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LG Calls Upon Youth To Lead Agricultural Transformation

Attends Jhiri Mela; Calls For Farmer Empowerment, Preservation of Dogra Heritage

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, November 24: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today paid homage to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi at the Annual Jhiri Mela. The Lieutenant Governor said the annual fair is a living symbol of faith, cultural heritage and collective consciousness. He said the annual visit to Jhiri is a sacred pilgrimage and the



deep spiritual bond associated with the place reflects centuries of devotion and reverence towards Baba Jitto.

Highlighting the legacy of Baba Jitto, the Lieutenant Governor said that his life represents an enduring message of truth, courage and justice. He noted that Baba Jitto's struggle was not merely about a crop, but about protecting the dignity,

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BJP slams 'selective environmental activism'

KA NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 24: Coming down heavily on attempts to politicise the Amarnath Yatra track widening issue, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday accused critics of practising selective environmental activism and applying double standards, asserting that it would firmly oppose any move to communalise development, undermine the annual pilgrimage or disturb peace in the valley.

A video showing an excavator deployed near the high-altitude Sheshnag Lake, a high-risk glacial lake, in the south Kashmir Anantnag district has sparked widespread outrage, with political parties, religious leaders, and environmentalists demanding an immediate halt to

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Cong chief questions JCB deployment near Sheshnag Lake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 24: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday questioned the deployment of a JCB excavator near the high-altitude Sheshnag Lake along the Amarnath cave route, demanding that the government clarify the purpose of the work and disclose details of the permissions granted by various departments.

A video showing an excavator deployed near the high

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Rijiju lauds J&K Waqf Board for its 'good work'



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 24: Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board for its "good work", and said it was a benchmark for the rest of the country.

Rijiju's comments came after he visited the revered Baba Reshi shrine in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir district.

"I am very fortunate and also very happy. This shrine of Hazrat Baba Payam-ud-Din Reshi, known by the name Baba Reshi, is a very famous and spiritually renowned place.

"And through our Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, the way this entire complex has been built, and the main area of Baba Reshi where we offer dua, where we pray, the main place called the sanctum sanctorum, from the inside to the outside, I have seen how it has been constructed. It is commendable; they have done a wonderful job," Union Minority Affairs Minister Rijiju told reporters.

He lauded the J-K Waqf Board for its work on the renovation of the shrine, as well as the Hazratbal shrine here and in the fields of education, health and social work.

"I have said before that no other waqf board in India has done more splendid work than this. So, all the other waqf boards in our country definitely need to take some inspiration, learn

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'Parkash Purab' Celebrated With Religious Fervor

LG Pays Obeisance At Gurudwara Sahib Chand Nagar Jammu

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 24: Devotees in large numbers thronged gurdwaras across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday to mark the 557th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

The devotees offered prayers and paid obeisance on the occasion, popularly celebrated as 'Guru Purab' or 'Parkash Purab'.

The main function was held at Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi at Rainawari here where hundreds of Sikhs across the valley attended the special prayers, according to reports.

Special langars were organized for the devotees in

See on Pg. 10

Mehbooba Mufi stopped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 24: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was stopped by police on Tuesday en route to Sheshnag lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district to assess the situation following viral videos showing heavy machinery and excavators operating near the high-risk glacial lake.

Mehbooba, accompanied by party



MLAs Waheed Para and Syed Muntazir Mehndi, set out

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CS reviews Developmental Projects, Sports, Heritage Infrastructure In Rajouri

KA NEWS SERVICE

Rajouri, November 24: Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, today undertook an extensive tour of Rajouri district to review the progress of key developmental projects, assess sports and educational infrastructure, inspect healthcare and power facilities, and take stock of restoration works



at important historical sites.

During his morning visit to the Sports Stadium, Rajouri, the Chief Secretary interacted with young sportspersons participating in various disciplines, including volleyball and badminton, and sought their feedback regarding the availability of sports facilities and coaching arrangements. Appreciating

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CS assures protesting paramedics to resolve recruitment rules issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 24: Protesting paramedical employees of government medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday stopped the cavalcade of Chief Secretary Sajjan Singh Yadav in Rajouri, seeking his intervention in their long-pending demand for notification of service recruitment rules.

The chief secretary, who was visiting the border district to review facilities at Government Medical College (GMC), Rajouri, stepped out of his vehicle and interacted with the protesting employees, assuring them that the process for notifying the recruitment rules would be completed within a month.

The non-gazetted employees have been protesting for the past seven years over the delay in framing and

See on Pg. 10

Fresh forest fires erupt in Poonch

KA NEWS SERVICE

Mendhar/Jammu, Nov 24: Fresh forest fires were reported along the Line of Control in the Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, even as efforts continued for the third consecutive day to contain the blaze in the neighbouring Balakote sector, officials said.

No casualties had been reported in the fires so far.

The fire had initially broken out in the Lanjote forest area of Balakote, ahead of the border fence, on Sunday evening. Despite

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Mercury dips as Srinagar records season's coldest night

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 24: Cold conditions intensified in Kashmir on Tuesday as the minimum temperature dipped at several places, with Pahalgam recording a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

A layer of fog also engulfed several areas of the valley on Tuesday



morning.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the coldest night of the season as the night temperature settled at a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, officials of the Meteorological Department said.

The minimum was 1.7 degrees Celsius below normal for this time of the season, they added.

A layer of

See on Pg. 10

'Boilerplate' DIPR Notices To Kashmir Newspapers Raise Fairness Concerns

Media Fraternity Questions Selective Scrutiny; Seeks Parity In Treatment Of J&K Publications

KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 24: The issuance of identical explanation notices to several newspapers in Kashmir by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has triggered questions over the department's administrative approach, alleged selective scrutiny and the growing disconnect between the government and the print media.

During the initial days of this month, the Joint Director Information Kashmir and Deputy Director Information Kashmir reportedly issued a common-format communication to several newspapers, seeking explanations regarding the use of shared infrastructure, circulation figures and the alleged non-provision of Provident Fund (PF) facilities to employees.

While the department is within its rights to examine the functioning of institutions operating under its jurisdiction and ensure compliance with prescribed rules, questions have been raised over the rationale behind issuing identical notices without apparently addressing the individual circumstances of each newspaper.

The media fraternity has questioned whether the department received similar complaints against all the newspapers concerned and, if the complaints were different, why individual cases were not examined separately. It has also sought clarity on the basis and documentary evidence on which the notices were issued.

Another concern relates to the department's demand for details regarding employees' Provident Fund facilities. Questions have been raised over whether the Information Department maintains an authenticated database of newspapers published in Kashmir, their employees, editorial staff and other administrative particulars.

If such records are available, it has been argued, the department could have undertaken the exercise on the basis of its existing records. If not, questions arise over the mechanism through which the department has been monitoring newspapers, assessing their eligibility and distributing government advertisements over the years.

The development has also brought into focus the widening gap between the print media in Kashmir and the government over the past two years. The alleged arbitrary decisions and what media representatives describe as an uneven approach by certain officials have contributed to an atmosphere of distrust.

Despite financial constraints, limited resources and difficult working conditions, newspapers in Kashmir have continued to perform their role as an important link between the government and the public. Although social media has expanded considerably, the print media continues to command credibility through editorial scrutiny,

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Digital Defenders Network to help cyber fraud victims

Kashmir Press Service



NEW DELHI: A 66-years old retired Ministry of Defence official based in Delhi faced digital arrest and was defrauded of over 2 crore recently. Fortunately, the perpetrators were reportedly arrested by the police yesterday.

Similarly, a Hyderabad-based retired banker lost 1.42 crore in another case involving digital arrest, with fraudsters posing as police officials and keeping her under digital arrest for nearly 60 days. The criminals are yet to be caught.

These are not isolated incidents. India recorded 1,01,928 cybercrime cases in 2024, compared with 86,420 in the previous year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As more aspects of everyday life move online, concerns around digital arrests and other cyber frauds are targeting not just ordinary people, but in many cases, highly educated professionals.

Separately, cases of online harassment or privacy violations using social media or WhatsApp are also on the rise.

For individuals facing such cybercrimes, however, approaching the police does not always work in resolving their issues. For victims based in non-metro cities, taking help or legal advice can be even more daunting.

To address this gap, Delhi-based not-for-profit SFLC.in (Software Freedom Law Center, India) set up a pan-India network of over 75 lawyers, providing pro bono (free) legal assistance to individuals affected by cybercrimes or other digital rights violations.

Named the Digital Defenders Network (DDN), this network helps affected victims with local and free legal support in 75 cities across India.

Lawyers who wish to join this network and support fellow citizens deal with cybercrimes can become a member of DDN. The organisation is accepting applications till 30 November 2026.

BJP Trehgam Prez appreciates DC Kupwara

Seeks electricity bill relief for poor families

Kashmir Press Service



KUPWARA: BJP Constituency President Trehgam has appreciated Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, for his prompt inspection of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara and efforts to strengthen accountability and improve healthcare services.

In a statement, the BJP leader said the Deputy Commissioner's initiative to personally inspect healthcare facilities and ensure accountability deserves appreciation.

He also urged the Deputy Commissioner to constitute a special committee to identify economically weaker families, particularly those belonging to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category, who are struggling to pay their electricity bills.

The BJP leader suggested that the committee assess the financial condition of such households and recommend appropriate concessions, reductions or other forms of relief in their electricity bills.

Highlighting the plight of poor families, he cited the case of a woman who, according to him, was compelled to sell her cow's calf to arrange money to pay an electricity bill amounting to Rs 10,000.

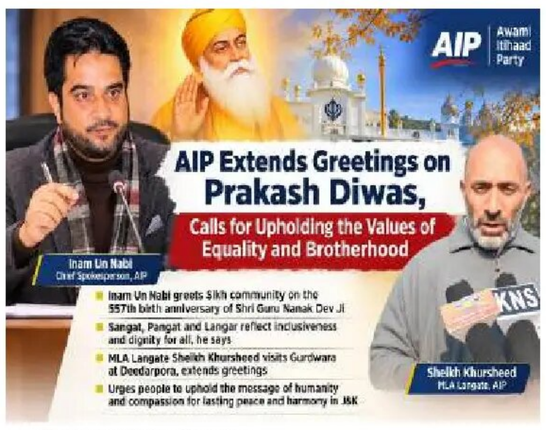
Describing the incident as heartbreaking, he said economically vulnerable families should not be pushed into such distressing circumstances merely to meet their basic utility expenses.

He appealed to the district administration to take compassionate and necessary measures to ensure that deserving poor households receive appropriate financial relief and support.

"Humanity, compassion and public service must always come first," he said, urging the administration to give special consideration to families living below the poverty line and those facing severe financial hardships.

AIP extends greetings on Prakash Diwas

Calls for upholding values of equality, brotherhood



Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi today extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and people across Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Prakash Diwas, marking the 557th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Inam Un Nabi said the occasion serves as a reminder of the timeless values of equality, compassion, peace and selfless service. He said the principles of Sangat, Pangat and Langar remain enduring examples of inclusiveness and dignity for all, irrespective of religion, caste or social background.

Meanwhile, AIP senior leader and MLA Langate Sheikh Khursheed also extended greetings to the Sikh community by visiting the Gurdwara at Deedarpora in Langate constituency, reaffirming the party's commitment to communal harmony and mutual respect.

Inam Un Nabi observed that Jammu and Kashmir's strength lies in its rich tradition of communal harmony and mutual respect, adding that such values must be nurtured to strengthen brotherhood and peaceful coexistence.

Inam Un Nabi prayed for lasting peace, prosperity and harmony across Jammu and Kashmir, urging people to uphold the universal message of humanity and compassion.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary celebrated with devotion at Tarboni, Karnah

Peerzada Sayeed



KARNAH: The birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated with great devotion, enthusiasm and communal harmony at Tarboni in Karnah, Kupwara, bringing together members of different communities to honour the timeless teachings of love, peace, equality, compassion and selfless service.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Sikh community, members of the Muslim community, police personnel and residents from adjoining areas. People from different walks of life came together to take part in the religious programme, reflecting the deep-rooted tradition of mutual respect and brotherhood in the border area of Karnah.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Joginder Singh Inqlabi said that the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji is celebrated every year at Tarboni, with religious programmes and community gatherings organised to mark the occasion.

He informed that special arrangements for food and refreshments had also been made for devotees and visitors attending the celebration.

He further highlighted the unique bond between the Sikh and Muslim communities in Karnah, expressing gratitude to the local Muslim population for their active participation and support in making the celebration meaningful.

"Here, we share a special relationship of brotherhood. We attend each other's weddings, participate in each other's festivals and celebrations, and stand together on every important occasion. Our Muslim brothers come to our programmes, and we also join their celebrations. This is the beauty of our border area," he said.

He also thanked the Muslim community and other local residents for their continued cooperation, support and participation in the annual celebrations.

The religious programme included prayers and overnight devotional activities, with devotees gathering to remember the teachings and spiritual legacy of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Community members also contributed to the arrangements, including food and refreshments for those attending.

The participation of police personnel and residents from neighbouring areas further added to the spirit of unity and collective celebration.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's timeless message of "Naam Japo, Kirat Karo and Vand Chhako" — remember the Almighty, earn through honest work and share with others — continues to inspire people to rise above religious and social differences.

The celebration at Tarboni once again reflected the special spirit of communal harmony in Karnah, where people belonging to different faiths stand together, celebrate each other's occasions and strengthen the bonds of humanity and brotherhood.

Education Department felicitates Nazir Ahmad Bhat

Kashmir Press Service



Kupwara: Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Teacher, UPS Chountipora and Vice District President, JKTF Kupwara, was felicitated in recognition of his exemplary dedication, commendable services and valuable contributions to the Department of Education.

The honour was conferred during the prestigious "A Second Sky – The Falcon" Book Release Ceremony, by the august hands of Hon'ble Cabinet Minister Mir Saifullah Sahab, in the esteemed presence of Justice Bashir Kirmani Sahab,

Mr Zafar Iqbal Manhas, former MP Sharief-ud-Din Shariq Sahab, Padma Shri awardee Mohd Shafi Shouq Sahab, Nazir Ibni Shabaz and other distinguished dignitaries.

MLA Farooq Shah attends regional-level seerat programme as Chief Guest at Tangmarg



Kashmir Press Service

TANGMARG: MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah attended a regional-level Seerat programme titled "Shaheen", organised by the Hadia National Education Council at Town Hall, Tangmarg, as the Chief Guest.

The programme featured Naat recitation and quiz competitions, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and participants from different areas.

On the occasion, MLA Gulmarg distributed prizes and awards among the winners of various competitions and appreciated their talent, dedication and participation.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah appreciated the Hadia National Education Council for organising such a meaningful programme. He highlighted the importance of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) in guiding young generations towards the teachings of Islam, moral values, discipline, compassion and service to humanity.

He also stressed the importance of organising educational and religious activities that encourage students to develop knowledge, confidence and positive values. The programme concluded with appreciation for the organisers, participants and winners.

Syed Saleem Geelani led delegation meets Div Com Kashmir

Submits memorandum on public grievances regarding public issues

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR, November 23: A high-level delegation of the Jammu Kashmir United Peoples Alliance (JKUPA), led by its President Syed Saleem Geelani, held a special meeting with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg (IAS) at his office today.

The delegation comprised prominent religious scholar Hujjat-ul-Islam Agha Dr. Syed Mudasir Rizvi, Senior Vice President Mohammad Akbar Bhat, North Kashmir Convener Peerzada Mohammad Sultan Makhdoomi, District President Ganderbal Ghulam Nabi Khatana, Tehsil President Khanyar Khursheed Ahmad Khan, and Syed Fayaz Bukhari (Budgam).

During the crucial meeting, which lasted for about half an hour, the sensitive issue of suspect meat, dressed chicken, and packaged fish being imported from outside the region topped the agenda. Drawing the Divisional Commissioner's attention to this grave situation, the delegation revealed that essential legal and religious (Shariah) details are completely missing from the packets being supplied in the market, including:

• Shariah Compliance: Absence of any certification or stamp verifying that the meat is Halal-slaughtered.

• Species Identification: No clarity regarding which animal the packaged meat belongs to.

• Supply Chain Records: Names and addresses of the

dispatching and receiving agencies or individuals are missing.

• Shelf Life (Expiry): Packaging and expiry dates have been deliberately concealed.

Expressing deep concern on the occasion, Syed Saleem Geelani and Agha Dr. Syed Mudasir Rizvi stated unequivocally that on one hand, this meat is rotten and hazardous to health, and on the other, concealing its identity is clear proof of a deep-rooted, anti-human conspiracy behind this secrecy. The leaders strongly demanded that:



1. All individuals involved in this nefarious trade, both within and outside the region, be arrested immediately and awarded exemplary punishment.

