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• Srinagar • Friday, 27 November 2026 • 16 Jamad-ul-Thani 1448 AH • Issue No: 327

21st Year of Publication

Kashmir Age

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

• Volume: 21 • Pages: 12 • Rs: 3/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) • JKENG/2006/23952

Union Home Secretary reviews security situation in Jammu



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 26: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who arrived at Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital on Thursday, chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation in the Union Territory, officials said.

The meeting was

See on Pg. 10

Amit Shah lauds India's role in fighting terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 26: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed India's "leading role" in the global fight against terrorism, acting against its every form, as he paid tribute to the soldiers, police personnel and the innocent people killed in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

In a post on X on the anniversary of the attack, Shah said the "cowardly terrorist attacks" on Mumbai on this day in 2008 shook the entire nation.

He saluted the soldiers who laid down their lives while giving a crushing response to the terrorists.

"The cowardly terrorist attacks on Mumbai

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Constitution integral to crores of citizens: PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Indian Constitution is integral to the lives of crores of citizens, including himself, but it was amended significantly at the height of the Emergency, curtailing the power of judicial review and fundamentally altering the balance of institutional powers.

Without naming the Congress, Modi accused it of weakening the Constitution during its rule and said that repeated misuse of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments presents another troubling chapter.

The remarks were part of a signed article that appeared in major

See on Pg. 10

Cold conditions unabated In Valley

Srinagar Sees Season's Coldest Night



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 26: Cold conditions prevailed in Kashmir, with the minimum temperature in Srinagar settling two degrees below normal for the second consecutive day on Thursday, officials said here.

The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, the same as the previous night, officials said.

It was the coldest night of the season in Srinagar this winter.

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir with a minimum of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, even though it marked a slight improvement from the previous night's minus 3.6 degrees Celsius.

Several areas of the Valley were engulfed in a layer of fog on Thursday morning. Officials said Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley in south Kashmir, also recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg

See on Pg. 10

Ex-terrorist arrested after over two decades: Police

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 26: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested a former terrorist who had been evading arrest for more than two decades in 13 criminal cases, including the killing of a Special Police Officer (SPO), officials said.

The accused, identified as Mohd Mansha, a resident of Thuroo Lassoli in Reasi district, was arrested by a special team of Reasi police from Tral in Awantipora district with the assistance of local police, they said.

Mansha was wanted in a case registered in 2000 at Mahore police station under various sections of RPC and the Arms Act. An SPO of Jammu and Kashmir Police was killed in the incident, officials said.

Following the investigation, a chargesheet was filed against Mansha before the competent court, and he was subsequently declared an absconder, they said.

The Court of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Reasi, had issued an arrest warrant against him on December 6, 2001.

According to the police, Mansha was an active terrorist between 2000 and 2007 before surrendering before security

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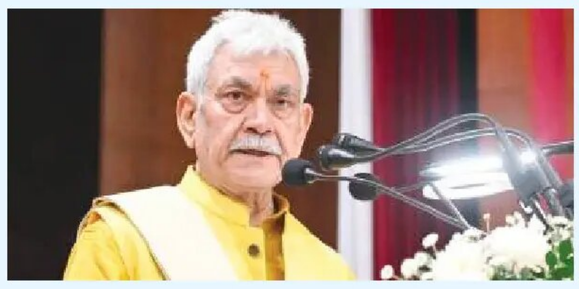
Constitution embodies India's democratic aspirations: LG



Emphasises Mutual Respect For Rights, Dignity Of Citizens

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, November 26: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Constitution Day celebration and called upon the citizens of Jammu Kashmir to draw inspiration from the Constitution in the collective journey towards building a developed, inclusive and progressive

See on Pg. 10

CM extends Constitution Day greetings

KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, November 26: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Paying tribute to the framers of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his commitment to upholding its foundational ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

See on Pg. 10

Education's first, most important outcome is humility: LG Sinha



KA NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 26: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the meritorious students at Amar Ujala Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the country's true destiny was reflected in its young achievers and expressed confidence that the students would contribute significantly to the nation's progress in the years ahead.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Amar Ujala Group for consistently organising the programme across different parts of the

See on Pg. 10

2-day meet of BJP national office bearers from today

PM Modi Likely To Attend

KA NEWS DESK

New Delhi, Nov 26: A two-day meeting of the BJP national office bearers will be held here from Friday to discuss at length key organisational matters and the party's future plans.

According to sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the meeting at the PUSA campus, which will be presided over by BJP president Nitin Nabin.

This will be the first structured meeting of the newly appointed national office bearers of the BJP in which the prime minister will also participate. It comes as the party prepares for another crucial round of state elections, including in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

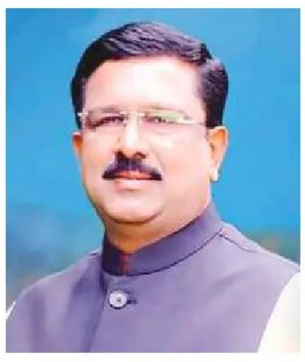
The prime minister had interacted with national office bearers in an introductory meeting at the BJP headquarters here on August 22 after the conclusion of their first formal meeting, chaired by Nabin.

"The two-

See on Pg. 10

Cong to intensify demand for JK's statehood: AICC Gen Secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 26: Congress will intensify its movement for restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, protect the Constitution and democratic institutions, and demand reinstatement of 13.5 crore voters allegedly deleted from electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision, AICC general secretary in-charge for the Union Territory Dr Sayeed Naseer Hussain said on Thursday.

Speaking on the party's decision to organise a march to create awareness about the Constitution, Hussain alleged that democratic institutions were being systematically weakened, elections were losing credibility, and autonomous institutions were being misused.

"We want Parliament to begin functioning so that we can raise our voice forcefully there. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will have to be removed. The 13.5 crore voters who have been deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls must be reinstated," he told reporters here.

Hussain said there should be a high-level inquiry to establish the forces behind Gyanesh Kumar and who was driving the SIR exercise and the alleged vote theft.

"It is very important that the real perpetrators of vote theft are exposed before the country," he said.

The Congress leader accused the Central government of undermining Parliament, restricting the Opposition's voice and failing to address atrocities against minorities, Dalits, tribals and women.

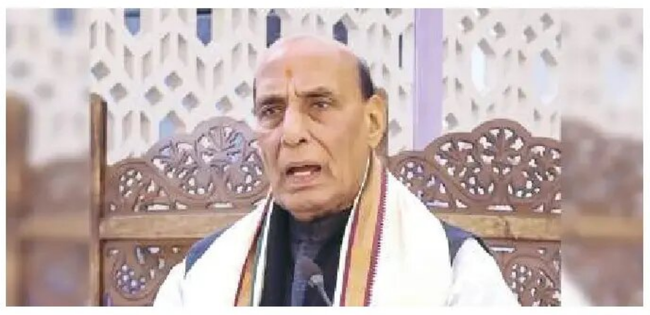
"That is why we organised this march. To create awareness about the Constitution

See on Pg. 10

Rajnath Singh calls for anticipating emerging risks

Says There's Need For Preparing Institutions For Security Environment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 26: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called for anticipating emerging risks, examining alternative scenarios and preparing institutions for the security environment of the future, while ensuring an effective response to immediate threats arising from evolving geopolitical dynamics.

Addressing the convocation and valedictory ceremony of the 66th National Defence College (NDC) course here, he also asserted that the evolving global balance of power, emergence of new centres of strategic influence and recalibration of traditional alliances, coupled with the changing nature of conflict, have made the security environment increasingly complex.

Singh said the NDC must evolve beyond imparting strategic understanding. Its rich intellectual capital and collective professional experience should contribute more directly to India's national security policymaking, helping the country anticipate emerging threats and prepare for future challenges, he added.

The defence minister said conventional military threats are

See on Pg. 10

Mock drill held at airport

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 26: Security agencies on Thursday conducted a full-scale emergency evacuation mock drill at Srinagar Airport to assess their preparedness and response capabilities in the event of a structural collapse, officials said.

"A Full-Scale Emergency Evacuation Mock Drill was conducted at Srinagar Airport to assess the preparedness and response capabilities of various agencies in dealing with a structural collapse scenario," the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said in a statement on its official X handle.

The exercise

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Army leads swift firefighting efforts in Karnah's Kandi village

Multi-departmental coordination prevents major tragedy

Kashmir Press Service
Peerzada Sayeed



KANDI, KARNAH, KUPWARA: A major fire broke out in Kandi village of Tehsil Karnah in Kupwara district, damaging three residential houses and causing substantial property losses to the affected families. One double-storey house was completely gutted, while two other residential houses sustained damage. Fortunately, no loss of human life was reported.

The Indian Army played a significant role in the emergency response, promptly reaching the affected area and extending crucial assistance in firefighting and rescue operations. Army personnel from the local formation and Frontier worked alongside civilian agencies to bring the blaze under control and prevent it from spreading to neighbouring residential structures.

According to initial information, the affected houses belong to Anam-ul-Haq, son of Mohammad Hussain Khan; Shafeeq Ahmad, son of Rehmatullah; and Ghulam Mustafa, son of Mohammad Hussain Khan. The house belonging to Anam-ul-Haq was completely gutted, while the other residential structures sustained varying degrees of damage.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and launched firefighting operations. The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department also deputed a water tanker to ensure an adequate supply of water during the operation.

Tehsildar Karnah, Mohammad Amin Bhat, accompanied by the concerned Patwaris, reached the spot without delay and coordinated the administrative response. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Police, under the supervision of SHO Tangdhar Javaid Ahmad, closely monitored the situation and assisted in maintaining public safety.

The collective efforts of the Indian Army, Fire and Emergency Services, PHE Department, Revenue Department and Jammu and Kashmir Police played a vital role in controlling the fire. Their timely intervention prevented the blaze from spreading further in the densely populated village, potentially averting a much bigger tragedy.

Locals appreciated the prompt response and coordination among the departments, observing that any delay in controlling the fire could have resulted in extensive destruction, with several adjoining houses at risk.

The incident has once again highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare and safety of people residing in remote and border areas. Beyond its primary responsibility of safeguarding the nation's borders, the Army continues to stand alongside local communities during emergencies, natural disasters and other challenging situations.

At the same time, the incident has underscored the need to strengthen emergency response infrastructure in remote areas like Karnah, particularly by ensuring adequate firefighting vehicles, trained personnel and drivers for timely intervention.

