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Sea change in Kashmir after Article 370 abrogation: Amit Shah

Says Annulling Special Status Ended Separatist Sentiments Among Valley Youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Itanagar, Nov 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 ended separatist sentiments among Kashmiri youth, and not a single local youth in the Valley is now involved in terrorism after 35 years of violence and unrest.

He was addressing an event at Police Training Centre in Banderdewa near Itanagar in which the President's Police Colour was conferred to Arunachal Pradesh Police.

"After over 35 years of violence, not a single local youth of Kashmir Valley is now involved in terrorism," he said.

Recalling the troubled 90s, he said the situation in Kashmir Valley has undergone a sea change after the abrogation

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India has shown in last 12 years it can break limits, unlock possibilities: PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Kharagpur (WB), Nov 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India has demonstrated in the last 12 years that breaking barriers in the mindset can help the country realise its potential, create opportunities and empower the poor, while asserting that the next two decades will be crucial for building a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of IIT Kharagpur, the country's first Indian Institute of Technology, Modi said India has declared "loud and clear" its resolve to "break the limits and unlock the possibilities".

The PM also launched sharp attacks on the previous Congress government at the Centre and the Left Front regime in West Bengal over their poverty alleviation and industrialisation policies, respectively, without naming either of them.

Underscoring his own approach towards overcoming difficulties, Modi said he could not let a challenge go unchallenged.

"I cannot remain at peace unless I challenge challenges," he said, adding that people often imposed limitations on themselves.

"The country discovers its capabilities only when it breaks the limits of its mindset. Over the past few years, India has shown this," he added.

The PM said his government has worked to change the prevailing mindset about poverty and empower people through various initiatives, while criticising previous governments over their "failure" to tackle the misery.

Modi said five decades ago, poverty was treated as an insurmountable challenge, with successive governments seemingly resigned to its persistence rather than showing the political will to address it.

"Earlier, people used to talk about removing poverty but they never

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Army Commander reviews security



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu: The Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, visited forward posts in the Poonch and Sunderbani sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the prevailing security situation and assess operational preparedness, the Army said.

During the visit, the Army Commander was briefed on the operational environment, counter-infiltration measures, joint intelligence

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Skill development linked to national security, defence production: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Lucknow, Nov 21: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said skill development is no longer limited to generating employment and is crucial for nation-building and national security, citing the example of India's growing defence production sector.

Addressing the fifth National Skill Convocation here, Singh said the country's industries are expanding, and the nature of employment is undergoing transformation, making it essential for young people to continuously upgrade their

See on Pg. 10

DGP reviews ongoing security operations in Jammu Zone

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 21: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Saturday reviewed ongoing security operations in Jammu Zone along with senior police officers here, police said.

According to the Jammu Zone Police on X, the police chief, accompanied by Special DG Coordination, IGP Railways, IGP Security and IGP Jammu Zone, took stock of ongoing operations and reviewed the security measures being implemented in the region.

The review follows a high-level meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who directed police and civil administration to further strengthen security frameworks and implement actionable roadmaps

CM calls upon youth to actively engage in governance, nation-building

Addresses IILM University Convocation, Urges Graduates To Uphold Integrity

KA NEWS SERVICE



New Delhi, November 21: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called upon the graduating Class of 2026 of IILM University to actively participate in governance, public life, and nation-building, stressing that the country's demographic dividend can translate into lasting prosperity only through responsible leadership and meaningful engagement.

See on Pg. 10

Govt dismisses 2 food department employees over NDPS cases

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has dismissed two employees from the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department due to their alleged involvement in NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) cases, officials said.

Separate orders for their dismissal were issued by the director of the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department in Kashmir.

The dismissed employees are Shabir Ahmad Khan and Arshad Fayaz. Both individuals held the position of assistant storekeeper-cum-clerk in the department, officials stated further.

Their dismissal has been ordered under Rule 30 (VIII) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, following departmental proceedings and recommendations of the Inter-Disciplinary Committee.

Officials stated that the two employees had been booked under NDPS cases by the police.

4 arrested as NCB uncovers inter-state drug trafficking network



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 21: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an inter-state network involved in the illegal supply of pharmaceutical drugs from Delhi to the Kashmir Valley, arresting four people and seizing over five lakh tablets, capsules and bottles of various pharmaceutical preparations, an official said on Saturday.

The successful operation by NCB, Jammu Zonal Unit, in coordination with its Delhi Zonal Unit, exposed an organised network involved in diverting pharmaceutical drugs from the legitimate supply chain into illicit circulation,

See on Pg. 10

Special winter patrolling begins on Jammu-Kathua rail section

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 21: Northern Railway's Jammu Division has launched special patrolling along the Jammu-Kathua rail section to ensure the safe, punctual and uninterrupted movement of trains during the winter season, an official said on Saturday.

The special patrolling initiative aims to address operational challenges posed by extremely low temperatures, dense fog and adverse weather conditions, a spokesperson of the Jammu Division said.

He said the measure has been undertaken to strengthen track safety during the winter months and ensure continuous monitoring of railway infrastructure to prevent disruptions and facilitate smooth train operations.

Under the campaign, special railway teams will patrol tracks at scheduled intervals, with particular focus on vulnerable stretches, rail joints, points and crossings.

They will

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CRPF will continue its focus on civic action programmes in Kashmir: Official



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 21: CRPF will continue its focus on civic action programmes in addition to anti-terror operations in the Kashmir valley, a senior official said on Saturday.

Inspector General of CRPF, Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the 4th edition of the CRPF T20 cricket cup here, said that under the CRPF Civic Action Programme, the paramilitary force has been organising this tournament regularly here for the past four years. Under the programme, both a cricket

See on Pg. 10

Soldier found dead in Jammu

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 21: An Army personnel, who was travelling back to his place of posting after availing leave, was found dead under suspicious circumstances near the main bus stand in Jammu on Saturday morning, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Sanjeet Singh (31), a resident of Dhar village in Chanderkote area of Ramban district. He was on his way to Gurdaspur, where he was posted, after spending time with his family, the officials said.

They said Singh's body was found lying along BC Road, near the Jammu bus stand, at 5.40 am. A police

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Ladakh records 70.03 pc turnout in panchayat polls, 52.4 pc in municipal elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Leh/Kargil, Nov 21: Ladakh recorded a voter turnout of 70.03 per cent in the panchayat elections and 52.4 per cent in the municipal council polls on Saturday, as voters across the Union Territory participated in the first local-body elections since its formation in 2019, marking a significant milestone in the region's democratic journey.

The polling witnessed participation from people across age groups and sections of the society, including first-time voters, women, senior citizens and monks.

Despite sub-zero temperatures in several areas

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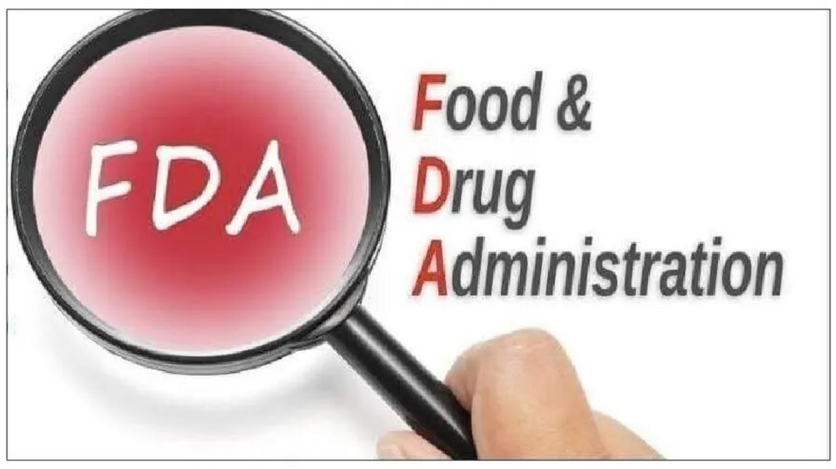
FDA continues enforcement drive, 127 inspections conducted, 39 samples lifted

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, continued its enforcement drive across all the districts to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and to safeguard public health.

During the drive, 127 inspections were conducted and 39 food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis. As part of the enforcement action against violations of food safety, hygiene and sanitary requirements, the licenses/registrations of seven Food Business Establishments were suspended until further orders and compliance with the deficiencies observed during inspection. These include M/s Jan Sweets, Hazoori Bagh, Srinagar; Bakery Manufacturing Unit of M/s Mughal Darbar, Residency Road, Srinagar; M/s Cottage Inn Restaurant, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Sunrise Poultry, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Zaika Biryani, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Orbit Restaurant, New Pulwama; and M/s NFS Poultry, Mandli, Tehsil Billawar, M/s Delhi Ki



Mashoor Biryani, Vijaypur, Samba, and M/s Restaurant NAZ, Vijaypur, Samba.

During the inspections, approximately 35 kg of sweets found stored under temperature-abuse conditions were destroyed on the spot to prevent their sale and consumption. In a separate action, notices were served upon six Food Business Operators engaged in the processing and sale of momos at Hawal, directing them to suspend operations until the observed sanitary and hygienic deficiencies are rectified.

The FDA, J&K, will also undertake a dedicated awareness and handholding programme for the concerned operators to facilitate compliance with prescribed food safety, hygiene and sanitation requirements.

The FDA also initiated legal proceedings against violators, including three cases under Section 56, three cases under Section 58 and three cases compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. A compounding fee of 3,000 was realized in the cases compounded under the Act.

As part of measures aimed at ensuring transparency, traceability and informed consumer choice, Food Business Operators (FBOs) dealing in non-vegetarian food preparations were directed to prominently display clear and accurate information regarding the type of meat used, including mutton, beef or chicken; whether the meat used is fresh or frozen; and the ingredients used in the preparation of non-vegetarian food items. The FBOs were further instructed to ensure that such

information is accurately stated, prominently displayed on menus and Food Safety Display Boards, and readily accessible to consumers to enable them to make informed choices.

Bandipora Admin urges selected Haj pilgrims to attend training programme

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21: The District Administration Bandipora has urged all selected Haj pilgrims of the district to attend the first phase of the Haj training programme scheduled to be held on November 26, 2026 (Thursday), at Masjid Peer, Bandipora, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

All selected pilgrims have been advised to attend the session on time and participate in the training programme.

The session aims to guide pilgrims about various aspects of the Haj pilgrimage and provide necessary instructions to help them prepare for the sacred journey.

Bankers' meeting reviews PMEGP, JKREGP performance

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 21: A meeting of bankers was held today at the Government Conference Hall, Sopore, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Dy. CEO), Kashmir Division (KD), to review the progress and performance of the PMEGP and JKREGP schemes.

The meeting was attended by Lead District Managers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank,

and Directors of RSETIs from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts. Officers from J&K Grameen Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), along with a large number of Branch Managers of J&K Bank, also participated.

During the meeting, the performance of PMEGP and JKREGP was thoroughly deliberated upon, with particular focus on pending rectifications under PMEGP.

The participating bankers were directed to ensure the clearance of all pending rectifications under PMEGP by or before November 30,

2026, positively. Emphasis was laid on timely action and effective coordination to ensure smooth implementation of the schemes.

DC Bandipora reviews RDD progress

Stresses quality works, timely execution, accountability

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today reviewed the progress of the Rural Development Department (RDD) in a meeting held at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.



The meeting discussed the progress of various schemes, ongoing works and issues faced by the department.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for regular monitoring of works, timely completion of projects and clearance of pending cases. She asked officers to ensure proper use of funds and keep track of both physical and financial progress.

Referring to the Constituency Development Fund, she said the e-Nigrani portal provides clear information about works and helps in monitoring their progress. She also stressed the effective use of the District Monitoring Portal, which is being used to monitor developmental works across all departments.

Reviewing VB-G RAMG, the DC took stock of employment generation, NMMS attendance, e-KYC, geo-tagging, Area Officer visits and verification of pending material liabilities. She expressed concern over the slow progress in Gurez and Tulail and sought explanations from the concerned BDOs. Progress under PMAY-G and registrations under PMAY-G 2.0 were also reviewed, with directions to clear pending cases.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Revenue department's good performance under AgriStack and urged officers to continue their efforts. She also reviewed staff strength, vacancies and the difficulties faced by field staff. The Rural Engineering Wing was asked to coordinate with the ADDC and CPO offices for better follow-up of works.

On the occasion, the Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir stressed that the department should focus on works that are strong and useful for people in the long run.

Ex-servicemen, elderly citizens undertake 'Heritage Tour' on day 3 of 'World Heritage Week 2026'

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: As part of the ongoing week-long celebrations of World Heritage Week (November 19–25, 2026), the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir Division, organized a special heritage excursion and exhibition visit today for a delegation of Ex-Servicemen and Elderly Citizens across prominent protected monuments and heritage sites of Srinagar District.



The tour featured guided visits to the historic Mughal Hamam, Nishat Garden, and other protected heritage monuments in Srinagar. Departmental officials accompanied the delegation throughout the tour, briefing the veterans and senior citizens on the architectural brilliance, historical significance, and ongoing conservation and restoration measures undertaken to safeguard Kashmir's tangible cultural legacy.

Following the monument visits, the delegation arrived at the Exhibition Hall and Art Gallery, Shergarhi Complex (Old Secretariat), Srinagar, where they were warmly welcomed by the Administrative Officer of the Department and the Assistant Director, Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums (Kashmir Division).

During the interactive session at the venue, the officers apprised the visiting veterans and senior citizens about the objective and significance of the Week-Long Heritage Exhibition, showcasing rare historic manuscripts, archival records, treaties, and significant historical documents preserved for posterity. The delegation also witnessed a Live Calligraphy Demonstration, where skilled calligraphers displayed diverse traditional styles and artistic techniques, drawing deep appreciation from the guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the departmental officers highlighted that involving senior citizens and ex-servicemen in heritage outreach dialogue, honors their lifetime of service, and strengthens collective community toward preserving Jammu & Kashmir's rich historical and cultural heritage.

DLSA Srinagar settles 18,856 cases in Special Lok Adalat

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Traffic Challans, other civil cases and Negotiable Instruments, Act, 1881 Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, thrrr benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiyaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, along with Tasneem Kawoos City Munsiff, Srinagar as member. 2nd bench was presided over by Junaid

Imtiyaz Mir Sub-Judge Srinagar, and Iram Irtiza , 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member and 3rd bench was presided over by Mufti Nahida, Additional Spl. Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk (Incharge), along with Advocate Sameena Ramzan as member.

A total number of 19,204 Cases including traffic challans were taken up by th ese benches for amicable settlement, out of which 18,856 Cases were settled.

An amount of Rs 68,83,290 was awarded as settlement amount in all these cases.

JKEDI Srinagar concludes management development programme under RAMP at Balhama

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Office Srinagar, successfully concluded a Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at Balhama Srinagar.

The programme trained 22 entrepreneurs, equipping them with structured training designed to enhance their entrepreneurial competencies and strengthen their business capabilities. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Ansar Ullah Machloo Incharge-CNEC/Program reviewer; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar and Syed Miftah Andrabi, Manager CSF/Trainer. Interacting with the participants, Ansar appreciated the efforts of JKEDI Srinagar in organizing capacity-building programmes in the interior rural areas of District Srinagar. Shabir Hussain Shah, in his address, commended the enthusiasm and active participation of the entrepreneurs and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and skills gained to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises awareness programme at Ashtangoo to strengthen child protection

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 21 : Continuing its efforts to reach every corner of society and strengthen awareness about Child Rights, Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Ashtangoo, Bandipora.