2. The investigation into the entire matter be kept completely transparent and made public.

3. An immediate and complete ban be imposed on such suspect and substandard imports.

Discussion on Other Key Public Issues:

During the meeting, the delegation also apprised the Divisional Commissioner of other severe hardships faced by the people of the Valley, including:

• Electricity and Drinking Water: Alleged irregularities in electricity bills, unscheduled power cuts, acute

shortage of clean drinking water, and the supply of contaminated water.

Hill Grange School, Handwara, organises inter school level science exhibition

Padma Shri Awardee Prof H C Verma inspires young minds

Kashmir Press Service



HANDWARA: Hill Grange School, Handwara, successfully organised a two-day Inter-School Level Science Exhibition–2026, bringing together young innovators, budding scientists, educators and distinguished academicians from various educational institutions across the district. The event was a vibrant celebration of scientific curiosity, innovation, creativity and experiential learning, providing students with an enriching platform to demonstrate their scientific understanding and innovative potential.

The prestigious occasion was graced by Padma Shri Awardee Prof. H.C. Verma, one of India's most celebrated physicists and science educators, and Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, President, Private Schools Association Jammu & Kashmir (PSAJK), as the Chief Guests. Other eminent dignitaries included Dr. Khurshid Ahmed, Secretary, Science Communicators Association, Jammu & Kashmir; Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, renowned Science Communicator from Kanpur; Mr. Zahoor Ahmad, Chairman, Monarch Public School, Handwara; and other executive members of PSAJK Kupwara.

The programme was meticulously conceptualised and conducted by the Science Fraternity of Hill Grange School, Handwara, with the objective of fostering scientific temperament, promoting inquiry-based learning and encouraging students to explore the practical dimensions of science beyond conventional classroom teaching.

Dr. Amir Bashir warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, academicians, school leaders, teachers, parents and participating students. He also delivered the keynote address, highlighting the significance of scientific exhibitions in nurturing critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving abilities and a spirit of innovation among learners. He emphasised that science is not merely a body of knowledge but a continuous process of questioning, exploration, experimentation and discovery. He also conducted the felicitation ceremony, honouring the distinguished personalities and recognising the achievements of meritorious students and participating institutions.

The two-day academic extravaganza featured an impressive display of scientific models, innovative projects, working models, experiments and creative presentations by students representing different schools. Dedicated technical and interactive sessions further enriched the programme, allowing students and teachers to engage directly with eminent scientists, academicians and science communicators.

Prof. H.C. Verma emerged as the centre of attraction, inspiring the young participants through his remarkable presence, interaction and insights into the fascinating world of physics and scientific exploration. His interaction with students provided them with a rare opportunity to learn from one of India's most influential contributors to science education and popularisation of physics.

During the occasion, Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, President PSAJK, appreciated the initiative undertaken by Hill Grange School and its Chairman, Mr. Javed Ahmad Mir, for creating meaningful academic opportunities for students across Kupwara district. He emphasised the importance of developing mathematical aptitude, analytical abilities and scientific reasoning among children. He also urged parents to maintain a healthy balance between children's screen exposure, reading habits, outdoor activities and meaningful academic engagement.

He reiterated PSAJK's commitment to the professional development of teachers and school staff through regular training programmes, academic interactions and exposure to emerging developments in education, science and technology.

Felicitation Ceremony and Special Honours

A significant highlight of the programme was the grand felicitation ceremony organised to acknowledge the contributions of eminent personalities and celebrate academic excellence.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to physics education, scientific awareness and the popularisation of science, Padma Shri Awardee Prof. H.C. Verma was conferred the prestigious "Lifetime Excellence Award" by Hill Grange School, Handwara. The honour acknowledged his remarkable academic legacy and his enduring contribution to inspiring generations of young learners.

The school also felicitated the distinguished guests and dignitaries in recognition of their valuable presence, contribution and encouragement.

Recognition of Academic Excellence

In a special recognition of scholastic achievement, the GSAT–2026 toppers were honoured with cash prizes and mementos in appreciation of their outstanding performance in the competitive examination.

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FDA seizes 850 Kg Paneer worth ₹1.70 Lakh during at Jammu Bus Stand

Kashmir Age News



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The FDA Team, Jammu, under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, conducted a late-night enforcement inspection at Jammu Bus Stand and seized 850 kg of paneer, valued at around 1.70 lakh, which was purportedly being transported from Punjab, as revealed by the documents recovered by the enforcement team.

During the inspection, the consignment was found to be transported without adequate temperature-control arrangements and in violation of the prescribed labelling requirements applicable to perishable food commodities under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under. Taking cognizance of the observed violations, the Food Safety Team seized the consignment.

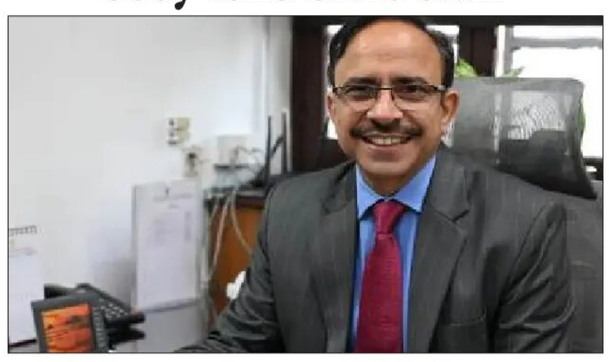
Necessary investigation into the matter has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the transportation of the consignment and to identify the persons responsible for the violations.

Further legal action shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under.

The FDA J&K has reiterated that all perishable food commodities, including paneer, mutton and fish, shall be transported, stored and handled under prescribed temperature-controlled conditions and in compliance with the labeling requirements mandated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Any violation of the prescribed norms shall invite mandatory legal action under the relevant provisions of the Act. The FDA, J&K, shall continue to undertake stringent enforcement measures against Food Business Operators found violating these requirements, with particular focus on the safe transportation, storage, handling and labelling of perishable food commodities, to ensure regulatory compliance and protect public health.

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

Recruitment rules to be notified within month: Chief Secy tells GMC staff



Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 24 :Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Tuesday assured protesting non-gazetted employees of Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri that their long-pending service recruitment rules would be notified within a month, following an intervention after employees stopped his cavalcade during his maiden visit to the district. The employees, who have been on an indefinite protest for the ninth consecutive day, confronted the Chief Secretary and sought his personal intervention in resolving an issue that has remained pending for nearly seven years since the establishment of five new Government Medical Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

The employees said that despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from successive authorities, the recruitment rules have not been formally notified, leaving hundreds of non-gazetted employees working in these institutions without a clearly defined service framework. They apprised the Chief Secretary of the difficulties being faced due to the prolonged delay, particularly the uncertainty surrounding promotions, career advancement, service conditions and future prospects. The Chief Secretary informed the employees that the Health and Medical Education Department had already forwarded the draft recruitment rules to the Finance Department for examination. The proposal would subsequently require clearance from the Finance Department and the Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department before being submitted to the Lieutenant Governor for final approval.

Tourism Department makes registration mandatory for all tourism operators in restricted areas

Kashmir News Trust

SRINAGAR, NOV 24:The Tourism Department has directed all tourism service providers, tour operators and other stakeholders operating in restricted areas of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts to obtain valid registration under the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Trade Act, 1978, before undertaking any tourism-related activity.

In a circular, the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, acting as the prescribed authority, made registration with the Tourism Department and requisite permission from the competent authority mandatory wherever applicable.

The directive covers tourism-related services and business operations, including activities undertaken by individuals and other stakeholders within the restricted areas of the three districts.

The circular warns that anyone found conducting tourism-related activities without valid registration or in violation of the Tourist Trade Act and applicable regulations will face strict legal action under the relevant provisions of the law.

All concerned stakeholders have been directed to ensure compliance with the instructions in letter and spirit before commencing or continuing their operations.

The department said the measure was aimed at regulating tourism activities,

ensuring public safety and accountability, and bringing orderly management to tourism operations in the three districts. [KNT]

DC Labroo, SSP visit Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi

Extend greetings on occasion of Prakash Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev Ji



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 24: On the occasion of Prakash Diwas, marking the 557th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr GV Sandeep Chakraborty today paid visit to Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi in Rainawari area of the District to extend warm greetings on the occasion.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP accompanied by members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee paid their obeisance at the Historic Gurudwara.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted contributions and universal teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He said that the teachings of the Sikh Guru promoted noble social institutions such as Langar, Sangat, and Kirtan teaching the spirit of equality and selfless service.

SSP Srinagar also underscored the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and extended his warm greetings to all.

During the visit, the DC also took stock of the arrangements and facilities being extended to the devotees.

Meanwhile, District Administration Srinagar had made all essential arrangements through several line Departments in advance at Chattipadshahi Gurudwara to facilitate devotees on the Prakash Diwas.

IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SP North, Tehsildar Khanyar and other Officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

FDA suspends registrations of Zaika Chicken Biryani, Royal 99 Café after 281 inspections across J&K

Kashmir News Trust

SRINAGAR, NOV 24, : The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has suspended the FSSAI registrations of two Srinagar eateries over violations of food safety, sanitation and hygiene requirements following an enforcement drive that covered 281 food establishments across the Union Territory.

The establishments facing action are Zaika Chicken Biryani at Khayam and Royal 99 Café at Shalimar, Srinagar.

During the drive, FDA teams collected 51 samples of meat, meat products and other food commodities for laboratory analysis.

The department also initiated nine cases against food business operators, including six under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, concerning insanitary and unhygienic conditions, and three under Section 58 for other contraventions.

In a significant consumer-protection measure, the department has directed restaurants and other outlets serving non-vegetarian food to clearly display the type of meat used, specifying whether it is mutton, beef or chicken, and whether it is fresh or frozen.

Food establishments have also been instructed to disclose the ingredients used in non-vegetarian preparations and prominently display the information on menus and Food Safety Display Boards to enable customers to make informed choices.

The FDA has urged consumers to remain vigilant and report instances of unsafe or adulterated food to the department.

Govt approves transfer of 32 kanals of land for grid station at Hajin, Bandipora

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the transfer of 32 kanals and 05 marlas of land in Naidkhai and Poshwari villages of Tehsil Hajin, Bandipora district, to the Power Development Department for construction of a grid station at Hajin.

The land, comprising 10 kanals and 05 marlas in Naidkhai and 22 kanals in Poshwari, will be transferred free of cost on account of the public purpose involved. The proposed grid station is expected to significantly strengthen the power transmission and distribution network in Hajin and adjoining areas, improve voltage stability, reduce power outages and fluctuations, and enhance the reliability and quality of electricity supply. The project will also help meet the growing electricity demand in the area and improve the overall power infrastructure, benefiting local residents.

Children leaving private institutions, joining Govt schools: Education Minister

Kashmir News Observer



BUDGAM, NOV 24 :Stating that many children have left private schools and joined government schools, Education Minister Shamima Firdous on Tuesday said the government is committed to strengthen educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to media persons on the sidelines of an event at Narbal here in Central Kashmir, the Minister said, "We have many children here who have left private schools and joined government schools. We should all work towards realising the dream of a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

Emphasising the need to improve basic facilities in government schools, the Minister said her focus would be on providing better infrastructure, including proper classrooms and washrooms, particularly in underdeveloped schools.

"Unless we pay attention to infrastructure and provide children with a good environment, good classrooms and washrooms, shortcomings in the education system will continue," she said.

She also indicated that efforts were underway to establish higher secondary schools, adding that certain hurdles had delayed the process but expressed hope that the proposal would move forward.

Keeping Kashmir's communal harmony alive our collective responsibility: SSP Srinagar

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 24 :Calling Kashmir's tradition of communal harmony a legacy that must be preserved collectively, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy, on Tuesday urged people to uphold mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, while assuring that police would continue to maintain peace and security across the city.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Durgeshwari Temple in Srinagar, SSP Chakravarthy said Kashmir had always stood as an example of communal harmony and that preserving this tradition was a shared responsibility.

"Kashmir has always been an example of communal harmony. It is our responsibility to keep this beautiful tradition alive," he said.

Reiterating the police commitment towards public safety, the SSP said, "Srinagar Police is always there to serve and protect people. It is our responsibility to maintain peace and security in the city."

Extending his message on Gurpurab, Dr Chakravarthy highlighted the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, particularly the principles of truth, selfless service and communal harmony. "Waheguru Ji's message is always about service, selfless service, truth and communal harmony. On this auspicious day, we must carry forward that message," he said.

He stressed that these values must be reflected in everyday life and that preserving Kashmir's tradition of coexistence was a responsibility shared by all. Meanwhile, responding to a question about the sale and distribution of rotten meat, the SSP assured that a major initiative would be undertaken to address the issue.

NIT Srinagar to compile alumni directory covering batches up to 2026

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has initiated the process of compiling a comprehensive alumni directory covering graduates up to the 2026 batch, with an aim to strengthen its engagement with former students across the country and abroad.

The initiative, being undertaken by the Office of the Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, is aimed at creating an updated database of alumni and providing a platform for sustained interaction between the institute and its former students.

Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, said the initiative would help strengthen the relationship between the institute and its alumni and create new avenues for collaboration.

"An updated and comprehensive alumni directory is an important step towards keeping our alumni connected with their alma mater. Their experience, expertise and suggestions can play a valuable role in strengthening the institute, mentoring students and creating opportunities for academic, research and professional collaboration," Prof. Shah said.

According to the institute, the directory will facilitate professional networking, mentorship, academic and research collaborations, career support and greater alumni participation in institutional development.

The Institute has urged all alumni of NIT Srinagar and erstwhile Regional Engineering College (REC) Srinagar to submit their details through a Google Form being facilitated by the concerned office.

It has also invited suggestions, feedback and ideas from alumni to strengthen engagement activities and develop initiatives benefiting students, the institute and the wider alumni community.

IADVL J&K Life Members List

Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists

IADVL J&K Chapter Publishes Verified List of Qualified Dermatologists to Protect Public Against Medical Quackery

Srinagar: In a significant public welfare initiative, the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), J&K Chapter, in association with its national body, is publishing a verified list of qualified dermatologists practicing in Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative aims to address the growing menace of unqualified individuals posing as skin specialists, cosmetologists and aesthetic physicians, often misleading the public through misleading advertisements and unrecognized certifications. Practicing dermatology and performing aesthetic procedures without adequate medical qualifications and training can lead to serious complications, including burns, permanent scarring, infections, pigmentation disorders, tissue damage, vascular complications and even permanent visual impairment. Delayed diagnosis of serious skin diseases is another major concern. The association also wishes to clarify that the National Medical Commission (NMC) does not recognise 'Cosmetologist', 'Aesthetician' or 'Aesthetic Physician' as postgraduate medical specialty qualifications. These designations must not be misrepresented as equivalent to a recognised postgraduate degree in Dermatology. The published directory will help patients identify and verify dermatologists holding recognised postgraduate qualifications in Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, enabling them to make informed decisions before seeking treatment.

IADVL J&K Chapter urges the public to always verify the qualifications and medical credentials of their treating practitioner, particularly before undergoing laser treatments, injectables and other aesthetic procedures. The message is simple: Your skin deserves a qualified specialist. Patient safety must come first.

