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JK soon to be terror-free, only handful of foreign terrorists remain: LG



KA NEWS SERVICE

Udhampur, Nov 18: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed confidence that Jammu and Kashmir would soon become terror-free, asserting that only a handful of foreign terrorists remained in the Union Territory.

The lieutenant governor said terrorism remained the greatest threat to peace and progress, but sustained efforts were strengthening security and stability.

Sinha's remarks came after Lashkar-e-Taiba's last known active local terrorist in the Kashmir valley, Lateef Bhat, was killed in an encounter with security forces in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

"Only a handful of foreign terrorists remain; Jammu Kashmir will soon be terror-free. For decades, an environment was created in which shops, schools and businesses remained closed for half the year", he said while addressing the passing-out parade of probationary deputy superintendents of police, sub-inspectors and assistant directors of the Forest Protection Force at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy in Udhampur.

He said the "conflict entrepreneurs" present in Jammu Kashmir were engaged in the business of terrorism and separatism.

"But under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation delivered a strong blow, and the shops of conflict entrepreneurs were shut down," he said.

Paying tribute to Special Police Officers Rashpal Kumar and Babi Chand, who laid down their lives in the line of duty, Sinha said their courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice would remain a source of inspiration for generations.

"The home of a martyr is the greatest temple and pilgrimage site for me. I want to assure their families that, in this difficult hour, they are not alone.

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Top LeT terrorist killed in Kulgam

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, Nov 18: Security forces on Wednesday shot dead top Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Lateef Bhat, who was wanted for the attack on a CRPF post on November 11, in an encounter in Kulgam district of South Kashmir, officials said.

The terrorist had taken shelter inside a mosque in Zangalpora village in the Devsar area of South Kashmir and refused to heed repeated appeals by senior officers of the Army and police to surrender, they said.

"Bhat has been killed, and his body, along with a weapon, was recovered from the encounter site," an official said.

CRPF Director General G P Singh lauded the security forces for the operation. "Congratulations guys. Some dishes are best served cold, even in cold weather," Singh posted on X.

In a post on X, Kashmir Zone Police said, "The body of one neutralised terrorist, along with a weapon, have been

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Brought local terrorist recruitment to almost zero: DGP Nalin Prabhat

KA NEWS DESK



Udhampur, Nov 18: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said local terrorist recruitment in the Union Territory has been brought down "to almost zero" over the past two years.

Only two Kashmiri youths joined the Lashkar-e-Taiba during this period, with the last remaining terrorist among them, identified as Lateef Bhat, killed in an encounter in Kulgam district on Wednesday.

The other terrorist, Umar Nisar, was eliminated in

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Nation salutes brave jawans: Amit Shah

KA NEWS SERVICE



New Delhi, Nov 18: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday lauded the security forces for neutralising Lashkar-e-Taiba's last known active local terrorist in the Kashmir valley in an

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NIA Court declines bail plea of accused

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 18: A National Investigation Agency(NIA) court here has denied bail to an accused in a narco-terror case, and the trial will go ahead without the accused being released, officials said on Wednesday.



They described it as a significant legal victory for the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir in its fight against narco-terrorism.

The SIA officials said that the court on Tuesday rejected the bail application of the accused, Basharat

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Don't keep us illusion, don't humiliate us: Omar to Centre on statehood



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mendhar/Jammu, Nov 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday attacked the BJP-led Centre over the denial of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and wondered whether the party was deliberately deferring it till gets its own chief minister in the Union Territory.

Abdullah said the repeated promise of statehood at an "appropriate time" has become meaningless.

"If it is your wish not to restore statehood until the BJP has its own chief minister in Jammu and Kashmir, then say it openly. Tell the people clearly so that they are not kept under any illusion, and we are not humiliated repeatedly," he said, addressing a public rally in Mendhar township of Poonch district. The chief minister

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Sajjan Singh Yadav takes over as Chief Secretary



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 18: Senior IAS officer Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Wednesday assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat here, following his transfer and appointment by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

A 1995-batch AGMUT cadre officer, Yadav succeeds Atal Dulloo, who retired on October 31. Senior IAS officer Shailendra Kumar had been holding the additional charge of the post until Yadav's joining.

"Yadav today assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir... bringing over three decades of administrative experience across public administration, financial management, health, nutrition, and development policy," the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, said in a post on X.

Before his appointment on October 24, he was serving as additional chief secretary in the Delhi government.

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Spl Secy Cabinet Secretariat reviews deregulation reforms with CS

Hails J&K's reform momentum; calls for going beyond national benchmarks to act as model for other regions

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, November 18: Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, K. K. Pathak, who heads the Centre's Task Force on Deregulation

See on Pg. 10

Farooq sets up 3-member NC disciplinary committee

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 18: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Farooq Abdullah has constituted a three-member disciplinary committee to maintain discipline among party cadres, a party spokesman said on Wednesday.

The committee will be headed by former minister and vice president of the party's Jammu province, Khalid Najib Suharwardy,

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Woman arrested in connection with mother-in-law's murder



KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 18: A woman was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the murder of her mother-in-law in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said.

Police identified the arrested woman as Bilkees Akhter. Her arrest came after the police nabbed her accomplice earlier this month.

The matter came to light on October 19, when Pulwama police received information about the murder of Jana Begum (70), a resident of Parigam Jagir area.

The police then filed an FIR under BNS section 103 (1) (murder), and a special investigation team (SIT) was formed, a police spokesman said.

During the probe, her accomplice,

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Army commander calls for sustained operational momentum



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 18: The Army's Northern Commander, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, on Wednesday visited Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district and urged all ranks to maintain operational momentum and seamless coordination with other agencies to ensure peace in the region.

The visit comes nearly a week after two special police officers (SPOs) were killed in the district's remote high-altitude Dachhan belt.

The bullet-riddled bodies of Babi Chand (57) and Rashpal Kumar (45) were found early Thursday, a day after they went missing in the remote forest area.

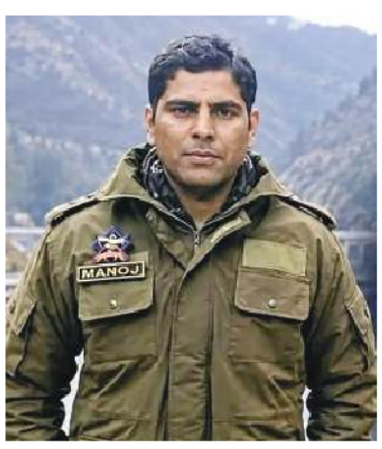
"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma visited the Kishtwar sector to review the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and the security grid," the Udhampur-based Northern Command said in a post on X.

The Army said the GOC-in-C interacted with commanders and troops on the ground, and

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Police DSP dies of suspected cardiac arrest in Doda

KA NEWS DESK



Jammu, Nov 18: A deputy superintendent of police died of a suspected cardiac arrest in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, officials said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Manoj Aryan, posted with the District Armed Reserve (DAR), suffered a sudden medical emergency and breathed his last at Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital, Doda, they said.

The police fraternity, his colleagues and senior officials expressed grief over his untimely death.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed grief over the officer's demise "Saddened by the untimely demise of young JKPS officer Aryan, who was serving

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J&K Bank RSETI, Voluntary Medicare Society organise awareness programme in Pulwama

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 18: An awareness programme aimed at empowering specially-abled individuals through skill development, entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities was jointly organised by J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Pulwama, in collaboration with the Voluntary Medicare Society, today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pulwama.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat as the Chief Guest, along with the Principal, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pulwama.

During the programme, the Director, J&K Bank RSETI, interacted with the participants and briefed them about the various skill development and entrepreneurship training programmes offered by the institute. He also apprised them of the facilities and institutional support available for aspiring entrepreneurs, highlighting the importance of self-employment in ensuring sustainable livelihoods and financial independence.



The participants were sensitised about various opportunities for developing entrepreneurial skills, exploring self-employment ventures and generating sustainable sources of income. The programme also highlighted the importance of skill enhancement and institutional support in enabling specially-abled individuals to become economically independent.

The initiative aimed at encouraging specially-abled candidates to recognise their potential, acquire relevant livelihood skills and explore entrepreneurship as a viable means of self-reliance.

Stage 3 Viksit Bharat Challenge Track

District-Level PPT Championship organised at NM BHSS Kaloosa

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, successfully organised the Stage 3 Viksit Bharat Challenge Track – District-Level PPT Championship at NM BHSS Kaloosa.

The programme was graced by Nazir Ahmad Mir, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, as the Chief Guest. The DYSSO Bandipora, along with the Activity Incharges, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, the ADDC appreciated the enthusiasm, creativity and intellectual capabilities demonstrated by the young participants. He emphasised that such events should be organised regularly to provide young minds with meaningful platforms to express their ideas, develop critical thinking and enhance their knowledge on issues of national and global importance.

He further highlighted the importance of engaging youth in constructive and innovative activities, stating that initiatives like the Viksit Bharat Challenge Track, play a significant role in nurturing leadership qualities, promoting awareness and preparing the younger generation to contribute towards the vision of a developed India.



On the occasion, the ADDC lauded the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, for organising the event and appreciated its efforts in providing opportunities for the holistic development of youth.

The championship provided a meaningful platform for young participants to showcase their presentation skills, innovative ideas, research abilities and perspectives on important contemporary themes, including Climate Security, Borders and Sustainable Mountain Development.

Mehrajpura FC clinch Maj Gopi Singh Rathore memorial football premier league

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA: Mehrajpura Football Club emerged as champions of the Maj Gopi Singh Rathore, Shaurya Chakra Memorial North Kashmir Football Premier League 2026–27 after defeating Hashmee Football Club in the final of the prestigious tournament organised by the Chinar Corps of the Indian Army at Bandipora.

The five-day Mega Football Event, held from November 9 to 13, witnessed the participation of eight outstanding teams representing Bandipora, Sopore, Kigaon and Uplona, providing a significant platform to emerging football talent from across North Kashmir to showcase their skills, sporting spirit and competitive abilities. The Mega Event was preceded by sector-level competitions organised at Bandipora, Sopore, Kigaon and Uplona from September 21 to 29. The top two teams from each location qualified for the final stage at Bandipora, where they competed for the coveted North Kashmir Football Premier League title. The successful conduct of the tournament was made possible through close coordination among the District Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), District Football Association Bandipora and other stakeholders. Their collective efforts ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the event in a safe and encouraging atmosphere for players, officials and spectators. The tournament not only provided young footballers with an opportunity to demonstrate their sporting potential but also promoted discipline, teamwork, camaraderie and healthy competition among youth. The 2026–27 edition of the memorial league concluded on a high note, reaffirming the role of sports in youth empowerment, social cohesion and constructive community engagement.

DC Budgam visits Magam Town, holds public outreach programme



Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today visited Magam Town and chaired a public outreach programme at Town Hall Magam to review developmental issues and address public grievances.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the demands and concerns raised by local residents, senior citizens, Civil society members, representatives from Bar Association, Street vendors and various stakeholders from Magam, Beerwah, Bedran, Kanihama and adjoining villages.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite structural demarcation of various works and actively pursue the bridge-related issue for its early resolution, including necessary legal proceedings.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to take prompt action for their time-bound redressal of public issues and stressed expediting resumption of pending road developmental works in Magam.

He further directed the concerned departments to prioritise the construction and improvement of lanes and drains, ensure proper functioning of streetlights, address drainage-related issues and undertake regular cleaning of irrigation canals.

Directions were also issued for proper regulation of street vendors and maintenance and development of public parks in Magam Town.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and expedite the completion of ongoing water supply schemes catering to Magam and Beerwah areas. He also stressed regular field inspections and monitoring to ensure effective delivery of essential public services.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, regularly monitor developmental works and ensure that public grievances are addressed within stipulated timelines.

He emphasised that all genuine public demands must receive due attention and that coordinated efforts are essential for improving civic amenities in Magam.

KU begins national workshop on financial, psychological well-being of Mahila Career Agents

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 18: The Department of Psychology, University of Kashmir (KU), began a two-day national workshop on 'Financial and Psychological Well-being of Mahila Career Agents Working under Bima Sakhi Yojana: Perspectives on Viksit Bharat@2047', sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).

The workshop aims to explore the financial and psychological wellbeing of women working as career agents under the Bima Sakhi Yojana, with a focus on their work experiences, challenges, financial independence and mental health. It also seeks to understand the wider dimensions of women's wellbeing, including economic security, work-life balance, social support and personal empowerment.



Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of women's financial independence and psychological wellbeing in building an inclusive and developed society.

"Women's empowerment goes beyond financial independence. It also involves ensuring their psychological wellbeing, dignity and the support they need to participate confidently in economic and social life," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the importance of equipping women with financial awareness and psychological support to help them become more confident and self-reliant participants in the workforce.

Head, Department of Psychology KU and workshop convenor, Prof. Humera Shafi, in her welcome address, highlighted the need to understand the experiences of women working under the Bima Sakhi Yojana and create greater awareness about the psychological and financial aspects of their wellbeing.

Dr. Asma Nabi, faculty member, Department of Psychology KU and organising secretary, briefed the participants about the workshop programme and its various sessions.

Mission Vatsalya organises child rights awareness programme

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised awareness and sensitisation programme at Government Higher Secondary School Ajas and Chuntimulla Bandipora to educate students and teachers about Child Rights.

During the programme, awareness was imparted about the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Child Marriage Act, Child Labour laws, POCSO Act and COTPA. Speakers highlighted issues including child abuse, corporal punishment, child marriage, sexual exploitation and tobacco-related violations.



Students were sensitised about Child Helpline Number 1098 and various schemes under Mission Vatsalya. Awareness posters carrying information about the helpline were also distributed among students.

Special emphasis was laid on the mental health and emotional well-being of children. Teachers were urged to understand the emotional needs of students and ensure a safe, supportive and protective school environment.

Speakers also stressed the collective responsibility of students, teachers and the community to report violations of child protection laws to the concerned authorities.

FDA continues Food Safety Enforcement, 69 Inspections conducted

09 Samples Lifted, Two Establishments Sealed and 13 Cases recommended for Proceedings

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Continuing its enforcement drive to ensure effective implementation of food safety regulations and strict compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir conducted 79 inspections across all the districts and nine food samples were lifted for analysis to ascertain their compliance with the prescribed food safety and quality standards.

As part of the enforcement action, an establishment engaged in the preparation and sale of Momos at Nageen, Srinagar, was sealed for violations of prescribed food safety requirements. Further, the storage area of M/s Hattrick, Rajbagh, Srinagar, was also sealed for failure to maintain the prescribed storage conditions and requisite sanitary and hygienic standards.

Furthermore, 13 cases were recommended for initiation of proceedings under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for violations relating to prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements. Such contraventions attract a penalty which may extend up to 1 lakh under the provision.

Consumers have been 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.

Baramulla hosts VBYLD 2026–27 PPT Chalange Round

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 18: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Baramulla successfully organised the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026–27 Challenge Track – PPT Round at the Auditorium of GHSS Baramulla, witnessing enthusiastic participation from 20 young boys and girls. The programme was conducted under the overall direction of Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta and was graced by Srijan Patel, District Youth Officer Baramulla, as Chief Guest. Based on the theme "Climate Security, Border and Sustainable Mountain Development," participants presented innovative ideas, analytical perspectives and practical solutions through PowerPoint presentations (PPT), demonstrating remarkable confidence, creativity and leadership potential.

