobile phones behind the wheel, and operating vehicles devoid of valid registration, fitness certificates, or insurance documents.

In a related yet distinct regulatory action, the department suspended another driving license following formal recommendations from District Police Budgam,

after the individual was implicated in an offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Highlighting its commitment to zero tolerance against vehicular lawlessness, MVD Pulwama has urged motorists to strictly observe road safety protocols and maintain valid, updated vehicle credentials at all times.

The administration further announced that rigorous inspection drives will be intensified

across all major corridors and arterial routes in the district to ensure lawful, accident-free transit.

6 youth selected to represent Shopian at VBYLD 2027

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: The District Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSSO) Shopian successfully organised a district-level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027 Challenge Track today at the Meeting Hall, Shopian, featuring a presentation round.

The programme was inaugurated by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian, Mohd Ayoub Bhat, who interacted with the participants and encouraged them to present their ideas with confidence and clarity.

Youth selected through the preliminary rounds of VBYLD 2026–27 from across Shopian district participated in the event, presenting their perspectives on the assigned theme, "Safeguarding the Himalayan Frontiers". A panel of jury members evaluated the presentations based on content, creativity, thematic understanding and presentation skills. Following a comprehensive assessment, the jury selected the top six participants to represent District Shopian at the next level of the competition.

DC Ganderbal reviews SANJY 2026 execution, ongoing works

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: To review the overall execution of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, a meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal.



The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Harshal R. Mahajan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Dr. S. Salah ud Din, ACD Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, besides sectoral heads and other concerned departmental officers.

At the outset, the ADC briefed the Chair on the overall conduct of SANJY 2026, highlighting the arrangements made by various departments, key achievements, and operational aspects of the Yatra.

During the meeting, the concerned departments presented detailed assessments of the works undertaken, funds allocated and utilized, progress of ongoing projects, and challenges encountered during SANJY 2026. The deliberations focused on identifying gaps and areas requiring further improvement, particularly in strengthening transit camp facilities, augmenting water and power supply infrastructure, improving sanitation and waste management, enhancing disaster preparedness .

DC Shopian chairs civil-military liaison meeting

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today chaired a Civil-Military Liaison Meeting to discuss various issues requiring collective action and consensus among the stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Commanding Officer, 02 Rajput, Zawoora Manloo; Commanding Officer, 44 RR, Lassipora; Commanding Officer, 55 RR, Panzgam; Commanding Officer, 34 RR, Behigagh; Commanding Officer, 14 Bn CRPF, Batpora Shopian; Commanding Officer, 178 Bn CRPF, Zainapora; Officer Commanding, 52 RCC, C/o 56 APO; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian; ASP Shopian, ACR Shopian, SDM Zainapora, DFO Shopian, all Tehsildars and other concerned officers from civil administration and Army.



The agenda included issues related to requisition, de-requisition and land transfer. Detailed deliberations were held on each agenda item, with particular focus on issues requiring coordinated action for their early resolution.

District-wise mutation, compensation and other important matters requiring action from the civil and Army authorities were also discussed threadbare.

The DC directed the concerned officers to take necessary action at their respective levels at the earliest to ensure timely disposal of the issues.

He exhorted all stakeholders to maintain seamless coordination and ensure timely sharing of information on all concerned matters for effective resolution of issues and strengthening civil-military cooperation.

Tech Fusion 2026 begins at KU's Zakura Campus; focuses on drones, robotics, IoT, 5G

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: The Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), commenced Tech Fusion 2026 – 'Learn, Build, Innovate', a five-day programme of hands-on workshops on emerging technologies and engineering practices.

The programme aims to give students practical exposure to new technologies, strengthen their technical skills and help them understand how classroom concepts are applied in real-world engineering. It also seeks to encourage innovation, problem-solving and interaction between academic institutions and industry.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that engineering education must provide students with opportunities to learn by doing and working with emerging technologies. She stressed on the importance of practical training in preparing students for changing professional requirements.

"Our students must have the opportunity to turn their classroom knowledge into practical skills and innovative solutions," she said.

In his remarks Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that such initiatives help students gain confidence in working with new technologies and understand their practical applications.

In his address Controller of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman, highlighted the importance of strengthening industry-academia linkages and said that closer engagement between educational institutions and industry can help align academic learning with professional requirements and expose students to the skills needed in the workplace.

Earlier, Director IoT, Zakura Campus, KU, Prof. Mohammad Tariq Banday, in his welcome address, said that Tech Fusion 2026 was designed to give students practical experience in emerging areas of engineering and technology.

The five-day programme includes five specialised workshop categories: Drone Technology, Hands-on Robotics and IoT (Internet of Things), Hands-on 5G Systems, Engineering through Practice and Experimental Techniques in Civil Engineering.

The workshop sessions will combine demonstrations, practical exercises and technical interaction to help participants develop a better understanding of these fields.

Students from various colleges across the Valley are participating in the workshops, including Kashmir College of Engineering & Technology and Islamia College of Science and Commerce. The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr. Ubaid Qureshi, faculty member at Zakura Campus KU, who also proposed the formal vote of thanks.

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Kashmir braces for rain, snow as Gulmarg, Pahalgam shiver at -3.5°C

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 16 :As night temperatures plummeted to minus 3.5 degrees Celsius at Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the weatherman on Monday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a brief spell of rain and snowfall over the next 15 hours.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said that a relatively weak Western Disturbance is expected to bring light to moderate rain and snowfall over a short period.

He said the system has a potential to keep minimum temperatures on the lower side, which could result in a further drop in the snowline. Consequently, if snowfall occurs, Gulmarg and Sonamarg have higher chances of witnessing it.

Keng said snowfall accumulation of 4–5 inches or even higher could not be ruled out at a few locations in the higher reaches.

He added that Jammu and Kashmir is all set to witness dry weather for the next 10–15 days following the passage of the Western Disturbance.

Meanwhile, night temperatures continued to remain below normal at several places across Kashmir, with Gulmarg and Pahalgam recording the season's lowest minimum temperature at minus 3.5 degrees Celsius each, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar.

As per the latest temperature data issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, available with KNO, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 degrees below the seasonal normal of 1.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg's minimum temperature was 2.9 degrees below its seasonal normal of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a departure of 2.3 degrees below its normal of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius against the normal of 1.1 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara settled at minus 0.2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 0.3 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of 1.4 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 degrees below its seasonal normal of 2.2 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.6 degrees Celsius against the normal of 13.2 degrees Celsius, while Katra settled at 12 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded a low of 8 degrees Cels, Batote 7 degrees and Bhaderwah 2 deCelsius.

Harud Festival showcases Kashmir's rich cultural heritage at Gulmarg

Kashmir News Observer



GULMARG, NOV 16 :Kashmir's cultural heritage will remain at the centre of upcoming tourism events, with the Directorate of Tourism planning a seven-day carnival in Gulmarg towards year-end to celebrate the festive season and welcome the New Year.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Harud Festival organised at Gulmarg, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said the festival was organised for both locals and tourists. He said visitors come to Kashmir with different interests, including those with a deep interest in its culture and those who want to explore and understand its traditions.

The department would continue to promote Kashmir's cultural heritage through upcoming tourism events and festivals, Sajjad said.

The Director added that Gulmarg would host a seven-day carnival towards the end of the year to celebrate the festive season and welcome the New Year, with a special focus on showcasing Kashmir's culture and traditions to visitors.

The festival featured performances by local artists, who presented traditional Kashmiri songs and music, creating a vibrant cultural atmosphere. Traditional arts and crafts formed another major attraction, with skilled artisans demonstrating Ari work, Sozni embroidery, papier-mâché and willow craftsmanship. Dedicated stalls showcased the diversity of the Valley's indigenous handicrafts, allowing visitors to witness the intricate processes involved in their creation.

LoP Sharma seeks S-VYASA's support to tackle drug menace in J&K

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 16 : Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, has urged S-VYASA to extend its yoga-based initiatives to Jammu and Kashmir to help tackle the growing drug menace among youth through de-addiction, meditation and stress-management programmes.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma made the appeal while attending the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram in Bengaluru as the Chief Guest on November 16, marking 50 years of its contribution to yoga, research, wellness and holistic healthcare.

The occasion also commemorated the birth centenary of Manneeya H.V. Sheshadri Ji, whose guidance helped shape the institution during its formative years.

Padma Dr. H.R. Nagendra, President of S-VYASA Society, presided over the function. Sharma was received by Chancellor Dr. H.R. Dayananda Swamy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Manjunath Sharma N.K. and Registrar Prof. Sony Kumari.

Paying tribute to H.V. Sheshadri Ji, Sharma recalled his life of simplicity, dedication and selfless service, saying his ideals continued



to inspire generations of karyakartas across the country.

He also praised Dr. Nagendra for leaving his scientific career at NASA to return to India and dedicate his life to yoga. He observed that a modest yoga centre established five decades ago had evolved into a globally recognised institution, with S-VYASA making contributions to yoga, Ayurveda, research and holistic healthcare.

Minister Itoo talks tough on food safety violations

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 16 :Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Masood Itoo on Monday said that those violating food safety norms will face the full force of the law.



In a post on X the minister said that food safety is non-negotiable and any violations will invite strict action.

She said that the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has inspected 85 meat units across Jammu and Kashmir and issued 16 notices in as many cases.

The minister added that 11 cases have been recommended for legal proceedings.

"Enforcement will be intensified, accountability ensured, and those found violating food safety standards will face the full force of the law," she said.

She said there would be zero tolerance for practices that endanger public health.

"Protecting the health of our people remains our highest priority," she added.

JKBOSE hosts school, district-level red ribbon quiz competition

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), on Monday conducted the School Level and District-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition 2026-27 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through DIETs.

The initiative aimed at promoting awareness among students regarding HIV/AIDS, its prevention, associated health concerns and the importance of informed and responsible behaviour.



The competition was organised in two phases through the respective District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETS), ensuring extensive participation and effective coordination at the district level.

In the first phase, a total of 50 schools from each district, comprising 25 government and 25 private institutions (1000 schools) participated in the School-Level Competition. Following the School-Level Competition, 20 teams from each district qualified for the District-Level Competition, which was conducted on the same day in the second phase. The District-Level Competition culminated in the selection of one winning team from each district, which will now represent its respective district in the forthcoming Divisional/UT. Division Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition would be conducted separately at Jammu and Srinagar. The three position holder teams were awarded Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively.

The successful conduct of the competition across all 20 districts was made possible through the concerted efforts of the DIETs, participating schools, district-level coordinators and the officers/officials of Academic Division, JKBOSE. The initiative also reflects JKBOSE's continued commitment to supplementing classroom learning through meaningful co-curricular activities, fostering health awareness and engaging students in issues of wider social relevance.

The entire programme was conducted under the guidance and leadership of Chairman, JKBOSE Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Director Academics, JKBOSE Dr. Parveen Singh, Deputy Director Academics-JD, Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics-KD Dr Arif Jan and Assistant Director-KD Dr. Aliya Qayoom.

CRPF T20 Cricket Cup kicks off in Srinagar, 16 teams in fray

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: The fourth edition of the CRPF T20 Cricket Cup kicked off at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium here on Monday, with 16 teams set to compete in 31 matches over six days.

The tournament was inaugurated by Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, in the presence of senior CRPF officers, including IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma and IG Kashmir Operations Sector Vineet Brijlal, besides representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), Kashmir University and other organisations.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, SDG Khirwar said the tournament reflects CRPF's continued efforts to connect with the youth of Kashmir through sports.

He said the region has immense cricketing potential and emphasised the need to provide young talent with opportunities to showcase their abilities. Referring to the security situation in Kashmir, he said security forces are working together to maintain stability in the region.

The tournament, being held from November 16 to 21, will follow a league-cum-knockout format, with matches scheduled at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium, Kashmir University and SP College in Srinagar. The winning team will receive a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, while the runners-up will get Rs 1.75 lakh, along with trophies and sports gear.

The matches are being live-streamed on social media, while live scores are available on the CricHeroes app. Updates are also being broadcast on 93.5 Red FM.



Notably, the CRPF Cricket Cup, launched in 2023, has emerged as an initiative to promote sports and strengthen engagement with Kashmiri youth. This year's edition received a record 129 team registrations, of which 12 teams were shortlisted through a draw. Four other teams were invited, including one each from JKCA and Kashmir University, besides the winner and runners-up of the 2025 edition. The CRPF is also set to organise the third edition of its Football Cup for Kashmiri youth shortly.

Guns no longer roar in every lane of Kashmir: BJP leader

Kashmir News Observer

BARAMULLA, NOV 16 :BJP General Secretary Mohammad Anwar Khan on Monday credited the Centre for the improvement in the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that incidents of violence and killings have declined significantly compared to the past.

Talking to reporters here in North Kashmir, Khan while referring to the recent killings of Special Police Officers (SPOs), said that earlier guns would roar in every lane of Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of local youth, but such incidents were now limited to a few cases.

"Since the day BJP has taken responsibility of law and order, the situation has changed. Earlier, guns would roar in every lane of the Valley and our youth would get killed. Now, such incidents are limited to a few cases, and these too will eventually become a thing of the past," he said. Khan accused opposition parties of politicising the killings and alleged that the Congress, National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party had failed to ensure normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir during their tenures.

He also said that the political landscape had changed under the PM Modi led government, claiming that electoral participation and the number of votes polled had increased over the years.

"There was no accountability earlier. Today, there is accountability, and the Omar Abdullah-led government is being questioned over its



actions," he said.

Targeting the NC government, Khan alleged that it had failed to fulfil several promises made during the Assembly elections, including free electricity, ration and employment.

He said the BJP was functioning as a strong opposition with its 29 MLAs and raising people's issues before the government.

"Our MLAs are with the people and continue to raise their concerns. They even boycotted three days of the recent Assembly session," he said. Khan further said that the BJP remained connected with people

throughout the year and would continue to remind the NC government of its electoral commitments.

J&K Govt approves Rs 22.71 crore to revive stalled Batamaloo Mini Secretariat

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: The Jammu and Kashmir government has approved Rs 22.71 crore for the construction of a Mini Secretariat along with an Integrated District Disaster Management and Mitigation Centre at Batamaloo in Srinagar, paving the way for the revival of a project that has remained stalled for several years.

As per Government Order No. 57-JK (Rev) of 2026, issued by the Revenue Department, administrative approval has been granted for an estimated expenditure of Rs 2,271.07 lakh. The project cost has been assessed on the basis of estimates vetted by the Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works (R&B) Department.