JAMMU DIVISION		KASHMIR DIVISION	
Name	IADVL Registration No.	Name	IADVL Registration No.
Dr. Aditi Jamwal	LM/J&K/6346	Dr. Aaqib Aslam	LM/J&K/11969
Dr. Ananya Sambyal	LM/J&K/21628	Dr. Abdul Samieh Deva	LM/J&K/22514
Dr. Ankush Koul	LM/J&K/16249	Dr. Abid Keen	LM/J&K/6916
Dr. Arti Sakral	LM/J&K/6321	Dr. Aftab Ahmad	LM/J&K/2743
Dr. Bela Bhat	LM/J&K/8496	Dr. Altaf Hussain	LM/J&K/11107 (Ladakh)
Dr. Charu Sharma	LM/J&K/4780	Dr. Amanullah Daing	LM(In Process)
Dr. Cheena Langer	LM/J&K/6400	Dr. Amjad Ali	LM/J&K/15363
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Dr. Ekta Sudan	LM/J&K/12925	Dr. Basira Sultan	LM/J&K/17911
Dr. Ennakshee	LM/J&K/13654	Dr. Dilshad Akhtar	LM/J&K/2653
Dr. Gunjan Gupta	LM/JK/8498	Dr. Faizan Younis	LM/J&K/11811
Dr. Hardev Singh Soodan	LM/J&K/1624	Dr. Farah Sameem	LM/J&K/4560
Dr. Irfan Ahmad	LM/J&K/17879	Dr. Fozia Rehman	LM/J&K/9885
Dr. Jabeen Akhtar	LM/J&K/14238	Dr. Ghulam Hajini	LM/J&K/10851
Dr. Jaspreet Kaur	LM/J&K/14684	Dr. Gousia Sheikh	LM/J&K/7617
Dr. Jitendra Arora	LM/J&K/1363	Dr. Hina Altaf	LM/J&K/6616
Dr. Kewal Krishan	LM/J&K/8497	Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah	LM/J&K/1720
Dr. Mashkoor Wani	LM/J&K/4413	Dr. Imran Majid	LM/J&K/3718
Dr. Mohamad Ramzan Bhatti	LM/J&K/6347	Dr. Insha Latif	LM/J&K/11828
Dr. Mrinal Gupta	LM/JK/6367	Dr. Jasim Rashid Bhat	LM/J&K/17906
Dr. Mubashar Mashqoor Mir	LM/J&K/11093	Dr. Khalid Abas	LM/J&K/8053
Dr. Naina Dogra	LM/J&K/2745	Dr. Khalid Aziz	LM/J&K/8010
Dr. Neenu Kaul	LM/J&K/8011	Dr. Konchok Dorjay	LM(In Process)(Ladakh)
Dr. Neeti Behl	LM/J&K/6320	Dr. Kurat Sajad	LM/J&K/15243
Dr. Nidhi Sharma	LM/J&K/9884	Dr. Lubna R Changal	LM(In Process)
Dr. Nishu Gupta	LM/J&K/19921	Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat	LM/J&K/14006
Dr. Prakriti Sharma	LM/J&K/13947	Dr. Mir Laieeq Ishtaq Haji	LM/J&K/10881
Dr. Puneet Singh Soodan	LM/J&K/7309	Dr. Mir Shahnawaz Bashir	LM/J&K/12584
Dr. Rajesh Sharma	LM/J&K/3906	Dr. Misbah Qayoom	LM/J&K/15701
Dr. Rajindra Khosa	LM/J&K/2746	Dr. Mohammad Asim Khan	LM/J&K/18736
Dr. Reeta Sood	LM/J&K/2747	Dr. Mohd Rafiq	LM/JK/8499
Dr. Rishabh Raj	LM/J&K/14244	Dr. Mohiuddin Wani	LM/J&K/7907
Dr. Rishabh Sharma	LM/J&K/13927	Dr. Muzafar Ah	LM/J&K/14771
Dr. Rohini Sharma	LM/J&K/10102	Dr. Nahida Nabi	LM/J&K/13731
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Dr. Sat Gur Dayal	LM/J&K/2604	Dr. Peerzada Mohd Ashraf	LM/J&K/11092
Dr. Saveta Saini	LM/J&K/8495	Dr. Peerzada Sajad Ahmad	LM/JK/7551
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Dr. Supreet Singh	LM/J&K/14044	Dr. Safia Bashir	LM/J&K/10231
Dr. Susheel Maini	LM/J&K/2748	Dr. Saima Naaz	LM/J&K/15171
Dr. Vikas Malgotra	LM/J&K/16046	Dr. Saika Reyaz	LM/J&K/14184
Dr. Vipin Gupta	LM/J&K/2741	Dr. Sajjad Hussain	LM/J&K/6917 (Ladakh)
Dr. Yashdeep Pathania	LM/J&K/9301	Dr. Sameena	LM/J&K/ (Ladakh)
		Dr. Samia Aleem	LM/J&K/14577
		Dr. Samiq Zaffar	LM/J&K/17785
		Dr. Samreen Dilawar	LM/J&K/17020
		Dr. Saniya Zaffar	LM/J&K/16285
		Dr. Seema Qayoom	LM/J&K/1512
		Dr. Seerat Fatima	LM/J&K/18105
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		Dr. Shazia Jeelani	JK/LM/6915
		Dr. Shazia Shah	LM/JK/4991
		Dr. Sheikh Javeed Sultan	LM/J&K/6002
		Dr. Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad	LM/J&K/2744
		Dr. Showkat Bhat	LM/J&K/13239
		Dr. Shuaab Shah	LM/J&K/14121
		Dr. Suhail Rather	LM/J&K/8013
		Dr. Sumaya Zeerak	LM/J&K/9529
		Dr. Syed Mubashir	LM/J&K/10471
		Dr. Syed Shahab Ud Din Bukhari	LM/J&K/5986
		Dr. Taiba Trumboo	LM/J&K/14415
		Dr. Tasleem Arif	LM/J&K/9054
		Dr. Ummer Yaseen	LM/J&K/10784
		Dr. Uzair Khursheed	LM/J&K/14177
		Dr. Yaqzata Bashir	LM/J&K/14106
		Dr. Yasmeen Jabeen Bhat	LM/J&K/4419

Issued in public interest by IADVL J&K state chapter.

In case of any discrepancy, query please contact:

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Secretary IADVL J&K
7006522775

The list will be updated on a regular basis.

(RM)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Baiza Bashir, hereby notify the general public that I intend to change my name from Baiza Bashir to Baiza Bashir Tota in the records of J&K Bank, Branch Nawakadal, Srinagar, as per the name appearing in my official documents. Any person having any objection to the proposed name change may submit their written objection/application to the concerned authority within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any objection within the stipulated period, the necessary changes may be carried out in the bank records accordingly.

Name: Baiza Bashir Tota
Bank: J&K Bank
Branch: Nawakadal, Srinagar
8279

Rege. No. 1316 K Trasnport Rege No: 09/MVD/2011 Regd.No. 6 MT

Tata Sumo Taxi Stand No.1 Handwara Kashmir

Dated: 24/11-26 No. 000-SSN10058-2026

ممبر حضرات متوجہ ہوں

ہر خاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ٹاٹا سوموٹیکسی سٹینڈ نمبر 1 ہندوارہ کی جانب سے اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ تمام ممبر حضرات جو بھی ممبر شپ کارڈ آج تک اجرا کئے گئے ہیں ان سبھی ممبر شپ کارڈوں کو منسوخ کیا گیا ہے۔

پریذیڈنٹ
ٹاٹا سوموسٹینڈ نمبر 1 ہندوارہ

008

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khalid Ahmad Sheikh, S/O Ghulam Mohd Sheikh, R/O Singhpora Pattan, Baramulla, presently serving as SGCT, EXK No. 022455, Employee ID CSTHOMO7022455, hereby request the concerned authorities to make the necessary corrections in my official Police Service Book and other relevant service records. The particulars recorded therein and the correct particulars, as per my First Appointment Letter, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card and other valid documents, are given below: Name as recorded: Khalid Ahmad Shiekh Correct Name: Khalid Ahmad Sheikh Father's Name as recorded: Gh. Mohd Shiekh Correct Father's Name: Ghulam Mohd Sheikh. Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections may submit their objection to the competent authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary corrections may be carried out accordingly.

Khalid Ahmad Sheikh
S/O Ghulam Mohd Sheikh
R/O Singhpora Pattan, Baramulla
Mobile No.: 9419052062
8279



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders against the below-mentioned works and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **14.12.2026 & 16.12.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids only up to the closing date and time. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnest Money only through the payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal, like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card, etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit Receipt, FDR, etc. are not allowed. For more information, log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Packet System	21.11.2026 & 23.11.2026	30.11.2026 & 02.12.2026	14.12.2026 & 16.12.2026 15:00 Hrs.

S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	228-2026-27-ADEN-JUC	Cess repair and profilling in the various yards and section in the section of ADEN/JUC			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		11275753.53	225500.00	60 Days	06 Months
		Similar nature of work: "Any civil engineering work involving earth work in banks/cuttings"			
2	229-2026-27-ADEN-I ASR	Cess repair and profiling in the various yards and section in the section of ADEN-I/ASR			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		17075450.88	341500.00	60 Days	06 Months
		Similar nature of work: "Any civil engineering work involving earth work in banks/cuttings"			
3	230-2026-27-ADEN-II ASR	Cess repair and profiling in the various yards and section in the section of ADEN-II/ASR			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		16572450.95	331500.00	60 Days	06 Months
		Similar nature of work: "Any civil engineering work involving earth work in banks/cuttings"			
4	231-2026-27-ADEN-JUC	Replacement of old dilapidated quarters with standard staff quarters in colony No. 3 at Jalandhar City. (16 Unit) under ADEN/JRC.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		39089655.48	781800.00	60 Days	08 Months
		Similar Nature of work:- "Construction of building/quarters."			

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

Tender Notice No:- 228 & 231-2026-27-ADEN-JUC, 229-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR, 230-2026-27-ADEN-II-ASR

Date: 23.11.2026 4084/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

J&K's film ecosystem wins praise from industry leaders at IFFI 2026



Panaji, Nov 24 (PTI) Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a preferred destination for film productions, with its breathtaking natural landscapes, diverse shooting locations, simplified permission procedures and filmmaker-friendly incentives receiving appreciation from prominent members of the film fraternity at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which commenced in Goa last week.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the nine-day festival, showcasing more than 150 films from 86 countries besides Indian movies, on November 20.

Visiting the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion at the Film Bazaar, filmmakers and industry representatives appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the Union Territory's film ecosystem and promote film tourism.

Somendra Harsh, CEO, Founder and Festival Director of the Rajasthan International Film Festival, expressed his delight at the initiatives showcased at the J&K Pavilion and appreciated the region's potential for outdoor film shoots.

"The most important aspect is the support and incentives provided to filmmakers who choose Jammu and Kashmir as their shooting destination. The region offers some of the most beautiful locations and breathtaking outdoor landscapes, making it an ideal destination for film production," he said.

He also emphasised the importance of a single-window clearance mechanism and greater engagement between filmmakers and the government to promote regional content, storytelling and film-related policies.

R Subramanyam, a filmmaker from Tamil Nadu, described Kashmir as a filmmaker's paradise, highlighting its exceptional geographical diversity and natural beauty. R Subramanyam, a filmmaker from Tamil Nadu, described Kashmir as a filmmaker's paradise, highlighting its exceptional geographical diversity and natural beauty.

He appreciated the facilitation provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Film Facilitation Centre, particularly its single-window system, dedicated online portal and shooting incentives.

"Kashmir is not just a paradise for honeymoon seekers; it is also a filmmaker's paradise because of its extraordinary natural beauty, diverse geography and breathtaking locations," he said.

Appreciating the institutional support extended to filmmakers, he said the support system, smooth facilitation and guidance provided by the authorities make it much easier for filmmakers to explore and shoot in Kashmir.

He also highlighted the availability of incentives and rebates linked to the duration of film shoots, noting that the dedicated online portal makes the facilities accessible to both Indian and international filmmakers.

N Subramanyam, a cinematographer and director, also appreciated the simplified filmmaking procedures in Jammu and Kashmir, observing that obtaining shooting permissions and necessary approvals has become considerably easier compared to the past.

"Kashmir is one of the most beautiful places in India for film shooting. Unlike earlier times, shooting in Kashmir is no longer complicated or difficult," he said.

He said the J&K Information Department has made the filmmaking process much easier by simplifying the procedures for obtaining approvals, permissions and shooting clearances. "The entire process is now much smoother and more convenient for filmmakers."

Describing J&K as an ideal destination for feature films and OTT productions, he encouraged filmmakers to make the most of the facilities available in the Union Territory.

"Kashmir is truly an amazing destination for shooting feature films and OTT projects. Its breathtaking landscapes, spectacular natural beauty and scenic locations offer endless creative possibilities," he said.

The appreciation from visiting filmmakers reflects the growing recognition of Jammu and Kashmir's efforts to create an enabling environment for film production through institutional support, simplified permissions, digital facilitation and financial incentives.

Through its participation at IFFI 2026 and the Film Bazaar, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, is showcasing the Union Territory's cinematic potential, promoting its diverse shooting locations and connecting filmmakers and production houses with the opportunities available under its film ecosystem.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
SRINAGAR | WEDNESDAY
25-NOVEMBER-2026

www.kashmirage.net facebook.com/kashmirage youtube.com/@kashmirAge dailykashmirage@gmail.com

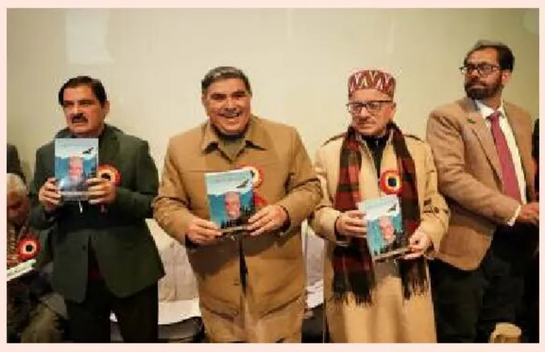
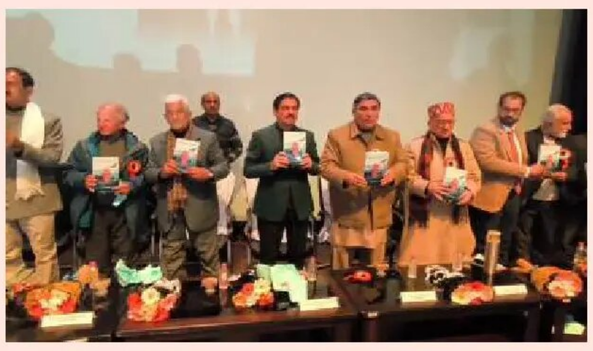
'Rah-o-Rasm-e-Shahbazi' and 'Lore of the Falcon'

Ali Mohammad Shahbaz's Poetry Gets New Identity; Step towards taking Kashmiri poetry to global readers









The literary history of Kashmir has produced several poets whose creative brilliance, intellectual depth and poetic expression gave voice to the collective emotions of their times. However, with the passage of time, some of these literary figures failed to receive the recognition their contributions deserved. Eminent Kashmiri poet Ali Mohammad Shahbaz Mawar is one such personality whose poetry brings together revolutionary thought, romantic sensibility, human suffering, social consciousness and cultural attachment.

In a significant effort to reintroduce his literary contributions, two books authored by Dr Abdul Hafeez Shah Masoodi — Rah-o-Rasm-e-Shahbazi and its English translation, Lore of the Falcon — were formally released at Ustaad Ghar, Bemina, Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Anwar Academy in collaboration with the Shahbaz Cultural Forum. Its primary objective was to preserve Ali Mohammad Shahbaz's literary legacy, promote scholarly and critical study of his poetry and take his creative expression beyond the boundaries of the Kashmiri language through translation.

The occasion was not merely a book-release ceremony but a serious effort to reclaim an important name from Kashmir's literary memory and introduce the region's rich literary heritage to younger generations.

The programme was presided over by eminent jurist and distinguished orator Justice Bashir Ahmad Kermani, while Minister for Culture and Sports Mir Saifullah attended as the chief guest. The presidium included renowned scholar Professor Shafi Shouq, veteran politician and former Member of Parliament Sharief-ud-Din Shariq, former MLC and noted writer Zafar Iqbal Manhas, Nazir Qureshi Ibn Shahbaz and the author of the books, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shah Masoodi. Several prominent personalities from academic, literary, cultural and social circles also attended.

The programme began with a welcome address by G.N. War, Convener of Anwar Academy. Highlighting the academy's literary and intellectual vision, he said the institution was committed to promoting academic, research and literary activities in Kashmir and contributing towards the development of a knowledge-based society. He observed that Kashmir's literary history contains several important names and creative works that need to be systematically preserved, documented and passed on to future generations.

It is important to recognise that the literary history of any language and civilisation cannot be confined to a handful of names that have consistently found space in textbooks, universities and mainstream literary discussions. A substantial part of this history lies in the works of poets, writers and intellectuals whose contributions gradually move to the margins of public memory. Editing, interpreting, critically examining and publishing their works is essentially a cultural responsibility. The two books on Ali Mohammad Shahbaz draw attention to this very need.

Ali Mohammad Shahbaz, who was killed by armed militants in 1996, was a distinctive voice in Kashmiri poetry, combining revolutionary passion with romantic refinement. His poetry deserves to be examined not merely in the context of the political and social circumstances of his time but also through its human emotions, intellectual restlessness, social observations and cultural consciousness. These are the qualities that elevate a poet beyond contemporary circumstances and make him a lasting part of literary history.

The two books compiled by Dr Abdul Hafeez Masoodi are significant because they go beyond merely collecting Shahbaz's poetry and attempt to explore its literary, intellectual and philosophical dimensions. Along with translations of Shahbaz's Kashmiri verses, the works contain scholarly interpretations and critical observations that highlight different aspects of his poetic expression.