Although the affected families have suffered significant property losses, the absence of any casualties has brought considerable relief to the area.

The swift response and collective efforts stand as a testament to inter-departmental coordination, humanitarian service and the enduring bond between the Indian Army and the people of Karnah.

Great teacher headmaster Javed Ahmad Wani attains superannuation



Kashmir Press Service

HANDWARA: A grand and emotional farewell function was organized today at *TRC Handwara* in honour of the esteemed Headmaster of Govt. Upper Primary School Kachiwara, *Mr. Javed Ahmad Wani*, on the occasion of his retirement after decades of devoted service to the noble cause of education. The hall of TRC Handwara was filled with love, respect, emotions and gratitude, as officers, teachers and citizens gathered to bid a warm farewell to a man whose entire life has been a shining example of sincerity, discipline and dedication.

The Chief Guest of the programme was *Mr. Javed Ahmad Wani himself*. The *Guests of Honour* were *Principal, Girls Higher Secondary School Handwara* and *Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Handwara*, who graced the occasion with their presence and added dignity to the function. The programme was also attended by several ex-principals, principals and headmasters of neighbouring institutions, senior teachers, staff members, parents, relatives of Mr. Wani and prominent citizens of the area. A special moment of pride for everyone was the presence of *Mrs. Wani, wife of Mr. Javed Ahmad Wani, who is herself the Principal of Girls Higher Secondary School Langate*.

DLSA Shopian celebrates Constitution Day at District Court Complex

Kashmir Age News



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 26: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian, today organised a programme to celebrate Constitution Day, commemorating the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949, and promoting constitutional values and awareness among the public.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, (Chairman DLSA) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmed Chowdhary, under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasar Farooq.

The occasion was attended by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shopian, Reyaz Ahmad Chowdhary; Judicial Magistrate, JMFC/Munsiff, Ravinder Singh; and Judicial Magistrate, ASMM, Abaidullah.

During the programme, the Preamble to the Constitution of India was read aloud, reaffirming the collective commitment to the core constitutional ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Speakers highlighted the significance of the Constitution as the supreme law of the land and emphasised the fundamental rights and duties of every citizen.

An awareness session was also conducted on the constitutional rights of citizens and the pivotal role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice for all, particularly the weaker and marginalised sections of society. Participants were encouraged to uphold constitutional principles and contribute towards building a just, inclusive and democratic society.

DC Budgam reviews Ring Road Project



Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting at the DC Office Complex, Budgam, to review the status of the Ring Road Project, proposed Alternate Airport Road and other NHAI projects in the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed various issues related to land acquisition, demarcation, shifting of structures, airport connectivity, compensation and pending cases related to the progress of the projects.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to conduct joint site visits and ground surveys to assess the status of the projects, verify land records and identify pending and left-out cases for necessary action.

He stressed close coordination among the Revenue Department, NHAI and other concerned departments to resolve issues and facilitate smooth execution of the projects.

He also directed the officers to examine feasible alternatives to enhance the Airport connectivity. The Assistant Commissioner Revenue was directed to coordinate with BSF, Defence authorities, the Forest Department and other concerned agencies to address interdepartmental issues and facilitate necessary clearances. Emphasising the importance of the Ring Road and proposed Alternate Airport Road in improving connectivity and easing traffic movement, the Deputy Commissioner called for timely resolution of all pending issues and expeditious progress on the projects.

Ganderbal: DLIC approves 381 cases under 'Mission YUVA'

Kashmir Age News

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a review meeting with bank representatives and concerned officers at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, to review the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA and assess the performance of beneficiary accounts across the district.

During the meeting, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) reviewed the progress of Mission YUVA and accorded approval to 381 cases under the Nano Entrepreneurs component of the scheme. These included 223 fresh cases, 135 completion cases and 23 improvement cases, aimed at facilitating aspiring entrepreneurs, supporting the completion of ongoing enterprise activities and strengthening existing business ventures.

The committee also reviewed the overall implementation of the scheme and deliberated on issues concerning beneficiary support, enterprise development and effective coordination among the concerned departments and financial institutions. During the review, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed branch-wise and block-wise assessment of Special Mention Accounts (SMA) and Non-Performing Assets (NPA) across the district. She examined the operational bottlenecks affecting enterprises and directed the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), Business Help Desks (BHDs) of Ganderbal and Kangan, and Motivators to maintain close coordination with bank branches for timely field follow-ups, beneficiary handholding and account regularisation. Reiterating the administration's commitment to promoting sustainable youth entrepreneurship and strengthening the local economic ecosystem, the DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of Mission YUVA. She called for prioritising critical accounts.

Samvidhan Diwas celebrated across Kupwara District

Kashmir Age News

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 26: District Kupwara today celebrated "Samvidhan Diwas" (Constitution Day) with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

The main function was held at Meeting Hall, DC Office Complex, Kupwara, where officers and officials working within and around the DC Office Complex assembled and joined the UT level Preamble reading ceremony chaired by the Lieutenant Governor of J&K through videoconferencing.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma; ADDC Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Chodhary; ADC Kupwara were also present besides other district and sectoral officers. On the occasion, the participating officers and officials read the Preamble to the Constitution of India, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. Similar Preamble Reading Ceremonies were held at Sub Division, Tehsil, Block, Panchayat and Village levels across the district.

Civil Defence Budgam conducts air raid, blackout mock exercise

Kashmir Age News



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Civil Defence Budgam conducted an Air Raid and Blackout Mock Exercise at Government Degree College (GDC) Budgam in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, as part of efforts to strengthen public awareness, preparedness and emergency response mechanisms.

The mock exercise was aimed at familiarising participants and the general public with emergency response procedures and safety protocols to be followed during air raid warnings and blackout situations. The drill involved simulated air raid warnings, evacuation procedures, blackout measures, search and rescue operations and other emergency response activities in accordance with prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The exercise was conducted smoothly and successfully, demonstrating coordination among the participating teams and highlighting the importance of preparedness, prompt response and public cooperation during emergencies. ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, witnessed the exercise and underscored the importance of such mock drills in enhancing preparedness, awareness and coordination among civil authorities, response teams and the public to effectively deal with emergency situations.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora observes Constitution Day

Kashmir Age News



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 26: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora today observed Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit.

On the occasion, Preamble Reading Ceremonies were organised in all Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across District Bandipora.

Children, staff members and officials participated in the ceremony and collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution of India, reaffirming their commitment to the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The programme aimed to create awareness among children about the significance of the Indian Constitution, fundamental rights, duties and democratic values. Special emphasis was laid on promoting equality, dignity, social justice and respect for the rights of every child.

The observance concluded with a pledge to uphold the principles enshrined in the Constitution and work towards building an inclusive, safe and child-friendly society.

Arrangements reviewed for JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to review the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the JKSSB Sub-Inspector (Home Department) examination, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama briefed the chair about the preparedness and arrangements finalized for the examination. The meeting was apprised of the selection of invigilators, magistrates, observers and videographers, besides arrangements pertaining to transportation, security, surveillance and other logistical requirements to ensure the transparent and hassle-free conduct of the examination.

A representative of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) also briefed the participants about the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the Board for the conduct of the examination.

The DC reviewed the arrangements in detail and interacted with the concerned officers, particularly the Centre Superintendents, directing them to ensure strict

adherence to the prescribed SOPs. He emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency, confidentiality, discipline and vigilance at all examination centres.

Stressing the need for close inter-departmental coordination, the DC called upon all concerned departments and officers to work in close coordination

and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place well before the examination to facilitate candidates and ensure its smooth and orderly conduct.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Awantipora, representative of JKSSB, Magistrates, Observers, Heads of Institutions, Centre Superintendents and other district and sectoral officers.



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Kupwara Court restrains 2 Social Media page administrators over posts against Drugmulla School

Kashmir News Trust



KUPWARA, NOV 26:The Principal District and Sessions Court, Kupwara, has issued an interim restraint against two social media page administrators, barring them from publishing or circulating allegedly false, malicious and unverified content concerning My New School, Drugmulla, and its management.

The order was passed on November 25 by Principal District and Sessions Judge Manjeet Singh Manhas in a defamation suit filed by the school through its Chairman, Sajad Ahmad Wani, who is also a plaintiff in his individual capacity. The suit was also brought through Altaf Hussain Qureshi, President of the Private School Association Kupwara.

The defendants are Touseef Ahmad Mir, stated to administer the Facebook page "Wings Plus", and Ulfat Hussain Malik, stated to administer "JK News Update". The plaintiffs have sought damages for alleged defamation and a permanent injunction against further publications.

The court noted that the plaintiffs had, prima facie, made out a case for limited interim protection of their reputation and institutional goodwill. It also stressed the need to balance the right to reputation with constitutionally protected freedom of speech and expression.

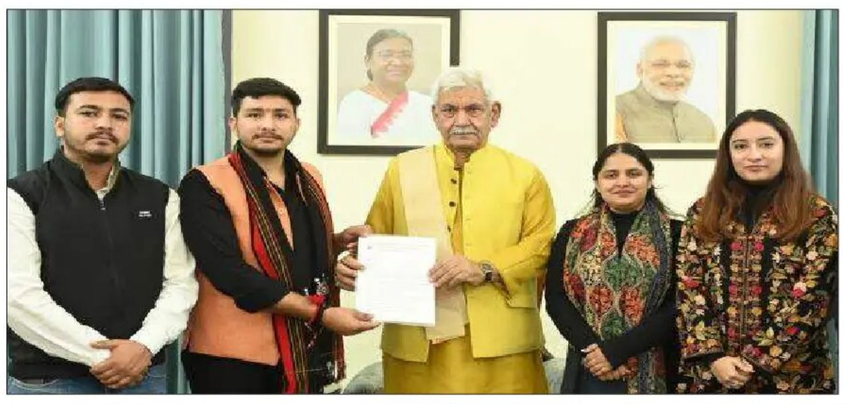
The interim order restrains the defendants from publishing, circulating or disseminating false, malicious and unverified statements concerning the plaintiffs or the school, particularly the material challenged in the suit, to the extent it may be demonstrably false and defamatory. The restraint will remain in force until the defendants submit objections and the court considers the interim application, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The court issued notices to the defendants and directed the plaintiffs to provide them with copies of the plaint and

supporting documents. It clarified that its observations were tentative and would not prejudice either side at subsequent proceedings.

