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Youth Hold Key To Nation-Building: LG Sinha

Inaugurates Multi-Utility Indoor Sports Arena At Sainik School Nagrota



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, November 25: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the newly constructed Multi-Utility Indoor Sports Arena at Sainik School Nagrota. Addressing the cadets, faculty members, and distinguished guests on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence in the younger generation, stating that India's future is in safe hands.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the nation looks to its youth as future soldiers, civil servants, scientists, sportspersons, healthcare professionals, and nation-builders. He emphasized that irrespective of the field they choose, success rests on the values of character, discipline, hard work, and commitment to national service. He also paid tribute to the brave personnel of the Armed Forces who made the supreme sacrifice for the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation.

Highlighting the significance

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Sheshnag lake safe; no effect of construction work: Minister



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 25: Environment and Forest Minister Altaf Ahmad Wani on Wednesday said Sheshnag lake along the Amarnath Yatra route is safe, with the construction work on the track having no effect on the waterbody.

"Sheshnag is safe. There is no construction adjacent to the lake. Not a single speck of dirt has entered the lake. There is a distance of more than 200 feet between the construction site and the lake itself," Wani told reporters at Pahalgam.

The minister, an MLA from Pahalgam, had sent a team from his department to Sheshnag on Tuesday

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J&K BJP Defends, Shiv Sena Seeks Halt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 25: Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Sat Sharma on Wednesday attacked PDP president Mehbooba Mufti for her criticism of road construction in the Sheshnag Lake area along the Amarnath track, asking her not to drag religious sentiments for political mileage.

In contrast, Shiv Sena (UBT) J-K president Manish Sahni



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'Fixed match between BJP & PDP': NC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 25: The National Conference on Wednesday slammed Mehbooba Mufti's attempted visit to the Sheshnag Lake amid a row over road construction at the ecologically sensitive site, alleging that the PDP chief was trying to project that Muslims are against the project, which

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30 missing terrorists from Reasi exfiltrated to Pak: DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 25: Thirty terrorists hailing from Reasi district, who had gone missing between 1991 and 2003, have exfiltrated to Pakistan and are working for a terror outfit, supplying arms, ammunition and money to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat said on Wednesday.

The police chief said Mahore Police Station received information through reliable

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Land belonging to 5 terrorists attached

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 25: Police has attached over 27 kanals of land belonging to five Reasi terrorists suspected to have exfiltrated to Pakistan for arms and ammunition training and are allegedly involved in reviving

See on Pg. 10

Mehbooba seeks explanation from Omar

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar, Nov 25: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday asked Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to explain the extension of the memorandum of understanding with the Border Roads Organisation for a road to the ecologically fragile Sheshnag area along the Amarnath yatra route.

The government, however, denied the charge and accused Mehbooba of misinformation.

Environmentalists have raised concerns that the construction activity may damage Sheshnag, a glacial lake in Anantnag, and the

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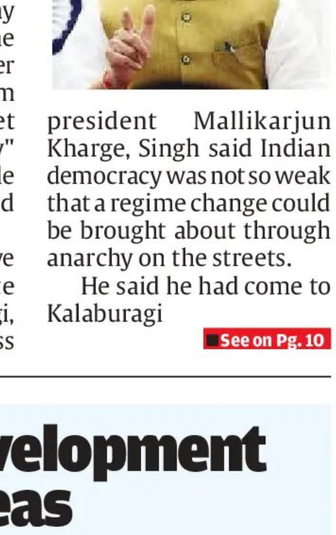
Ecological Disaster: Sajjad Lone



Srinagar, Nov 25: People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday termed the construction work near Sheshnag along the Amarnath Yatra route an "ecological disaster" and accused the ruling NC and the opposition PDP of engaging in a blame game to divert attention from the issue.

Construction activity using heavy machinery near the ecologically fragile Sheshnag Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district has raised concerns from various quarters, with political parties, religious leaders, and environmentalists [illegible] confronting us, they will bury the issue under the cacophony of their blame game".

The former minister said Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti had raised the issue of the National Conference (NC) government giving its nod to the road

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Cold Tightens Grip Over Kashmir

Srinagar Endures Season's Coldest Night

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 25: The winter is tightening its grip over Jammu and Kashmir, with its summer capital Srinagar recording the lowest minimum temperature of the season at minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, officials said on Wednesday.

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir with the minimum of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, even though it marked a slight improvement from the previous night's minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Several areas of the Valley were engulfed in a layer of fog on Wednesday morning.

Officials said Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley in south Kashmir, also recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, while the night temperature at Kokernag settled at a low of 0.2 degree Celsius.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of zero degrees Celsius, they added.

The MeT 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.

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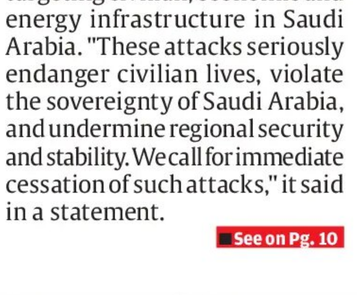
CM reviews functioning of Science & Technology Department

Calls For Diversifying Renewable Energy Mix, Timely Project Completion

KA NEWS SERVICE



Jammu, November 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for Jammu and Kashmir's transition towards clean energy, ensure time-bound completion of key projects and to optimise the utilisation of renewable energy infrastructure to deliver tangible benefits to the people.

Chairing a review meeting of the department at the Civil Secretariat here, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Science and Technology, took stock of the progress of major initiatives, institutional activities and ongoing projects, while emphasising the need to remove implementation bottlenecks and strengthen research, innovation and scientific outreach.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar,

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Cong wants regime change through anarchy, not votes: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Nov 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday launched an attack on the Congress and its senior leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of "encouraging street violence and anarchy" because they were unable to accept their repeated electoral defeats.

Addressing the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Eradicate Anarchy' rally in Kalaburagi, the home turf of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh said Indian democracy was not so weak that a regime change could be brought about through anarchy on the streets.

He said he had come to Kalaburagi

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2 Indians injured in Riyadh attack; New Delhi condemns strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Two Indians were among those injured in an attack on a financial district in Riyadh that triggered strong condemnation from New Delhi.

India also denounced continued strikes targeting civilian, economic and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

"Two Indians are among those injured in the attack on Riyadh financial district. The embassy of India in Riyadh is providing all possible assistance to the injured and their families," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The attack was carried out on Tuesday. Local authorities said the injured included two Saudi citizens, three Nepalese and four Egyptian nationals.

The MEA said India strongly condemns the attack in Riyadh as well as the continued strikes targeting civilian, economic and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. "These attacks seriously endanger civilian lives, violate the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, and undermine regional security and stability. We call for immediate cessation of such attacks," it said in a statement.

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Chief Secretary sets development priorities for border areas

Attends Block Diwas To Hear Public Grievances At Vibrant Village Bhawani

KA NEWS SERVICE



Rajouri, November 25: Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, Tuesday chaired a Block Diwas-cum-Public Grievances Redressal Camp at Vibrant Village Bhawani in Block Nowshera, Rajouri, providing a direct platform to local residents and public representatives to highlight their concerns and seek timely resolution of developmental and public welfare issues.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Devansh Yadav; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range, Sandeep Wazir; SSP Naresh Singh;

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CM Omar reviews Public Services Guarantee Act

Stresses stronger accountability in service delivery

Kashmir Age News



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for strengthening the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011, with a renewed focus on accountability, timely delivery of services and effective grievance redressal mechanisms.

Chairing a review meeting of the General Administration Department (GAD) to assess the implementation of the Act, the Chief Minister directed the departments to address the significant gap between applications disposed of beyond the prescribed timelines and the number of penalties imposed on officials responsible for delays.

He observed that while the Act provides for penalties against designated officers for unjustified delays and deficiencies in service delivery, the gap between cases delayed and penal action imposed needed to be addressed. He directed that the issue, along with the number of applications reverted by departments, be examined and corrective measures should be taken .Emphasising the need to make the appeal mechanism more effective, the Chief Minister called for greater utilisation of the Auto Appeal System while ensuring that appeals are meaningfully examined at the First Appellate Authority level. He observed that several cases were being automatically escalated to the Second Appellate Authority without adequate processing at the first level, indicating that the concerned appellate authorities might not be aware of pending appeals.

He directed the General Administration Department to work with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to put in place an alert mechanism so that First Appellate Authorities are promptly informed about cases pending before them and can examine these within the prescribed timelines.

Observing that the Act was among the pioneering initiatives in the country when introduced in 2011, he said that several other states and Union Territories had since adopted similar frameworks, with some making further improvements. He stressed that an independent assessment would help evaluate Jammu and Kashmir's experience and identify areas requiring reform.

He further called for a review and revision of the penalty provisions under the Act, observing that 15 years was a sufficiently long period to reassess the existing framework and make it more effective in ensuring accountability.

Underscoring the importance of public awareness, the Chief Minister said that despite the Act being in force for 15 years, awareness among citizens about their rights and the available mechanisms for securing time-bound public services needed to improve. He stressed that the government must take ownership of the legislation and make sustained efforts to publicise its provisions so that more people are aware of and benefit from this important instrument of citizen-centric governance. During the meeting, the Chief Minister was apprised that 517 services across various departments have been notified under the PSGA. Of these, 114 services have been integrated with the Auto Appeal System, while another 163 services have been identified for integration.

Inaugural Ceremony of Industry-Academia Interface 2026 concludes at DMS KU



Kashmir Age News

NOVEMBER 25, 2026: The Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir concludes its formal launch of "Business Club Lecture Series: An industry-Academia Interface-2026". The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Prof. Nilofar Khan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest at the formal launch ceremony, while the Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Registrar, University of Kashmir Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean School of Business Studies Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi joined as Guests of Honour. The event was honoured with the presence of Heads of the other Departments as well.

Under this lecture series, DMS invites distinguished professionals from various Industries, Civil Services, Academia, the Department's Alumni and former Faculty who interact with students, share their practical experiences and demonstrate the real world application of management concepts. In his welcome speech, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Siddiqi, Head of the Department, Management Studies, University of Kashmir said "industry academia interface is pivotal in bringing a positive impact on management education and application. It is an interactive and collaborative arrangement that will work scrupulously with various Industries and Departments to strive towards preparing the students for industry readiness leading to internship and final placements as well. It will also facilitate the faculty in identifying potential industries for short visits, curriculum modernisation, start up and innovation culture, direct avenues to employment and conjointly working on research projects".

Addressing the press conference, Chief Guest on the occasion Prof. Nilofar Khan Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir said that such initiatives create linkages at the societal level since management and society are deeply interlinked and also lead to research and the development of sustainable business models which can be beneficial for the institution as well.

The purpose of Industry Academia Interface is bridging the gap between theories we teach in the classrooms and the real world practices. while Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Dean Academic Affairs said that industry academia interface 2026 is in accordance with NEP 2020. It educates students for the challenges and opportunities of a globalised society by adopting a more global viewpoint leading to their holistic development.

Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir said that academic degrees need to be innovative and emphasised that the students should be focused on their career choices, job orientation and placements. Both theoretical as well as practical knowledge should be imparted to students at university level, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, Dean School of Business Studies added that AI and digital transformation work together, pairing digital modernisation with AI reshapes what an organisation can do and decide focussing on knowledge beyond classrooms. Prof. Tariq Ahmad Lone Convenor added that the Department of Management, KU shall continue such structured collaborations synergistically between academia and industrial organisations to align learning .

DC Kupwara, SSP Chair Block & Thana Diwas at Vibrant Village Trehgam

Kashmir Age News



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Sudhanshu Dhama, today chaired a Joint Block and Thana Diwas at Vibrant Village Trehgam to strengthen public outreach and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances at the grassroots level.

During the interactive programme, public delegations and local residents projected various demands and developmental issues concerning Health, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Power Development Department (PDD), Rural Development Department (RDD) and road connectivity. The delegations also highlighted drinking water shortages affecting certain pockets of the area.

Taking serious note of the issues raised, the Deputy Commissioner sought on-the-spot explanations from the concerned sectoral officers and issued directions for their timely resolution. Expressing concern over healthcare service delivery, the DC sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) on the functioning of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Trehgam from the concerned Block Medical Officer (BMO), directing him to submit a detailed report to his office at the earliest. Similarly, the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) was directed to ensure regular inspections of all Anganwadi Centres across the block and submit the inspection schedule along with daily monitoring reports to the DC office.

CUKashmir, PARAS Hospital and Dr Lal PathLabs hold 'wellness camp'

Kashmir Age News



Ganderbal, Nov 25: Health Centre and Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with PARAS Hospital and Dr Lal PathLabs, Srinagar, organised an 'Endo Diabetes Wellness Camp' at Tulmulla Campus here on Wednesday.

The camp was inaugurated by Registrar, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir.

Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Jehirul Islam, Medical Officers, Dr. Sheeba Nazir and Dr. Abid Ahmad, Nursing Officer, Javeed Ahmad, and Medical Attendant, Javid Ali, team from PARAS Hospital including Dr Rouf Hussain, Principal Consultant, Dr Tasaduk, Sr Consultant, and Mr Rameez and team from Dr Lal PathLabs, led by Mr Suhail were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir emphasised the importance of proactive healthcare and preventive health awareness within the university community. He observed that such initiatives play a significant role in identifying silent metabolic risks at an early stage, promoting overall physical and mental well-being, and encouraging individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles. He further stressed the need to bridge classroom learning with real-world clinical care by providing faculty, staff and students access to professional healthcare consultations and diagnostic facilities on campus.

The camp witnessed participation from faculty members, staff and students. Around 60 persons availed specialist consultation facilities, while approximately 60 clinical blood tests were conducted as part of the diagnostic screening process.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sheeba Nazir said the Health Centre remains committed to improve the overall health status of the university community through sustained health awareness initiatives and timely medical interventions.

Kulgam Police organise cricket tournament to promote drug-free society

Kashmir Press Service



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: Reaffirming its commitment to youth engagement and the fight against drug abuse, Kulgam Police organised a cricket tournament at Mini Sports Stadium, Kulgam, under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, in connection with the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

The tournament was organised with the objective of promoting sports activities among youth, encouraging a healthy and disciplined lifestyle, and spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The initiative also aimed at channelising the energy of young people towards constructive activities and strengthening police-public relations.

DySP DAR Kulgam, along with other senior officers of Kulgam Police, was present on the occasion. The officers encouraged the participating teams and appreciated the enthusiasm and active participation of the youth. They also highlighted the importance of sports in keeping young people away from drug abuse and other social evils

.Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to organising more youth-centric activities under CAP 2026-27 to promote sportsmanship, community participation and the vision of a drug-free society.

Kulgam Police also appealed to the general public, particularly the youth, to actively participate in the fight against drug abuse and contribute towards building a healthy, peaceful and drug-free society.

DC Srinagar, SSP review anti-narcotics measures at District NCORD meeting

251 FIRs registered, 359 accused arrested; properties worth Rs 138 crore attached, 200 bank accounts frozen

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review ongoing anti-narcotics measures and and assess the progress of the District's efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy was present in the meeting.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on strengthening the District's anti-narcotics strategy through stringent enforcement, effective surveillance of drug supply networks, regulatory measures, preventive interventions and improved rehabilitation facilities for drug victims. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of the Common Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with accused persons, action against illicit cannabis cultivation and measures to prevent the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to maintain sustained momentum in the fight against the drug menace through proactive coordination and collective efforts of all concerned departments. He underscored the importance of safeguarding the younger generation from substance abuse and strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms to ensure proper care, treatment and reintegration of affected individuals into society. The Deputy Commissioner called upon all Departments and enforcement agencies to work in close coordination, intensify preventive and enforcement measures and ensure a sustained, comprehensive and result-oriented approach to eradicate .