Translating a poet's work into another language is not simply an exercise in replacing words. Poetry carries within it a particular cultural environment, local idiom, historical experience, emotional depth and linguistic beauty. The greatest challenge for a translator is therefore to convey not only the original meaning but also the spirit and aesthetic impact of the composition. This task becomes even more demanding in Kashmiri poetry, where local imagery, metaphors, symbols and cultural references require exceptional sensitivity and scholarly understanding.

The publication of Lore of the Falcon is particularly significant in this context. Its English translation can introduce Ali Mohammad Shahbaz's poetry to readers who may not know Kashmiri but are interested in understanding Kashmir's literary traditions, social history and intellectual experiences. Translation can thus take a literary creation beyond its local linguistic boundaries and make it part of a wider national and international literary discourse. However, the success of this endeavour will depend not merely on the publication of an English translation but also on how effectively these works are introduced in universities, research institutions, libraries and literary circles. A language's literary wealth gains wider recognition only when sustained research, criticism and intellectual engagement continue around it.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Mir Saifullah appreciated the efforts of Anwar Academy and the Shahbaz Cultural Forum in publishing and promoting the literary contributions of Ali Mohammad Shahbaz. He observed that, considering the extraordinary depth and emotional strength of his poetry, Shahbaz deserved a much more prominent place in Kashmir's literary and cultural consciousness than he had received so far.

The minister's observation raises an important question about Kashmir's literary landscape: Why do some creative personalities fail to receive recognition commensurate with their literary abilities? Several factors may contribute to this, including the unavailability of literary works, unorganised publication, inadequate critical study, limited readership of regional languages and a lack of institutional support. This makes it essential not only to preserve a poet's writings but also to undertake serious academic work on them.

The revolutionary and romantic elements in Shahbaz's poetry offer multiple dimensions for literary exploration. Revolution in his work is not merely a symbol of political reaction or protest; it is also connected with human dignity, freedom, social justice and the aspiration for a better life. Similarly, the romantic element goes beyond the expression of personal emotions and reflects a broader relationship with humanity, nature, love and the experiences of life.

The combination of these elements gives Shahbaz's poetic temperament a distinctive identity. His work should therefore not be confined to a single intellectual or ideological category. Understanding its different dimensions requires examining the social conditions of his time, the psychology of Kashmiri society, local cultural experiences and the poet's personal intellectual background.

During the academic session, Professor Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi and Dr Sohan Lal Koul presented two research papers examining the literary and intellectual dimensions of the books. Their presentations critically analysed Ali Mohammad Shahbaz's poetry and Dr Abdul Hafeez Masoodi's scholarly efforts, highlighting the literary significance of these publications from different perspectives.

A panel discussion was also organised on Shahbaz's poetry, its translations and literary significance. The session was chaired by Professor Shafi Shouq and moderated by Dr G.M. Khan. Professor Majrooh Rashid, Professor Nasir Mirza, Professor Jahangir and other eminent scholars participated in the discussion.

The speakers emphasised that Ali Mohammad Shahbaz deserved a more prominent place in Kashmir's literary history. They observed that his poetry combines intellectual fervour, emotional intensity and literary refinement in a manner that continues to make it relevant and powerful despite the passage of time. His work, they said, represents literary excellence, cultural consciousness and humanism and deserves further research and critical attention.

An important aspect of the discussion was the recognition of literary translation not merely as a means of communication between languages but also as an important instrument for preserving cultural heritage and promoting its wider understanding. The speakers stressed that translating selected works of Kashmiri poetry into other languages was essential to ensure that Kashmir's literary voices could be heard and understood beyond their geographical and linguistic boundaries.

Another book, Cricket in Their Confines, authored by Dr A.H. Shah, was also released on the occasion. The publication reflects another dimension of the author's literary and intellectual interests and added a further perspective to the overall literary proceedings.

The programme concluded with a collective commitment to promoting literary research, translation, documentation and intellectual activities. Participants stressed that serious institutional initiatives, alongside individual efforts, were necessary to ensure that eminent Kashmiri poets like Ali Mohammad Shahbaz receive their rightful place in literary history.

Dr Abdul Hafeez Shah Masoodi

Writer with Administrative, Academic and Literary Dimensions



Dr Abdul Hafeez Shah Masoodi (Dr A.H. Shah) is a senior officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), belonging to the 1999 batch. He is currently serving as Special Secretary to the Government in the Department of Information Technology.

Alongside his administrative responsibilities, he has established himself as an author, columnist, motivational speaker and social commentator.

Dr Masoodi is a multilingual scholar with familiarity with most of the languages spoken in Jammu and Kashmir. His academic and research interests include theology, comparative religions, linguistics, literature, sports studies and contemporary social issues.

His published works include Shraddha to Sansad, Warrior with a Cause, Cricket in the Confines, Shaheen Ka Jahan and Lore of the Falcon. The latter is an English translation of the poetry of renowned revolutionary Kashmiri poet Ali Mohammad Shahbaz, affectionately known as the 'Falcon of Mawar'. The book seeks to preserve the philosophical depth, poetic refinement and social and spiritual thought of the original Kashmiri poetry while introducing it to an international readership.

His forthcoming works include Shathiyat-e-Tasawwuf, Beyond the Blazing Chinar and three poetry collections in Urdu, Pahari and English.

Editorial

Modern Markets

The Government's decision to make over 40 acres of land available for setting up modern Fruit and Vegetable Markets in Baramulla, Pulwama and Kulgam marks a significant step towards strengthening the region's agricultural and horticultural economy. The initiative has the potential to address a longstanding concern of growers — the gap between agricultural production and access to profitable, transparent and organised markets.

Kashmir has enormous potential in fruit and vegetable cultivation, with thousands of families depending on agriculture and horticulture for their livelihood. Yet, despite considerable progress in production, farmers continue to face challenges arising from inadequate marketing infrastructure, limited storage facilities, high transportation costs and dependence on intermediaries. In many cases, growers are compelled to sell their produce at whatever prices are offered, particularly when dealing with perishable commodities that cannot be stored for long.

The proposed markets at Palhallan in Baramulla, Nowdal in Pulwama and Kulgam, for which 320 kanals and four marlas of land have been approved for transfer free of cost, could help change this situation. Equipped with modern facilities for grading, sorting, storage, transportation and electronic weighing, these markets are expected to create a more organised environment for agricultural trade. Digital paymnts and transparent price discovery mechanisms can further improve accountability and reduce the scope for exploitation.

The importance of such infrastructure extends beyond providing farmers with designated spaces to sell their produce. Efficient agricultural markets can strengthen the entire supply chain, reduce post-harvest losses, facilitate better price realisation and encourage investment in processing, packaging and value addition. This is particularly important for Kashmir, where the economic potential of agriculture remains closely linked to the ability to preserve, market and transport produce efficiently.

The initiative must also be viewed in the context of the need to make agriculture an attractive and sustainable livelihood for younger generations. With employment opportunities in traditional sectors becoming increasingly constrained, modernising agricultural marketing can open new avenues in logistics, transportation, warehousing, food processing and allied services. Small and marginal growers, as well as women farmers, should receive particular attention to ensure that the benefits of these facilities reach those who need them most.

However, the government must ensure that the project does not remain confined to land transfer and construction. Timely execution, professional management, transparent market operations and affordable access for growers will determine its actual impact. Adequate cold storage, reliable transport connectivity and regular monitoring must form an integral part of the planning process.

The proposed markets should also be linked with the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to ensure that improvements in production are matched by corresponding improvements in marketing and value addition.

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

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Mafia Culture In Kashmir



BY: DR. TARIQ A. SHAH

Kashmir, once celebrated across the world for its breathtaking beauty, rich cultural heritage, hospitality and moral ethos, is increasingly making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Scandals, scams, illegal activities and organised exploitation seem to be becoming recurring features of public life. A disturbing question begs an answer: Has the Valley of saints, scholars and Sufis gradually turned into a hunting ground for mafias, where unscrupulous elements thrive at the expense of public health, social morality, economic justice and the rule of law?

The recent seizure of rotten and allegedly unfit meat is a glaring illustration of how far commercial greed can go when human lives become secondary to monetary gains. The J&K Police deserves bouquets of encomium for exposing this nauseating racket. Their action merits appreciation, but it must not be the end of the investigation.The real challenge lies in identifying the entire supply chain, tracing the beneficiaries, exposing the possible administrative complicity and bringing every guilty person to justice. How much of this contaminated material has already reached consumers? Who facilitated its storage, transportation and distribution? Were inspections deliberately avoided? These are questions that demand answers. The meat mafia, however, may only be the tip of an enormous iceberg.

Equally alarming are allegations surrounding the pharmaceutical and medical sectors. Reports and complaints of spurious, substandard and dubious medicines raise serious concerns about the safety of patients. The possibility of an unholy nexus involving certain pharmaceutical companies, distributors, chemists and even medical practitioners, if established, would represent one of the most reprehensible forms of organised exploitation. Prescribing medicines for commercial incentives rather than medical necessity is an ethical betrayal of the Hippocratic oath. Patients visit hospitals seeking relief, not to become unwitting instruments in somebody's business calculations. Drug samples must be tested regularly, supply chains audited and prescribing practices subjected to appropriate scrutiny.

The mushrooming culture of unnecessary laboratory investigations, diagnostic procedures and radiological examinations has also become a matter of public concern. While medical investigations are indispensable for accurate diagnosis, indiscriminate testing without adequate clinical justification places an unbearable financial burden on patients. The possibility of referral commissions or commercial arrangements between some healthcare professionals and diagnostic establishments warrants independent scrutiny. Medical practice must remain a noble service, not a commercial marketplace where the patient's vulnerability becomes a source of profit.

Then comes the notorious land mafia, perhaps one of the most formidable manifestations of organised greed in the Valley. Illegal encroachments, fraudulent land transactions, manipulation of revenue records, grabbing of public property and unauthorised constructions have repeatedly raised questions about the integrity of the land administration system. Land, which should be protected as a precious public and private asset, is sometimes treated as a commodity for speculation and manipulation. The involvement of influential individuals, middlemen and any complicit officials must be investigated without fear or favour. Digitisation of land records, transparent registration, time-bound mutation procedures and strict action against fraudulent transactions are no longer optional reforms.

The vendor mafia is another manifestation of administrative failure. Street vendors and small traders deserve protection, dignity and livelihood opportunities. However, the alleged existence of organised groups controlling vending spaces, extracting illegal payments and exploiting vulnerable vendors calls for attention. Public roads and footpaths cannot become private commercial estates. Municipal authorities must distinguish genuine livelihood concerns from organised extortion and illegal occupation.

Education, once regarded as the most powerful instrument of social transformation, is not immune to commercialisation either. The mushrooming of coaching and tuition centres, some operating with questionable infrastructure, unqualified personnel and misleading claims of guaranteed success, has transformed parental anxiety into a lucrative business opportunity. Education must not become an auction house where academic success is determined by purchasing power. Registration, fee transparency, safety standards and quality monitoring are essential to protect students and parents.

Equally deserving of attention is the mushrooming growth of Dar-ul-Ulooms and religious educational establishments. Religious education is a respected institution and has historically played an invaluable role in preserving moral values, spirituality and Islamic scholarship. However, the mushrooming of institutions without adequate infrastructure, qualified teachers, transparent financial management or proper academic oversight raises legitimate concerns. Religious sanctity must never become a shield against accountability. Appropriate registration, financial transparency, educational standards and child-safeguarding mechanisms should apply, without interfering with genuine religious freedom. Those who preach honesty must also practise institutional integrity.

The problem, however, is not confined to these sectors. The Valley needs a closer examination of illegal mining, timber smuggling, transport syndicates, construction irregularities, organised encroachments, black marketing, food adulteration and other forms of economic exploitation. Wherever there is an opportunity to manipulate public resources, exploit consumers or circumvent regulations, organised interests may emerge to occupy the space.

But can mafia flourish without institutional weaknesses? This is perhaps the most uncomfortable question confronting the administration. Mafias rarely operate in complete isolation. Their networks may depend upon political patronage, administrative negligence, regulatory loopholes, official indifference and, in certain cases, active collusion. It would be unfair to implicate entire institutions or professions, but equally irresponsible to ignore the possibility of individual complicity. The law must investigate evidence rather than bow to influence.

The government must move beyond occasional raids, press statements and temporary suspensions. What Kashmir needs is a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained campaign against organised economic and social exploitation. Special investigations wherever warranted, independent audits, surprise inspections, whistle-blower protection, transparent licensing, strict prosecution and time-bound judicial proceedings must become integral components of governance.

The media, civil society, professional associations and citizens also have an important responsibility. Silence, indifference and social acceptance provide fertile ground for corruption. Citizens must report wrongdoing, demand accountability and refuse to normalise exploitation.

Kashmir cannot afford to become synonymous with scandals. A land blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, intellectual traditions and a rich spiritual heritage deserves much better. Its people deserve safe food, genuine medicines, ethical healthcare, secure property, affordable education and transparent administration.

Ultimately, the fight against mafias is not merely a law-and-order exercise; it is a battle to reclaim the moral, social and economic foundations of society.

The million-dollar question is: Who will bell the cat when the cat itself may be protected by powerful hands?

The writer is a former Prof. & Head, Division of Plant Pathology, SKUAST-K.

Don't Wait for Symptoms: Why Delayed Screening Jeopardizes Early Prostate Cancer Detection



DR. SHAFIQ AHMED

Most prostate cancers develop silently along the outer region of the prostate gland without affecting urinary flow in the early stages. This makes routine screening particularly important, as waiting for symptoms to appear can delay diagnosis and treatment.

Across emerging urban centres and smaller cities, healthcare remains largely reactive. For men over 50, a persistent reluctance to discuss prostate health often adds to this delay. There is a widespread misconception that if urinary function is normal, the prostate must be healthy. However, the absence of symptoms does not necessarily rule out prostate cancer.

This misconception is one of the key reasons why many patients seek medical attention only after the disease has progressed to an advanced stage.

The Silent Nature of Early-Stage Prostate Cancer

Many men believe that prostate cancer immediately causes urinary blockage, burning or discomfort. However, the location of the tumor plays an important role in determining whether symptoms develop. The urethra passes through the centre of the prostate gland, while a significant proportion of prostate cancers originate in its outer region, known as the peripheral zone. Tumors developing in this area can grow for years without putting pressure on the urinary channel. As a result, men may continue to experience normal urinary function even as the disease progresses.

Lower urinary tract symptoms commonly associated with ageing, such as frequent urination at night, difficulty initiating urination or a weak urinary stream, are more often caused by Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). This is a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate that usually develops in the central transition zone.

Consequently, men may mistakenly associate urinary difficulties with prostate cancer while overlooking the possibility of cancer in the absence of such symptoms. In cases where prostate cancer eventually causes significant urinary obstruction, blood in the urine or pelvic pain, it may indicate locally advanced or more extensive disease, potentially limiting treatment options.

The PSA Blood Test: An Accessible Screening Tool

Detecting prostate cancer at a localised and potentially curable stage does not require waiting for symptoms or undergoing complex procedures. Early evaluation begins with accessible screening tests and timely consultation with a urologist.

Men aged 50 and above should consider a baseline urological assessment, including a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test. Men with a family history of prostate, breast or ovarian cancer may need to begin screening earlier, around the age of 45, depending on their individual risk factors and medical advice.

The PSA test measures the level of prostate-specific antigen, a protein produced by the prostate gland. Changes in PSA levels can indicate prostate enlargement, inflammation or possible cancer. Although an elevated PSA level does not necessarily mean that a person has cancer, it helps doctors identify individuals who may require further evaluation.

Advancements in Precision Treatment

When detected at an early, localised stage, prostate cancer generally has very favourable treatment outcomes. Advances in surgical techniques and cancer management have also significantly improved treatment precision and recovery.

Robotic-assisted and minimally invasive radical prostatectomy are among the modern surgical approaches used to treat eligible patients with prostate cancer. These techniques allow surgeons to operate with greater precision while helping minimise blood loss and damage to surrounding structures. Particular attention is given to preserving the neurovascular bundles, which play an important role in urinary continence and sexual function. Minimally invasive approaches can also help reduce hospital stays and support a quicker return to routine activities, depending on the patient's condition and recovery.

Essential Screening Practices for Long-Term Prostate Health

A shift from symptom-led consultations to proactive screening is essential for improving early detection of prostate cancer. Men should not assume that normal and painless urination rules out prostate-related concerns. Those aged 50 and above, as well as younger men with relevant family history or other risk factors, should discuss an appropriate PSA screening schedule with their urologist.

Regular health assessments, awareness of family history and timely medical consultation can help identify potential abnormalities before they begin affecting daily life. Persistent pelvic discomfort, unexplained lower back pain, blood in the urine or an elevated PSA level should not be ignored and warrant appropriate medical evaluation.