The proposed facility will serve as an administrative hub while also housing infrastructure for district-level disaster preparedness, management and mitigation.



The project dates back to October 2017, when the proposal for establishing a Mini Secretariat at the erstwhile General Bus Stand in Batamaloo was taken up during a District Development Board meeting. Its foundation stone was subsequently laid by the then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in January 2018.

Initially, the complex was planned to accommodate multiple government offices under one roof, with the objective of improving public service delivery and reducing the need for people to visit different offices spread across Srinagar.

However, its execution remained delayed due to financial and administrative issues.

The matter was brought up in the Legislative Assembly in March 2025, when Education Minister Sakina Itoo informed the House that Rs 9.82 crore had already been spent on the project. She said the original technically vetted cost stood at Rs 48.23 crore, while a revised Detailed Project Report amounting to Rs 80.26 crore had been submitted by the executing agency and was under consideration. The pile foundation work had also been completed.

Director Archives, Archaeology& Museums J&K reviews preparations

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Director, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Pranjal J Hazarika today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming World Heritage Week 2026 celebrations across both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Director emphasized the Department's commitment to preserving, promoting and creating widespread public awareness about the rich historical, architectural and cultural legacy of the Union Territory. He directed officials from both divisions to ensure seamless coordination and high levels of public participation—particularly among students, researchers and youth—throughout the week-long observance.

To mark the occasion, the Directorate has chalked out an extensive calendar of events across key heritage sites, monuments and museums in both divisions. The planned programmes feature guided heritage walks through historic precincts.

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MLA Gulmarg Farooq Shah flags off Rafting Team, tees off Golf Championship

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Gulmarg: MLA Gulmarg and Patron of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Rafting Association, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, today flagged off a six-member J&K rafting team from Srinagar for the 18th National Rafting Championship in Uttarakhand. He said Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for rafting, particularly in Sonamarg and Pahalgam's Lidder Valley, where commercial rafting is already taking place. He expressed hope that the team would perform well and bring laurels to J&K. He also announced that we are proposing to organise an international rafting championship in the Kashmir Valley to promote the sport and provide greater opportunities to local athletes. The event was attended by Association President Tanveer Ahmad Shah and General Secretary Ahsan Ahmad.

Farooq Ahmad Shah also inaugurated a professional golf championship at the world-famous



Gulmarg Golf Course, witnessing the participation of 36 professional golfers.

Later, Farooq Shah attended the Harud Festival at Gulmarg, organised by the Tourism Department and Gulmarg Development Authority to showcase Kashmir's rich heritage of art, food and music, besides promoting tourism. He stressed the need to explore Gulmarg's full tourism potential, strengthen tourism activities and place the world-famous destination more prominently on the global tourism map to attract visitors from across the world.

The MLA also chaired a meeting with Sub-Divisional Officers at Gulmarg to review preparations for the upcoming winter season. He directed all departments to remain fully prepared for snowfall and ensure the availability of adequate manpower and machinery to deal with winter challenges.

DC Kulgam flags off over 100 young trekkers for 5-day Adventure Camp

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kulgam, Nov 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today flagged off a group of over 100 young trekkers from the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, for a five-day adventure camp at Pahalgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kulgam, for providing young people with opportunities to participate in adventure activities and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

He encouraged the young trekkers to actively participate in sports and other constructive activities while staying away from social evils and negative influences. He also highlighted the importance of sports and adventure activities in developing discipline, self-confidence, teamwork and a positive outlook among youth.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kulgam, Narinder Pal Singh, along with other officials of the department.

The five-day trekking camp is being organised for selected boys from all six zones of District Kulgam, providing them an opportunity to explore adventure activities, develop physical fitness and enhance their confidence through outdoor experiences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, That I want to register DOB/DOD 11-05-2025.as in the office of Registrar Birth and Deaths of /she Smt.Shri AFIYAN LONE S/O AKSAR LONE R/O MANDIYAN KERAN Block Handwara the case is under process before the office of Executive Magistrate Ist NAB Class HANDWARA, .Anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the objection regarding same before Executive Magistrate Istt Class HANDWARA within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice after that no any objection may be entertained.

(Tahir War)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I have changed the name of my daughter from Sharmeela Imtiyaz (Old Name) to Azah Imtiyaz (New Name). Any person having any objection to the aforesaid change of name may submit the same in writing within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan F/o Azah Imtiyaz
R/o Khankah, Midoora
(MM)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my brother, Late Ajaz Ahmad Khan, S/o Late Ali Mohammad Khan, R/o Khanawari, Zaldagar, Srinagar, Kashmir, passed away on 07-11-2026 at his residence. Now I have applied to the concerned authorities for the issuance of a Death Certificate in respect of my deceased brother. Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the said Death Certificate may submit the same before the concerned authorities within the prescribed period after that no objection will be entertained.

Khursheed Ahmad Khan S/o Late Ali Mohammad Khan
R/o Umer Lane, Sector A, Bund Road,
Hamdania Colony, Bemina, Srinagar
8279

Over 230 films to be screened at November 20-28 IFFI in Goa; Spain named Country of Honour

Panaji, Nov 16 (PTI) The 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, with over 230 movies from the host country as well as across the world set to be screened under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'.

Announcing this on Monday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Spain has been designated the Country of Honour, while Russia will be the Partner Country for the nine-day festival, whose opening films will be 'Dhurandhar' and 'Becoming'.

Addressing a press conference here, Sawant noted the festival would bring together filmmakers, artistes, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from across the globe, reaffirming Goa's position as an important destination for international cinematic and cultural exchange.

More than 230 films, including over 150 international movies from 86 countries, will be screened at the annual festival across six venues comprising 13 screens, with a combined seating capacity of over 4,000 delegates, he informed.

The screening venues are INOX Panjim, Maquinez Palace, INOX Porvorim, Z Square Samrat-Ashok, Magic Moviez in Ponda and Ravindra Bhavan in Margao. All venues will have accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities.

The theme for IFFI 2026 is 'Stories Without Borders'.

The Indian Panorama section will showcase 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films. The festival will also place special emphasis on BRICS cinema.

The festival will feature the participation of 52 women moviemakers and 62 debut filmmakers. The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) will bring together 100 selected participants representing 13 filmmaking crafts.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium near Panaji on November 20 and 28, respectively.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E- TENDER NOTICE

The **Deputy Chief Engineer/ Bridge Line/Jammu Tawi** for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under for the under noted works:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion period of work
1	OT-06-JAT-26-27	Preventive maintenance of bridge no. 186 (Jajhar Khad) including painting, rust protection guard	92,10,336.72	1,84,200.00	09.12.2026	25.11.2026	0	09 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender	Up to 11:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 11:00 hrs on same date.
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in** and tender document is available on **www.ireps.gov.in.**

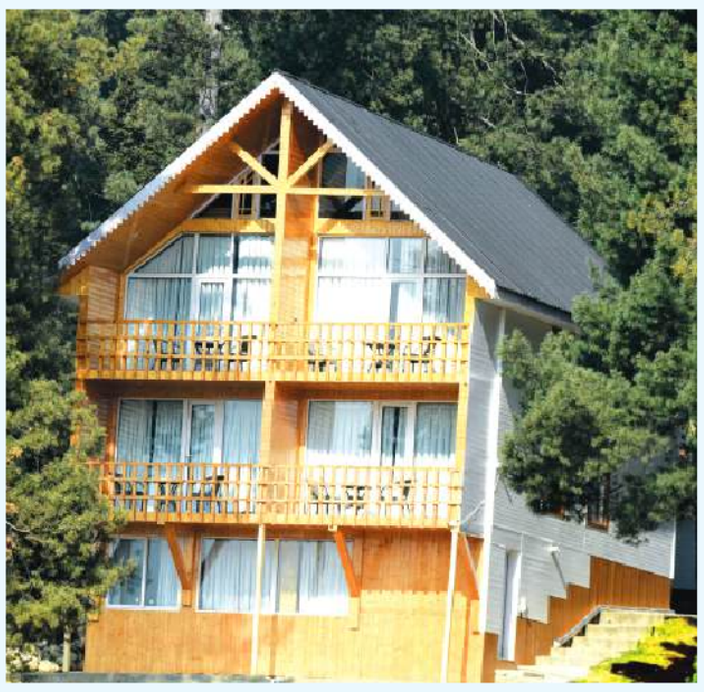
No. 06-DYCEBLJAT-2026/27, Dated: 16.11.2026 3996/26

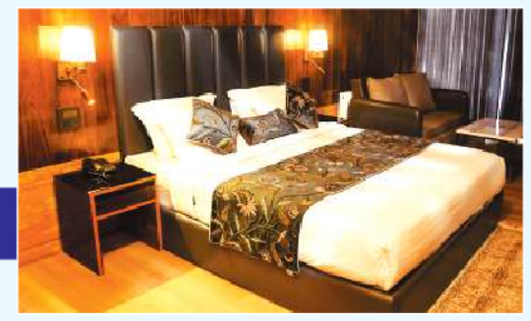
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Amit Shah calls for need to monitor cooperative societies, strict compliance with regulatory provisions

Press Information Bureau



NEW DELHI: In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi', transparency, accountability, good governance and institutional strengthening in the cooperative sector are being continuously promoted under the leadership of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah.

As part of these efforts, the Union Home Minister today visited the Regional Office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) in Pune, Maharashtra. During the visit, he interacted with officials and reviewed the progress of various initiatives relating to the registration, regulation, monitoring and reform of Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

Shah particularly sought information regarding the functioning of cooperative societies in Maharashtra, their registration status and measures being taken to further strengthen the regulatory framework. The establishment of Regional Offices of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies is a significant initiative towards ensuring effective regulation of Multi-State Cooperative Societies and decentralisation of cooperative administration across the country.

During the review, Shah emphasised that the development of Multi-State Cooperative Societies in Maharashtra and the Western Region must be aligned with the objectives and guidelines of the National Cooperation Policy. He stated that the role of the Regional Office should not remain confined merely to registration-related activities but should extend to ensuring effective supervision, regulatory compliance, transparency and accountability in the functioning of cooperative societies. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation also reviewed ongoing activities with the officials and emphasised that registration, inspection, auditing, grievance redressal and other statutory processes relating to cooperative societies must be carried out in a transparent and time-bound manner. He underscored the importance of an effective regulatory framework to promote good governance in cooperative institutions and safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, including members and depositors.

The Office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Cooperation, appointed under Article 243ZH(f) of the Constitution and Section 4(1) of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. It regulates cooperative societies whose objectives and areas of operation extend beyond the boundaries of a single State.

The CRCS is entrusted with important statutory powers and responsibilities, including registration and regulation of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, amendments to their registered bye-laws, supersession of Boards in accordance with statutory provisions, inquiries, inspections, audits, settlement of disputes, and liquidation and winding up of defunct societies.

At present, a total of 1,872 Multi-State Cooperative Societies are registered across the country. Of these, 420 societies have been registered since the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation on 6 July 2021. In view of the increasing number of Multi-State Cooperative Societies and their expanding geographical presence, Regional Offices are being established to ensure effective monitoring, regulatory compliance and good governance.

The first Regional Office of the CRCS, established in Pune for the Western Region, oversees matters relating to 818 Multi-State Cooperative Societies registered across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. These include 756 societies in Maharashtra, 59 in Gujarat, two in Goa and one in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Thus, a substantial proportion of the country's registered Multi-State Cooperative Societies falls within the jurisdiction of the Pune Regional Office.

The Pune Regional Office commenced its operations on 15 April 2026. The Department of Expenditure has sanctioned 10 posts for the office. Arrangements are being made for the deployment of officers and essential support personnel to ensure effective and timely execution of regulatory functions relating to Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

To further strengthen the monitoring and administrative framework for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, the Ministry of Cooperation has initiated

steps to establish additional Regional Offices in Lucknow for the Northern Region, Chennai for the Southern Region and Kolkata for

the Eastern and North-Eastern Regions, in addition to the Pune office. These offices will facilitate decentralisation of regulatory administration, faster approval processes, improved monitoring and compliance, greater financial inclusion, effective grievance redressal and expansion of digital services.

The Office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has also undertaken several important initiatives for the digitisation, reform and strengthening of Multi-State Cooperative Societies. These include the development of an online system for processes such as registration of societies, amendments to bye-laws, filing of annual returns and opening of branches. Other significant measures include amendments to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, computerisation of the offices of the Cooperative Election Authority and the Cooperative Ombudsman, and the establishment of the Cooperative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund (CRRDF).

In a significant step towards strengthening financial discipline, transparency and accountability in Multi-State Cooperative Societies, the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO, 2026) has also been issued. These reforms aim to ensure better financial management, effective regulatory oversight and protection of the interests of members of cooperative institutions.

The visit of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah to the Pune Regional Office marks an important step towards strengthening the regulation of Multi-State

Cooperative Societies, enhancing the effectiveness of regional monitoring mechanisms and promoting transparency, accountability and good governance in the cooperative sector in accordance with the National Cooperation Policy.

DC Pulwama orders inspection of Coaching Institutes for their safety, security

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama, K.K Sidha has ordered the constitution of a District-Level Committee to conduct comprehensive inspections of coaching centres to ensure the safety, security and welfare of students enrolled in coaching institutes operating across the district.

The order aims to ensure strict adherence to prescribed safety and security regulations, statutory provisions and other mandatory requirements governing the functioning of coaching institutes, with particular focus on student welfare and transparency in institutional operations.

A District-Level Committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora, with jurisdiction-specific representation from various departments, including Revenue, Police, Municipal Bodies, Fire and Emergency Services, Power Development Department, Health, Education and Labour.

The committees will undertake physical inspections of coaching centres within their respective territorial jurisdictions, focusing on verification of registration and statutory authorisations, building infrastructure and safety arrangements, basic amenities and hygiene, student welfare and accessibility, as well as transparency in fee structures, courses offered, faculty particulars and other relevant information.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight of coaching institutes and ensuring that these establishments provide a safe, secure, hygienic and student-friendly learning environment while maintaining transparency in their operations.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of development works under District Capex Budget 2026-27



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 16:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday convened a comprehensive meeting of all executing agencies and line Departments here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the physical and financial progress of approved developmental works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 across the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Secretary SMC, Tahir Magrey, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud Din, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad Para, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDCL, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District and Sectoral Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook an executing-agency-wise detailed review of the progress achieved in the tendering process, allotment of approved works, commencement of projects and completion of developmental works so far under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. He also took stock of the works taken up under the savings plan.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that 99 percent of the works have already been allotted, with 87 percent works started on ground, while over 60 percent works have been completed on ground. While appreciating the efforts of the Officers, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to maintain the momentum and further accelerate the pace of work on the ground to ensure timely completion of projects.