Sufi Tahir addresses youth in Kupwara

Reaffirms commitment to people's issues and public welfare

Kashmir Press Service



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 25: Sufi Tahir addressed a gathering of youth in Kupwara following his resignation from the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference, reiterating that his commitment to public issues, youth welfare and the overall development of Kupwara remains unchanged.

During his interaction with the youth, Tahir stressed the importance of remaining connected with people and consistently raising issues that directly affect their everyday lives. He made it clear that his resignation would have no bearing on his engagement with

public concerns or his efforts to highlight the problems faced by people.

Highlighting the challenges confronting Kupwara, Tahir said that the district continues to face several pressing issues requiring serious attention. He particularly referred to unemployment and limited opportunities for educated youth, shortcomings in healthcare facilities, poor road connectivity in far-flung and border areas, drinking water shortages, erratic electricity supply and gaps in educational infrastructure.

He said that people living in remote areas deserve equal access to basic facilities and development opportunities.

Their concerns must receive sustained attention rather than remain confined to official announcements and assurances.

Tahir also emphasised that the aspirations of Kupwara's youth cannot be overlooked. He said that young people need better opportunities, proper platforms and meaningful engagement to contribute towards the social and economic progress of the district.

"Resignation from a political party does not change one's responsibility towards society. I will continue to work on social issues concerning our people, raise their genuine concerns and remain actively engaged with the youth. The issues confronting Kupwara deserve consistent attention, and I will continue to be a voice for the people," Tahir said.

He further maintained that public issues should always remain above political affiliations and that the concerns of ordinary people must find space in public discourse and receive the attention they deserve.

Calling upon the youth to remain socially conscious and actively participate in matters concerning their communities, Tahir said collective efforts are necessary to address the challenges facing Kupwara.

He reiterated his commitment to staying connected with people and continuing his efforts towards highlighting public grievances, youth concerns and developmental issues across the district.

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Srinagar observes International Day for elimination of violence against women

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, Zone Nowpora, organized a Community Awareness Programme to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

On the occasion, a resource person from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, sensitized the participants about various forms of violence against women, their legal rights and the mechanisms available for seeking justice and support.

The speaker highlighted the importance of creating awareness about domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, harassment and other forms of violence faced by women. Detailed information was also shared regarding the legal safeguards available to women, free legal aid services, the role of DLSA and the support mechanisms accessible to women facing violence or abuse.

The participants, particularly women beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN, were encouraged to speak up against violence, seek timely assistance and create awareness within their families and communities about women's rights, dignity and safety.

The programme aimed at empowering women through legal awareness, promoting gender equality and fostering a safe, supportive and violence-free environment for women in society.

Union Home Secretary, Director IB to visit J&K today



Kashmir News Observer

JAMMU, NOV 25 :Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Director Intelligence Bureau Mahesh Dixit are scheduled to visit Jammu on Thursday to attend a high-level security review meeting, sources said.

Sources told KNO that the meeting will be attended by chiefs of the Central Armed Police Forces

(CAPFs), senior officers of J&K Police, intelligence agencies and other security officials.

The meeting is expected to review the overall security situation in the Union Territory, including counter-terrorism strategies and measures to further strengthen the security grid.

"The measures to eliminate the remaining foreign militants, and the preparedness of security forces for the coming months are also expected to come up for discussion," the sources said.

The meeting assumes significance as it comes days after the killing of two Special Police Officer (SPO) by terrorists in Kishtwar.

It also comes against the backdrop of a claim by the Home Ministry that the last local terrorist operating in Jammu & Kashmir has been neutralised.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises awareness programme on child rights

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 25: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Plan, Bandipora, to sensitise students about child rights, safety and protection. During the programme, students were made aware of important child protection laws, including the POCSO Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Adoption Regulations, and COTPA.

On the occasion, Mission Vatsalya team briefed the students about various schemes and services under Mission Vatsalya, including Sponsorship, Foster Care, Aftercare and Child Helpline (1098).

The programme emphasised the importance of preventing child abuse, exploitation, child labour and substance abuse.

GMC Srinagar mourns demise of Prof Mohan Singh Shant



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of nationally renowned surgeon Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Singh Shant, former Professor of Surgery Government Medical College Srinagar who passed away early this morning.

Prof. Shant was a distinguished surgeon an inspiring teacher and an accomplished academician whose remarkable contributions to patient care, medical education and the field of surgery have left an enduring legacy. Throughout his illustrious career, he earned immense respect for his clinical excellence, unwavering dedication to the medical profession and compassionate care for patients. His mentorship shaped generations of doctors who continue to serve society with the values and knowledge he imparted. His passing is an irreparable loss not only to the medical fraternity but also to Government Medical College Srinagar. He will always be remembered for his humility, integrity, commitment to excellence and lifelong service to humanity.

Kashmir shivers as mercury dips further, Shopian freezes at -4.2°C

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 25 :Kashmir continued to reel under intense cold conditions on Wednesday as temperatures dipped further across the Valley, with Shopian recording the season's lowest minimum so far at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius. Several parts of the Valley also witnessed fog and hazy conditions during the early morning hours, prompting commuters to drive cautiously amid reduced visibility.



Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Department forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the next six days, offering little respite from the prevailing cold conditions.

According to data shared by the Meteorological Department and accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar's minimum temperature was 2.0 degrees below the seasonal normal. Srinagar Airport recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius.

In south Kashmir, Pahalgam recorded minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Pulwama at minus 3.5 degrees, Anantnag at minus 2.8 degrees, and Qazigund and Konibal at minus 2.4 degrees each. Kokernag and Kulgam recorded minimum temperatures of 0.2 and 0.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In north and central Kashmir, Kupwara recorded minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, Bandipora minus 1.5 degrees, Ganderbal minus 0.5 degrees and Baramulla minus 0.1 degrees. Budgam and Awantipora recorded minus 2.4 degrees each, while Gulmarg settled at 0.0 degrees and Sonamarg at 0.3 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Bhaderwah was the coldest at 3.2 degrees Celsius. Udhampur recorded 6.0 degrees, Poonch 6.1 degrees,

Samba 7.4 degrees, Reasi 7.5 degrees and Ramban 7.7 degrees. Kishtwar settled at 8.5 degrees, Banihal at 8.9 degrees, Jammu city at 9.8 degrees, Katra at 10.2 degrees, Kathua at 10.4 degrees and Batote at 10.6 degrees Celsius.

Air raid, blackout mock drills across Kashmir districts today

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 25 : District administrations in Bandipora, Anantnag and Shopian will conduct civil defence air raid and blackout mock drills on Thursday as part of emergency preparedness exercises across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to details available in Bandipora, the second civil defence air raid mock drill will be held at NM Boys Higher Secondary School at 11:30 am under the supervision of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). Police, Health, Fire and Emergency Services, SDRF and school authorities have been directed to coordinate the exercise.

In Anantnag, an air raid mock drill will be conducted at 2 pm, followed by a blackout exercise from 6:30 pm to 6:40 pm. Residents have been advised to switch off all lights and cover windows during the blackout period. Authorities said emergency and essential services will remain functional. In Shopian, a civil defence mock drill will be held at Government Degree College Shopian. The exercise will begin with an air raid simulation at 1 pm, followed by a blackout drill from 6 pm to 6:30 pm. Officials said the exercise will simulate air raid warnings, evacuation, search and rescue operations, and emergency response measures in line with prescribed protocols. The administrations have urged residents to cooperate and avoid panic, stressing that the drills are routine exercises aimed at strengthening emergency.

8-year-old Srinagar boy, Muhammad Shahraan wins international gold in Taekwondo

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 25 :At just eight years of age, Muhammad Shahraan from Srinagar has brought sporting glory to Jammu and Kashmir, clinching a gold medal at the 1st India International Open Taekwondo Championship 2026 in Pune, Maharashtra.

Competing in the under-24 kg category, the young martial artist defeated two opponents in successive

bouts to claim the top spot at the championship, being held from November 20 to 25 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune.

Shahraan first defeated Aariz Saud Ahmad of India SKYE before overcoming Kabir Thakur of Maharashtra in his second bout to secure the gold medal.

Speaking after his victory, Shahraan said that his daily practice and hard work finally paid off. "I am very happy that I could win this gold medal. I practise for at least four hours every day, and today all that hard work has brought me this moment.

I am thankful to my coaches, the association and my parents, who have always stood by me and encouraged me," he said.

Calling it only the beginning of his journey, the young champion said he wanted to win many more medals and make his country, Jammu and Kashmir, his coaches and his family proud.

His mother, Lubna Reshi, described the victory as an incredibly proud and emotional moment,

saying that she and her husband had worked hard to provide their son with opportunities to compete at bigger platforms.

KU launches Business Club Lecture Series to strengthen industry-academia engagement

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR NOV 25: The Department of Management Studies (DMS), University of Kashmir (KU), launched the 'Business Club Lecture Series: An Industry-Academia Interface 2026' at the Main Campus.

The initiative aims to bring together professionals from industry, academicians, alumni and former faculty members to share their experiences with management students and explain the practical application of management concepts in real-world settings.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan said that management is closely linked with society, and such initiatives help build connections between the two.

"Such interactions can also encourage research and the development of sustainable business models that benefit both institutions and society," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada said the initiative was in line with the vision of NEP 2020, which seeks to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of a globalised society.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal stressed on the need for academic programmes to be innovative and relevant to changing professional requirements. He also urged students to remain focused on their career choices, job readiness and placement opportunities.

Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq Darzi, and Convenor, Prof. Tariq Ahmad Lone also shared their views on the importance of interaction between industry and academia.

Earlier, Head, DMS KU, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Siddiqi, delivered the welcome address.

The inaugural session was attended by university officials, faculty members, scholars and students from IMBA, MBA and MB FM programmes.

The inaugural proceedings were conducted by Prof. Ishtiyaq Hussain Qureshi, who also proposed the vote of thanks.

Security forces intensify hunt for 65 foreign terrorists in J&K

Kashmir News Observer



SRINAGAR, NOV 25 :With no active local terrorist remaining in Kashmir, security agencies have stepped up efforts to track down and eliminate an estimated 65 foreign terrorists believed to be operating across Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told KNO the fresh focus of counter-terror operations is on identifying the movements, hideouts and support networks of Pakistan-origin terrorists, particularly those affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

They said the security forces are combining human intelligence with technological surveillance and inputs from multiple intelligence agencies to locate the remaining foreign terrorists. Information gathered from ground-level sources, intelligence networks and surveillance systems is being analysed to establish their movements, particularly in difficult-to-access areas.

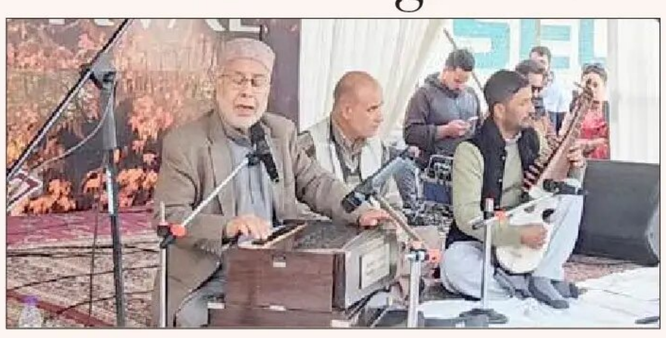
"Of the estimated 65 foreign terrorists, around 35 are believed to be associated with the LeT and 25 with the JeM, while the remaining five belong to other banned outfits," said an official.

"The latest assessment comes after the killing of Mohammad Lateef Bhat, a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative, in an encounter in Kulgam district on November 18, following an eight-day search operation. His killing marked the elimination of the last identified active local terrorist in the Kashmir Valley," he added.

Pertinently, after the killing of Lateef Bhat Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the elimination of the last local terrorist as a significant development in Jammu and Kashmir's security situation.

'Chinar Festival' brings Kashmir's cultural soul alive in Bijbehara

Kashmir Age News





ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 25: As part of the ongoing Chinar Festival, the Department of Tourism, today organised a vibrant cultural programme at Government M.L. Higher Secondary School (Boys), Bijbehara, celebrating the Valley's rich Sufi traditions and cultural heritage.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director Information, Dr. Mohammad Zubair Lattoo; Assistant Director Tourism, Srinagar, Basharat Mahmood; Assistant Director Tourism, Pahalgam, Bilal Ahmad, and Assistant Director Tourism, Publicity, Srinagar, Jahid Azad.

The event witnessed an impressive gathering comprising members of the Sufi and cultural fraternity, besides teachers, students and other participants, reflecting the community's enthusiasm towards preserving and promoting Kashmir's traditional art forms.

A major highlight of the programme was the soulful performances by renowned Kashmiri singers Abdul Rashid Hafiz and Shafi Sopori, who enthralled the audience with their captivating renditions of Sufi and traditional Kashmiri music. Their performances brought alive the timeless melodies and spiritual essence of Kashmir's musical heritage, creating an atmosphere of cultural celebration and appreciation. The participation of eminent artists and members of the cultural fraternity added significance to the occasion, while the presence of students provided an opportunity for the younger generation to experience and connect with the region's rich artistic and spiritual traditions. The programme formed part of the Tourism Department's broader initiative under the Chinar Festival to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's diverse cultural heritage and strengthen its potential as a destination for cultural and experiential tourism. Such initiatives also provide a platform for established and emerging artists to showcase their talent while encouraging the preservation and promotion of traditional music and indigenous art forms. The event highlighted the enduring relevance of Kashmir's Sufi legacy and its message of peace, harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect, which continue to remain integral to the Valley's composite cultural ethos.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name form (Old name) DUHA IBRAHIM KARNAI to (New name) DUHA IBRAHIM. In future I will be known as (New name) DUHA IBRAHIM. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

DUHA IBRAHIM
8825091473 R-1150

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) PIRZADA MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHAH to (New Name) PEERZADA MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHAH. In future, I will be known as PEERZADA MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHAH.

If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar, within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

(Tahir War)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar, son of Manzoor Ahmad Dar, resident of Yadipora Palhallan, Pattan, Baramulla, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar Manzoor Ahmad Dar" in my Aadhaar card Bearing Aadhaar Number 9035-2465-8214. My correct name is "Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar". Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name "Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar" for all purposes, I am applying for it's correction in Aadhaar Card records accordingly.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar s/o Manzoor Ahmad Dar
R/o Yadipora Palhallan Pattan
District Baramulla 8279

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, BIJBEHARA

Showket Ahmad Wani
(Applicant)
Versus
UT OF J&K THROUGH REGISTRAR, BIRTHS & DEATHS, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, Bijbehara
(Non-Applicant)

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

PROCLAMATION/NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

Name: Mohammad Usmaan Wani
Parentage: Showket Ahmad Wani
Residence: Sicop Road, Bijbehara
Date of Birth: 31-08-2018
Place of Birth: Home — Sicop Road, Bijbehara

Therefore, through the medium of this proclamation, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection with respect to the registration of the aforesaid Date of Birth may file his/her objections before this Hon'ble Court, either personally or through counsel, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the matter shall be considered and decided in accordance with law.

Issued under the hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court.
By Order
Sd/- Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Bijbehara
904

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my daughter's name, which was mentioned as SOHA ROUF KHAN in her previous passport, is now proposed to be changed to SOHA KHAN for the purpose of re-issue of her passport. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid change of name may submit his/her objection in writing before the Passport Office, Srinagar, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

(RM)

Over 700 job seekers attend Mission Yuva job fair in Kulgam

20 employers offer 300 vacancies

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Kulgam, under Mission YUVA, on Wednesday organised a Job Fair at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Kulgam, to provide employment opportunities, career guidance and entrepreneurship support to the youth.



Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, attended the event as Chief Guest, while Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, was the Guest of Honour.

The Job Fair witnessed the participation of more than 700 job seekers and around 20 employers from different sectors, who collectively notified over 300 vacancies. More than 300 candidates also registered online for the event, providing them an opportunity to interact directly with prospective employers and explore suitable career opportunities.