Proactive healthcare is ultimately about identifying and addressing potential health concerns before they significantly affect an individual's quality of life. A simple blood test, followed by timely medical evaluation wherever necessary, can play an important role in detecting prostate cancer early and improving the chances of successful treatment.

Author is Senior Director Urology, Andrology & Renal Transplant at BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital

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Beyond The Rockstar: The Journey, Identity and Legacy Of Qazi Touqeer



There are some journeys which are not just remembered for their successes but also for the hopes they inspire among people. One such personality is that of Qazi Touqeer, a singer and performer from Srinagar. Starting his journey from the streets of Kashmir and reaching national television, this talented artist began his journey over two decades ago when he made a mark for himself by participating in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul. In 2026, his participation in Bigg Boss 20 has once again taken him to national television. But the story of this artist is not only about a television show; it is a journey of ambition, struggle, friendship, family support and connection with Kashmir.

Although many people in the Valley know him by name, there is a younger generation that has come to know him through the Bigg Boss 20 television show. Those who saw him perform in 2005 as a contestant and later watched him become one of the most discussed personalities on the show have a different story to tell about him.

Childhood Dreams in Srinagar

Brought up in Srinagar, Qazi had a passion for singing, dancing and acting right from his childhood days. The advent of cable TV in Kashmir when he was around twelve years old introduced him to the world of entertainment and made his dream of becoming an artist stronger. His family members were instrumental in supporting his dreams, especially his uncle, Qazi Rafi, who helped in preparing his portfolio, registering him for Fame Gurukul and taking him to Delhi.

Qazi used to practise his dancing movements in front of the mirror and needed a harmonium to cultivate his love for music. He studied at a convent school in Rajbagh and then at Amar Singh College. He was also a great admirer of Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan and was inspired by his dancing movements to take up acting. His classmates used to call him Hrithik because of his imitations. People who knew him said that he was a very energetic, humorous and friendly person.

Fame Gurukul: The Turning Point

The crucial point came in 2005 when Qazi participated in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul on Sony Entertainment Television. Facing continuous criticism from the judges, Qazi apparently made it to the danger zone almost ten times. Yet, the audience kept supporting him, and he received about 2.5 crore votes in the show, where the voting process involved paid SMS services.

On October 20, 2005, Qazi and Ruprekha Banerjee won the Fame Jodi title and received Rs 50 lakh each, along with a Sony music contract and a Maruti Alto car. This win was more than just a personal victory for many Kashmiris. It was a period when the Valley used to be spoken of in terms of politics and security, but a young man from Srinagar had made Kashmir known to the world through his musical talent. It gave hope to many families and aspiring artists that geographical location is not an obstacle to achieving something great. In addition, it gave him a lifelong friendship with another contestant, Arijit Singh, who would soon become one of the best playback singers in India.

The Reality Behind Fame

Being successful on television does not mean automatic success in life. The world of entertainment needs patience, opportunities, discipline and resilience. Qazi kept trying in the fields of music and acting even after Fame Gurukul, working on many projects along with Ruprekha, such as the album Yeh Pal. His dream of becoming an actor was also delayed as some films did not get completed.

However, he kept performing in India as well as abroad, including in Australia, the United States and Singapore. He performed in the music video of Afghan Jalebi, which was part of the Bollywood movie Phantom, composed by Asrar in 2015. Qazi's musical career includes Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu songs.

A Friendship Spanning Over Twenty Years

One of the most amazing things about Qazi's story is his friendship with Arijit Singh. The two met while participating in Fame Gurukul, and neither of them had any idea how their lives would turn out to be. It is said that the two lived in the same room and went through the uncertainties of working towards building their careers in music.

Some years down the line, Qazi was seen participating in Bigg Boss 20, and Arijit openly came out in support of his friend Rockstar, saying that he would watch the show for the first time because Qazi was participating in it. Qazi also went to Arijit's hometown, Jiaganj, in West Bengal, and their cricket matches and scooter rides became viral on the internet.

While inside the Bigg Boss house, Qazi talked about how dedicated Arijit is, his creativity and how hard he works on his music. He even sang Tum Hi Ho as a tribute to his friend. There have been talks about a collaboration between the two in the musical world, but the project is yet to materialise. However, some groundwork has already been done.

Bigg Boss 20: A New Episode

With Salman Khan as the host, Bigg Boss 20 was launched on September 6, 2026. Qazi's return to national television, after being away from reality television for many years, was noticed soon enough for his wit, charisma, songs and famous line, "I am a Rockstar, baby." Salman Khan praised his voice, and his singing of "O Mere Dil Ke Chain" and dancing to "Ek Pal Ka Jeena" reminded people of his admiration for Hrithik Roshan.

His fitness was another highlight when he did 100 push-ups at once. In a brand campaign, he was awarded the title of Flipkart Fashion Icon, along with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, which he gave to his wife. Actress Wamiqa Gabbi also applauded him for his optimism and entertainment value.

But there have been some disputes related to him as well. One such dispute occurred between Qazi and Manish Goel when Qazi felt that his personal space had been violated during a role-play activity. This was an allegation that Manish Goel denied. Fairness is the key here, and every allegation should not necessarily be considered a fact. It is not necessary for one to support an artist by agreeing with everything he says or does.

Family, Language and Cultural Identity

Behind Qazi's public journey is his supportive family. His wife, Hifsa, a dentist, has been encouraging him to chase his dreams and be part of the show. He answered the questions regarding his marital status raised inside the house and said that he was married. He also spoke about his wife's support. Her emotional message and his decision to gift the Rs 5 lakh prize money to her were a reflection of the role played by the family in an artist's life.

One of the most memorable moments came during the episode of Weekend Ka Vaar, which was telecast on October 25. Srinagar-born Farrhana Bhatt came on the show and sang her song named Shahiba. Their conversation in the Kashmiri language turned out to be much more than just a usual conversation. He greeted her by saying, "Wari chukh theek chukh?" and she answered, "Shukar, shukar, Hazrat, tuhi chiv theek." They also talked about the Tachar trend in Kashmir and sang together.

Kashmiri people sitting throughout the nation would feel a sense of pride in hearing their native language being used on a national entertainment channel. Kashmiri is our language, which reminds us of everything from childhood memories, humour and family phrases to folklore and culture. It is important for us to learn other languages, but it is also important to maintain our own language.

Bridging Religious and Social Barriers

Another aspect of Qazi's connection to Kashmir is evident from his relationship with people belonging to other social groups. For instance, his videos on social media show him walking around in the Valley, singing with the locals and even spending some time with Krishna Kaul, a young Kashmiri Pandit boy. Further, in one of his interviews, he also talked about going to the house of his Kashmiri Pandit friend, Vivek Malla, to have a meal. He reacted to some comments with the statement, "We have to move ahead and spread love."

The videos posted on social media by Kashmiri Pandit women showing their fondness for him also generated a lot of interest. Even the Diwali greetings from his father, telling him to spread warmth and love in the house, are examples of the same. It is unnecessary to politicise these things; what matters is human interaction in its truest sense, which still remains very relevant in Kashmir.

Support and Message to Young Kashmiris

Qazi's comeback has also been recognised off the screen. A piece of art bearing Qazi's image has appeared at the Books and Bricks cafe next to Amar Singh College, linking his current quest to a location related to his college days. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has also voiced his support for him and reminded people about his previous success, saying that he would vote for Qazi if voting were based on popularity.

While the support mentioned above does not imply that everyone must have the same view regarding his performance, it does show the public interest that has been generated by Qazi's comeback. More importantly, Qazi's comeback must help initiate a discussion regarding the avenues available to young artists in Jammu and Kashmir. Singers, writers, actors and performers require not just talent but also training, studios, cultural organisations, financial support and venues where their work can be appreciated.

As a relative of Qazi, I understand that there is a personal aspect to this topic. But at the same time, a newspaper article cannot turn into flattery. His successes must be noted, while his faults and behaviour can be freely criticised.

Beyond the Trophy

Even if Qazi Touqeer does not win Bigg Boss 20, he is sure to have sparked discussions and reminiscences of 2005, along with discussions about the language and culture of Kashmir through his participation. While the trophy determines the result of the competition, it cannot quantify the love of the audience for Qazi, the camaraderie between the two best friends and the pride that comes from having one's mother tongue spoken by millions of people.

Qazi's journey proves that an artist can go far and wide beyond geographical boundaries without losing touch with his roots. His most significant legacy may very well be the inspiration he gives to the youth of Kashmir to chase their dreams without forgetting their origins. The story of Qazi, beyond being the Rockstar, is a story of ambition, perseverance, friendship and identity.

Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. The writer is a relative of Qazi Touqeer
mail: wania6817@gmail.com)

The crucial point came in 2005 when Qazi participated in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul on Sony Entertainment Television. Facing continuous criticism from the judges, Qazi apparently made it to the danger zone almost ten times. Yet, the audience kept supporting him, and he received about 2.5 crore votes in the show, where the voting process involved paid SMS services.



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Adani targets $120 billion-plus in capex as group pitches leverage discipline to investors

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 24: Adani Group plans to invest more than USD 120 billion over the next five to six years across infrastructure, energy and data centres while seeking to keep net debt below 3.5 times earnings (EBITDA), according to a Jefferies research note on the group's annual conference.

The group is leaning on its financial record as it expands in power, ports, transmission and data centres.

At its annual investor conference, the group said its net debt-to-EBITDA ratio had declined from a peak of around 3.6-3.8 times during 2019-23. Group Chief Financial Officer Jugeshinder Singh highlighted lower borrowing costs, improving asset returns and a diversified funding base as evidence of stronger financial resilience, according to a Jefferies research note on the event.

However, Jefferies' forecasts for six listed Adani companies put their aggregate net debt-to-EBITDA ratio at 3.7 times in FY27 and FY28, before declining to 3.4 times in FY29 and 3.1 times in FY30. Including debt associated with the Ambuja Cement acquisition, the brokerage estimates the ratio at 4.0 times and 3.9 times, respectively, in FY27 and FY28.

Singh opened the conference by saying net debt/EBITDA had fallen from a peak of about 3.6-3.8 times in 2019-23. Management said return on assets is about 14.5 per cent, or about 16 per cent excluding projects still under construction, and that average borrowing costs have dropped to about 7.5 per cent from about 10 per cent in 2019. About 92 per cent of portfolio companies are investment grade, against a target of 100 per cent.

Management expects about USD 120 billion of cumulative funds from operations (FFO) over 10 years, roughly matching planned capex. The group's listed companies plan annual capex of Rs 2 lakh crore to Rs 2.2 lakh crore from FY27 to FY31, up from Rs 1.53 lakh crore in FY26, a rise of roughly 30 per cent to 44 per cent.

Total debt stood at USD 43.2 billion at end-September, 91 per cent of it long-term. Domestic banks supply 48 per cent, global banks 23 per cent, global capital markets 16 per cent and domestic capital markets 8 per cent. Domestic bank loans carry an average maturity of nine years, against about 2.5 years for global bank debt. Domestic bond borrowing rose about 58 per cent from a year earlier. The group holds about USD 8 billion in cash and raised about USD 3 billion of equity in July-August, part of roughly USD 26 billion over six years.

Data centres are among the group's key expansion priorities, with AdaniConneX reporting a 1.2 GW order book and an additional 1 GW in reservations from existing customers.

The venture, established in 2021 with an initial target of developing 1 GW of capacity by 2030, is developing five sites, each with the potential to reach 1 GW. The group has subsequently announced a broader target of 5 GW of data centre capacity by 2035.

The Adani Group has been working to rebuild investor confidence following the January 2023 short-seller report and subsequent US legal and regulatory developments beginning in November 2024.

US authorities had alleged a USD 265 million bribery scheme linked to Indian solar power contracts, allegations the group has denied. The US Securities and Exchange Commission's civil case was settled in May, with the group agreeing to pay USD 18 million in penalties without admitting wrongdoing. The US Justice Department subsequently moved to dismiss the criminal indictment with prejudice.

Vidyakul raises Rs 10 cr from Dell Foundation to expand vernacular learning platform

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: Education technology company Vidyakul has secured Rs 10 crore in debt financing from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to expand its vernacular learning platform for state-board students, as it looks to widen access to affordable education beyond Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Gurugram-based company plans to use the funding to expand courses, assessments and personalised academic support for students in Classes 9-12, while scaling artificial intelligence-powered learning tools that provide answers to students' questions in Hindi, according to a company statement.

The financing comes amid growing adoption of the platform, which says more than 1.17 lakh students enrolled in its paid programmes during the 2025-26 academic year. Its YouTube channels have more than 15 million subscribers, while over 11 lakh students access its free educational content annually.

Vidyakul said 99.8 per cent of its Bihar students who appeared for the 2026 Class 12 board examinations passed, compared with the state's overall pass rate of 85 per cent. About 70 per cent of its students also secured first division, according to the company.

The company said its AI-powered tools currently resolve around 1.2 million student queries every month. It plans to expand these capabilities to offer more personalised learning support and develop educational and career pathways for students beyond Class 12.

Founded in 2018 by Tarun Saini and Raman Garg, Vidyakul focuses on Hindi-medium and other vernacular-language learners preparing for state-board examinations. Its courses cater to students following the Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat board curricula, with a focus on learners in smaller towns and rural areas.

"With the Dell Foundation's support, we can reach more of these students and do even more for each one," founder and Chief Executive Tarun Saini

Two IPOs to hit market in Dec; Monomark Engineering, Matangi Rubber to raise funds via public issues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: Two companies, Monomark Engineering (India) Ltd and Matangi Rubber Ltd, are set to launch their initial public offerings (IPOs) in the first week of December to raise funds for business expansion and working capital requirements.

Monomark Engineering will open its IPO on December 2 and close on December 4, while Matangi Rubber's public issue will be available for subscription from December 1 to December 3, according to their respective red herring prospectuses (RHPs).

The anchor investor bidding for Matangi Rubber will take place on November 30, while Monomark Engineering will hold its anchor bidding on December 1, a day before its public issue opens.

Moreover, Foodlink F&B Holdings (India) Ltd, which operates in the luxury food services segment, will launch its IPO on November 26, and Integris Medtech, a diversified medical technology platform backed by private equity firm Everstone Capital, will float its public issue on November 27.

Industrial services company Monomark Engineering (India) Ltd's IPO is entirely a fresh issue of up to 2.70 crore equity shares with no OFS component.

The company proposes to utilise Rs 120 crore from the net proceeds towards funding its incremental working capital requirements, while the remaining amount will be deployed for general corporate purposes.

The company operates across seven states in India, including the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. It has also incorporated a subsidiary, Monomark Engineering FZE, in the United Arab Emirates to explore international business opportunities.

Matangi Rubber's IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to 57.62 lakh equity shares and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 15.15 lakh shares by promoters and existing shareholders.

India's ties with Russia an 'added value', can help push for end to Ukraine war: Dutch FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 : The Netherlands views India's continued engagement with Russia as an "added value", as New Delhi can use its ties with Moscow to persuade it to end the war in Ukraine, Dutch



Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen has said.

Berendsen is on an official visit to India from November 22 to 23. He co-chaired the inaugural Foreign Ministers' Meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi on Sunday and reviewed the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership.

"We understand that India has its own history, its own role in the world and its own relations," Berendsen told PTI on Sunday, responding to a question on India's strategic autonomy and its continued engagement with Moscow.

"We actually see it as an added value of our relationship with India that it has a relationship with Russia and can also use that relationship to show Russia that it needs to put an end to this war and accept a ceasefire," he said.

The Russia-Ukraine war, in its fifth year, continues with intensified attacks from both sides. Russia has stepped up strikes on Ukrainian cities and energy infrastructure, while US-brokered peace talks have made little progress beyond a prisoner swap.

Berendsen said India and the Netherlands, as trading countries, shared concerns over maritime security and freedom of navigation, and needed to work together to address challenges in an increasingly uncertain world.

"I think we're dealing with the same challenges: how to decrease dependencies, how to be more strategically autonomous on critical raw materials, technology and energy," he said.

"If you want to do that, you need to diversify, which means new partnerships. I think the Netherlands, the EU and India are doing exactly that," he added.

"I think specifically in the sectors of energy, security, technology, semiconductors, water and agriculture, we're really taking steps together," Berendsen said.

On trade, he described the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement, expected to be signed in December, as a crucial step that could open opportunities beyond merchandise trade.

The FTA "will benefit many, not only in terms of products but also in areas such as the energy transition and the export of green hydrogen from India to the Netherlands and Europe", he told reporters during a press conference. The Netherlands is India's 11th largest trading partner in the world. It is also India's 3rd largest export destination globally and the largest in Europe. The total bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries stood at USD 27.7 billion in 2024-2025, according to official data.