During the programme teachers, students and community members were sensitised about various laws and provisions concerning child protection, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, Child Labour Laws, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Adoption Regulations, and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

Participants were briefed about Child Helpline 1098 and various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission Vatsalya. The programme aimed to educate students and teachers about Child Rights promote a safe and protective environment for children.

As part of the awareness initiative, posters displaying the Child Helpline 1098 were also placed at prominent locations of the area to strengthen public awareness and encourage people to report child protection concerns promptly.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts special Lok Adalat

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 21: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act Cases under Section 138 and for settlement of Traffic Challans and other Civil Cases today across District Ganderbal.



The Special Lok Adalat was held under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal.

For the smooth and effective conduct of the Lok Adalat, four benches were constituted to facilitate the amicable settlement of cases.

The first bench was presided over by Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, with Adv. Syed Shafat Andrabi as a member. The second bench was presided over by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ganderbal, with Rameen Rashid Khan, Munsiff/JMIC, Ganderbal, as a member. The third bench was presided over by Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, with Syed Sibtain Mehdi, Trainee Judge, attached to the Court of the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Ganderbal, as a member. The fourth bench was presided over by Aiman Amin, Munsiff/JMIC, Kangan, with Adv. Suhail Ahmed Mir, Panel Lawyer, TLSC Kangan, as a member.

While the first three benches conducted proceedings at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, the fourth bench held proceedings at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan, ensuring wider access to litigants across the district.

During the Special Lok Adalat, a total of 194 cases were taken up before the four benches, out of which 148 cases were amicably settled through mutual consent, involving a total settlement amount of Rs 8278900.

During the proceedings, information was also disseminated among the Advocates, litigants and the general public regarding the upcoming 4th National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on 12th December, 2026, and they were encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to get their pending disputes resolved amicably through the Lok Adalat mechanism.

DC Budgam visits transit accommodation Sheikhpora

Reviews public issues, infrastructure development & availability of civic amenities

Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today visited Transit Accommodation Sheikhpora, and took stock of various public issues, infrastructure requirements and the availability of basic civic amenities for residents.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents and listened to their demands and grievances regarding the availability and improvement of essential facilities.

He also reviewed the existing infrastructure and discussed measures to address the issues highlighted by the residents.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the requirements pertaining to the repair and renovation of old buildings, resolution of seepage and leakage issues, renovation of the children's park, improvement of kitchen facilities at the Community Hall, proper functioning of drainage systems and septic tanks, and strengthening of sanitation arrangements.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure adequate manpower for sanitation and regular garbage collection to maintain cleanliness in the locality. He also passed directions for macadamisation of internal roads, landscaping and beautification of the area, and the creation of additional recreational spaces.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Block Development Officer (BDO) to prepare and submit an estimate for the development of an additional park, including lawn development and tiling works.

The Rural Development Department was



also instructed to carry out beautification works and lawn development in the Colony.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti to explore options for creation of additional direct tap water supply for the residents. He also took stock of the availability of medicines and healthcare staff in the colony. Besides, instructions were also given for establishment of Jan Aushadhi facility for residents. He inspected the Community Hall and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its proper functioning and maintenance.

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Public Interest Litigation

High Court pulls up authorities over women's safety in public transport

Seeks compliance reports on reserved seats for women, persons with disabilities

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 21 :Flagging gaps in the enforcement of government directions meant to ensure safer travel for women commuters, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has pulled up the authorities over safety of females using public transport.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rahul Bharti while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) observed: "Reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities in public transport exist more on paper rather than on the roads"

The PIL filed by Advocate Monisa Manzoor Mir has raised concerns over the safety and security of women travelling in buses, matadors and other public transport vehicles without assurance of reserved seating.

The High Court noted that even the Srinagar Traffic Police Chief had expressed difficulty in enforcing the directives, stating that their implementation required executive decisions, statutory notifications or departmental directions from the competent authorities.

The High Court also took note of government directions requiring Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to ensure strict implementation of seat reservation for women and persons with disabilities in buses, mini-buses, sumos, e-rickshaws and other public service vehicles.

The directions, as per KNO, also require weekly compliance and enforcement reports to be submitted to the Transport Commissioner. The High Court observed that compliance reports sought through its August 10 order were still awaited from the Transport Commissioner, J&K Legal Services Authority, Transport Department and Traffic Police.

Allowing more time to the respondents to submit compliance details, the High Court said it reserves the discretion to issue further directions to make the PIL more effective and ensure a sense of safety and security for women commuters. The matter has been listed for further hearing on December 23, 2026.

Alleged rotten meat case: Health Minister warns strict action against those involved

Kashmir News Observer

ANANTNAG NOV 21 : Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo on Saturday warned of strict action against those involved in the rotten meat case, asserting that there would be no compromise on the safety and health of people.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir, Itoo said the government was taking all necessary measures in accordance with the law and the concerned departments had already initiated action against those found involved in violations.

She said the licences of certain establishments had been cancelled and several other measures had also been taken as part of the action initiated by the authorities.

"Whatever action is required at the departmental level is being taken. We have made it clear that there will be no compromise when it comes to the health of people. What we are consuming should not turn out to be poisonous for us, and anyone found involved in such practices will be dealt with strictly," she said.

The minister also acknowledged staff shortages in the Food Safety Department, saying that although the department had been functioning since 2002, it was facing a shortage of manpower, which affected its overall functioning.

Itoo said she recently reviewed the department's performance and functioning and that steps were being taken to address the staffing-related issues and strengthen its enforcement mechanism.

The health minister said the exposure of



cases such as the alleged rotten meat scandal was also an indication that the department had been carrying out inspections and making efforts to ensure accountability."Such cases are coming to the fore because the department is working and efforts are being made to make the system accountable. We have to ensure that people get safe and quality food items, and there can be no leniency in matters concerning public health," she said.

Govt allows stipend during maternity, paternity leave for PG students, senior residents

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 21 :The Jammu and Kashmir Government has allowed postgraduate students, senior residents, tutors and other medical trainees in Government Medical Colleges across the Union Territory to draw stipends during duly sanctioned maternity and paternity leave.

According to an order, students pursuing postgraduate and super-specialty programmes, including DM, M.Ch. and DNB Super-Specialty courses, as well as senior residents, tutors, registrars and demonstrators, will be entitled to receive stipends during sanctioned maternity or paternity leave in accordance with applicable government rules.

The order also lays down conditions regarding the extension of training and tenure periods. For students enrolled in academic and super-specialty programmes, the training or tenure period will be extended by a duration equivalent to the maternity or paternity leave availed, subject to the norms of the concerned statutory body. However, senior residents and tutors not pursuing any academic programme will be eligible for stipends during sanctioned leave within their prescribed tenure without any extension of their engagement period. The department said the benefit will be admissible only during the approved tenure of engagement and subject to fulfilment of all applicable conditions. The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) welcomed the decision, however, it said enhancement of stipends, in parity with other states and Union Territories, remains its primary demand. Dr Abhishek Mittal, chief adviser of AIMSA while welcoming the decision said the focus remains on the stipend hike, which is a major demand of resident doctors.

DGP Prabhat reviews ongoing security operations in Jammu zone



Kashmir News Observer

JAMMU, NOV 21: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Saturday reviewed ongoing security operations in Jammu Zone along with senior police officers here, police said According to the Jammu Zone Police on X, the police chief, accompanied by Special DG Coordination, IGP Railways, IGP Security and IGP Jammu Zone, took stock of ongoing operations and reviewed the security measures being implemented in the region.

The review follows a high-level meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who directed police and civil administration to further strengthen security frameworks and implement actionable roadmaps to ensure lasting peace and accelerate development in the region.

During the meeting, the lieutenant governor directed officials to look beyond traditional policing and work towards completely dismantling the terror and separatist ecosystem.

He also called for intensified winter surveillance, enhanced security preparedness and complete operational control.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must tear down the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem that sustains them," Sinha directed police officers.

He also stressed that operations against narco-terrorists must continue relentlessly, with the aim of completely dismantling the narco-terror ecosystem.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha further directed deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police to appoint dedicated nodal officers and set district-specific targets for the seizure and forfeiture of properties linked to anti-national elements.

He also called for strict vigilance against encroachments along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), besides a crackdown on illegal mining, drug trafficking and bovine smuggling.

Dry spell to continue across J&K till Nov-end; nights set to turn colder

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 21 :Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness largely dry weather conditions until the end of November, with the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasting a fall of 1-2 degrees Celsius in minimum temperatures across the region during the coming days. According to the MeT department's forecast weather is expected to remain generally dry between November 21 and 30, while partly to generally cloudy conditions are likely from December 1 to 3.



The minimum temperatures are likely to decline by 1-2 degrees Celsius towards the end of November, indicating colder nights across the Kashmir Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The department's seven-day forecast, covering November 21 to 27, also indicates dry weather across Kashmir, Jammu and the overall Union Territory, with no weather warnings issued for either division during the period. According to the weather bulletin, maximum temperatures during the past 24 hours remained 1-3 degrees Celsius above normal at several places in Kashmir division, while they were 1-4 degrees above normal at many places in Jammu division.

Kupwara recorded the highest maximum temperature in Kashmir division at 18 degrees Celsius, while Kathua was the warmest place in Jammu division at 27 degrees Celsius.

The minimum night temperatures also remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Pahalgam and Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.4 degrees Celsius each, while Bhaderwah registered the lowest night temperature in Jammu division at 3.6 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, against the normal of 0.7 degrees, while Qazigund settled at 2.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at 0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 3.1 degrees Celsius. Among other automatic weather stations, Shopian recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 0.5 degrees Celsius and Srinagar minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Weapons meant only for anti-national elements: CRPF IG

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 21 :Stating that weapons carried by security personnel are meant only for dealing with anti-national elements and not to threaten civilians, Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma on Saturday said that the force is carrying out its duties effectively across Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the fourth edition of the CRPF T20 Cricket Cup in Srinagar, Sharma said, "Security forces are working together effectively in Kulgam and gradually achieving success."

"Our weapons are solely for safety. Having weapons does not mean anything else. Weapons are only for anti-national elements," he added.

On the Kulgam situation, Sharma said, "Whatever work we need to do in Kulgam, we are doing it. Working together effectively with the Army, the civil police and all our intelligence agencies, our force is carrying out the work that needs to be done wherever required. Gradually.

Wildlife department continues search operation for 2 bears in Tral's Kuchmulla

Kashmir Age News



TRAL, NOV 21 The Wildlife Department on Saturday continued its search-cum-rescue operation for the second consecutive day in Kuchmulla village of Tral to trace and rescue two wild bears spotted roaming in the area on Friday.

The operation, being carried out under the supervision of the concerned

Range Officer, involved wildlife teams and casual labourers, who made sustained efforts to locate the animals.

An official said the search operation was still underway and that the

department was making every possible effort to trace the two bears and ensure their safe rescue.

He appealed to local residents to cooperate with the department during the rescue operation and follow the necessary safety guidelines. He also stressed that the improper disposal of garbage near residential areas attracts wild animals and contributes to increasing human-wildlife interactions.

Bollywood singer Altamash Faridi sets Srinagar audience grooving to popular hits

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 21 :Bollywood melodies, loud cheers and enthusiastic sing-alongs marked a musical evening at Srinagar's Joggers Park on Saturday as playback singer Altamash Faridi captivated the audience with an energetic performance.

Faridi, known for songs such as Deewani Mastani and Aaj Ibaadat from Bajirao Mastani, Mann Kunto Maula from Gunday, Ik Mulaqaat from Dream Girl and Tere Vaaste from Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, has established himself as a prominent voice in the Hindi film music industry.

Faridi enthralled the audience with his powerful vocals and popular Bollywood hits, drawing loud applause and enthusiastic responses from music lovers.

Young Leaders Conclave 2026 begins at NIFT Budgam

Kashmir News Observer

BUDGAM, NOV 21 :The Young Leaders Conclave 2026, featuring a national-level Youth Parliament, was held at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Budgam, on Saturday, providing students and young public speakers with an opportunity to engage with parliamentary procedures, governance and policymaking.

Organised by the Young Generation Forum, the two-day conclave is being held under the theme of rebuilding India's education-to-employment pathway, focusing on representation, opportunities and national development.

Mir Sahiba, spokesperson for the organising team, said the initiative aims to bring the experience of parliamentary proceedings to Kashmir and provide young people practical exposure to democratic institutions and decision-making processes.

She said the platform would help participants understand how public policies are formulated and how Parliament functions, while encouraging them to use this knowledge to address societal issues.



Emphasising the need for more such platforms in Kashmir, Sahiba said discussions on governance, education, employment and public policy are essential for youth engagement. Sharing her experience as a former winner of a national-level Youth Parliament, she said such opportunities help build confidence and broaden perspectives.

Another organising team member, Bakhtawish, said the event is the first major initiative of the Young Generation Forum, bringing together public speakers from different states and panelists who have represented India at international forums.

She said the Youth Parliament was designed to help students from schools and universities understand the lawmaking process and the functioning of Parliament and legislative assemblies.

Highlighting the importance of youth participation in nation-building, she said young people need adequate exposure and understanding of democratic processes to contribute meaningfully to the country's development. MLA Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi and MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat also attended the programme and interacted with participants. Their presence underscored the conclave's objective of encouraging youth engagement in democratic processes, governance and nation-building.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | SUNDAY
22-NOVEMBER-2026
04
www.kashmirage.net facebook.com/kashmirage youtube.com/@kashmirAge dailykashmirage@gmail.com

Choose dialogue over violence, trust over fear to turn hatred into love: SRK

Mumbai, Nov 21 (PTI) Actor Shah Rukh Khan on Saturday called for choosing dialogue over violence and trust over fear to transform hatred into love, saying that peace was a "decision and a promise" that everyone must fulfil every



dialogue instead of violence, trust instead of fear, and live together in harmony, love will always triumph," the actor said.

People constantly fight for their dreams, identity and loved ones, and sometimes even over parking space and minor differences of opinion, but peace is something for which there is no need to fight, Khan said.

"Peace begins in a small place -- within us, in our own hearts. Peace is a decision, a responsibility and a promise that we must fulfil every single day. Never forget the power of the common man. We are all ordinary people, and we all have to come together. So, let us make a small promise today. We do not have to agree with everything.

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE IST CLASS, BIJBEHARA

In the case of:
Gh. Mohi Ud Din Rawloo S/o Gh. Mohd Rawloo
R/o Tehsil Road Gafari Shah Bagandar, Bijbehara
.....(Applicant)
Versus
UT of J&K through Registrar Births & Deaths Municipal Committee Bijbehara.
.....(Non-Applicant)

In the matter of : Application seeking an order for delayed registration of Date of Birth under Section 13 of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969.

PROCLAMATION/NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the applicant herein above has filed the instant application before this Hon'ble Court seeking an order for registration of his/her son's Date of Birth, particulars whereof are given below:

Name: Gh. Mohi Ud Din Rawloo Parentage: Gh. Mohd. Rawloo, Residence: Tehsil Road Gafari Shah Bagandar Bijbehara, Date of Birth: 06-11-1973, Place of Birth: at Home Saraf Mohalla, Bijbehara. Therefore, the medium of this Proclamation, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with respect to the registration of the aforesaid Date of Birth may file his/her objections before this Hon'ble Court, either personally or through counsel, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and decided in accordance with law.

Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class,
Bijbehara 904

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, PRETHPAL SINGH, Force No. 904653751, Rank: Constable/Tradesman, CISF Unit SSG, Bhopal, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "PRETHIPAL SINGH" in my CISF service records, whereas my correct name is "PRETHPAL SINGH", as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Bank Passbook and other official documents. Henceforth, my correct name shall be read and recorded as PRETHPAL SINGH for all official and legal purposes. If anyone has any objection regarding the above name correction, they may contact the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication.