A major highlight of the event was the distribution of three offer letters to selected candidates on the spot. In addition, 13 sanction letters under Mission YUVA were distributed to encourage self-employment and promote entrepreneurship among aspiring young entrepreneurs.

The event also witnessed active participation from student exhibitors, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) members, Self-Help Group (SHG) participants and aspiring entrepreneurs. Various stalls and facilitation counters were established to showcase local products and skills and provide information about employment opportunities, skill development, career counselling and entrepreneurship support.

The Job Fair served as an important platform for strengthening employment linkages between job seekers and prospective employers while promoting career guidance, skill development and entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA.

4 chargesheeted in Rs 1.41 cr fraud case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 25: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Jammu on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against four accused in a Rs 1.41 crore investment fraud case involving a purported currency and offshore trading firm, an official said.

The chargesheet against Ashwani Kumar Bhat, Neelam Bhat, Yashpal Sharma and Anuradha Sharma has been presented before the Court of the Electricity Magistrate, Jammu, in connection with an FIR registered in 2022 under various relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the RBI Act, a spokesman of the Crime Branch said.

He said the case originated from a written complaint lodged by Sumit Sharma and his brother Sunny Sudan alleging that the accused persons duped them of Rs 36 lakhs on the pretext of lucrative returns through the trading firm, Messrs Micro Dollar Associates.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites **E-Tenders against Tender No 2026-27-12.** Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing **date 18.12.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.** only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.
Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc.

Tender No.	Name of work.	App. Cost (Rs)
2026-27-12	Repair / Rehabilitation of 6531KVA / 7475KVA transformer for three phase locomotives.	17538865.11/-

Cost of tender form (Rs)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs)
0	Upto 18.12.2026 15:00 Hrs	350800/-

Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
09 Months	18.12.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 230-Elect/TRS/LDH/WC/CCB/2026-27/12 Dated: 25.11.2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 4091/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PRETHPAL SINGH
Force No.: 904653751
GD CISF
(AA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nayeem Ahmad Lone, S/o Nisar Ahmad Lone, R/o Near Jamia Masjid, Pahalgam, District Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby inform the general public that my Indian Passport bearing No. N6053151, issued in the year 2016, was lost/misplaced during the year 2025. Despite making efforts to trace the passport, I have been unable to recover the same. I am now applying for the re-issue of a duplicate passport. Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate passport in my favour may submit their objection to the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Nayeem Ahmad Lone
S/o: Nisar Ahmad Lone
R/o: Near Jamia Masjid, Pahalgam, Anantnag, J&K
8279





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KVK reaches country's last village, Teethwal

Kashmir Age News

TEETHWAL (KUPWARA): In a significant outreach initiative, a team of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara reached Teethwal, the last village of the country situated along the Line of Control (Zero Line), under the ongoing nationwide Khet Bachav Abhiyan.

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers, farm women and rural communities about protecting agricultural land, restoring soil health, minimising the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and promoting natural farming for a sustainable agricultural future.

The KVK team was accompanied by Prof. Shahid Hakeem and Dr. Firdous Ahmad Raina.

Addressing the gathering at Budarkot, Teethwal, Dr. G. M. Bhat, Professor and Head, KVK Kupwara, emphasised that agricultural land is the most valuable natural resource and must be protected from degradation and unscientific practices. He cautioned farmers against the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers, insecticides, pesticides and fungicides, advising them to apply plant protection chemicals strictly as per scientific recommendations



and prescribed doses.

Dr. Bhat highlighted that excessive agrochemical use harms soil health, beneficial microorganisms, water resources, ecological balance, and human and animal health. He urged farmers to gradually shift towards natural farming, judicious nutrient management, organic inputs and integrated pest management. He reiterated that farmers in remote and border villages deserve equal access to scientific knowledge and institutional support, and reaffirmed KVK Kupwara's commitment to taking technologies to farmers' doorsteps. Practical training on Dingri (Oyster) mushroom cultivation was imparted to local women. Participants were trained in substrate preparation, spawning, bag filling, moisture management and harvesting. The demonstration aimed to introduce a low-space, low-investment income-generating activity for women in remote border villages. Dr. Bhat encouraged them to adopt mushroom cultivation as a source of supplementary income, nutrition and entrepreneurship.

Prof. Shahid Hakeem and Dr. Firdous Ahmad Raina delivered lectures on the principles and practical relevance of natural farming. They stressed reducing dependence on chemicals, improving soil biological activity, recycling organic resources, and adopting location-specific, resource-efficient practices to lower cultivation costs and ensure long-term sustainability. The visit to Teethwal underscores the commitment of SKUAST-Kashmir and KVK Kupwara to reach the remotest and geographically challenging areas of the district. Through such field programmes, the KVK continues to bridge the gap between research institutions and farming communities. Central message of the programme: save soil, save water, save environment and save human life.

Qayoom Wani expresses concern over deterioration of environment in J&K

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Civil Society Forum (JKCSF) and Jammu & Kashmir Pensioners United Front (JKPUF), under the chairmanship of Abdul Qayoom Wani, express deep concern over the alarming deterioration of the environment in Jammu & Kashmir.

The reported rise in the Air Quality Index (AQI) beyond 400 in parts of Kashmir, reaching hazardous levels, is a serious warning for all of us. Clean air is a basic necessity, and such pollution poses a grave threat to public health, particularly children, elderly people and those suffering from respiratory ailments. Immediate measures are needed to control vehicular emissions, construction dust, waste burning and other sources of pollution.

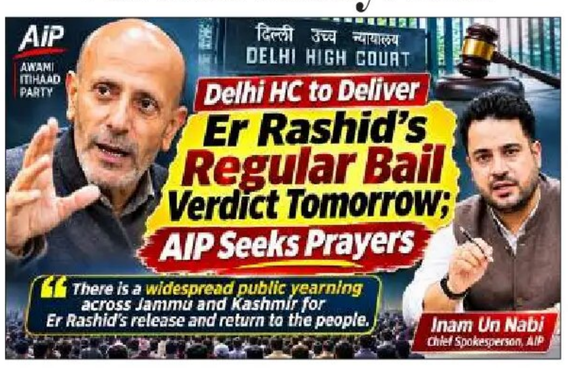
Equally concerning are reports of construction and excavation activities around **Sheshnag Lake**, an ecologically fragile high-altitude area. Any unscientific intervention in such a sensitive Himalayan ecosystem could disturb its natural balance and create long-term environmental risks. The devastating experiences of Kedarnath and the recent floods in Nepal remind us of the consequences that can follow when fragile mountain environments are disturbed without adequate scientific safeguards. Development must never come at the cost of ecological security.

The Forum appeals to the Government and concerned authorities to ensure an independent scientific and environmental assessment of the activities around Sheshnag Lake and suspend potentially damaging work until its safety is established. We also urge the administration to undertake immediate, coordinated measures to address the worsening air quality across the region. We firmly believe that **environmental protection is neither a regional nor a religious issue; it is a common human responsibility.** The air we breathe, the water we drink, our forests, glaciers and mountains belong to all of us, irrespective of religion, caste, colour, creed, political affiliation or geographical region.

We appeal to all stakeholders, including the government, environmental experts, civil society organisations, religious institutions, tourism bodies, media and citizens, to join hands in protecting our shared natural heritage.

Let us not wait for an environmental disaster to awaken our collective conscience. Jammu & Kashmir's ecology is our common inheritance, and protecting it is our collective responsibility towards future generations.

Delhi HC to deliver Er Rashid's regular bail verdict today: AIP



Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi today said that the Delhi High Court is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on the regular bail application of incarcerated Baramulla Member of Parliament Er Rashid on Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 2:30 PM, as per the court's cause list.

Inam Un Nabi said the judgment is being awaited with immense hope, emotion and anticipation across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that the yearning to see Er Rashid released and reunited with his people is not confined to Baramulla or his political supporters, but resonates across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. From north to south, people from different walks of life continue to express their concern, solidarity and prayers for his release.

Inam Un Nabi said Er Rashid's prolonged incarceration has evoked strong public sentiment across the region, with thousands eagerly hoping to see their elected representative return to public life. His absence has been deeply felt by people who look towards him as a voice for their concerns, aspirations and political representation.

MLA Farooq Shah conducts extensive public outreach in Kunzer, Tangmarg

Kashmir Press Service

KUNZER: MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah today conducted an extensive public outreach tour of the Gulmarg constituency, visiting Kunzer Hospital, Middle and High Schools at Devbug, inspecting the under-construction Clock Tower at Tangmarg, and holding public interaction programmes at Kunzer and Tangmarg to take stock of public issues and developmental requirements.

During his visit to Kunzer Hospital, the MLA inspected the overall functioning of the health institution and reviewed the healthcare facilities being provided to patients. He interacted with patients and their attendants, sought their feedback regarding the availability and quality of medical services, and stressed the need for ensuring better healthcare facilities and addressing public concerns.

Later, he visited Middle School and High School Devbug, where he reviewed the educational facilities and interacted with students and staff to understand their requirements. He also inspected the ongoing construction work of the High School Devbug building and directed the concerned officials to ensure its timely completion without compromising on quality.

At Tangmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah also inspected the ongoing construction work of the Clock Tower and took stock of the progress of the project.

He stressed the importance of completing the work in a timely manner and maintaining the required quality standards.

As part of his public outreach initiative, Farooq



Ahmad Shah also chaired public Darbar programmes at Kunzer and Tangmarg, where he met various delegations and individuals from different areas of the constituency. He patiently listened to their grievances and developmental demands and assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely resolution.

During the tour, MLA Gulmarg also visited Katipora, Kawarhama, Tarhama, Shah Mohalla and Devbugh to offer condolences to the bereaved families who had

suffered losses. He expressed solidarity with the families in their hour of grief and prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength and patience to the bereaved families.

Farooq Ahmad Shah reiterated his commitment to remaining accessible to the people and working towards the effective redressal of public grievances, strengthening healthcare and educational infrastructure, and accelerating developmental activities across the Gulmarg constituency.

SKUAST-K trains Fisheries officials in biosecurity, fish health to improve aquaculture productivity

Kashmir Press Service

RANGIL: Strengthening biosecurity and fish health management to reduce disease-related losses and improve aquaculture productivity, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday inaugurated a three-day training programme on advances in trout and carp culture at its Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil.

Titled "Advances in Trout and Carp Culture: Biosecurity, Fish Health and Sustainable Production Technologies", the programme is aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of Fisheries Department officials in disease prevention, fish health management and scientific production practices.

The programme is being organised under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai as part of SKUAST-Kashmir's efforts to strengthen technical capacities in the fisheries sector and promote the adoption of science-based and sustainable aquaculture practices.

The inaugural session was attended by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as the Chief Guest; Prof. Gohar Bilal Wani, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries ,Prof. Javed Mugloo, Dean Students Welfare as guests of honour; Prof. Masood Saleem Mir, Associate Director Extension (Animal Sciences); Prof. Amal Saxena, In-charge, SAMETI; Dr. Raja Aadil Hussain Bhat, Deputy Director (I&P); Dr. Mir Ishfaq Nazir, Co-Coordinator of the



programme, and other senior faculty members.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, who attended the inaugural session as Chief Guest, underscored the importance of scientific interventions, effective knowledge dissemination and sustained capacity building in addressing emerging challenges in aquaculture.

Prof. Gohar Bilal Wani, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, highlighted the potential of trout and carp culture in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasised the importance of improved production technologies, effective fish health management and biosecurity measures for sustainable and profitable aquaculture.

Prof. Masood Saleem Mir, Associate Director Extension (Animal Sciences), stressed stronger linkages between research institutions and field functionaries for translating scientific innovations into practical interventions.

Earlier, Prof. Amal Saxena, In-charge, SAMETI, highlighted the role of capacity-building programmes in equipping fisheries officials with the technical knowledge and skills required to address emerging challenges in the sector. Dr. Raja Aadil Hussain Bhat, Deputy Director (I&P) and Coordinator of the programme, outlined its objectives and emphasised the significance of biosecurity, fish health management and improved production practices in reducing disease-related losses.

Dr. Mir Ishfaq Nazir, Co-Coordinator, delivered the vote of thanks.

DC Kulgam reviews upcoming development projects

Kashmir Age News

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam(IAS), on Wednesday chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to assess the status and progress of various proposed developmental projects aimed at strengthening infrastructure and public facilities across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of the proposed projects, with particular focus on the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), land requirements, land identification and transfer, cost estimates and other related administrative matters.



The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress made in preparing DPRs, identification and transfer of land, completion of administrative formalities and commencement of construction works.

The projects reviewed included the New Fruit Mandi, Khel Bhawan, GDC Kulgam Campus, Nursing College, Press Club, Centre of Excellence, Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostels for Boys and Girls, Health Centre, Writers' Residency, Sanskriti Bhawan, Rural Self Employment Training Institute and other important developmental projects.

The concerned departments were directed to furnish updated status reports of all proposed projects and maintain close coordination to resolve pending issues, particularly those related to land transfer and preparation of DPRs, to ensure that developmental works are taken forward in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan(JKAS); CPO Kulgam, Malik Suhail; SE PWD Circle Kulgam; Tehsildar Kulgam; Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), PDD and Jal Shakti; CHO; DSWO; DYSSO; CEO, Municipal Council Kulgam; and other concerned officers.

DC Kulgam reviews banking performance under DLRC-DCC

Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam(IAS), on Wednesday chaired the Quarterly District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the second quarter (Q2) of Financial Year 2026–27 at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to review the performance of banks and line departments under various Government-sponsored schemes and the Annual Credit Plan. The meeting reviewed the progress of Priority Sector Lending, credit flow, financial inclusion and implementation of key Government schemes, including Mission YUVA, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and other welfare and development initiatives.



During the meeting, it was informed that the district's bank deposits registered a year-on-year growth of 17.24 per cent, increasing from 2,747.05 crore to 3,220.79 crore. Similarly, advances recorded a growth of 11.37 per cent, rising from 2,560.94 crore to 2,852.32 crore.

Against the District Credit Plan target of 3,030.11 crore for FY 2026–27, banks had disbursed loans amounting to 1,177.49 crore as on September 30, 2026, achieving 39 per cent of the annual target.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for timely achievement of credit disbursement targets, stronger coordination between banks and sponsoring departments, and effective handholding of beneficiaries to ensure the successful implementation of Government-sponsored schemes.

He further emphasised that the benefits of various financial and Government-sponsored schemes must reach the intended sections of society. He also called for improved performance under self-employment and livelihood generation schemes, particularly for youth and unemployed persons.

The meeting was attended by concerned district officers of various line departments, officers and representatives of financial institutions and banking establishments.

Kulgam Police display photographs, contact details of beat officers to strengthen public outreach



Kashmir Age News

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: In a move aimed at strengthening grassroots-level policing and improving police-public coordination, Kulgam Police have displayed photographs and contact details of designated Beat Officers in their respective beats across District Kulgam.

The initiative is intended to make Beat Officers easily identifiable and accessible to the general public, enabling residents to directly contact the concerned police

personnel for assistance, lodging grievances and sharing information related to law and order.

The move is also aimed at promoting transparency and accountability while building stronger relations between police personnel and local residents. It is expected to improve coordination at the grassroots level and help the police address public concerns in a timely and effective manner.

Kulgam Police reiterated their commitment to people-friendly and citizen-centric policing and appealed to the general public to maintain active coordination with their respective Beat Officers to ensure peace, public safety and security across the district.

Editorial

Disasters, Resilience

Natural calamities have consequences that extend far beyond damaged infrastructure. Roads and bridges are disrupted, electricity and water supply systems are affected, agricultural activities suffer and ordinary life comes to a standstill. The impact is particularly severe in remote and hilly areas, where damaged roads and landslides often isolate entire communities and restrict access to healthcare, education and other essential services. For families who lose their homes, agricultural land or sources of livelihood, recovery can be a long and difficult process.