The matter is listed for consideration of the interim application on December 14, 2026.

ABVP delegation, MLA call on LG Sinha



Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26: A delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Jammu Kashmir, led by its State Secretary Sannak Shrivats, called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, today.

The delegation comprising Joint Secretaries Radhika Aryan and Rahul Thakur, along with Jammu University Vice President Jayavardhani Singh Parihar, submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues concerning examination reforms, higher education, recruitment, and tribal student welfare.The members of the delegation demanded the creation and sanctioning of essential staff positions at the Gaddi-Sippi Hostel in Udhampur, and transfer of Pahari Hostel in Kot Bhalwal, Jammu to the Department of Tribal Affairs for better administration and management.

They also urged the immediate appointment of a regular, full-time Chairman and Members of J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) to ensure smooth institutional functioning and timely recruitment.

Meanwhile, Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba also called on LG Sinha and discussed various development issues of his constituency.

VC LCMA reviews progress of ongoing revitalisation works of Dole Demb area

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today undertook a follow-up visit to Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review the progress of ongoing revitalisation works and take stock of dredging and development activities across various Dal Lake localities.

He was accompanied by senior officers of the Authority and other concerned officials, who briefed him on the progress of the ongoing works.

At Dole Demb, the Vice Chairman reviewed the removal of bushes, Petsi and other aquatic vegetation, along with clearance of the identified area for its proposed development as a recreational space. He also inspected the ongoing dredging operations at Khan Mohalla, aimed at improving water circulation, flushing and navigational connectivity. Besides, he reviewed other development and improvement works being undertaken at Karapora, Kabootar Khana, Kooli Mohalla, Moti Mohalla, Kati Mohalla and Out Kadal.

The Vice Chairman also directed the concerned officers to undertake dredging of Nishat Paw, particularly the channel leading from Nishat Basin towards the Vegetable Market and the Ashaibagh side of the lake, to improve navigational connectivity, facilitate water circulation.

Emphasising the importance of water quality improvement, he stressed the need for effective dredging and channel clearance to improve water circulation, reduce stagnation and strengthen the ecological health of Dal Lake. He directed the officers to ensure timely execution and regular monitoring of all works.

8th Edition of "Know Your Artisan" inaugurated at Polo Ground, Srinagar

Kashmir Age News



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, today inaugurated the 8th Edition of "Know Your Artisan," programme, held under the aegis of Soulful Kashmir brand promotion campaign at Polo Ground Park, here.

The event, being held from November 26 to 28, shall showcase Kashmir's famed handmade products from high-value crafts like carpets, pashmina and kani shawls to papier mache, willow wicker and walnut wood carving in non-textile sector.

The three-day event aims to provide a vibrant platform for showcasing the rich and diverse craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir while creating direct interaction between traditional artisans and the craft lovers, buyers and tourists. "It seeks to bridge the gap between the creators and potential buyers of handicraft products, enabling visitors to understand the skill, dedication and cultural legacy behind every handcrafted products," he said, adding as many as 21 stalls have been installed, with a 'Try Your Hands' corner to connect with youth and children.

With the onset of winter, this edition places special emphasis on Kashmir's traditional winter crafts and products, including Pashmina, woollen textiles, carpets and other indigenous crafts, highlighting their warmth, elegance and enduring cultural significance.

The spokesman emphasized the importance of preserving traditional craftsmanship while creating sustainable market opportunities and greater visibility for local artisans. "The event also reflects the Department's continued commitment towards promoting artisan-led entrepreneurship, strengthening market linkages and taking Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage to wider audiences," he added.The participating artisans are showcasing their products and craftsmanship, offering visitors an opportunity to explore authentic handmade products and engage directly with the people who preserve these age-old traditions.The Department has invited the general public, craft enthusiasts, tourists and stakeholders to visit the exhibition and extend their support to local artisans.

JLNM Hospital gets first NICU, adds 10 neonatal beds

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 26 :Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital, Rainawari, has established its first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), adding 10 specialised beds for the treatment of critically ill newborns.



Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, during an inspection of the facility on Thursday said the NICU had been made operational through the convergence of district-level resources and that newborns were already being admitted and treated there.

He said JLNM Hospital, despite handling a significant number of maternity cases, previously lacked a dedicated neonatal intensive care facility, forcing critically ill newborns to be referred to other hospitals.

The newly commissioned NICU is equipped with 10 beds, two advanced mechanical ventilators,

three Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines and other essential equipment for managing neonatal emergencies.

Officials said the facility would enable timely treatment of newborns at the hospital itself, reducing referrals and easing pressure on other tertiary care institutions.

Labroo said the project was part of the district administration's efforts to bridge gaps in healthcare infrastructure through inter-departmental coordination and optimal use of available resources.

Referring to the earlier expansion of NICU facilities at Lal Ded Hospital, he said the new unit at JLNM Hospital would further strengthen neonatal healthcare services in Srinagar.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of Medical Superintendent Dr Tariq Jan, hospital staff and officials from the Planning, Revenue and Roads & Buildings departments for completing the project in a short span.

He said the administration would continue to strengthen critical healthcare infrastructure to ensure timely specialised care for patients.

Woman Threatens Hotel Staff and Manager at "Chinar Inn" in Srinagar

KASHMIR AGE NEWS



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Employees of Hotel Chinar Inn, located in Abi Guzar area of Srinagar, have alleged that a woman entered the hotel premises and threatened the staff and manager, prompting the employees to demand police action into the incident.

According to the employees, the woman barged into the hotel and created a tense situation on the premises, employees said that she issued threats to the hotel staff and manager and behaved in a manner that caused apprehension among those present at the hotel.

The hotel employees further stated that manager was asked to leave the hotel despite there being no apparent reason for such an action. They claimed that the incident disrupted the normal functioning of the hotel and left the employees concerned about their safety and security.

The staff members have urged the concerned police authorities to take cognizance of the incident and conduct a thorough inquiry into the allegations. They have also sought appropriate legal action if the allegations are found to be true.

Employees said that incidents of alleged threats and intimidation at a workplace cannot be ignored and called for a proper investigation so that the facts surrounding the matter can be established.

The employees have appealed to the police to examine available CCTV footage and record the statements of the staff members and other persons who may have witnessed the incident.

Crime Branch arrests man for duping Ganderbal family

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 26: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has arrested a man for allegedly duping a family from Ganderbal of Rs 12.20 lakh on the pretext of securing government jobs for their two sons and daughter, officials said on Thursday.

In a statement the Crime Branch said the accused, identified as Mohammad Abdullah Mir, son of Abdul Gaffar Mir, a resident of Shilvat, Sumbal, Bandipora, was arrested on November 25 in connection with FIR No. 09/2025 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC.

The statement said the investigation revealed that the accused had allegedly provided three forged appointment orders to the family, including two purportedly issued for appointments in J&K Bank and one in the Forest Department. "Verification from the respective departments confirmed that the said appointment orders were fake and had never been issued by the competent authorities," the statement said.

It further said that the accused was also



named in several other criminal cases, including FIR No. 42/2026 of Police Station Kunzer, which has been charge-sheeted, FIR No. 100/2023 of Police Station Kokernag, FIR No. 49/2023 of Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir and FIR No. 73/2022 of Police Station Kothibagh, Srinagar.

Indoor stadium at Lasjan to be ready next year: MLA Ahsan Pardesi

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 26 :MLA Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi on Thursday said several initiatives have been undertaken to promote sports in his constituency, including the construction of an indoor stadium at Lasjan in Srinagar, which is expected to be completed next year.

Speaking to reporters, Pardesi said work on the stadium has already begun and expressed hope that the facility would be ready by next year.

"The most important initiative we have taken is at Lasjan, where a major indoor stadium is being constructed. The work has started and, God willing, it will be ready by next year," he said.

Pardesi said efforts are also underway to create more opportunities for sports activities across the constituency, stressing the importance of youth participation in sports for their overall



well-being.

"We have taken several initiatives to promote sports and create platforms for young people to participate. It is important for our youth to engage in sports activities, which are beneficial for their mental health," he said.

Constitution Day celebrated by DLSA Srinagar at District Court Complex

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2026: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with District Judiciary Srinagar, celebrated Constitution Day at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to spread awareness about its significance, values and principles.

On the occasion, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, lead out the collective reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India which was followed by the Judicial Officers, Staff Members and other participants posted at District Court Complex, Srinagar.

The programme highlighted the importance of the Constitution, its fundamental principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and the responsibility of every citizen to uphold constitutional values.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 240432151725 has been wrongly my name is admitted Ashia Begum whileas my correct name is Asha Begum W/o Jawad Ahmad Baig R/o Latifabad, Chandoosa. Now, want to apply its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection he/she may file the same concerned department within the period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After 07 days no objection shall be entertained.

Asha Begum
W/o Jawad Ahmad Baig
R/o Latifabad Chandoosa, Baramulla
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I have lost/misplaced my Calcutta University Registration Card bearing Registration No. 001233 of 2006–2007, pertaining to my academic registration with the University of Calcutta. Despite making diligent efforts, I have been unable to trace the said registration card. The same has been inadvertently lost/misplaced and is not traceable. The General Diary (GD) report regarding the loss of the said registration card has been requested from the concerned Police Station for submission before the University of Calcutta in connection with the issuance of a duplicate registration card. Anybody finding the said registration card is requested to kindly inform the undersigned. This notice is issued for information of the general public and for necessary action.

Madhumallika Ganguly
W/o Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Matoo
R/o Goni Khun, Maharaja Bazar, Srinagar
A/P H.No. 423 Iqbal Colony, Rawalpora, Srinagar
R-1151

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my date of birth has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as 01/06/1972, whereas my correct date of birth, as per my school records, is 01/06/1968. I am in the process of getting the same rectified.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may submit his/her objection(s) before the concerned Aadhaar Authority within a period of 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Saleema Begum
W/o Mohd. Iqbal Sheikh
R/o Dardpora, Lolab, Kupwara

(Shafat SB)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that due to my mistake, my name has been incorrectly recorded in my daughter's school records as Mohammad Asif Katari instead of Asif Ahmad Katari. Similarly, my daughter Aaliya Asif's date of birth has been wrongly recorded as 01-01-2013 instead of 12-05-2013.

I have applied for the necessary corrections, if anybody having any objection He /She can approach Administration of Haa Meem Educational Institute, Bemina, within seven days, thereafter no objection will be entertained.