Financial awareness, Govt schemes sensitisation programme held at RSETI Bandipora

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: A Financial Awareness and Government-Sponsored schemes Sensitisation programme was jointly organised today at RSETI Bandipora by the RBI, NABARD and Lead Bank Office, Bandipora.

The programme was attended by Assistant General Manager (AGM), RBI, Anoop Kumar Sharma; District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD, Rouf Ahmad Zargar; Lead District Manager (LDM) Bandipora Liyaqat Maqbool; representatives of various banks, RSETI, FLCC, and the Mission YUVA Financial Expert and BHD Lead, Bandipora.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about various government-sponsored schemes, institutional credit facilities, eligibility criteria, credit appraisal procedures and financial modalities. Emphasis was laid on strengthening inter-institutional coordination, expediting application processing, addressing credit-related bottlenecks and ensuring timely institutional credit to eligible beneficiaries.

A detailed presentation was also delivered by the Mission YUVA Financial Expert, explaining the complete case-sponsorship mechanism under Mission YUVA, including the various stages through which an application passes before reaching the concerned bank for consideration.



The process, from initial mobilisation and applicant registration to scrutiny, verification, assessment, preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), processing at designated levels and final sponsorship to banks, was explained in detail.

Participants were also apprised of the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders at each stage, with emphasis on proper documentation, financial viability, timely disposal of applications and effective coordination between Mission YUVA functionaries and banking institutions.

Banks were particularly urged to ensure timely appraisal of sponsored cases, provide clear and specific remarks on pending applications and facilitate eligible beneficiaries in accessing institutional credit.

The programme concluded with a call for stronger coordination among RBI, NABARD, Lead Bank Office, banking institutions, RSETI, FLCC and Mission YUVA for effective implementation of government-sponsored schemes and improved credit delivery at the grassroots level.

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Forest Minister calls on LG Sinha



Kashmir Press Service

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Altaf Ahmad Wani, Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

He discussed important matters pertaining to functioning of Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Conservation, Territorial Forests, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development.

KU's MERC begins 2-day conference on subaltern representation in AI age

Kashmir Press Service

Srinagar, Nov 18: The Media Education Research Centre (MERC), University of Kashmir (KU), began a two-day national conference on 'Reimagining the Subaltern in the Age of AI: Media, Representation and Inclusive Communication' at the Main Campus on Wednesday.

The conference seeks to examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping media, communication and knowledge production, with particular attention to the representation of marginalized communities and the challenges of ensuring inclusive participation in a technology-driven society.

In her inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that technological progress should align with the values of social



responsibility, equity and inclusion, and its benefits must reach all sections of society.

"Technology should help bring more voices into the conversation and ensure that different experiences and perspectives are heard," she said.

In his remarks Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that media institutions must move beyond the conventional role of disseminating information and actively engage with issues concerning different sections of society.

Kumar M. Tiku, former Communication Advisor to UNDP, spoke about the relationship between communication, development and emerging technologies. He emphasised that access to information and the ability to participate in public conversations were central to meaningful inclusion.

Amit Baruah, Journalist and author, reflected on the changing media landscape and the implications of technological interventions for journalism.

Earlier in her introductory remarks, Head, MERC KU, Prof. Aaliya Ahmed, said that AI was changing communication and creating new possibilities for research, knowledge exchange and media practice.

LG Sinha inaugurates Shubhra Ranjan IAS Study's Jammu Centre



Kashmir Press Service

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Shubhra Ranjan IAS Study's Centre in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his congratulations and best wishes to the Centre's Director, Ms. Anshu Sharma, and her dedicated team. He commended their efforts in empowering the youth of Jammu Kashmir to realize their civil services aspirations.

The establishment of the Shubhra Ranjan IAS Study's Jammu Centre is expected to provide students with access to structured academic guidance, expert mentorship, comprehensive study material, regular assessments and a competitive learning environment for preparation of the UPSC Civil Services and other competitive examinations. Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bahu; Shri Vikas Kundal, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu;

Shri Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, academicians, and senior officials attended the inaugural ceremony.

Winter vacations in J&K schools depend on weather: Minister Shamima Firdous

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 18 : Minister for Education and Jal Shakti Shamima Firdous Wednesday said that the government will announce winter vacation for schools in accordance to weather conditions and availability of heating facilities.

The minister further assured that no genuine candidate would face injustice in the ongoing FA examination row in Jammu, while calling for stringent action against those involved in the supply of rotten meat.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of her visit to the Khanqah-e-Moula shrine in Srinagar, Firdous said every student would be treated fairly and justice would be ensured. "Every student involved will be treated fairly and justice will be ensured for all of them," she said.

On the recovery of rotten meat, the Minister termed the incident serious and called for strict legal action against those involved in its transportation and supply.

"Those involved should face strict action and the PSA should also be invoked wherever warranted," she said.

About the complaints of non-availability of government textbooks, Firdous said books had been made

available to schools from November 15, adding that senior officers had been directed to ensure students faced no inconvenience.

She said consultations had also been held with officials of the Children's Hospital before the decision on school timings was taken.

On winter vacations, she said the government would announce the holidays without delay whenever weather conditions

warranted, while also taking into account the lack of adequate heating arrangements in several schools.

For visually impaired Hafiz, security forces become 'light', rescue 25 girls from seminary in Kulgam

Kashmir News Observer

KULGAM, NOV 18 :As gunshots rang out near a mosque in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, 25 girls and two teachers were caught inside an adjoining seminary. For Hafiz Mohammd Ayoub Bhat, the visually impaired founder of the institution, the safe evacuation of the children by security forces brought immense relief, turning a moment of fear into one of gratitude.

Bhat, a resident of Zangalpora village, told KNO that he was not present at the madrasa when the encounter broke out, but was relieved that all the students and teachers were rescued before security forces launched the final attack on Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat.

"I am grateful that all the girls and teachers were brought to safety from encounter sight," he said.

The 25 girls and two teachers were inside the Darul Uloom adjoining the mosque where the LeT commander was hiding when the exchange of fire began.

According to officials, an Army officer from 9 Rashtriya Rifles, along with another soldier, volunteered to enter the seminary amid heavy firing and evacuate all 27 civilians to safety.

The children were gripped by fear as gunshots echoed around them. One of the girls recalled how they feared they might not survive the ordeal.

For Bhat, the incident was particularly emotional given the journey that led him to establish the institution. Having lost his eyesight at the age of eight, he memorised the entire Holy Quran and dedicated his life to religious education.

'Jhelum, tributaries may witness gradual fall, smaller streams face risk of drying up'

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 18 : Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness an extended spell of dry weather over the next 10 to 15 days, raising concerns over declining water levels in the Jhelum and its tributaries, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said on Wednesday.

Arif said current weather indications suggest that largely dry conditions may prevail across the Union Territory until December 5, which could gradually reduce water levels in rivers, streams and other natural water bodies.

He said the Jhelum and several of its tributaries were likely to witness a gradual fall in water levels, while smaller streams and water channels, already flowing at considerably low levels, could face a greater risk of drying up if the precipitation deficit continues. Although the expected dry spell may not trigger an immediate water crisis, Arif cautioned that its extension beyond the anticipated period could worsen the situation, particularly in areas dependent on springs, streams and other local water sources.

He said a prolonged absence of rainfall and snowfall could also affect hydropower generation, as reduced river discharge would impact the natural inflows required for power projects.

Arif said the administration and concerned departments should assess vulnerable areas and take precautionary measures to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply, instead of waiting for water levels to reach critical levels.

He also called for regular monitoring of river and stream discharge and advance contingency planning for areas that could face shortages.

Urging people to use water judiciously, he said avoiding unnecessary wastage would be important during the extended dry period. "There is no immediate reason for panic, but preparedness is necessary. If the dry spell continues well into December, the gradual decline in water levels could become a more serious concern," Arif said.

NARCO-TERROR CASE

NIA Court rejects bail plea of accused: SIA

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 18: The NIA Court in Srinagar has rejected the bail application of Basharat Ali Poswal, an accused in a narco-terror conspiracy case being investigated by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir.

According to a statement a spokesperson said Poswal, son of Muhammad Siddiq Poswal, a resident of Tad, Karnah, Kupwara, presently residing in Bemina, Srinagar, is facing prosecution in FIR No. 19/2022 registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir under various sections of the NDPS Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The accused faces charges under Sections 8-A, 27-B and 29 of the NDPS Act, Sections 13, 18, 39 and 40 of the UAPA, and Sections 120-B, 121, 121-A and 201 of the IPC.

The SIA said it filed detailed objections opposing the bail application, arguing against the accused's release in view of the gravity of the allegations, nature of the offences and statutory restrictions governing bail under the UAPA and NDPS Act. It said charges against all accused in the case were framed on July 15, 2026, and the matter is now listed for recording prosecution evidence. The court rejected Poswal's bail plea after hearing both sides and considering the prosecution's objections and submissions, the statement said. The SIA said it remains committed to pursuing cases involving alleged links between narcotics trafficking and activities threatening the security of the country.

Rotten Meat Trade

7-8 FIRs registered, several arrested in Srinagar, says SSP

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 18 :Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy on Wednesday said that Police have registered seven to eight FIRs and arrested several people over the illegal trade of rotten meat in the past year.

Addressing a joint public outreach programme organised by the civil and police administration at Radpora in Khanyar, the SSP Srinagar said police have received fresh inputs about the illegal trade and were working to prevent its recurrence.

He said police had registered seven to eight FIRs and arrested several people during the past year, adding that those involved would face trial and the cases would be taken to their logical conclusion.

"Some criminal elements have started again. We have received the inputs. Definitely, we are working on it. We will follow them and prevent this crime," he said, warning of strict legal action against those involved.

Chakravarthy said the objective of the public outreach programme is to understand people's grievances, identify unresolved issues and find solutions through better coordination between the civil administration and police.

He said residents had appreciated police efforts against drugs and crime, while some issues remained unresolved. The administration had taken note of the grievances raised during the interaction and would make efforts to address them, he assured.

Calling for collective efforts, the SSP said the police, civil administration, media fraternity and residents needed to work together to resolve public issues and improve policing.

On civic issues in Downtown Srinagar, he said traffic congestion, illegal parking and encroachments would be addressed in coordination with the civil administration.

He said shopkeepers and residents would be consulted to identify suitable parking arrangements and address encroachments, particularly around schools and markets.

The SSP also assured that steps would be taken to establish a permanent fire brigade facility in the Jamia Masjid area. He urged residents to extend their cooperation to the police and civil administration, saying public participation is essential for effective policing and resolving local issues.

Shopian records coldest night in Kashmir at minus 3.6 C

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 18: Night temperatures continued to remain below the freezing point at several places in Kashmir, with Shopian recording the lowest minimum temperature in the Valley at minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, according to data.

Pahalgam and Larnoo recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius each, while Pulwama settled at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius. Zethan Rafiabad recorded minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, followed by Gulmarg at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

Among other places, Khudwani recorded minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, Budgam minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, Kupwara, Anantnag and Beerwah recorded minus 1.0 degrees Celsius each. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.0 degrees Celsius, while Bandipora and Magam settled at 0.3 degrees Celsius each. Baramulla and Ganderbal recorded 0.6 degrees Celsius each. In the Jammu region, Banihal recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 3.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Kishtwar at 5.4 degrees Celsius and Batote at 5.6 degrees Celsius. Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.1 degrees Celsius, while Katra and Kathua recorded 10.5 and 10.7 degrees Celsius, respectively. Udhampur was the warmest among the listed stations at 12.7 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | THURSDAY
19-NOVEMBER-2026
04
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my wallet was lost on 17th November 2026 at Batmaloo, Srinagar. The wallet belongs to Mr. MO Ashraf, S/o Saddhik Ali, originally from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, currently working as a salon worker in Palhallan.

The wallet contains the following important documents and valuables: Driving Licence No.: UP2020230019453, Vehicle Registration Certificate (RC) No.: JK099510, Aadhaar Card No.: 211978033014, PAN Card No.: ELSPA1047J, Three ATM Cards. Anyone who finds the wallet or has any information regarding it is kindly requested to contact me immediately. Mobile No.: 6005280970. I would be highly grateful for your cooperation in recovering my wallet and important documents.

(8279)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned as FAZIL S/o Javaid Ahmad Mir R/o Sonwar, Srinagar, instead of MIR FAZIL JAVAID S/o Javaid Ahmad Mir R/o Sonwar, Srinagar, in the online admission form of NIOS. Now, the same needs to be rectified. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the NIOS Office at Shahi Hamdan Imperial Complex, Maidanpora, Karan Nagar, Srinagar within 07 days failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Fazil Javaid Mir S/o Javaid Ahmad Mir
R/o Sonwar, Srinagar
Contact: 7051664309
(AA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my particulars have been incorrectly recorded in my J&K Bank Account bearing Account No. 0006041000000703 as Sahiba Khursheed D/o Khursheed Ah Rather, R/o Sonar Koul, Safa Kadal, Srinagar, whereas my correct particulars, as per my Aadhaar Card and PAN Card, are as follows: Name: Sahiba Khursheed Rather Father's Name: Khursheed Ahmad Rather Residential Address: Islam Pora Sarai, Safa Kadal, Sonar Kul, S.R. Gunj, Srinagar.

I am now applying for the correction of the aforesaid particulars in my bank records. In this regard, any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same before the Manager, J&K Bank Branch, Safa Kadal, Srinagar, within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Sahiba Khursheed Rather
D/o Khursheed Ahmad Rather
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUKENTLA DEVI is legally Mother/Father/Son/Daughter wedded spouse of JC-414574L Rank Sub Name Pardeep Kumar resident of Vill – Bhindawas, PO – Bilochpura, The – Jhajjar, Dist. – Jhajjar, State – HR, Pin – 124109 have been changed my name from SUKENTLA DEVT to SHANKUTLA DEVI vide affidavit No. IN-JK60644553471713Y dated 10 Nov 2026 before Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir.

8279

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Tabiya Pervaiz Ahmad D/o Pervaiz Ahmad R/o Nowpora Salamabad Uri through her father Pervaiz Ahmad S/o Mohammad Sultan Naik R/o Nowpora Salamabad Uri Tehsil Uri District Baramulla.

Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Tabiya Pervaiz D/o Pervaiz Ahmad R/o Nowpora Salamabad Uri through her father Pervaiz Ahmad S.o Mohammad Sultan Naik R/o Nowpora Salamabad Uri Tehsil Uri District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his/her minor child.

Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of minor child namely Tabiya Pervaiz D/o Pervaiz Ahmad R.o Nowpora Salamabad Uri is 12-09-2016, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Hurain Binte Ishfaq D.o Ishfaq Mohammad Shah R.o Nadihal through her mother Shugufta Begum W.o Ishfaq Mohammad Shah R.o Nadihal Tehsil & District Baramulla. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Hurain Binte Ishfaq D.o Ishfaq Mohammad Shah R.o Nadihal through her mother Shugufta Begum W.o Ishfaq Mohammad Shah R.o Nadihal Tehsil & District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his/her minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of minor child namely Hurain Binte Ishfaq D.o Ishfaq Mohammad Shah R.o Nadihal Tehsil & District Baramulla is 18-10-2022, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Mohammad Arhaan Sheikh S.o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh Minor through his father Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh S.o Ghulam Qadir Sheikh R.o Chutipora Haigam District Baramulla. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Mohammad Arhaan Sheikh S.o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh Minor through his father Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh S.o Ghulam Qadir Sheikh R.o Chutipora Haigam District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Mohammad Arhaan Sheikh S.o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R.o Chutipora Haigam District Baramulla is 13-04-2020, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date.Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Anaya Farooq Minor through his/her father Farooq Ahmad Ganie S.o Wali Mohammad Ganie R.o Ushkara Baramulla Tehsil & District Baramulla. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant Anaya Farooq Minor through his/her father Farooq Ahmad Ganie S.o Wali Mohammad Ganie R.o Ushkara Baramulla Tehsil & District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Anaya Farooq D.o Farooq Ahmad Ganie R.o Ushkara Baramulla Tehsil & District Baramulla is 17-11-2023, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Tanzeela Yaqoob D.o Mohammad Yaqoob Lone R.o Towheed Gunj Baramulla through her mother Afroza Begum W.o Mohammad Yaqoob Lone R.o Towheed Gunj Baramulla Tehsil & District Baramulla.

Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Tanzeela Yaqoob D.o Mohammad Yaqoob Lone R.o Towheed Gunj Baramulla through her mother Afroza Begum W.o Mohammad Yaqoob Lone R.o Towheed Gunj Baramulla Tehsil & District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of the minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of minor child namely Tanzeela Yaqoob D.o Mohammad Yaqoob Lone R.o Towheed Gunj Baramulla is 05-07-2009, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Aqil Nabi Mir Minor S.o Ghulam Nabi Mir through his father namely Ghulam Nabi Mir S/o Atta Mohammad Mir R.o Sherwanipora Lachipora Boniyar District Baramulla. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, Aqil Nabi Mir Minor S.o Ghulam Nabi Mir through his father namely Ghulam Nabi Mir S/o Atta Mohammad Mir R.o Sherwanipora Lachipora Boniyar District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child Aqil Nabi Mir Minor S.o Ghulam Nabi Mir R.o Sherwanipora Lachipora Boniyar District Baramulla is 27-10-2020, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Lone Sidra Minor through his/her father Waseem Ahmad Lone S.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Lone Sidra Minor through his/her father Waseem Ahmad Lone S.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Lone Sidra D.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara is 16-01-2020, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla) (RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Sidra Tul Muntaha Minor through his/her mother Shaheena Akhter W.o Sajad Ahmad Magray R.o Kandi Khas Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Sidra Tul Muntaha Minor through his/her mother Shaheena Akhter W.o Sajad Ahmad Magray R.o Kandi Khas Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Sidra Tul Muntaha D.o Sajad Ahmad Magray R.o Kandi Khas Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara is 08-08-2020, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Ziyaan Ahmad Lone Minor through his/her father Waseem Ahmad Lone S.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Ziyaan Ahmad Lone Minor through his/her father Waseem Ahmad Lone S.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Ziyaan Ahmad Lone S.o Nazir Ahmad Lone R.o Shartwari Negrimalpora Tehsil & District Kupwara is 19-04-2022, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Mohammad Hibban Minor S.o Manzoor Ahmad Rather through his father namely Manzoor Ahmad Rather S/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather R.o Sheerinabad Sheeri Baramulla District Baramulla.

Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, Mohammad Hibban Minor S.o Manzoor Ahmad Rather through his father namely Manzoor Ahmad Rather S/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather R.o Sheerinabad Sheeri Baramulla District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child Mohammad Hibban Minor S.o Manzoor Ahmad Rather R.o Sheerinabad Sheeri Baramulla District Baramulla is 17-04-2023, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla) (RB)

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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19-NOVEMBER-2026

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CM Omar dedicates 13 development projects worth ₹92.84 crore to Mendhar

Says 'Mughal Road' to have all-weather connectivity with tunnel

Kashmir Age News



MENDHAR (POONCH), NOVEMBER 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today dedicated 13 development projects worth 92.84 crore to the people of Mendhar in the frontier district of Poonch, giving fresh impetus to infrastructure development and strengthening essential public services in the border constituency.

The projects, spread across road connectivity, power infrastructure, flood protection, education and drinking water supply, include eight inaugurations and five foundation stone-laying ceremonies, reflecting the Government's continued focus on improving basic amenities and extending development to remote and border areas.

Among the major projects, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 50 MVA, 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Mendhar, being executed by JKP CL at an estimated cost of 49.40 crore. The project is expected to significantly strengthen the power infrastructure and improve electricity distribution capacity in the area.

He also laid the foundation stone for flood protection works at vulnerable locations between Gursai and Mankote on both banks of Mendhari Nallah in Tehsil Mendhar, at an estimated cost of 12.13 crore, aimed at safeguarding vulnerable habitations and adjoining land against flooding.In the road connectivity sector, the Chief Minister inaugurated six road projects covering a combined length of 16.30 kilometres. Completed at a cumulative cost of over 20.19 crore, these include Jaranwali Gali to Dhara Wali Gali via CFC Rehmatpur, Main Babu More to Battangiya via Mohalla Khatana Ghai Kallar, SK Main Road to Thallan Kalaban, Main Road SK to Dharan Faizabad, Adar to Charoon Gali via High School Gorisian, and Gurah Nima Chughan to Hudian Gali (Phase-I).

He also inaugurated a double-storey (5+5) building, including a toilet complex, at Government Model Girls Higher Secondary School, Mendhar, constructed at a cost of 1.59 crore, besides Water Supply Scheme for Dheri, Hundi, Dhakki and Narman villages of Behra under Jal Jeevan Mission, completed at a cost of 3.67 crore.

DC Shopian presides over mega public outreach programme at Sedow



Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 18: As part of the government's sustained efforts to strengthen grassroots-level governance and ensure effective public grievance redressal, a comprehensive Public Outreach Programme was today organized at GHS, Sedow in Shopian.

The public interaction programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner along with SSP inspected stalls installed by various line departments showcasing their achievements, developmental initiatives, flagship schemes and ongoing activities.

The DC took keen interest in the exhibits and interacted with the departmental representatives to gain insights into the progress made under various government sponsored schemes and programmes.

He appreciated the efforts of the departments in highlighting their accomplishments, public welfare initiatives and service delivery mechanism, emphasizing the importance of ensuring greater public awareness about government schemes and facilitating their effective implementation at the grassroots level.

The programme witnessed an overwhelming response, with a large number of people from Sedow and adjoining areas participating to project various demands and issues of public importance concerning their respective localities.

DC Pulwama conducts surprise Inspection of PHC Lajura

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today conducted a surprise inspection of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Lajura to take stock of the functioning of the healthcare facility and assess the availability of essential medical services being provided to the public.



The DC was accompanied by ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, during the inspection.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner checked the attendance of doctors and other staff members and reviewed their availability and punctuality. He also took stock of the overall functioning of the health centre and interacted with the medical staff to assess the facilities and services available for patients.

The DC also interacted with patients and attendants to obtain firsthand feedback regarding the quality of healthcare services, availability of medical staff and difficulties, if any, being faced by them. He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely medical attention, proper patient care and responsive healthcare services, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the winter preparedness of the health facility. He took stock of the arrangements in place to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services during adverse weather conditions and stressed the need for adequate preparedness to address any eventuality and ensure that patients do not face inconvenience during the winter season.

Furthermore, during the inspection, the DC took note of the non-availability of a Medical Officer to conduct USG examinations at the facility. He accordingly directed the BMO Awantipora to remain available at PHC Lajura once in a week for conducting USG examinations, as the requisite machine is already available at the health centre.

DC Srinagar, SSP hold mega joint public grievance redressal camp at Nowhatta



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. GV Sundeep Chakraborty, on Wednesday held a mega joint Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Radpora, Nowhatta, in Shahr-e-Khaas to address public grievances and assess developmental needs at the grassroots level.

The camp was organised under the Public Outreach Programme of the District Administration and District Police to bring governance closer to the people and ensure speedy resolution of their day-to-day issues.

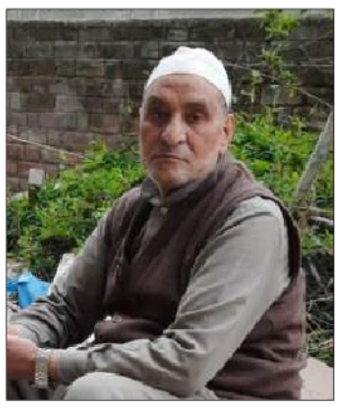
The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents of Nowhatta, Radpora, Shahampora, Khawaja Bazar, Rainawari, Zainakadal, Rajouri Kadal, Bohari Kadal, Kawdara, Gojwara, Eidgah, Qamarwari, Palpora, Achan, Noorbagh, Chattabal, Takanwari, Bakshipora and other adjoining areas falling under Khanyar, South and Eidgah tehsils.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SP North, Showkat Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy SP, Azhar Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, besides other Zonal and Sectoral Officers, Executive Engineers, besides senior Police Officers.

During the camp, several public delegations, individuals and traders representatives raised various civic and developmental issues before the Deputy Commissioner. These included demands for the establishment of fire stations, creation of adequate parking facilities, strengthening of fire safety measures, tackling the stray dog menace, widening of roads, improvement of drainage infrastructure, augmentation of water supply and repairs of lanes and drains.

M Altafdar Rajbagh condoles demise of Gulam Mohammad Bhat

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: M Altafdar Rajbagh visited the residence of the late Mr. Gulam Mohammad Bhat, son of Late Abdul Ahad Bhat, resident of Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar, to offer his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

He conveyed his deepest sympathies, particularly to the deceased's brother

and his close friend, Mr. Abdul Rashid Bhat, and son-in-law, Mr. Riyaz Ahmed Lone, and shared the family's grief during this difficult time.

He prayed to Almighty Allah (SWT) to forgive the

departed soul, grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and bless the bereaved family with patience, courage and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 2:30 PM, after Nimaz-e-Juma, at the ancestral graveyard near Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

First Phase of Haj-2027 Orientation Programme scheduled for November 23, 25 in Anantnag

Kashmir Age News

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 18: The District Administration Anantnag has scheduled the first phase of the orientation and training programme for selected pilgrims of Haj-1448 (H) 2027 on November 23 and 25, 2026, at the Auditorium Hall of Government Women's Degree College, Anantnag. According to a notice issued by the Additional District Magistrate Anantnag, the training sessions will commence at 10:30 AM on both days. The Haj Pilgrims belonging to Anantnag, Sallar, Pahalgam, Larnoo, Kokernag and Srigufwara areas have been asked to attend the training programme on 23rd of November 2026, while the Haj pilgrims from Shangus, Shahabad Bala, Qazigund, Dooru, Mattan and Bijbehara areas will attend the session on 25th of November 2026.

Weekly Block Diwas at Tangdar: SDM Karnah reviews public issues, calls for timely action

Kashmir Age News



KUPWARA: In pursuance of the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, a weekly Block Diwas programme was organised today at Dak Bungalow Tangdar under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Firdous Ahmed Qadri, with the objective of providing an effective platform for public interaction and ensuring timely redressal of public grievances.

The programme was attended by Tehsildar Karnah Mohd Amin Bhat, BDO Karnah, Mudasar Sikander and other concerned Officer were present.

During the programme, local residents and senior citizens projected various public grievances, developmental demands and issues concerning their respective areas before the officers of the concerned departments.

The departmental representatives listened to the issues and provided necessary feedback regarding the steps being taken for their resolution.

SDM Karnah, stressed upon the officers to maintain close coordination, ensure accountability and take prompt action on the genuine grievances raised by the public. He reiterated that such public outreach programmes are instrumental in bridging the gap between the administration and the people and ensuring responsive governance at the grassroots level.

ICAR-KVK Baramulla conducts technical visit to HDP Apple Orchard at Singhpora, Pattan

Kashmir Press Service

HANDWARA: Today, a team from ICAR-KVK Baramulla, headed by Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat, Senior Scientist & Head, along with Dr. Shoaib Kirmani, Scientist (Fruit Science), and Dr. Sajad Ahmad Sheikh, visited a High-Density Plantation (HDP) apple orchard spread over approximately 30 kanals at Singhpora, Pattan. The orchard was established in May this year using imported apple planting material.

During the field visit, it was observed that nearly 40% of the plants exhibited stunted growth and other symptoms requiring immediate technical attention. The team undertook an on-the-spot assessment, identified the issues requiring intervention and provided necessary scientific recommendations to the orchardist.



To ensure a comprehensive and scientifically sound diagnosis, the team also consulted experts from the Divisions of Entomology and Plant Pathology, SKUAST-Kashmir, for their technical inputs and guidance.

The farmer was provided with on-the-spot technical advisory and a comprehensive management strategy aimed at addressing the underlying problems, improving plant health and restoring the normal growth and vigour of the affected plants. This field-level intervention reflects ICAR-KVK Baramulla's commitment to providing timely scientific guidance, strengthening farmers' technical capacity and promoting sustainable and successful adoption of high-density apple cultivation through need-based extension services.

DC Ganderbal chairs review meeting on winter preparedness at Sonamarg

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the JKTDC Cafeteria in Sonamarg to assess winter preparedness and finalize arrangements for upcoming winter tourism and sports activities in the area.

At the outset, the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), delivered a detailed presentation outlining the readiness of various line departments to ensure enhanced facilities for visitors during the winter season. The chair was informed that a comprehensive calendar of events for the upcoming winter tourism season will be formally issued by the Department of Tourism to streamline activities and attract tourists.

The Chair was briefed that all essential public utilities, including uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, healthcare, fire and emergency services, and snow clearance operations, are being put in place for the smooth conduct of winter games and tourism events. Emphasis was also laid on inter-departmental coordination to ensure hassle-free traffic movement, adequate parking, and road safety along the Sonamarg route throughout the winter period.



Addressing the officers, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of proactive planning, close coordination, and timely execution of all preparatory measures by the civil administration, police, tourism authorities, and executing agencies. She underscored the need to ensure maximum convenience and safety for locals and tourists while positioning Sonamarg as a prominent winter tourism destination.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Harshal R. Mahajan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal

, ACD Ganderbal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, Chief Medical Officer, Ganderbal and other concerned officials.

Editorial

Deregulation initiatives

Jammu and Kashmir's progress under the Centre's Deregulation 1.0 and 2.0 initiatives is encouraging, but the real measure of success will lie not in the number of reforms notified or priority areas declared implemented, but in the difference they make to the everyday lives of people, businesses and institutions. The appreciation by the Centre's Task Force on Deregulation and Compliance Reduction is a welcome recognition of the UT administration's efforts. However, it must also serve as a reminder that reform is a continuous process, not an administrative milestone to be celebrated through statistics alone.

The observation that several J&K initiatives have the potential to emerge as best practices for other States and Union Territories reflects the progress made in simplifying regulatory procedures. Under Deregulation 1.0, 20 Priority Areas have been agreed as implemented, while under the second phase, 11 areas have received similar acceptance and nine await approval. Another eight are under implementation. These figures indicate institutional commitment, but the challenge now is to translate them into visible outcomes.

For businesses, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises, unnecessary licensing requirements, multiple inspections, repetitive documentation and prolonged approval processes can become serious obstacles to growth. Similarly, private educational institutions, healthcare establishments and other service providers often face procedural complexities that consume time and resources. Simplifying these requirements can encourage investment, generate employment and improve service delivery.

The proposed risk-based regulatory approach deserves particular attention. Low-risk activities should be allowed to function through self-certification, while third-party certification can be considered for medium-risk sectors. Strict regulatory supervision, however, must remain intact wherever public safety, health and essential standards are involved. Deregulation should eliminate unnecessary controls, not weaken accountability or compromise public interest.