PRETHPAL SINGH
Force No.: 904653751
Constable/Tradesman, CISF (AA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the mother's name of my daughter, Taibah Bilal, has been wrongly recorded in her school records as SKINA, whereas her correct name is SAKEENA BASHIR. I have initiated the process for rectification of the said discrepancy in her school records. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit his/her objection in writing before the Principal, Innocent Hearts School, within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the correction shall be carried out accordingly, and no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Bilal Ahmad Father of Taibah Bilal
R/o Aloch Bagh, Srinagar R-1148

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the mother's name of my son, Zaid Bin Qayoom, studying in Class 9th, has been wrongly recorded in his school records as RAQEEBA QAYOOM, whereas her correct name is RAQEEBA AKHTER. I have initiated the process for rectification of the said discrepancy in his school records. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit his/her objection in writing before the Principal, R.P. School, Alamdar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the correction shall be carried out accordingly, and no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Abdul Qayoom Sofi
Father of Zaid Bin Qayoom
R/o Gousia Mohalla, Umer Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar R-1149

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کو اپنے سوزنی کارخانہ بنام خان کشمیر آرٹس کی رجسٹریشن محکمہ ہینڈی کرافٹس سرینگر میں کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر اسسٹنٹ ڈائریکٹر محکمہ ہینڈی کرافٹس سرینگر واقع زالڈگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد معیاد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتہر:
پراپریٹر: ظہور احمد خان
ولدیت: غلام احمد خان
ساکنہ: بوٹہ کدل لالبازار
فون نمبر: **7006651820**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the mother's name of my son, Uzair Bin Qayoom, has been wrongly recorded in her school records as RAKEEBA AKHTAR, whereas her correct name is RAKEEBA AKHTER. I have initiated the process for rectification of the said discrepancy in her school records. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit his/her objection in writing before the Principal, Ingenious School Mala Bagh, Srinagar, within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the correction shall be carried out accordingly, and no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Abdul Qayoom Sofi
Father of Uzair Bin Qayoom
R/o Gousia Mohalla, Umer Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar
R-1149

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS, BUDGAM

Present: Usman Khurshid; JO Code: JK00320
CNR No.: JKBG030039522026
Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh, Applicant

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been filed before this Court seeking delayed registration of death with the following particulars:

Name: Amina Begum
Date of death: 09.07.2021
Place of death: Bugroo Khansahib Budgam
Father's name: Gh Ahmad Sofi
Mother's name: Khurshi
Address: Bugroo Khansahib Budgam

Any person having any objection to the registration sought may submit objections before this Court, either personally or through counsel, on or before 01.12.2026, during court hours. Thereafter, the application shall be considered in accordance with law.

Issued under the seal of this Court on 18.11.2026.
Judicial Magistrate First Class Budgam

DOON SCHOOL SRINAGAR MOURNS UNTIMELY DEMISE OF GENERAL SECRETARY

MS RUQAYA REHAN

Wife of Chairman Showkat Hussain Khan

It is with profound grief that we mourn the passing of Ms. Ruqaya Rehan, General Secretary of Doon School Srinagar and beloved wife of our respected Chairman, Mr. Showkat Hussain Khan.

She was a pillar of strength, grace and vision for our school, leading with dignity, empathy, and genuine care for every teacher, staff member and child on campus. Her passing leaves a void that can never be filled.

We stand in complete solidarity with our Chairman and the bereaved family.

May Almighty Allah grant her eternal peace, illuminate her grave, and bestow upon her the highest abode in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and grant her loved ones Sabr-e-Jameel.

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un

With heartfelt sorrow,
Principal on behalf of Doon School Srinagar

DOON SCHOOL
SRINAGAR

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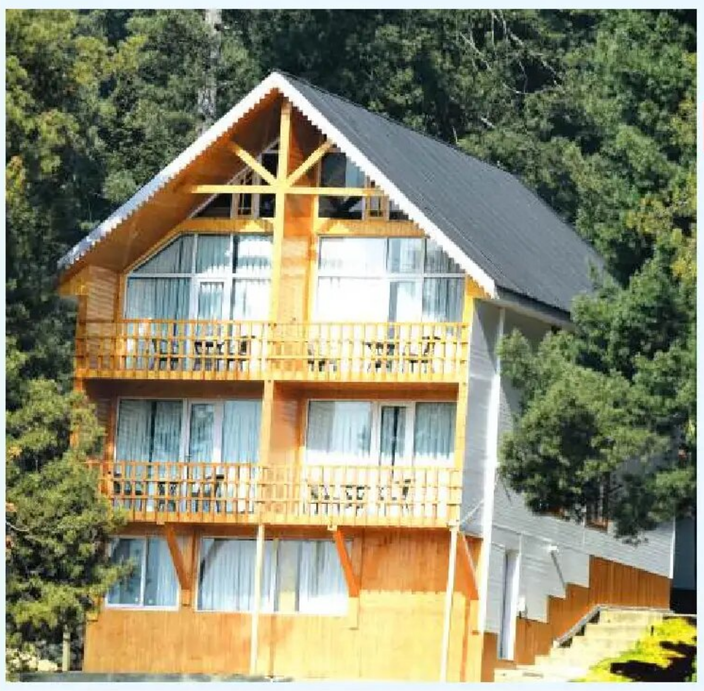







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Javid Dar lays foundation stone of various projects in Rafiabad Baramulla

Kashmir Age News



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 21: Giving a major impetus to infrastructure development in Rafiabad constituency, Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today laid the foundation stones of seven important development projects and inaugurated a major water supply scheme, involving a cumulative investment of approximately Rs 29.26 crore.

The projects, spanning irrigation and drinking water sectors, are aimed at strengthening rural infrastructure, enhancing irrigation potential, supporting agricultural productivity and ensuring reliable drinking water facilities for the people.

The initiatives reflect the Government's commitment to equitable, inclusive and sustainable development, with particular focus on strengthening essential infrastructure and extending the benefits of development to people at the grassroots level.

Among the key irrigation projects, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the Lift Irrigation Scheme at Reban, Rafiabad, being executed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Baramulla, at an allotted cost of Rs 50.46 lakh. The scheme is expected to enhance irrigation potential in the area by improving water availability for agricultural activities, thereby extending vital support to the farming community.

He also laid the foundation stone for the improvement of Panzala Zamindara Khul, with an allotted cost of Rs 31.57 lakh under the Special Support Scheme (SSY). The project envisages improvement of the existing irrigation channel infrastructure to facilitate efficient water distribution and ensure better utilisation of irrigation resources for agricultural purposes.

The Minister further laid the foundation stone for the Lift Irrigation Scheme at Harwan, being undertaken under NABARD at an approved cost of Rs 366.53 lakh. The scheme is expected to strengthen irrigation facilities, improve water accessibility and provide substantial support to agricultural lands and farming households in the area.

Another important project was the Restoration and Improvements to Lift Irrigation Scheme, Vijbal, for which the Minister laid the foundation stone. The project, being executed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Baramulla, at an allotted cost of Rs 18.52 lakh under the Special Support Scheme (SSY), aims to restore and upgrade the existing lift irrigation infrastructure, ensuring improved availability of irrigation water for agricultural activities.

DC Anantnag presides over vibrant public grievance redressal camp



Kashmir Age News

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 21: As part of the public outreach initiative aimed at bringing the administration closer to the people, a mega public darbar-cum-grievance redressal camp was today held at Model Higher Secondary School, Chittergul, to listen to the grievances, demands and developmental concerns of the people of Block Chittergul.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from people belonging to different villages and sections of society across the block, who put forth their issues and demands before Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the public darbar, participants raised a wide range of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water, irrigation, healthcare, education, electricity, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and other essential public services. Several issues were redressed on the spot, while the DC directed the concerned departments to take prompt action on the remaining genuine demands.

The major demands raised during the programme included construction of a Shamshan Ghat, improvement of mobile network connectivity, resolution of drinking water supply issues in Patribal and Didnard, upgradation and construction of Wuzkhan Road and Ziyarat Road, provision of PHE and irrigation facilities, availability of additional ration at Cheerpora, upgradation of Government Girls Middle School Dethu, and adequate deployment of medical staff at Chittergul Hospital. Other demands included installation of an X-ray facility at the hospital, establishment of Fire and Emergency Services facilities, organisation of agricultural and horticultural awareness camps, construction of Achabal-Chowgund Road, establishment of a laboratory at Higher Secondary School Chittergul, opening of a public library,

Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh undertakes first district visit to Reasi

Reviews key infrastructure and development projects in Katra

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 21: In his first visit to a district after assuming charge as Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav today visited



District Reasi to undertake an on-ground assessment of the developmental scenario and review the progress of key infrastructure projects, with particular focus on Katra, the prominent base camp for pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

On his visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by DC, Reasi, Kumar Abhishek; SSP Reasi; SP, Reasi and other senior officers from the District administration.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary took stock of several ongoing and proposed projects aimed at strengthening urban infrastructure, improving connectivity, augmenting public transport facilities and enhancing sanitation arrangements in Katra.

The Chief Secretary also fixed specific timelines for completion of each of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed deadlines. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, to undertake close and rigorous weekly monitoring of the progress of each project and ensure that any bottlenecks impeding their execution are promptly addressed.

Cautioning the officers against delays and any compromise in the quality of works, Dr Yadav made it clear that failure to meet the stipulated timelines or adhere to prescribed quality standards would invite strict disciplinary action against the officers concerned.

The projects reviewed included the ongoing construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Tan Talab by the Katra Municipal Committee, aimed at strengthening scientific solid waste management and ensuring more efficient handling and processing of municipal waste.

DC visits Budgam Town; reviews civic amenities



Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today visited Budgam Town and inspected the New and Old Bus Stands to take stock of public amenities, transportation facilities and infrastructure requirements.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with stakeholders, transporters and other concerned

persons and took stock of issues requiring attention to improve public convenience and ensure better management of transport facilities in the town.

The discussions primarily focused on the provision of adequate washroom facilities, office accommodation for local transporters, improvement of water supply and connectivity, and strengthening of other basic amenities at the bus stands.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of ensuring smooth availability and regular operation of public transport services across all routes in Budgam district to strengthen connectivity between the District Headquarters and different areas of the district.

He emphasised that adequate and reliable transport services must

be ensured for the convenience of the general public, particularly commuters travelling from far-flung areas.

He also stressed the need for proper sanitation, regular garbage collection and effective waste management across Budgam Town.

The DC called for focused measures towards the beautification and upkeep of the town, including improved cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces, to ensure a clean and pleasant environment for residents, commuters and visitors.

He directed the concerned officers to examine the requirements highlighted during the visit and prepare necessary estimates for the proposed developmental works and improvement of public facilities.

SDM Karnah inspects farmer ID camps, reviews registration progress

Kashmir Age News

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 21: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, accompanied by Tehsildar Karnah, today inspected Farmer ID generation camps across the sub-division to review the ongoing registration drive and check facilities for local farmers.

During the visit, the SDM spoke with field staff at the camps and reviewed the number of IDs generated so far. He stressed that every eligible farmer must be registered so they can easily access government welfare schemes and agriculture services.

The SDM directed officials from the Revenue and Agriculture departments to work closely together to ensure a smooth and hassle-free process for farmers. He asked them to pay special attention to remote and far-flung areas so that no eligible person is left out due to distance or poor network connectivity.

To help residents of remote villages like Jabdi which lacks mobile network coverage for online registration, a special camp has been set up at Toli with the help of local Army authorities. Residents of Jabdi have been informed to visit the Toli camp to complete their registration. The SDM praised the teamwork of the Revenue and Agriculture departments, as well as the Army, for reaching difficult areas in Karnah. He stated that the administration is committed to registering all eligible farmers and directed teams to finish the work accurately on time.

DC Shopian visits PARESHA Girls Home, One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today visited PARESHA, Child Care Institution (Girls' Home), Shopian, and the One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women at Heemal Administrative Complex, Old DC Office, Shopian, to assess the functioning, facilities and welfare services being provided at the institutions.

During his visit to PARESHA, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the girls residing at the institution. The girls introduced themselves and shared their interests, hobbies and future aspirations. He listened to their concerns, enquired about their basic needs and encouraged them to overcome life's challenges through education, hard work and perseverance, emphasising that their circumstances should never limit their aspirations.

Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian, the DC inspected the accommodation, mess, classrooms, library and other facilities.

DC Pulwama launches Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0

Kashmir Age News



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today launched the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0 at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pulwama, emphasising the need for greater awareness and active youth participation in the collective effort to make the district tobacco-free.

During the launching ceremony, District Health Officer, Pulwama, presented a detailed presentation on the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), highlighting the district's achievements and ongoing interventions aimed at curbing tobacco consumption and strengthening enforcement of tobacco control regulations.

It was informed that 72 villages have so far been declared Tobacco-Free Villages in the district, while 651 schools have achieved compliance under the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) guidelines. It was apprised that the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0, is being implemented over a period of two months, focusing on intensifying public awareness regarding the harmful effects of tobacco, strengthening Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions, declaring atleast 42 more villages tobacco-free, and ensuring stricter enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019.

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of WMDA

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a review meeting in the Meeting Hall of Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) to assess its overall functioning, with particular focus on ongoing developmental works, conservation of Manasbal Lake and tourism infrastructure.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti, presented a detailed overview of the Authority's achievements, ongoing initiatives and future development plans, highlighting key interventions in lake conservation, environmental management, infrastructure development and tourism promotion.

The meeting reviewed various measures undertaken for the conservation of Manasbal Lake, including dredging, de-weeding, cleanliness drives, waste management and sanitation initiatives. The progress of major infrastructure projects, particularly the lakeside pedestrian pathway, parking facilities and Manasbal bypass, was also discussed.

The Authority's initiatives to promote Manasbal as a sustainable tourism destination through cultural activities, recreational facilities and adventure tourism were highlighted. The proposed sewage management



system for the lake's catchment area and the need for strengthened solid waste management were also deliberated upon. The DC emphasized the importance of balancing tourism development with ecological preservation and called for coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of ongoing projects. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi; Chief Executive Officer, WMDA; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Ganderbal; representatives of J&K Sports Council and UEED Ganderbal, besides other concerned officials.

DC Pulwama chairs meeting to discuss issues of senior citizens

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex Pulwama to discuss issues and concerns of senior citizens and seek their suggestions for improving public services.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pulwama Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, ADC Pulwama Dr. S.M. Ashraf, CPO Aashiq Khanday, Additional SP Pulwama, ACD Pulwama, CMO Pulwama, Executive Engineers of R&B and KPDCL, other officers and senior citizens from across the district.

At the outset, the DC acknowledged the invaluable contributions and services rendered by senior citizens to society and emphasised the need to ensure their dignity, well-being and access to essential services.

During the meeting, senior citizens raised issues relating to healthcare, drinking water, electricity infrastructure, road connectivity, sanitation, revenue services, social security and implementation of welfare schemes.

A key demand was the establishment of a Viqaar House with library and recreational facilities. The DC assured that suitable land would be identified and the proposal taken up on priority.

Other issues included macadamisation of roads, strengthening of power infrastructure, rationalization of Patwari halqas and extension of pipes attached to municipal suction vehicles. The DC issued directions to the concerned officers for necessary action. He also directed the ACD to ensure immediate resumption of door-to-door waste collection in villages where the service had been disrupted.



Emphasising the participation of senior citizens in local development, the DC directed the Rural Development Department to specially invite them to Gram Sabha meetings. He also assured that the procedure for issuance of Senior Citizen Cards would be examined and taken forward at the earliest.