Asif Ahmad Katari
Ph: 6005321119
6634

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.
Tender No. 251-Elect-T-12-R1-2026-27 **Name of Work** Electrical work in c/w Provision of Relay Hut for Gate Signaling at Non Interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur division (TVU between 10,000 and 20,000). **App. Cost. (in ₹)** Rs. 1,99,10,614.46/- **Earnest Money (in ₹)** Rs. 398200.00 **Completion period** 06 Months **Opening of tender** 17.12.2026 after 15:00 Hrs. **Website Particulars** www.ireps.gov.in.
No. 251-Elect/T.Notice No. 12-R1-Elect/2026-27 Dated:- 26.11.2026 4106/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

Shabir Ahmad Nengroo
(Applicant)

Versus

UT OF J&K THROUGH REGISTRAR, BIRTHS & DEATHS/MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE,

B.D.O. Srigufwara
(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: Hashim Shabir Nengroo Parentage: Shabir Ahmad Nengroo Residence: Srigufwara Date of Birth: 20-04-2022 Place of Birth: SDH Bijbehara (Sub District Hospital). 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 7 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

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

Naseerah Bano
(Applicant)
Versus
UT OF J&K THROUGH REGISTRAR, BIRTHS & DEATHS / MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE,

BDO 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: Naseerah Bano Parentage: Gh. Mohd Lone Residence: Hafizabad Loktipora Date of Birth: 13-11-1977 Place of Birth: Home (Hafizabad Loktipora). 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 7 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

Jammu Division RPF rescues 58 children

Returns luggage worth Rs 76.29 lakh

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Jammu: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Jammu Division has rescued 58 children under its Operation 'Nanhe Farishte' and returned 450 items of passengers' left-behind luggage worth over Rs 76.29 lakh under Operation 'Amanat', reaffirming its commitment to passenger safety and security.

The initiatives were carried out under the leadership and guidance of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, RPF, Shri Aditya.

Under Operation 'Nanhe Farishte', the RPF rescued a total of 58 children, including 40 boys and 18 girls, who were found wandering, had run away from their homes, or had been separated from their families at railway stations and aboard trains.

Of the rescued children, 44 had run away from home, five were found left behind in trains or at railway stations, while nine were reported missing. The children were provided necessary care and assistance and subsequently handed over safely to the concerned NGOs in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Meanwhile, under Operation 'Amanat', conducted from January 1 to November 26, 2026, Jammu Division RPF recovered 450 articles that passengers had forgotten or left behind in trains and at railway stations. The recovered belongings, with an estimated total value of Rs 76,29,661, were returned to their rightful owners.

The Jammu Unit recorded the highest recovery, returning 160 items valued at Rs 39,02,120 to passengers. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Unit recovered and returned 91 items worth Rs 11,92,135.

The Pathankot Cantt Unit and other units of Jammu Division also made significant contributions towards the initiative.

The RPF's sustained efforts under both operations have strengthened the sense of safety, security and trust among railway passengers. Jammu Division RPF said it remains committed to ensuring a safe, secure and comfortable journey for all passengers, with special emphasis on the protection and welfare of children and women.

TLSC Pampore observes Constitution Day

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Pampore, November 26: The Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Pampore observed Constitution Day on Thursday at the Munsiff Court Complex, Pampore, under the chairpersonship of Ms. Mahjabeen Akhtar, Chairperson, TLSC Pampore.

The occasion was marked by the solemn reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India in the presence of the learned Presiding Officer, members of the Bar, staff of the Munsiff Court Pampore and TLSC Pampore, besides Para Legal Volunteers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on **https://www.ireps.gov.in** against Tender Notice no. **433-Sig-T-62-26-27** Closing Date/Time **16/12/2026 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed

Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	S&T work in c/w (1) Repl. of steel girder with RCC slab of Bridge No. 102 UP&DN. 111 UP&DN, 119 UP on JUC-ASR sec., B.no. 180 on ASR-ATT & br. no.103 on VKA-DBNK section. (ii) Construction of LHS of internal size 5 m X 3.5 m LHS in lieu of LC C-7 at KM 4/13-14 on JUC-NRO section under ADEN-JUC over firozpur division. (iii) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 X 5.0m at manned L-xings No.A-5 on VKA-DBNK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-I/ASR. (iv) Construction of RCC box (2 nos. twin boxes) bridge in lieu of steel trough bridge no.158 in PHR-LNK section.		
Tender closing Date Time	16/12/2026 15:00	**Date Time of Uploading Tender**	25/11/2026 13:36
Advertised Value (Rs.)	10311974.40	**Bidding Start Date as per IREPS**	02/12/2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	206200.00	**Period of Completion**	6 Months
NOTE	Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.		

Tender Notice No:433-Sig-T-62-26-27 Closing Date/Time 16/12/2026 15:00 Date:- 26/11 /2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 4102/26

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1.	94265633	1.5 Ton Capacity 5 star Rated unitary Window AC	176 Nos	21/12/2026 11:00 AM

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.
Tender Notice No. 13/2026-27 Date: 25.11.2026 4104/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Crime review meeting held under chairmanship of SP Enforcement Mubashir Rasool



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Srinagar: A crime review meeting was held on Thursday, November 26, 2026, at the office of the Superintendent of Police (Enforcement), under the chairmanship of SP Enforcement Mubashir Rasool (JKPS).

The meeting was attended by several Investigating Officers (IOs) of the Tourist Police. During the meeting, the progress of cases under investigation and pending complaints was reviewed in detail, with the current status of each case thoroughly assessed.

The Investigating Officers were directed to expedite the investigation into all pending complaints and ensure their disposal at the earliest.

The meeting also emphasised timely disposal of cases and effective monitoring of investigations to ensure that pending matters are brought to their logical conclusion without unnecessary delay.

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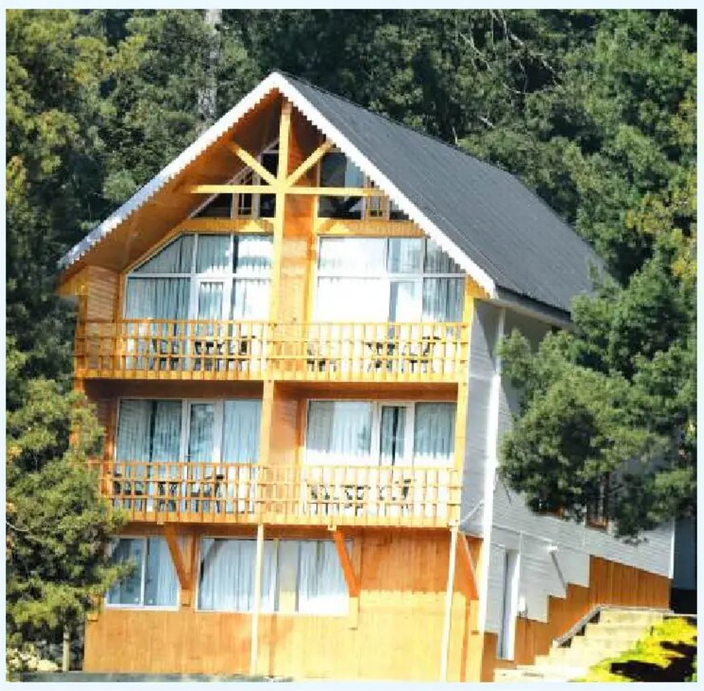

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Javid Dar calls for upholding constitutional values in everyday governance

Lauds ministerial employees for backbone role in administration

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today attended the Constitution Day and Ministerial Employees Day celebrations as the chief guest at SKICC, Srinagar.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir All Departments Clerical Staff Association (Ministerial Cadre), the event recognised the vital contribution of ministerial employees to the effective functioning of Government administration.

Addressing a large gathering of employees, the Minister described ministerial employees as the backbone of the administrative system. He said their experience, dedication and professionalism are vital to the smooth functioning of every department and to the timely delivery of public services.

Highlighting the changing nature of governance, Javid Dar stressed the need for employees to adapt to digital technologies and emerging tools, including Artificial Intelligence, while firmly maintaining the values of human judgement, accountability and integrity. He said technology should be used to strengthen efficiency, not to replace responsibility.

The Minister also underscored the need to move beyond routine file processing towards a citizen-centric approach. He observed that the true purpose of administration is not merely to move files but to resolve people's problems and ensure timely delivery of services.



Acknowledging the concerns relating to promotions, career progression and workload, the Minister said these issues deserve due consideration through appropriate administrative channels. He added that continuous capacity building and professional development must remain a priority so that employees are equipped to meet the evolving demands of governance.

Referring to Constitution Day, Javid Dar said the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity must find expression in the everyday functioning of

Government institutions. He called upon the employees to discharge their responsibilities with honesty, efficiency and a spirit of public service.

HoDs of Agri and Allied Departments, senior officers, office-bearers of the Employees Association, representatives of the ministerial cadre and employees from various government departments attended the programme.

DIPR observes Constitution Day at Jammu

Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 26: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) observed the Constitution Day today with a solemn ceremony, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirming its commitment to the principles enshrined in the country's supreme law.

On the occasion, officers and officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations and the Joint Directorate of Information, Jammu, assembled to collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution, reiterating their faith in the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The gathering also witnessed the administration of a pledge, wherein the participants resolved to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and perform their official responsibilities with sincerity, integrity and a strong sense of public service.



The observance served as an occasion to reflect upon the significance of constitutional values in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting social harmony and ensuring an inclusive and accountable system of governance.

Reiterating their commitment, the officers and officials resolved to let the constitutional principles guide their professional conduct and public responsibilities, while continuing to serve the people with dedication, transparency and impartiality.

Dir Agri Kashmir inspects seed multiplication farm Tapper

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today conducted an extensive inspection of the Seed Multiplication Farm at Tapper, Baramulla to review the ongoing seed production activities and assess the overall functioning and performance of the farm.

During the inspection, the Director took a detailed appraisal of various agricultural operations, with particular focus on seed multiplication activities, crop health, field management practices and the progress of different crops. He also reviewed the measures being undertaken to ensure the production and availability of quality seeds for farmers. Shah also visited Seed processing plant at the farm to monitor its functioning.

Interacting with the concerned officers and technical staff, the Director stressed the importance of maintaining prescribed quality standards at every stage of seed production, from field preparation to harvesting and post-harvest management.