Equally important is the need to measure the actual reduction in compliance costs, processing time and procedural requirements. A comparison of the situation before and after reforms would provide credible evidence of their effectiveness. Departments must also ensure that the intended beneficiaries are aware of the changes. As rightly emphasised by the Chief Secretary, stakeholder workshops and information campaigns are essential to bridge the gap between policy announcements and public awareness.

Jammu and Kashmir needs a regulatory environment that encourages entrepreneurship rather than discouraging it through avoidable bureaucratic hurdles. The J&K Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026, and sector-specific reforms provide an opportunity to build such an ecosystem. But legislation and notifications alone cannot change the business climate unless accompanied by responsive administration and effective implementation.

Ultimately, the success of deregulation must be judged by whether an entrepreneur obtains an approval faster, a school faces fewer unnecessary hurdles, an institution saves compliance costs and an ordinary citizen receives services without avoidable delays. The administration must now move from counting reforms to demonstrating results. Deregulation will acquire real meaning only when ease of doing business becomes ease of living.

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

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The Gentleman Politician: Dr Jitendra Singh Built A Career On Civility

According to CSIR–Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), more than 2,500 farmers in Jammu and Kashmir have taken up lavender cultivation. The crop has opened up opportunities not only in farming but also in essential oil extraction, processing, packaging, and marketing.

TEJINDER SINGH SODHI

In a political landscape where personal attacks, caustic remarks, and below-the-belt comments have increasingly become part of everyday political discourse, a politician from Jammu and Kashmir has carved out a distinct identity in national politics without resorting to such tactics.

Dr Jitendra Singh, a prominent face in all three tenures of the Narendra Modi government, is often described by observers and colleagues as a "Gentleman Politician". In an era when political opponents rarely miss an opportunity to target each other personally, the description reflects a political style that has remained largely consistent over the years.

Across his years in public life, Singh has maintained a reputation for measured language and political restraint. Whether responding to criticism from the Opposition or defending the government's position, he has generally preferred policy arguments over personal attacks, operating on a straightforward approach: letting administrative work speak for itself.

Beyond his understated political persona, his electoral journey in Jammu and Kashmir has drawn significant political attention.

In his maiden Lok Sabha election in 2014, Singh defeated Congress veteran and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Udhampur parliamentary constituency—a notable upset given the political stature and experience of his opponent.



In his maiden Lok Sabha election in 2014, Singh defeated Congress veteran and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Udhampur parliamentary constituency—a notable upset given the political stature and experience of his opponent.

Five years later, in 2019, he defeated Vikramaditya Singh, scion of the erstwhile Dogra royal family, to retain the seat. In 2024, he defended his constituency against Congress candidate and former MP and minister Choudhary Lal Singh, registering his third consecutive Lok Sabha victory.

Three elections, three formidable opponents, and three victories have cemented his electoral standing, alongside the space he has occupied in New Delhi while maintaining ties with the electorate that voted him in.

A MINISTER IN DELHI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS

One of the central challenges for any parliamentarian representing a geographically vast and difficult constituency is remaining accessible to voters while discharging responsibilities in the national capital.

Singh, who has held key ministerial responsibilities in the Modi government, has made regular visits to his constituency a routine part of his functioning. He travels across Udhampur, Kathua, Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar, reaching areas where difficult terrain often complicates governance.

Some of the remotest habitations in the country fall within his parliamentary constituency. For residents of these areas, a road, a hospital, a mobile connectivity tower, or access to a government officer can make a tangible difference to everyday life.

His public outreach programmes and Durbars, including visits to remote pockets, are aimed at bringing administration closer to residents. Rather than restricting interactions to district headquarters, he has taken his outreach to smaller towns, villages, and Panchayats, listening to grievances and taking up matters with the concerned authorities.

This consistent ground engagement has helped him sustain a connection with his constituency alongside his ministerial duties in Delhi.

Purple Revolution: When science became an instrument of economic transformation

One development initiative closely associated with Dr Jitendra Singh's tenure is the Purple Revolution.

What began as an experimental agricultural intervention has grown into an economic avenue for thousands of farmers and young entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission, farmers were encouraged to diversify from traditional crops to aromatic plants, particularly lavender. Bhaderwah and other parts of the Chenab Valley emerged as key centres of this shift.

The initiative illustrates how scientific research can be translated into practical economic benefits at the grassroots level.

According to CSIR–Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), more than 2,500 farmers in Jammu and Kashmir have taken up lavender cultivation. The crop has opened up opportunities not only in farming but also in essential oil extraction, processing, packaging, and marketing.

For a region where employment avenues have traditionally been limited, particularly in rural and mountainous areas, this has helped build an alternative local enterprise model.

Bhaderwah has gained recognition for its lavender fields and lavender-based enterprises, giving local youth opportunities to explore agri-entrepreneurship alongside conventional job seeking—an approach aimed at pairing infrastructure with sustainable livelihoods.

ROADS, HOSPITALS, AND CONNECTIVITY: DEVELOPMENT REACHES THE LAST MILE

Singh's tenure has coincided with considerable infrastructure expansion across his parliamentary constituency.

Road connectivity has remained a major focus, particularly under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The five districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar have received substantial allocations under the programme.

In August 2026, 110 PMGSY road projects covering approximately 598.5 kilometres, with a sanctioned cost of more than Rs 1,503 crore, were taken up, expected to benefit nearly 47,000 residents.

For people living in remote mountainous villages, such investments carry practical value, improving access to schools, healthcare facilities, markets, and emergency services.

Healthcare infrastructure has also expanded. The establishment of three centrally funded medical colleges in the parliamentary constituency, along with AIIMS Jammu at Vijaypur, marks a notable addition to the region's medical education and healthcare capacity.

The Rs 190-crore Devika River Rejuvenation Project in Udhampur is another key initiative. Modelled on the Namami Gange programme, it seeks to address pollution and restore the ecological and religious significance of the river.

Major connectivity projects—including the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel (Chenani-Nashri), Atal Setu at Basohli, Keerian-Gandyal Bridge, and the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link—have also reshaped the region's transport network.

While these remain collective government initiatives, the role of an elected representative in pursuing, facilitating, and monitoring projects that directly serve his constituency remains central.

FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

While his constituency remains central to his political identity, Singh's portfolios in the Union Government have given him a broader national profile.

As Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office overseeing the Space and Atomic Energy departments, he has been associated with several key scientific and technological initiatives.

The opening of the space sector to private participation, the National Quantum Mission, the promotion of biotechnology, and the Deep Ocean Mission are among the programmes that have progressed during his ministerial tenure.

In the Department of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, he has also overseen administrative reforms aimed at simplifying governance and improving transparency.

These include the promotion of self-attestation of documents, the abolition of interviews for certain categories of government recruitment, Mission Karmayogi, and the expansion of digital services for pensioners.

Though diverse, these portfolios share a focus on modernising institutions and preparing administrative systems for emerging technological demands.

A DIFFERENT POLITICAL VOCABULARY

Indian politics has never been short of sharp exchanges. Political competition is natural, and criticism of opponents is an essential part of democracy. However, there is a clear line between questioning a political opponent's decisions and resorting to personal attacks—a distinction that has grown increasingly blurred.

In such an environment, Dr Jitendra Singh's measured political style represents a distinct approach. He has defeated prominent political figures in Jammu and Kashmir without making personal hostility a defining feature of his campaign or public persona.

His three consecutive electoral victories have established him as one of the BJP's key political faces from the region, while his presence across all three Modi ministries has reinforced his standing in national politics.

Ultimately, any politician's performance is judged by public outcomes rather than rhetoric or personal image. Questions around unfinished projects, unmet expectations, and the pace of development remain a valid part of democratic accountability, and no public representative is beyond scrutiny.

In an era when public debate often rewards the loudest voice, Singh has sought to build his political identity around a quieter proposition: that politics can be assertive without being abusive, competitive without being vindictive, and ambitious without losing its decorum. In a polarised political climate, that distinction stands out. (Source: News 18)

Ultimately, any politician's performance is judged by public outcomes rather than rhetoric or personal image. Questions around unfinished projects, unmet expectations, and the pace of development remain a valid part of democratic accountability, and no public representative is beyond scrutiny.

The father I never met



BY :- RAQIF MAKHDOOMI.

I met this guy on Club house. Club house is a social media app where unknown people talk to each other. A room is created where people can join in and talk to each other. I still remember how we interacted for the first time. While I was already in the room giggling with the friends I made on club house, he entered and said "Yaar, I don't know why people remove me from there rooms. They don't even let me speak. As soon as I enter the room they remove me. I don't know what I have done to them". Even though he said it with a laugh but I felt that frustration within him. Without even asking him any questions I replied "Stay here no one is going to remove you. I'm here for you". I strictly warned and forbidden others against removing from the room. I remember he being friendly and adjusted with us quite quickly. Mostly people on club house find it cool to abuse while speaking but he spoke without abusing and his presence didn't make us feel that we are speaking for the first time. And since then he used to come to our rooms. I didn't find his behaviour of such kind that he should be removed from the room a nice person who used to talk to us after having a busy day.

Like another day we were talking to each other but I don't remember what exactly we were talking about. All thanks to memory I forgot things really quickly. But what I remember is someone was speaking something about father and he said "Mera baap nahi hai". All of a sudden I froze at my place, I left that lump in my throat and I was unable to sallow. I didn't speak for few seconds and then I said "Kya bol raha hai bhai" to which he replied "Haan mera baap nahi hai . Woh mar gaya hai". I was unable to process what he just said. While he completed what he had to say he laughed and that laugh told me the story he doesn't want to narrate. Everyone in the room feel silent and no one spoke a word . To lighten the movement I said "Haan kya baath kar raha tha ham". With this we all started to speak again and tried to ignore what he just said. It was that day I came to know the guy who laughs the loudest is the saddest person in the room. One can never guess by his behaviour or the way he talks that what he's suffering with. I am not saying that he should sound sad Or he shouldn't be enjoying the way he is. But the people who are dealing with a problem like this at some point of time make you realize that something is wrong but in his case one can never guess that he has lost his father. He's a guy who's full of energy and is a living person. You'll never see his face without smile and he's always in a mood to joke. Every time we meet I see him smiling and excited about everything. The only thing to hate about him is his anger. He gets really angry over small things and looses his sense. He punched the wall of his room just because he had some argument with some of his friends. He punched so hard that it broke his right hand's little finger and the doctor said that a rod has to be put to get the joint back in place. As a friend to whom he's close to, I went to enquiry about his health and stayed at his place for night. I was served with a well cooked chicken and a well made "Chatnie" . The dinner tasted delicious. After we were done with the dinner we went back to his room. He sat silently on his bed, while we were in the kitchen he was laughing and making us laugh. I looked at him and after observing him for sometime I said "oi kya baath hai. Sab thik hai". He said nothing and didn't move but when I instead he said "Sab kuch nahi bata sekta hu bhai. Mai terko apne problem bol sekta hu, apnie personal baatein bol sekta hu lakin ghar kie baatein nahi bol sekta hu". He yelled at me while he was speaking. His yelling at me didn't get me angry it made realize what he's suffering alone. He did tell me what makes him worried but I don't want to put it here he trusted me with something that he has disclosed to no on before. I was unable to cheer him up. I was unable to find words to counsel him. I told him "All I can say is You need to be strong and deal with all this with all the strengthen". The only thing I was able to add up was "I will always be there for you and support you when you will find no one to support" I felt me saying that I'll always support him brought his smile back and he was again the same guy I met on club house.

His father has been a helping soul and he helped people to grow. But what is unfortunate is that his son finds their behaviour really strange they behave as if they never helped by anyone to grow.

There are many situations where on no can help anyone and one among those situations is to bring back the death ones. No amount of money or no amount of approach can bring back dead one. Once someone is lost the only thing his loved ones can do is to have patience and pray for him.

His father was a pure soul, I pray he finds place in paradise and my friend including his family gets enough strength to deal with what they have lost.

From Joint Families to Nuclear Families: What Have We Gained and Lost?



(PROF.) (DR.) SARITA JAIN

Not so long ago, a family often meant a house full of people. Grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins lived together, shared meals, celebrated festivals and took part in one another's lives. Today, many couples move to other cities for work, raise children independently and manage their homes without relatives nearby. The change raises an important question: what have we gained, and what have we lost?

The shift towards nuclear families has brought real advantages. Couples have greater freedom to make decisions about their homes, finances and children. Young adults can follow their own priorities, while women may find more room to pursue education, careers and personal independence. Smaller households also make it easier to relocate for work. For many people, living separately is not a rejection of family values; it is a practical response to changing opportunities.

Privacy is another important gain. In a smaller household, couples can establish their own routines, resolve disagreements privately and make decisions without having to satisfy several generations. A joint family should not be treated as ideal simply because it was once common. For some couples, separate living also reduces everyday conflict and allows relationships to continue with clearer boundaries. Respect and fairness matter more than the size of a household.

However, independence also means carrying responsibilities that were once shared. In a joint family, someone might look after a child while a parent went to work, accompany an elderly relative to the doctor or help when a family member fell ill. There were people to turn to after a tiring day, and ordinary tasks could be divided among several adults. Such arrangements were not always smooth, but relatives could offer practical help and comfort. In a nuclear family, the same responsibilities often rest on one or two people. When both parents work, even an unexpected illness or school closure can become difficult to manage.

The change is especially visible in the lives of older people. Parents who once spent their days surrounded by children and grandchildren may now live alone, waiting for a visit or phone call. Distance does not automatically mean neglect. Employment, housing costs and other responsibilities can make it difficult for families to live together. Yet staying connected must involve more than occasional messages or festival visits. Older family members need time, companionship and reassurance that they remain important in their children's lives.



Children, too, may miss the everyday company of grandparents, cousins and other relatives. Through these relationships, they hear family stories, learn about different generations and discover how to adjust to people with different habits and opinions. Grandparents can pass on traditions, memories and lessons that rarely appear in textbooks. Cousins may become a child's first friends and companions. At the same time, a smaller household can offer a calmer environment and more focused attention from parents. What matters is not how many people live under one roof, but whether children have dependable relationships in which they feel safe, heard and supported.

There is also a wider social loss when family connections become weak. Festivals and family occasions can turn into formal gatherings rather than opportunities to spend meaningful time together. Relatives may follow one another on social media yet remain unaware of the difficulties someone is facing. Today, maintaining that awareness requires effort. Technology helps us stay in touch, but it cannot fully replace the warmth of being present. Maintaining these ties depends on small gestures repeated over time, rather than occasional grand occasions.

It would be unfair, however, to look at the past through rose-coloured glasses. Joint families could involve disagreements, interference, unequal household responsibilities and restrictions on personal choices. For some people, moving out was necessary for peace, dignity and personal growth. Equally, a nuclear family does not have to be isolated. Relatives can live in different homes and still remain close. The challenge is ensuring that separate addresses do not turn into indifference or become an excuse to withdraw from those who depend on us.

Perhaps we do not need to return to the old way of living. We need to carry forward what was valuable about it: sharing responsibilities, caring for older people, making time for children and being present when someone needs us. Families can arrange visits, involve grandparents in children's lives and share elder-care responsibilities. These efforts do not require everyone to live together; they require consideration and consistency.

Nuclear families have given many people privacy, freedom and flexibility, and those gains should be respected. But progress should not come at the cost of compassion or connection. In the end, a family's strength is not measured by the number of people living at one address, but by how reliably they stand by one another. We may no longer share the same roof, but we should never become strangers to one another.