Taking note of traffic congestion, particularly along the approach road to District Hospital Pulwama, the DC said that an on-ground survey would be conducted with concerned officers to identify measures for improved traffic management. He also stressed collective responsibility and public participation in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation.

Regarding healthcare, the CMO was directed to facilitate essential medical tests and investigations free of cost for financially disadvantaged senior citizens during medical emergencies, with the district administration bearing the expenditure in such cases.

Buildings Don't Make Universities

[Why faculty excellence, academic freedom and research culture matter more than impressive infrastructure in building world-class universities.]





PROF. R. K. UPPAL, PHD, D.LITT.

India's ambition to establish world-class universities has gained considerable momentum. Modern campuses, impressive buildings, smart classrooms, advanced laboratories and international collaborations have become prominent features of institutional development. Universities increasingly compete to demonstrate their infrastructure, rankings, facilities and global visibility. However, an uncomfortable question needs serious attention: Are we building great universities, or merely constructing impressive educational campuses? The fundamental truth is that buildings do not make universities; people, knowledge, research and academic excellence do. Without competent and committed faculty, even the most expensive university campus risks becoming an impressive structure with limited intellectual substance.

A university is fundamentally an institution of knowledge creation, intellectual development and social transformation. Its real strength lies in the quality of its professors, the effectiveness of its teaching, the originality of its research and its contribution to society. Buildings provide physical space for academic activities, but faculty members provide the intellectual foundation that makes those activities meaningful. A modern auditorium cannot replace an inspiring professor, an expensive laboratory cannot compensate for inadequate research supervision, and a sophisticated digital classroom cannot guarantee quality education without effective teaching.

Unfortunately, a significant contradiction exists between India's global higher education ambitions and the actual treatment of academic professionals in parts of its university system. Institutions frequently invest substantial resources in infrastructure, branding, advertisements and promotional campaigns, while faculty recruitment, salaries, professional development and research support receive insufficient attention. This imbalance raises serious questions about institutional priorities. If universities genuinely aspire to achieve international recognition, why is investment in the people responsible for academic excellence not treated as their highest priority?

Faculty quality is the most important determinant of educational standards. Competent professors do much more than deliver lectures or complete prescribed syllabi. They inspire curiosity, develop analytical thinking, encourage independent learning and connect theoretical knowledge with practical challenges. They guide research scholars, contribute to innovation, publish meaningful research and prepare students for an increasingly competitive global economy. Their intellectual contributions influence generations of students and shape the future of society. Therefore, treating faculty members merely as institutional employees rather than academic assets is a fundamental mistake.

Another serious concern is the increasing administrative and non-academic burden placed on professors. In several institutions, faculty members are expected to perform responsibilities related to admissions, marketing, documentation, compliance, promotional activities and various administrative assignments. Although institutional administration is necessary, it should not become the primary responsibility of academic professionals. Professors are appointed to teach, conduct research, mentor students and contribute to knowledge creation, not to function as admission agents or compliance clerks. When administrative targets dominate academic responsibilities, the quality of teaching and research inevitably suffers.

India's private higher education sector also needs to reconsider its institutional priorities. Private universities and colleges have played an important role in expanding educational opportunities. However, educational expansion should not be confused with academic excellence. Some institutions appear more concerned with admissions, branding, infrastructure and revenue generation than with developing a strong academic workforce. Faculty members should not be treated simply as a regulatory requirement or an expenditure to be minimized. Their knowledge, experience and professional capabilities are central to institutional credibility. A university that neglects its teachers ultimately weakens its own academic reputation.

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary education, research, innovation, institutional autonomy and improved learning outcomes. Achieving these objectives requires a strong, motivated and professionally respected faculty. No educational policy can succeed merely through announcements, institutional restructuring or infrastructure development. Its implementation depends on teachers who understand emerging disciplines, adopt innovative teaching methods and actively participate in research. Faculty shortages, inadequate professional development and limited research opportunities can become major obstacles to educational transformation.

Universities must therefore adopt a faculty-centered development strategy. Transparent and merit-based recruitment should be prioritized. Competitive salaries, job security and fair promotion opportunities must become essential institutional commitments. Faculty members should receive research grants, opportunities for international collaboration, professional training and academic freedom. Unnecessary administrative responsibilities should be reduced, allowing professors to concentrate on their primary academic duties. Equally important, institutions must develop respectful working environments where intellectual contributions are recognized and professional dignity is protected.

Regulatory authorities and policymakers must also look beyond infrastructure-based indicators while evaluating institutional quality. University assessments should give meaningful importance to faculty qualifications, teaching effectiveness, research impact, student mentoring, employment conditions and innovation. Institutions should not be allowed to create an impression of academic excellence through attractive buildings and promotional claims while neglecting the quality of education delivered inside their classrooms.

Ultimately, India's higher education ambitions require a fundamental change in institutional thinking. Constructing modern campuses is necessary, but constructing a strong academic culture is far more important. A university's reputation is built through its professors, researchers, students and intellectual achievements, not through its architectural appearance.

India must understand that buildings can accommodate universities, but they cannot create academic excellence. A beautiful campus may attract attention, but only outstanding faculty can earn lasting respect. If India wants world-class universities, it must stop measuring educational success through buildings and start measuring it through the quality of its teachers, research and intellectual contributions.

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

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SAY NO TO DRUGS, SAVE LIVES, PROTECT FAMILIES AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE



BY BASIT LONE

Drug addiction has become one of the most serious social challenges of our time. It is silently destroying the lives of thousands of young people, weakening families and putting the future of our society at risk. What may initially begin as curiosity, experimentation, peer pressure or an attempt to escape personal problems can gradually turn into a dangerous addiction that takes control of a person's life. Today we must recognise that drug abuse is not merely an individual problem it is a social crisis that demands our collective attention, responsibility and action.

Behind every person struggling with drug addiction, there is often a family experiencing pain, fear and helplessness.

There are parents who spend sleepless nights worrying about their children, mothers who silently cry and pray for their child's recovery, and fathers who carry the burden of seeing their dreams fall apart. There are siblings who wish to see their loved ones return to the person they once were. We must understand that addiction does not affect only the individual it deeply affects everyone who loves and cares for that person.

Our youth are the greatest strength and hope of our nation. They are meant to become doctors, teachers, engineers, officers, entrepreneurs, responsible citizens and leaders. They have dreams to achieve, responsibilities to fulfil and families who look towards them with hope.

Unfortunately, drug addiction can destroy these dreams before they have the opportunity to become reality. No temporary pleasure is worth sacrificing one's health, dignity, education, career and precious future.

We must also understand that drugs are never a solution to stress, depression, loneliness, failure or personal difficulties. Life is full of challenges, but running towards harmful substances only makes those challenges more difficult. Real courage lies in facing problems, seeking guidance, accepting support and working towards a better tomorrow.

A person who chooses recovery over addiction is making one of the bravest decisions of their life.

At the same time, society must change its attitude towards individuals suffering from addiction. Instead of insulting, humiliating or rejecting them, we should encourage them to seek professional medical assistance and rehabilitation. Addiction is a treatable health condition, and people struggling with it deserve compassion, dignity and an opportunity to rebuild their lives. One person's past should never become a permanent judgement on their future. Sometimes a little understanding timely intervention and proper treatment can help someone find their way back to life.

Parents must maintain open communication with their children and understand the challenges they face. Educational institutions should organise awareness programmes, counselling sessions and meaningful activities. Social organisations, healthcare professionals, community leaders and responsible citizens must work together to prevent drug abuse



and support recovery. We must create an environment where young people feel comfortable discussing their problems instead of hiding them behind silence.

Every young person should ask themselves whether they are working towards making their parents proud or moving towards a future filled with regret. Think about the sacrifices your parents have made, the dreams you once had and the opportunities that life has given you. Your family does not need to see you trapped in addiction they want to see you healthy, educated, independent and successful. You still have time to make better choices, change your direction and become the person you always wanted to be.

CONCLUSION

The fight against drug addiction is not the responsibility of one person, one family, or one organisation,

It is a responsibility that belongs to every member of society.* We cannot afford to lose another generation to drugs, nor can we remain silent while our young people destroy their lives and their dreams. We must take this issue seriously and move beyond social media campaigns towards real awareness, meaningful action, prevention and support for recovery.

To every young person reading this article Never allow temporary pleasure to destroy a lifetime of opportunities. Your life is far more valuable than any substance that promises an escape but takes away your freedom. If you are struggling with addiction, do not lose hope. Reach out for help, accept treatment and give yourself another chance. Your past does not have to define your future and if you know someone who is struggling, become a source of support rather than judgement.

Let us build a society where parents do not have to fear losing their children to drugs, where young people are known for their achievements rather than their addictions, and where every individual gets the opportunity to live with dignity, health and purpose. A drug-free society is not just a dream it is a responsibility we must fulfil together.*Let us protect our youth, support those who need help and create a future in which life, humanity and hope always come first.*

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Connecting Kashmir Infrastructure Must Deliver Economic Opportunity



Shoiab Mohmmad Bhat





> The true achievement of connectivity will not be measured solely by the height of a bridge, the length of a tunnel or the cost of a highway. It will be measured by whether farmers transport produce at lower costs, patients travel with greater certainty, businesses reach new customers, and remote communities remain connected during severe weather.

Jammu and Kashmir's mountains, snowfall, landslides, and difficult terrain have long made connectivity a challenge. These conditions affect travel, trade, healthcare, education, and access to essential supplies, particularly in remote areas.

Major projects such as the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), Chenab Rail Bridge, Anji Khad Bridge, Sonamarg Tunnel and the ongoing Zojila Tunnel project are changing the region's transport network. Airport expansion plans, improved railway services and cargo facilities are adding to this progress.

These initiatives need to be acknowledged for the engineering prowess displayed by them. But ultimately, their success can be gauged from the impact they make on the lives of common people and the reduction in the cost of business, along with creating livelihoods for locals. Jammu and Kashmir needs to translate its improved connectivity into economic prosperity.

Railways Transforming Regional Connectivity

The 272-kilometre USBRL project, inaugurated in June 2025 at a reported cost of 43,780 crore, marks a major milestone in connecting Kashmir with the national railway network. It includes 36 tunnels spanning approximately 119 kilometres and 943 bridges, overcoming some of the region's most difficult geographical barriers.

The railway can make journeys more predictable and improve the movement of agricultural produce, handicrafts and other goods. It can also help students, patients, workers and families travel more conveniently.

Vande Bharat services between Katra and Srinagar began in June 2025 and were extended to Jammu Tawi in April 2026. Such services can strengthen passenger movement and support tourism and business activity.

However, railway connectivity must serve ordinary passengers as well. Affordable fares, suitable schedules, reliable feeder transport and convenient station access are necessary to ensure that these facilities benefit a wider section of society.

Engineering Achievements Must Serve People

The Chenab Rail Bridge, rising 359 metres above the riverbed, and the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, demonstrate how engineering can overcome difficult Himalayan terrain. The 12.77-kilometre T50 railway tunnel is another significant achievement.

Such infrastructure facilities have been designed to minimize the impact of geographic barriers. However, their performance is influenced by the transport network that surrounds them. The approach roads to the station must be easily accessible; there should be public transport services, and passengers should be provided with information in case of disruption.

All-Weather Roads and Tunnels

The Sonamarg Tunnel, commissioned in January 2025, was built to ensure round-the-year connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg. By avoiding dangerous zones, it will help to boost tourism as well as facilitate connectivity in adverse weather conditions.

The Zojila Tunnel, which is under construction between Baltal and Minamarg, is likely to enhance connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. The main tunnel of the project broke through in June 2026; however, the project is still under construction. It is expected that this project will significantly cut down the travel time between these zones.

Other projects, including the Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway, Shopian bypass and rural road schemes under PMGSY, can strengthen regional and local connectivity.

However, road development must be measured by practical outcomes: fewer disruptions, reduced travel time, safer journeys and improved access to essential services. Regular maintenance and environmental protection are equally important in a region vulnerable to landslides, avalanches and earthquakes.

Connectivity Must Strengthen Kashmir's Economy

Horticulture, handicrafts, saffron, dry fruits and pashmina are important parts of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. Producers often face transport expenses, delays, and difficulties in reaching distant markets while maintaining product quality.

Better roads and railway services can help address these challenges, but transportation alone cannot guarantee better returns for farmers. Perishable agricultural produce requires suitable packaging, grading facilities, cold storage where necessary, efficient loading arrangements and timely delivery. Modern warehouses and cargo facilities near production centres can reduce losses and improve market access.

Small growers and traders should be able to use these services at reasonable rates. Otherwise, the benefits of new infrastructure may remain concentrated among larger businesses.

Handicraft producers also need digital marketing, reliable delivery services, quality certification and stronger connections with retailers and export markets. The objective should be to help Kashmir sell more of its products while earning greater value from local production.

Multimodal Logistics and Cargo Facilities

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is the scheme through which coordination can take place amongst various modes of transport infrastructure.

The rail-connected terminals, warehouses, and cold storage facilities would facilitate linkage between the production hubs with the markets. Operational terminal at Samba and upcoming terminals in Kathua, Anantnag and Jammu provide scope in improving freight transport.

In the case of Kashmir, it is essential to link these terminals with the horticulture clusters, industries, wholesale markets, and other small business concerns.

Efficient logistics also require reasonable freight rates, transparent procedures and coordination between transport operators, traders and government departments. Physical connectivity will have limited economic value if handling charges and delays continue to make transportation expensive.

Airports and Regional Mobility

Air connectivity enables tourists and businesses to travel, particularly when road travel is lengthy or difficult. The proposed expansion project at Srinagar International Airport Civil Enclave that has been approved in February 2026, with an investment of 1,677 crores, will aid in improving passenger handling capacity. This involves the construction of a new terminal and more aircraft parking facilities.

This expansion project will help the region in accommodating tourist activities and business. Better facilities at the airports should, however, go hand in hand with good ground transport facilities and proper traffic management systems.

Planned regional aviation facilities at Udhampur and Kishtwar could also improve access to remote areas. Their value will depend on timely completion, viable flight operations and actual passenger needs.

Development Must Reach Remote Communities

Large projects attract attention because of their cost and engineering scale. Yet, residents of remote villages and border settlements also need reliable roads, safe transport and access to healthcare and education.

The development of infrastructure must include both major roadways and railway networks, along with local roads and bridges as well as reliable modes of transportation. The district administrations will have to determine areas that remain isolated seasonally and work on finding a solution.

Greater accessibility can enable young people to attend educational institutions, sick persons to get specialized medical attention, and entrepreneurs to expand their ventures. Even lesser-known tourist spots can benefit from improved connectivity along with adequate facilities.

Environmental safeguards must remain central to this process. Construction in fragile mountain areas requires proper drainage, slope stabilisation and scientific monitoring to avoid creating new risks.

Accountability After Construction

The completion of a project is only the beginning of its operational life. Roads, tunnels, bridges and railway facilities require regular inspections, maintenance and emergency preparedness.

Timelines for the projects, details of service interruptions, safety measures, and expenditures incurred should be published by the authorities. These needs must guide the next phase of investment.

Authorities must also communicate clearly about which projects are operational, under construction or still planned. Realistic timelines and transparent reporting can help maintain public confidence.

The true achievement of connectivity will not be measured solely by the height of a bridge, the length of a tunnel or the cost of a highway. It will be measured by whether farmers transport produce at lower costs, patients travel with greater certainty, businesses reach new customers and remote communities remain connected during severe weather.

Connecting Kashmir is an important step. Ensuring that this connectivity delivers economic opportunity, resilience and a better quality of life for its people must remain the larger goal.