The DC underscored the need to make optimal use of the ongoing working season to accelerate the physical execution and financial progress of developmental works. He further stressed strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and stipulated timelines to ensure quality execution, timely completion of projects and effective delivery of developmental benefits to the public.

DDC Shopian reviews Physical, Financial Progress under District Capex Plan 2026–27

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the District Capex Plan 2026–27 to assess the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental works across the district.



During the meeting, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Shopian, Mudasir Ahmed presented a detailed sector-wise abstract highlighting the current status of approved works, fund releases and expenditure.

Out of 1,794 approved works under the District Capex Plan 2026–27, 1,268 works (70.7%) have been taken up for execution, while 847 works (47.2%) have been completed till date.

Against a total approved cost of Rs 4,669.54 lakh, an amount of Rs 1,640.19 lakh has been released during the current financial year.

Departments have recorded a cumulative expenditure of Rs 378.82 lakh, representing 23.1% utilization of the released funds.

The DDC reviewed the performance of executing agencies including R&B (Shopian and Zainapora), Jal Shakti (PHE), Education, Health & Medical Education, Irrigation, Urban Development (UDD) and Youth Services & Sports.

While R&B Zainapora achieved 100% utilization of released funds and Education recorded 68.6%, the DDC expressed concern over slow expenditure in sectors like PHE (6.3%) and Youth Services & Sports (0%).

Taking serious note of lagging expenditure in certain departments, the District Development Commissioner directed all sectoral and executing officers to expedite the tendering and execution process to ensure 100% physical completion and optimal utilization of released funds well within the stipulated timeframe.

Emphasizing financial accuracy and transparency, the DDC instructed the concerned departments particularly KPDCL and engineering wings to reconcile

discrepancies in annual allocation figures and ensure strict alignment between physical reporting and financial abstracts prior to final certification.

Officers were further directed to maintain strict quality control on ground and conduct regular field inspections to remove bottlenecks hindering project completion.

SWD Budgam organises awareness-cum-training programme on POSH Act at Chadoora

Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 16: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP-HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an Awareness-cum-Training Programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), at Town Hall, Chadoora.

The programme witnessed participation from Anganwadi Workers , Supervisors, representatives of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and teachers.

The programme was aimed at sensitising participants about the legal provisions of the POSH Act, institutional mechanisms for prevention and redressal of workplace sexual harassment, and the importance of ensuring a safe, dignified and harassment-free working environment across different institutions and workplaces.

The programme commenced with the registration of participants, followed by an



introductory address by Asifa Manzoor, Gender Specialist, SANKALP-HEW Budgam.

She highlighted the significance of awareness and capacity-building initiatives in strengthening gender sensitivity and promoting safe working environments.

H&H Deptt organises awareness-cum-registration camp at Sopore

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 16: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Baramulla organised a one-day Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp at Dak Bungalow, Sopore, on Monday to sensitise local artisans, weavers and unemployed youth about various government welfare schemes and support facilities.

The programme was attended by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, ADC Sopore Shabir Ahmad Raina and Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir Sameer Jan, besides other officers and dignitaries.

During the camp, participants were briefed about various government initiatives, including the Credit Card Scheme for

Artisans and Weavers, scheme for skill upgradation, scholarships for children of artisans, training programmes for unemployed youth and marketing support for handicraft products.

The officers emphasized the importance of registration with the department to avail benefits under different welfare schemes and encouraged artisans and weavers to utilize the available financial assistance, skill development programmes and marketing facilities.

The initiative aims to strengthen the traditional handicrafts and handloom sector, empower local artisans, promote

entrepreneurship and generate employment opportunities for unemployed youth.

The camp also provided a platform for participants to interact with departmental officials and seek information regarding registration procedures and benefits available under various government schemes.

Sports tournament to begin in Pulwama from Nov 19

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSSO), Pulwama, is organising an Inter-Departmental Sports Tournament from November 19, 2026, with the participation of nearly 10 teams representing various government departments.

The tournament aims to encourage government employees to take part in sports and physical activities while providing an opportunity to interact and compete in a healthy sporting environment.

As part of the preparations, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today distributed sports uniforms among the participating teams. The uniforms were handed over to the respective team captains.

Editorial

Diabetes prevention

The growing burden of diabetes in Kashmir calls for a comprehensive public-health response that goes beyond prescriptions, clinical consultations and hospital-based treatment. While medical intervention remains central to managing the disease, prevention, dietary awareness, physical activity and lifestyle changes are equally important in confronting what is increasingly becoming a serious health challenge for the region.

The observance of World Diabetes Day 2026 offered an important opportunity to reflect on this challenge and, more significantly, to explore solutions rooted in Kashmir's own social, cultural and dietary realities. The release of Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir, authored by doctors associated with Government Medical College Srinagar and JLNM Hospital, is a welcome step in this direction.

The significance of the publication lies in its attempt to bridge the gap between medical knowledge and everyday practices. Diabetes management cannot be approached through universal dietary prescriptions without considering local food habits, traditional cuisine, cultural preferences and lifestyle patterns. What works in one region may not necessarily be practical or sustainable in another. Therefore, region-specific research and recommendations are essential to making preventive healthcare more relevant and effective.

The insights shared by experts on the evolution of diabetes in Kashmir over the past three decades also underline the importance of sustained research. Understanding the changing disease pattern, identifying regional risk factors and strengthening evidence-based interventions must remain priorities for healthcare institutions and policymakers.

However, awareness must translate into action. Dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, lack of regular exercise and inadequate understanding of risk factors can collectively increase vulnerability to diabetes. Greater emphasis is needed on preventive screening, particularly among people at higher risk, alongside public awareness campaigns that encourage healthier choices from an early age.

Initiatives such as the promotion of high-fibre foods and low-glycaemic-index alternatives, including the Sugar Cut Rice initiative, deserve attention as possible avenues for healthier dietary choices. Similarly, the distribution of Five Miles, a walking guidebook highlights how simple and accessible physical activity can become part of everyday life. Walking along Kashmir's heritage routes offers an opportunity to combine fitness with an appreciation of the region's cultural legacy.

The larger challenge, however, cannot be left to doctors and healthcare institutions alone. Schools, universities, community organisations, families, food producers and policymakers must become active stakeholders in promoting healthier lifestyles. Affordable access to nutritious food, regular screening facilities and community-level awareness programmes are equally important.

Kashmir Valley needs a sustained diabetes prevention strategy that combines scientific research with local knowledge and community participation. The initiative behind Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir provides a meaningful starting point. Ultimately, the fight against diabetes must shift from treating complications to preventing the disease, because a healthier society is built not merely through better medicines, but through informed choices and healthier everyday habits.

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

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THE CHANGING SEASONS OF KASHMIR

From the tender blossoms of Sonth and the warmth of Ryetkol to the golden poetry of Harud and the quiet beauty of Wandeh, Kashmir's four traditional seasons tell a timeless story of nature's generosity, life's changing rhythms and the blessings of being alive.



BY MAUZAM BAKSHI





There is a language in Kashmir that does not need words to be understood. It is spoken by the mountains when the first light of dawn touches their snow-covered summits. It is whispered by the streams that descend through pine forests and carried by the gentle breeze that moves through orchards. It is written in the changing colours of leaves, in the fragrance of flowers and in the quiet arrival of snow upon the rooftops of villages. This is the language of the seasons. For centuries it has shaped the rhythm of life in the Valley, teaching its people to recognise time not merely through calendars but through the beautiful movements of nature.

In Kashmir the year has never been simply a succession of months. It has been a journey through four extraordinary worlds, each with its own fragrance, colours, sounds and emotions. Sonth, Ryetkol, Harud and Wandeh are not merely names assigned to different portions of the year. They are expressions of an intimate relationship between a people and the land they have called home for generations.

Each season arrives with its own personality. Each brings a different kind of beauty and each leaves behind memories that become part of the Valley's collective story. Together they form a wonderful circle of life in which nature continually changes its appearance while retaining its eternal charm.

The first of these seasons is Sonth, the Kashmiri spring. It is perhaps the most tender and enchanting arrival of the year. After the long winter the Valley slowly awakens from its silence. The earth begins to breathe again and the first signs of life emerge from beneath the cold soil. Almond blossoms appear like delicate clouds upon bare branches. Cherry flowers decorate the orchards and the gardens begin to wear their colourful clothes. The mountains gradually reveal their green slopes while streams sparkle beneath the returning sunlight.

There is something almost miraculous about Sonth. A single flower appearing on a seemingly lifeless branch carries the promise of an entire season. The air becomes softer and the morning sunshine feels like an affectionate greeting. Birds return to their familiar surroundings and their songs fill the courtyards with a freshness that seems to awaken the human heart as well.

For Kashmiris, Sonth is more than the arrival of spring. It is a celebration of renewal. It reminds us that after every period of darkness there is light and after every long silence there is the possibility of a new beginning. The beauty of this season lies not only in what the eyes see but also in what the heart feels. It is a gentle reminder of the countless blessings that surround ordinary life.

As Sonth gradually gives way to Ryetkol, summer arrives. The Valley now enters a season of fullness. The delicate freshness of spring gives way to a generous green landscape. Paddy fields spread across the countryside and orchards become increasingly lush. The chinar trees extend their magnificent branches, offering cool shade to those who seek shelter beneath them. Rivers flow through the Valley with soothing music and mountain streams invite people to pause and admire their crystal-clear waters.

Ryetkol is a season of open skies and long, beautiful days. It is the time when Kashmir reveals its magnificent mountains and meadows. Higher pastures become carpets of wildflowers while shepherds lead their flocks towards the green slopes. The fragrance of fresh grass fills the air and butterflies move gently between flowers. In villages, the days seem to acquire a slower and more relaxed rhythm. There is a particular happiness in a Kashmiri summer evening. As the sun begins to descend behind the mountains, golden light falls upon rooftops and orchards. The sound of flowing water becomes more soothing as the evening breeze passes through the trees. Sometimes the simplest moments become the most precious, sitting beneath a chinar, sharing a cup of tea or watching the changing colours of the sky. Ryetkol also reminds us of the generosity of the land. Its orchards promise fruit and its fields prepare for harvest. It is a season of growth and abundance, when nature appears to offer its gifts without asking for anything in return.

Then comes Harud, the season that perhaps occupies the deepest place in the emotional and cultural imagination of Kashmir. Autumn is not simply a transition between summer and winter. It is a feeling, a philosophy and a celebration of nature's extraordinary artistry. The chinar leaves begin to turn crimson, copper and gold. The countryside takes on the appearance of a vast canvas upon which nature seems to have spent its finest colours. The orchards grow heavy with fruits while paddy fields turn golden beneath the autumn sun. Farmers gather their harvests and the air carries the fragrance of ripened fruit, dry leaves and freshly collected crops. There is a peculiar magic in Harud. Unlike Sonth, which celebrates the beginning of life, autumn celebrates its fullness. The trees appear to offer their most beautiful colours just before surrendering their leaves to the earth. Every falling leaf seems to carry a quiet message about the beauty of change and the importance of accepting life's different seasons. Perhaps this is why Harud has always inspired such deep affection among Kashmiris. Its beauty is not merely visual. It touches something within the human spirit. The golden landscapes encourage reflection while the gentle melancholy of falling leaves creates a sense of peace. Harud teaches us that there is beauty in every stage of existence and that gratitude can make even the passing of time feel meaningful. The orchards during Harud are a celebration in themselves. Apple trees bend beneath the weight of their fruit and walnut trees offer the gifts of another harvest. The countryside becomes a place of activity and fulfilment. There is happiness in seeing the rewards of a year's labour and a quiet satisfaction in knowing that the land has once again provided for its people. Harud is a season that teaches us to count our blessings and appreciate the abundance that surrounds us.

As the golden colours of autumn gradually fade, Wandeh arrives, bringing the Valley into the embrace of winter. This season has a beauty entirely different from the brightness of the months that precede it. The air becomes colder, the mornings acquire a delicate stillness and the mountains gradually put on their white robes. The chinar trees stand almost bare against the winter sky while smoke rises gently from village homes. Wandeh brings with it a special kind of intimacy. Life moves indoors and the warmth of family becomes particularly precious. The traditional kangri finds its place beneath the pheran and the samovar becomes a familiar companion. Cups of noon chai are shared and conversations stretch into the evening. The aroma of traditional Kashmiri food fills the home and ordinary gatherings become occasions of happiness. There is something deeply comforting about a winter evening in Kashmir. Outside, the cold settles over the landscape while inside, families gather around warmth and companionship. Stories are told, memories are exchanged and the familiar sounds of household life create an atmosphere that seems to belong to another, gentler world. Wandeh reminds us that happiness often resides in the people with whom we share our lives.

When snow arrives, the Valley reveals another dimension of its extraordinary beauty. Rooftops, gardens and mountain slopes become part of a vast white landscape. The familiar world takes on a softer appearance and even the busiest surroundings seem to become peaceful. For children, the first snowfall brings excitement and wonder. For older generations, it carries memories of winters spent in the company of family and neighbours. A simple morning spent watching snowflakes fall outside a window can become a treasured memory. The beauty of Wandeh lies in this combination of nature's grandeur and human warmth. It teaches us that happiness does not always depend upon movement and activity. Sometimes it is found in stillness, in the comfort of home and in the company of those we love. The winter landscape encourages reflection and reminds us that every season has its own purpose and its own gifts.

What makes these four seasons so remarkable is not simply their differences but the way they complete one another. Sonth brings renewal, Ryetkol offers abundance, Harud celebrates the beauty of maturity and Wandeh brings intimacy and stillness. Each has a purpose and each contributes something unique to the experience of living in Kashmir. Together they also reveal the extraordinary wisdom of traditional Kashmiri life. Generations before modern calendars and weather forecasts became part of everyday existence, people understood the passage of the year through the behaviour of trees, the arrival of flowers, the movement of birds and the changing appearance of mountains. Their lives were closely connected with these natural rhythms. The seasons influenced agricultural activities, food habits, customs, celebrations and everyday routines. Much of this wisdom survives in the language itself. The names Sonth, Ryetkol, Harud and Wandeh carry memories that cannot always be translated into other languages. They are words that belong to the soil and the people who have lived upon it. Each name evokes a particular atmosphere and brings back images of a landscape experienced through generations.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of living in Kashmir is the opportunity to witness this continuous transformation. Few places offer such a variety of beauty within a single year. The same mountain that appears fresh and green in summer becomes golden in autumn and white in winter. The same orchard that rests beneath snow eventually bursts into blossoms. The same stream that flows through a spring meadow carries the reflections of changing skies throughout the year. There is a beautiful spiritual lesson in this endless cycle. Nature never remains confined to one appearance. It changes without losing its identity. It teaches patience through winter, hope through spring, generosity through summer and gratitude through autumn. Every season offers a different reason to pause, observe and give thanks.