He emphasised that seed multiplication farms have a significant role in strengthening the departmental seed production infrastructure and ensuring timely availability of quality seeds to the farming community.



The Director directed the concerned officers to ensure proper monitoring of field activities, adopt improved scientific interventions and make optimum utilisation of available resources to achieve the desired production targets.

MY Bharat Kupwara organises 'Yuva Samvad Samvidhan Edition' at GDC Handwara

Kashmir Age News

HANDWARA, NOVEMBER 26: MY Bharat Kupwara, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India organised 'Yuva Samvad – Samvidhan Edition' at Government Degree College (GDC), Handwara, with enthusiastic participation from over 200 students, MY Bharat volunteers and National Youth Volunteers (NYVs).

The programme aimed to promote constitutional awareness, democratic values and active youth participation while inspiring young people to contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The Principal of Government Degree College Handwara attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Youth Icon Nazakat Ahmad, Sports Icon, and the President of the Youth Club were also present on the occasion. During the programme, Youth Icon Nazakat Ahmad delivered a brief presentation on Yuva Samvad – Viksit Bharat @2047, highlighting the importance of youth leadership, active citizenship, innovation and collective responsibility in building a developed India.

JKEDI hosts HEGL roadshow to support early-stage social enterprises

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 26: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday hosted the Himalayan Enterprise Growth Lab (HEGL) Roadshow in collaboration with IIMA Ventures and SAP, as part of an engagement aimed at supporting early-stage social enterprises from the Himalayan region.

The programme focused on helping startups strengthen their business models, access structured mentoring and explore opportunities for growth. The Himalayan Enterprise Growth Lab is designed to support social enterprises across Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.

The programme offers several opportunities for participating enterprises, including a two-day bootcamp for the top 20 shortlisted startups, grants of up to 10 lakh each for 12 social enterprises, mentoring support, market access and an opportunity to present their ventures to investors during Demo Day.

J&K Armed Police concludes inter-battalion firing competition

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOV 26 : Personnel from various battalions of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police showcased their marksmanship and weapon-handling skills as a two-day Inter-Battalion Firing Competition concluded at the Armed Police Complex (APC), Zewan. Organised on the directions of ADGP Armed J&K Nitesh Kumar, IPS, and supervised by DIGIRROK, the competition brought together Gazetted and Non-Gazetted officers who competed in categories including INSAS rifle, AK-47, JVPC (5.56×30 mm) and 9 mm pistol. In the INSAS rifle category, SgCt Mohd Shafayat (4 JKAP IR) secured first place, followed by HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP) and HC Ravinder Singh (13 JKAP). In the AK-47 categoy, HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP) finished first, while SgCt Mohd Shafayat (4 JKAP IR) and SgCt Gulab Singh (20 JKAP IR) secured second and third places. In the JVPC category, HC Afsar Khan (20 JKAP IR) secured first position, followed by HC Mohinder Kumar (17 JKAP IR) and HC Assadullah Koul (9 JKAP). In the Non-Gazetted Officers' 9 mm pistol category, PSI Maqsood Ahmad secured first place, while PSI Sajad Ahmad (10 JKAP IR) and PSI Aijaz Ahmad (9 JKAP) finished second and third.

MLA Pampore, DC Pulwama review sector-wise progress of developmental works

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 26: Member of Legislative Assembly, Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today jointly chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Pampore, to assess the progress of developmental works and implementation of various schemes across the Pampore Assembly Constituency.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Joint Director Planning Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer,



Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Executive Officer and other concerned district and sectoral officers. During the meeting, concerned officers from various departments presented detailed sector-wise progress reports and apprised the chair of the status of ongoing and completed developmental works being executed under District Capex, UT Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Constituency Development Fund, NABARD and other flagship programmes. The physical and financial progress of projects, expenditure, implementation status and issues affecting execution were discussed in detail. A comprehensive review of key sectors,

including Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, Roads and Buildings, PMGSY, Rural Development, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Power Development and Urban Local Bodies, was undertaken.

District Shopian conducts civil defence air raid mock drill

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 26: In a proactive initiative to strengthen disaster preparedness and enhance emergency response mechanisms, the District Administration Shopian, under the aegis of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), today conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill at Government Degree College Shopian.

The exercise was aimed at assessing the preparedness of various response agencies, familiarising personnel with emergency protocols and ensuring effective coordination during unforeseen situations.

The mock drill witnessed the active participation of Civil Defence personnel, SDRF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health Department and trained volunteers. The exercise involved activation of early warning systems through sirens and public address mechanisms, evacuation procedures, emergency first aid, and coordinated deployment of rescue teams and vehicles.

Various specialised teams carried out search and rescue operations in a systematic manner. The AST Party conducted area sweeps, while search teams assessed the site for potential hazards. The cordon and control team secured the affected area, and the instruments party undertook debris clearance and victim rescue operations.

The tagging team, in coordination with medical personnel, carried out triage of simulated casualties according to the severity of injuries. Lifting and stretcher teams ensured the safe evacuation and transportation of injured persons, while the assessment team conducted a detailed survey of the affected area and documented the response.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, inspected the SDRF equipment and rescue tools deployed during the exercise. He interacted with SDRF personnel and sought detailed information about the utility, functioning and operational application of various equipment used in search, rescue and emergency response operations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of conducting such mock drills to build public awareness, improve preparedness and strengthen the response capacity of frontline agencies. He emphasised that regular exercises help identify gaps, familiarise personnel with standard operating procedures and ensure a swift, coordinated and effective response during emergencies.

He further stressed the need for active community participation and awareness

DIPR Shopian organises awareness programme on cyber security, digital safety at GDC Shopian

Kashmir Age News

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 26: An awareness programme on Cyber Security and Digital Safety was organised today at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Shopian, in collaboration with the DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir.

Students from various schools participated in the programme and shared their perspectives on cyber security and digital safety. They highlighted the importance of password protection, data privacy, safe internet usage and avoiding suspicious links. Emphasising the principles of



"Think Before You Click" and "Verify Before You Trust," the students also spoke about ways to prevent online fraud and cybercrime.

Cyber security experts and senior scientists also addressed the gathering, sensitising participants about emerging cyber threats, digital frauds and preventive measures. They stressed the need to remain vigilant while using social media and online platforms and to protect personal information and digital credentials.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, he underscored the growing importance of cyber security and digital safety in today's technology-driven world, particularly for the younger generation.

He observed that Gen Z remains extensively connected to social media and digital platforms, making it essential to understand the risks and responsibilities associated with the digital environment. He emphasised that being connected to a network does not necessarily ensure safety unless users are aware of and follow appropriate cyber security measures.

Rajouri Police register 4 FIRs over violation of VPN ban

Kashmir News Observer

RAJOURI, NOV 26 :Rajouri Police have registered four separate FIRs against individuals found using Virtual Private Network (VPN) services in violation of prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate, Rajouri. Details revealed that the cases have been registered under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at four police stations across the district. An FIR (No. 242/2026) has been registered at Police Station Nowshera against Ram Bihari Choudhary, a resident of Panna district in Madhya Pradesh. Police Station Darhal has also registered FIR No. 92/2026 against Ghulam Mustafa, a resident of Chowkian, Darhal, while Police Station Sunderbani has registered FIR No. 79/2026 against Neeraj Kumar, a resident of Samastipur district in Bihar. Another case (FIR No. 177/2026) has been registered at Police Station Kandi against Mohd Sageer, a resident of Kandi area of Kotranka tehsil in Rajouri district.

Friday Focus

Humility, obedience

Islam signifies complete submission and unconditional surrender to the will of Allah. Its teachings and principles govern every aspect of a believer's life. A true understanding of this fundamental concept comes from recognising the profound relationship between Allah and His servant.

A Muslim's relationship with Allah is enduring and comprehensive. It extends to every aspect of life and demands humility, obedience and submission. The Noble Quran says:

"O ye who believe! Come, all of you, into submission (unto Him); and follow not the footsteps of the devil. Lo! he is an open enemy for you."

There is no compartmentalisation in Islam whereby a person reserves one part of life for himself, another for the state or society, and another exclusively for religion. The underlying principle is that everything belongs to Allah and that submission to Him must permeate every sphere of life. Before Allah, a Muslim's entire existence is an expression of humility and obedience.

The scope of religion, therefore, extends to all aspects of human conduct. Matters that have been clearly and unequivocally determined in the Quran cannot be altered or amended according to individual preferences. Neither a religious scholar nor an authority on Islamic jurisprudence has the power to change what has been categorically established as a fundamental truth.

Allah demands that believers embrace Islam in its entirety. This principle also calls for a critical examination of our own lives. In many areas, particularly weddings and marriages, inheritance, social dealings and everyday conduct, there remains a considerable gap between our practices and the principles of Shariah.

Some Muslims, by the grace of Allah, possess firm belief in His Oneness, the apostleship, the Hereafter and other essential tenets of faith, yet remain irregular in their acts of worship. Others may be deeply committed to faith and worship but fall short when it comes to conduct, character and ethics. Faith, however, cannot be separated from righteous conduct. True submission to Allah requires not only correct belief and worship but also integrity, honesty, good character and responsible dealings with others.

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

Printed and Published by Aakash Amin, Media Enclave, Residency Road Srinagar (J&K) and Printed at KT Press Pvt. Ltd. 120- Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate Rangreth Budgam (J&K)

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Published From
Media Enclave, Residency Road Srinagar 190001 (J&K)

R.N.I No. :
JKENG/2006/23952

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Power Of Pen



MOHAMMAD HAFEEZ MIR

The pen is one of the greatest instruments in human history. It has given voice to silent minds, brought the pain of the oppressed before the world, transformed the thinking of societies, and inspired revolutions that were not fought with swords or guns, but with words. A pen may appear to be an ordinary object, yet when guided by truth, awareness, wisdom, and compassion, its power can be greater than that of any weapon.

The pen is not merely a tool for writing words on paper; it is the voice of human thoughts, emotions, ideas, beliefs, and conscience. A piece of writing can inspire hope in a hopeless person, awaken a silent society against injustice, and guide a confused mind towards the right path. This is the true power of the pen.

History bears witness to the fact that great changes in the world have always been influenced by ideas, philosophies, and written words. Books, essays, literary works, philosophical thoughts, and revolutionary writings have played a significant role in reshaping human consciousness. Many great thinkers and writers have used their pens to speak against oppression, injustice, and the violation of human rights.