Berendsen also welcomed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Tata Electronics and Dutch semiconductor major ASML, saying cooperation in the semiconductor ecosystem offered significant possibilities for both countries.

Private investment project announcements surge 58.5 pc to Rs 26.6 lakh cr in H1 FY27: CII

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 24: Private sector project announcements surged 58.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 26.6 lakh crore in the first half of FY27 ended September, reflecting improving investor confidence amid sustained government reforms, infrastructure development and regulatory improvements, CII said on Tuesday.

According to the second edition of CII's Private Investment Barometer, private sector announcements accounted for 86.2 per cent of total project announcements during April-September 2026, up from 74.2 per cent in the corresponding period last year.

The investment announcements during the first half of FY27 were 4.4 times the average recorded in the first halves of FY17 to FY25, indicating a strengthening investment pipeline.

CII President R Mukundan said the government's sustained policy reforms, infrastructure development and improvements in the regulatory framework have created a strong enabling environment for private investment. "The government deserves considerable credit for creating a strong enabling environment for private investment through sustained policy reforms, infrastructure development and improvements in the regulatory framework.

"The consistency and continuity of these efforts, despite considerable global uncertainty, have strengthened business confidence and provided greater visibility for long-term investment decisions. Indian industry has been responding to these opportunities, and we are seeing encouraging evidence of this in both investment announcements and actual capital formation," he said.

Importantly, the improvement in private investment extends beyond announcements, with gross capital formation by approximately 1,800 listed private firms reaching Rs 12.4 lakh crore in FY26, equivalent to 3.6 per cent of nominal GDP, compared with an average of 2.2 per cent during FY17 to FY21, the industry body said.

On a comparable-firm basis, investment increased by 8.7 per cent in FY26.

Further, 54 per cent of firms increased their fixed investment rates, while approximately three out of four added net productive capacity.

India, Canada 'very close' to conclude trade pact negotiations: Official

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 24: Negotiators from India and Canada are holding daily discussions on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and are "very close" to concluding the negotiations, an official said.

The engagements are important as both sides aim to conclude the talks by the end of this year.

"Both teams are talking every day. We are very close," the official said.

Last week (November 11-20), the two countries concluded the sixth round of negotiations for the agreement, aimed at unlocking new opportunities in trade and investment, and diversifying supply chains.

The negotiations covered key areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, trade remedies, intellectual property and investment promotion.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal also held a meeting with Glenn Purves, Vice Minister of International Trade of Canada, and his delegation to review the progress of these negotiations.

The ongoing negotiations mark the resumption of talks, as the two countries had earlier engaged in a similar exercise, but Canada paused it in 2023.

Now, they have decided to resume talks this year because much has changed on the global trade front during those two years.

The India-Canada CEPA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in March. Track Exec Orders

The negotiations are important as the two sides have set a target to increase the bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. It declined by 8.23 per cent to USD 7.95 billion (USD 4.67 billion exports and USD 3.28 billion imports) in 2025-26 from USD 8.66 billion in 2024-25. The trade gap was in favour of India at USD 1.38 billion.

Canada represents a market of 41.65 million people (2025) and a GDP of USD 2.34 trillion at purchasing power parity. The country is also home to over 425,000 Indian students and a strong Indian community.

Major items of India's exports to Canada include pharmaceutical products, machinery parts and mechanical appliances, iron and steel articles, electronic goods, organic chemicals, jewellery, gems and precious stones, clothing and textile articles, seafood, engineering goods and auto parts.

Imports included pulses, fertilizers (potash), mineral fuels, wood pulp, gems and precious stones (diamonds), aircraft parts, machinery parts, paper and paperboard and iron and aluminium scrap.

Hyundai to increase vehicle prices by up to Rs 8,000 from December

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: Hyundai Motor India on Tuesday said it plans to increase prices of select models and variants by up to Rs 8,000 from December 1 amid higher input cost pressure.

The company has planned a minor price increase effective December 1, 2026, across select models and trims of its vehicle lineup, the automaker said in an exchange filing.



The extent of the price increase will vary depending on the model and trim and shall be up to a maximum of Rs 8,000. The decision has been necessitated primarily on account of the steep increase in input costs.

The company noted that though it has consistently absorbed a substantial part of the rising costs through internal efficiencies and cost optimisation measures, it has become necessary to pass on a limited portion of the increased costs to customers.

The latest price hike will be in addition to the 1.4 per cent increase the South Korean automaker has implemented so far this calendar year. This includes a 0.4 per cent hike in September.

Rising commodity prices had dented Hyundai's profitability during the second quarter, with EBITDA margin falling to 9.5 per cent from 13.9 per cent. The automaker saw its consolidated net profit drop nearly 24 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter.

Commodity costs reduced the South Korean automaker's margins by roughly 400 basis points year-on-year during the quarter, while sequentially the impact was around 250 basis points. Maruti Suzuki also raised prices for select vehicle models from November 22, citing sustained cost pressures. The estimated volume-weighted average price increase was around 0.31 per cent this time, following three rounds of increases in the first half of the financial year, totalling a little over 1 per cent. (PTI)

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Comply with SC order on lighting lamp in Thirupparankundram, HC Bench tells administration

Press Trust Of India



MADURAI (TAMIL NADU), NOV 24 :The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Tuesday directed the Madurai collector and other officials to comply with the Supreme Court order on lighting the ceremonial lamp at Thirupparankundram 'Deepathoon' this evening.Also, the court ordered the release of all those persons detained by the police under the prohibitory orders.Madurai Collector Nishanth Krishna and Deputy Commissioner of Police A G Inigo Thivyan appeared before the bench of Justices G R Swaminathan and M D Sumathi in the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the prohibitory orders enforced in Madurai under section 163 of BNSS, over the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam in Thirupparankundram.

The Bench held that Tamil Nadu's pending review petition is no excuse for non-compliance.

Disposing of the batch of petitions challenging the Madurai District Collector's Section 163 BNSS prohibitory orders, the bench issued binding directions ahead of this evening's ritual.

The court reminded the Collector that under Article 144 of the Constitution, he is answerable directly to the Supreme Court and must ignore any contrary advice against implementing the November 20 order.

"Pendency of review petition is not a ground for not complying with the order," the Bench stated, asking all authorities concerned, including the district Collector, Police Commissioner, and temple management to strictly execute the Supreme Court's directive to light the lamp on Deepathoon.

While upholding restrictions on unauthorised hill climbing, the bench ruled that Section 163 BNSS orders must not infringe upon devotees' fundamental religious rights under Article 25, ordering the immediate release of anyone unlawfully detained under the prohibitory orders.

The court passed a restraining order prohibiting members of the public from calling for defiance of the Supreme Court's directive, clarifying that while judicial orders may be criticised, active obstruction will not be tolerated. The court reminded the Collector that under Article 144 of the Constitution, he is answerable directly to the Supreme Court and must ignore any contrary advice against implementing the November 20 order.

"Pendency of review petition is not a ground for not complying with the order," the Bench stated, asking all authorities concerned, including the district Collector, Police Commissioner, and temple management to strictly execute the Supreme Court's directive to light the lamp on Deepathoon.

Allahabad HC pulls up SDM for appearing through video conferencing from his drawing room



Press Trust Of India

PRAYAGRAJ, NOV 23 :The Allahabad High Court has pulled up the sub-divisional magistrate (judicial), Chitrakoot, for appearing before the court through video conferencing from his drawing room instead of his office.

Justice Sarurabh Shyam Shamshery, in his order passed on November 20, sought explanations from both the SDM and the district magistrate for the arrangement as the SDM had explained that the internet facility was better at his residence and he was appearing from home with the DM's permission.

The court questioned why the SDM was permitted to appear from his drawing room when he was required to address the high court.

The court observed, "Today, author of impugned order, i.e., present Sub Divisional Magistrate (Judicial), Chitrakoot appeared through video conferencing. Surprisingly, he appeared from his drawing room and not from office giving an explanation that internet facility is better at his home and he is sitting at home with permission of district magistrate concerned.

"It is more surprising that why district magistrate allowed him to appear from his drawing room, when he has to address this court. Even if internet facility was not available at his office, the district magistrate can allow him to appear from his office, i.e., Office of District Magistrate and for that the court directs to call an explanation from said sub-divisional magistrate as well as concerned district magistrate also." The court observed, "Today, author of impugned order, i.e., present Sub Divisional Magistrate (Judicial), Chitrakoot appeared through video conferencing. Surprisingly, he appeared from his drawing room and not from office giving an explanation that internet facility is better at his home and he is sitting at home with permission of district magistrate concerned.

Mumbai couple attack: Two more minor boys detained; Maharashtra minister targets madrasas

Press Trust Of India



MUMBAI, NOV 23 : Police on Monday detained two more minor boys over the assault on a couple in a Mumbai park, taking the total apprehensions to eight, as the incident triggered a political row involving Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane.

While Rane targeted madrasas, the Congress accused the BJP of giving a "religious colour" to crime.

The two boys were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and remanded to a correctional home till December 4, an official said.

Six other minors, aged between 12 and 15, were detained on Saturday and are already lodged at the same facility till December 4.

The incident took place at the Pramod Mahajan Garden behind a mall in Kurla West and came to light after a video clip went viral on social media on Friday, triggering widespread outrage.

The footage showed the young man and his female friend being surrounded by a group of minors, who assaulted them with a stick, punched and kicked them, and chased them as they tried to escape.

The police later identified the minors involved in the assault and registered a case under section 189(2) (unlawful assembly), 118(1) (voluntarily causing hurt using dangerous weapons or means), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) and other relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Reacting to the incident, BJP leader and state minister Nitesh Rane alleged that madrasas (Islamic seminaries) impart no proper education and only teach students to hate, convert, and kill Hindus.

"This is written in the Quran, which is what is taught in madrasas. They don't make doctors and engineers there. They only teach how to kill and convert Hindus. No good education is given in madrasas," he alleged while speaking to reporters. Rane said Maharashtra has a Hindutvadi government; "if anyone looks at Hindus with ill intentions, then on Fridays they will have issues even while standing or sitting, and their legs will tremble.

More than 2.36 million end-of-life vehicles plying in Delhi-NCR: CAQM to SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 :The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has told the Supreme Court that more than 2.36 million end-of-life vehicles are plying on roads across Delhi-NCR.

An end-of-life vehicle is a vehicle that can no longer be legally registered or operated on public roads due to age limits, failed fitness tests, cancelled registration, severe damage, or voluntary surrender by its owner.

In its affidavit filed in the top court, the CAQM said that of the 2.54 million overage vehicles reported across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, only 1.85 lakh had been scrapped or issued no-objection certificates.

The affidavit was submitted in a suo motu case examining the regulatory framework governing air pollution.

The commission said two-wheelers account for 65.2 per cent of the total vehicle population in Delhi-NCR, while four-wheeler light motor vehicles comprise another 28.9 per cent.

The commission submitted that older vehicles emit considerably higher quantities of pollutants than those conforming to Bharat Stage-VI norms.

Detailing the steps taken to control pollution, the CAQM said it has directed that only CNG, electric or BS-VI diesel inter-city buses be allowed to enter Delhi from November 1, 2026, including buses operating under All India Tourist Permits.

Similarly, commercial goods vehicles other than BS-VI, CNG, LNG and electric vehicles have been barred from entering Delhi from November 1, 2026, subject to the applicable exemptions, the commission informed the Supreme Court.

CJI stresses constitutional morality, integrity in legal profession

Press Trust Of India



SONEPAT, NOV 23 :Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday stressed upholding constitutional morality, integrity and social responsibility, calling upon law students that the pursuit of professional success should never become an excuse for compromising one's principles.

He further asserted that the effectiveness of a justice system should be measured not only by the quality of judgments or sophistication of institutions but also by its ability to provide meaningful relief to ordinary citizens.

CJI Kant was delivering the inaugural lecture of the colloquium series on Law, Society and Governance -- 'Dharmakshetra: The Path of Righteousness' -- at Dr BR Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat.

"Our Constitution gives institutional expression to values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These are not merely ideals placed in the Preamble and they are the foundations upon which the legitimacy of our institutions rests.

"It is also a moral commitment that we have collectively made to one another. Its success depends not only upon the quality of its provisions but also upon the willingness of institutions and individuals to uphold its spirit," he noted.

Invoking Dr BR Ambedkar, the CJI said constitutional morality does not emerge automatically

from the existence of a Constitution but had to be cultivated through institutional conduct, public responsibility and individual commitment.

Kerala HC grants bail to Sri Lankan, part of alleged conspiracy to revive LTTE

Press Trust Of India

KOCHI, NOV 24 :The Kerala High Court has granted bail to a Sri Lankan national allegedly residing in India illegally and accused of having a significant role in a "transnational conspiracy" to finance and facilitate the revival of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) through violent and unlawful means.



A bench of justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and K V Jayakumar said that continued detention of the Sri Lankan national -- Muhammed Asmin -- cannot be justified as he has been given pardon by the special NIA court and he has agreed to assist the prosecution as an approver.

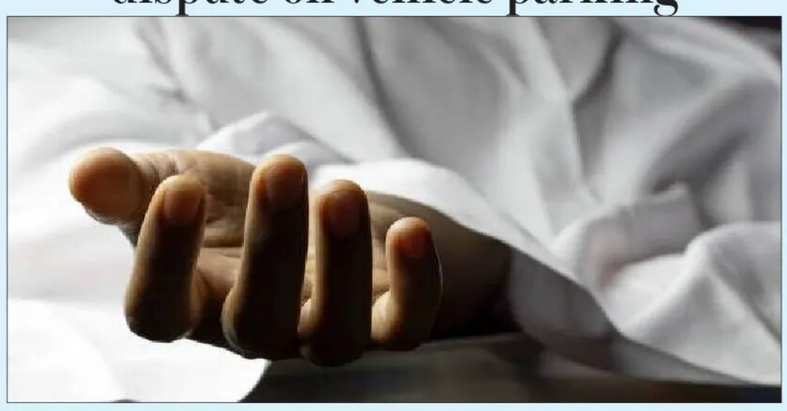
"Taking into account the period of incarceration already undergone, the grant of pardon, the fact that some of the co-accused have been enlarged on bail in connected cases and the legal position discussed, we are of the view the appellant (Asmin) is entitled to be released on bail, subject to appropriate conditions to ensure his availability for the proceedings, protect the integrity of the prosecution and safeguard the interests of justice," the bench said.

While granting the relief, the High Court also said that the present case was one where the appellant should be considered for protection under the Kerala Witness Protection Scheme. "Accordingly, the Secretary to Government, Home Department, shall take immediate steps to ensure the appellant is brought within the protective framework of the applicable Kerala Witness Protection Scheme and that such protection as may be considered necessary is extended to him in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme," it said.

The High Court emphasised that the criminal justice system can function effectively only when persons who come forward to assist the administration of justice, often at considerable personal risk, are assured that their safety will not be compromised on account of their willingness to testify. It said that the protection of witnesses was not merely a matter of individual security and was an essential prerequisite for the fair and effective administration of criminal justice. "A system which expects witnesses to come forward and assist in the prosecution of offenders must also ensure that they are not left vulnerable to threats, intimidation or retaliation," it added.

The bench directed Asmin to execute a bond of Rs 1 lakh and furnish two solvent sureties each of the like sum subject to the satisfaction of the special court, surrender his passport and furnish his complete residential address along with his current mobile phone number to the investigating officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Man arrested for opening fire on neighbour over dispute on vehicle parking



Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN, NOV 24 :A man was arrested here on Tuesday for allegedly opening fire at his neighbour over a parking dispute, police said.

The accused was identified as 45-year-old Dharampal alias Munna, a resident of Haripurkala in Dehradun, police said.

According to the complainant, Shivam Lingwal, Dharampal came to the front of his house around 10 pm on Monday and began kicking his motorcycle and another neighbour's car while hurling abuses.

When Lingwal and his sister asked Dharampal to stop, he became even more enraged, allegedly pulled out a revolver from his pocket and opened fire, the complaint stated. Lingwal and his sister narrowly escaped being hit by a bullet. Lingwal's motorcycle was struck by a bullet, police said.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered at the Raiwala police station under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, they said.

A police team inspected the crime scene, collected footage from CCTV cameras installed in the vicinity and spoke to locals, they said.

Based on the information collected and a tip-off, Dharampal was arrested near Raiwala Road on Tuesday. The licensed revolver used in the incident was recovered from his possession, police said.

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The commission said two-wheelers account for 65.2 per cent of the total vehicle population in Delhi-NCR, while four-wheeler light motor vehicles comprise another 28.9 per cent.

The commission submitted that older vehicles emit considerably higher quantities of pollutants than those conforming to Bharat Stage-VI norms.