Perhaps we often become so accustomed to the beauty surrounding us that we forget how extraordinary it really is. We walk past flowering trees without noticing their fragrance. We hear the music of streams without stopping to listen. We watch the mountains change their colours without realising that we are witnessing something truly magnificent. Yet these ordinary gifts are among the greatest treasures of our lives.

The changing seasons of Kashmir invite us to rediscover this simple happiness. They encourage us to look at the Valley with gratitude rather than familiarity alone. They remind us that every morning brings a new blessing and every season offers another reason to celebrate the gift of life. When Sonth returns with its blossoms, may we welcome its promise of renewal. When Ryetkol spreads its green abundance, may we find joy in its generosity. When Harud paints the Valley in gold, may we learn to recognise beauty in change. And when Wandeh gathers families around warmth and covers the mountains in snow, may we cherish the gift of togetherness and find peace in its magnificent silence. For the seasons of Kashmir are much more than divisions of a calendar. They are four beautiful expressions of a land blessed with extraordinary natural grace. They live in the fragrance of its flowers, the music of its rivers, the colours of its chinars and the warmth of its people. They are woven into its poetry, its traditions and the memories of generations.

Perhaps the true beauty of Kashmir lies in the fact that nature never gives us just one reason to fall in love with it. It gives us a different reason every few months. And as one season quietly makes way for another, the Valley continues to offer the same timeless message, life is a blessing, beauty is everywhere and there is always something to be thankful for.

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Empty classrooms echo the loudest



JOHN J KENNEDY

A teacher's job is to teach. However, across India, governments routinely assign teachers other duties. They are made to count people for the census, prepare and verify voter lists, conduct surveys, collect data and manage relief work. As a result, classrooms often go without teachers for weeks.

The latest example is the special intensive revisions of electoral rolls. In Karnataka, reports indicate that about 30 percent of teachers were assigned to the exercise. Some schools merged classes. Principals of government degree colleges in Bengaluru said more than half their staff had been deployed. Sports trainers and librarians were included, too. One principal warned that students might finish the semester with almost no classes. Teachers across India have raised similar concerns.

Ironically, this is not a new problem at all. Teachers have long been the State's default workforce. The usual defence is that government-employed teachers can be assigned other duties. But every public post has a purpose and a budget. Teachers are paid to educate. When diverted to election duties, the election machinery draws on the education budget, while students, unfortunately, bear the cost. Would a government hospital routinely send surgeons away to count households? No. And that is not suggested either. The point, however, is that teachers are treated differently because classroom losses are less visible. A missed lesson leaves no immediate result; its effects may emerge years later as weaker learning and fewer opportunities. But who cares! The children who lose out have no vote and little influence over government priorities.

The usual defence by the government is that teachers know local households and can help verify information. That argument is dated. Besides, if the problem is with scale, they call for an adequate workforce, not repeated and continuous borrowing from schools and colleges. The costs for students are also unequal. Children in well-resourced private schools may barely notice a teacher's absence because staffing levels remain high, and parents can afford private tuition as well.

Public-school students often have no such backup. When their teachers are diverted, poor children lose more learning time, and the gap between them and their better-off peers widens. Missed lessons are difficult to make up and can affect college admission and future opportunities.

Despite such constraints, governments continue to demand efficiency, and schools are pressed to achieve 100 percent pass rates; some states even penalise teachers when results fall short. Government policy emphasises outcome-based education, but it forgets outcomes depend on inputs and the time spent teaching. If results fall, the teacher is blamed; if the survey is delayed, the same teacher is blamed again. Such pressure on teachers affects their morale, and learning suffers.

Unfortunately, our legal system also offers only limited protection to teachers. Section 27 of the Right to Education Act bars non-educational duties, except for the census, disaster relief, and elections. In Election Commission of India vs St Mary's School (2007), the Supreme Court said election duties must be balanced against the State's obligation to provide education. It said teachers should ordinarily be deployed on holidays, non-teaching days or outside teaching hours. The Delhi High Court had also warned of the stress caused by assigning duties after a full school day. However, nothing much has changed on the ground.

At this point, it might help to look at how other countries handle such tasks. In many countries, census and election work are not heavily dependent on teachers. Some use linked administrative records for much of their census work. The US hires large numbers of temporary enumerators, while the UK relies on local electoral teams and data matching to maintain electoral registers. Australia employs casual staff; Brazil recruits citizens as poll workers. Teachers serve there too, but duties are limited and scheduled to reduce disruption.

No doubt, India is too large and diverse. However, the size of the country explains the scale of the task, not why teachers must bear its cost. A country of India's size needs a larger and better-organised administrative workforce. Including teachers may be convenient, but convenience cannot be the sole basis for public policy when it disrupts education.

So, what could be done practically? First, the Election Commission should develop a permanent, trained cadre for year-round electoral roll work rather than assembling a workforce afresh for each revision. Second, governments should use non-teaching staff from revenue, municipal, panchayat and other departments before turning to teachers. Third, census and other time-bound exercises should recruit and train temporary workers, including graduates, retired employees and unemployed young people. Fourth, better use of existing records, including birth and death registers, ration cards, Aadhaar, utility connections and property records, could reduce the need for field verification. Data linking must, of course, respect privacy and legal safeguards. Fifth, when teachers' participation is genuinely unavoidable, duties should be limited, scheduled outside teaching hours or on holidays wherever possible, but paid fairly. Sixth, Section 27 should be amended to narrow and time-limit the exceptions. In this regard, Karnataka's proposal to shield teachers from non-educational work is a useful step. Finally, accountability must reflect the circumstances: teachers should not be penalised for results when the State has taken them away from classrooms for weeks.

M Visvesvaraya often spoke of India's unparalleled potential. India's potential depends on education, and teachers are central to realising it. Elections and the census are essential, but the State must provide the staff to conduct them. A teacher's job is to teach. Let the government build its own machinery and let teachers teach.
(Source: New Indian Express)

We Suffer More in Imagination Than in Reality



ASIF WAR

Human beings often suffer not because of what is happening in their lives, but because of what they imagine might happen. Our minds have the power to create situations that do not even exist in reality. Sometimes, we become prisoners of our own thoughts and make our lives difficult through unnecessary fear, worry and overthinking.

The famous philosopher Seneca once said, "We suffer more often in imagination than in reality." This statement carries a deep psychological meaning. It explains how our imagination can sometimes become a greater source of suffering than actual circumstances.

For example, imagine a student who has an examination the next day. Instead of preparing calmly, he starts thinking about failure, disappointing his parents, and what other people will say. He imagines every possible negative outcome. As a result, he becomes anxious even before the examination begins. However, when the examination actually takes place, he may discover that it was not as difficult as he had imagined.

This happens in our everyday lives. We worry about people's opinions, future challenges, relationships and situations that may never occur. We spend hours thinking about tomorrow while forgetting to live in the present. Our imagination turns small problems into huge obstacles.

From a psychological point of view, this is closely related to overthinking and anticipatory anxiety. Our thoughts influence our emotions, and our emotions influence our behaviour. Therefore, learning to manage our thoughts is essential for maintaining peace of mind.

However, this does not mean that we should ignore real problems or stop planning for the future. Rather, we should learn to distinguish between reality and imagination. We must face situations according to facts instead of allowing fear to control our decisions.

In conclusion, the greatest battle is sometimes not against the world around us, but against the thoughts within us. We should not allow imaginary problems to steal our present happiness. Life becomes much easier when we learn to accept reality, think rationally and stop suffering over things that have not even happened.

Remembering Hockey Wizard Major Dhyan Chand

A unique example of patriotism: Major Dhyan Chand ji rejected the proposal of the most dreaded dictator of that era with great humility and fearlessness.

BY: TARANPREET SINGH

"India is my country, it's my motherland and that's what I play for." — Major Dhyan Chand

On the auspicious occasion of National Sports Day, we pay our respects to the greatest hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand, the 'Wizard of Hockey'. Major Dhyan Chand ji was the great man who proudly hoisted the tricolor of India all over the world with his magical hockey and won the country 3 consecutive Olympic Gold Medals:

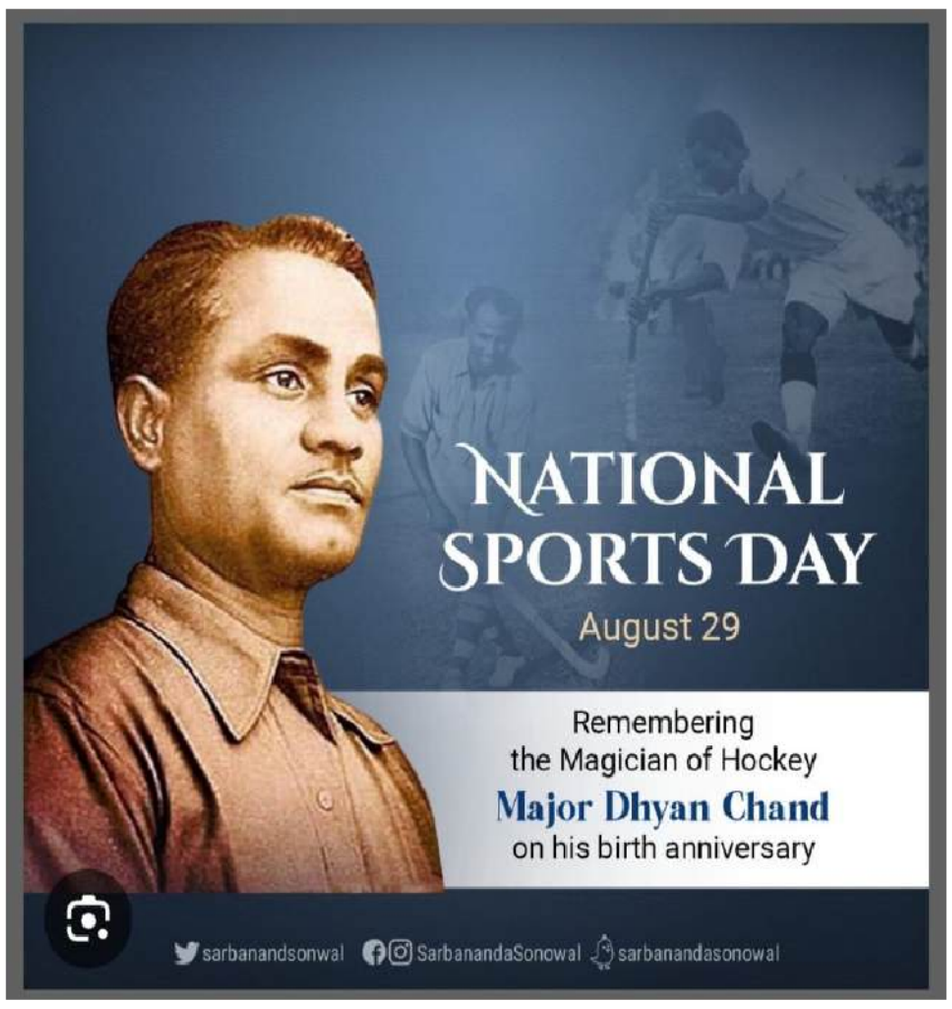
1928 - Amsterdam Olympics
1932 - Los Angeles Olympics
1936 - Berlin Olympics
400 in his entire playing career

Dhyan Chand Ji, who scored more international goals, had such tremendous control over the ball that opposing teams began to suspect the magnetism between the ball and his stick. Because of this amazing art, he was called "Magician of Hockey". He joined the Indian Army at a very young age and served the country selflessly as a disciplined soldier along with his sportsmanship.

When Major Dhyan Chand Faced Hitler (Berlin Olympics, 1936)

The final of the 1936 Berlin Olympics was between India and hosts Germany. Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler himself was present in the stadium to watch this historic match.

During the match when the field was wet, Dhyan Chand ji took to the field without shoes (bare feet) and displayed his masterful skill to defeat Germany by a huge margin of 8-1. Hitler was very impressed by seeing this great victory of India and Dhyan Chand Ji's game.



After the match, Hitler called Dhyan Chand to him and asked what work he does in India? Dhyan Chandji simply replied that he was a soldier in the Indian Army. On this, Hitler offered him German citizenship, a high rank in the German army and immense wealth.

A unique example of patriotism: Major Dhyan Chand ji rejected the proposal of the most dreaded dictator of that era with great humility and fearlessness.

"India is my everything and I am mine
I am happy to play for the country India."
Even dictator Hitler bowed before his unwavering patriotism and unparalleled sportsmanship.

The end of a great era and the demand for the Bharat Ratna

It was a very sad day for India when this great son of the country and hockey wizard passed away forever on 3rd December 1979 while fighting liver cancer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS, Delhi).

Major Dhyan Chand ji's birthday i.e. 29th August is celebrated as 'National Sports Day' by the whole of India.

As a true hockey lover, Taranpreet Singh, I strongly appeal to the Government of India to award Major Dhyan Chand with the country's highest civilian honor 'Bharat Ratna'.

be honored He is the pride and pride of our country, thanks to whom India made its mark in Olympic history.

May Major Dhyan Chand be immortal!
Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!

Dhyan Chand Ji, who scored more international goals, had such tremendous control over the ball that opposing teams began to suspect the magnetism between the ball and his stick. Because of this amazing art, he was called "Magician of Hockey". He joined the Indian Army at a very young age and served the country selflessly as a disciplined soldier along with his sportsmanship.

Kashmir Age
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District Administration Pulwama organises Yoga Sessions on World Diabetes Day

DC participates in yoga session; stresses regular exercise, balanced diet and healthy lifestyle for diabetes prevention

Press Trust Of India



CAIRO, Nov 16: India and Egypt have discussed ways to reduce non-tariff barriers, facilitate customs processes, strengthen standards and improve market access with an aim to nearly double bilateral trade to USD 12 billion, an official statement said on Monday.

The two countries have decided to set up a Joint Working Group to explore the Terms of Reference for a Preferential Trade Agreement or Free Trade Agreement to facilitate stronger bilateral trade, improve access to both markets and promote investment linkages between the two countries.

Besides, the two countries deliberated on resolving issues affecting business operations, including product registrations and trade-related regulatory procedures.