The damage inflicted by heavy rains, flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides across Jammu Division earlier this year highlighted the vulnerability of Jammu and Kashmir to extreme weather events. The deputation of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess the losses offers an opportunity to evaluate the extent of destruction and determine the assistance required for rehabilitation. However, the real challenge lies not merely in assessing the damage but in ensuring that reconstruction makes the region better prepared for future disasters.

The Central Team's emphasis on comprehensive damage assessment through field verification is therefore crucial. Departmental estimates must reflect the actual ground situation, covering losses to public infrastructure as well as private property. Transparent documentation, realistic financial projections and proper accounting of expenditure are necessary to ensure that relief and rehabilitation funds are allocated judiciously. Equally, coordination among departments is essential to avoid overlapping claims and delays in the restoration process.

Yet, the recurring nature of such disasters demands a shift from a largely reactive approach to a long-term strategy of prevention and preparedness. Reconstructing damaged infrastructure without addressing the underlying vulnerabilities would amount to repeating the same mistakes. Roads constructed along unstable slopes, poorly designed drainage systems, unregulated construction and inadequate flood-management measures can aggravate the consequences of extreme rainfall.

Development planning in Jammu and Kashmir must increasingly incorporate scientific assessments of geographical and environmental vulnerabilities. Slope stabilisation, effective drainage networks, flood protection works, resilient bridges and stronger power and water infrastructure should receive priority. Equally important are early-warning mechanisms, disaster-response preparedness and regular monitoring of vulnerable locations.

The government must also pay particular attention to the rehabilitation of affected families. Financial assistance should reach genuine beneficiaries without unnecessary procedural delays. Restoration of public services, compensation for losses and support for livelihoods must remain central to the recovery programme.

The Central Team's visit should serve as more than a routine assessment exercise. Its findings must translate into meaningful financial assistance, time-bound reconstruction and a comprehensive disaster-resilience framework. Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to rebuild its infrastructure after every calamity only to face similar devastation during the next extreme weather event.

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

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Wake-Up Call That Came Too Late



MUHAMMAD ELYASS

A deeply distressing incident took place a few days ago in Drugmulla, Kupwara, where a ten-year-old girl tragically lost her life after a school wall collapsed. The news was heartbreaking, but for those of us belonging to the same area and familiar with the condition of its educational institutions and public infrastructure, it was equally disturbing. It was not just another tragic incident; it was a painful reminder of how negligence and delayed action can put innocent lives at risk.

What makes this tragedy even more painful is that the condition of the school building, along with several other educational institutions in the area, had reportedly remained a matter of concern for years. When buildings are left without proper maintenance, their condition continues to worsen, and the possibility of an accident becomes increasingly serious. This raises a question that we cannot afford to ignore: Were we waiting for an innocent child to lose her life before taking notice of a danger that had existed for so long?

More importantly, residents had reportedly submitted complaints to the concerned authorities about the deteriorating condition of the school building even before this incident. The matter, therefore, was not entirely unknown to the administration. There had been an opportunity to inspect the building and take preventive measures. Yet, several questions remain unanswered. What happened to those complaints? Were they properly examined? Were any inspections carried out? If the danger had already been brought to the authorities' attention, why was timely action not taken?

These questions deserve clear answers through a fair and transparent investigation. When citizens fulfil their responsibility by raising genuine concerns, the administration must fulfil its duty by addressing them.

The tragedy becomes even more painful when we remember that it occurred around Children's Day, a day meant to celebrate childhood, innocence and the dreams of young minds. A day that should remind us of our responsibility towards children instead became associated with the loss of an innocent life.

Sympathy After Tragedy Is Not a Substitute for Responsibility

Today, people from different sections of society are expressing their condolences and standing in solidarity with the bereaved family. Local representatives, senior officials, ministers and the district administration have also expressed their sympathies. Such gestures are certainly humane, but they also raise an uncomfortable question: What is the value of these expressions of sympathy when the tragedy itself might have been prevented?

Can words of consolation bring that little girl back? Can financial assistance restore the happiness her parents have lost? Can official statements heal the pain of losing a child? Certainly not. Some losses are beyond compensation, and some wounds cannot be healed through words.

Unfortunately, the genuine concerns of ordinary people often receive attention only after they turn into a public tragedy. People approach offices, submit applications and wait for action, but their grievances are sometimes passed from one department to another without any meaningful outcome. No citizen should have to wait for an innocent life to be lost before a legitimate safety concern is taken seriously.

She was just ten years old, with an entire life ahead of her, countless dreams and innocent wishes. Her presence must have been a source of happiness for her parents and family. All those hopes ended abruptly in an incident that demands serious investigation and accountability.

The real test of an administration is not how it responds after a tragedy, but how effectively it works to prevent one.

Who Should Be Held Accountable?

This brings us to the most important question: Who should be held responsible for this irreparable loss?

Should the responsibility lie with the contractor, the head of the institution, the Chief Education Officer (CEO), the concerned engineering and maintenance departments, or the district administration? Every person and department whose duties were connected with the construction, inspection or maintenance of the building must come under scrutiny. The extent of responsibility, however, should be determined through a proper investigation.

The greater institutional responsibility lies with the authorities entrusted with the construction, maintenance and safety of educational institutions. Schools are not ordinary buildings. They are places where children spend a considerable part of their day, and their safety must never be treated casually. Regular structural inspections, timely repairs and proper safety assessments are basic requirements. Any building found unsafe must be vacated until the necessary repairs or reconstruction are completed. No shortage of funds, administrative convenience or procedural delay should be allowed to put children's lives at risk.

Reports indicate that the head of the institution and the concerned CEO have faced suspension. However, suspension alone cannot be considered justice. It is an interim administrative measure, not a conclusion about responsibility. A proper investigation must establish who knew about the condition of the building, when the complaints were received, who was responsible for examining them, whether inspections were conducted and why the necessary action was not taken.

The role of contractors, engineering officials and other concerned departments must also be examined, particularly with regard to construction quality, supervision and maintenance. Anyone found responsible should face appropriate legal and departmental consequences, irrespective of their position or influence.

The Greater Responsibility of the Administration

One fact deserves particular attention: the locals had already taken steps to highlight the deteriorating condition of the school building and had submitted their complaints to the concerned authorities. The community had not remained silent. People had raised their concerns and brought the matter to the attention of those responsible for addressing such issues.

Ordinary citizens can raise their voices, submit complaints and demand action, but they cannot be expected to perform the duties of engineers, inspectors or government officials. Identifying structural hazards, arranging technical inspections, allocating funds, carrying out repairs and ensuring the safety of educational institutions are responsibilities that primarily belong to the concerned government departments and administrative authorities.

At the same time, this incident should remind all of us of the importance of unity and collective vigilance. Local representatives and community members must remain alert whenever public projects are undertaken. Poor construction, substandard materials and negligence in supervision should never go unquestioned. However, collective responsibility must not become a means of shifting attention away from the institutional accountability of those entrusted with public safety.

One thing must be understood clearly: when people raise an alarm and the authorities fail to respond, the question is no longer whether the danger could have been anticipated, but why the warning was ignored.

A Wake-Up Call for the Entire Administrative Machinery

Beyond identifying those responsible, we must ensure that this incident does not become another forgotten headline after a few days of public outrage. All government and private educational institutions across Kupwara district, particularly those operating from old or deteriorating buildings, should undergo immediate structural safety inspections by qualified technical experts.

There should be a proper record of inspection findings, necessary repairs and maintenance work. Teachers, parents, students and residents must also have a clear mechanism to report safety concerns and receive timely responses. Any institution found unsafe should remain closed until the required safety measures have been completed.

The district administration should introduce a time-bound plan to identify and address structural weaknesses in educational institutions. Inspection reports should be made available to the public, and the concerned departments must be answerable for implementing the recommended measures. Such efforts should result in lasting improvements rather than remain limited to official announcements and temporary exercises.

We must understand that the true measure of an administration is not the number of condolence visits it makes after a tragedy, but the number of tragedies it prevents through timely action.

Public officials are appointed to serve people and safeguard their interests. They are public servants and must remain answerable to the public. Listening to ordinary citizens and addressing their genuine concerns within a reasonable time is not an act of favour; it is a fundamental responsibility. Public complaints are not merely papers to be received, forwarded and forgotten. They often represent genuine problems and, in some cases, serious threats to public safety. Delayed action can have consequences that no compensation, announcement or expression of regret can ever reverse.

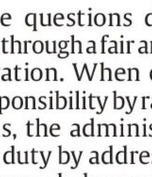
A Collective Appeal for a Safer Future

I sincerely appeal to the local community and the concerned authorities to work together for the safety and betterment of our society. The people must remain united, vigilant and willing to raise their voices against genuine concerns. At the same time, the authorities must listen, cooperate and respond without unnecessary delays.

The loss of this little girl should not be remembered merely as another unfortunate incident. It should serve as a reminder of our collective duty and, more importantly, of the responsibility that rests upon those entrusted with protecting public lives.

Let this tragedy not be followed by temporary sympathy and eventual silence. Let it lead to accountability, meaningful action and safer educational institutions. No child should ever have to pay the price for a warning that went unheeded.

The Human Story Behind the Riemann Proof



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In a picture circulating online, a silver robot stands before a wall of equations. We can see its face. The mathematician appears only as two words in the caption, "a mathematician". His name is Levent Alpöge. Long before he worked for an artificial intelligence company, he imagined spending decades on a question about prime numbers. On 20 November, he released a proof he had developed with Anthropic's Claude. A day later, the Lean and Mathlib communities reported that independent checks had verified it. The most interesting part of the headline is an ordinary preposition. What does it mean to solve a problem with AI?

Start with the primes. There are 25 up to 100 and 168 up to 1,000. You can count them exactly if you have enough patience. Now imagine counting up to a number with a hundred digits. The prime number theorem gives an estimate of how many primes to expect up to any sufficiently large number. The harder question is how far the true count can stray from that estimate. In 1859, the German mathematician Bernhard Riemann uncovered a connection between the behaviour of the primes and the places where the function now named the Riemann zeta function takes the value zero.

Think of each zero as a dot on a map. Its horizontal position is what mathematicians call its real part. Riemann's hypothesis says that every zero that mathematicians call nontrivial lies on the same vertical line, at one-half. The connection is extraordinary. Knowing where those dots lie puts a tight limit on how far the count of primes can wander. The word every explains the 167-year struggle. Checking a trillion dots would still leave the next one in doubt. A proof has to account for them all.

The mathematician behind the announcement

Alpöge's route to that line began with a different use for a computer. As a schoolboy he used graphics hardware to tackle a problem in medical imaging. At Harvard he studied mathematics and physics, then went to Cambridge and earned his doctorate at Princeton in 2020 under Manjul Bhargava. His thesis concerned points on curves. He became a junior fellow at Harvard and later joined Anthropic. He had already co-written a paper asking which integers can be written as the sum of two rational cubes. When he began working with Claude, he brought years of experience in deciding which questions about numbers were worth pursuing.

In his account of the discovery, Alpöge says he chose two ideas to combine and steered the investigation from a simpler problem towards the setting in which he hoped they would work. He credits Claude with suggesting how long a particular chain of mathematical operations should be. Its proposal was specific enough to test and consequential enough for him to single out in his announcement. He also acknowledged that he had yet to master some of the mathematics in the finished proof. That admission gives the rest of the profession a precise task. Which ideas did the real work, and can someone find a shorter route through them?

That is exactly the possibility the reviewers tested. They compared the final statement with an independently vetted version of the hypothesis in Mathlib, a public mathematics library. Independently written proof checkers also accepted the deductions. At MIT, Andrew Sutherland reported that a separate rebuild reproduced the exported proof byte for byte. The public therefore has evidence beyond Alpöge's recollection of his work with Claude. Anyone seeking to explain the result now has a common argument to examine.

Two announcements and a million dollars

On 20 November, Stanford mathematician Ravi Vakil made public a draft by Alessandro Maria Masullo entitled The Music of the Primes. Masullo proposed a human-written proof of a broader form of the hypothesis. Brian Conrad had spent months reading it and offering feedback. Within hours of the release, Vakil reported that readers using several AI models had flagged problems. Masullo says the draft was released before his planned revisions. As of 23 November, those objections remain to be resolved. It would be unfair to dismiss years of work on that basis, and equally unfair to describe the two manuscripts as having received the same verdict.

There is also a legitimate question about the company behind the tool. Alpöge's announcement came one day after Anthropic's stock-market debut. He acknowledged the awkward timing and said he had asked the company when he could release his result. Readers can reasonably ask what access another researcher would need to repeat the process of discovery. A more immediate question already has an answer.

Kashmir Age
"Truth we say..... come what may"
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A commitment to strengthen our Constitution



PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys. Whenever I look back at my childhood, the humble circumstances in which I grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards our Constitution. That a child born into a family of modest means, with no privileges or advantages of birth, could one day be entrusted with the responsibility of serving the world's largest democracy speaks volumes about how extraordinary our Constitution is. It is due to our Constitution that circumstances of one's birth no longer determine the limits of one's future.



On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. Today, we remember Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly. Their greatness lay in drawing extensively from the rich traditions and civilisational wisdom of Bharat while framing a modern Constitution.

For a nation as diverse as Bharat, with its numerous faiths, languages, customs and schools of thought, it is important that the Constitution have a resonance far beyond the precincts of Parliament and the courts. Our endeavour has been to deepen its connect with the collective consciousness of our people, especially our youth and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future. That is why over a decade ago, our Government decided to mark 26th November as Constitution Day.

For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys. Whenever I look back at my childhood, the humble circumstances in which I grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards our Constitution. That a child born into a family of modest means, with no privileges or advantages of birth, could one day be entrusted with the responsibility of serving the world's largest democracy speaks volumes about how extraordinary our Constitution is. It is due to our Constitution that circumstances of one's birth no longer determine the limits of one's future.

In our own humble way, we have sought to repay this debt of gratitude by strengthening our Constitution.

The distinguished constitutional scholar Granville Austin described our Constitution as "first and foremost a social document." The quest for social and economic justice runs through the very fabric of our Constitution. Thus, what can be more satisfying than working towards the realisation of this cherished vision of the makers of our Constitution?

A recent World Bank report highlights that nearly 50 crore Indians have moved out of poverty. Breaking free from generations of deprivation, crores of parents can now dream of a better future for their children.

When PM Awas Yojana ensures a family moves from a thatched roof to a pucca home, the constitutional promise of dignity acquires meaning.

When Ujjwala Yojana frees a mother from the hardships of a smoke-filled kitchen, we advance the ideals of equality and well-being.

When Ayushman Bharat enables a poor family to access quality healthcare without the fear of debt, social justice becomes a lived reality.

When MUDRA and PM-SVANidhi provide collateral-free credit to small entrepreneurs and street vendors, economic justice finds expression.

When digital technology and platforms like UPI transcend all divides and place opportunities once available to a privileged few within the reach of every citizen, we advance the constitutional ideal of inclusivity.

There are many more manifestations of this constitutional vision.

The list of amendments we brought can be viewed through the same prism. The 101st Amendment ushered in GST, a long-awaited reform. The 102nd Amendment granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, fulfilling a long-standing dream of the marginalised sections of society.

The 103rd Amendment received broad social acceptance. By providing reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, it addressed the long-overlooked aspirations of economically disadvantaged families from communities outside the existing reservation framework.

For the first time since 1950, an updated version of our Constitution is now available in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule. This has brought our Constitution closer to the people.

Even after our Constitution came into force in 1950, we continued to be governed by the colonial penal code dating back to the 1860s. With the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, we have sought to bring about a fundamental shift in our criminal justice system, moving from the colonial emphasis on punishment (Dand) to a citizen-centric pursuit of justice (Nyay).