(The writer is a Principal at Government Girls College Kotkhawda, Jaipur)

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To soon issue draft framework for centralised assessment of CGST taxpayers: CBIC chief

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18: The CBIC will soon release a draft framework for faceless and centralised assessment for 70 lakh taxpayers registered under the Central GST (CGST), a senior official said on Wednesday.

The new framework is likely to be implemented from next fiscal beginning April 1, 2027.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Chaturvedi said the CGST-registered taxpayers fall broadly in two categories --Â" large ones with multiple GSTINs within a state or GSTINs spread across various states, and small entrepreneurs registered in a particular geography.

"We (CBIC) are weaving our thoughts around the two concepts of a faceless and a centralised administration for the CGST taxpayers. And we have created a framework. The framework should be out for public consultation and stakeholder consultation very shortly," Chaturvedi said at a PHDCCI event.

Chaturvedi said the central government intends to bring a new paradigm of administration for CGST taxpayers.

"It will both be a centralised administration where the large taxpayer can walk into the physical office and all their needs, including registration, written scrutiny, adjudication, reviews, appeals are taken care of in one geography. For the rest of the taxpayers, we intend to bring in a faceless assistance system," Chaturvedi said.

The CBIC chief asked the industry chambers and stakeholders to send their views once the framework is out for public consultation.

Of the 70 lakh CGST-registered taxpayers, about 2 lakh are registered with multiple CGST jurisdiction either in one state or across different states.

After the 57th GST Council meeting on October 8, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the framework for faceless assessment for CGST taxpayers will be put up for consultation and will be implemented from fiscal year 2027-28.

Under the proposed framework, tax notices, hearings and orders would be dealt with on a national platform rather than individual formations.

A taxpayer registered under CGST operating in several states would then deal with one system instead of several offices.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), taxpayers have been divided between CGST and SGST officers based on a formula decided by the GST Council to ensure a single interface.

All administrative control over 90 per cent of taxpayers having turnover below Rs 1.5 crore vests with state tax administration. The remaining 10 per cent is with central tax administration.

Taxpayers with a turnover above Rs 1.5 crore are divided equally between Central and state tax administration.

The GST Council has decided to scrap the arrest powers of tax officers which Chaturvedi described as a "historic step". The Council last month also hiked the threshold for launching prosecution for GST offences to Rs 5 crore.

"The message is that the tax administration must be an economic partnership, and not an exercise in coercion," he said.

Kotak MF, BlackRock among investors buying Rs 1,905-cr stake in Groww

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 18: Domestic and global institutional investors such as Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund and BlackRock, have increased their stake in Groww by acquiring shares worth Rs 1,905 crore, according to block deal data on NSE.

The investors collectively purchased 8.70 crore equity shares, representing a 1.38 per cent stake in Billionbrains Garage Ventures, the parent company of Groww, at an average price of Rs 219 apiece on Tuesday.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund (MF) led the buying spree, acquiring 2.05 crore shares or a 0.33 per cent stake, for Rs 448.95 crore, making it the biggest buyer in the transaction.

The share purchase increased Kotak MF's stake in Groww to 2.21 per cent from 1.89 per cent.

BlackRock, the world's largest asset management company, was the second-largest buyer of Bengaluru-based Groww, picking up



more than 1.34 crore shares for Rs 294.55 crore.

Other domestic institutional investors participating in the transaction included Tata Mutual Fund, National Pension System (NPS) Trust, and HDFC Life Insurance.

Stock markets fall in early trade after two-day rally

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 18: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Wednesday amid profit-taking after a two-day rally.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 75.10 points to 82,482.30 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty skidded 26.95 points to 25,355.65.

Further in the trade, the BSE benchmark traded



370.43 points lower at 82,144.22, and the Nifty dropped 148.70 points to 25,234.65.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, and Tata Steel were among the major laggards.

Maruti, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, and ICICI Bank were among the winners.

The BSE Sensex has jumped nearly 11 per cent so far this month till November 17, and the NSE Nifty climbed over 10 per cent. Benchmark indices extended the rally for the second straight day on Tuesday. The Sensex rallied 427.40 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at 82,532.19 in the previous trade. The Nifty climbed 96.30 points, or 0.38 per cent, to end at 25,387.40.

Delhi's Khan market 24th most expensive high-street location globally: Cushman

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18: Delhi's upscale Khan Market has retained 24th rank in a global list of the most expensive high-street retail locations, with an annual rent of USD 238 per sq ft, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield noted that Khan Market remains India's most expensive high street. Buy Maps

New York City's Upper Fifth Avenue has become the most expensive high street location in the world, beating London's New Bond Street.

"Delhi's Khan Market has retained its 24th position among the world's most expensive retail streets," it said.

Annual rents at Khan Market rose 14 per cent year-on-year to about USD 238 per sq ft per year (Rs 1,875 per sq ft per month), driven by strong demand for retail space.

Cushman & Wakefield's Main Streets Across the World 2026 report, now in its 36th edition, examines headline rents across 147 leading retail locations globally. As per the report, New York City's Upper Fifth Avenue has reclaimed its position as the world's most expensive retail street, with a 35 per cent rise in annual rent to USD 2,700 per square foot (psf). It was in 3rd position in 2025.

London's New Bond Street ranked second at USD 2,230 per sq ft rent annually, followed by Milan's Via Montenapoleone at USD 2,160 per sq ft. Both streets recorded flat rental growth over the past year after significant increases in prior years.

Across all locations, rents rose an average of 3 per cent year-on-year in local currency terms, moderating from 4.3 per cent in 2025. Nearly half of the streets surveyed (49 per cent) recorded rental increases, compared with 19 per cent that saw declines. The remaining 32 per cent held steady. "While rental growth has moderated globally, competition for space in the world's most established retail destinations remains intense," said Dominic Brown, Head of International Research, Global Think Tank at Cushman & Wakefield.

RBI may hike interest rates by 75 basis points by Q2 CY27: Goldman Sachs



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 18: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may raise the benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points by the second quarter of calendar year 2027, as rising food prices and broadening inflationary pressures are likely to prompt monetary tightening, according to a Goldman Sachs Research report. Buy Maps

The interest rate hike is expected to moderate India's real GDP growth to 7.2 per cent in CY27, down from an estimated 7.9 per cent in CY26.

Goldman Sachs expects the RBI to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points in December, followed by another 50 basis points in the first half of CY27, taking the rate to 6.25 per cent by Q2 CY27, the report said.

"With headline inflation likely to remain slightly above 6 per cent through Q4 CY26 and Q1 CY27 in our forecasts, and price pressures broadening across core goods and services, we expect the RBI to continue its 'calibrated tightening' cycle,"Â the report said.

The RBI raised its benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50 per cent in the October policy, its first hike in nearly four years.

Goldman Sachs expects India's headline retail inflation to average 5.7 per cent in CY27, while core inflation is projected at 4.7 per cent, driven by higher food prices, weather disruptions associated with El Nino and elevated input costs.

Goldman Sachs Chief India Economist Santanu Sengupta said inflation has already breached the upper end of the RBI's target band, reaching 6.1 per cent in October.

He expects inflation to remain around 6 per cent over the next two quarters before gradually easing towards the early 5 per cent range by the end of the year.

Despite the anticipated monetary tightening, Goldman Sachs expects India's real GDP growth to remain robust at 7.2 per cent in CY27, moderating from an estimated 7.9 per cent in CY26.

The report said strong domestic demand, resilient private consumption and an emerging investment cycle in energy, materials and strategic manufacturing sectors would continue to support economic activity.

However, tighter financial conditions, higher corporate borrowing costs and fading effects of tax cuts could weigh on consumption and investment growth.

Goldman Sachs projected real investment growth at around 8.5 per cent in CY27, supported by sectors aligned with India's energy security, defence and supply-chain priorities. Buy Maps

On the external front, the current account deficit is expected to remain contained at around 1 per cent of GDP in CY26 and CY27, supported by robust services exports and remittances.

The report also forecast the rupee at 94, 95 and 96 against the US dollar over the next three, six and 12 months, respectively.

On the Union Budget 2027-28,Â Sengupta said,"the underlying fiscal consolidation or sticking to that path will continue. I think the expenditure allocation towards capex also sort of remains constant as a share of GDP".

Milk prices rise Rs 4-8 per litre in FY27 as supply constraints, higher costs hit dairy sector

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18: Rising milk procurement costs, constrained supplies and elevated processing expenses have prompted leading dairy companies in India to raise retail milk prices by Rs 4-8 per litre in the current fiscal, an unusually steep increase for a period that typically witnesses improved milk availability, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings. Buy Maps

The price revisions, undertaken in two rounds in May and November 2026, come amid lower-than-expected milk availability during the ongoing winter flush season, reduced milk-fat content in certain procurement regions and elevated cattle feed, fodder, packaging and logistics costs.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets products under the Amul brand, and Mother Dairy raised retail milk prices by around Rs 2 per litre in May. This was followed by another round of increases of Rs 2-6 per litre in November, reflecting persistent cost pressures and tighter supply conditions.

The timing of the latest revisions is significant as milk procurement typically improves during the October-February flush season, when cooler temperatures, better fodder availability and improved animal productivity support higher production.

However, the current season has witnessed relatively constrained milk availability, while lower milk-fat content and competition among cooperative and private dairies for procurement have kept raw milk prices firm, CareEdge Ratings said in its November 18 report.

Milk production in India, the world's largest producer accounting for nearly 25 per cent of global output, is estimated to have increased by 3.6 per cent year-on-year to 256.8 million tonnes in FY26, compared with 247.9 million tonnes in FY25.

Despite the increase in overall production, the pace of growth has moderated from historical levels, with output remaining sensitive to feed and fodder availability, weather conditions, animal productivity and disease outbreaks.

Per-capita milk availability is estimated to have risen to around 498 grams per day in FY26 from 485 grams in FY25.

The report noted that milk production has increased from 146.3 million tonnes in FY15 to 247.9 million tonnes in FY25, registering a compound annual growth rate of around 5.4 per cent. Despite India's substantial milk production base, a large portion of the domestic dairy market continues to operate through traditional and unorganised channels. Buy Maps

Around 25-35 per cent of milk production is estimated to be retained or consumed at the producer level, leaving 65-75 per cent as marketable surplus. Of this surplus, only around 30-35 per cent is handled through organised channels, while the remaining 65-70 per cent is managed by traditional milkmen, local vendors and other unorganised participants.

Within the organised segment, cooperative dairies account for an estimated 50-55 per cent share, supported by established farmer relationships and extensive procurement networks. Private dairies account for the remaining share, having expanded through investments in processing, branding, product innovation and distribution.

The gradual shift towards organised channels is expected to be supported by rising consumer preference for branded and quality-assured dairy products, alongside the expansion of cold-chain infrastructure and organised retail.

However, the pace of formalisation will depend on competitive procurement prices, timely payments to farmers, efficient collection networks and last-mile distribution infrastructure.

Average retail milk prices in India increased from around Rs 39.6 per litre in FY16 to Rs 59.1 per litre in FY26, translating into a compound annual growth rate of approximately 4.1 per cent.

Historically, organised dairies have undertaken periodic price increases of nearly Rs 2 per litre annually to pass on higher procurement, cattle feed, fodder, packaging and logistics costs.

Western states lead vehicle sales in July-September quarter, SIAM data shows

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18: Maharashtra recorded the highest passenger vehicle sales among Indian states and Union Territories in the July-September quarter, while Uttar Pradesh led in two-wheelers and three-wheelers, according to data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Buy Maps

Passenger vehicle sales across the country totalled 13.61 lakh units in the second quarter of fiscal 2026-27, the industry body said. Maharashtra accounted for 1,65,000 units, or 12.1 per cent of the total, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Two-wheelers, India's largest vehicle segment by volume, saw sales of 64.33 lakh units in the quarter. Uttar Pradesh led with 7,89,000 units, or 12.3 per cent of the total, ahead of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka.

By zone, the western region led in three of the four segments: passenger vehicles (4,29,000 units), two-wheelers (2.113 million) and commercial vehicles (1,13,000). The southern region led in three-wheelers with 96,000 units.

Commercial vehicle sales came to 3.09 lakh, with Maharashtra again coming first at 46,000 units, or 15 per cent of the total. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka followed. Three-wheeler sales totalled 2.85 lakh. Uttar Pradesh led with 34,000 units, or 12.1 per cent, followed by Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. In passenger vehicles, the top five states together accounted for about 45 per cent of national sales, with Maharashtra at 12.1 per cent, Uttar Pradesh at 9.8 per cent, Gujarat at 8.3 per cent,

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Online gaming debt led to triple murder in Assam's Duliajan: Police

Press Trust Of India

DIBRUGARH (ASSAM), NOV 18 : Debt incurred due to online gaming allegedly led to the triple murder at oil



town Duliajan in Dibrugarh district of Assam, police said on Wednesday.

The prime accused, Raju Das, had to repay his father Rs 4 lakh borrowed for online betting and lost in it, and roped in his associate Amir Das, a plumber, with the two killing three Bhuyan family members with a hammer.

Chandrakanta Bhuyan, his wife Eliza Bhuyan and their daughter were found dead inside their residence in Kamlabari area of Duliajan on Monday evening.

Raju and Amir Das were arrested from a train in Sivasagar district on Tuesday.

Dibrugarh Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime)

Nirmal Ghosh said the two accused were arrested at Simaluguri railway station while they were trying to flee to Bengaluru via Guwahati.

While Raju primarily works as a painter, Amir is a plumber. Amir had earlier worked with Raju's father, he added.

"During investigation, we found out that Raju Das had allegedly lost around Rs 4 lakh, borrowed from his father, in online betting. To repay the debt, he planned a robbery and roped in Amir," Ghosh said.

The two had allegedly been in contact over the phone for around three days before the incident, and conspired for the robbery and murders, he added.

"Preliminary probe suggests that the accused entered the house around 8.30 am, attacked and killed the three family members with a hammer and looted valuables. They left the crime scene around 12.15 pm," the ASP said.

After the murders, the two persons planned to go to Guwahati and then escape to Bengaluru, he added.

"Police have recovered several stolen items from their possession, including approximately Rs 13,510 in cash, gold jewellery and other valuables," Ghosh said.

He said police collected scientific evidence and examined CCTV footage from the surrounding areas, which showed two suspicious persons in the vicinity around the time of the incident.

"Based on the leads, Dibrugarh Police, Charaideo Police and the Government

Railway Police (GRP) launched a joint operation and intercepted the two persons at Simaluguri railway station while they were attempting to board the Avadh Assam Express for Guwahati," Ghosh said.

Three arrested in Lucknow for duping retired Defence Ministry official in Delhi of Rs 2.02 crore

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18: Three men were arrested for allegedly cheating a 66-year-old retired Ministry of Defence official of around Rs 2.02 crore in a digital arrest fraud, police said on Wednesday.

The accused were arrested in Lucknow by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police.

"With their arrest, teams have recovered four mobile phones, eight debit cards and a cheque book from their possession," a senior police officer said.

The victim, a retired Section Officer, was contacted by fraudsters claiming that a bank account had been opened in Jammu and Kashmir using his Aadhaar credentials and that a suspicious transaction of Rs 70 lakh had been detected, the officer said.

The accused allegedly impersonated law enforcement authorities and fabricated a criminal investigation to intimidate the victim. They threatened him with arrest and kept him under constant surveillance through telephone calls, the officer said.