These issues figured during the India-Â"Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meet, which was co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt, here on Sunday.

The committee provided an opportunity to review existing trade ties, assess challenges faced by businesses and identify new areas for closer collaboration.

"Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral trade, with a target of USD 12 billion. They emphasised the need to diversify trade, promote value-added exports and address trade-related challenges," the commerce ministry said.

Currently, the bilateral trade is at USD 6.5 billion and both sides are targeting to double it in the coming years.

The discussions also focused on strengthening business exchanges and encouraging joint manufacturing and investment, it said.

Priority sectors included pharmaceuticals and medical devices, engineering and electrical equipment, fertilisers, textiles, renewable energy and emerging technologies.

Opportunities for Indian investment in Egyptian industrial zones, as well as Egyptian

investment in India's expanding manufacturing and services sectors, also formed an important part of the meeting, it added.

Both sides expressed interest in strengthening the framework agreement between Invest India and Egypt's General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, including a proposed digital platform for sharing investment information and facilitating business linkages.

Rupee rises 6 paise to 94.13 against US dollar in early trade

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, Nov 16: The rupee rose 6 paise to 94.13 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday amid declining crude oil prices and positive domestic markets.

However, a robust dollar and rising US Treasury yields amid uncertainty between the US and Iran capped the upside. Iran attacked a US military base in Bahrain on Sunday.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 94.22 against the greenback. It touched a high of 94.13 and a low of 94.25.

On Friday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 94.19 against the dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on an overnight surge in the dollar and rising US Treasury yields. However, softening of crude oil prices and foreign inflows may support the rupee at lower levels.

"At the domestic markets, traders may take cues from the Empire State manufacturing index data from the US and Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's speech," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan.



Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.44, higher by 0.03 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was

trading 1.03 per cent lower at USD 94.85 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 414.36 points to 82,010.15 in early trade, while the Nifty rallied 102.10 points to 25,252.50.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth Rs 5,736.55 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves increased by USD 2.49 billion to USD 719.547 billion during the week ended November 6, according to the RBI data released on Friday. Buy Maps

In the previous week, the forex reserves had dropped by USD 2.691 billion to USD 717.056 billion. (PTI)

Stock markets rally in early trade led by foreign fund inflows, lower crude oil

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 16: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Monday amid sustained foreign fund inflows and lower crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 414.36 points to 82,010.15 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 102.10 points to 25,252.50.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Eternal, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were among the major winners. Buy Maps

Tata Steel, Power Grid, NTPC and InterGlobe Aviation were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,736.55 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Foreign investors made a strong comeback to Indian equities in the first fortnight of November, pumping in Rs 84,290 crore after two consecutive months of net



outflows, amid a global AI sell-off, falling crude prices and attractive large-cap valuations.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.88 per cent lower at USD 95 per barrel.

"The sustained aggressive buying by FIIs has dramatically transformed the sentiments and mood in the Indian market. In the last one month India is the best performing large market with returns of 9.4 per cent eclipsing other large markets like the US, Japan and South Korea which delivered negative returns.

"This outperformance of the Indian market is likely to continue supported by more FII inflows which will chase the momentum in the Indian market," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

It is important to note that the capital inflows have the fundamental support from earnings growth which have come much better-than-expected, he added.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted in positive territory.

The US equity markets ended mostly lower.

On Friday, the Sensex dropped 318.56 points, or 0.39 per cent, to settle at 81,592.45. The Nifty ended 155.05 points, or 0.61 per cent, lower at 25,144.30. (PTI)

Carney says Canada could turn to Chinese automakers if Trump trade talks fail

Press Trust Of India

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia), Nov 16: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that Canada could turn to Chinese automakers if trade negotiations with US President Donald Trump fail to preserve an integrated North American auto industry.

Carney's comments in Cambodia on Monday came ahead of a planned meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week in Shenzhen, China, where Chinese auto manufacturing is expected to be discussed. The two leaders reached an agreement in January allowing tens of thousands of Chinese electric vehicles into Canada at reduced tariffs.

"We have the best auto workers in the world, and we want them fully deployed, full opportunity, in an integrated North American market," Carney told reporters in Cambodia. "That market has become less integrated because of US trade actions."

Carney said Saturday in Manila, Philippines, that any trade agreement with Washington must leave Canada with a viable auto industry. He said Monday that negotiations with the United States remain his priority, but their outcome could determine whether Canada pursues alternatives involving European, Chinese or Japanese automakers.

Asked whether potential Chinese investment was leverage in the US negotiations, Carney replied: "It's not leverage. But action, reaction."

"If they're not fully utilised in a North American context, that provides other opportunities," Carney said of Canada's auto workers and



manufacturing assets. "Canada is going to move forward either way."

The Detroit Three - Ford, General Motors and Stellantis - operate factories across Canada, the United States and Mexico, with parts sometimes crossing borders multiple times before a vehicle is completed. Trump has repeatedly pushed automakers to move production to the United States from Canada.

Carney said any Chinese investment would have to involve substantial manufacturing in Canada rather than simply assembling imported parts. He said it would require proper labour standards, manufacturing facilities and domestic supply chains that expand over time, including Canadian critical minerals used in electric vehicles.

"It's not just about kit cars," he said. "There has to be a manufacturing aspect involved."

Under the January agreement, Canada reduced its 100 per cent tariff on Chinese electric vehicles to 6.1 per cent, initially allowing up to 49,000 vehicles annually, with the cap increasing over time. In exchange, China agreed to lower tariffs on Canadian agricultural products, including canola.

Carney said at the time that he expected the agreement to attract Chinese investment in Canada's auto industry and create jobs.

The deal drew criticism from Ontario Premier Doug Ford, whose province is the centre of Canada's auto industry. Ford warned that allowing Chinese electric vehicles into Canada could threaten Canadian

Mahanadi Coalfields IPO to open on Nov 19; sets IPO price band at Rs 129-136/sh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, on Monday fixed a price band of Rs 129-136 per share for its Rs 8,981-crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on November 19. Buy Maps

The IPO, entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS), will see promoter Coal India divest a 10 per cent stake by selling up to 66.18 crore equity shares.

The issue will close on November 23, while bidding for anchor investors will take place on November 18, according to a public announcement by Odisha-based Mahanadi Coalfields.

Since the issue comprises only an OFS, MCL will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. The entire proceeds will go to Coal India, the selling shareholder.

The proposed listing is part of Coal India's broader plan to unlock value from its subsidiaries through the capital markets.

MCL will become the third Coal India subsidiary to tap the public markets this year. Coal India has already listed Bharat Coking Coal Ltd in January, while



the IPO of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd opened in March.

The company's shares are likely to be listed on the BSE and NSE on November 27.

Incorporated in 1992, MCL produced 218.31 million tonnes (MT) of coal in FY26, accounting for around 22.4 per cent of India's total non-coking coal production, according to a CRISIL report cited in the offer documents.

It is also Coal India's largest coal-producing subsidiary, contributing over 28 per cent to the state-owned company's total coal production in FY26.

Coal India accounts for more than 80 per cent of the country's domestic coal output.

SBI Capital Markets, Axis Capital, BOB Capital Markets, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities and IIFL Capital Services are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies is the registrar. (PTI)

Stocks decline in Asia as investor concerns over Nvidia fallout extend into another week

Press Trust Of India

HONG KONG, NOV 16: Asian shares mostly declined Monday as investors' worries over the future of the artificial intelligence trade extended into another week following Nvidia's fallout.

US equity futures were trading lower. Investors and traders are closely monitoring any signals on what is next for the global AI industry ahead of Nvidia's earnings report due Tuesday and Anthropic's massive stock market debut set for later this week.

Jensen Huang's resignation as Nvidia CEO last week after his extramarital affair sparked US national security concerns shook global markets. Huang has been one of the biggest advocates for AI and his downfall triggered questions over how the global AI boom could be impacted.

Those worries have spread to Asia, where AI hardware stocks are prominent on markets including in South Korea and Japan.

South Korea's benchmark Kospi index lost 2.8 per cent to 5,142.84. Shares fell for memory chipmaker SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics, two of its most valuable companies. SK Hynix plummeted 5.5 per cent, while Samsung Electronics gave up 3.2 per cent.

Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 1.6 per cent to 60,182.50 after official data Monday showed Japan's economy contracted in the latest quarter. Several



of Japan's big AI stock names also traded lower. OpenAI investor SoftBank Group slipped 4.2 per cent, while memory maker Kioxia Holdings dropped 5.5 per cent and chip equipment maker Tokyo Electron dipped 5.2 per cent.

Also a beneficiary of the global AI frenzy, Taiwan's Taiex sank 4.1 per cent, with shares of its leading chipmaker TSMC, or Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., falling 3.4 per cent.

There have been increasing concerns that the robust growth of the AI capital spending may slow, analysts have said, even before the Nvidia episode. For one, uncertainties surrounding developments of AI data centres in the US were also growing following the US midterm elections.

"The market was already worried about this risk before what happened at Nvidia," Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management said in a commentary Monday. "Now the risk has become even more serious."

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.9 per cent to 23,852.96. The Shanghai Composite index declined 0.4 per cent to 3,621.46 following latest Chinese official economic data released Monday, including on retail sales and industrial production, that disappointed analysts.

WPI inflation rises to 12.29 pc in October on costlier food, fuel



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to 12.29 per cent in October on higher prices of fuel and power, food articles, minerals and non-food items. In September, the WPI inflation was 11.39 per cent. Food articles' inflation was at 8.26 per cent in October, up from 8.14 per cent in the previous month. In non-food articles, inflation was 11.69 per cent last month, against 10.28 per cent in September.

In minerals, the rate of price rise was 12.64 per cent, higher than 9.51 per cent in September. Overall, the primary articles basket saw WPI inflation at 9.24 per cent in October, up from 8.67 per cent in the previous month.

Inflation in fuel and power shot up to 32.84 per cent in October, from 25.85 per cent in the previous month. Manufactured items saw inflation at 9.54 per cent, against 9.76 per cent. "Across groups, Mineral Oils (containing Petroleum Products), Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas, Electricity, Food Articles, Manufacture of Basic Metals, Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products, Manufacture of Food Products, Non-Food Articles, Manufacture of Textiles, and Manufacture of Rubber and Plastic Products have been drivers of WPI inflation in October 2026," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Sri Lankan company secures USD 75 mn contract to build power plant in Andaman

Press Trust Of India

COLOMBO, NOV 16: A Sri Lankan company secured a USD 75 million contract to build a 57 MW power plant in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it said on Monday.

Lakdhanavi signed an agreement for the project with India's NTPC on September 21. Buy Maps

"The project will be located at Hope Town, Port Blair and is expected to strengthen the island's electricity infrastructure, enable long-term energy security through LNG infrastructure and facilitate future economic development," the company said in a statement.

It added that the venture reflected economic ties between Sri Lanka and India and extended beyond Indian investment and development assistance that had always been the cornerstone of the economic ties between the two nations.

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Allahabad HC seeks ED's reply on Azam Khan's arrest in money laundering case

Press Trust Of India

PRAYAGRAJ, NOV 16 :The Allahabad High Court on Monday directed the Enforcement Directorate to file an affidavit to confirm if it served the grounds of arrest to senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan while arresting him in a money laundering case recently.

The matter will come up for hearing on Tuesday.

A bench comprising Justices Rajiv Gupta and Devendra Singh issued the direction on a writ petition filed by Azam Khan (78), whom the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested on October 31 from the Rampur districts jail in a money laundering case, moments after he stepped out on bail in a PAN fraud case.



Kapil Sibal, the counsel for Azam Khan, argued that the proceedings against Khan were part of a political vendetta ahead of next year's Uttar Pradesh elections.

Sibal also said that no mandatory provisions were followed prior to his arrest.

According to Sibal, the ED's application referred to 1.552 hectares of land allegedly grabbed from farmers, valued at approximately Rs 3.11 crore, but the agency proceeded to attach university land and buildings allegedly worth around Rs 500 crore.

He also submitted that the properties in question had already been restored to the farmers by the district administration and that some of them had subsequently been sold to third parties.

S B Raju, appearing for the ED, argued that all the norms were followed, but Khan did not cooperate with them. He also placed a video before the bench in this regard.

The ED action stems from a money laundering probe linked to the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, founded and controlled by Khan, alleged diversion of government funds, land acquisition irregularities and the construction of the Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, of which Khan is the honorary chancellor.

College students among 20 held for attempting to grab disputed land along Ganga



Press Trust Of India

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), NOV 16 :Twenty people, including a history-sheeter and 17 college students, were arrested on Monday for allegedly attempting to grab disputed land in the Ganga riverbank area of Shukartal here, police said.

The arrests were made under the Bhopa police station area after police intercepted two SUVs and a Mahindra vehicle carrying the accused, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Akshay Sanjay told reporters.

Police recovered seven pistols, two rifles, one gun and a large quantity of cartridges from their possession, he said.

The accused were travelling in three vehicles from Shukartal towards Bijnor when they were intercepted, the officer said.

During interrogation, it emerged that the group was allegedly involved in attempts to grab disputed land along the banks of the Ganga in the Shukartal area and Bijnor, he added.

Those arrested include history-sheeter Surender Singh and Gaurav, police said.

Of the 20 arrested, 17 are students pursuing BA and BTech courses, police said.

Two dead, one injured as motorcycle hits water tanker in MP's Seoni

Press Trust Of India

SEONI, NOV 16 : Two men were killed and another seriously wounded after their motorcycle rammed into a water tanker in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district on Monday, a police official said.

The accident took place near Kurmunda Nala on the Lakhnadon-Narsinghpur stretch of National Highway 44, Adegaon police station in-charge Ashish Dhurve told PTI.

"Arjun Bhalavi (25), Ramkumar Uike (20) and Sandeep Uike (22) were travelling on the same motorcycle. They were returning home from Ghaghra village in Mungwani. A water tanker belonging to a private company engaged in dam construction on Sher river suddenly turned onto the highway, causing the motorcycle approaching from behind to crash into it," he said. Arjun Bhalavi and Ramkumar Uike, both residents of Khairesikra village in Lakhnadon, died on the spot, while Sandeep Uike, a resident of Kalkuhi village, sustained serious injuries, the official said. Sandeep was taken to Lakhnadon civil hospital and then referred to Jabalpur in a critical condition, Dhurve said. "The driver fled from the spot and has been booked. The tanker was seized," he added.

Body of missing youth found in field in UP's Saltanpur; family alleges foul play



Press Trust Of India

SULTANPUR (UP), NOVEMBER 16 : The body of a 19-year-old man, who had been missing since the previous night, was found on Monday in a thatched shed in a field near a village here, with his family suspecting murder, police said.