That is why those in positions of power sometimes fear a truthful piece of writing. When truth reaches the masses through words, it creates awareness, and awareness can become the greatest challenge to any system of oppression and injustice.

In a society where the voice of a poor, helpless, or oppressed person is suppressed, where rights are violated, and where people struggle from one office to another in search of justice, the pen can become a source of hope.

It is the responsibility of a conscientious writer to represent those sections of society whose voices are rarely heard. A writer must highlight issues that are often ignored and bring to light the hardships and deprivations that disappear somewhere between government files, political promises, and administrative claims.

The true greatness of the pen is reflected when it is used not to praise influential individuals, but to support the rights of the voiceless; when collective interests are placed above personal gains; and when facts are presented fearlessly, without being influenced by pressure, fear, or greed.

However, when the pen becomes a tool of personal enmity, political bias, publicity, sensationalism, or financial interests, its power can also become harmful to society. Baseless allegations and irresponsible writing can damage an individual's reputation, disturb the peace of a family, and create divisions within society. Therefore, the pen carries not only immense power but also an equally great responsibility.

Words may appear small, but their impact can be enormous. A single sentence can heal a broken heart, while an irresponsible statement can create hatred, mistrust, and distance between people.

Social transformation does not always come through grand slogans. Sometimes a short article, an impactful column, a heartfelt poem, or a truthful story can play a significant role in changing people's perspectives. We need a pen that unites people rather than divides them, spreads love instead of hatred, offers hope instead of despair, and not only highlights problems but also suggests possible solutions.

In remote areas like Karnah, the importance of the pen becomes even greater, as effective writing is essential to highlight public issues on a wider platform and bring them to the attention of the concerned authorities.

Writing consistently about education, healthcare, employment, roads, basic facilities, youth-related issues, and public grievances not only creates awareness among people but also reminds the concerned institutions of their responsibilities.

When a writer presents the issues of his region with facts, figures, and a genuine understanding of people's feelings, his voice can travel beyond the boundaries of a small geographical area and reach a much wider audience.

Unfortunately, in our region, the use of the pen is often limited to political praise or criticism, whereas it should also be used for public service, social reform, the promotion of education, guidance for the youth, and the development of a positive identity for the region.

Keeping the pen free from hatred, personal enmity, and groupism is the need of the hour. We need writers who write on the basis of facts, understand the pain and suffering of ordinary people, and consistently raise their voices for the betterment of society.

The pen is a trust, a responsibility, and a powerful instrument capable of influencing human thought, social behaviour, and the future of nations. Its power must be used for the service of humanity, the establishment of justice, and positive social change.

A sword can wound the body, but a pen can awaken minds. The power of a sword may fade with time, but a truthful piece of writing can remain alive for generations. An influential pen can give a voice to the silent, hope to the oppressed, and a new direction to society.

Today, we need a pen that has the courage to write the truth, refuses to remain silent in the face of injustice, maintains dignity in disagreement, considers public problems its own, and conveys a message of positive change to society.

The sanctity of the pen is not established by its ink, but by the truth it writes. And a pen guided by conscience, truth, justice, and humanity can never be easily silenced.

One Professor, Ten Jobs, Endless Pressure

The Growing Burden of Multiple Responsibilities and the Declining Quality of Higher Education



PROF. EMERITUS R.K. UPPAL

A professor's primary responsibility is to teach, inspire, guide students, conduct meaningful research and contribute to the development of knowledge. However, the reality of higher education, particularly in many private institutions, is increasingly different. Today's professors are expected to perform numerous responsibilities beyond their academic duties. From teaching and research to admissions, student counselling, examination management, event organization, accreditation documentation and institutional promotion, faculty members are becoming all-purpose employees. The emerging question is simple but serious: Are universities appointing professors to educate students or to manage almost every institutional activity?

The modern professor has become a multitasking professional who is expected to fulfil an expanding list of responsibilities, often without adequate support, recognition or additional compensation. Teaching, which should remain the central function of an academic career, is gradually competing with a growing number of administrative and non-academic assignments. Professors are expected to complete their teaching schedules while simultaneously preparing reports, maintaining records, organizing activities, collecting data, meeting admission targets and fulfilling institutional requirements. Consequently, the time and energy available for meaningful academic engagement are shrinking.

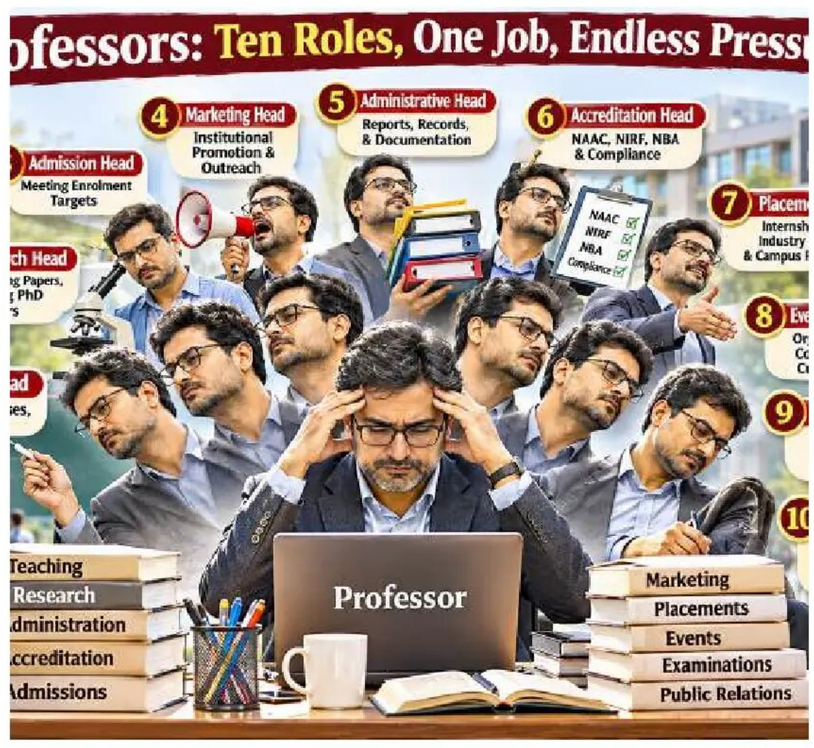
The first and most important responsibility of a professor is teaching. Quality teaching requires preparation, updated knowledge, innovative methodologies, classroom interaction and individual attention to students. However, when faculty members are continuously occupied with administrative assignments, their ability to concentrate on teaching inevitably suffers. Preparing lectures becomes another item on an already overloaded schedule rather than the central priority of professional life. Students ultimately become the silent victims of this institutional approach.

The second responsibility is research. Universities frequently demand research publications, conference participation, funded projects, patents and academic contributions from their faculty members. Research, however, requires time, financial resources, institutional support and intellectual freedom. Expecting professors to produce quality research while assigning them excessive administrative and promotional duties creates an obvious contradiction. Institutions cannot simultaneously consume faculty members' research time and expect outstanding research outcomes.

The third responsibility is student mentoring and counselling. Professors are expected to guide students academically, address their personal concerns, monitor attendance, support career development and encourage participation in extracurricular activities. These responsibilities are essential to student development, but they require patience and dedicated time. When faculty members are overloaded, meaningful mentoring becomes increasingly difficult.

The fourth responsibility is admission promotion. In several private institutions, professors are increasingly involved in attracting prospective students, contacting parents, visiting schools, participating in admission campaigns and achieving enrolment targets. While institutional development is important, making academic professionals responsible for aggressive admission activities raises questions about the appropriate use of their qualifications and expertise. A professor's professional identity should not be reduced to that of an admission representative.

The fifth responsibility involves examination management and evaluation. Preparing question papers, conducting examinations, checking answer sheets, uploading marks, maintaining assessment records and completing result-related documentation demand considerable time. These activities are integral to academic administration, but their excessive burden can interfere with teaching preparation and research commitments.



The sixth responsibility is institutional accreditation and ranking documentation. NAAC, NIRF and other quality-assurance frameworks have made documentation an important part of institutional functioning. Faculty members are often assigned responsibilities for collecting data, preparing reports, maintaining evidence and coordinating departmental documentation. Quality assurance is necessary, but it should not become a paperwork exercise that consumes the very academic time it is intended to improve.

The seventh responsibility is event management. Professors are frequently expected to organize seminars, conferences, workshops, cultural programmes, celebrations, competitions and awareness campaigns. Such activities enrich campus life and provide students with valuable experiences. However, when every event becomes an additional responsibility for already occupied faculty members, the workload becomes difficult to manage.

The eighth responsibility is administrative coordination. Departmental meetings, committee assignments, official correspondence, student records, timetable preparation and institutional reporting have become regular features of faculty life. The ninth responsibility is digital and social media promotion, through which professors may be asked to prepare institutional posts, share achievements, create publicity material and promote campus activities. The tenth responsibility is institutional representation, including participation in external meetings, community programmes, outreach activities and promotional visits.

An additional concern is the growing pressure to demonstrate institutional performance through measurable targets. Faculty members may face expectations relating to admissions, student participation, publications, documentation, event organization and institutional visibility. When performance assessment becomes dominated by such targets, genuine academic excellence risks becoming secondary. Professors may spend more time proving that they are working than actually improving the quality of education.

The consequences extend beyond faculty members. Excessive workload contributes to professional stress, reduced motivation, declining research productivity and limited interaction with students. It can also discourage talented academics from pursuing long-term careers in higher education. An institution that continuously demands more from its faculty without providing adequate resources, support and professional recognition may eventually weaken its own academic foundation.

It is time for universities to recognize a fundamental truth: professors are appointed to build minds, advance knowledge and shape the future—not to become ten employees under one designation. One professor may be capable of performing ten jobs, but a university that expects this indefinitely risks sacrificing education itself.

Aakash Adbi Sangam Pays Tribute to Zahid Mukhtar on His First Death Anniversary



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Aakash Adbi Sangam Jammu and Kashmir, one of the vibrant and emerging literary organisations based in Anantnag, has been regularly organising literary events across South Kashmir. Last month, the organisation brought together litterateurs from different parts of the country and organised an Afsana (short story) session at a hotel situated on the picturesque banks of the River Jhelum.This time, at the scenic location of Achabal, the organisation organised a grand literary event at Government Higher Secondary School, Achabal, to commemorate the first death anniversary of Zahid Mukhtar, a renowned broadcaster, short story writer, poet and artist.