"Under pressure, the victim was repeatedly made to visit his bank and transfer large sums of money into different bank accounts specified by the fraudsters. The accused extracted around Rs 2.02 crore from him by exploiting his fear of legal consequences," the officer further added.

An FIR was registered after receiving a complaint on January 15, and further investigation was taken up. "An investigation into the financial trail revealed that the cheated money was routed through multiple beneficiary accounts arranged by different members of the syndicate," the officer said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammad Imran Khan (37), Ram Kishore (28) and Rupender Pratap Singh (25). Khan allegedly headed a company whose bank account received Rs 17 lakh of the cheated amount, while Kishore acted as a mediator to arrange bank accounts and provide them to operators involved in cyber frauds.

Singh allegedly operated beneficiary accounts, facilitated the transfer of the proceeds of crime and distributed commissions received in cryptocurrency, particularly USDT, among other members of the network.

Police said further investigation is underway to identify other members of the syndicate and trace the remaining. "An investigation into the financial trail revealed that the cheated money was routed through multiple beneficiary accounts arranged by different members of the syndicate," the officer said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammad Imran Khan (37), Ram Kishore (28) and Rupender Pratap Singh (25). Khan allegedly headed a company whose bank account received Rs 17 lakh of the cheated amount.

Assam Foreigners Tribunal declares Cachar man ' streamline foreigner', family members Indian

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI, NOV 18 : A Foreigners Tribunal in Assam's Cachar district has declared a person a "streamline foreigner", while holding his wife and children to be Indian citizens.

A 'streamline foreigner' in Assam is a legal classification for a person who entered the state from the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) between January 1, 1966 and March 24, 1971 without registering with the government.

The Foreigners Tribunal-4th Member Ranjan Roy passed an order on November 6 that Mohan Lal Das of Sayedpur village in Katigorah is a "streamline foreigner", but pronounced his late wife Pramila Das and children as Indians.

"OP (opposite party) Mohan Lal Das is a streamline foreigner.... Puspa Bala Das, Suman Bala Das, Sudhan Das (Sredham Das) and Madhu Das are the sons and daughter of Pramila Das and are found Indians, not foreigners," he added.

The tribunal noted that several cases related to the family were amalgamated for disposal by a common opinion.

Thane court sentences man to 6 years in jail in 2020 drug case after he pleads guilty to charges



Press Trust Of India

THANE, NOV 18 : A special NDPS court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 45-year-old man to six years of simple imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to charges involving drug possession.

Special Judge MS Lone on Monday convicted the accused, Vishwajeet Vijay Dutta alias Babu -- who is in jail since October 2020 -- under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and ordered that the period of detention already undergone by him be set off against his sentence.

Alongside the prison term, the court imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the accused. Failure to pay the fine will attract an additional two months of simple imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the case dates back to September 30, 2020, when the police raided an apartment in the Mumbra area. Dutta, along with his associate Sayda Yusuf Shaikh, was allegedly found in possession of more than 1 kg of ganja.

Following the raid, an FIR was registered by the Mumbra police, and a chargesheet was filed in the court. Dutta was arrested on October 8, 2020, and has remained incarcerated since then.

During the proceedings, the accused filed an application and submitted a plea admitting to the charges, while pointing out that he had already been in custody for over six years and requesting leniency. Taking note of the duration of Dutta's detention and admission of guilt, Judge Lone said, "Considering the fact that the accused is in jail from more than six years, leniency in sentencing is required to be done." The offences with which the accused had been charged are punishable up to imprisonment of 10 years. The accused is in prison since October 8, 2020. Hence, it would be appropriate to convict him and sentence him to six years in jail and impose.

Delhi High Court bids farewell to Justice Anil Kshetarpal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 18: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday bid farewell to Justice Anil Kshetarpal, who said he always endeavoured to deliver speedy and effective justice to litigants.

Justice Kshetarpal, who became a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2017, was transferred to Delhi last year.

Speaking at the farewell reference organised by the high court, Justice Kshetarpal dedicated all his judicial decisions to the members of the Bar.

"Whatever I could do was with the assistance of the Bar. I dedicate all my judgments to the Bar..My endeavour has always been to ensure that litigants before the court, whose lives often revolve around the cases pending in court, get speedy and effective justice," the judge said.

Asserting that the Delhi High Court was known for its remarkable disposal of cases, Justice Kshetarpal praised its judges for their "industry and commitment" and the members of its Bar for their preparation and quality of assistance.

The varied work before this court allows a member of this institution to grow immensely while connecting with the problems of the people at the very grassroots of the society, he said.

Justice Kshetarpal took the oath as a judge of the Delhi High Court on July 21, 2025. During his tenure of nearly 16 months, he delivered several significant judgments. A bench headed by Justice Kshetarpal, in May, upheld TRAI regulations that capped broadcasting of advertisements to 12 minutes per hour.

Brother of AIIMS doctor accused of raping medic chargesheeted for 'threatening' victim's father



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 : A supplementary chargesheet has been filed in a case involving an AIIMS doctor accused of raping another doctor on the pretext of marriage, naming the accused's brother for allegedly threatening the victim's kin, court sources said on Wednesday.

According to the chargesheet, Manmohan Gupta (70), the brother of the main accused Deepak Gupta, has been booked under IPC Section 506 (criminal intimidation) for threatening the complainant's father. The document filed before Judicial Magistrate Sukhjeet Singh noted that the main chargesheet had already been filed, following which the complainant or victim filed a protest petition claiming that it was incomplete, and that a court on December 23 last year directed that certain aspects of the plea be probed further.

The chargesheet noted that the complainant's father was threatened by Manmohan over a call on January 9, 2023, where he allegedly said, "Na shadi hui hai aur na hi hone denge; jyada bolega to tujhe jhuth ke case me jail karwa dunga". (Neither marriage has taken place nor will I let one happen; if you say any more, I will have you thrown in jail on false charges). "However, during the previous interrogation conducted with Manmohan Gupta, he replied that he did not threaten... (the father); rather, he was called by... (the father) in November 2022," the chargesheet said. "Manmohan Gupta also replied, 'that other than that there is no conversation of any kind', which is a contrary statement/reply given by him. Inference is that he concealed the facts that he had a conversation with ...(the father) and as per the complaint filed against him there is sufficient evidence against him to consider his act to be changed from suspect.

Delhi HC directs continued tech support services to Roseneft-backed Nayara Energy

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18 : The Delhi High Court has directed a Germany-headquartered company to continue providing its software support services to Nayara Energy Limited despite sanctions imposed on the Russian oil giant Rosneft-backed petroleum company under the European Council Regulation.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dinesh Bhatt refused to interfere at this stage with a single-judge's September order directing the immediate resumption of services by SAP India Private Limited to Nayara Energy, which operates a large-scale oil refinery and manages a network of retail fuel outlets across the country.

It issued notice to Nayara Energy on SAP India's appeal challenging the single-judge's order and listed the matter for the next hearing on January 11.

"In the meantime, however, the services as directed by the learned Single Judge shall continue to be provided by the Appellant," the division bench said in the order passed on November 5.

On September 21, the single-judge bench had passed an interim order, which ruled that Nayara Energy catered to approximately eight per cent of India's energy needs, and therefore, an uninterrupted flow of technical support services to it was "absolutely essential" for such "critical infrastructure".

The interim order came on a lawsuit by Nayara Energy, formerly Essar Oil Limited, against SAP India Private Limited after the latter "unilaterally" blocked the plaintiff's access to its technical support services in July 2025 despite an agreement between the parties.

The plaintiff was informed that its name had been included in the "EU Sanctions list" concerning "restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine", and SAP India, being an EU-headquartered company, was compelled to take immediate steps to ensure compliance.

The single-judge had held that the "unilateral and abrupt suspension" of the support services was ex facie illegal and in breach of the mutually agreed contractual stipulations between the parties, and at the stage of interim relief, SAP India cannot rely on EU Regulations to avoid its contractual obligations under Indian law.

Challenging the interim order, SAP's senior counsel submitted before the division bench that the German authorities and the EU authorities have, at this stage, permitted it to continue the support system for Nayara, and it would be in difficulty if the approval is revoked later.

It was also stated that the energy company has, in fact, approached the Council of the European Union (EU) in the matter and submitted to the EU's jurisdiction.

Nayara's senior counsel said the SAP support system was essential for its operations, as it cannot replace the entire IT architecture and infrastructure within its company.

The proceedings under the EU jurisdiction are without prejudice and would not come in the way of the relief being granted by the high court, it was added. If there is any change in circumstances, either of the parties is free to approach the court, the order of the division bench said.

FIR against developer for illegal minor mineral dumping and evading Rs 8.30 cr fine in Navi Mumbai



Press Trust Of India

THANE, NOV 18 : An FIR has been registered against a real estate developer in connection with the alleged illegal dumping of minor minerals near railway tracks in Navi Mumbai, which caused environmental degradation, and evading a penalty of Rs 8.30 crore, the Thane tehsildar's office has stated.

A massive drive has been initiated to register hundreds of cases against the unauthorised use of minor minerals, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday by Dinesh Paithankar, Resident Nayab Tehsildar and Office Head of the Thane Tehsildar Office.

As part of this crackdown, a criminal case has been registered at Sanpada police station in Navi Mumbai, the release stated.

The alleged violation came to light in November 2018 after a complaint was lodged by the Village Revenue Officer of Shiravane (Navi Mumbai).

A staggering 7,949 brass of minor minerals, including soil and murum, were dumped near the railway tracks north of Juinagar railway station at Sonkhar (Thane district) without any statutory clearance, it said. The release stated that despite repeated notices issued by the Thane Tehsildar Office between 2018 and 2023, the developer failed to respond or clear the dues. Consequently, on January 18, 2024, the Tehsildar and Executive Magistrate of Thane ordered the company to deposit a penalty of Rs 8,30,23,152 within 15 days, it said.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha

The entire nation stands with them," he said.

The lieutenant governor said no compensation could make up for the loss of an invaluable life, but the government had a responsibility to ensure that the families of martyrs led a respectable and dignified life.

He assured them that all necessary assistance would be provided to secure a bright future for their children and coming generations. Congratulating the 74 officers who successfully completed their training, Sinha said they had chosen the path of national service and their achievement was a proud moment for their families as well as the Union Territory.

Emphasising the responsibilities associated with policing and environmental protection, he urged the newly inducted officers to wear their uniforms with pride, integrity and a deep sense of duty, while remembering the sacrifices of those who served before them.

Highlighting emerging security challenges, Sinha called for modern policing mechanisms to effectively tackle cyber threats, digital radicalisation, drone-based threats, narco-terrorism and other forms of asymmetric warfare.

"Today's security threat may also come through a mobile screen, not just a gun. If we fight today's challenges with yesterday's methods, we will fall behind. I want every jawan and every officer to be proficient not only in counter-terrorism but also in digital tools, forensic science, cyber forensics, digital evidence and monitoring technology," he said.

Kulgam

recovered from the encounter site. The killed Terrorist neutralised during the joint operation is identified as Mohd Lateef Bhat R/o Khrewan, Kulgam. Further details are awaited".

According to officials, Bhat and his associate, Umar Nisar Dar, were involved in the November 11 attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam that left three paramilitary personnel injured.

While Dar was killed in a gunfight in the Laru bypass area of the district on Monday, Bhat had managed to give security forces the slip.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs early Wednesday, the Army, along with a team of elite Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police, launched a cordon-and-search operation in Zangalpora, located about nine km from Monday's encounter site.

Once the cordon was tightened around the mosque where Bhat was hiding, security forces exercised "maximum restraint" owing to the sanctity of the religious place and made prolonged efforts to persuade him to lay down arms, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary told reporters.

"We tried very hard and appealed to Lateef to surrender. Both I and the Commanding Officer (CO) of the Army had a very long conversation with him via a video call on a phone sent inside," Chowdhary said, adding that officers told him he was still young and urged him to surrender, but he refused.

Videos of the security forces' appeals to the hiding terrorist also surfaced on social media.

When Bhat refused to relent and opened fire on the security personnel, a gunfight ensued, the SSP said. The forces retaliated, resulting in his death.

DGP

the same district two days ago, he said.

The DGP was speaking at the passing-out parade of deputy superintendents of police, sub-inspectors and assistant directors of the Forest Protection Force at Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Majoj Sinha in Udhampur.

"We have brought local terrorist recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir to almost zero over the last two years. During this period, only two Kashmiri youths joined the Lashkar-e-Taiba," Prabhat said.

"Today, I would like to inform everyone that the last remaining terrorist, Lateef Bhat, was killed in Kulgam today. Two days earlier, Umar Nisar was also killed in Kulgam", he said.

The DGP said the Jammu and Kashmir Police was fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years and paid tributes to martyrs.

"We have been fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the last 35 years. I pay my tributes and salute our 1,603 martyrs, including our two brave soldiers, martyr Babi Chand and martyr Rashpal Kumar, who laid down their lives for the nation in Kishtwar recently", he said.

Nation

operation marked by a "very high level of synergy".

The security forces shot dead Lateef Bhat, who was wanted for the November 11 attack on a CRPF post, in an encounter in Kulgam district of south Kashmir earlier on Wednesday.

The terrorist had taken shelter inside a mosque in Zangalpora village in the Devsar area and refused to heed repeated appeals by senior officers of the Army and police to surrender, officials said.

"With the coordinated efforts of JKP, Indian Army, CRPF and intelligence agencies, Lashkar's last known active local terrorist in the valley, Lateef Bhat, was neutralised in an operation in Kulgam in the early morning hours today," Shah said in a post on X.

"One of his terrorist associates, Umar Nisar, was also neutralised in Kulgam, the day before. The entire operation was marked by a very high level of synergy," Shah said.

"The nation salutes the brave Jawans of JKP, Army and CRPF and intelligence agencies," he added.

According to the officials, Bhat and his associate Umar Nisar Dar were involved in the November 11 attack that left three CRPF personnel injured.

While Dar was killed in a gunfight in the Laru bypass area of Kulgam on Monday, Bhat had managed to give the security forces the slip.

NIA

Ali Poswal, in a serious case that combines narcotics trafficking, unlawful activities and conspiracy against the state.

The officials said that Poswal is a resident of Tad, Karnah, Kupwara district, presently residing at Bemina.

He is facing prosecution in FIR No. 19/2022 of Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir under sections 8-A, 27-B and 29 of the NDPS Act, sections 13, 18, 39 and 40 of the UAPA, and sections 120-B, 121, 121-A and 201 of the IPC, the officials said.

Together, these charges allege a grave nexus between drug trafficking and activities aimed at waging war against the nation, they added.

The SIA officials said that when the bail application was filed, the court directed the prosecution to file objections.

The SIA Kashmir responded with detailed, well-reasoned objections to the bail plea.

"The matter was argued over several hearings. The case was firmly contested, setting out the gravity of the allegations, the nature of the offences and the strict statutory bars that govern bail in cases under the UAPA and the NDPS Act," an official said.

The officials said charges against all the accused were framed by order dated July 15 this year, and the case is now listed for recording of prosecution evidence.

This bail rejection order means the trial will go ahead without the accused being released, they added.

After hearing both sides and considering the prosecution's objections and submissions, the court rejected the bail application of accused Basharat Ali Poswal.

CM Omar

said it is more than two years since his government assumed office, but the Centre has yet to honour its commitment to restore statehood, which it had promised would be done after delimitation and the assembly election.