Circle Officer (Lambhua) Ritik Kapoor said the deceased has been identified as Aman Gautam (19), a resident of Ghuripur village under Chanda police station. He had been missing since 11.00 pm on Sunday.

His body was discovered in a thatched shed in a field, belonging to Nem Das, near a public toilet about 200 metres from the village.

The body has been sent for post-mortem, Kapoor said.

According to available information, the deceased used to drive a tractor for a man in the village known as 'Dubey ji'. The deceased's mother Janki said her son had been receiving threats on his phone for the past three days.

Four undertrials escape from Mahasamund district jail in Chhattisgarh

Press Trust Of India



MAHASAMUND, NOV 16 (PTI) Four undertrial prisoners, three of them held in drug-related cases, escaped from the Mahasamund district jail in Chhattisgarh after scaling its boundary wall in the early hours of Monday, officials said.

The incident took place between 3 am and 4 am at the jail located in the Bemcha area, they said.

Four undertrial inmates lodged in barrack Number 5 of the jail climbed the prison wall and jumped over to escape, Assistant Jail Superintendent Sandeep Kumar said.

The jail administration informed the police, which immediately launched a search operation to trace the escapees, he said.

Man 'kills' 85-year-old ailing mother, unable to bear medical expenses

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA, NOV 16 :A man was arrested on Monday for allegedly killing his 85-year-old ailing mother as he was unable to bear the expenses of her prolonged medical treatment, police said.

The incident took place in the Haridevpur police station area in the southwest part of the city, a police officer said.

The deceased was identified as Umarani Ghosh, while the accused was identified as her 67-year-old son, Sagar Ghosh, the police officer said, adding that both resided at 113B A, Hafiz Mohammad Ishaq Road.

"The accused allegedly called the emergency helpline 100 himself and informed the police that he had killed his mother. Acting on the call, a police team rushed to the residence, recovered the elderly woman's body, and arrested the accused," he added.



During preliminary questioning, the man confessed to the crime, the officer said.

"He claimed that his mother was suffering from prolonged illness and that he was unable to bear the expenses of her treatment," the officer said.

Police suspect that the elderly woman was strangled to death.

"Her body has been sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. The final cause of death will be established after the post-mortem report is received. We are investigating the matter," he said. The incident took place in the Haridevpur police station area in the southwest part of the city, a police officer said.

The deceased was identified as Umarani Ghosh, while the accused was identified as her 67-year-old son, Sagar Ghosh, the police officer said, adding that both resided at 113B A, Hafiz Mohammad Ishaq Road.

"The accused allegedly called the emergency helpline 100 himself and informed the police that he had killed his mother. Acting on the call, a police team rushed to the residence, recovered the elderly woman's body, and arrested the accused," he added. During preliminary questioning, the man confessed to the crime, the officer said.

Tribal woman dies days after rape; accused on the run

Press Trust Of India

KEONJHAR, NOV 16 :A 45-year-old tribal woman, who was allegedly raped in Odisha's Keonjhar district on November 10, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Cuttack, police said on Monday.

The woman, a widow, had gone to a weekly market in the Telkoi police station area on November 10 but did not return home that day, they said.

The next day, her family found her in a critical condition near a bush. She had visible injury marks on various parts of her body, they said.

"She was initially taken to the Telkoi Community Health Centre and later shifted to Keonjhar hospital as her condition deteriorated. She was subsequently referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where she died on Sunday night," a police officer said.



Police said some villagers had seen a local man accompanying the woman while she was returning from the market. He allegedly fled with his family the day after the incident.

The woman's family accused the man of raping her.

"We have registered a case based on a written complaint regarding the incident. Three special teams have been formed to nab the accused," Keonjhar Additional Superintendent of Police Snehasis Sahu said. "She was initially taken to the Telkoi Community Health Centre and later shifted to Keonjhar hospital as her condition deteriorated. She was subsequently referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where she died on Sunday night," a police officer said. Police said some villagers had seen a local man accompanying the woman while she was returning from the market. He allegedly fled with his family the day after the incident. The woman's family accused the man of raping her.

"We have registered a case based on a written complaint regarding the incident. Three special teams have been formed to nab the accused," Keonjhar Additional Superintendent of Police Snehasis Sahu said.

Six injured as Nepal-bound bus hits container truck in MP's Seoni

Press Trust Of India

SEONI, NOV 16 : Six passengers were injured, two of them seriously, on Monday when a bus travelling from Bengaluru to Nepal rammed into a container truck on National Highway 44 in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, a police official said.

The accident occurred around 3 am near Randhir Nagar, about 35 km from the district headquarters, on the highway connecting Jabalpur and Nagpur, Chhapara police station house officer Khemendra Jaitwar told PTI.

"The passenger bus crashed into the rear of a container truck. Six passengers sustained injuries. Two of them are serious. Police personnel rushed to the spot, rescued the injured from the damaged bus and admitted them to Chhapara Community Health Centre," Jaitwar said. The passengers who escaped unhurt have been accommodated at the local temple premises, and they will resume their journey once another bus arrives, he added.

Strictly implement crowd-management protocols: Delhi HC to Railways

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :The Delhi High Court has asked railway authorities to strictly implement their crowd-management protocols at stations and review arrangements at least one week before any event expected to draw large passenger footfall.



Justice Amit Mahajan observed that while the protocols already dealt with advance

planning for festivals, melas, holding areas, access control, CCTV monitoring, waiting list limits, etc., the February 2025 stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station showed that what "ultimately matters is how these measures are implemented on the ground before and during each crowded event".

Asserting that there must be accountability and maintenance of proper records in each case, the court directed the officer concerned to prepare a written report on arrangements in case they are needed following any untoward incident.

"Considering that the daily footfall at the (New Delhi) station went up to 3,29,527 passengers on 24.10.2025, this Court is of the view that the measures must be monitored and recorded for every crowded event," the court observed in the order passed on November 2.

"The respondents shall strictly implement the SOPs and circulars... Before every event at which a large passenger footfall is expected, a senior officer nominated by the competent authority of the respondents shall, at least one week before the event, review the arrangements in coordination with the Delhi Police and the other agencies concerned," it directed.

The court said the authorities concerned shall be liable for non-compliance.

The court passed the order on a petition by two passengers, who could not board their train at the New Delhi Railway Station on February 15, 2025, due to a stampede.

Man bludgeons wife to death in Beed district

Press Trust Of India

BEED, NOV 16 (PTI) A 55-year-old woman was allegedly bludgeoned to death with a stone by her husband at a village in Maharashtra's Beed district in the early hours of Monday, police said.

The incident occurred around 5 am in the Anandwadi area of Shirur Kasar tehsil, triggering panic in the locality,

assistant police inspector Sachin Ingale of Chakalamba police station said.

He said that the accused, Vishnu Kadam, attacked his wife Bhivsabai with a heavy stone and fled the scene.

The Chaklamba police have launched a search to trace the absconding accused, and a probe is underway to ascertain the motive for the killing.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Encounter

seen in CCTV footage fleeing with Bhatt after the attack, in which three CRPF personnel were injured, officials said.

Bhatt has not been traced so far and is believed to have sustained bullet injuries. Security forces have intensified efforts to locate him, cordoning off several areas around the orchard, officials said.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar, accompanied by other senior officers, visited Kulgam to personally oversee the anti-terror operation.

CRPF

"This is a shared quest and a common goal for all of us-not just the security forces or the administration, but every one of us. When a state enjoys peace and tranquillity, everyone prospers. The people of the state prosper, the country prospers, and humanity prospers. That is the direction we must strive towards," he said.

SDG, J&K Zone, CRPF congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir for bringing the situation to a stage where the region is almost near normalcy.

"Yes, we have some challenges. We have largely overcome most of the challenges, but to say that all challenges are over would not be appropriate," he said, adding that all stakeholders are working together to tackle the remaining challenges.

When asked about the ongoing operations to trace the terrorists involved in the attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, which left three personnel injured, Khirwar said that the operation is underway.

"For obvious reasons, I cannot discuss operational details," he said.

He said that the attack was attempted on CRPF and thankfully, by the grace of God, no major damage was caused.

"We have heightened our alertness, and we are also taking action against those who were behind this attack. We will bring them to justice," he added.

When asked if any of attackers has been identified, the CRPF officer said he would not like to discuss operational details at this stage.

"However, we have some very good clues. We will take them to their logical conclusion,' he added.

Khirwar said security forces are anticipating challenges arising from changing climatic conditions and possible infiltration activities, adding that they have learnt from previous years and are working in coordination with all agencies to deal with any eventuality.

He said the security forces remain prepared to respond to anticipated changes and handle challenges effectively.

On the condition of jawans injured in a recent attack, the CRPF officer said they are receiving good medical care at the 92 Base Hospital.

"Two of the jawans were able to go to Delhi, and now they are also in perfectly good condition," he said.

School

private ones -- of the Kashmir division.

While no reason was officially given for the change in school timings, it is believed that the revised timings were announced due to prevalent cold conditions in the valley.

Earlier, the school timings were 10 am to 3:30 pm for the schools within the Srinagar Municipal limits, and 10:30 am to 4 pm for those operating outside the Srinagar Municipal limits.

Army

troops fired around two dozen rounds from small arms and subsequently cordoned off the area to thwart any potential infiltration attempt by terrorists from across the border.

A search operation was launched with the first light of the day and it was underway when last reports were received, the officials said.

CIK

alleged that three Srinagar residents - Erfan Gul, Shazia Nazir and Riyaz Ahmad Gojri - travelled to Saudi Arabia ostensibly to perform Umrah, where they allegedly met Baba's associates and received funds meant for distribution among terrorists, separatists and over-ground workers (OGWs).

CIK further said that digital devices containing crucial evidence were seized during searches conducted as part of the investigation.

The three Srinagar residents have been charged under Sections 61(2) and 152 of the BNS and Section 13 of the UAPA.

The remaining three accused - Mohammad Iqbal Naima, stated to be based in Dubai, Shamima Shawl, based in London, and Mukhtar Ahmad Baba, operating from Pakistan - are absconding and have been charged under Sections 61(2) and 152 of the BNS and Sections 13, 38, 39 and 40 of the UAPA, CIK said.

Sakeena

would invite strict action.

"Enforcement will be intensified, accountability ensured, and those found violating food safety standards will face the full force of the law. There will be zero tolerance for practices that endanger public health," Itoo said.

She said protecting public health remained the government's highest priority.

The minister's statement comes amid heightened scrutiny of meat units and food safety practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, today visited the Modern Drug Testing Laboratory and Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua to review their functioning, assess the infrastructure and measures aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and drug quality surveillance in the district.

During her visit to the Modern Drug Testing Laboratory, the Minister emphasised the need for its smooth and uninterrupted functioning. She emphasised effective, accurate and time-bound testing of drug samples in accordance with the prescribed quality standards and regulatory requirements.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that public health safety remains the foremost priority of the Government and there can be no compromise on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines being made available to the public. She called for optimum utilisation of the infrastructure and testing facilities available at the laboratory to strengthen drug quality surveillance and ensure that only safe and quality-assured medicines reach the public domain.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to accord top priority to clearance of all pending drug samples and ensure their expeditious analysis and timely submission of analytical reports. She said that an efficient testing mechanism is vital for strengthening regulatory oversight and preventing the circulation of substandard and spurious drugs.

During the visit, key decisions were also taken to address the operational requirements of the laboratory. It was decided that JKMSCL would provide five months' salary in advance to the laboratory staff to facilitate its priority functioning.

The Minister also directed for deployment of two Personal Security Officers (PSOs) to strengthen the security arrangements of the laboratory.

Later, Sakeena Itoo chaired a review meeting at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua and took stock of the institution's functioning, healthcare delivery mechanisms and ongoing infrastructure development works.

Amit Shah

While the development forecast of many countries has declined amid ongoing wars, the Moody's Ratings raised India's growth forecast, he said.

Citing World Bank report, he said 50 crore Indians emerged out of poverty during PM Modi's regime.

He also highlighted the achievements of the NDA government, including growth in exports, connectivity and development of new airports.

Some persons become institutions themselves because of work during their lifetime in which the institutions continue to progress even after they leave the world. Ramoji Rao is one such extraordinary personality, Shah said.

"Ramoji Rao fought for values. He established values," he added.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his deputy Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Governor Abdul Nazeer, Union ministers Kishan Reddy, K Ram Mohan Naidu and Bh Srinivasa Varma attended the event.

BJP

Minister in the PDP government, accusing him of having a pro-Pakistan mindset.

On Sunday Karra had told reporters that the Congress district president in Kishtwar had informed him that the two SPOs had gone hunting and were carrying guns.

"When they were returning, Army personnel mistook them for terrorists as they were in civilian clothes and opened fire on them," he had said, adding that another version suggested they were killed by terrorists.

Thakur also responded to the controversial remarks by BJP MLA Shagun Parihar concerning the alleged use of mosques in connection with the incident.

Parihar had alleged that announcements were made in mosques before the incident, triggering a political controversy.

Thakur said mosques aree places of peace, worship and brotherhood and rejected the suggestion that they could be used for such activities.

"Our mosques are places of peace, tranquillity, love and affection. People bow their heads there in prayer. Nobody is told there to cut off someone's head," he said.

He added that the BJP respected all religions and places of worship, including mosques, temples and gurdwaras, and maintained that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians were brothers.

He said J&K BJP president, Sat Sharma has taken this matter very seriously.

However, while referring to Parihar's remarks, Thakur said her concerns should be viewed in the context of the killing of her father and uncle by terrorists and the hurt caused to her by Karra's statement.

On being asked whether the BJP endorsed Parihar's remarks questioning the police over the handling of the bodies of the slain SPOs, Thakur said she was the elected MLA from the area and had been present at the spot.

"If she has said that they were disrespected, then we should take that seriously because she was present there at that time," he said.

Parihar had reportedly alleged that the bodies of the slain personnel were brought in a dumper instead of an ambulance. Thakur said if any disrespect had been shown to the bodies of the martyrs, action should also be taken against the officials concerned.

He reiterated that the BJP stood by its policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and accused Congress leaders of attempting to weaken the country's institutions and security forces.

Assembly

have also noticed garbage dumps at several places in Jammu, just as there are similar issues in Srinagar. This is not about politics. Whether it is the previous government or the present one, our common objective should be to ensure that Mubarak Mandi and the entire city of Jammu remain clean and beautiful," Tarigami said.