Detailing the steps taken to control pollution, the CAQM said it has directed that only CNG, electric or BS-VI diesel inter-city buses be allowed to enter Delhi from November 1, 2026, including buses operating under All India Tourist Permits.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha

rights and self-respect of every hardworking farmer.

"His sacrifice continues to inspire society to stand against injustice and uphold respect for labour. Baba Jitto's message also transcends caste, class and community, and represents a shared national heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the true tribute to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi would be the creation of a society where no farmer is left alone in the struggle for rights and dignity. He called for a "Whole of Society Approach" to ensure inclusive development and social justice.

"We must build a society where every person receives respect, where social harmony endures, and where the benefits of development reach the last person in society. To contribute to a developed India, we must build a developed Jammu Kashmir, and three values must always remain at its foundation- truth, hard work, and mutual respect.

For this, farmers must continue their hard work. Teachers must educate the new generation in accordance with a changing world. Youth must come forward for innovation. Government officials must serve the public with complete dedication and every family must instil good values in young children. From ordinary citizens to government officials, everyone must remain honest in their actions, discharge their responsibilities with sincerity, and work together in difficult circumstances," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined the contributions of farmers in sustaining the nation and enriching its traditions. He highlighted the transformative impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in UT, noting progress in agriculture, horticulture and dairy sectors through modern infrastructure, diversification and market-oriented reforms. He urged farmers, particularly small and marginal cultivators, to adopt modern technology and align production with emerging market demands.

The Lieutenant Governor also encouraged greater adoption of millet cultivation. He said the millet crops are climate-resilient and income-enhancing option in the face of irregular rainfall, rising temperatures and declining groundwater levels.

Calling upon youth to transform agriculture through technology, entrepreneurship and scientific practices, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to view farming and allied sectors as dynamic engines of growth.

"Jammu Kashmir's agricultural landscape offers immense opportunities for innovation and employment, and youth must play a leading role in making farming more productive, profitable and future-ready," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also commended the growing participation of women in the rural economy. The Lieutenant Governor said that women farmers, self-help groups and rural entrepreneurs are playing a pivotal role in driving economic self-reliance across Jammu Kashmir. He called for expanded opportunities in education, skill development and entrepreneurship for women in rural areas.

"Many self-help groups are now working alongside women farmers to give a new direction to the rural economy. The women in villages are setting new examples of economic self-reliance through local products, handicrafts, food processing, and small enterprises. In the agriculture and allied sectors, our daughters are setting new benchmarks of innovation and entrepreneurship," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting the rich legacy of Dogra culture, the Lieutenant Governor urged the youth to take pride in their language, folk traditions and regional history. He encouraged the use of digital technologies to preserve and promote cultural heritage globally.

"Sit with your elders. Learn old songs from them, listen to folk tales, and learn the history of your region. Preserve such heritage through digital means, so that future generations can also become familiar with it.

I believe that technology today places in our hands a power through which we can take our culture to every corner of the country and the world. We must use this technology to introduce the world to the identity of Dogra culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the administration is making continuous efforts to ensure the smooth and efficient organization of the Jhiri Mela. The infrastructure here has seen significant improvement, and efforts will continue to expand it further as needed, he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor visited the exhibition stalls set up by government departments, agri-entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups and farmers. The event also featured a short play on Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi, and captivating performances by artists showcasing the region's rich art and cultural heritage.

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Shri Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Member of Legislative Assembly from Suchetgarh; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Shri Vikas Kundal, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Ms. Aayushi Sudan, Municipal Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, prominent citizens, progressive farmers and people from all walks of life were present.

BJP

the activity along the Amarnath cave route.

However, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) -- the executing agency for the works -- said the post-Amarnath Yatra works are being carried out in compliance with all applicable safety norms and environmental safeguards.

"What is being projected as an environmental issue increasingly appears to be an attempt to manufacture controversy, disturb the peaceful atmosphere and exploit religious sentiments for narrow political gains," JK BJP spokesperson and former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina said in a statement.

Without naming any party or individual, Raina said attempts are being made by political parties and opportunistic leaders to revive the Amarnath land controversy and communalise the issue.

He said the controversy followed the elimination of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Lateef Bhat in Kulgam on November 18, and the Home Minister's declaration about the elimination of the last known Kashmiri terrorist commander.

"After failing to mobilise public sentiment against security operations over frisking and restrictions during the eight-day cordon and search operation, these political elements had found a new pretext in the Amarnath Yatra track-widening issue," he claimed.

The BJP leader said the BRO has clarified that the work concerns widening and stabilisation of vulnerable stretches of the existing Chandanwari–Amarnath track to ease congestion and improve pilgrim safety, while maintaining that environmental safeguards are being followed.

"Every project needs approval and strict watch of the NGT (National Green Tribunal). Projects, as has been clarified by the BRO, unlike under previous regimes, have been undertaken in accordance with prescribed safety norms and environmental safeguards," he said.

He said ecological concerns cannot become an excuse for communal mobilisation or political intimidation.

"The BJP would like to ask these self-appointed guardians of Kashmir's environment one simple question: Where does their environmental concern disappear when other major infrastructure projects are undertaken in the region? Why is there no comparable outrage over the environmental impact of the Mughal Road, whose construction has fragmented vital wildlife habitats in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the endangered markhor (Capra falconeri)?" he asked.

Raina also questioned the silence over tree felling for power transmission infrastructure and works along the flood channel, asking why these projects did not attract similar environmental scrutiny and political rhetoric.

He cited reports of a sharp decline in the markhor population, from 45–55 in 2004 to just three in 2022–23, alongside ecological concerns linked to road construction, landslides and tourism waste.

The BJP leader said the Mughal Road, connecting Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with Shopian in south Kashmir, which passes through high-altitude Pir Ki Gali, and its proposed tunnel had consistently been projected as key development and connectivity projects, stressing that environmental safeguards must apply equally to all infrastructure works.

He maintained that environmental protection should not be used as a political tool against the Amarnath Yatra, asserting that improving the safety and accessibility of the sacred pilgrimage route cannot be portrayed as an assault on Kashmir's ecology or identity.

"The Amarnath Yatra is a sacred national pilgrimage, not a communal provocation. Improving the safety and accessibility of an established pilgrimage route cannot automatically be portrayed as an assault on Kashmir's ecology or identity," he said.

Calling for environmental concerns to be assessed through scientific evidence and expert opinion, he cautioned against attempts to communalise development and disturb peace in Kashmir, adding that the BJP would oppose any such move.

"Kashmir has suffered enough from the politics of separatism, fear and manufactured grievances. Its people deserve development, peace and responsible politics—not another round of divisive agitation.

"Let environmental concerns be decided by scientific evidence, expert assessment and established laws—not by political convenience," he said.

Congress

-altitude Sheshnag Lake, a high-risk glacial lake, in south Kashmir's Ananatnag district has sparked widespread outrage, with political parties, religious leaders and environmentalists demanding an immediate halt to the activity along the Amarnath cave route.

However, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Monday said post-Amarnath Yatra works are being carried out in compliance with all applicable safety norms and environmental safeguards.

Karra said he was surprised to see how the machinery had reached the location and questioned the purpose behind its deployment.

"I was surprised to see how the JCB reached Sheshnag. From what we could make out in the video, it appeared to be digging soil and dumping it on the left-hand side, towards the lake," Karra said here.

He said reports suggesting that the agency concerned had obtained no-objection certificates (NOCs) from various departments made it even more important to establish the purpose of the work.

"But for which project was it taken there? Which department is involved? Which department granted the NOC, and which other departments gave their approval? It is very important to obtain information about this," he said.

The Congress leader said the government must clarify its position and make the details of the project and the approvals granted public.

Mehbooba

on Tuesday morning towards Sheshnag along the Amarnath Yatra route in the south Kashmir district.

The PDP leaders tried to trek from Chandanwari towards Sheshnag, but were stopped by police.

Speaking to reporters, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir expressed alarm over the reports of large-scale excavation, warning that deploying heavy bulldozers in the ecologically fragile zone threatens both the environment and the pilgrimage's religious sanctity.

"The information we are receiving about what is happening there in Sheshnag is very terrifying that they have taken huge machines and huge bulldozers to Sheshnag, which is a few kilometres away from the Amarnath Ji cave, and excavation is taking place there," she said.

The former chief minister asserted that forests, mountains and glaciers, including Sheshnag, play a huge role in the formation of the 'Shivling' -- the naturally formed ice lingam -- during the Amarnath Yatra.

"If you destroy Jammu and Kashmir's environment, its glaciers, its mountains, and its forests like this, and take such huge machines up there, then how will this Shivling manifest? Then what will you come here for?" she questioned.

Highlighting the religious and cultural significance of the site, Mehbooba said that Sheshnag is deeply revered in Hindu tradition, and described the annual yatra as a centuries-old symbol of Kashmiriyat and Hindu-Muslim brotherhood.

She alleged that the authorities were using "development" and the pilgrimage as a pretext to "alter the landscape", drawing parallels to environmental disasters in Uttarakhand.

"You ruined the situation in Uttarakhand as well; there too, you turned pilgrimage tourism, a matter of faith, into a tourist destination. You are doing the same thing here," she said.

Appealing to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to intervene and review the project plans, the PDP chief urged the government not to compromise Kashmir's fragile Himalayan ecology.

"Besides our environment, these Himalayan mountains, the forests, and our glaciers, Jammu and Kashmir has nothing else," she said, adding that previous administrations had always prioritised environmental preservation along the route.

Prakash

Gurdwaras. Similar celebrations were also held in other local Gurdwaras including Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla in Srinagar, Tral Pulwama, Rangreth Budgam, Pattan and Baramulla in north Kashmir and others

Meanwhile, on the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar, Jammu. He prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness, and well-being of one and all.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings on the sacred occasion. He urged the people to walk the righteous path shown by Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and strive for the welfare of all, while upholding the core values of social justice, compassion, and universal brotherhood.

"May Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's blessings continue to guide humanity toward peace and virtuous living," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Rijiju

something and take a lesson from all the good work the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has done," he said.

The minister added that every waqf board in India should do good work.

"Since I am the Chairman of the Central Waqf Council myself, we will call a meeting as well, because I want all state waqf boards to function well. The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has worked beyond my imagination, beyond what I had thought," he said, and congratulated its chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi.

Moving forward, the minister added, I will coordinate and provide whatever help and encouragement is possible.

"They have done a great job generating revenue from waqf properties and assets by planning well, and putting that revenue to work for the people," he said.

To a question about whether any step is being considered to send the waqf employees for the Haj pilgrimage like other government employees, Rijiju said the government will definitely give an opportunity to the people working for waqf.

"We want them to get a chance too. India has a Hajj quota; having just returned from Saudi Arabia, I spoke with the minister of Hajj and Umrah there. I discussed with him that it would be good if India's quota is increased.

"Within that quota, we send some employees, and we would like to give waqf personnel a chance in the future as well," he added.

CS

the sporting talent of the district, he emphasised the need to provide aspiring players with better infrastructure, professional coaching and adequate opportunities to excel at higher levels.

He stressed the need for engaging more coaches in the district under the Khelo India initiative to nurture local talent and enable promising sportspersons to compete at national and international levels.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the ongoing construction works at the Sports Stadium, Kheora, and directed the concerned authorities to ensure their expeditious execution while maintaining the prescribed quality standards for optimal utilisation of the facilities.

Reviews Developmental Works at BGSBU

At Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, the Chief Secretary inspected the ongoing construction of the university auditorium, Girls Hostel for Nursing Students and the new main gate.

He was apprised that the girls' hostel, being constructed at an allotted cost of Rs. 354.23 lakh, has achieved completion of masonry work on its ground and first floors, with plastering presently underway. Similarly, the superstructure of the new university main gate, being executed at an allotted cost of Rs. 59.11 lakh, has been completed, while the remaining works are in progress.

Directing the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of construction, he underscored that quality should not be compromised at any stage. He also emphasised the installation of rooftop solar power plants in new university buildings to promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency and reduce dependence on conventional power sources.

Protesting

notifying their service recruitment rules, alleging that the absence of these rules has stalled their career progression and promotions, officials said.

They claimed that the delay was affecting fresh recruitment in medical colleges, with adverse implications for patient care.

Protests are being held at all five newly established medical colleges — GMC Doda, GMC Rajouri, GMC Anantnag, GMC Baramulla and GMC Kathua.

Forest

sustained efforts to contain the blaze, flames continued to spread through the forest, damaging trees and other vegetation in the affected area, the officials said.

Fresh fires were reported from Gohlad Top and Chajjla Patri forest areas of the Mendhar sector on Tuesday morning, adding to concerns over the spread of the blazes across forest areas along the Line of Control (LoC), officials said.

The difficult terrain and inaccessible location of the affected areas prevented the deployment of fire tenders. Personnel instead used fire beaters to control the flames and prevent the fire from spreading further, they said.

Security has been strengthened in the affected sectors, with security forces maintaining heightened vigilance and keeping a close watch on the situation.

Additional alertness has been maintained along vulnerable stretches to prevent any possible attempt by terrorists to exploit the situation and infiltrate this side of the border, the officials said.

They said security personnel are closely monitoring the forest areas and adjoining LoC stretches, particularly in view of the difficult terrain and reduced visibility caused by smoke and flames.

Mercury

fog engulfed many areas of Srinagar and other places in the valley.

The officials said that Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature at the tourist resort of Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag, settled at minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, also the season's lowest, the officials said.

Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

They said Shopian, also in south Kashmir, registered the season's low of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius,

Kupwara, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1 degrees Celsius, while the night temperature at Kokernag settled at a low of minus 0.1 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Meteorological Department has forecast mainly dry weather in the valley till the month-end, and said there is a possibility of a further drop in the night temperature.

Boilerplate

verification of information and established journalistic practices.

A key question being raised is whether newspapers operating in the Jammu division were also served similar explanation notices. If not, the department has been asked to clarify why the same standards concerning shared infrastructure, circulation and employees' PF benefits are not being applied uniformly across Jammu and Kashmir.

The media fraternity has maintained that while accountability of newspaper establishments is necessary, the Information Department must also ensure transparency, fairness and accountability in its own functioning. Regulatory scrutiny, it has been argued, should not create an impression of intimidation or selective targeting of media organisations.

The controversy has also revived questions over the department's treatment of individual newspaper establishments, particularly the alleged discontinuation of government advertisements to Roye Insaaf, reportedly leaving its editor-publisher in severe financial distress.

Questions have also been raised over whether officials of the department visited the family of the newspaper's editor-publisher to offer condolences following his death, despite routinely attending social and official occasions involving politicians and bureaucrats.

The alleged lack of sensitivity towards struggling newspaper establishments, media representatives argue, has further widened the trust deficit between the government and the press.

The government, it has been urged, should take steps to protect the print media, which continues to serve as an important pillar of democracy and a bridge between the administration and the people, and ensure that its functioning is not undermined by what has been described as an insensitive and non-serious administrative approach.

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Centre Court Pickleball League partners with Youth Feed Foundation to support Hyderabad's children

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, NOV 24 :Centre Court Pickleball League (CCPL) Hyderabad has partnered with Youth Feed Foundation (YFF) as its official NGO Partner for Season 2, bringing together sport and social responsibility to support the wellbeing of children and families from underserved communities.

The partnership will focus on raising funds, increasing awareness of Youth Feed Foundation's work and creating opportunities for the league's community to get involved.

Founded in 2020, Youth Feed Foundation began as a volunteer-led response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the organisation works towards improving nutrition, healthcare and educational opportunities for children from migrant and marginalised communities.

Through initiatives such as Project Gyan Shakthi, the foundation has supported 1,074 children across 51 community learning centres in Hyderabad during 2024-25, helping address nutritional gaps that can affect children's growth, health and learning. This year, YFF has further expanded on its work to reach 7000 children across brick-kilns and urban settlements in Hyderabad.

With eight franchise teams, a growing network of players and owners, and an engaged audience across Hyderabad, CCPL hopes to use its platform to bring greater attention and support to Youth Feed Foundation's work.

Beyond fundraising, the partnership will explore opportunities for on-ground engagement, community activities and greater visibility for the foundation throughout the league. Potential matchday initiatives will offer supporters a chance to learn about the organisation and participatein its efforts.

"Sport has an extraordinary ability to bring people together. With CCPL, we've seen that happen every weekend. We want to use that connection to contribute to something meaningful beyond the court.

Pressure is normal, I settle after four balls: Sooryavanshi



United News Of India

DOHA, NOV 24 :For teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, pressure is an inevitable part of batting, but it rarely takes more than a handful of deliveries for him to overcome the nerves and get into his rhythm.