The distinguished television anchor breathed his last in October last year, leaving behind a rich legacy of literary, artistic and broadcasting contributions. Under the dedicated and committed leadership of Dr Ashiq Aakash and Dr Rafia Mohiuddin, Aakash Adbi Sangam is gaining popularity with each passing day for its selfless commitment, enthusiasm and consistent efforts towards the promotion of languages and literature. The programme commenced at exactly 11:30 a.m. in the spacious hall of Government Higher Secondary School, Achabal. Dr Ashiq Aakash welcomed each participant in his characteristic style and customary warmth. This was followed by the ceremonial decoration of the presidium, marking the formal beginning of the literary proceedings. The presidium comprised noted literary personality Shakeel-ur-Rehman as distinguished guest, Rubeena Shaheen as Chief Guest, and celebrated poet Ali Shaida and Shafi Athar as Guests of Honour while noted broadcaster, and president Adbi Markaz Kamraz Mohd Amin Bhat presided over this function. A meticulously researched and artistically presented paper highlighting the literary contributions and invaluable services of late Zahid Mukhtar was presented in a remarkably impressive manner by Ashra Aakash, the beloved daughter of Dr Ashiq Aakash. Her presentation was widely applauded and appreciated by the audience.

Her confidence, eloquence and impressive presentation skills left a lasting impression on everyone present and served as an inspiration to the gathering. Mohammad Shafi Ayaz, President of Maraz Adbi Sangam, also presented a comprehensive account of the life and literary contributions of Zahid Mukhtar. He spoke in detail about the various books edited by the departed literary figure, while also highlighting his remarkable poetic talent and prowess as a short story writer. His scholarly paper reflected thorough research, literary insight and a deep understanding of the subject. The confidence, fluency and remarkable command with which he delivered his presentation added further grace and substance to the occasion. The second session of the event witnessed a series of impressive literary presentations. Dr Rafia Mohiuddin recited an Urdu short story, Jhelum Ka Teesra Kinara, penned by late Zahid Mukhtar. Her rendition was highly appreciated and commended by the audience. Another Urdu short story, Purana Ghar, was presented by Subzar Ahmad Bhat. The story poignantly highlighted the emotional pain and psychological distress experienced by elderly parents when their homes or cherished possessions, including plants and other objects associated with nostalgic memories, are demolished. The presentation struck an emotional chord with the audience.

A Kashmiri short story was also presented during the session, adding to the linguistic and literary diversity of the programme. Renowned Kashmiri essayist S. Mashooq Ahmad recited his literary essay, Mian Muthoo. His presentation received tremendous appreciation from both the audience and the presidium. His remarkable command of language, distinctive writing style and literary craftsmanship were widely admired and hailed by one and all. The programme was followed by a brief tea break, during which formal prayers were offered for the departed soul. A landmark moment of the programme was the launch of the Zahid Mukhtar Award 2026, instituted to perpetuate the literary legacy of the departed writer and recognise excellence in creative writing and literary pursuits. The award was presented to Mohd Amin Bhat president AMK, Shafi Athar president FWG and Masrat Hussain Shah Principal of the institution.





The occasion acquired further significance with the presentation of the maiden Aakash Jawhar-e-Adab Award 2026, instituted by Aakash Adbi Sangam Jammu & Kashmir. The prestigious maiden honour was conferred upon celebrated poet Ali Shaida in recognition of his outstanding contribution to poetry and the literary landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. Appreciation certificates were also presented to Dr Gulzar Ahmad Wani, Subzar Ahmad Bhat, Faiz Hayel, Fazil Shafi Bhat, Rayees Ahmad Kumar, S Mashoq Ahamd, Nasir Zamir, Ashra Akash, Izhar Mubashir, Raja Yousuf, Mohd Shafi Ayaz, Ratan Singh Kanwal and S Tariq. Finally, the members of the presidium delivered their remarks, highlighting the literary contributions, remarkable talents and multifaceted skills of the late Zahid Mukhtar. Ali Shaida emphasised the need to organise such literary events regularly to keep the legacy of our literary stalwarts alive. Shakeel Rehman showered praise on S. Mashooq Ahmad and the duo of Dr Rafia Mohiuddin and Dr Ashiq Aakash for their remarkable literary enthusiasm and dedicated efforts towards promoting literary activities. Rubeena Shaheen, who was visibly overwhelmed with emotions throughout the event, expressed her inability to speak. Instead, her son-in-law shared a few words with the audience. Mohd Amin Bhat, a close friend and colleague of the late Zahid Mukhtar, also struggled to hold back his emotions while speaking about his dear friend. He made special mention of each paper and short story presented during the programme and appreciated the organisers' sincere efforts in remembering and paying tribute to literary stalwarts like Zahid Mukhtar. Before leaving the venue, lunch, comprising locally prepared biryani, was served to all the participants. Without any bias or prejudice, it can be unequivocally stated that Dr Rafia and Dr Aakash are doing a commendable job in promoting language and literature, while also keeping alive the memories of our literary stalwarts. Their consistent efforts to honour distinguished personalities and celebrate their literary contributions are truly praiseworthy.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

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Everyday Vision Changes Could Be More Than Just Ageing



BY: DR PARIMAL DESAI

Misplacing your reading glasses, holding your newspaper a little farther away, struggling to read road signs or finding it difficult to recognise familiar faces from a distance are experiences many people begin to notice as they grow older. Often, these changes are dismissed as a natural part of ageing. While some changes in eyesight are indeed age-related, not every vision problem should be accepted as inevitable. In many cases, these seemingly minor difficulties could be early signs of an underlying eye condition that requires timely attention.

Our eyes undergo several changes as we age. The natural lens gradually loses flexibility, making it harder to focus on nearby objects, a condition known as presbyopia. However, ageing also increases the risk of cataracts, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and retinal disorders. The challenge is recognising when an ordinary change in vision is actually a warning sign.

There are five everyday vision changes that older adults should never overlook.

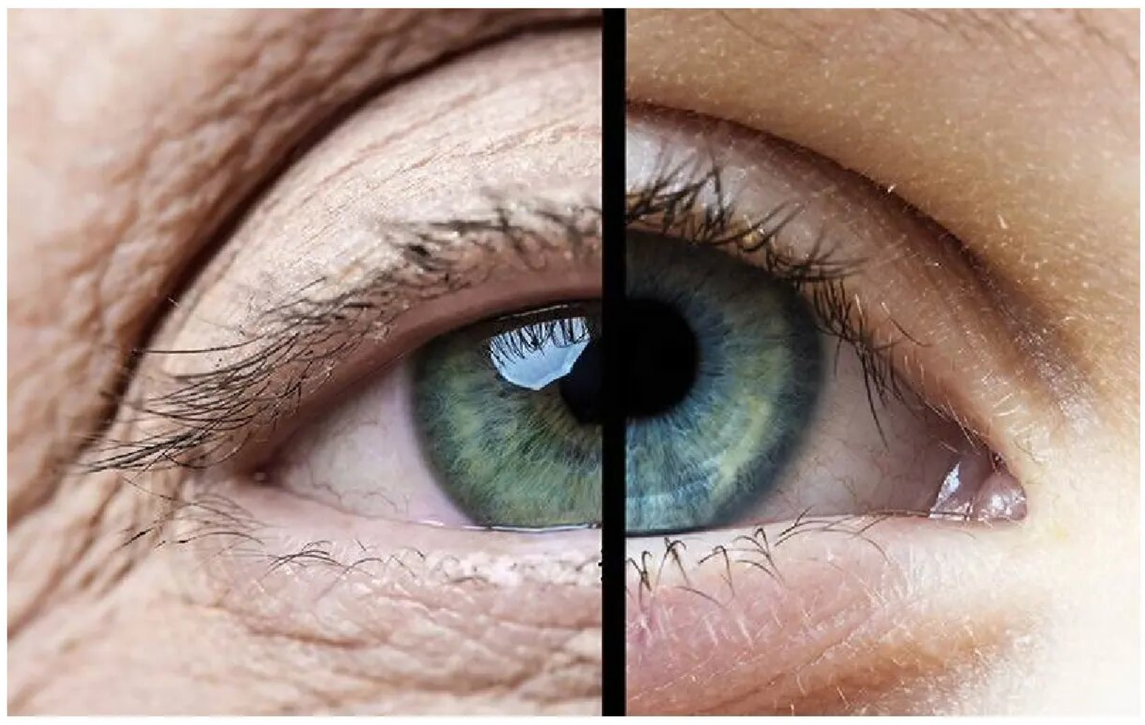
Holding Books or Mobile Phones Farther Away to Read: If you increasingly find yourself stretching your arms to read messages, newspapers or medicine labels, it could be presbyopia. This common age-related condition affects the eye's ability to focus on nearby objects, usually becoming noticeable after the age of 40. While reading glasses can help, a comprehensive eye examination is important to rule out other vision problems.

Cloudy Vision or Difficulty Seeing Colours Clearly: Does the world appear slightly hazy, or do colours seem less bright than before? These could be early signs of cataracts. As the natural lens becomes cloudy, vision gradually loses its clarity, making everyday activities such as reading, watching television and recognising faces increasingly difficult. Increased glare and difficulty seeing at night are also common symptoms. Cataracts are treatable, and timely evaluation can help determine when surgery is appropriate.

Difficulty Seeing at Night or Increased Sensitivity to Light: Struggling with headlights while driving, experiencing halos around streetlights or finding poorly lit areas uncomfortable to navigate should not be dismissed as normal ageing. Cataracts can cause glare and reduced contrast sensitivity. Other eye conditions may also affect vision in low-light environments. An eye specialist can identify the underlying cause and recommend suitable treatment.

Straight Lines Appearing Wavy or Faces Becoming Distorted: If door frames, window edges or lines on a newspaper appear bent or distorted, it could indicate a problem involving the macula, the central part of the retina responsible for detailed vision. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one condition that can affect this area. People may also notice difficulty recognising faces or reading despite wearing the correct spectacles. Such changes warrant prompt evaluation by an ophthalmologist.