Stressing the importance of environmental protection, he called for collective efforts by the government, administration, elected representatives and citizens to address civic problems.

Sagar said the committee's objective was to bring elected representatives and senior government officers together to address public issues, but ground realities in several localities presented a concerning picture.

Referring to the condition of Mubarak Mandi and its adjoining areas, he said residents had complained that little had changed since 2007, with dilapidated streets and bylanes, inadequate sewage management and problems in drinking water supply.

He said residents had also raised concerns about sewage and drinking water allegedly mixing due to leakages in pipelines, calling for urgent intervention to address these basic infrastructure deficiencies.

Despite the implementation of the Smart City project, Sagar said several fundamental civic issues remained unresolved.

"We need to examine the shortcomings in the Smart City projects - why they occurred, how they happened, who was responsible, where the problems arose and what the reasons were," he said, stressing the need to fix accountability and undertake corrective measures.

RPF

locations, including the world's highest railway arch bridge, the Chenab Bridge, and India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Bridge.

The RPF DG reviewed in particular the security deployment, CCTV surveillance, access control, patrolling arrangements and emergency management at the Chenab and Anji bridges, the official said.

Appreciating the alertness and preparedness of the personnel deployed at both the major bridges, Kumar gave necessary directions to further strengthen the security cordon.

Additionally, a detailed review of security arrangements was carried out at major stations, including Katra, Banihal, Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla, covering CCTV surveillance, lighting, passenger safety, platform patrolling, baggage-screening systems and emergency-response mechanisms, the official said.

He said clear instructions were given for continuous monitoring of tunnels, bridges and railway tracks and to keep a strict vigil on suspicious activities.

The DG also chaired a coordination meeting with railway officials and representatives of various security agencies, emphasising the need for enhanced inter-agency coordination.

He reviewed the functioning of the RPF personnel deployed at major stations and directed them to remain vigilant, respond promptly to security concerns and maintain courteous and cordial behaviour towards passengers, the official said.

The Jammu Division has urged rail passengers to promptly report any suspicious object or activity noticed during their journey by calling Railway Helpline 139 or informing the nearest RPF or Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel.

Robert Pattinson is named the 7th James Bond, taking over the role from Daniel Craig

Culver City, Nov 16 (AP) Robert Pattinson was unveiled as the next James Bond on Monday, becoming the seventh actor to play the iconic British spy and the first since Amazon MGM took over the beloved film franchise.

The naming of Pattinson comes during the longest hiatus in 007 history and ends years of rampant speculation about who would inherit the role from Daniel Craig. It comes five years after 2021's "No Time to Die," the first film in Bond's 64-year history on the silver screen to conclude with the character's death. But 007 will be reborn, yet again, in the 26th Bond film, directed by Denis Villeneuve.

"James Bond is one of the most legendary characters in cinema, and to be entrusted with 007 is the honour of a lifetime," Pattinson said in a statement. "... To say this role is a dream come true is an understatement. I couldn't be more excited about this partnership and the work ahead with this fantastic team."

Pattinson only entered the Bond rumor mill recently after the revelation that he screen-tested for the role. Others reportedly in the mix included Callum Turner, Josh O'Connor, Jack Lowden and Nicholas Hoult.

While producers were long expected to go with a young, less-proven star, they instead opted for one of the best-known actors of his generation. Pattinson, 40, is also relatively old to begin as 007. The actor is currently in production on another iconic role in "The Batman Part II."

Pattinson comes in already associated with three mega-franchises in "The Batman," "Twilight" and "Harry Potter." But since his breakthrough in "Twilight," Pattinson has worked largely in more independent, auteur-driven films such as "Good Time" with the Safdie brothers, Robert Eggers' "The Lighthouse" and Bong Joon Ho's "Mickey 17." Earlier this year, he drew rave reviews for his villainous performance in Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey."

Villeneuve said it was a tough choice, but the right one.

"We were surrounded by extraordinary talent, but there can only be one 007. I am overjoyed to welcome Robert Pattinson as our new James Bond. He has the timeless soul of 007 and brings a spirit that is completely new. I cannot wait to begin," the director said in a statement.

The casting comes at a pivotal juncture for the franchise. In 2022, Bond's longtime studio, MGM, was bought by Amazon for $8.5 billion. After haggling over next steps for 007, producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson relinquished creative control of Bond in 2025. The



still-untitled Bond 26 is the first Bond movie since 1962's inaugural "Dr. No" in which a Broccoli didn't handpick the super spy.

Casting a new Bond fell instead to producers Amy Pascal — the former Sony Pictures chief and "Spider-Man" producer — and David Heyman, shepherd of "Harry Potter" and "Paddington." Steven Knight ("Peaky Blinders," "Locke") was brought in to write the script.

Before Craig even departed the role, rumors and odds-making persisted nearly round-the-clock on who would follow in the footsteps of Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Craig. Idris Elba, for one, has spent half his career deflecting 007 conjecture.

The Bond machine has historically never slowed down. But the 26th installment will follow the longest absence ever for Bond. Given that "No Time to Die" completed principal photography in 2019 (its release was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic), the lull is even longer.

Some fans are skeptical about the new Amazon-controlled chapter for Bond. Mike Hopkins, head of Prime Video and Amazon MGM Studios, has vowed to uphold the franchise's legacy and usher in "the next phase in the legendary 007 for audiences around the world."

At stake is one of the most lucrative film series in Hollywood, based on Ian Fleming's series of novels. The Bond movies have grossed more than $7 billion worldwide in ticket sales. "No Time to Die" collected $774 million in 2021. The movies also spin out endless other revenue streams, from streaming deals and video games to Aston Martins.

Although some Bond actors came to view the role as a yoke around their necks, it turned Craig into a household name. The British actor wasn't widely known before his casting and, at the time, was derided as the first "blond Bond." The casting comes at a pivotal juncture for the franchise. In 2022, Bond's longtime studio, MGM, was bought by Amazon for $8.5 billion. After haggling over next steps for 007, producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson relinquished creative control of Bond in 2025. The still-untitled Bond 26 is the first Bond movie since 1962's inaugural "Dr. No" in which a Broccoli didn't handpick the super spy.

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'Adaptability' key takeaway for India from New Zealand tour, says Iyer

Uninted News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :India's stand-in captain Shreyas Iyer believes the team's ability to handle different conditions and situations was among the biggest gains from their ODI series against New Zealand, even as he acknowledged that the challenges awaiting them at next year's World Cup will be quite different.

India wrapped up the five-match series with a 22-run win in the final match at Mount Maunganui on Sunday, sealing a 3-1 result. The campaign had its share of highs and lows, but the performance of the bowling attack emerged as a major positive for Iyer's side with less than a year remaining before the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

India will head into the tournament, to be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, looking to improve on their runner-up finish in 2023, when they lost to Australia in the final on home soil.

Iyer, however, cautioned against drawing direct comparisons between the conditions in New Zealand and those expected at the World Cup, while underlining the value of testing the team's adaptability.

"We are in New Zealand, so we can't really compare with South Africa. Weather will be different. Especially from the batting point of view, both teams, it did not happen, our bowling was consistently good and theirs too, and the wicket was predominantly bowler support," Iyer said.

For the India captain, the most important outcome was securing the series, rather than dwelling too much on individual performances or setbacks. He added that players would have to assess their own contributions and continue learning from the challenges presented by different pitches and match situations.

"But the most important thing for us was to win the series, and we won. So after that, we don't think much about the rest.

"Definitely, there will be takeaways. Every individual will reflect within themselves, and we have been playing for a long time, so mentally you get exhausted the longer series you play. So adaptability also, on every wicket it's different, there is a challenge, but keep learning and definitely you accept the challenge and move on."

The biggest setback for India came in the fourth ODI, when they were dismissed for just 89. However, Iyer felt the team showed the right response by putting that defeat behind them and maintaining belief in their ability to turn games around.

Reflecting on the challenges across the T20I and ODI assignments in New Zealand, he pointed to the changing weather and conditions as tests that his players had to negotiate. He was particularly pleased that the team continued to believe in its chances even when the batting unit failed to put up a substantial total in the final match.

"Both the series T20 and ODI coming over here, we were provided with different conditions. The weather kept changing. Faced a lot of challenges and coming out triumphant, it's a great achievement. And today we had that certain kind of belief even though we didn't get that many runs in batting. But still we were hoping that we can change the game at any point of time," he said.

"And I'm glad that every individual thought in the same direction and we were able to execute that."New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner, meanwhile, felt the 3-1 scoreline did not fully reflect how closely contested the series had been. Although disappointed that

his side could not finish with a better result, he was encouraged by the performances of several players and the opportunities they received during the campaign.

Badminton: Lakshya Sen looks to seal World Tour Finals spot at Hong Kong Open

Uninted News Of India



KOWLOON (HONG KONG), NOV 16 :India's Lakshya Sen will aim for a deep run in the Hong Kong Open 2026 badminton tournament scheduled to start on Tuesday as he looks to make a final push to seal a spot at the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals.

Back-to-back title wins at the Hylo Open and Kumamoto Masters Japan are expected to propel Lakshya to sixth in the Race to BWF World Tour Finals standings, putting him inside the top-eight qualification cut-off for the season-ending tournament, according to olympics.com.

However, Lakshya is yet to seal his qualification for the 2026 BWF World Tour Finals scheduled in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China, from December 9 to 13.

Japan's Koki Watanabe, whom Lakshya beat in the Kumamoto Masters Japan final, and Paris 2024

silver medallist Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand are still in contention and can knock the Indian badminton player out of the top eight.

The Hong Kong Open is the final tournament in the qualifying window and where Lakshya, Watanabe and Vitidsarn finish in the men's singles draw will decide the final spots.

Lakshya will need to reach the semi-finals in Hong Kong China to be certain of his place in the season finale.

The Indian badminton player will open his campaign against local favourite Lee Cheuk Yiu, while Kunlavut Vitidsarn will face a qualifier.

If both Lakshya and the Thai shuttler win their opening matches, they will set up a potentially decisive second-round encounter. Watanabe, meanwhile, is in the other half of the draw.

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

The women's singles draw features six Indians despite the absence of two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who has already qualified for the BWF World Tour Finals.

Tiigers of Kolkata strengthen bid for second ISPL crown with Rajat Mundhe, Krushna Gawali signings

Uninted News Of India



MUMBAI, NOV 15 :Tiigers of Kolkata secured Rajat Mundhe for Rs 15.05 lakh and Krushna Gawali for Rs 14.75 lakh at the ongoing Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) Season 4 auction, strengthening their batting line-up as they target a second title.

Under-19 underdog Amay Jitendra Lad was among seven players acquired by the inaugural champions, taking their squad to eight alongside retained batter Saif Ali.

Owned by Aksha Kamboj and Aspect Sports, with Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan as

co-owners, Tiigers are aiming to go one better than their runners-up finish in Season 3.

The franchise has retained Saif Ali, the league's all-time leading run-scorer and last season's Best Batter, and appointed its inaugural title-winning captain Prathamesh Pawar as coach.

Aksha Kamboj, Group Chairperson & Managing Director, Aspect Global Ventures India Pvt. Ltd., said: "Reaching the final last season has sharpened our ambition for Season 4. We want to challenge for the trophy again, and that requires clear decisions, disciplined preparation and a squad whose strengths complement one another. Retaining Saif and appointing Prathamesh as coach give us continuity and valuable experience. We came into the auction with specific roles to strengthen and clear idea of the character we want in this team. Our responsibility is to give the players the support and confidence to perform consistently."

Mundhe and Gawali headlined the franchise's auction acquisitions, with Gawali secured through the Right to Match (RTM) option. Tiigers also exercised RTM for bowler Vivek Shelar, while adding all-rounders Amay Lad,

Parivesh Dhar and Darshan Bandekar, and batter Pavan Kene. Lad's selection gives the young all-rounder an opportunity to make his mark alongside established performers in the competition.

After historic silver on the sand, Taniya sets eyes on LA 2028

Uninted News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :India's Taniya may have broken new ground by becoming the country's first female beach wrestling medallist at the Youth Olympic Games, but the teenager has no intention of pursuing the discipline further.

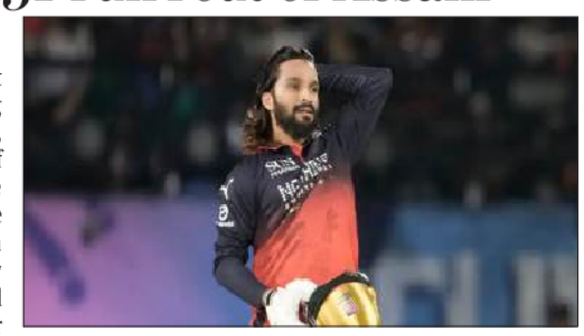
The 17-year-old is keen to return to the wrestling mat, with her ambitions firmly centred on freestyle wrestling and the ultimate dream of winning an Olympic gold for India.

Taniya secured a silver medal in the women's 75kg beach wrestling competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, earlier this month. She came close to clinching the title before going down 1-2 to China's Zhao Min in a closely contested final. Her run to the final, however, was impressive, as she won all four of her bouts before settling for silver.

For Taniya, competing on sand was an entirely new experience, having taken up wrestling in 2019 and trained primarily in conventional mat wrestling."I am very proud that I won India's first silver medal in beach wrestling. It was my first time competing on the beach, so it was a little tough because our normal competitions are held on the mat.

Patidar's 48-ball 135 powers MP to 131-run rout of Assam

Uninted News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :Rajat Patidar produced a stunning display of power-hitting, smashing an unbeaten 135 off just 48 deliveries to guide Madhya Pradesh to a massive 131-run victory over Assam in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2026 on Monday. Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh also secured wins in their respective Elite Group encounters.

Patidar's blistering knock, which featured a flurry of boundaries, powered Madhya Pradesh to an imposing 250/6 at the PCA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh. He received excellent support from Shivang Kumar, who struck 61 off 38 balls, as the pair laid the foundation for a formidable total. Ankush Singh chipped in with 23 off 13 deliveries, while Akshat Raghuwanshi made 19. Akash Sengupta picked up three wickets for Assam, while Mrinmoy Dutta claimed two.

The chase never took off as Assam were dismissed for 119 in 17.4 overs. Sibsankar Roy top-scored with 32, but the rest of the batting struggled against Madhya Pradesh's disciplined attack. Kumar Kartikeya returned figures of 3/17, while Avesh Khan and Rahul Batham took two wickets apiece.