"Even after waiting for two years and one month, we have been compelled to ask: Where has our state gone? Why is the restoration of statehood being delayed?" he asked.

Referring to the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and several terror incidents in Kulgam, Reasi, and Kishtwar over the past two years, the chief minister said the elected government is being made to account for failures in areas outside its jurisdiction.

"We have no control over the police or law and order, yet we are told that because of the Pahalgam attack, perhaps statehood cannot be restored now. An incident takes place in Kulgam, and the same justification is given. An attack takes place in Reasi or Kishtwar, and again the same argument is put forward," he said.

"How can you hold us responsible for matters over which we have no control? We have fulfilled our responsibilities in the areas entrusted to us. Why should the people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer for the failures of others? What kind of justice is this?" the National Conference leader added.

Abdullah challenged the Centre to assess his government on infrastructure, healthcare, education and governance, rather than law and order, which is beyond its remit.

"Either your intentions are not right, or you are not being sincere. If you do not want to restore statehood until the BJP gets its own chief minister, then have the courage to say so," he said.

The chief minister also accused the Centre of deliberately reducing the standing of elected representatives by continuing the Union Territory arrangement.

Pointing to protocol differences, Abdullah said the chief secretaries and chief justices enjoyed comparable status, but the chief ministers, ministers and MLAs of Union Territories are placed below their counterparts in states.

"You do not want to weaken the chief secretary or undermine the chief justice. You want to weaken the people's elected government and humiliate their elected representatives," he said.

Recalling the Centre's assurances before the Supreme Court during the proceedings concerning Article 370, he said the commitment was to restore statehood after delimitation, elections and the formation of an elected government.

Abdullah said his government passed a resolution seeking restoration of statehood in its very first Cabinet meeting, and he personally submitted it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said he has repeatedly reminded the prime minister of the commitment whenever he visited Jammu and Kashmir, including during the inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel and the Katra railway project, and also with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

Despite the limitations, Abdullah said, his government neither used its restricted powers as an excuse nor backed away from its responsibilities.

"We are not cowards who get frightened by difficult situations or use them as an excuse for our inability to deliver," he said.

Spl Secy

and Compliance Reduction, today appreciated the pace, commitment and vigour with which the UT has pursued the reform agenda under Deregulation 1.0 and 2.0, observing that several of its initiatives have the potential to serve as best practices for other States and Union Territories.

Pathak made these observations while co-chairing a review meeting with Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, to assess the implementation status of identified Priority Areas (PAs), their impact on the ground and the extent to which the intended benefits of regulatory simplification were reaching businesses, institutions, stakeholders and the general public.

Appreciating the progress, Pathak observed that J&K had made considerable headway in advancing the reform agenda and encouraged the UT administration to sustain the momentum and aspire to go beyond the nationally prescribed framework and benchmarks for liberalisation and deregulation. He emphasised that the objective should not merely be to fulfil the prescribed reform parameters but to institutionalise a more progressive, facilitative and business-friendly regulatory environment.

Advocating a calibrated and risk-based approach to regulation, he stressed the need to categorise sectors and activities into low-, medium- and high-risk categories. While low-risk activities should largely be governed through self-certification, medium-risk sectors could adopt third-party certification mechanisms, with regulatory oversight and mandatory compliance requirements retained for high-risk activities wherever essential. Such an approach, he observed, would help eliminate unnecessary inspections and procedural hurdles without compromising public safety, quality standards or legitimate regulatory safeguards.

He also called for undertaking a systematic comparative assessment of the compliance burden on applicants before and after the introduction of deregulation measures in each Priority Area. Such an exercise, he emphasised, would help quantify the actual reduction in compliances, time, costs and procedural requirements, thereby establishing the tangible outcomes of the reform initiatives.

The Chief Secretary, while underscoring the importance of translating policy reforms into visible public benefits, directed all concerned departments to organise stakeholder dissemination workshops and extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to familiarise businesses, institutions, professionals and other stakeholders with the changes introduced under each Priority Area.

Farooq

the spokesman said.

He said Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta and Provincial President Kashmir Showkat Ahmad Mir have been appointed as members of the committee.

The committee will be responsible for ensuring discipline within the party cadre, the spokesman said.

CS

Over the course of his administrative career, Yadav has held several key positions in the Government of India and various Union Territories, gaining experience in public administration, financial management, governance and public service delivery.

At the Centre, Yadav has served as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure. He also served as Joint Secretary and Mission Director of POSHAN Abhiyaan under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

His other assignments include Advisor to the Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Commissioner of VAT, Chief Executive Officer of the Delhi Jal Board, Commissioner of Food and Supplies in the Delhi Government, and Commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Yadav has a diverse academic background, with a Doctor of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Master of Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi.

He also holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry degree from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.

His contributions to governance and public administration have been recognised with the National Award for e-Governance 2017–18 for outstanding performance in citizen-centric service delivery. He has also received the President of India's Medal for outstanding work in India's Census Operations.

Besides his administrative responsibilities, Yadav is an author and public policy commentator. His books include Scaling Mount UPSC: Inspiring Stories of Young IAS Officers, published in English by Penguin and in Hindi and Marathi by Manjul Publications, and India's Vaccine Growth Story: From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri, which has been translated into 15 Indian languages.

He has also contributed articles to peer-reviewed national and international journals and leading newspapers.

He was welcomed by senior administrative secretaries and other officers upon assuming charge of the Union Territory's top administrative position, the DIPR said.

Woman

Imran Ahmad Mir, a resident of Parigam Jagir, was arrested on November 11.

Mir allegedly told the police that Bilkees offered him money to murder her mother-in-law, police said.

Police said the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Srinagar, has collected important evidence and added that they are probing the involvement of any other persons.

Army

appreciated their unwavering professionalism, sustained efforts and resolute conduct of operations in challenging terrain and weather conditions.

"The Army commander urged all ranks to maintain operational momentum and seamless coordination with other security and intelligence agencies to ensure enduring peace and stability in the region," the post said.

Police

at DAR Doda. He was a dedicated and sincere officer who served with commitment and devotion. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," Sinha said in a post on X.

Hailing from Begana village in Kishtwar district, the 2012-batch officer had recently been posted to Doda and was scheduled to assume his new assignment on Wednesday, officials said.

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (MUNSIFF), BARAMULLA
PUBLICATION NOTICE

In the Matter of:- Application for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in favour of Mir Ahmad Minor through his/her father Shabir Ahmad Mir S.o Ghulam Mohammad Mir R.o Hubgund Doligund Dangiwacha Baramulla District Baramulla. Whereas, an application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court by the applicant, namely Mir Ahmad Minor through his/her father Shabir Ahmad Mir R.o Hubgund Doligund Dangiwacha Baramulla District Baramulla, seeking issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of minor child. Whereas, the applicant has stated that the date of birth of the minor child namely Mir Ahmad S.o Shabir Ahmad Mir R.o Hubgund Doligund Dangiwacha Baramulla is 06-08-2023, and that till date, no Date of Birth Certificate has been obtained or issued by any competent authority till date. Now, therefore, through the medium of this publication notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate in respect of the aforesaid applicant may file or submit their objections before this Hon'ble Court within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and proceeded with in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
(Munsiff/Baramulla)
(RB)

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, the following persons: (1) Mr. SARFARAZ HYDER BHAT, S/o Mohammad Ismail Bhat. (2) Ms. SUMBUL NISA, D/o Mohammad Ismail Bhat. (3) Ms. ZYTOON ZEENAT, D/o Mohammad Ismail Bhat. (4) Ms. AALIYA HAMEED, D/o Abdul Hameed Lone. All residents of Raithan, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby inform the general public that we are applying for the issuance of Resident of Backward Area (RBA) Certificates from the competent authority. We have been residing in the said area for the prescribed period as required under the relevant rules. Any person having any objection to our claims may submit the same before the concerned Tehsil Revenue Authority within the prescribed period, along with supporting documents, if any. This notice is hereby published for the information of the general public and for inviting objections, if any, within the stipulated time.

(Azhar SB)

KASHMIR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
Ranbirgarh, Narbal, Srinagar
CORRIGENDUM
(With reference to Advertisement Notice dated 12-11-2026)

With reference to the Advertisement Notice issued by Kashmir College of Engineering and Technology (KCET), Ranbirgarh, Narbal, Srinagar, vide Ref. No. F.(Advertisement)KCET/2026/15 dated 12-11-2026, inviting applications from eligible and qualified candidates for various full-time teaching positions in Engineering and Humanities (Basic Sciences), the following amendments/additions are hereby notified:

1. Addition of Post of Principal:

In addition to the faculty positions already advertised, the post of Principal is also advertised, and applications are hereby invited from eligible and qualified candidates for the said post as per applicable UGC/AICTE norms.

S.No	Position	Programme	Eligibility
1.	Principal	.....	As per UGC/AICTE norms.
2.	Professors	Engineering Subjects : • Artificial Intelligence (AI) • Computer Engineering (CE) • Civil Engineering • Electronics & Communication Engineering (E&C)	
3.	Associate Professors	Engineering Subjects : • Artificial Intelligence (AI) • Computer Engineering (CE) • Civil Engineering • Electronics & Communication Engineering (E&C)	
4.	Assistant Professors	Engineering Subjects : • Artificial Intelligence (AI) • Computer Engineering (CE) • Civil Engineering • Electronics & Communication Engineering (E&C) Humanities (Basic Sciences): • Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics • English	

Due to urgency, the last date for submission of application forms for all the advertised positions, including the post of Principal, has been fixed as 19th November 2026.

Date: 18-11-2026

Sd/- Chairman

BILL

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | THURSDAY
19-NOVEMBER-2026

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Haaland's late penalty sends Norway into Nations League quarterfinals

United News Of India



BERLIN, NOV 18 :Haaland converted a stoppage-time penalty as Norway rallied from two

goals down to beat Denmark 3-2 and secure a place in the UEFA Nations League quarterfinals, while defending champion Portugal defeated Wales 3-2 to finish top of League A Group 4.

Norway needed a victory to overtake Denmark in the standings, while a draw would have been enough for the hosts to advance.

Denmark made a flying start on Tuesday, with Rasmus Hojlund opening the scoring from close range in the 11th minute before Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg doubled the lead with a header three minutes later.

Norway struggled to contain the hosts early on but gradually found its rhythm. Haaland had an

effort ruled out for handball before capitalizing on a defensive error in the 37th minute.

Denmark goalkeeper Mads Hermansen's poor clearance was intercepted by Martin Odegaard, who set up Haaland to tap into an empty net and reduce the deficit before halftime.

Norway continued to press after the break and drew level in the 83rd minute when Odegaard scored from inside the penalty area. The decisive moment came deep into stoppage time when Denmark defender Joachim Andersen was penalized for handball inside the box.

Haaland converted the resulting penalty in the 96th minute to complete the comeback and take his tally in the competition to six goals.

The victory lifted Norway to nine points, level with Denmark but ahead on head-to-head results, securing second place in Group 4 and a quarterfinal berth.

In Cardiff, Portugal came from behind to beat Wales 3-2 and secure top spot in the group with 15 points, six ahead of Norway and Denmark. Wales finished bottom with three points.

Elsewhere, Northern Ireland secured promotion to League A after a 1-1 draw away to Hungary, which finished second in League B Group 2 and advanced to the promotion playoffs.

In League B Group 3, Ireland beat 10-man Kosovo 3-0, with Troy Parrott converting two penalties to help his side secure a promotion playoff berth. Austria drew 1-1 with Israel. In Group 4, Sweden drew 1-1 with Poland, while Bosnia and Herzegovina beat Romania 2-1. Ukraine defeated Georgia 1-0 in Group 2, according to Xinhua.

France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, England, Spain, Portugal and Norway have qualified for the League A quarterfinals.

The draw for the quarterfinals and promotion-relegation playoffs will take place Friday in Nyon, Switzerland, with the quarterfinals scheduled for March 2027.

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Mandaviya calls for greater collaboration among sports universities

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18 :Emphasising the need for greater collaboration, specialised expertise and resource sharing, union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has called for sports universities across the country to work together and emerge as key centres of India's sporting ecosystem.

Addressing representatives of 13 sports universities at a meeting here on Wednesday, Mandaviya said closer coordination among institutions would be essential to strengthening India's capabilities in sports education, research and training, while improving the country's global standing.

"Our vision is to make Sports Universities the hub of the entire sports ecosystem, where athletes, coaches, training, research, competitions, and world-class infrastructure are all developed together," he said.

The minister encouraged each university to build expertise in specific disciplines and fields, including coaching, sports science and research, while making its knowledge and resources accessible to other institutions."Every university needs to develop its own specific expertise - whether in a particular sport, coaching, sports science, or research. This will benefit the entire nation," he said. Stressing the importance of collective efforts, Mandaviya said institutions should move away from working independently and establish stronger networks for exchanging coaches, knowledge and resources."We will no longer work in silos. By integrating our efforts, resources, and expertise, we will build a strong, collaborative national sports ecosystem. Every Coach exchange, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing among universities will be promoted," he added.

Setback for Atletico Madrid as Lookman injury more serious than expected

United News Of India



MADRID, NOV 18 :Atletico Madrid winger Ademola Lookman is likely to miss the rest of 2026 with a knee injury sustained on international duty with Nigeria.

Lookman twisted his knee while playing against Tanzania last Friday. Although initial indications suggested the injury was not serious, tests carried out by Atletico have shown it to be worse than first thought.

"Ademola Lookman has suffered a high-grade knee sprain, which occurred during Nigeria's match against Tanzania on Friday, Nov. 13," the club confirmed on Tuesday.

"Although the medical staff of the Nigerian national team initially reported that the attacker had suffered a mild sprain, the club's medical services examined the Nigerian footballer upon his

return to Madrid, in addition to carrying out further tests, and have confirmed the exact extent of his injury," Atletico said.

The club added that Lookman will "undergo physiotherapy sessions and rehabilitation work in the gym, and the progress of his injury will determine when he returns to competition."

Although no return date has been set, Lookman is likely to miss six La Liga matches against Getafe, Elche, FC Barcelona, Betis, Valencia and Celta Vigo, as well as Champions League fixtures against Viking and PSV Eindhoven and a third-round Copa del Rey tie away to an opponent yet to be determined, according to Xinhua.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone could turn to Arnau Ortiz to replace Lookman. Ortiz was promoted to the first-team squad this summer but has made only five senior appearances so far.

Another injury blow for Sevilla as Carmona suffers double fracture

United News Of India

MADRID, NOV 18 :Sevilla suffered another major injury



setback on Tuesday when the club confirmed that defender Jose Angel Carmona had fractured the tibia and fibula in his right leg.

Carmona was injured in training, just days after Sevilla announced that winger Alfon Gonzalez would miss the rest of the season after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament.

"Sevilla FC's medical staff report that, during this Tuesday's training session, Jose Angel Carmona sustained a fracture to the tibia and fibula of his right leg following an accidental incident.

"After the session, the player was taken to a hospital, where the diagnosis was confirmed. He will now undergo surgery," the club said on its website.

Carmona has seen his playing time reduced this season following the arrival of Juan Iglesias from Getafe in the summer, playing just 85 minutes across five La Liga appearances. His absence comes as Sevilla coach Luis Garcia Plaza is already without Ruben Vargas, Alfon, Miguel Sierra, Peque and Marcao ahead of Saturday evening's derby at home to local rival Betis, according to Xinhua.

Although there is no official timeframe for Carmona's return, the injury is expected to keep him out for several months. The setback comes shortly after he changed agents amid the possibility of a move during the January transfer window.