Over the past decade, we have laid special emphasis on Kartavya, or the duties of a citizen. Our civilisation has always emphasised the responsibilities that accompany every role in society. The spirit of Kartavya has found expression in several mass movements, from Swachh Bharat to water conservation and environmental protection.

However, there is another reality that I feel compelled to share. There have been occasions in our history when those entrusted with upholding the Constitution chose to weaken it. Ironically, they are the same people who had the opportunity to govern India for five decades.

This year marks 75 years since the First Amendment of 1951, when a government that was not popularly elected used its majority in the Provisional Parliament to restrict fundamental freedoms. Its timing, barely months before India's first general election, proves that it was intended to influence the electoral process and stifle public opposition. It is also 50 years since the 42nd Amendment at the height of the Emergency. This curtailed judicial review and fundamentally altered the balance of institutional powers. I would also urge youngsters to study the 38th and 39th Amendments to know what a power-hungry and anti-constitutional leadership can do.

The repeated misuse of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments presents another troubling chapter. One party has the dubious record of imposing Article 356 almost a hundred times and one former Prime Minister has scored a half-century in this field.

The makers of our Constitution had hoped that it would be implemented in letter and spirit across India. But, for over 70 years, Articles 370 and 35A did not allow the full Constitution to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, thus trampling over the rights of SC, ST, OBC communities and women. It was only in 2019 that this historical wrong was corrected.

For decades, in several parts of India, particularly in tribal areas, Naxalites used the might of the gun to deny the poorest people the rights guaranteed to them by our Constitution. The successful elimination of Naxalism this year is particularly heartwarming because it has ensured that the poorest of the poor can finally exercise their constitutional rights without fear. Now, we are left only with 'Dimagi Naxals', far removed from the realities of our times but persistent in their efforts to derail our growth trajectory.

It is most appalling that the biggest party in the Opposition wants to reduce OBC reservation and bring Muslim reservations, something the makers of our Constitution, notably Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, were totally against.

The journey of our Constitution would be incomplete without recognising the remarkable women who helped shape it. But what happened earlier this year should fill our hearts with shame. A legislation aimed at giving women adequate representation in legislative bodies was disallowed from being passed by the one Opposition party, once again showing its disdain for constitutional values. I assure the Nari Shakti of India that no force can prevent us from ensuring that justice is done to them.

Our constitutional democracy has a clearly defined role for the Opposition. Sadly, the leading Opposition party seems to have become more of an Avrodh Paksh (obstructionist) than a Virodh Paksh (opposition). They should know that disrupting democratic processes is no substitute for discharging constitutional responsibilities.

Today, India stands at a defining moment. As we work towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, two simple yet powerful principles can guide our collective endeavours: India First in our thinking and Kartavya (Duties) in our actions. With these as our guiding principles and the Constitution as our source of strength, we can secure a bright future for generations to come.

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Artha Energy Resources rebrands as Adhvanik Energy, sharpens focus on AI-led industrial clean energy

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI, Nov 25: Artha Energy Resources has rebranded itself as Adhvanik Energy, positioning the business as an integrated, technology- and artificial intelligence-enabled industrial energy company as Indian manufacturers increasingly look to clean energy to reduce costs, improve operational efficiency and strengthen competitiveness.Buy Maps

The new identity marks a strategic expansion of the company's business beyond renewable energy installations towards an integrated model encompassing engineering, financing, project execution, technology, real-time monitoring and long-term asset management, according to a company statement.

Building on 12 years of experience in the renewable energy sector, Adhvanik Energy said it would focus on helping industrial and commercial customers improve energy economics, operational reliability and the long-term performance of their energy assets.

The shift reflects a broader change in the industrial energy market, where the emphasis is increasingly moving beyond installing renewable energy capacity towards ensuring consistent generation, optimising consumption, managing costs and improving the overall efficiency of energy infrastructure.

"Industrial energy is no longer just about installations, it is about reliability, performance, cost and long-term competitiveness. Adhvanik represents our evolution to meet this shift, combining engineering, data, proprietary technology, and AI to make energy work harder for manufacturing sector in India," Animesh Damani, founder of Adhvanik Energy, said.

As part of its technology-led strategy, the company has developed two proprietary platforms, Adhvanik Central and Asset Connect, aimed at improving project execution and the operational performance of renewable energy installations.

Adhvanik Central integrates project workflows across engineering, design, procurement, construction and project controls, using AI-assisted verification and quality reviews to improve project visibility, coordination and accountability.

Asset Connect, meanwhile, is designed to monitor solar installations beyond the commissioning stage, tracking parameters such as power generation, plant performance, uptime, savings and equipment efficiency. The platform is intended to identify operational gaps, assess recoverable generation losses and improve the performance of installed solar assets.

India allocates 8,606 tonnes of raw cane sugar for export to US under TRQ scheme



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 25: India has allocated 8,606 tonnes of raw cane sugar for export to the US under a scheme for American fiscal year 2027

(October 1, 2026, to September 30,2027), according to a government order.Buy Maps

The exports were slowed under TRQ (tariff rate quota) scheme, under which the shipment will be allowed at zero or concessional duty.

"The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) hereby allocates quantity of 8,606 MTRV (metric tonnes raw value) for export of raw cane sugar to USA under TRQ scheme for US FY 2027 (October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027)," a commerce ministry notice said.

The MTRV unit is used in global sugar trade and commodities to measure raw weight.

The DGFT said that Certificate of Origin, if required, for preferential export of sugar to USA would be issued by Additional Director General of Foreign Trade, Mumbai on the recommendation of Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) regarding entity and quantity. (PTI)

US ready to slap tariffs on China, EU and others over subsidized production, AP sources say

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Nov 25: The Trump administration is expected to soon announce plans to raise tariffs on China, the European Union and 14 other



economies, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The U.S. Trade Representative's Office is expected to release the results of a monthslong tariff investigation into the industrial subsidies by the 16 economies in the coming days, according to the people who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

They stressed the timing for the rollout of the tariffs could still change. The White House and USTR did not respond to requests for comment.

Plans for the new tariffs are part of an effort to replace broader duties the administration set last year that were subsequently struck down by the Supreme Court. The plans were reported earlier on Tuesday by Bloomberg and The Wall Street Journal.

The tariffs are in response to what the White House has said is excessive manufacturing output in those countries, boosted by subsidies, that has led to a flood of goods at lower prices that undercut American companies.

The anticipated action constitutes a second step in the administration's efforts to replace the duties announced in April 2025 that the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional in February. The White House slapped 60 trading partners with levies of 10% to 12.5% in July, charging that they have inadequately enforced bans on goods produced by forced labor.

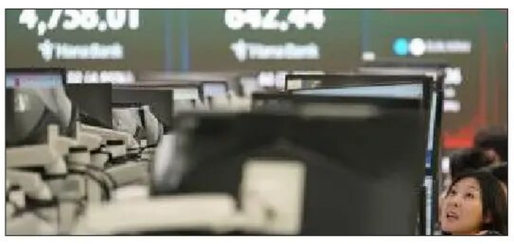
The anticipated trade action demonstrates that the Trump administration is still willing to impose import taxes despite a sweeping loss for the Republican Party in this month's midterm elections, fueled largely by affordability concerns as inflation remains elevated. At the same time, the new duties could test how the Democrats will respond to tariffs imposed unilaterally by Trump.

Asian stocks mostly decline as AI shares fall following a retreat on Wall Street

Press Trust of India

HONG KONG, Nov 25: Asian stocks mostly declined on Wednesday after heavy selling of stocks linked to artificial intelligence once again hit Wall Street.

US futures slipped and



oil prices also fell.

Relief over Nvidia's decision to restore Jensen Huang as its CEO has been tempered by questions over its corporate governance and President Donald Trump's influence.

Taiwan's Taiex tumbled more than 6% as AI chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. sank 8.1%. Chip designer Mediatek plunged 10%.

In South Korea, the Kospi lost 5.6% to 4,725.84 as Samsung Electronics fell 9.1%. SK Hynix declined 8.6%.Buy Maps

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dropped 3.6% to 56,502.97. Shares of OpenAI investor SoftBank Group slumped 16.1% and semiconductor maker Kioxia plunged 15.4%.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng rose 1% to 22,449.86, regaining lost ground after it dipped to its lowest close in more than a year the day before.

The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.9% to 3,515.05.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.5% lower to 8,683.90. The consumer price index in October rose to 4.9% from a year earlier, topping expectations. That could put pressure on the central bank to raise interest rates.

On Tuesday, stocks tied to the artificial intelligence industry dragged the U.S. market lower after a surge the day before quickly fizzled. That's even though much of the rest of Wall Street rose, along with confidence among Americans in the economy.

The S&P 500 fell 0.5% to its eighth loss in the last nine days. The Nasdaq composite shed 1.5%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.9%.

They're the latest swings for a market that's been mostly sinking since hitting its all-time high last month.

The surprise return of Jensen Huang as Nvidia's CEO, announced Monday, does bring back a charismatic leader who championed the entire AI industry. But it does not settle deeper concerns such as whether AI can possibly produce enough profit and productivity to justify massive investments in data centers. High interest rates are making it more difficult to borrow money to pay for the industry's growth. Sweeping victories for Democrats earlier this month in the U.S. midterm elections, meanwhile, have raised the possibility of more regulation for AI.

Amazon's e-commerce exports from India reach USD 27 bn; no. of exporters jump 20 pc in a year



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: E-commerce major Amazon on Wednesday said it has reached USD 27 billion in cumulative exports from India through its Amazon Global Selling programme, with the number of exporters on the platform rising 20 per cent in a year to 2.4 lakh. Buy Maps

The milestone marks progress towards Amazon's goal of enabling USD 80 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports from India by 2030, the company said in a statement.

Launched in 2015, the programme has enabled the sale of more than one billion 'Made-in-India' products to customers across Amazon's global marketplaces.

Delhi, with over 36,000 exporters, tops the list of states and Union Territories on the programme, followed by Rajasthan (over 32,500), Uttar Pradesh (over 29,000), Gujarat (over 28,000) and Maharashtra (over 23,500), according to the company.

Among smaller cities, exporters from Erode in Tamil Nadu crossed USD 121.5 million in sales between January 2025 and the third quarter of 2026.

Health and personal care (45 per cent), grocery (44 per cent), beauty (42 per cent) and toys

(35 per cent) emerged as the top-performing categories, recording the highest compound annual growth rates (CAGR) over the last 10 years, the company said. (PTI)

Royal Enfield signs Rs 1,000 cr MoU with Tamil Nadu govt for EV expansion

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Royal Enfield on Wednesday signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to accelerate its electric vehicle (EV) roadmap.

Under the MoU, Royal Enfield will invest Rs 1,000 crore over a period of seven years in the state, generating direct and indirect employment opportunities for up to 500 individuals and contributing to the socio-economic growth of Tamil Nadu, the Eicher Motors-owned company said.

This announcement builds on Royal Enfield's February 2026 commitment of Rs 958 crore towards brownfield capacity expansion at its Cheyyar facility in Tamil Nadu, which will scale the company's total annual production capacity to 2 million motorcycles.

Strengthening the company's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem, the investment will primarily support its EV product development, technological enhancement and manufacturing as required, it added. B Govindarajan, Managing Director, Eicher Motors Ltd and CEO, Royal Enfield, said, "Tamil Nadu has been our home and the anchor for our engineering and manufacturing for several decades. This investment underscores our enduring commitment to the state, its world-class automotive ecosystem, and our vision for the future of electric mobility."

Tamil Nadu is at the centre of Royal Enfield's global operations, being home to its four manufacturing facilities as well as its head office and technical centre.

Royal Enfield's City+ electric mobility brand, Flying Flea, is driven by an EV innovation lab and manufacturing setup in Vallam Vadagal. Eicher Motors Ltd, Royal Enfield's parent company, has previously signed MoUs with the Government of Tamil Nadu in January 2024, January 2019 and May 2012. (PTI)

Strong economic growth, supportive policies to sustain NBFC credit demand: Fitch

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Fitch Ratings on Wednesday said Indian non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) are likely to see stable operating conditions, supported by strong economic growth and supportive policies that will sustain credit demand and cushion elevated funding costs. Buy Maps

Fitch projected India's GDP growth to remain among the highest in Asia Pacific (APAC), despite a moderate rise in inflation, interest rates and weaker global growth.

The global rating agency had in September projected India's FY27 GDP growth at 6.9 per cent.



In its 'South and Southeast Asia Finance Companies Outlook 2027' report, Fitch said the sector's non-performing loan (NPL) ratios should remain broadly stable, supported by a conducive economic environment, sustained loan growth, a shift towards lower-risk secured products such as mortgages and gold-backed loans, and tightened underwriting and controls to manage risk from stronger growth.

However, it sees scope for some near-term weakness in small business and rural-related lending due to the protracted geopolitical risks and weak monsoon rains in 2026.

The GDP growth, along with a "supportive policy framework", would aid continued credit demand, while helping to temper pressure from elevated funding costs.

"Fitch expects stable operating conditions for Indian finance companies, supported by strong domestic economic growth," it said.

Fitch said higher interest rates and inflationary pressure are unlikely to weigh significantly on borrower repayment capacity in 2027, given the predominance of lower ticket-sized, fixed-rate and collateral-backed products. (PTI)

10-fold rise in northern England firms eyeing Indian exports: UK survey

Press Trust of India

LONDON, NOV 25: The number of northern England firms set to break into India has increased 10-fold after a high-profile Great North mayoral mission, according to a latest survey.Buy Maps

The UK Trade Barometer â€“ released recently by one of the UK's largest airports group, Manchester Airport Group (MAG), and the Northern Powerhouse Partnership â€“ surveys 2,000 businesses every quarter about their performance in the last three months and expectations for the quarter ahead.

Latest results show 10 per cent of Northern England exporters expect to sell to the world's fastest growing major economy for the first time in Q4, up from less than 1 per cent in the previous quarter.

"This is exactly why we delivered our landmark trade deal with India â€“ to help businesses all across the UK expand, attract new customers and drive growth in every postcode," said UK Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, whose Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (DBIST) backed the trade mission to India last month.

"Building on that momentum, the recent Great North trade mission strengthened our relationship with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and more businesses should be inspired and take advantage of the opportunities now on offer," he said.

The high-profile mission saw elected mayors from across the North of England front a delegation of more than 200 businesses, universities and cultural organisations to cover the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and



Kolkata at the start of October.

The mission was led by North East Mayor and Chair of the Great North, Kim McGuinness, Greater Manchester Mayor Bev Craig, Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram, West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin, South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard, York and North Yorkshire Mayor David Skaith, Hull and East Yorkshire Mayor Luke Campbell and Chair of the Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority Cllr Louise Gittins.

"When Northern mayors came together to lead our first joint trade mission to India, we had a clear ambition: to open doors for our businesses, attract investment and create more good jobs and opportunities for our communities," said Kim McGuinness, Chair of The Great North and North East Mayor. Buy Maps"Just weeks later, it is hugely encouraging to see Northern businesses leading the country in their ambition to enter the Indian market. With a new trade agreement in place, we have a real opportunity to turn that confidence into new partnerships, exports and investment.

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Allahabad HC stays FIR over AI-generated audio clip for violation of settled law

Press Trust of India



LUCKNOW, NOV 25 :The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday stayed an FIR registered against a man for allegedly sharing an AI-generated audio clip on Facebook, and observed that Uttar Pradesh authorities were repeatedly "jumping the gun" by lodging criminal defamation cases in violation of settled law.

A division bench of Justice Abdul Moin and Justice Pramod Kumar Srivastava at Lucknow directed the additional chief secretary (Home) to file a personal affidavit explaining why FIRs were being registered under Section 356 (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, despite a 2016 Supreme Court judgment laying down the procedure for initiating criminal defamation proceedings.

The court also asked the senior official to explain what action was proposed against officials who continued to disregard the apex court's ruling. It warned that if the affidavit was not filed by the next date of hearing, the ACS (Home) would have to appear personally along with the relevant records, according to the order.