The Author is a writer, social educator, and researcher from Baramulla, and holds a master's in Gender Studies and a BED.

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Infrastructure projects should also be measured in terms of the following measurable outputs: reduction in travel time, reduction in the cost of transportation, increased market access and improved services to disadvantaged communities.

Employment is another area where such measures should be taken. Employment is generated through construction, but sustainable economic development is dependent on the availability of local expertise in logistics, tourism, engineering, transport and maintenance.

From Connectivity to Inclusive Development

Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure expansion offers an opportunity to reduce the disadvantages imposed by geography. However, infrastructure is a means of development, not its final goal.

Farmers need efficient supply chains, artisans need wider markets, small businesses need affordable transport, and remote communities need dependable access to essential services.





Suggested Pictures

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TN Growth Conclave : UEF to bring together 400 industry leaders to accelerate state's economic growth

United News Of India



CHENNAI, NOV 21: The United Economic Forum (UEF) will bring together 400 industry leaders for the Tamil Nadu Growth Conclave-2026 to be held here on December 8, to accelerate the State's economic growth.

The 400 carefully chosen leaders and experts will be from industry, entrepreneurship, academia, investment, policy and institutions across 10 interconnected Growth Engines.

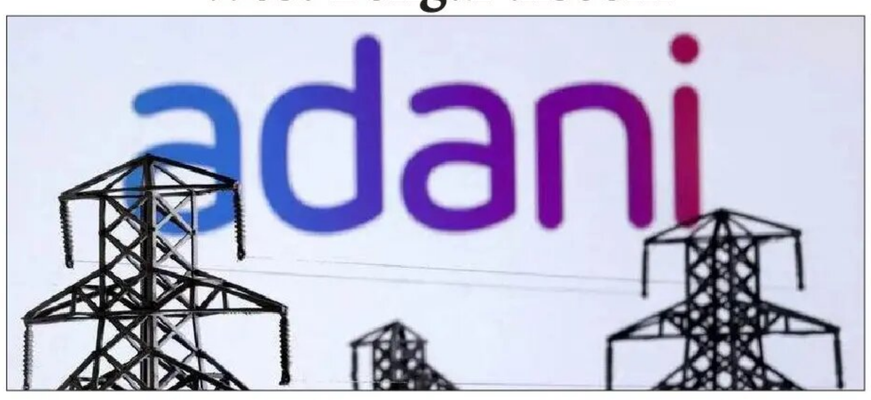
To be held under the theme "Putting Ambition to Work," the invitation-only Conclave is designed as a working platform rather than a conventional conference - a practical industry-engagement layer built around priorities Tamil Nadu has already identified. Through 50 focused economic conversations, participants will examine real challenges and opportunities, identify potential partnerships and develop practical pathways towards action.

Tamil Nadu, with an economy of about USD 425 billion in 2026, has set an ambitious target of becoming a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2036. Looking further ahead, UEF's Unnatha Tamizhagam vision aspires to contribute towards Tamil Nadu becoming a USD 4 trillion economy by 2047. The Conclave is intended to help build a bridge between these ambitions and the practical work required across industry, investment, technology, infrastructure, talent, innovation and global markets.

For UEF, however, the ambition goes beyond the size of the economy. Its vision for Unnatha Tamizhagam is a prosperous, progressive and inclusive Tamil Nadu, where economic growth translates into better quality of life, greater opportunity, education, entrepreneurship, stronger communities and social development, Jinnah Rafiq Ahmed, Executive Chairman & Chairman Tamil Nadu Growth Conclave 2026 ,Ahmed A.R. Buhari. President. United Economic Forum, Dave Jayselvan, Advisor, Tamil Nadu Growth Conclave, told the media.

Buhari said "Tamil Nadu has the talent, entrepreneurial strength, industrial capabilities and ambition to become one of the world's leading economic regions. But economic growth must ultimately be measured by the opportunities it creates for people - better livelihoods, stronger businesses.

Adani Energy Solutions bag project for 2,500 MW renewable energy supply to West Bengal discom



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) on Saturday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Powerpulse Trading Solutions Ltd (PTSL) has bagged a project to supply up to 2,500 MW of renewable energy to West Bengal discom WBSEDCL for 25 years.

The Letter of Award (LoA) from West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (WBSEDCL) is for the supply of 1,750 MW of renewable energy round-the-clock for a period of 25 years. The LoA provides a 750 MW green shoe option, which, upon exercise, would take the aggregate contracted capacity to 2,500 MW, AESL said in a statement.

The award follows a competitive bidding process. Power supply is scheduled to begin from July 1, 2028, for 1,750 MW capacity and from April 1, 2029, for 750 MW, once the green shoe option is exercised, it said

"Round-the-clock renewable power will be critical to India's energy transition, combining the sustainability of renewables and optimising transmission systems usage. This significant order win strengthens our commitment to deliver scalable energy solutions, and allows us to partner with WBSEDCL in supporting West Bengal's long-term sustinable power needs.Buy Maps

"PTSL is rapidly emerging as a partner of choice for bulk power consumers, with the ability to structure bespoke and scalable solutions around their specific energy requirements," said Kandarp Patel, CEO, AESL.

The order represents a significant addition to PTSL's expanding portfolio of energy solutions. While it has tied-up ~ 4.6 GW of solar & wind, and 3.5 GWh of battery energy storage system capacity on the

sourcing side, it is steadily stitching the supply side by augmenting long-term supply contracts with bulk consumers like industries, data centres, commercial entities, and discoms.

Part of Adani Group, AESL has a presence in power transmission, distribution, smart metering, and cooling solutions.

GST Network adds metro rail as fifth mode of transport in e-way bill system



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 21: The GST Network (GSTN) has added metro rail as a new mode of transport in the e-way bill system.

Currently, the facility has also been released in the "Sandbox environment" for API users to test and make necessary changes to their systems. Its roll-out in the live API environment will be announced separately, GSTN, which manages the IT backbone of Goods and Services Tax, said.

The facility follows a government notification dated October 26.

With this addition, the e-way bill system now has five modes of transport: Road, Rail, Air, Ship and Metro Rail.Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the e-way bill is mandatory for transiting goods valued at Rs 50,000 and above, both inter- and intra-state.

GSTN, in an advisory issued on November 20, said the new option is available to web users for generating e-way bills and updating transport details.

IndusInd Bank terminates Sumant Kathpalia's services, invokes clawback provisions

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 21: IndusInd Bank has terminated the services of its former Managing Director and CEO Sumant Kathpalia with immediate effect following disciplinary proceedings against him.

The bank's board, acting as the disciplinary authority, took the decision at its meeting on November 20, based on the findings of an inquiry report submitted by a former Bombay High Court judge on November 18, 2026.

The bank also decided to invoke applicable malus and clawback provisions with effect from March 24, 2020, the date of Kathpalia's initial appointment as Managing Director and CEO.

In a regulatory filing, the bank said the action was in continuation of its earlier disclosures dated April 29 and May 21, 2025, and disclosures in its annual reports for FY25 and FY26.

Kathpalia had resigned from the services of the bank on April 29, 2025 with effect from the same day.

The bank's board took note of his resignation as MD and CEO and as a director, but did not communicate that he would continue to remain in the bank's employment until further intimation.

Subsequently, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against him under the bank's internal code of conduct, and he was placed under suspension with effect from June 18, 2025, pending completion of the proceedings.The latest decision follows the submission of the inquiry report and the board's consideration of its findings.

The board May last year had suspected involvement of certain employees in the derivatives, microfinance and balance sheet "fraud" and directed the bank to report the matter to investigative agencies and regulatory authorities.

The bank has appropriately accounted for and reflected the impact of all discrepancies identified in these reports while finalising the financial results for the quarter/twelve months ended March 2025.

In March 2025, the private sector bank had reported accounting lapses in the derivative portfolio, which were estimated to have an adverse impact of approximately 2.35 per cent of the bank's net worth as of December 2024.Following this, the bank appointed external agency PwC to assess the impact on the bank's balance sheet, lapses at various levels and suggest remedial action.

Dubai offers real estate at cheaper rates than Mumbai, Delhi: Danube Properties

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 : Real estate prices in Dubai are cheaper than those in Mumbai, Delhi and many other cities across the world, and the Gulf city offers immense potential for rate appreciation in the next three to five years, according to Danube Properties.

Speaking to PTI at the launch of a residential project in Dubai last week, Danube Group's founder and chairman Rizwan Sajan said the rates are less than half of those in Mumbai.

"Dubai still has a long way to go. Dubai's prices are still very reasonable, very achievable. You get properties at a prime location for 1,000 dollars per sq ft, which comes to around Rs 90,000 per sq ft. But if you buy a property in Bandra (Mumbai), it will cost around Rs 2,00,000 per sq ft...



Dubai prices are still very, very affordable, very comfortable," he said.

The company also came up with a study comparing rates of properties in upscale localities in 14 different cities across India, the US and Europe.Buy Maps

Citing the study, Sajan also said that the rental yields on investments in Dubai properties stand at

6.5 per cent annually, as against just 3.9 per cent earnings on investments made in Mumbai.

No FAST-DS declaration needed for foreign bank a/c up to Rs 20 lakh with disclosed funds: I-T dept

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 20: The Income Tax Department on Friday said individuals holding foreign bank accounts with an aggregate balance of up to Rs 20 lakh at any time during the previous year will not have to file declaration under the Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), if the funds in such accounts are from disclosed sources.In a supplementary FAQ on the scheme, the I-T department said the exemption applies to cases where the foreign bank account has not been reported in Schedule FA of the income tax return but the deposits are otherwise accounted for and sourced from disclosed income.

Under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, assessees with one or more foreign bank accounts and an aggregate balance of up to Rs 20 lakh at any time during the previous year are exempt from Rs 10 lakh penalty for non-disclosure in Schedule FA of the Income Tax Return (ITR). Such accounts are also exempt from prosecution under Sections 49 and 50 of the Act, it said. However, the I-T department cautioned that the relaxation does not cover foreign bank accounts containing undisclosed income or unaccounted deposits."A declaration will be required where the account contains undisclosed income or unaccounted deposits as they are subject to tax and penalty under the BMA," the FAQ stated. The FAQ would provide relief to taxpayers holding low-value overseas bank accounts where the source of funds is duly explained, while making it clear that the small-account threshold cannot be used to shield undisclosed .

India, Finland seek to deepen economic ties through startup cooperation: Envoy

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 21: India and Finland are looking to deepen economic cooperation by strengthening ties between their startup ecosystems and promoting greater two-way investment, Finnish Ambassador to India Mikko Kivikoski has said.Buy Maps

"We want to engage more with the Indian startup actors. And of course, at the end of the day, this is all about advancing the economic cooperation between our countries. And here we see the startup sector, startup ecosystems, as an important part of that cooperation," Kivikoski told PTI.

The ambassador was speaking at an unconventional startup event held at the Embassy of Finland in New Delhi on Friday, where entrepreneurs stepped into an ice-cold pool to pitch their ideas, drawing on Finland's winter-swimming tradition.

"We have quite a long tradition in Finland for these kinds of events," Kivikoski said.

"This year has been record-high when it comes to interaction and engagement between Finland and India," he said, referring to visits by the Finnish prime minister and president, as well as meetings between the leaders of the two countries.

The ambassador said the two sides agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability during Finnish President Alexander Stubb's state visit to India in March.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Finnish counterpart, Petteri Orpo, in New Delhi on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in February and in Oslo on the margins of the 3rd India-Nordic

EPFO SWP explained: Get Your PF Money in instalments instead Of Lump Sum

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 20: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved a new facility that will allow retiring subscribers to withdraw their provident fund (PF) savings in instalments rather than taking the entire accumulated corpus as a lump sum.

Under the proposed Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP), members will be able to receive monthly, quarterly or half-yearly payouts while keeping the remaining retirement savings invested within the EPF system.

The decision was taken at the 240th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT). The move is aimed at providing greater flexibility to retirees in managing their retirement funds and ensuring a regular flow of income after they stop working. The unwithdrawn portion of the PF corpus will continue to earn interest at the prevailing EPF rate, subject to the final scheme provisions.

Until now, retiring members generally had the option of withdrawing their eligible accumulated PF savings as a lump sum. They were required to manage and invest the money separately to generate regular income during retirement. The proposed SWP facility will offer an alternative by allowing subscribers to retain their savings within the EPF framework and access them at predetermined intervals.



EPFO Reduces Minimum PF Balance Retention Requirement

Alongside the introduction of the systematic withdrawal facility, the CBT has also approved a reduction in the minimum balance that members must retain in their PF accounts. The mandatory retention requirement has been lowered from 25% to 10%, giving subscribers greater access to their accumulated savings.

The proposal also brings relief to members who lose their jobs by reducing the waiting period for final PF settlement after unemployment from 12 months to just two months. This will allow eligible members to access their accumulated retirement savings much sooner after becoming unemployed.

Who Will Benefit From EPFO's New Withdrawal Facility

According to the Labour Ministry, approximately 6.32 lakh EPF subscribers aged above 55 years, with provident fund accumulations exceeding Rs5 lakh, are expected to be among the primary beneficiaries during the initial phase of the initiative.

The new arrangement will give retiring members the choice of receiving their eligible PF corpus through monthly, quarterly or half-yearly instalments. Those who wish to withdraw the entire eligible amount at once will continue to have the lump-sum withdrawal option, subject to applicable rules.Another important provision relates to the death of a subscriber during the withdrawal period. In such cases, nominees or dependants will have the option of withdrawing the remaining PF balance or continuing to receive periodic payouts.

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SC Judge Justice Masih urges graduates to uphold constitutional values

Press Trust Of India



CHANDIGARH, NOV 21 :Supreme Court Judge Justice Augustine George Masih on Saturday said a good lawyer must understand the responsibilities associated with the profession, beyond merely knowing the law, as he stressed the importance of continuous learning.

He further emphasised that constitutional values, particularly liberty and equality, must guide the legal profession.

Justice Masih was addressing a gathering at Panjab University's eighth law convocation here.

The PU conferred degrees upon 887 graduates and postgraduates, with students from the University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Department of Laws and regional centres at Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Muktsar receiving their degrees, according to a statement.

On this occasion, Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra was also present.

Congratulating students and their families, Justice Masih urged the young lawyers to take responsibility for their professional journeys and work towards their goals.

He advised the graduates to gain practical experience by spending time in courts, choosing their professional associates carefully and making effective use of their time.

Stressing the importance of continuous learning, he cautioned against assuming that one knows everything.

Justice Mishra also congratulated the graduates and said a new chapter in their lives had begun.

Drawing on his professional experience, he observed that law could not be learnt from books alone but also through practical exposure to court proceedings and interaction with society.

He advised the young lawyers to observe court proceedings, listen carefully and learn to remain calm while dealing with professional challenges.

"Respect and honesty are the ornament of a lawyer," he said.

In her address, PU Vice Chancellor Meenakshi Goyal highlighted the role of legal education in shaping society.

She said a convocation marked not only the culmination of academic engagement but also the beginning of a new journey.

The 887 degree recipients included 414 students from UILS, 275 from the Department of

Laws, 101 from the Regional Centre, Ludhiana, 72 from the Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur, and 25 from the Regional Centre, Muktsar.

Karnataka Police detain man from Bengal's Nadia in Rs 40 lakh cyber fraud case



Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA, NOV 21 :A team of Karnataka Police arrived in West Bengal's Nadia district on Saturday and detained a local man in connection with his alleged involvement in a Rs 40 lakh cyber fraud, a senior officer said.

Bank accounts of around 15 women were used to route the proceeds of the crime, he said.