Ghana advances to final round in U-23 AFCON qualifier

United News Of India

ACCRA, NOV 18 :Ghana beat Libya 3-1 in the second leg of the 2027 U-23 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier, winning 3-2 on aggregate to progress to the final round of the qualifiers in March next year.

After losing 1-0 to Libya in the first leg last week, Ghana began the game with intense pressure and broke the deadlock in the 16th minute through Lord Afrifa on Tuesday.

Ghana missed several opportunities at goal, while Marwan Zgouzi helped Libya equalize on the stroke of halftime. Aaron Essel fired home a powerful free-kick in the 63rd minute to put the host team 2-1 ahead.

Ghana was then awarded a penalty in injury time which Denis Marfo converted to put the result beyond doubt.

The seven teams advancing through the final round of the qualifiers will join host Egypt in the eight-team U-23 AFCON in November 2027, according



to Xinhua. The two finalists in the tournament will represent

Africa at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Ghana has not featured in the men's Olympic football tournament since the 2004 Athens Games.

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Disha Santosh packs off third seed Adarshini in Junior National Championships

United News Of India

GANGTOK, NOV 18 :Karnataka's Disha Santosh upset third seed Adarshini Shri NB of Tamil Nadu while Maharashtra's Yashwi Patel got the better of seventh seed Nakshatraa Jairaj to reach the girls singles pre-quarterfinals of the 49th National Junior (U-19) Badminton Championships here on Wednesday.isha came from a game down to beat Adarshini 5-15, 15-10, 16-14 while Yashwi kept her nerves under pressure in a three game thriller against Nakshatraa to win 15-12, 12-15, 15-13.The girls singles competition saw quite a few upsets in the third round of competition as ninth seed Nishika Gokhe of Maharashtra, 10th seed Haasana Sree Mallavarapu of Andhra Pradesh and 15th seed Garima Kundu of Haryana were also knocked out.Gokhe went down 15-10, 20-18 against Gursimrat Kaur Chahal of Punjab, Haasana lost to Avni Govind of Telangana 15-10, 17-15 while Garima was beaten 15-8, 11-15, 19-17 by Avni Rathore of Rajasthan.Meanwhile, the top seeds in the mixed doubles competition were knocked out in the pre-quarterfinals. Karnataka's Amith Raj Natraj and Suhina Roy packed off Sainunmawai Sailo and Mizoram and Dianka Waldia of Delhi 15-13, 15-10 in the first match of the day to book their last eight spot.In the boy's singles category, most seeds sailed into the round of 16. World junior championships bronze medallist Jagsher Singh Khangurra was the only unseeded player to account for a seeded opponent as he got the better of eighth seed Sachin JT of Tamil Nadu 15-13, 15-9 to keep his title hopes alive.

After Asian Games gold, India target fourth women's Asian Champions Trophy title

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 :Defending champions India will look to extend their dominance in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy and end the year on a high when the six-team tournament begins at the newly-built International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal on Thursday.

Fresh from winning gold at the Asian Games in Japan last month, India will open their campaign against Malaysia, aiming to claim a record fourth title. They have won the last two editions, held in Ranchi and Rajgir, and are currently level with South Korea as the most successful teams in the competition, with three titles each.

The year has been particularly rewarding for the Indian women's team under chief coach Sjoerd Marijne. They qualified for the World Cup through the qualifiers in Hyderabad, won the FIH Women's Nations Cup in Auckland to earn promotion to the Pro League and finished fifth at the World Cup in Belgium, their best result in the tournament since 1974.

The biggest moment came at the Asian Games, where India ended a 44-year wait for gold in women's hockey at the continental event.

The hosts have already shown promising form ahead of the tournament, beating Japan 4-1 in a practice match. Marijne, however, is also keen to use the competition to test players in different positions and build squad depth.

"We want the players to be able to play in different positions. It's to create more depth in the squad and become helpful if a player gets injured, especially in a tournament like the Olympics," he said.

Captain Salima Tete said India would concentrate on their own plans rather than be distracted by their opponents.

"We are not focusing on what our opponents are doing. We are just focusing



on ourselves, our structure, and following coach's instructions. In short, we want to play our game," she said.

China, Japan and South Korea are expected to provide the strongest challenge. China, who lost to India in the Asian Games final, will be keen to win their maiden title, while South Korea will aim for a fourth crown. Two-time champions Japan will also be among the contenders. Malaysia and Thailand complete the field.

The teams will play each other in a round-robin league, with the top four advancing to the semifinals on November 27. The final and third-place match will be held on November 28.

After facing Malaysia, India will take on South Korea on November 21, Thailand on November 22, China on November 24 and Japan on November 25.UNI TB AAB Fresh from winning gold at the Asian Games in Japan last month, India will open their campaign against Malaysia, aiming to claim a record fourth title. They have won the last two editions, held in Ranchi and Rajgir, and are currently level with South Korea as the most successful teams in the competition, with three titles each.

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Amit Shah to inaugurate 2-day 'Anti-Terror Conference' in New Delhi today

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 18: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a two-day 'Anti-Terror Conference' in New Delhi on Thursday.

In a statement a PIB spokesman said that the conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism will focus on the theme of "Cross-Border Terrorism" and provide a platform for collective deliberations among security agencies, investigators and experts on emerging threats to national security.

The conference will place particular emphasis on strengthening coordination and synergy among all stakeholders through a "Whole of Government" approach to effectively tackle terrorism and its evolving challenges, the statement said.

Various important issues, including obtaining evidence from foreign jurisdictions, the application of digital forensics and data analytics in counter-terrorism investigations, and effective management of trials, will be discussed during the two-day event, it said, adding, that the sessions will also deliberate on countering radicalisation, espionage and emerging hybrid threats that pose challenges to national security.

The conference is expected to facilitate the exchange of experiences among law enforcement agencies (LEAs), enabling them to share best practices in handling counter-terrorism cases and draw lessons from previous investigations, the statement added.

It said the deliberations will also provide an opportunity for security agencies and investigative experts to discuss emerging trends, strengthen institutional coordination and explore effective strategies for addressing cross-



border terrorist activities.

The annual conference forms part of the broader efforts to enhance India's counter-terrorism capabilities by bringing together various stakeholders involved in national security and law enforcement.

Held annually, the conference has steadily grown into a significant gathering of operational forces, agencies working in the field of counter-terrorism, and experts from the technical, legal and forensic domains. It offers the agencies / forces, an opportunity to collectively examine matters that have bearing on national security and the threats arising from terrorism, the statement added.

The conference sessions will address a range of subjects, including, obtaining evidence from foreign jurisdictions, the application of digital forensics and data analysis in counter-terrorism investigations, and the effective management of trials. Sessions will also cover countering radicalisation, and emerging hybrid threats to national security. Further sessions will examine the tools, techniques and case experiences involved in disrupting terror financing networks, as well as the development of future-ready counter-terrorism strategies and the strengthening of institutional capacities to meet emerging national security challenges, the statement said

This year, the conference will also host a capacity-building training programme for State police personnel and practising professionals. The programme has been designed to equip participants in several areas. These include applying the new criminal laws in terror investigations, using digital evidence in prosecution, and trial strategy and management. The programme will also cover special provisions relating to the investigation of terror cases, common challenges posed by the defence, the protection of witnesses, and the initiatives taken by the Government to improve prosecution, it said.

Over the two days, the deliberations will enable law enforcement agencies to share their experiences, highlight good practices in handling counter-terrorism matters, and draw upon lessons learnt from terror investigations, it added.

The conference will be attended by senior police officers of States and Union Territories, officers of Central agencies and departments dealing with counter-terrorism, and experts from allied fields including law, forensics and technology, the statement said.

Disaster deaths preventable: Prez AIIMS Guwahati



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Dehradun: India needs continuous disaster preparedness, effective policies and widespread public awareness to minimise loss of life and disabilities caused by natural calamities, said Padma Shri awardee Prof. Dr. B. K. S. Sanjay, President of AIIMS Guwahati, while inaugurating the three-day International Workshop on Disaster Medicine and Global Health Security at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The workshop, being held from 16 to 18 November 2026, was organised by AIIMS Guwahati in collaboration with Doctors For You and Saving Lives International, with support from SRIHER.

Dr. Sanjay observed that India's geographical diversity makes it vulnerable to earthquakes in the Himalayan region, floods due to extensive river systems, cyclones along its coastline and droughts in arid regions. He emphasised that disaster awareness must reach not only scientists, policymakers and administrators but also the general public. While natural disasters cannot always be prevented, their consequences can be minimised through round-the-clock preparedness, appropriate policies, early-warning systems and coordinated action.

He stressed the need for earthquake-resistant infrastructure, discouraging construction and habitation in active riverbeds and vulnerable floodplains, and preventing congested residential and industrial development. Adequate roads, open spaces and evacuation routes must be integral to urban planning. Comparing roads to blood vessels in the human body, he highlighted their importance in ensuring emergency access and rescue operations. Strict fire-safety standards must also be enforced in residential and industrial areas.

Referring to India's management of the COVID-19 pandemic under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he highlighted the importance of decisive policies and coordinated national efforts. He also highlighted road traffic accidents, particularly public transport crashes such as the Kaziranga tragedy, as preventable emergencies, stressing safer vehicles, responsible driving, enforcement of traffic regulations and prompt trauma care.

Dr. Sanjay emphasised that responsible development, public awareness and preparedness are essential to preventing avoidable deaths and building a disaster-resilient society.

The gathering was also addressed by representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, senior defence professionals, climate experts and medical specialists. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Donald Donahue, President of WADEM; Dr. Peter Patel, Saving Lives International, UK; Prof. Ashok Puranik, Executive Director, AIIMS Guwahati; Prof. T. V. Ramakrishnan; Professor Virginia Murray and Dr. Rob Russell, UK; Dr. K. Selvarajan, SRIHER; Dr. Akash Srivastava, NCDC; Dr. Madhuri W. Barsagade; Dr. Binod Patra, NIHFW, New Delhi; Prof. Sanjiv Bhoi and Dr. Tausif Thangalvadi, AIIMS New Delhi; Dr. Rajat Jain, Doctors For You; and Dr. Sameer Kumar Adhikari, Nepal.

100 weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva abhiyan cluster block-level sports meet concludes at GHSS Gadakhud Gamdu

Kashmir Press Service

Bandipora: A two-day Cluster Block-Level Sports Meet organised under the banner of "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat – 100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan" successfully concluded at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Gadakhud Gamdu, on November 17, 2026.

The event was organised by MY Bharat Bandipora in collaboration with Muntazir Youth Club, witnessing enthusiastic participation from youth clubs and MY Bharat volunteers representing Nowgam, Ganastan, Sumbal, Naidkhai . Both boys and girls participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their sporting talent, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Showket Hussain as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Khursheed-ul-Hassan attended as the Guest of Honour. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Muzaffer, Master Gh. Hussain Malla, Mr. Shafqat Hussain, Mr. Hidayatullah, Mr. Shabir, PET Syed Tariq Shah and other officials associated with the programme. Mr. Maneer Hussain, Mohd. Ishaq, Mohsin Ali and Manzoor Ahmad



also extended their support to the event.

The closing ceremony was attended by Principal Hayat Mohammad as the Chief Guest, along with Dr. Khursheed-ul-Hassan, Dr. Muzaffer, Dr. Mehraj, Cluster Head, Block Ganastan, presidents of various youth clubs from different blocks of Bandipora and other distinguished guests.

Various sporting competitions were organised during the two-day event, including Volleyball, Tug of War, Badminton, 100-Metre Race and 200-Metre Race. The winners and runners-up in different events were as follows:

All winning and runner-up players were felicitated with trophies, medals and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performances, dedication and sporting spirit.

The programme successfully conveyed a strong message about the importance of a drug-free society, healthy lifestyles and the role of sports in channelising the energy of youth towards constructive, productive and positive activities.

The event also provided a valuable platform for young people from different blocks to interact, build friendships, develop leadership qualities and promote unity through sports.

MY Bharat Bandipora reaffirmed its commitment to promoting youth engagement, sports, community participation and awareness against drug abuse, working towards the broader vision of a Nasha Mukt Yuva and Viksit Bharat.

J&K SEC Shantmanu attends meeting with President at Rashtrapati Bhavan



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18: The President of India had invited all State Election Commissioners of States and Union Territories last week.

About eighteen State Election Commissioners, including Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner Shantmanu, attended the meeting with President Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

During the meeting, the State Election Commissioners briefed the President on the major challenges faced in conducting Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections and how the Commissions are ensuring free and fair elections through active use of IT solutions for delimitation of constituencies, electoral roll management, manpower management and real-time dissemination of information during counting and results.

The meeting, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, is significant from the perspective of India's democratic system and the importance of electoral institutions. These Commissions play a crucial role, ranging from conducting elections for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to maintaining public trust in democratic institutions.

Journalist Ashiq Hussain, Tariq Ahmad Shah meet Haji Farooq Ahmad Shah



Congratulate him on his transfer to Handwara

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Handwara: Video Journalist Ashiq Hussain and Tahir Bashir Shah Meet Haji Farooq Ahmad Shah, Congratulate him on his Transfer to Lolab Division

Handwara, Nov 18: Tahir Bashir Shah and video journalist Ashiq Hussain visited the residence of Haji Farooq Ahmad Shah, Executive Engineer, R&B Handwara, and congratulated him on his new place of posting.

On the occasion, journalist Ashiq Hussain presented Haji Farooq Ahmad Shah with a beautiful photo album featuring his pictures as a token of remembrance.

GDC Ganderbal Organises Two-Day Awareness Camp at Mansbal

Srinagar, November 18: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Wular Mansbal Development Authority and the college's Eco Club, organised a two-day Awareness and Activity Camp at Mansbal on November 18 and 19, 2026, to promote environmental conservation, cleanliness and awareness against drug abuse.



The programme was coordinated by Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter, NSS Programme Coordinator, in collaboration with Dr. Ahsanul Haq Chesti, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Wular Mansbal Development Authority. Faculty members Dr. Sameera Siraj, Dr. Shaziya Gull, Mr. Deedar Singh and Mr. Mehraj Bhat accompanied the students and provided guidance throughout the activities.

On the first day, a cleanliness and sanitation drive was conducted in and around the Mansbal area, witnessing the participation of 45 NSS volunteers from GDC Ganderbal and 30 members of the Sanitation Team of the Wular Mansbal Development Authority, taking the total participation to 75.

The volunteers, along with the sanitation team, actively participated in cleaning public spaces, collecting litter and removing waste from designated areas. The initiative highlighted the importance of collective responsibility and community participation in maintaining cleanliness and protecting the environment.

AIP demands immediate appointment of JKPSC Chairman



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: Awami Itihaad Party Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi has expressed serious concern over the prolonged vacancy of the Chairman's post in the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC), saying the government's delay is playing with the careers and aspirations of thousands of educated unemployed youth.

Inam Un Nabi said that with around 1,200 recruitments reportedly awaiting progress, the absence of a regular Chairman and vacant member positions has created unnecessary uncertainty around examinations, interviews, selections and departmental promotions.

"Young people are spending years preparing for competitive examinations, often crossing crucial age limits in the process. They cannot be left waiting indefinitely because the government has failed to fill key positions in an institution entrusted with safeguarding merit and fairness in recruitment," Inam said.

Inam Un Nabi said the situation becomes even more concerning when viewed against the background of previous recruitment controversies in J&K.