The order was passed on a writ petition filed by Mohd Riyaz alias Riyaz Gazi, who challenged an FIR registered on October 29, 2026, at Kotwali police station in Hardoi under Section 356 of the BNS and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act.

According to the FIR, the petitioner had shared on his Facebook wall a post uploaded by another person, Dilshad Khan, containing an allegedly AI-generated and edited audio clip. The complainant, stated to be a mandal president of a political party, alleged that the post had tarnished his image and that of the party.

The petitioner contended that merely sharing someone else's post did not attract Section 66D of the IT Act and alleged that the FIR was malicious and an abuse of the legal process.

Male staffer heading internal complaints panel on sexual harassment in consonance with law: Cal HC



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA, NOV 25 :The Calcutta High Court has held that a male employee heading an internal complaints committee (ICC) on sexual harassment at the workplace is in consonance with law, while noting that a 90-day deadline for completing the probe is only directory in nature and not mandatory.

Alleging that the ICC proceedings against him have not been conducted in accordance with law, a petitioner prayed for a stay of further proceedings against him.

Dismissing the petition, Justice Reetobroto Kumar Mitra held that the ICC had been duly constituted, "even though the same was headed by a male member rather than a woman official, as there were no such official available with the department".

He held that this is in consonance with the requisite proviso of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Holding that it is true that the first preference is for a senior woman officer to head the ICC, the court said proviso of the Act makes it clear that in the event of a senior woman officer not being available with the employer, a male incumbent can also be appointed.

The petitioner claimed that the ICC was not in conformity with the Act as a male officer headed the committee, that it did not place its findings within stipulated 90 days and that it overshot its jurisdiction by recommending punishment.

Justice Mitra, in the judgment delivered on November 23, held that in this particular case, the allegations are not merely grave and severe, but are of a nature requiring a detailed investigation involving several documents and other exhibits produced by both parties.

"This entire process of investigation by the ICC could not have been completed within a period of 90 days," the court observed, holding that the 90-day timeline is a mere indicator that the process should be completed within that period.

The court said the object of the Act is to provide protection to women against harassment at the workplace and for prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and to stop any sort of harassment of a woman employee at the workplace.

"For no fault of an employee who complains of harassment, holding the proceedings to be vitiated merely because the ICC has overshot the prescribed timelines would result in giving an interpretation never intended under the Act," Justice Mitra observed. The court said the entire purpose of providing timelines is to ensure that a complaint of sexual harassment is treated with utmost seriousness and that the gravity of the situation is given due credence. Holding that the timeline prescribed under the Act is not mandatory in nature, but directory, the court said that the culmination of this inquiry by the ICC is a mere recommendation and does not impede or impinge upon the rights of any of the parties.

SC grants bail to Gadchiroli health worker accused of assisting banned Maoist groups

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 :The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to a health worker from Maharashtra's Gadchiroli accused of assisting banned Maoist groups, saying he has been in jail for more than four years while the co-accused got the relief two years ago.

A bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu said Pawankumar Uike has made out a strong case for bail on account of the period already served in custody, the stage of the trial as well as the considerable period remaining before the culmination of trial.

"Additionally, the co-accused, apprehended alongside the appellant, have already been released on bail more than two years back. For the aforesaid reasons, we are of the opinion that the present appeal deserves to be allowed," the bench said.

The top court directed that the appellant to be released on bail in connection with the present FIR, subject to furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court and also subject to any other terms and conditions it may deem fit to impose.

The apex court directed Uike to diligently attend the trial court proceedings.

"Should the trial court find that the appellant is involved in any transgression of the conditions imposed upon him, or tampering with any relevant evidence or witnesses, the trial court is empowered to cancel his bail and take any other action(s) as it may deem fit.

Uttarakhand HC grants bail to accused in retired brigadier's murder case

Press Trust of India



NAINITAL, NOV 25 : The Uttarakhand High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Mohit Arora, accused in the firing incident that claimed the life of 74-year-old retired Brigadier Mukesh Kumar Joshi in Dehradun's Rajpur area in March.

The retired Army officer was on his morning walk when he was fatally struck by a bullet during a confrontation between two groups.

A bench of Justice Alok Kumar Mehra, after hearing arguments from both sides

, directed the release of Arora on bail, subject to stringent conditions.

The court directed the accused not to directly or indirectly threaten, induce or influence any person associated with the case, tamper with evidence or influence witnesses.

Arora has also been directed to cooperate with the investigation, regularly appear during trial and not leave the country without prior permission of the court.

He must furnish his current residential address and mobile number to the investigating officer and the court and immediately report any changes.

In the event of a violation of any of these conditions, the prosecution would be at liberty to seek cancellation of his bail.

On March 30, a dispute stemmed between two groups at a nightclub. The confrontation subsequently escalated into a road rage incident involving gunfire in Rajpur area, resulting in the death of Joshi.

The police registered a case and arrested several accused under Operation Prahar.

During the hearing, on behalf of the accused, it was submitted that there was no direct allegation against him of either firing or driving the vehicle involved in the incident.

It was further submitted that his name did not figure in the FIR, no weapon was recovered from his possession, and the weapon allegedly used in the incident was recovered from co-accused Sameer Chaudhary.

The defence further submitted that Arora had been in judicial custody since March 31 for nearly eight months, and that a co-accused had already been granted bail.

Two brothers arrested for murdering their wives, burying bodies

Press Trust of India

GUMLA, NOV 25 :Two brothers have been arrested for allegedly killing their wives in Jharkhand's Gumla district and burying their bodies in a deserted place in adjoining Simdega, police said on Wednesday.

The brothers were irked over a long-standing dispute between the two women, who had, however, recently reconciled.

Gumla Superintendent of Police Haris Bin Zama said Shiv Shankar Sahu, an ambulance driver, and his brother Navin Sahu killed their wives in Shamshera area on Monday and took the bodies in an ambulance to a forest in Simdega district and buried the mortal remains.

The deceased have been identified as Mini Priya (28) and Radhika Kumari (20).

"The brothers initially told the police on Tuesday that their wives left them without informing them. However, following sustained interrogation, they confessed to the crime, following which the bodies were traced, exhumed and sent to Sadar Hospital Gumla for autopsy," the SP told PTI.



The deceased's family members had spoken to them around 9 am on Monday and everything seemed normal to them, the officer said. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the nature of the dispute between the two women and why their husbands murdered them after reconciliation, he added.

Biker attacked with hammer by car driver after minor collision

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 :A biker was allegedly attacked with a hammer by a car driver following a minor collision on the Sarai Kale Khan flyover here on Wednesday, police sources said.

According to the information available, the incident took place after a white car hit the motorcycle on the flyover.

Following the collision, the car driver allegedly got out of his vehicle, took out a hammer and struck the biker on the head, leaving him injured.

The accused subsequently got into his car and fled the spot. Before leaving, he allegedly threatened people who had gathered there and claimed to be a Delhi Police personnel.

Police said that they have initiated the process of registering a case. Efforts are underway to identify and trace the accused using details of his vehicle. Further details are awaited. The accused subsequently got into his car and fled the spot. Before leaving, he allegedly threatened people who had gathered there and claimed to be a Delhi Police personnel.

Police said that they have initiated the process of registering a case. Efforts are underway to identify and trace the accused using details of his vehicle. Further details are awaited.

Odisha Police arrests 3 from Delhi in Rs 29.54-lakh cyberfraud case



Press Trust of India

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 25 :Odisha cyber police has arrested three persons from New Delhi for their alleged involvement in an online investment fraud in which a retired private sector employee was cheated of Rs 29.54 lakh, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested accused have been identified as Md Naushad Ali alias Abinash Mishra (35), Mayank (20) and Harish Kumar (19), all residents of West Delhi, police said.

According to police, the 59-year-old victim had lodged a complaint at Lingaraj police station here, alleging that cyber fraudsters cheated him of Rs 29.54 lakh on the promise of high returns from an online investment scheme.

The complainant came in contact with the fraudsters through social media platforms.

They gained his confidence by promising assured high returns and double benefits, a police officer said. Between April 23 and 28, the complainant invested Rs 9.54 lakh through an online trading platform. He was subsequently lured with a bonus of USD 15,000 and told to invest another Rs 15 lakh to obtain golden card membership, which would allow unrestricted withdrawals. He broke his fixed deposit and transferred Rs 20 lakh to the bank account of another accused, who is currently absconding, the officer said. After receiving the money, the fraudsters stopped responding and neither returned the investment nor paid the promised profit of Rs 25 lakh, police said.

SC sets aside stay on former K'taka minister's murder conviction, asks him to surrender in two weeks

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 25 :The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail of former Karnataka minister Vinay Kulkarni, held guilty of murdering a BJP leader in 2016, and asked him to surrender in two weeks to serve his life sentence after it set aside the high court order that stayed his conviction.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekar said the decision of the high court is clearly perverse.

It set aside the Karnataka High Court's July 31 order which granted bail to eight convicts, including Kulkarni, and suspended their sentence in the case.

Dharwad BJP leader Yogesh Goudar was hacked to death by an armed group at a gymnasium in the city in June 2016. Kulkarni and 15 others were convicted by the Special Court for MPs and MLAs in Bengaluru on April 16 this year. The court sentenced them to life imprisonment a day later.

On Wednesday, the top court said the benefit of suspension of sentence cannot be granted to persons convicted for heinous crimes without any compelling reason demonstrable from the judgment of conviction.

The apex court said the order under challenge in the criminal appeals arising from the Special Leave Petitions are set aside. "The bail bonds, if any, furnished by the convict-respondents shall stand cancelled and they shall surrender before the court concerned within two weeks," it ordered.

The bench criticised the high court and said it is well settled that the judgment of conviction can be stayed only in rare and exceptional cases where the court after examining all aspects, including the ramifications of such an order, is satisfied that the convict would suffer irreversible adverse consequences.

Dealing with Kulkarni's case, who was disqualified from Karnataka assembly on May 2, the

bench said, "This is a misconception that the judgment of conviction should be stayed because the convict would be disqualified to be a member of the legislative assembly."

According to the apex court, if that is how the power of the court to stay the judgment of conviction is to be interpreted then every convicted legislator would automatically become entitled to an order staying the conviction.

"Such legislators then continue to be a member of the legislative assembly, would complete their term and shall be eligible to contest further elections, notwithstanding the mandatory statutory consequences," it said.

The top court said the disqualification of a legislator upon his conviction and sentence for the crime committed by him can be one of the considerations for exercising the powers by the appellate court but the possible disqualification of Kulkarni cannot be the primary ground to stay his conviction.

"The consequence that falls on the convict upon his conviction for committing a crime, such as, his disqualification under section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 is a statutory consequence and that cannot be avoided by him on mere showing of an arguable case," it said. The bench also rejected the arguments advanced on behalf of Kulkarni and other accused that the prosecution case would fail if motive for the crime was not proved.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha

of the new facility, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Indoor Sports Arena represents the nation's faith in the aspirations of youth. The arena will provide uninterrupted training opportunities throughout the year and enable cadets to pursue sporting excellence in disciplines such as badminton, basketball, and table tennis, regardless of weather conditions. He urged the school administration and coaching staff to ensure optimal utilization of the facility.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the ICICI Foundation for establishing the arena through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support. He observed that nation-building is a collective responsibility involving government, educational institutions, industry, society, and citizens. He said that similar partnerships would benefit educational institutions, especially in remote areas of Jammu Kashmir.

Recalling the vision behind the establishment of Sainik Schools, the Lieutenant Governor said that these institutions have played a vital role in nurturing leadership, discipline, national unity, and commitment to the Armed Forces. He urged cadets to uphold this legacy through their conduct, hard work, and achievements.

Emphasizing the role of sports in character building, the Lieutenant Governor noted that sports foster teamwork, resilience, discipline, humility, and leadership. He encouraged cadets to focus not merely on winning medals but on continuous self-improvement. Referring to India's growing achievements in international sports and initiatives such as Khelo India, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that some of the cadets present could one day represent the nation on the Olympic stage.

Sheshnag

for a first-hand inspection.

"They have apprised me that the lake is safe. Sheshnag is a sacred land for not only Hindus but Muslims and Sikhs as well. We respect it," he said.

Wani said the works along the track were necessitated due to the Supreme Court orders in a PIL which was filed after the 2012 stampede.

"A PIL was filed and the Supreme Court directed that 12-feet wide track be maintained. Every year before and after the Amarnath Yatra, the BRO takes up maintenance work. However, some people chose to politicise the issue, which is unfortunate," he added.

BJP

staged a protest here over alleged mountain cutting near the ecologically sensitive area, demanding an immediate halt to construction activities and an independent probe.

Outrage was sparked when a video recently showed an excavator at work near the high-altitude Sheshnag Lake, a high-risk glacial lake, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Political parties, religious leaders, and environmentalists have demanded an immediate halt to the activity along the Amarnath cave route.

Earlier in the day, Mehbooba said, "In the name of development, it is an assault on our fragile ecology, putting both the Sheshnag ecosystem and the Amarnath Yatra at risk."

She claimed that the Omar Abdullah government extended a memorandum of understanding with the Border Roads Organisation for a road to the ecologically fragile area.

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

Sharma lambasted the criticism of the road work.

"Development based on technical reports should not be politicised, and interference in anyone's religious faith will not be tolerated," he said, accusing Mehbooba, a former chief minister, of leveraging religious issues for political gains.

The BJP leader said decisions should be guided by technical reports and expert assessments rather than political statements.

"If a technical report says that a building is unsafe or that a particular road cannot be constructed, the recommendation has to be followed. If work is being carried out in accordance with technical reports, others should not interfere in the process," he said, and urged no interference in the religious beliefs of persons of any faith.

Fixed

it said would help the BJP polarise voters in Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Calling it a "fixed match" between the PDP and the BJP, National Conference (NC) chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq questioned why Mufti was opposing the construction now, when the foundation stone was laid in 2022.

On Tuesday, the former chief minister was stopped at Chandanwari while attempting to trek towards the high-risk glacial lake.

"What Mehbooba Mufti did yesterday is a well-planned conspiracy and a fixed match between the PDP and the BJP. An impression is sought to be created that Muslims are against it. The BJP wants to use that to consolidate its position in the UP elections," Sadiq claimed.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has sought a report from the concerned departments about the construction at Sheshnag.

"If there is any report to suggest that there is any deviation from earlier plans, it will be stopped," he said," Sadiq added.

The Zadibal MLA asserted that Islam teaches followers to respect every religion.

"I am a Muslim, and my religion tells me to respect every religion, and we do that. We understand that whether it is a Muslim, a Hindu, or anyone, we all have to coexist," he added.

Sadiq questioned Mufti's "sudden" opposition to the construction, asking why she didn't voice concern when the foundation stone was laid or when a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed.

"The foundation stone for it was laid in 2022 when the BRO brought this proposal. The MoU was signed in 2023, and the work started under the lieutenant governor's rule in 2024. Why was she silent all these years? Did she not find shoes to go to Sheshnag?" Sadiq asked, adding, "If the PDP president had been sincere, she would have approached the National Green Tribunal or the High Court."

Earlier, Mufti asked Abdullah to explain the extension of the MoU with the Border Roads Organisation for a road to the ecologically fragile Sheshnag area along the Amarnath yatra route. Environmentalists have raised concerns that the construction activity may damage Sheshnag, a glacial lake in Anantnag, and the alpine nature of its surroundings.

The controversy erupted after a video showed an excavator at work near the high-risk lake in the south Kashmir district.

Mehbooba

alpine nature of its surroundings.

"Shockingly, on 23 January 2026, the Omar Abdullah-led Cabinet cleared the road to Sheshnag by extending the MoU with BRO's Project Beacon," Mehbooba said on X.

The former chief minister tried to visit the construction site on Tuesday but was stopped by the police.