The women, residents of Ramnagar Para under Shantipur Police Station, have alleged that three men approached them with assurances of arranging bank loans and collected their personal documents to open bank accounts in their names. Each woman was allegedly paid Rs 2,000 for opening an account, the officer said.

The fraud came to light when the women began receiving police notices from Karnataka in connection with the suspicious transactions, he said.

The women claimed they had no knowledge that the accounts were being used to transfer money linked to cyber fraud, he said.

"After receiving the first notice, some of them contacted Haldar, who assured them that he would settle the matter and collected Rs 1,000 from each of them," he said.

However, the notices continued to arrive, leaving the women worried about their possible involvement in financial irregularities.

17-year-old girl lured to party, 'gang-raped' in Thane district; four booked

Press Trust Of India

THANE, NOV 21 :A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two men in Maharashtra's Thane district after being lured by a female friend on the pretext of attending a party, police said on Saturday.

Police registered a case against four persons, including the teenager's female friend, in connection with the alleged incident that took place on the intervening night of November 16-17.

In her complaint, the girl said her 25-year-old female friend asked her to join a party in the Mira Road area. Two youths who were also present there allegedly forced her to consume alcohol before raping her, she told the police.

The accused also took away her "5-gram gold chain", she alleged.

The matter came to light after the girl did not return home through the night, prompting her family to launch a search, said senior inspector Rahulkumar Patil of the Kashigaon police station.

Four persons have been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

Rajasthan Police arrest wanted drug trafficking accused from Jharkhand after two years



Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR, NOV 21 :The Rajasthan Police Crime Branch arrested a drug trafficking accused carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 from the Naxal-affected Hariharganj area of Jharkhand's Palamu district, where he had allegedly been hiding in an oil mill while frequently changing locations.

Surendra Sahu, who had been absconding for nearly two years, was wanted in a case involving the alleged smuggling of 261 kg of doda post (poppy husk) registered at Sindhari police station in Rajasthan's Balotra district.

According to police, the accused had allegedly established a drug trafficking network spread across Rajasthan and several other states, with the contraband in the case being supplied from Jharkhand.

A team of the CID Crime Branch reached Jharkhand three days before the operation and

Nigerian man, wife held in Maharashtra for role in Keralam drug money trail

Press Trust Of India



MALAPPURAM (KERALAM), NOV 21 :A Nigerian national and his wife have been arrested in Maharashtra in connection with an MDMA seizure in Kondotty, Keralam, police said on Saturday.

The arrested have been identified as Ikechukwu Paul Ogbonna (40), a Nigerian national, and his wife Aarthi (42).

Malappuram District Police Chief Chaitra Teresa John told a press conference that the arrests had taken the total number of people held in the case to 10.

Police had arrested Ratheesh (38) from Kondotty in June this year for possessing MDMA.

Investigators were attempting to identify those who provided mule bank accounts and vehicles to facilitate the drug trafficking network, John said.

NEET paper leak case: Delhi court formally frames charges against 14 accused

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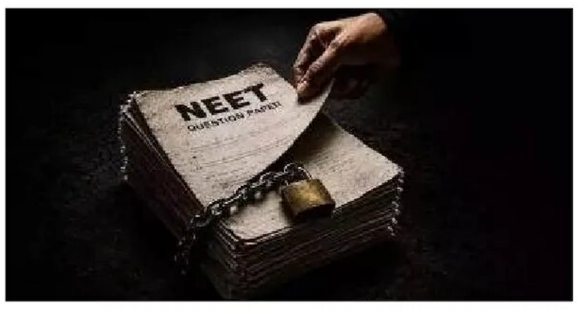

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 :Setting the stage for trial, a Delhi court on Saturday formally framed charges against 14 accused in the NEET paper leak case.

Special Judge Ajay Gupta framed charges against them after noting that they pleaded not-guilty.

The court had earlier said that there was a prima facie case against them for various offences, including cheating, criminal breach of trust, corruption and exam-related wrongdoings.

The three main accused - Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, P V Kulkarni and Manisha Sanjay Havaldar - were public servants as they were engaged by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and they procured the confidential questions illegally in conspiracy with the co-accused persons, the court had said.

It had ordered that charges be framed against the trio for the offences of criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating and criminal misconduct by a public servant under the provisions of BNS and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

About the other 11 accused - Tejas Harshadkumar Shah, Shivraj Motegaonkar, Manoj Shirure, Manisha Waghmare, Dhananjay Lokhande, Shubham Khairnar, Yash Yadav, Mangilal Biwal, Dinesh Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Sheshrao Suryawanshi, the court had said that these private individuals would face the Prevention of Corruption Act and breach of trust charges because they were part of the chain of the illegal distribution or exploitation of the confidential material connected to the three subject experts.

The trial in the case will commence on a day-to-day basis from November 25.

The CBI had earlier filed a charge sheet against 13 accused in a fast-track court dealing with criminal cases arising from paper leaks and the use of other unfair means in public examinations. The agency also filed a supplementary charge sheet against the 14th accused, Sheshrao Suryawanshi alias Raj Suryawanshi, a resident of Nanded in Maharashtra, who was arrested on September 2.

HC orders protection for interfaith marriage couple, says everyone has right to choose life partner

Press Trust Of India



KOLKATA, NOV 21 :The Calcutta High Court has directed the police to provide protection to a couple who solemnised an interfaith marriage, observing that every citizen has the right to choose his or her life partner under the Constitution.

The woman in the couple stated in an affidavit before the court that the two have been living together as husband and wife.

The affidavit, filed pursuant to an earlier direction of this court, expressed their unequivocal willingness to lead a conjugal life after having solemnised their interfaith marriage on August 16, 2026.

"As per Part III of the Constitution of India, every citizen of the country has individual right to choose his or her life partner and that ought not to be tinkered with in any manner whatsoever," Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya observed in the order passed on Thursday.

The court said that since the man and the woman solemnised an interfaith marriage under the Special Marriage Act, they have the right to lead a conjugal life peacefully.

Justice Bhattacharyya directed the inspector-in-charge of Sankrail police station in Howrah district to provide necessary protection to the petitioner, if the occasion so arises, in order to enable them to lead a peaceful conjugal life.

The West Bengal government counsel submitted that the police may now close a missing diary filed by the woman's mother.

The court said that since the man and the woman solemnised an interfaith marriage under the Special Marriage Act, they have the right to lead a conjugal life peacefully.

Elderly man beaten to death by cousin, nephew over land dispute in UP's Sultanpur

Press Trust Of India

SULTANPUR (UP), NOV 21 :A 70-year-old unmarried man was allegedly beaten to death with bricks and stones by his cousin and nephew over a land dispute here on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place near a school in Amilia Kala village under Kotwali Nagar police station area when the victim, identified as Satyanarayan Pal, was going to the field in the morning.

His cousin Siyaram and nephew Pradeep allegedly ambushed him near the school, attacking him with bricks and stones and leaving him seriously injured, police said.

Pal was taken to the district hospital, where he succumbed to injuries during treatment. The victim's cousin, Digambar Pal, claimed Satyanarayan had been unwell for around six months. During this time, Siyaram and Pradeep were cultivating his land. City Circle Officer Raghavendra Singh said a dispute over land cultivation apparently led to the attack.

Allahabad HC pulls up UP govt over registration of FIRs under law declared 'stillborn' by top court

Press Trust Of India



LUCKNOW, NOV 21 :The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow Bench has sought an explanation from the state government over registration of FIRs under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986, despite the Supreme Court having declared the legislation "stillborn".

A division bench of Justices Abdul Moin and Pramod Kumar on Friday directed the additional chief secretary (Home) to file a personal affidavit within three weeks explaining why such cases are still being registered.

The court warned that in case of non-compliance, the officer would have to appear personally along with the relevant records. The matter has been listed for December 15.

"Once the law with regard to the Act has been enunciated by the apex court in August 2026, there cannot be any occasion for the authorities to continue with the registration of FIRs under the provisions of the Act," the bench observed.

The court also sought details of the action proposed against officials responsible for registering such cases and the corrective measures being taken to prevent recurrence.

The bench remarked that it should not be repeatedly required to point out the authorities' failure to comply with Supreme Court judgments. It also expressed concern that litigants were being forced to approach the high court over the issue, resulting in a waste of "precious judicial time of the Constitutional court".

Pune senior citizen loses Rs 5 lakh in 'digital arrest' fraud

Press Trust Of India

PUNE, NOV 21 :A 66-year-old man from Pune was allegedly cheated of Rs 5 lakh by cyber fraudsters posing as "Mumbai Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS)" officers, who threatened to arrest him, police said on Saturday.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on October 31 when a man contacted the senior citizen, a resident of the city's Aundh area, claiming to be an inspector from the "Mumbai ATS". The complainant was told that he had helped Pakistani terrorists and had received Rs 500 crore for the purpose. Police said the man subsequently received a WhatsApp video call, and those on the other side threatened to arrest him. The fraudsters told him not to disclose anything about the "investigation" to anyone. The scammers used intimidation to force the man to transfer Rs 5 lakh to a Bank of India account, an official said.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Amit Shah

of Article 370.

About criticism by opposition parties that the constitutional provision had no connection with terrorism, Shah said developments in the Valley have demonstrated otherwise.

He said the change in the Kashmir Valley was brought about not merely by eliminating terrorists but also by ending the atmosphere of discrimination and alienation among the youth of Kashmir.

Development activities undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014 had further strengthened the prospects of lasting peace, he added.

Shah said the transformation in Kashmir was a matter of immense pride for the country and reflected the sacrifices and dedication of security forces and intelligence agencies.

Recalling the turbulent 90s, Shah said terrorism was at its peak and there were doubts about how long the country would be able to hold on to Kashmir.

"Even the chief minister of the state had left for England, while security forces, through their courage and sacrifices, ensured that the Valley remained connected with the rest of the country," he said.

"Today, from this sacred land of Parshuram ji, I want to tell the entire nation with pride that the abrogation of Article 370 has brought an end to the sense of separatism among the youth of Kashmir. This is reflected in the fact that today, not a single Kashmiri youth is involved in terrorism in Kashmir Valley," he said.

Shah said the change in Kashmir was not limited to the elimination of terrorists but also marked a shift in the mindset of the younger generation, with separatist tendencies giving way to hopes of peace and development.

He said development in the Valley had gained momentum under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014, adding that the coming years held great promise for Kashmir.

The home minister expressed confidence that the transformation in the Valley would pave the way for lasting peace and prosperity, asserting that the experience demonstrated the government's commitment to strengthening national security and promoting development across the country.

Army

framework and coordination with other key stakeholders, the Northern Command said on X.

Interacting with troops deployed along the LoC, Lt Gen Sharma commended them for their high morale, professionalism and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation.

He appreciated their resolute efforts in maintaining operational readiness and ensuring the security of the country's borders, the Army said.

Rajnath

skills. "Today, the importance of skill development is not limited to securing employment. It is connected with nation-building and national security. An important example of this is our defence production," he said.

Singh said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, industries are growing, and the methods of working are changing rapidly.

"In such a situation, merely acquiring skills is not enough. It is also extremely important to keep up with the times. Therefore, our government is making efforts to ensure that skills of young people develop continuously through skilling, reskilling and upskilling initiatives," he said.

The defence minister said the economic strength of a country is determined not merely by its natural resources, capital or technological advancement but also by the capabilities and skills of its citizens.

"In our tradition, we have learnt that knowledge gives a person understanding, skills give them capability, and a combination of both makes them self-reliant," he said.

Singh said the National Skill Convocation has helped change the perception that convocation ceremonies are associated primarily with universities and higher academic degrees.

"Skill development is in no way inferior to formal education. Rather, it supplements and complements it," he asserted.

Highlighting the expansion of the country's skill development ecosystem over the past 12 years, Singh said more than 1.64 crore young people have received training under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) till June 2026.

He said the number of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country has increased from approximately 9,800 in 2014 to more than 14,000 at present.

However, he said, the significance of these figures lay in the transformation that skill development had brought to the lives of young people.

"When a young person from a small town or village receives training from an ITI and starts working in an industry, they do not merely earn a livelihood but also transform the economic condition of their family," he said.

Similarly, a young person who establishes an enterprise using technical skills not only creates employment for themselves, but also generates opportunities for others, contributing to the goal of self-reliance, he added.

Singh said a strong skill ecosystem has been made possible through the vision of Prime Minister Modi, who recognised that skills need to be developed in mission mode to realise the goal of a developed India.

He said skill development has progressed at an unprecedented pace over the past 12 years.

Singh also congratulated the 52 national-level toppers from Industrial Training Institutes, National Skill Training Institutes and Institutes of Training of Trainers who were felicitated by Prime Minister Modi at the ceremony.

He said the fifth National Skill Convocation is a special occasion as it is being held outside Delhi for the first time.

Congratulating Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary for organising the national-level programme in Lucknow, Singh also described it as a matter of pride for Uttar Pradesh and congratulated Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The event was attended by Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath, Jayant Chaudhary and other senior dignitaries and officials.

Singh, who represents Lucknow in the Lok Sabha, earlier welcomed the prime minister to the Uttar Pradesh capital and extended his greetings to young achievers who had arrived from different parts of the country.

Modi

did anything except creating files," he said, indirectly referring to the Congress era.

Contrasting this with his government's approach, he recalled announcing the construction of toilets for the poor, asserting that his government had moved beyond hollow slogans of empowerment to delivering tangible improvements in people's lives.

"When I announced from the Red Fort that I would build toilets, some people in Parliament mocked the idea. They failed to understand how important access to toilets was for poor mothers and sisters," he said.

Citing a recent World Bank report, the PM claimed that India had lifted 50 crore people out of poverty, describing it as a striking example of the country breaking long-standing barriers.

"This is no small achievement. It is the result of a mindset that believes in breaking the limits," he said.

Over the past 12 years, the central government had sought to change this mindset, he said, adding that he believed in the principle of "power to empower".

The PM also cited India's semiconductor and space sectors as examples of how initiatives once considered difficult or impossible are now becoming a reality.

Modi alleged that a semiconductor manufacturing company had come to India five decades ago but was driven away by the display of red flags, in an apparent reference to the Left's opposition to industrialisation in West Bengal.

He added that when his government announced the Semiconductor Mission, some people had argued that the country had already missed the opportunity.

"We went ahead and initiated the mission, and today, India has begun exporting chips," he said.

Modi urged students to follow the mantra of 'nation first', saying it would create new opportunities for them while contributing to the country's development.

He said India had travelled from "the era of bullock carts to that of bullet trains and from postal letters to social media messages" over the past 75 years, expressing confidence that everything from chips to ships would eventually be manufactured in the country.

He urged the students and the faculty of IIT Kharagpur to resolve to work towards making India a developed nation in the next two decades.

The PM said the opening up of the space sector to private players has also created opportunities for young entrepreneurs and innovators.

Citing the example of Pawan Kumar Chandana, an IIT Kharagpur alumnus and co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace, he said the company's work on India's first privately developed rocket had helped give a fresh impetus to the country's space programme.

Several space startups are now contributing to India's space ambitions, he said, adding that the contribution of IIT Kharagpur alumni has helped turn possibilities once considered unattainable into reality.

The PM also highlighted West Bengal's historical significance, saying, "This is a land where new ideas have always been born. West Bengal is a land of the freedom struggle. The freedom fighters wanted to see their country hold its head high. This journey from self-rule to self-reliance is the real strength of a developed India."

"IIT Kharagpur was established even before India's first general elections. Its students have played a pioneering role in nation-building," he said.