The 15-year-old, who stunned the cricketing world with a record-breaking 53-ball 204 against the UAE in the Rising Stars Asia Cup, admitted that he does feel pressure at the crease but has learnt to settle down quickly and trust his natural game.

"Absolutely, sir. Always. You do feel a little pressure. It's normal, it's human nature to feel a bit nervous. But after two or four balls, I settle down and get back to normal," Sooryavanshi said.

His remarkable ability to overcome initial nervousness and quickly find his rhythm was on full display against the UAE, where he unleashed an extraordinary assault, smashing a record 28 sixes in his double-century blitz.

Interestingly, Sooryavanshi said he had entered the match with a plan to spend time at the crease, having failed to convert his starts in the previous two outings.

"In the last two matches, I got set but couldn't convert those starts. So the plan was to go out there and take my time initially. But after facing a ball or two, I felt the bowlers weren't getting much help from the surface, so I backed my strengths," he said.

He said the good batting surface, which allowed the ball to come nicely onto the bat, encouraged him to take control and play according to his strengths.

The youngster credited his coaches for reinforcing a simple batting principle - watching the ball closely rather than getting carried away by the occasion.

"Hrishi (Hrishikesh Kanitkar) sir keeps telling me same thing before every match. He has been saying this since I was 19. He tells me that if I just watch the ball properly, the game will be easy for me," he said.

With his batting rhythm back, Sooryavanshi is keen to carry the momentum into the knockout stages and help India A reach the final.

"I've got my flow back in the game, so I'll try to carry this forward into the remaining matches. Hopefully, we win the semifinal and reach the final, and I can continue playing with the same flow and in my own way," he said.

Sooryavanshi, who has also taken up the responsibility of captaining Bihar, said he enjoyed leading the state side and was pleased with its performances.

He added that the senior players in the India A dressing room made him comfortable, encouraged him to listen to suggestions and created an environment where everyone could speak openly.

For a youngster already rewriting List A batting records, his approach remains remarkably uncomplicated: acknowledge the pressure, take a few balls to settle down and then back his strengths. e ball to come nicely onto the bat, encouraged him to take control and play according to his strengths.

The youngster credited his coaches for reinforcing a simple batting principle - watching the ball closely rather than getting carried away by the occasion."Hrishi (Hrishikesh Kanitkar) sir keeps telling me same thing before every match. He has been saying this since I was 19. He tells me that if I just watch the ball properly, the game will be easy for me," he said.

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CSIR-NGRI to host 53rd Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar sports tournament

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, NOV 24 :CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, will host the 53rd Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Tournament-2026, Zone-IV Outdoor Games, from November 25 to 28 at its campus.

The tournament, organised under the aegis of the CSIR Sports Promotion Board, will feature cricket and volleyball competitions involving around 176 players from eight CSIR laboratories and institutions across the country.

Telangana Sports and Youth Services Minister Vakiti Srihari will inaugurate the tournament on November 25 at the CSIR-NGRI Open Air Theatre, with Sports Authority of Telangana Chairman Shiva Sena Reddy attending as Guest of Honour. CSIR-NGRI Director Dr Prakash Kumar will preside over the inaugural function.

Organised annually in memory of Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the tournament aims to promote sportsmanship, physical fitness, teamwork and camaraderie among CSIR employees, according to an official release from CSIR-NGRI on Tuesday.

First-ever BIMSTEC U-23 athletics meet begins on Nov 25

United News Of India

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 24 : More than 200 athletes from seven countries will compete in the inaugural BIMSTEC Under-23 Athletics Championships, which begin at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

The three-day event, running from November 25 to 27, will feature competitors from hosts India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Organised by the Athletics Federation of India under the aegis of the union Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Odisha government, the championship is aimed at providing young athletes with international exposure while strengthening sporting ties among BIMSTEC nations.

"Sports brings people together and is a great medium for people-to-people connect. With this competition our athletes will get international exposure, so it's a win-win situation for us. Four athletes from Odisha are participating in this meet across events. So, we are thankful to the MEA & MYAS for giving us this opportunity to host the BIMSTEC Meet. Bhubaneswar has hosted many international events and we are happy to have got the opportunity once again," said Bhupendra Singh Poonia, commissioner-cum-secretary of the Odisha government's Sports and Youth Services Department.

India will field a 70-member contingent, selected from the Under-23 Indian Open in Ludhiana and the Junior Nationals in Chennai. The 32 medal events will be equally divided between men and women. Sri Lanka will have 59 athletes, followed by Bangladesh (36) and Nepal (31), with several participants having won medals at age-group Asian championships.

IPL 2027: Mhambrey, Rajiv set to join Punjab Kings coaching staff

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 :Punjab Kings are set to bring in former India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and ex-Chennai Super Kings staff member Rajiv Kumar as their bowling and fielding coaches, respectively, ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season.



According to cricinfo, Mhambrey will replace James Hopes, while Rajiv is expected to take over from Brad Haddin. Both Hopes and Haddin parted ways with the Shreyas Iyer-led franchise last month as Punjab look to reshape their coaching staff.

Mhambrey will work under head coach Ricky Ponting, with whom he has previously shared the dressing room at Mumbai Indians. He also has considerable experience at the international level, having served as India's bowling coach between 2021 and 2024 during Rahul Dravid's tenure as head coach.

India enjoyed considerable success during that period, reaching the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup after winning all 10 matches leading up to the title clash. They went on to lift the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean in 2024, ending an 11-year wait for an ICC trophy.

At the franchise level, Mhambrey has had two stints with Mumbai Indians, his most recent spell coming after his time with the Indian team. He left the five-time champions last month as they overhauled their coaching set-up following a disappointing 2026 campaign, in which they finished ninth with just four wins from 14 matches.

PWL season 6 rescheduled to January 3-19, auction on Nov 30

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 :The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) has revised the schedule for its sixth season, which will now be held from January 3 to 19, 2027, under the aegis of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).



The league also announced that the player auction will take place in Mumbai on November 30, with six franchises set to compete for some of the biggest names in wrestling.

The schedule change follows a revision to the United World Wrestling (UWW) calendar and has been made to ensure that the league does not clash with the international wrestling schedule, allowing leading Indian and overseas wrestlers to participate.The auction is expected to attract considerable attention, with Olympic and World Championship medallists, along with leading Indian and international grapplers, set to go under the hammer.

The previous auction saw Japan's Olympic champion Yui Susaki become the most expensive signing in PWL history after fetching Rs 60 lakh. Indian wrestlers Aman Sehrawat, Antim Panghal and Sujeet Kalkal also attracted bids of more than Rs 50 lakh each.PWL chairman Dayaan Farooqui said the revised dates would help maintain the league's alignment with the international calendar and ensure a strong field for the upcoming season.The sixth edition will feature 86 wrestlers, including 34 international medallists, across six franchises: Tiigers of Mumbai Dangals, Haryana Thunders, Delhi Dangal Warriors, Maharashtra Kesari, Punjab Royals and UP Dominators. Japanese star Susaki is among the prominent international names expected to feature alongside India's leading wrestlers.

The competition will be held across nine Olympic weight categories, with five divisions in the men's section - 57kg, 65kg, 74kg, 86kg and 125kg - and four in the women's section - 53kg, 57kg, 62kg and 76kg.

The league will retain its existing match format of two three-minute rounds, along with the 'Power Minute' rule, under which points scored in the final 60 seconds of a bout will carry double value.PWL CEO Akhil Gupta said the participation of leading international wrestlers would add to the quality of competition and provide fans with an opportunity to watch some of the world's best grapplers in action.Season 5 ended with defending champions Haryana Thunders beating Delhi Dangal Warriors 5-4 in a closely fought final. The organisers are hoping the upcoming edition will raise the standard of professional wrestling in India.

Donald's explosive 85 powers England to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Australia

United News Of India

CARRARA (AUSTRALIA), NOV 24:Aneurin Donald produced a sensational power-hitting display, smashing 85 off just 32 balls to spearhead England's emphatic eight-wicket victory over Australia in the second T20 International and level the series.

Donald hammered nine sixes and four boundaries at a staggering strike rate of 265.62 as England chased down Australia's 185-run target in just 13.1 overs, finishing at 188 for two with 41 balls to spare.

The 25-year-old right-hander dominated the Australia bowling attack from the outset, combining with Philip Salt to put together a devastating 151-run opening partnership in just 10.1 overs.

Donald was particularly severe on the Australia bowlers, clearing the boundary nine times and ensuring England maintained a scoring rate well above the required run rate throughout the chase.

Zimbabwe coach Mark Coles fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct



United News Of India

DUBAI, NOV 24 : Zimbabwe women's team head coach Mark Coles has been fined 65 per cent of his match fee after being found guilty of two Level 1 breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct following Sunday's ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy match against Ireland in Ajman.

Coles was found to have breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "use of an audible obscenity during an International Match,"and Article 2.20, which relates to "displaying conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game".

In addition to this, three demerit points have been added to the disciplinary record of Coles, who did not have a previous offence in a 24-month period.

The breach of Article 2.3 resulted in a fine of 40 per cent of his match fee and two demerit points, while the breach of Article 2.20 resulted in a 25 per cent fine and one demerit point.

After the end of the match on Sunday, Coles directed aggressive and abusive language towards Ireland captain Gaby Lewis as she celebrated her team's victory, resulting in the first breach. Subsequently, when Ireland head coach Lloyd Tennant attempted to intervene and de-escalate the situation, Coles confronted him aggressively.

New Zealand lose fast bowler Blair Tickner to injury for second India Test

United News Of India



CHRISTCHURCH, NOV 24: New Zealand's fast bowling stocks have taken a hit with news that pacer Blair Tickner will miss the second ICC World Test Championship contest against India due to a hamstring injury.

Tickner hurt his right hamstring while training in Wellington this week and will be sidelined for the second Test with India that commences at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday.

His place in the squad will be taken by fellow quick Matt Fisher, who is parachuted into the 14-player group on the back of some impressive performances during the recent ODI series against India.

Fisher claimed six wickets across that series and could come into contention for the Christchurch contest should the Black Caps decide to alter their bowling line-up that struggled for consistency during the first Test in Wellington that finished in a draw, according to ICC.

New Zealand are already without the services of key all-rounder Mitch Santner due to injury and the loss of Tickner robs them of another bowling option that could tackle India's strong batting order.

The draw in Wellington saw New Zealand relinquish second place on the World Test Championship standings and the side will be looking for a positive result in Christchurch to move back in front of their trans-Tasman rival.

New Zealand squad: Tom Latham (c), Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Dean Foxcroft, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Will Young.

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AIIMS Handwara Celebrates 16th Annual Day 'AALAV 2026': A Grand Confluence of Chemistry, Creativity and Culture

Handwara, November 23: AIIMS Handwara, celebrated its 16th Annual Day with immense enthusiasm, intellectual fervour and cultural splendour under the inspiring theme "AALAV: Celebrating Chemistry, Creativity and Culture." The grand celebration brought together distinguished dignitaries, educationists, academicians, administrators, members of civil society, parents, students and well-wishers to commemorate the institution's journey of educational excellence and its enduring commitment to holistic development.

The occasion was graced by Mr Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Handwara, as the Chief Guest. The event witnessed the esteemed presence of several prominent personalities from diverse fields, including education, administration, healthcare, law, media, literature, business and social service.

Among the distinguished guests were Mr Nazr-ul-Islam Baba, President, Private Schools Association Jammu and Kashmir; Mr Tanveer Hakeem, Joint Director Education, North; Dr Shabir Ahmad, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Kupwara; Mr Vikram Jeet Singh, Tehsildar Zachaldara; Professor Rafi Ahmad, GMC Handwara; Dr Tehmeen, Associate Professor; Mr Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, Medical Superintendent; Mr Imtiyaz Ahmad Pandith, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Handwara; Mr Rafiq Ahmad Mir, Chief Education Officer, Bandipora; and Mr Faisal Ahmad, SDPO Handwara.

The gathering was further honoured by the presence of Mr Mohammad Sulaiman Bhat, representing civil society; Mr Fareed Ahmad Khan; renowned poet Mr Javid Maweri; Mr Faiq; Advocate Abdul Rashid Dar, Prosecuting Officer; Advocate Jasir Mir, Senior Prosecuting Officer; Mr Raja Mohiuddin, Chief Editor, Taameel-e-Irshad; and Mr Altaf Anjum Qureshi, President, Private Schools Association Kupwara.

Several prominent educationalists and institutional heads also graced the occasion, including Mr Zahoor Ahmad Ahanger, Chairman, Monarch School; Mr Sajad Ahmad, Chairman, My New School; Mr Altaf Ahmad, Chairman, An-Nadviya; Mr Zahid Ahmad Wani, Chairman, IDPS; Mr Zahoor Ahmad, Chairman, Bright Career Institute; Mr Ubaid Raina, Chairman, Doon International; Mr Ashraf Baba, Chairman, Alexandra; Mr Shams-ud-Din Samoon, ZEO; Mr Lateef Masoodi, CEO, Unacademy Srinagar Centre; and Mr Rizwan, CEO, Next Mind Coaching.

Other eminent attendees included Mr Irfan Pandithpori, former DDC Chairman; Mr Fayaz Ahmad, Principal, Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara; Mr Shahaab, Principal, Girls Higher Secondary School Handwara; Mr Tahir Majeed, President, Kashmir Writers' Association; Advocate Abdul Majid Banday; Mr Abdul Ahad Kashmiri, Senior Socio-Political Activist; Mr Jibran Khan, CEO, Zero Miles; Mr Mohammad Amin Wani, President, Fruit Mandi Handwara; Mr Mansoor Ahmad Bhat, President, Traders Federation Handwara; Mr Aijaz Ahmad Sofi, former President, Traders Federation; and Mr Shahzad Ahmad, former General Secretary, Traders Federation.

The central philosophy of AALAV 2026 revolved around the institution's belief that education must transcend the conventional boundaries of textbooks and classrooms. The theme symbolically brought together scientific temperament, creative imagination and cultural consciousness, reflecting AIIMS Handwara's vision of nurturing intellectually capable, morally grounded and socially responsible individuals. The celebration stood as a vivid expression of the institution's commitment to holistic education, experiential learning, innovation, character formation and the all-round development of every learner.

The students presented an impressive spectrum of performances, thematic presentations, scientific demonstrations, literary expressions and cultural programmes. Each presentation reflected their intellectual curiosity, artistic potential, confidence and ability to articulate meaningful ideas. From scientific exploration and environmental awareness to literary creativity, social consciousness and the celebration of cultural heritage, the performances demonstrated the diverse dimensions of learning being fostered at the institution.

One of the major attractions of the celebration was the establishment of several thematic stalls across the campus, transforming the venue into an interactive platform for experiential learning and creative exploration. The stalls included book stalls, food stalls, art and craft stalls, cultural stalls and Disaster Management stalls, among others. These initiatives offered students opportunities to translate classroom learning into practical experiences while developing teamwork, leadership, communication, organisational skills and entrepreneurial understanding.

The book stalls encouraged reading habits and intellectual exploration, while the food stalls introduced students to the fundamentals of enterprise, management and collaborative responsibility. The art and craft stalls showcased the students' imagination, craftsmanship and aesthetic sensibilities, whereas the cultural stalls celebrated the richness of traditions and heritage. The Disaster Management stall highlighted the importance of preparedness, awareness, resilience and responsible action during emergencies.

The diverse activities were thoughtfully designed to ensure that students emerged not merely as recipients of information but as active participants in the learning process. The institution's emphasis on practical engagement, independent thinking, collaboration and creative expression reflected its conviction that meaningful education must prepare children for life beyond the classroom.

The presence of eminent personalities from various walks of life added distinction and significance to the celebration. Their participation reflected the strong relationship between the institution and the wider community, reaffirming the importance of collective efforts in strengthening the educational landscape of the region.

The 16th Annual Day also served as an occasion to acknowledge the collective dedication of the management, teaching fraternity, non-teaching staff, students and parents. Their sustained efforts, cooperation and commitment played an instrumental role in making the celebration a memorable and meaningful occasion.

Over the years, Ainul Ilm Institute of Morality and Science has endeavoured to establish an educational environment where academic excellence is complemented by moral values, scientific inquiry, creativity, discipline and social responsibility. Its educational philosophy seeks to harmonise knowledge with morality, intellectual development with emotional intelligence, and individual achievement with community welfare. AALAV 2026 was therefore much more than an annual celebration; it was a reaffirmation of the institution's belief that education is the art of illuminating minds, nurturing character and empowering generations. It beautifully captured the essence of an educational journey in which chemistry inspires scientific curiosity, creativity unlocks human potential and culture preserves identity and belonging.

The celebration concluded with a renewed sense of pride, gratitude and commitment towards the institution's vision of shaping enlightened, confident, compassionate and future-ready citizens.