"In the name of development, it is an assault on our fragile ecology, putting both the Sheshnag ecosystem and the Amarnath Yatra at risk.

"Will the Chief Minister and Tourism Department explain this MoU and the clearance granted? Will they withdraw it before irreversible damage is done?" she asked.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Monday said that it was carrying out the post-Amarnath Yatra work in compliance with all safety norms and environmental safeguards.

The ruling National Conference hit back at Mehbooba, asserting that the Abdullah government sanctioned no road.

"Why this misinformation and mischief@MehboobaMufti? Where and when was a road approved? MOU in January 2026 was specifically aimed at COMPLETING the PENDING and CRITICAL works on SANJY Tracks. And also Slope Stabilisation and Snow Clearance," party spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said on X.

He dared the former chief minister to prove that the NC government approved the road, or apologise.

An online petition against the construction at the high-altitude lake is gaining momentum with more than 8,000 people signing on.

The petition on Change.org, named "Stop construction around Kashmir's alpine lakes", started by Zarqua Banday, garnered 8,663 signatures. The link briefly appeared broken but has since reappeared on the site.

The petition urged the authorities to engage with local environmental and community groups to develop a sustainable way forward.

It said that in the name of development and easy access, the government plans to construct roads that will cut through untouched havens in Kashmir.

The petitioners urged the government to "consider sustainable tourism initiatives that preserve our natural environment."

"Solutions like guided trekking, limited access permits and eco-friendly accommodations could bring economic benefits without sacrificing our wilderness. Other regions facing similar challenges, like the Swiss Alps, have successfully implemented such strategies. We need to learn from them and prioritise long-term ecological health over short-term gains," the petition read.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday questioned the deployment of an excavator near the lake.

Kashmir's chief cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who also signed the petition, said, "We all have to collectively raise our voice to stop the mindless destruction of our ecology at its most fragile places."

The Mirwaiz also challenged Abdullah to speak up on the matter as a public representative.

"Why is our Chief Minister @omarabdullah mute? As people's elected representative it is his duty to speak up and do the needful to ensure this plunder is stopped! I have signed this petition and urge all those who want to save Kashmir's fragile ecology do so," he said on X.

On the other hand, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday accused critics of selective environmental activism, asserting that it would firmly oppose any move to communalise development, undermine the annual pilgrimage or disturb peace in the valley.

"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," party spokesperson and former MLC, Girdhari Lal Raina, said in a statement.

Outrage was sparked when a video showed an excavator at work near the high-risk lake in the south Kashmir district.

Sajad

, but the latter was quick to deny the allegation.

"Mehbooba ji, whose party was the scriptwriter of the Amarnath ecological disaster in 2008, has referred to an official meeting where the NC has given its nod for the road. Of course, the NC was quick to rebut. No prizes for guessing, the NC will now bring in the 2008 Amarnath ecological disaster," he said.

Lone said the ensuing exchange of statements between the two parties would provide a "perfect fig leaf" for continued ecological destruction.

He called for giving environmentalists space to present scientific evidence and build a discourse to stop the ecological damage.

"It is time they come forward with scientific facts and create a discourse based on scientific evidence to stop this ecological destruction," he added.

Lone also suggested that the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections could have a bearing on the issue, drawing a parallel with the 2008 Amarnath land row.

"Because we have seen how in 2008, in reaction to sincere ecological activism in Kashmir, a wholly communal agitation emerged in Jammu. And I won't be surprised if both the parties are playing their roles on the script. UP elections are, I think, two months away," he said. (PTI)

DGP

sources that 30 terrorists hailing from Mahore and Chassana, missing since 1991 to 2003, had crossed over to Pakistan for weapons training for waging war against India.

"These persons are now working for HM (Hizbul Mujahideen) in Pakistan and are supplying arms and ammunition, money, to promote terrorism in J&K, besides instigating and radicalising the youth for taking part in terror activities in the area," the DGP said on X.

The 30 terrorists operating from Pakistan have been identified as Mohd Qayoom of Shadole, Mohd Sabdar of Shajroo, Ghulam Mohd and Ghulam Qadir, both sons of Samdoo and residents of Khour, Mushtaq Ahmad of Khour and Khushal Hussain, a resident of Dada.

The list further names Abdul Majeed, Mohd Rafiq, alias Shabir, Shabir Ahmad and Manzoor Ahmad, all residents of Karmkatha, Makhna and Alaf Din, both residents of Shajroo, Abdul Majeed of Lar, Ghulam Mohd, alias Gamma, of Shajroo, and Mushtaq Ahmad of Sildhar.

Others identified are Mohd Yousuf Khakmat, alias Bilal (callsign), of Shadool, Mohd Iqbal and Mohd Ashraf, both residents of Chakrass, Ghulam Mohd of Ladh, Abdul Hamid Najar, alias Mahamdoo, of Shibrass, Jamal Din of Sildhar, and Talib Hussain of Chiklass.

The remaining names are Mohd Rafiq, Gami Gujjar, both residents of Larh, Mohd Rafiq of Tulli, Mohd Qasim of Kunderdhan, Abdul Hamid of Balmatkote, Shabir Ahmad of Bagodass, Mohd Rafiq of Kunderdhan, and Mohd Ali of Hassote.

In 2024, Mahore police filed an FIR under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Explosive and Improvised Materials Control provisions and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against these alleged terrorists.

During the investigation, police recorded statements of witnesses and identified five alleged terrorists who also exfiltrated to Pakistan for arms and ammunition training and were actively involved in attempts to revive terrorist activities in the area from across the border by selling their lands to finance terrorism, the DGP said.

They have been identified as Mohd Qayoom, alias Abdul Qayoom, of Shadole in Mahore tehsil, Bashir Ahmad, alias Masoom, of Bidder, Shokat Ali of Hunder in Arnas tehsil, Manzoor Ahmad, alias Manzoor Hussain, of Khanti in Thuroo tehsil, and Imtyaz Ahmad of Thuroo.

Police also seized over 27 kanals of land belonging to these five Reasi terrorists.

Land

terrorist activities in the region. Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat approved the property seizure under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, through an order on November 19.

According to the order, the land was allegedly being put up for sale, with the proceeds suspected to be intended for financing terrorist activities.

"The evidence collected during investigation reveals that these terrorists are attempting to sell their land (tabulated hereunder) and proceeds of such sale are intended to be used for furtherance of terrorist activities in the area," the DGP said.

CM Omar

Administrative Secretary Science & Technology Babila Rakwal and other senior officers.

At the outset, Administrative Secretary Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the mandate, achievements, ongoing projects and future roadmap of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

Reviewing progress under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Chief Minister was informed that 9,025 government buildings had been solarised under the CAPEX mode, with a cumulative capacity of 96.10 MW. He directed the department to expedite the solarisation of remaining government buildings and resolve inter-departmental issues relating to unified billing, adoption of Virtual Net Metering (VNM) benefits by DISCOMs and conversion of single-phase connections into three-phase connections for solar plants of 10 kW and above.

Underscoring the importance of diversifying the renewable energy mix, Omar Abdullah called for exploring viable wind energy opportunities alongside an accelerated expansion of solar power. He reviewed the department's 2030 vision, which envisages 500 MW of Solar PV capacity, 100 MW of Small Hydro capacity and 5 MW across wind, hydrogen, biomass and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

He also directed the exploration of solar energy potential in water bodies under the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana and called for expeditious implementation of the Model Solar Village initiative across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajnath

to pledge to protect the Constitution, its institutions and its democratic values.

"We are here to raise our voice against the Congress's politics of spreading anarchy and weakening constitutional bodies in the country," he added.

Accusing the Congress of "being obsessed with power and office", Singh alleged that the party, in opposition in Parliament, was continuously trying to weaken the foundations of India's democratic system.

He charged that the Congress had strangled democracy in 1975 by imposing the Emergency and jailing lakhs of people who had committed no crime.

Singh recalled that he spent 18 months in jail during the Emergency, when he was 24. He also alleged that the Congress was responsible for the massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

The 1984 riots were a series of violent attacks on Sikhs across India, triggered by the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

The Congress was now trying to undermine the Constitution, constitutional values and institutions, Singh alleged.

Riyadh

India also reiterated its firm solidarity with the people and government of Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed its unwavering support to the Kingdom in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We earnestly hope that peace and normalcy will return to the region at the earliest," the MEA said.

There has been a sudden escalation in tensions in West Asia, especially after the Houthis carried out several strikes on Saudi Arabia.

The West Asia conflict began in February following attacks on Iran by the US and Israel. New Delhi has consistently called for finding a solution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

India has been specifically voicing serious concern over the Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's civilian infrastructure and economic assets, cautioning that such strikes undermine regional stability and threaten freedom of navigation through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.

CS

ADDC, Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq; ; ADC Rajouri Ravi Sihag; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; district and sectoral officers besides a large number of local residents and public representatives attended the programme.

The programme witnessed participation of a large number of people who apprised the Chief Secretary of various demands concerning infrastructure development, religious and border tourism, education, healthcare, sports facilities, agriculture, connectivity and livelihood opportunities in the border areas.

On his arrival, the Chief Secretary inspected stalls established by various departments, including School Education, Skill Development, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Mission Poshan and Social Welfare, showcasing government schemes, departmental initiatives and public welfare interventions.

During the interaction, the public representatives and local residents raised several issues, including granting shrine status to Maa Mangla Mata Temple, organising a Border Tourism Mela, promoting agriculture-linked ecotourism, double-laning of the Nowshera-Jhangar road, construction of additional border bunkers, addressing staff shortages in educational institutions, construction of a sports stadium at Kalsian, establishment of a dispensary and ambulance facility at Bhawani, fixation of rates for maize and wheat seeds and provision of storage facilities for agricultural produce besides other demands related to the development of villages and towns of this region.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary extended greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purab and highlighted the vision and objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at transforming border villages through improved infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, livelihood generation and better access to essential public services.

He observed that Block Diwas, an initiative introduced by the Lieutenant Governor in Jammu and Kashmir, has emerged as an effective mechanism of taking governance to people's doorsteps, enabling direct interaction with citizens and ensuring that their grievances receive focused attention and timely redressal.

The Chief Secretary assured the gathering that all the demands and issues raised during the Block Diwas at Vibrant Village Bhawani had been noted and would be looked into earnestly by the administration. He appreciated the District Administration Rajouri for its public-centric initiatives and sustained efforts towards development and effective implementation of government schemes.

Emphasising the immense potential of border areas, he encouraged local youth to explore opportunities in entrepreneurship, skill development, startups and other emerging sectors to become active partners in the region's socio-economic development.

Responding to the demand for additional border bunkers, the Chief Secretary informed that a fresh proposal in this regard has recently been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs and is at an advanced stage of consideration.

Taking serious note of the demand for development of the revered Maa Mangla Mata Shrine, he directed the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri to prepare a comprehensive and meticulous development plan for the shrine, keeping in view its religious significance and immense potential for religious tourism and ecotourism..

On the issue of staff shortages in educational institutions located in border areas, he assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate interventions. Regarding the proposed sports stadium at Kalsian, he directed the Deputy Commissioner to identify suitable land for the facility. He further observed that indoor sports facilities could be developed in schools having a higher student enrolment and directed that school-wise priorities in this regard be worked out.

Responding to the demand for healthcare facilities at Bhawani, he assured that appropriate measures would be explored for providing a dispensary and ambulance services to the area. He also directed the concerned officer of the Industries Department to sensitise local residents, particularly youth, about collateral-free loan schemes, startup financing and other entrepreneurship support initiatives available under various government programmes.

The Chief Secretary further assured that the demand for establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya would be taken up with the concerned authorities, while other genuine issues raised during the interaction would be examined by the respective departments for appropriate action.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for agricultural machinery and under schemes of the Sheep Husbandry Department. He also distributed engagement orders to newly engaged Anganwadi Workers, extending support to grassroots service delivery and women empowerment.

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Zaheer Khan backs EQUAL, a new mixed-gender T20 cricket initiative

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 25 :Former India fast bowler and 2011 World Cup winner Zaheer Khan is backing 'EQUAL', an ambitious mixed-gender T20 cricket initiative that aims to bring men and women together in the same playing XI.

The brainchild of Anchor Sports, co-owned by Zaheer and technology entrepreneur Nagendra Siddoutam, the initiative is being developed in partnership with the German Cricket Federation (Deutscher Cricket Bund).

The proposed league will feature five teams competing in 12 T20 matches, with each squad comprising 18 players. Every playing XI will include six women and five men. The inaugural edition of the league, set to be played in August 2027, will retain the established mechanics of

T20 cricket while introducing specific playing laws, safety measures and substitution protocols to ensure a competitive environment.

Zaheer believes the initiative can make cricket more accessible, particularly in emerging markets such as Europe, and help expand its global reach ahead of the sport's return to the Olympic Games in 2028.

"Cricket has the power to bring people together, and its growth, particularly in emerging markets such as Europe, will depend on how well we make the game accessible to a wider audience. Initiatives like 'EQUAL' are an important step in that direction, giving people across genders the opportunity to participate, contribute and be part of the sport's growth," said Zak.

"With cricket returning to the Olympic Games in 2028, there is an opportunity to take the game to new communities and further expand its global reach. What makes 'EQUAL' particularly interesting is that it brings a male and a female cricketer together in the middle, competing against each other," he added.

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Will always love Pat, not going to judge on 70 minutes of a presser: Khawaja

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 25 :Usman Khawaja has admitted that Pat Cummins' press conference earlier this month left him deeply hurt, but insisted he holds no ill will towards Australia's Test captain and never wanted him to lose the job.

Speaking on The Grade Cricketer podcast, Khawaja made his most detailed comments yet on the controversy surrounding his recently released book, Sabr.

He also revealed that he had sent Cricket Australia (CA) chief executive Todd Greenberg a draft statement that he hoped the 2018 squad would collectively endorse to bring the ball-tampering episode to a close.

In his book, Khawaja claimed that sandpaper had been used beyond the Newlands Test in South Africa in 2018 and that the entire team knew about it. Cummins rejected the allegations during a 68-minute press conference in Sydney, calling them "100% wrong" and saying Khawaja had

been "casual" with people's lives. Since then, former teammates Chadd Sayers and Cameron Bancroft have publicly backed Khawaja's account.

Khawaja said he had contacted Cummins before the press conference and was surprised by the personal nature of his response.

"I've always loved Pat Cummins the person and the leader, terrific. I was never expecting him to come out and attack me personally like that," he said. "Attack what I said, yeah, personally, [but]

the way he did, for so long, and just kept going and kept going - I've never seen that side of Pat before, and that's what really disappointed me.

He also recalled struggling to watch the press conference, with his wife Rachel beside him.

"I didn't want to watch it, but I had to watch it because I had to know what he was saying, and I wanted to turn it off so many times, but I had to keep going. I remember Rachel was next to

me, my wife, she just kept going, 'Are you okay? Are you okay?' and I couldn't really answer

her because I was just so many emotions at that time. It was really weird."

Bancroft's comments subsequently prompted calls for Cummins to give up the captaincy, but the

CA board unanimously backed him last weekend. Khawaja welcomed the decision, reiterating that he did not want to hurt anyone. "I will always love Pat. I'm not going to - as much as that hurt me, and it really did hurt me - I'm not going to judge him on 70 minutes of a presser, or probably like 20 minutes of a presser .

Henry backs Duffy's mindset after Wellington outing

United News Of India



CHRISTCHURCH, NOV 25 :New Zealand fast bowler Matt Henry has thrown his support behind fellow pacer Jacob Duffy, praising his 'team-first mentality' following a gruelling spell in the first ICC World Test Championship tussle against India in Wellington.

Duffy endured bowling figures of 1/201 on a surface where the ball rarely carried to the slips.

Speaking ahead of the Hagley Oval Test, Henry noted that Duffy sacrificed personal statistics to execute an aggressive bouncer strategy for the side.