Modi arrived in Kharagpur around 10.30 am, slightly behind his original schedule on account of adverse weather conditions which forced him to travel by road instead of a helicopter from the Kalaikunda air base.

He also visited the premises where academic activities for IIT Kharagpur's newly introduced medical course will be conducted.

The PM interacted with 75 meritorious students of the institute under the '75 Voices for Viksit Bharat' initiative, where he actively engaged with the participants who shared their perspectives on India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

Modi also attended an exhibition of innovation projects and research prototypes by the students.

West Bengal Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar were among those accompanying the PM. IIT Kharagpur Director Suman Chakraborty felicitated him.

Modi also unveiled a special commemorative coin with a denomination of Rs 75. The coin, made of 99.9 per cent pure silver, weighs 40 gm. The coin features India's National Emblem, the Lion Capital of Ashoka, on one side and the platinum jubilee logo of IIT Kharagpur on the other.

DGP

to ensure lasting peace and accelerate development in the region.

During the meeting, the lieutenant governor directed officials to look beyond traditional policing and work towards completely dismantling the terror and separatist ecosystem.

He also called for intensified winter surveillance, enhanced security preparedness and complete operational control.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must tear down the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem that sustains them," Sinha directed police officers.

He also stressed that operations against narco-terrorists must continue relentlessly, with the aim of completely dismantling the narco-terror ecosystem.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha further directed deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police to appoint dedicated nodal officers and set district-specific targets for the seizure and forfeiture of properties linked to anti-national elements.

He also called for strict vigilance against encroachments along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), besides a crackdown on illegal mining, drug trafficking and bovine smuggling.

CM

The Chief Minister was addressing the Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest in New Delhi.

Addressing the graduating students, faculty members, and parents, the Chief Minister said young people must recognise their responsibility in shaping the country's institutions and future. Observing that voting is only the beginning of democratic participation and not its entirety, he said, "Voting is the entry ticket to democracy, not the entirety of the performance," and urged capable, ethical, and educated youth not to remain detached from governance and public affairs.

The Chief Minister highlighted various avenues through which young professionals can contribute to governance, including ethical entrepreneurship, data-driven public policy, grassroots-level engagement, and public service. He stressed that governance is not confined to political offices but requires participation and commitment from every section of society.

Reflecting on his experience of governing Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah emphasised that trust between citizens and the government is fundamental to development and effective administration.

Inviting young graduates to look at Jammu and Kashmir beyond its tourism potential, he encouraged them to engage with the region as investors, educators, and innovators.

"When young professionals from Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai collaborate with young minds from Srinagar and Jammu, we strengthen the fabric of the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister also shared five guiding principles with the graduating students, emphasising the importance of listening before leading, creating opportunities for others, exercising strategic patience, maintaining uncompromising integrity, and nurturing lifelong curiosity. He urged the graduates to view their degrees not merely as academic achievements, but as a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

During the convocation, IILM University conferred honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees (Honoris Causa) upon three distinguished personalities—former Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Motors Limited Ravi Kant, eminent educationist Dasho Arun Kapur, and Dr. V. L. Indira Dutt—alongside awarding doctoral degrees, Dr. Kulwant Rai Gold Medals, and certificates of merit to graduating scholars across various disciplines.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Amoncar delivered the Welcome Address, Chancellor P. Dwarakanath formally declared the Convocation open and addressed the gathering, and Chairperson Malvika Rai felicitated the Chief Guest.

NCB

a spokesman of the agency said.

Acting on specific intelligence, he said the NCB Jammu intercepted a Srinagar-bound passenger bus near Mada Toll Plaza, Chenani, in Udhampur district in the early hours of November 16, leading to the seizure of seven kilogrammes of Codeine-based cough syrup (CBCS) from a resident of Bhaderwah in Doda district.

NCB Jammu registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and the follow-up investigation in the Kashmir Valley led to the apprehension of the suspected principal recipient, a resident of Anantnag district, he said.

He further said the NCB Jammu and NCB Delhi, pursuing the supply links in Delhi, apprehended two more persons and recovered 356 bottles of CBCS on November 18.

The spokesman said further enquiries led to a clandestine godown operating from rented premises in Shahdara, Delhi.

Searches on November 18 and 19 yielded more than Five Lakh tablets, capsules and bottles of pharmaceutical preparations containing tramadol hydrochloride, alprazolam, nitrazepam and codeine, he said.

In line with the network-centric enforcement approach of the vision document on Narcotics Control, the NCB is tracing the seized CBCS back through the supply chain to establish where and how it was diverted and who facilitated the diversion, the spokesman said.

Special

remain vigilant during night and morning hours to detect any obstruction or potential safety risk and promptly report it to concerned officials for immediate action, the spokesman said.

Additionally, the Jammu Division is promoting modern and cashless ticketing facilities to reduce queues, simplify transactions and improve crowd management at railway stations.

On average, around 40 per cent of daily tickets under the Passenger Reservation Ticket System are now paid for through UPI and other digital modes, the spokesman said.

CRPF

tournament and a football tournament are organised to ensure that the youth in the valley are continuously connected with the force, "and that we work together closely with them".

Highlighting a steady increase in public cooperation with the CRPF, he said, "Earlier, we didn't use to receive as many entries. Last year, I recall we received 116 entries, from which we had 16 teams participate. This time, more than 130 entries came in, and out of those, the CRPF organised this for 16 teams."

The CRPF officer said that in the first week of December, the force will organise a similar tournament for football, in which four teams each from all three central Kashmir districts -- Budgam, Srinagar, and Ganderbal -- will participate.

He asserted that security forces carry weapons not as a threat to the people, but for their safety.

"The weapons we have are solely for safety. Our main focus has been that wherever the government has sent us for duty, all of us carry out that duty in the best possible manner. Having weapons doesn't mean anything else. Weapons are only for anti-national elements," he added.

To a question about the recent operation in Kulgam, in which two terrorists, including Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Lateef Bhat, were killed, the CRPF IG said that the force will continue to do what is required.

"As for what happened in Kulgam, whatever work we need to do there, we are doing there as well. And working together effectively with the Army, the Civil Police, and all of our intelligence agencies, our force is carrying out the work that needs to be done wherever required. And gradually, we are achieving a lot of success in it," Sharma said.

Soldier

party rushed to the scene, and the body of the deceased was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital for postmortem to ascertain the cause of his death, the officials said.

Singh is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Police have started inquest proceedings, and further details are awaited, they said.

Ladakh

and geographical challenges in remote settlements, voters turned up at polling stations to elect their representatives to grassroots institutions, officials monitoring the polls said.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena said it was a historic day for the Union Territory and expressed gratitude to people for their enthusiastic participation.

"Heartfelt gratitude to the resilient people of the Union Territory of Ladakh for coming out in overwhelming numbers to cast their votes in the Panchayat and Municipal elections. Today's voter turnout, with 73.60 per cent polling for Panch and 70.03 per cent for Sarpanch, marks an improvement over the overall voter turnout of 67.8 per cent recorded in the 2018 Panchayat elections, reflecting an encouraging level of public participation in the democratic process and celebrating the true essence of democracy," Saxena said in a post on X.

"This was the first Panchayat and municipal elections since 2018, the first time since Ladakh was made a UT in 2019, it marks a proud milestone in self-governance. My sincere thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their steadfast vision and commitment to empowering and strengthening grassroots democracy across Ladakh," he added.

The officials said the panchayat polls covered 192 panchayat halqas across the eight districts, comprising 192 sarpanch and 1,428 panch positions. Fifty-five sarpanches and 1,186 panches were elected unopposed, leaving 137 sarpanch and 242 panch seats for polling.

In the municipal council elections, polling was conducted across all 21 wards of Leh, while four of the 17 wards in Kargil were filled unopposed, with voting held in the remaining 13 wards.

Election authorities had made extensive arrangements to facilitate polling across the geographically-dispersed region.

In Zanskar, helicopter services were deployed to airlift polling teams to three remote and road-inaccessible polling stations, ensuring that the electoral process reached some of Ladakh's most-isolated settlements, the officials said.

Polling personnel, security agencies and officials from various departments coordinated the transportation of election material, deployment of staff and provision of facilities at polling stations.

However, the elections also unfolded against a backdrop of political discontent, with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) raising concerns over the timing and conduct of the electoral exercise, particularly in view of the forthcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) election.

At a press conference, LAB chairman Chering Dorje Lakruk and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said there was not much opposition to the panchayat and municipal elections but reiterated their demand for a deferment of the LAHDC polls scheduled for December 4.

"People had no objection to having local bodies at the village level. The major opposition is to the hill council elections being held in December, something that has never happened before in Ladakh's history," Wangchuk said.

They claimed that several villages had boycotted the elections over the arbitrary delimitation of hill council constituencies and shifting of polling stations.

The officials said the panchayat and municipal elections are an important step towards establishing elected local institutions in Ladakh, providing platforms for addressing village-level development priorities, civic amenities and public services.

A total of 266 candidates are in the fray for the eight hill councils, while 36 of the 100 seats have been reserved for women.

The polling commenced at 8 am and ended peacefully at 5 pm.

From urban centres to remote border villages, people of different age groups and genders were seen participating in the electoral process, reaffirming their faith in democratic institutions and grassroots governance, the officials said.

In Turtuk, one of India's northernmost villages, voters actively participated in the panchayat elections. Niyaz Maha, a voter from Turtuk Farool, highlighted the importance of exercising one's democratic right and contributing to the selection of local representatives.

Similarly, Phobrang, a remote border village in the Changthang region, witnessed enthusiastic participation, with residents overcoming geographical challenges and long distances to cast their votes.

Ladakh's Member of Parliament, Mohmad Haneefa Jan, also cast his vote at Biamathang, Baroo, in the Kargil Municipal Council election.

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Shaleen Kabra inaugurated 2-day Badminton championship for officer trainees of joint foundation course

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD) is organising a two-day Badminton Championship on 21st and 22nd November, 2026 for the Officer Trainees (OTs) of the three services undergoing the Joint Foundation Course at its Main Campus, Srinagar.

The championship forms part of the Institute's endeavour to promote holistic development, physical fitness, mental well-being, team spirit and camaraderie among the Officer Trainees, reinforcing the importance of sports and co-curricular activities as integral components of professional training.

The championship was inaugurated by Director General, J&K IMPARD, Shaleen Kabra, who emphasised that sports play a vital role in developing discipline, leadership, resilience, mutual respect and a healthy spirit of competition. He observed that these qualities are equally important for officers entrusted with responsibilities in public administration, financial governance and law enforcement.

Shaleen Kabra reiterated the Institute's commitment to providing a holistic training environment that extends beyond conventional classroom learning and contributes to the overall personality development of future public servants.

The Director General on this occasion said that IMPA will be developed as a vibrant hub of professional interaction, learning and extracurricular activities for civil servants across different services and batches. The Institute envisages making sports, cultural programmes, intellectual engagements and inter-batch interaction a permanent feature .

Shaleen Kabra also appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Tazayun Mukhtar, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, for facilitating the requisite infrastructure and making the Indoor Stadium available for the championship.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Officer Trainees, including cross-batch participation involving

officers from previous batches, providing an opportunity to strengthen inter-service bonds, foster fellowship and promote sportsmanship through healthy competition.Through such initiatives, J&K IMPARD continues to reinforce its commitment to nurturing well-rounded, disciplined and effective public servants.

Bangladesh batter Hridoy found guilty of breaching ICC Code of Conduct



United News Of India

DUBAI, NOV 21 :Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy has been fined 40 per cent of his match fee after he was found guilty of breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Hridoy was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match."

Two demerit points have been added to his disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

The incident occurred after play was suspended due to bad light when on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Alex Wharf were walking past the Bangladesh team's dressing room balcony.

Hridoy criticized the umpires' decision and asserted that play should have stopped earlier, speaking to the umpires in a manner that was aggressive and unbecoming.

Hridoy admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Raza and Wharf, third umpire Asif Yaqoob and fourth umpire Lubabalo Gcuma levelled the charge.

India finish Archery Asia Cup in Hangzhou with six medals

United News Of India

HANGZHOU, NOV 21 :Aditi Gopichand Swami and Ganesh Mani Ratnam won individual compound silver medals as India finished the Archery Asia Cup 2026 Stage 3 here in the People's Republic of China with six medals on Saturday.

India's final tally at the continental archery meet comprised three silver and three bronze medals. Four of these came on Saturday, following two bronzes in the team events on Friday.

The 2023 world champion Aditi Swami, who qualified 16th with 689 points, lost the women's compound individual final 146-144 to China's Hu Jingwen - the third seed. The contest was evenly poised after the first two ends, with the scores level at 30-30 and 58-58, respectively, according to olympics.com.

Aditi took a slender 88-87 lead after the third end. However, Hu Jingwen responded with three perfect 10s in the fourth while Aditi managed a 10 and two 9s, allowing the Chinese archer to move ahead 117-116.

Aditi began the final end with two 10s, while Hu Jingwen opened with a 9, keeping the Indian in contention. However, an 8 with her final arrow proved



costly as Hu Jingwen clinched the gold medal.

It was a welcome podium for Aditi, who won the individual bronze and women's team gold at the Asian Games 2023 - also held in the same Chinese city - but had failed to make the Indian squad for Aichi-Nagoya 2026 held in Japan earlier this year.

Earlier in the tournament, Aditi had beaten China's Tang Jing 144-143 in the quarter-finals before edging the Republic of Korea's Oh Yoohyun 143-142 in the semi-finals.

In the men's individual compound final, Ganesh Mani Ratnam also settled for silver after losing 148-146 to Australia's Bailey Wildman. The archers were tied at 59-59 after two ends before

ailey Wildman took an 89-88 lead in the third. The Australian extended his advantage to

119-117 after the fourth end and maintained the two-point cushion to claim gold.

Ganesh, who won individual bronze and men's compound team gold at the Asian Games 2026, had qualified sixth with 707 points in Hangzhou. He beat Indonesia's Sostar Andaru Rinaldi 147-143 in the quarter-finals before overcoming China's Qi Bihengin a shoot-off following a 146-146 semi-final tie.

Ganesh also combined with Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao and Mohit Bhati to win silver in the men's compound team event after losing 234-229 to Australia in the final.

New Zealand 'fell into the trap' of reading too much into Basin Reserve grass: Oram

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 :New Zealand's decision to go into the first Test against India without a specialist spinner was influenced by the grass covering the Basin Reserve pitch, but the surface has not played as expected.

With the grass turning brown and the customary pace and bounce largely missing, the hosts have struggled to make inroads into India's batting. After the visitors reached 486/4 on Day 3 to take a 118-run lead, bowling coach Jacob Oram admitted that New Zealand may have misread the conditions.

"That's a great question, and I think you know the answer to that," Oram said on not picking a frontline spinner. "Look, grass isn't the issue. There's plenty of grass out there, but it's just probably not the colour we would have liked. And yeah, we fell into it [the trap] as well. It's a very nice wicket to bat on."Thank God for [Henry] Nicholls and [Glenn] Phillips for getting us a nice total, but once guys get in, the pace and bounce that we've become accustomed to here is not quite there. It feels like a day or two too early in terms of the lack of pace and bounce. But that's not the reason we're behind either. The wicket is not what we expected, but it's not the complete answer to why we're 100 runs behind," Oram said at the end of the day's play.Oram felt the lack of bounce had been a bigger challenge for the New Zealand attack than the limited movement on offer. He also acknowledged that the bowlers had little control over the natural conditions that shaped the surface, while backing their efforts to stay disciplined despite India's scoring rate."I don't want to throw too many stones, because I wouldn't want to be a groundsman, and you're dealing with natural variables down below and up top," Oram said."But I think guys can handle minimal sideways movement if there's some good bounce and carry as well.