At the Holkar Stadium in Indore, Jammu and Kashmir edged past Tamil Nadu by six runs in a closely

fought contest. Qamran Iqbal (70 off 37) and Shubham Khajuria (53 off 34) led the batting charge with half-centuries, while Abdul Samad provided a late boost with a 14-ball 29 to take their side to 201/7.

Tamil Nadu responded strongly through Amit Sathvik, who hammered 67 off 31 balls, while Narayan Jagadeesan contributed 35. R Rajkumar's quickfire 24 off 10 deliveries kept the chase alive, but Tamil Nadu finished at 195/9. Lone Nasir Muzaffar claimed three wickets, with Sunil Kumar and Brijesh Sharma taking two each. Qamran was named Player of the Match.

Jay Shah gets second term as ICC chairman

Uninted News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :Jay Shah has secured a second consecutive term as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), consolidating his leadership of world cricket at a defining moment when the sport prepares for a major global expansion through the 2027 ODI World Cup and its return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 2028.

Shah, 38, was re-elected unopposed after emerging as the sole candidate for the position, with his name proposed by ICC directors at their meeting in Bali over the weekend. He will continue for another two years, overseeing a crucial phase in the ICC's efforts to expand cricket's international reach, strengthen its global profile and tap into new audiences through the Olympic platform.

His re-election gives continuity to the ICC leadership as it prepares for two major events that could shape the sport's future - the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup in Southern Africa and cricket's much-anticipated return to the Olympics at LA28.

"Serving as chair of the ICC is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I remain committed to working with our members to advance the interests of cricket across the world," Shah said, describing his re-election as a deep honour.

Emphasising the significance of cricket's Olympic return, he said the sport was entering one of the most exciting periods in its history.

"Cricket's return to the Olympic Games at LA28 presents an extraordinary opportunity to introduce our game to new audiences and inspire a new generation of players and fans," he said.

Shah's re-election also marks the continuation of India's influence at the highest level of international cricket administration. The former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary was first elected ICC chairman in August 2024 and assumed office in December that year, becoming the youngest person to hold the position.

Before taking charge as ICC chairman, he headed the organisation's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee, a key body dealing with the commercial and financial dimensions of the game. The decisions taken at the Bali meetings underline the broader agenda confronting the ICC under Shah's renewed tenure. The governing body has decided to retain the nine-team format of the World Test Championship until 2031, providing continuity to the existing competition structure over .

IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf to kick off 2026-27 DP World PGTI season

Uninted News Of India

DIGBOI (ASSAM), NOV 16 :The 26th edition of the IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf tournament, carrying a prize purse of Rs 1 crore, will be held at the historic Digboi Golf Links from November 17 to 20, marking the start of the 2026-27 DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) season.

Organised by Indian Oil Corporation Limited's Assam Oil Division under the aegis of DP World PGTI, the tournament will feature a field of 120 professional golfers, including leading Indian players and 12 foreign professionals from five countries.

The top 50 players and ties will qualify for the final two rounds after the cut following the second round. The Pro-Am event was held on November 15.

The field includes former champion Om Prakash Chouhan, Rashid Khan, Mohammad Azhar, Akshay Sharma, Honey Baisoya and Manu Gandas.

The foreign contingent includes Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain and Mohammad Akbar Hossain, Nepal's Subash Tamang, Japan's Koichiro Ishika and Taiga Tanaka, Malaysia's Muhammad Nafis Najmie Bin Darnalis and Bhutan's Nim Dorji Tamang.

Five professionals from Digboi -- Biren Karmokar, Deepraj Chetia, Dulal Kalowar, Deven Bhumij and Alok Barua -- will also compete in the tournament.

The IndianOil SERVO Masters holds a special place in Indian professional golf as the longest-running tournament on the country's domestic circuit and the DP World PGTI calendar. It is also regarded as the premier professional golf event in the North-East.

IndianOil Chairman AS Sahney said the 26th edition was particularly significant as the organisation prepares to begin the 125th-year celebrations of Digboi Refinery from December 11.

"After celebrating the silver jubilee of the event in 2025, this year's edition is once again special for us," he said, highlighting the historic association between the refinery and Digboi Golf Links.



DP World PGTI CEO Amandeep Johl thanked IndianOil for its continued support, saying the tournament had created valuable opportunities for professional golfers and helped strengthen the sport's presence in the North-East.

He said the presence of several leading Order of Merit players would offer golf enthusiasts in Assam an opportunity to watch high-quality competition.

The par-72 Digboi Golf Links, measuring 6,329 yards, is set amid tea estates and forests in eastern Assam, with the Dehing Forest Reserve bordering it on three sides and the Patkai mountain range on the fourth.

The tournament, which has been a fixture on the Indian professional golf calendar for 26 years, will also mark the beginning of the new PGTI season.

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3 fire tenders, just one driver: Karnah's fire safety system under scanner



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE
PEERZADA SAYEED

Karnah, November 16: A devastating fire broke out at around 1:35 AM, reportedly due to a short circuit, reducing a three-storey residential house belonging to the family of Late Ghulam Nabi Awan to ashes in Karnah. The incident has not only caused massive financial losses to the family but has also exposed serious concerns over the functioning and preparedness of the Fire and Emergency Services Department in the border region.

The house was jointly associated with four brothers — Abdul Qayoom, Abdul Shakoor, Mushkoor Ahmad and Maulvi Shafiq Ahmad. Although the brothers had constructed separate houses for themselves, Maulvi Shafiq Ahmad reportedly suffered the maximum loss. According to the family, gold and silver ornaments, household belongings and other valuables were destroyed. The estimated loss of gold ornaments is around Rs 3–4 lakh, while approximately Rs 2 lakh in cash, reportedly kept for business purposes, was also reduced to ashes. The adjoining wooden structure also sustained extensive damage.

The Indian Army and the Fire and Emergency Services team from Tangdhar played an important role in controlling the blaze and preventing the situation from worsening.

However, the incident has brought a major question into focus: Karnah reportedly has three fire tenders but only one driver to operate them. In a border region with an estimated population of nearly one lakh, the department is said to have around ten personnel, raising serious concerns about its capacity to respond effectively to emergencies, particularly when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

Another major concern is the long-pending proposal to establish Fire and Emergency Services stations at Gabra and Chitterkote. Although vehicles were reportedly provided for these proposed stations, no further progress has been made on the ground. Sources indicate that the necessary infrastructure and operational arrangements have yet to be initiated, leaving the proposed facilities non-functional. Merely providing fire tenders without establishing stations, deploying drivers and appointing adequate staff does little to strengthen emergency response in these remote areas.

As a result, firefighting operations across Karnah continue to depend heavily on the Tangdhar station, making timely responses to emergencies in distant and difficult-to-access villages a significant challenge.

Speaking to a senior officer of the Fire and Emergency Services Department, it was learnt that the department has repeatedly approached higher authorities regarding the shortage of drivers. The officer stated that the shortage is not limited to Karnah but is a wider issue across Jammu and Kashmir, and that the matter has been raised multiple times with the concerned authorities.

Given Karnah's difficult mountainous terrain, scattered habitations and sensitive border location, adequate drivers, trained personnel and fully functional fire stations are essential. The latest incident has once again highlighted the urgent need for intervention by higher authorities to address staff shortages, operationalise the proposed stations at Gabra and Chitterkote, and strengthen the region's firefighting infrastructure.

Three fire tenders, one driver and nearly one lakh people — while two proposed fire stations at Gabra and Chitterkote remain on paper despite the provision of vehicles. Karnah needs more than promises; it needs a fully functional fire safety system before another tragedy strikes.

Residential coaching camp for J&K Tennis Ball Cricket team begins in Jammu



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov. 16: A 14-day residential coaching camp for the 31st Sub-Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship (Boys & Girls) 2026 commenced on Sunday at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, with selected young players from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir participating in the training programme.

The camp, being organised by the J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association with the support of the J&K Sports Council, will continue from November 16 to 29, 2026. The Association is affiliated with the Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India.

During the camp, selected boys and girls will undergo intensive training in fitness, batting, bowling, fielding and match temperament under the guidance of experienced coaches and sports experts.

The coaching programme aims to prepare a strong, competitive and disciplined J&K contingent for the 31st Sub-Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, which is scheduled to be held at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, from December 1 to 4, 2026.

Jammu Railway Division successfully manages Diwali, Chhath festival rush with special trains, additional coaches

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Jammu: The Jammu Division of Northern Railway successfully concluded its special arrangements for passengers during Diwali and Chhath Puja, ensuring safe, convenient and hassle-free travel amid the heavy passenger rush during the festive season.

In view of the increased demand for travel, particularly towards Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Purvanchal and other regions, Jammu Division operated special trains and attached additional coaches to major regular trains. These arrangements provided thousands of passengers with better travel facilities, including confirmed berths and seats. Special monitoring and control mechanisms were also established at the divisional level to ensure the timely operation of special trains. To facilitate passengers at major railway stations, the Division made extensive arrangements, including additional ticket counters, ATVM and M-UTS facilities, improved cleanliness, uninterrupted drinking water supply, adequate seating arrangements and additional lighting. The announcement system was effectively utilised to provide passengers with timely information regarding train operations and other travel-related updates.

Special attention was also given to crowd management and passengers safety. Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP) and ticket-checking staff of the Commercial Department were deployed on special duty to maintain order and ensure a peaceful travel environment. Particular care was taken to facilitate women, senior citizens, children and devotees travelling for Chhath Puja.

Speaking on the successful completion of the festive arrangements, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Shri Uchit Singhal, said, "It is a matter of privilege for us to serve passengers on Diwali and Chhath Mahaparv. Passengers got a lot of convenience due to the operation of special trains, additional coaches in regular trains and better station arrangements.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone visits newly constructed Bakiaker Bridge in Handwara



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Handwara: MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone on Monday officially visited the newly constructed Bakiaker Bridge during his visit, accompanied by former DDC Rajwar Mir Sulaiman, Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara Farooq Ahmad Shah, and representatives of Hafiz Construction Company.

On the occasion, MLA Sajad Gani Lone said that the completion of the bridge would resolve long-standing transportation difficulties faced by villagers and residents of adjoining areas. He described the bridge as a long-pending demand of the local population, whose movement had been hindered due to the absence of proper connectivity.

The bridge was completed through the concerted efforts of former DDC Rajwar Mir Sulaiman, the R&B Division Handwara, and Hafiz Construction Company. The contractor played a significant role in ensuring that the project was completed ahead of the stipulated deadline.

During the visit, local villagers expressed their gratitude to MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, Mir Sulaiman, the R&B Division Handwara, and Hafiz Construction Company for their dedicated efforts in making the completion of the bridge possible.

The residents said that the newly constructed bridge would provide much-needed connectivity and ease the daily travel of people from Bakiaker and its adjoining areas, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the villagers.

SKUAST-K hosts 30 students from Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: The Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, hosted a group of 30 students from Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina, Srinagar, enrolled in the Certificate Course in Vermicomposting and Vermitechnology, for an academic exposure and practical training programme.

Organised under the guidance of Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, the programme provided students with hands-on exposure to vermicomposting techniques, earthworm-based organic waste management, production of quality vermicompost and its applications in sustainable agriculture.

The programme aimed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical application while highlighting the role of vermitechnology in improving soil health, recycling organic waste and promoting environmentally sustainable farming practices.

Students were also sensitised to the entrepreneurial potential of vermicomposting as a low-cost, eco-friendly enterprise, encouraging skill development and self-employment opportunities.

National Press Day

Training programme for journalists held in Kulgam



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Kulgam, Nov. 16: A training programme for journalists was organised in Kulgam today as part of the observance of National Press Day, witnessing the participation of around two dozen journalists from different parts of the district.

The programme aimed at strengthening the professional skills of journalists and familiarising them with the evolving trends, challenges and requirements of modern journalism.

On the occasion, Deputy Director Information Dr. Mohammad Zubair Latoo (JKAS), Assistant Director Doordarshan Shabir Ahmad Dar and District Information Officer Kulgam Showkat Hussain (JKAS) shared detailed insights with the participants on various aspects of print, electronic and digital media. They also highlighted important techniques of news writing, news preparation, media coverage and the changing role of journalists in the digital era.

District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), also attended the programme and briefed the participating journalists on various issues. While interacting with the media persons, he shared his views on the role and responsibilities of the media in society and emphasised the importance of professional reporting and responsible journalism.

SKUAST-K applauded for transforming Horticulture Sector over past 5 years

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union has appreciated and congratulated Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), and his team for playing a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's traditional horticulture sector into a modern, technology-driven and entrepreneurial industry over the past five years.

In a press statement, the Union said that SKUAST-K has made significant contributions to the



development of horticulture through scientific research, field demonstrations, farmer outreach, capacity building and technology transfer. These initiatives have strengthened orchard productivity, improved fruit quality and encouraged young farmers and entrepreneurs to view horticulture as a modern commercial enterprise.

The Union highlighted the University's role in promoting high-density plantation systems in apple and other temperate fruit crops. Research on improved rootstocks, elite cultivars, planting techniques, trellis systems and canopy management has encouraged growers to shift from traditional orchards towards more productive and commercially viable plantations.

It also appreciated SKUAST-K's efforts in promoting scientific harvesting based on maturity indices instead of conventional calendar-based practices. The University has been guiding growers on proper harvesting, grading, sorting, packaging, pre-cooling and storage management to improve fruit quality and market value.

The Union also highlighted SKUAST-K's contribution in taking scientific research from laboratories to farmers' fields through research stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), demonstrations and extension programmes. These initiatives include scientific pruning, fruit thinning, integrated nutrient and water management, safe pesticide use and improved orchard sanitation.

DIPR Kulgam celebrates National Press Day, felicitates journalists for their contribution

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Kulgam, Nov 16: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kulgam, today celebrated National Press Day by organising a seminar and felicitation ceremony at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam. The programme was attended by media representatives from various print and electronic media organisations of the district.

District Information Officer (DIO) Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganie (JKAS), delivered the inaugural address and spoke about the Press and Periodicals Registration Act, 2023. He highlighted its key provisions and stressed the importance of regulatory compliance



in the print media sector.

Shabir Ahmad Dar, Assistant Director (News), Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, delivered a detailed presentation through PowerPoint on the importance of journalistic ethics. He emphasised responsible reporting, accuracy, impartiality and adherence to professional values while discharging journalistic duties. He also highlighted the fundamental principles of journalism, stressing that the profession must go beyond breaking news and the race for speed.

Mohammad Zubair Latoo (JKAS), Deputy Director, Headquarters Kashmir, also deliberated on various aspects of journalistic ethics and underscored the role of credible and responsible media in strengthening democratic institutions and keeping the public informed.