"He (Duffy) has shown over the years that he's a classy bowler, and he's all about the team," Henry said.

"When we suggest maybe we do a bumper plan here, he's not worried about his personal figures. He's trying to have an impact on the game, and the moments that he had required him to probably

be more attacking on quite a docile wicket."

Henry added that Duffy's willingness to adapt and absorb pressure has consistently delivered match-winning results over the past few years, according to ICC.

"There's no question about the skill. For us, there were moments that we needed someone to try

a different plan, and he was open to do that.

"I think that's probably the quality of the side. It's not worrying about the outcome, but how you're trying to have an impact on the game."

New Zealand managed to frustrate India on the final day to secure a hard-fought draw, led by a defiant partnership between Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips. Henry stated that the team is taking significant confidence from their batting grit and bowling discipline into the Christchurch fixture.

"It was just another tick in the box with the grittiness of our batting line-up. It was a bit of absorbing in the last game, which is okay.

"I think we handled it well, and we came away with a draw, which gives us a lot of confidence.

"The way Daryl (Mitchell) and GP (Phillips) batted was pretty defiant. And I think when you're in that situation, and the bowlers had put a lot of work in as well, some pretty heavy loads to get to that point, and it's a big series coming up and still a lot of cricket to play."

Returning to his domestic home ground in Canterbury, Henry remained cautious about predicting how the Hagley Oval pitch will behave, noting that high scores have been common at the venue recently.

"Traditionally here in New Zealand, the wickets when there's grass on them tend to get better and better, an it's been the same here. "It's a good batting venue. Obviously, when there's bounce involved, it's good for the bowler, but from a batting point of view you can score runs quickly as well. "The second and final Test of the series is scheduled in Christchurch starting November 27.

Hockey India congratulates Women's Hockey Team for best ever World No. 5 FIH Ranking

United News Of India

BHOPAL, NOV 25 :The Indian Women's Hockey Team has scripted history by reaching its highest-ever position of No. 5 in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Rankings, following an emphatic 6-2 victory over China on Tuesday in the ongoing Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy Bhopal 2026 at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda, here.

The landmark achievement marks a significant milestone in the journey of Indian women's hockey, reflecting the team's consistent performances and growing stature on the international stage.

Introduced in October 2003, the FIH World Rankings have seen the Indian women's team steadily climb the global ladder over the years; the fifth position now representing an unprecedented high. India's previous best ranking was No. 6, which the team achieved in May-June 2022 following an impressive FIH Pro League campaign and reached again in 2023.

Taekwondo Premier League Season 2 to be held in Hyderabad on Dec 5, 6

United News Of India



HYDERABAD, NOV 25 :The second season of the Taekwondo Premier League (TPL), featuring 40 top-ranked professional athletes from eight teams across 21 matches, will be held at Quake Arena in Hyderabad on December 5 and 6.

Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari and Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director Dr A. Sonibala Devi unveiled the league poster on Wednesday.

The league will introduce a round-robin format for the first time in the history of Taekwondo, with the competition shifting to a knockout format from the semi-finals. The matches will be telecast live on InSports World and ABP Live Sports.

Speaking on the occasion, Vakiti Srihari said the league would provide an excellent platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and expressed hope for its success. Dr. Sonibala Devi extended her best wishes to the organisers and said the competition would encourage young Taekwondo players.

TPL Founding Director Ganesh Duvvuri said the league would contribute to the growth of Taekwondo in India, while TPL India Chairman Rajesh Agarwal expressed confidence that it would emerge as one of the leading Taekwondo leagues globally.

Grandmaster June Lee, Chief Commissioner of the American Taekwondo Premier League, said TPL was gaining recognition as an emerging sports league in India.

The league is being jointly organised by Inail Sports, the Global Traditional Taekwondo Federation, Pro Taekwondo Corporation and GKPR. TPL co-founders Navaneetha and GK Venkat were also present.

Bumrah, Bavuma edge towards top spot on latest Test rankings

United News Of India



DUBAI, NOV 25 :India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma have been the big winners on the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings as they moved towards the No.1 spot in their respective category following strong performances in recent ICC World Test Championship contests.

Bumrah collected five wickets for the match during the first Test against New Zealand that ended in a draw and it allowed the right-armer to gain three spots and move up to equal second on the updated rankings for Test bowlers.

It means Bumrah joins England pacer Ollie Robinson in joint second position on the latest rankings, with Australia veteran Mitchell Starc the only player ahead of the duo with the left-armer still 25 rating points adrift.

South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada is also on the move as he gains two places to rise to sixth for Test bowlers on the back of eight wickets for the match in the first Test with Bangladesh, while Pakistan counterpart Mohammad Abbas (up two rungs to 12th) makes some ground following a good effort against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi. It's another South African that makes the most eye-catching progress on the list for Test batters, with Bavuma gaining one place to rise to third following an unbeaten 68 not out in that contest that Rabada was adjudged Player of the Match. It's England duo Harry Brook and Joe Root that still hold sway at the top of the rankings for Test batters, though there is plenty of movement behind them with Bavuma, Rishabh Pant (up one spot o sixth), Shubman Gill (up three slots to seventh) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (up five places to ninth) all making ground inside the top 10, according to ICC. Further back there are gains for Ryan Rickelton (up 10 places to equal 15th), Glenn Phillips (up 13 rungs to 17th) and Sonal Dinusha (up four slots to 19th) with the trio all registering new career-high ratings following some good recent knocks against the red ball.

Teen sensation Danish Verma stays three clear as Gill storms into second at Atri Invitational 2026

United News Of India



MUMBAI, NOV 25 :Teen star Danish Verma of Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC continued to make a strong impression in his maiden season as a professional, maintaining a three-shot lead after the second round of the Atri Invitational 2026 presented by Mumbai Garudas GC.

The 15-year-old Verma followed his opening eight-under 60 at the Par-68 Bombay Presidency Golf Club on Tuesday, with a four-under 64 to reach 12-under and stay firmly in control.

While Verma kept the pole position, there were two superb rounds during the day and the biggest charge came from Pukhraj Singh Gill OF Unico Gurugram Tuskers GC, who fired a bogey-free 10-under 58 at the Par-68 course to climb from one-over to nine-under and sole second place.

Gill, who has played close to 30 weeks this year, was followed by Shiv Kapur of RVR Delhi Blue Bulls GC, who added a three-under 65 to his opening five-under to move to eight-under and sole third. Kapur has now recorded four Top-10 finishes in his last five starts.

Sachin Baisoya of Phoenix Firebirds Hyderabad GC , Samarth Dwivedi of Vimtra Chennai Lions GC and veteran SSP Chawrasia of Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC were tied fourth at five-under. Chawrasia, despite missing several putts on the slow greens, remained in contention for a solid Top-5 finish.

Verma's round had its share of ups and downs. An early bogey on the second was followed by three consecutive birdies, before another dropped shot on the ninth saw him turn at one-under. He recovered strongly on the back nine, picking up birdies on the challenging 14th, 16th and 18th to close with a 4-under 64.

The youngster is clearly relishing his first season in the professional ranks. "I have been having fun, and I like being in the lead. I did that before once after two rounds and now I am ahead again and

am looking forward to taking on the seniors and the best in the league," said Verma, who has been dubbed the 'Vaibhav Sooryavanshi of Indian golf' by Kapur.

Kapur, who even contemplated withdrawing before the start due to a wrist injury has managed to hang in well. "I have been battling a little bit of a wrist injury. I was close to withdrawing but managed to fight through it. I am using my experience and grinding, keeping the ball in play, giving myself chances, and I feel I within striking distance, and anything possible. The idea was to give myself a chance going into the final day, and I think I've done that."

The experienced campaigner is also enjoying the challenge of competing against a younger generation, particularly Verma.

"No matter how much you have played, you want to win as soon as you tee up. SSP (Chawrasia), who played so much with me around the world, agreed and it is exciting to battle it out with players half your age or even less as Danish is. He was playing in the lead group behind us and he looked so good."

Udayan Mane of Atri Mumbai Garudas GC, winner on the Africa leg of the AM Green IGPL, also produced one of the day's outstanding rounds, firing a bogey-free seven-under 61, capped by an eagle. However, with low scores coming from all around, the Olympian from Pune was tied seventh at four-under and eight behind Verma.

Representing the host franchise Atri Mumbai Garudas GC, Mane was particularly pleased with his recovery on the 12th, a hole that had caused him considerable trouble in the opening round.

"Believe it or not, it could have gone much lower, but I'll take a 7-under today. My sweetest moment today was the 12th hole, where yesterday I put 2 balls in the water with a wedge in my hand, and

I ended up making an 8. Today, I found the green with my wedge and I made the putt for a three for a birdie. So, I made a 5-shot improvement over there. So that was the main triumph today." Gill's round was built on a strong start and an even better finish, with four consecutive birdies from the second and an eagle on the closing hole. Despite an extended season, he said he was still enjoying the demands .

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Consumer Commission awards Rs 2 Lakh compensation against PHE Sopore

Kupwara: The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Baramulla/Bandipora, has awarded Rs 2 lakh as compensation against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Sopore, for deficiency in service over prolonged denial of water supply, despite the consumer having deposited the requisite fee. The Commission has also awarded Rs 20,000 as litigation charges.

In a judgment dated July 29, 2026, in Consumer Complaint No. 17/2016,Titled Mohd Muqbool Dar vs PHE Sopore and others , the Commission partly allowed the complaint and directed the opposite parties to compensate the complainant for the hardship, inconvenience and mental agony suffered by him.

As per the case details, the complainant had been gifted one marla of land by his uncle for construction of a residential house. Despite depositing the prescribed fee for a water connection, he allegedly remained without



the facility for a prolonged period, compelling him to approach the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar for legal intervention.

The Hon'ble High Court, through an order dated November 7, 2016, directed the concerned authorities to provide water supply, following which the connection was eventually provided.

The PHE authorities had cited damage to water pipelines by local inhabitants as the reason for the delay. However, the Commission observed that such a plea could not absolve the authorities of their responsibility to maintain the water supply system and ensure delivery of essential services.

The Commission observed that once a consumer fulfills the required formalities and deposits the prescribed fee, he becomes entitled to the service within a reasonable period. It further held that providing the facility after intervention of the High Court does not erase the deficiency in service that had already occurred.

Army organise pre-winter medical camp at Kandi village in Karnah

PEERZADA SAYEED



Kandi, Karnah (Kupwara), 25 November 2026: In a significant healthcare outreach initiative ahead of the harsh winter season, the Indian Army organised a Pre-Winter Medical Camp at the Pahari Cultural Centre, Kandi village of Karnah Tehsil, in the border district of Kupwara, providing essential medical services to 200 local residents.

The camp witnessed an encouraging response from the local population, particularly residents of remote and far-flung border villages, who benefited from healthcare facilities closer to their homes ahead of the challenging winter months.

The medical team comprised one Army doctor, one Army dentist and one female civilian doctor from Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Tangdhar. The team collectively provided medical consultations, healthcare assistance and treatment to the beneficiaries.

A total of 200 people benefited from the initiative, including 140 men, 45 women, 10 children and 10 ex-servicemen, among other local residents.

The pre-winter medical camp aimed to address the healthcare requirements of the border population before the onset of severe winter conditions, while also promoting awareness about preventive healthcare, timely medical consultations and regular health check-ups.

Kulgam Police conduct multi-location mock drill

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: Kulgam Police, in coordination with other security agencies, on Wednesday conducted a mock drill under the Critical Incident Response System (CIRS) at multiple locations across District Kulgam, including Kulgam town, Chawalgam and Laroo, to strengthen security preparedness and ensure an effective response to any critical situation.

The exercise was aimed at assessing the operational readiness, response capabilities and coordination among various security agencies in dealing with critical incidents and emergency situations.

During the drill, personnel from Kulgam Police and other participating agencies carried out coordinated response exercises to evaluate communication systems, mobilisation procedures and operational effectiveness. The exercise also helped assess inter-agency coordination and identify areas for further strengthening the existing response mechanism.

The mock drill formed part of routine preparedness measures to ensure a prompt, coordinated and effective response to any unforeseen situation.

Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to maintaining peace and security across the district through enhanced preparedness, constant vigilance and close coordination with all security agencies.

Bajaj General Insurance partners with Lawyered to bring 24x7 legal assistance

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited), one of India's leading private general insurers, today announced its partnership with 'Lawyered' to introduce LOTS (Lawyer On The Spot), a 24x7 roadside legal assistance add-on for its motor policyholders. The initiative aims to address an important gap in the motor insurance experience by providing customers access to legal guidance and on-ground assistance when they encounter legal or procedural challenges following a road accident or other roadside incidents.

Through LOTS, policyholders can access round-the-clock legal guidance on police procedures, FIRs, vehicle detention, traffic challans and related documentation. Where physical intervention is required, customers can also access support from a lawyer through Lawyered's nationwide network.

Addressing the legal challenges after a road accident

A road accident can bring several legal and procedural complexities that vehicle owners are often unprepared to navigate. Beyond the immediate incident, motorists may have to deal with police procedures, FIR formalities, vehicle detention, documentation and traffic challans, often without a clear understanding of their legal rights or the required steps. In such situations, the availability of timely and credible legal guidance can make a significant difference to how customers respond and proceed.

BWJA organises 'Coordination Conclave' in Baramulla

180 participants attend; focus on strengthening administration-media engagement; DC Hamid stresses need for constructive dialogue; SSP Neha Jain highlights importance of healthy working relationship between police and media















SAHIL NAZIR

Baramulla, Nov 25: The Baramulla Working Journalists Association (BWJA) on Wednesday organised a Coordination Conclave aimed at strengthening coordination and fostering constructive engagement between the District Administration, Police, Media and various sections of the society.

The conclave witnessed the participation of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F. Hamid (IAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, SSP Sopore Neha Jain, Additional SP Baramulla Fahad Tak, DySP Headquarters Shahjahan Choudhary and District Information Officer (DIO) Baramulla.

Around 180 participants attended the event, representing different sections of society, including civil society members, traders, representatives of industrial associations, religious scholars, members of the Bar Association and senior citizens.

Prominent media representatives included Editor-in-Chief of KPS Raja Mohi-ud-Din, Editor of KNO News Agency Nasir Azam Khan and Zeeshan Mohi-ud-Din of JK Revolution, Wajahat Farooq Chairman Save Youth Save Future were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F. Hamid appreciated BWJA for taking the initiative and emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination between the administration and media fraternity. He highlighted the significant role of the media in creating public awareness, disseminating information and bringing public grievances to the attention of the authorities. He also stressed the need for constructive dialogue and cooperation to ensure effective governance and timely redressal of public issues.

SSP Sopore Neha Jain also highlighted the importance of a healthy working relationship between the police and media. She emphasised responsible journalism, factual reporting and the dissemination of verified information, stating that better coordination and mutual understanding could help counter misinformation, strengthen public trust and contribute towards maintaining peace and public order.

The conclave provided a common platform for meaningful interaction and exchange of views on issues concerning public welfare, media responsibilities, administrative coordination and the role of different stakeholders in addressing public concerns.

Participants from civil society, the business community, industrial associations and other sections of society also shared their perspectives, highlighting the importance of collective efforts and regular communication in resolving issues affecting the public.

Speaking on the occasion, BWJA President Suhail Khan emphasised that the Coordination Conclave was conceived as an initiative to establish stronger institutional ties and promote meaningful engagement between the administration, police, media and civil society. He said that such interactions would help build mutual trust, improve communication and create a more effective platform for highlighting and addressing public concerns.

The initiative was widely aimed at promoting dialogue, cooperation and collective responsibility, recognising the media's role as a bridge between the public and institutions of governance.

The participation of around 180 people from diverse professional and social backgrounds made the conclave an important step towards strengthening coordination and fostering a culture of constructive engagement in Baramulla district.