Second India vs New Zealand hockey match ends in 2-2 draw

United News Of India



AUCKLAND, NOV 21 :India and hosts New Zealand played out a 2-2 draw in the second game of the three-match NZ vs IND 2026 centenary hockey series at the Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium here on Saturday.

Angad Bir Singh (35') and Sanjay Rana (57') scored the goals for India, while Dylan Thomas (25')

and Sam Hiha (56') registered for New Zealand on the scoresheet, according to olympics.com.

The three-match NZ vs IND friendly series commenced on Thursday and will end on Sunday. The Indian

hockey team won the first match 3-2 with Uttam Singh, Shardanand Tiwari and Sanjay Rana netting for the visitors.

India and New Zealand, also known as the Black Sticks, will meet for the final match of the series at the same venue on Sunday.

New Zealand opened the scoring through Dylan Thomas before India responded through Angad Bir Singh to level the scores.

World No. 9 New Zealand regained the lead through Sam Hiha. However, India, eighth in the hockey rankings, fought back once again, with captain Sanjay Rana converting a penalty corner

o ensure the match ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

The final game on Sunday will now decide the series.

Gill's date with nervous 90s continues, joins Dhoni in unusual India captaincy record

United News Of India

WELLINGTON, NOV 21 :Shubman Gill's wait for a Test century against New Zealand in Wellington ended in familiar



disappointment as the India captain fell agonisingly short at 98, extending an unusual pattern in his career of getting dismissed in the nervous 90s.

Gill's dismissal on the third day of the opening Test marked the fourth time he has crossed 90 but failed to reach three figures in Test cricket. What makes the latest instance more intriguing is that he became only the second India captain to be dismissed in the 90s against New Zealand in Test history.

The 26-year-old looked well set for a century, striking nine fours and two sixes in his 146-ball innings before Jacob Duffy ended his stay, leaving him two runs short of the landmark.

Gill's four near-misses have come against three different opponents over five years. He first fell for 91 against Australia in Brisbane in 2021, followed by another 91 against England in Rajkot in 2024. Later that year, he was dismissed for 90 against New Zealand in Mumbai before the latest 98 in Wellington.

The Wellington dismissal also brought back memories of MS Dhoni's similar fate against New Zealand. Dhoni was dismissed for 98 by his opposite number Daniel Vettori in Nagpur in 2010, making Gill only the second India captain to fall in the 90s against the Black Caps in Tests.

Among Indian captains, Dhoni leads the list with four dismissals in the nervous 90s, while Sachin Tendulkar has been dismissed twice. Nari Contractor, MAK Pataudi, Ajit Wadekar, Kapil Dev, Mohammad Azharuddin, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli and Gill have one each.

For Gill, the Wellington innings was another reminder of how fine the margins can be between a substantial contribution and a memorable Test century. His 98 nevertheless strengthened India's position in the match, even as the elusive three-figure mark slipped away once again.

I've been thinking about Test cricket in New Zealand for six or seven months: Rahul



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 :KL Rahul's maiden Test appearance in New Zealand was the culmination of months of preparation.

The India opener made the most of the opportunity with a 136 on the third day of the Wellington Test, becoming only the second Asian opener after Saeed Anwar to score Test centuries in all four SENA countries. Rahul revealed that playing Test cricket in New Zealand had been on his mind for several months and that he had arrived early to familiarise himself with the conditions.

"Obviously, when you play Test cricket for that long, when you finish your career, you want to at least get that opportunity to challenge yourself in different countries and play against the best attacks," Rahul said.

"New Zealand has been a country where a lot of batters have struggled to get runs, and it is difficult conditions. So I wanted to play a lot more, but unfortunately

haven't played here before this. So when I got the opportunity, I wanted to make the most of it. That's why I decided to come in early as well, just to get used to the conditions, because I have no prior experience of coming to New Zealand and playing red-ball cricket.

"I've been thinking about Test cricket in New Zealand for the last six or seven months, trying to do my homework, trying to see the guys that have scored runs here and how they've been able to achieve that. So a lot of prep, a lot of homework. And once you've ticked all those boxes, it becomes slightly easier when you play the game," he added. As part of that preparation, Rahul studied footage of recent Test matches in New Zealand, focusing on batters who had succeeded in the conditions, including Joe Root and Harry Brook."I watched the last few years of Test cricket here," Rahul elaborated. "England played here, Australia played here, West Indies were here recently.

Karandeep takes Krishna Punjab Raptors GC to an exciting win in X-Golf in Auro Realty Invitational

United News Of India

PUNE, NOV 21 :The new and exciting X-Golf contest brought the curtain down on an exhilarating week at the Auro Realty Invitational 2026 presented by Auro Goa Eagles GC and Karandeep Kochhar capped a highly successful week.

Kochhar completed a double at the Poona Golf Club as he helped Krishna Punjab Raptors to the X-golf success after winning the dramatic play-off a day earlier.

Commenting that the 18th hole had been very kind to him, the 27-year-old Kochhar was in full flow for Punjab Raptors in the X-Golf contest, which was played over his 'favourite' hole, the 18th, where he had eagled out on each of the three days in the competition.

The 10 teams in the three-day 54-contest had seen the Vimtra Chennai Lions GC take the honors with Gaganjeet Bhullar, who lost the play-off to Kochhar, playing the lead role for his team. That earned Chennai Lions a direct place in the semi-finals, while the remaining nine teams played a series of shoot-outs.

The first stage of the eliminators with nine teams divided into three Groups was played over Par-4 and one team was eliminated from each group. The three teams exiting early were Phoenix Hyderabad Firebirds GC, Flying Man Kolkata GC and Unico Gurugram Tuskers GC, who lost to Atri Mumbai Garudas Gc in a play-off after both were tied. In the next round, which was a head-to-head battle over a Par 3, Atri Mumbai Garudas GC, spearheaded by Udayan Mane, Aman Raj, Aadil Bedi and Tushar Pannu parred the hole and eliminated RVR Delhi Blue Bulls GC, which had Shiv Kapur, Aryan Roopa Anand, Chiragh Kumar and Gaurav Ghei. Delhi were timed out. Golf Konnekt Bengaluru were well-served by Sunhit Bishnoi, Veer Ganapathy, Sudhir Sharma and Trishul Chinnappa, who edged out Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC by two second as both teams had pars. Dolphins had Milind Soni, M Dharma, Danish Verma and Ravi Kumar. In the second Eliminator Par-3, Karandeep Kochhar with a superb drive led his teammates C Muniyappa, Harendra Gupta and Kapil Kumar to a comfortable win over Auro Goa Realty with Saarthak Chhibber, Arjun Prasad, Kanav Chauhan and IL Aalaap.

Over 100 girl trekkers leave Kulgam for 5-day Pahalgam Adventure Camp

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 21: More than 100 young girls from Kulgam district embarked on a five-day trekking camp to Pahalgam on Friday, aimed at promoting adventure sports, physical fitness and leadership qualities among young girls.

The group was flagged off from the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Altaf Ahmad Khan. The camp has been organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kulgam.



The initiative seeks to provide young participants with an opportunity to explore adventure activities, enhance physical endurance and develop confidence, discipline, teamwork and self-reliance through outdoor experiences.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC appreciated the department for organising the programme and providing opportunities for meaningful youth engagement through sports and adventure activities. He encouraged the participants to make the best use of the camp and remain actively involved in sports and other constructive activities while staying away from social evils and negative influences.

He said such initiatives play a significant role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and nurturing confidence, leadership, discipline and a positive outlook among the younger generation.

Among others, ACR Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Shah(JKAS), District Youth Services and Sports Officer Narinder Pal Singh and other departmental officials were present on the occasion.

DIPR represents J&K at 57th International Film Festival of India in Goa

Secretary I&B Chanchal Kumar Visits J&K Stall; Briefed on Film Ecosystem, Filming Opportunities and Government Initiatives



KASHMIR AGE NEWS

Goa, November 21: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, is participating in the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, representing the region and showcasing its rich cinematic heritage, diverse filming locations, emerging film ecosystem and the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for film production.

As part of the ongoing participation, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Chanchal Kumar, today visited the Jammu & Kashmir Stall at IFFI, where he was briefed in detail about the evolving film ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir and the various initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen the film sector and facilitate film production in the region.

During the visit, he was apprised of the immense cinematic potential of Jammu & Kashmir, its breathtaking landscapes, diverse geographical settings, rich cultural heritage and picturesque locations, which offer significant opportunities for filmmakers, production houses and the entertainment industry.

The briefing also highlighted the Government's sustained efforts to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination through facilitation measures, institutional support and initiatives aimed at creating a conducive environment for filmmakers. Particular emphasis was laid on encouraging film productions, strengthening film-related infrastructure, promoting local talent and creating opportunities for artists, technicians, filmmakers and other professionals associated with the creative industry.

NEXGEN Bridges Gap between youth, administration in Kulgam, hosts interactive session with DC



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 21: Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSF), through its Students' Wing, NEXGEN, organised a Youth–Administration Interactive Session at the Auditorium Hall of Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, on Friday, providing a platform for young people to directly engage with the district administration and raise issues concerning their future and the development of the district.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam(IAS), as the Chief Guest, along with Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of Save Youth Save Future Foundation. A large number of students, youth representatives and senior office bearers of the organisation also participated.

During the interactive session, participants highlighted several important issues concerning Kulgam district, including tourism promotion, sports infrastructure, healthcare facilities, education, employment opportunities, public transport, women's safety and the growing menace of substance abuse.

The youth also put forward suggestions for strengthening sports facilities, promoting adventure tourism and encouraging youth entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA.

Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam(IAS) interacted with the participants, listened to their concerns and shared his views on various developmental priorities of the district.

Sheezan Qadir hits 'Bull's Eye' first student from BHSS Achabal

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar: A remarkable journey of Sheezan Qadir from Boys Higher Secondary School, Achabal Anantnag, to the 70th National School Games brings hope, pride and sporting aspirations to the students of rural South Kashmir. In the picturesque hamlet of Achabal in District Anantnag, South Kashmir, a young cricketer has scripted a remarkable success story, demonstrating that sporting talent is not defined by geographical boundaries or the size of an institution, but by opportunity, dedication, perseverance and the courage to perform. Emerging from Boys Higher Secondary School, Achabal, Sheezan, young wicketkeeper-batsman has transformed a modest sporting opportunity into a remarkable journey towards the national sporting arena. Sheezan's achievement is particularly significant as he becomes the first student from this institution to earn a place in the Jammu and Kashmir contingent for the prestigious 70th National School Games. The journey of Sheezan, starting at the grassroots level, he progressed through different stages of school sports competitions, representing his talent at Zone, District and UT levels. Each stage became a stepping stone towards a bigger sporting opportunity. His selection to represent Jammu and Kashmir at the 70th National School Games marked a defining milestone in this journey. Competing against some of the finest young cricketing talents from across the J&K, he represented the UT as a wicketkeeper-batsman and delivered a commendable performance. Adding further significance to his achievement, the Jammu and Kashmir team secured an impressive fourth position at the national level, bringing recognition to the entire contingent.

Beyond the individual achievement, this accomplishment carries a much deeper message for the young students of Achabal and neighbouring areas. For years, limited exposure and fewer competitive opportunities may have created a perception that students from smaller rural institutions find it difficult to reach higher levels of sporting competition. This young cricketer has challenged that perception through his performance, proving that talent from a small hamlet can compete confidently on the national stage when provided with the right opportunity and encouragement. His success has also generated fresh enthusiasm among the students of Boys Higher Secondary School, Achabal Anantnag, inspiring them to believe that national-level sporting representation is not an unattainable dream. His journey has become a living example for the younger generation that consistent effort, participation and determination can open doors to opportunities far beyond their immediate surroundings.

The Principal and the entire teaching fraternity of Boys Higher Secondary School, Achabal, have warmly congratulated the young achiever on this remarkable accomplishment. The school administration has expressed immense pride in his performance, acknowledging that his success has brought recognition not only to the institution but also to the entire local community.

Kulgam Police organise football tournament to promote drug-free society

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Kulgam: Reaffirming its commitment to youth engagement and the fight against drug abuse, Kulgam Police organised a football tournament under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27 at Mini Sports Stadium, Kulgam.

The tournament was organised with the objective of channelising the energy of youth towards constructive activities, promoting sportsmanship and teamwork, and creating awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Players from participating teams displayed enthusiasm, competitive spirit and sportsmanship throughout the event.

On the occasion, Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to organising more youth-oriented sports activities and awareness programmes to encourage young people to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy and positive lifestyle.

Kulgam Police also appealed to the general public, particularly the youth, to join hands in the collective fight against drug abuse and contribute towards building a healthy, safe and drug-free society.

BWJA holds fresh elections, new team elected to lead journalists' body

103 of 126 registered voters cast ballots



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Baramulla, Nov 21: The Baramulla Working Journalists Association (BWJA) on Saturday elected its new team of office-bearers through an electoral process that witnessed participation of journalists from across the district, including Sopore, Tangmarg, Pattan, Uri and Rafiabad.

A total of 103 votes were polled against 126 registered voters, including 19 votes cast through online voting. One vote was declared invalid during scrutiny.

According to the election results formally declared by the Returning Officer, Arawat Mehraj was elected unopposed as chairman of BWJA.

In the presidential contest, Suhail Khan emerged victorious with 64 votes against Nadeem Wani, who secured 36 votes.

Meanwhile, Mehraj Lone secured 57 votes while his opponent Muneer Hussain Hurra got 44 votes, in the contest for General Secretary. Subsequently Mehraj Lone was declared elected General Secretary of BWJA.

Irfan Yattoo was elected Spokesperson after securing 52 votes, defeating Muneeb-ul-Haq, who received 48 votes.

Social Media influencer Aqib Nazir serving people, highlighting public issues from last 4 years

Popular as 'South Kashmir Express', gains 5 lakh followers

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 21: A young social media influencer from Samboora, Pampore in Pulwama district, Aqib Nazir Dar, has been actively involved in highlighting public grievances and extending help to needy people for the past four years.

Aqib has established his identity on social media under the name 'South Kashmir Express', which has gained considerable popularity among people across South Kashmir. After beginning his social media journey in 2022, he has now crossed the milestone of five lakh followers, reflecting his growing reach and public engagement.

Speaking about his journey, Aqib Nazir Dar said that his primary objective was never to gain fame or make money, but to use social media as a platform for public service, helping people in need and highlighting issues faced by ordinary citizens.

"Making money was never my goal. Public service has always been my first priority," he said, adding that social media, when used positively and responsibly, can become an effective platform for giving a voice to people who are unable to highlight their problems before the authorities or society.

According to Aqib, during the past four years, he has helped thousands of people in different



circumstances, according to his capacity. He said his efforts have been driven by the desire to ease the difficulties of needy people rather than by any personal or financial interest.

He said that whenever information about a needy individual or family reaches him through social media, he tries to extend whatever assistance he can. In several cases, he also reaches out to philanthropists, individuals and other people to mobilise support for those facing difficult circumstances.

Aqib said that his intention is not to use the hardships of needy people merely for publicity. Instead, he wants social media to be utilised for positive initiatives that can provide direct benefits to people and contribute to the welfare of society.

Apart from helping individuals, Aqib's social media platform has also been highlighting various public issues concerning local communities.

Issues related to roads, drinking water, electricity, healthcare, basic amenities and other civic concerns are regularly brought to the attention of the public and concerned authorities through his platform.

He said that when a genuine public grievance gains wider attention through social media, it becomes easier for the concerned departments and administration to take cognizance of the issue.