Frequent Changes in Spectacle Power or Gradual Loss of Peripheral Vision: Repeated changes in spectacle numbers may sometimes indicate developing cataracts or other eye conditions. More importantly, a gradual reduction in side vision can be an early sign of glaucoma, a condition in which damage to the optic nerve can lead to permanent vision loss. Glaucoma often develops without noticeable symptoms in its early stages, making regular eye pressure checks and optic nerve assessments particularly important.



Beyond recognising these warning signs, preventive eye care plays a crucial role in preserving vision. Adults above 40 should undergo regular comprehensive eye examinations, with the frequency guided by their eye health, medical history and risk factors. People with diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history of glaucoma may require more frequent monitoring. A healthy lifestyle, a balanced diet, protection from ultraviolet rays and avoiding self-medication with eye drops can further support eye health.

The most important thing to remember is that deteriorating eyesight should never be considered an unavoidable consequence of growing older. While some age-related changes are natural, many eye conditions can be managed effectively when detected early. Do not wait until blurred vision begins interfering with everyday activities. A timely eye examination can make the difference between simply adjusting to poor vision and taking the right steps to preserve it. Ageing is inevitable, but losing the ability to see the world clearly should never be accepted without seeking medical advice.

Author is Medical Director, Centre for Sight, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad

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Exporters seek early finalisation of US trade pact, cite 17 pc tariff advantage

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 26: Indian exporters on Thursday urged the government to seal a trade pact with the US at the earliest, saying the proposed 17 per cent tariff, as outlined in the USTR report, would give India an advantage over competing nations. Buy Maps

They said that this is the right time to finalise the deal as exporters are getting good orders from the US buyers.

"India should do the trade deal as soon as possible. We are getting a lot of orders from the US, and further opening of the market will help increase exports," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said.

He added that the absence of a trade deal with the US could hurt India's exports by putting domestic exporters at a disadvantage compared with competitors from countries that enjoy lower tariff rates.

This could affect the price competitiveness of Indian goods in the US market, making it difficult for exporters to retain existing buyers and secure new orders, Ralhan said.

He added that the agreement should be balanced and reciprocal, safeguard India's long-term economic and developmental interests, and ensure that Indian exporters can compete on a level playing field with suppliers from other countries in the US market.

"While the industry is concerned with these developments as it raises uncertainty, there is no panic amongst exporters," he said.

Ralhan also called for clarity on how the proposed measures would interact with existing duties under Sections 301 and 232 and how the product-specific exemptions in the USTR notice would apply.

"Clear rules on the duties payable on each product would help exporters quote prices with confidence and avoid overlapping tariff burdens," he said.

FIEO urged negotiators to secure competitive tariff treatment for Indian products, address non-tariff barriers and improve market access.Buy Maps

It called for particular attention to MSMEs, which have less room to absorb sudden increases in duties and compliance costs.

The Federation also urged close consultations between the government and industry to assess the impact on each sector and prepare submissions for the USTR's public consultation process.

Sharing similar views, Ramesh Kumar Juneja, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE), said that the proposed 17 per cent tariff will be the "best deal" for India.

"We would urge for early finalisation of the deal. The proposed tariffs on India is lower than its competitors," Juneja said, adding that India is in a better position than Bangladesh and Vietnam.



Rafeeq Ahmed, chairman of leading leather and footwear products, Farida group, too said that the deal is "very" important for India.

"The key takeaway from the USTR report is that the proposed tariff on Indian goods is lower than that on Vietnamese goods. This will make Indian products more competitive in the US market," he said.

The US on Wednesday proposed 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, with a provision to cap them at 17 per cent if the two countries agree to a bilateral trade deal, giving it a slight edge over Asian competitors.

The proposed tariffs followed investigations by the US Trade Representative into 16 economic jurisdictions -- China, the European Union, Singapore, Switzerland, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Japan, Norway, Mexico and India -- relating to structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors.Buy Maps

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Under the proposed USTR tariffs, Indian imports face a 17 per cent tariff if a trade pact is finalised, offering a calculated one per cent edge over Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand (18 per cent deal rate) and a three per cent edge over Vietnam and China (20 per cent deal rate).

On Wednesday, the USTR unveiled tariff proposals targeting 14 economic jurisdictions with two distinct rates, a higher one proposed as part of the Sec 301 probe, and a lower deal rate if the countries agree to a trade pact with the US.

India, in its negotiations with the US on the trade deal, has been insisting on a competitive advantage over its Asian rivals, a demand that Washington has addressed in the tariff proposals. However, it was not immediately clear whether the one percentage point differential addresses the concerns flagged by India.

The EU, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Switzerland face 15 per cent tariff rates, inclusive of standard import duties. Vietnam would face tariffs of 20 per cent if the trade deal is finalised.

The USTR has decided to schedule public hearings on its proposals on January 25 and sought written comments from interested persons by January 5 as part of the final regulatory requirements before the tariffs come into effect.

Credit card spends nearly 6 times debit card purchases in Oct; ATM withdrawals stay high

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Credit card spends were nearly six times the value of debit card purchases in October, while ATM cash withdrawals remained close to credit card expenditures, reflecting the continued coexistence of digital payments and cash.

Credit card spending stood at about Rs 2.45 lakh crore during October, against Rs 40,492 crore in expenses through debit cards, according to the Reserve Bank of India's monthly data on ATM, acceptance infrastructure and card transactions.Buy Maps



Cash withdrawals at ATMs and PoS terminals were over Rs 2.33 lakh crore during the month, marginally lower than credit card spends.

Credit card spending was dominated by online transactions, which accounted for Rs 1.54 lakh crore, while purchases at physical point-of-sale (PoS) terminals amounted to Rs 90,562 crore. Other credit card transactions were valued at about Rs 119 crore.

In contrast, debit card spending was tilted towards physical retail transactions. Purchases at PoS terminals stood at Rs 24,957 crore, while online transactions amounted to Rs 15,284 crore. Other debit card transactions were worth Rs 251 crore.

Cash withdrawals through debit cards at ATMs accounted for the bulk of cash usage, amounting to over Rs 2.32 lakh crore across 42.04 crore transactions. Credit card cash withdrawals at ATMs stood at Rs 415 crore, while cash withdrawals at PoS terminals using debit cards were negligible at around Rs 1.27 crore.

The data shows that while credit cards were used predominantly for purchases, particularly online, debit cards continued to serve largely as a means of accessing cash, with ATM withdrawals far exceeding debit card purchase transactions.

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SEBI appoints forensic auditor to probe Coffee Day Enterprises' fund diversion

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Markets regulator SEBI has appointed a forensic auditor to assist in a probe into the affairs of Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd, following directions from the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).



The SAT had on November 5 directed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to conduct a fresh, independent and comprehensive investigation into the alleged diversion of Rs 3,535 crore from seven subsidiaries of Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL) to Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates Ltd (MACEL), an entity linked to the company's promoters.Buy Maps

Pursuant to the order dated November 5, 2026 passed by the appellate tribunal, CDEL, in a regulatory filing on Thursday, said "SEBI has, vide its letter dated November 25, 2026, informed the company that CLA Indus Value Consulting has been appointed as the forensic auditor to assist the investigating authority."

The company said its board of directors would take further steps as may be necessary in the matter.

On November 5, SAT set aside an order passed by SEBI's Whole Time Member (WTM) and directed the regulator to complete further investigation within six months and pass appropriate orders in accordance with the law.

The SAT order came over an appeal filed by CDEL, challenging the order passed by SEBI, which imposed a penalty of Rs 26 crore under Sections 15HA and 15HB of the SEBI Act, 1992, in connection with alleged securities law violations.

In its order, SAT had said it would be "in the interest of justice" for SEBI to undertake an "independent and comprehensive" investigation into the scheme of diversion of funds from the CDEL group and its promoters.

The tribunal also asked the regulator to determine the roles of various stakeholders and consider appropriate action, particularly with a view to "adequately restituting the public shareholders" of the company.

As part of the investigation, the tribunal asked SEBI to consider recording statements on oath of concerned persons, including legal representatives of late V G Siddhartha, to ascertain the ultimate beneficiaries of the allegedly siphoned-off funds.

India Post to leverage cabinet-approved fund to achieve profitability by 2030: Scindia



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The Department of Posts will leverage the cabinet-approved fund, along with new products and improved operational efficiency, to achieve profitability by 2030, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Thursday.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Rs 2,632 crore for two separate schemes to modernise and strengthen postal services and infrastructure.

The total allocation comprises Rs 1,141 crore for the Postal Operations Scheme and Rs 1,491 crore for the Department of Posts' Estates Management Scheme.

"Our target is based on injection of this capital, new schemes and products that we are bringing, transforming ourselves (Department of Posts) from a cost centre to a profit centre," Scindia said.He was briefing the media on cabinet decisions for the Department of Posts.The revenue of the postal department grew a record 16 per cent to Rs 15,373 crore in fiscal year 2026.Scindia has fixed a target of around Rs 19,800 crore for the department in the current fiscal year."In the first six months, we have achieved around Rs 8,000 crore in revenue.

Rupee weakens 24 paise to settle at 92.44 against US dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, Nov 26: The rupee settled 24 paise lower at 92.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, facing resistance due to higher crude oil prices and fear of additional US tariffs.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows favoured the Indian currency, even though crude oil prices reversed easing trend, hovering near the USD 95-per-barrel level.

They also said the Donald Trump administration's latest proposal to escalate the trade war with major trading partners raised inflation fears.

The US on Wednesday proposed 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, with a provision to cap them at 17 per cent if the two countries agree to a bilateral trade deal, giving it a slight edge over Asian competitors.

The proposed tariffs followed investigations by the US Trade Representative into 16 economic jurisdictions. The USTR investigation report accused India of engaging in a range of acts, policies, and practices that create, maintain, or contribute to structural excess capacity and production.



India rejected the allegation and said the country is committed to working closely with the US for an early conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement.

In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.50 and moved between the range of 92.31 and 92.66 against the greenback during the session. The unit finally settled at 92.44 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 24 paise from its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee jumped 65 paise to settle at 92.20, the highest level this fiscal year so far. The level was compared to the closing mark of 92.28 against the greenback recorded on March 16.

The Indian currency has recovered nearly 5 per cent compared to its lowest-ever closing mark of 96.88 versus the US dollar seen on October 8.Buy MapsCommenting on Thursday's fall, Rajeev Sharan, Head of Research, Brickwork Ratings, said, "Two pressures surfaced together: Brent crude climbed back above USD 95 a barrel, and Washington proposed tariffs of up to 25 per cent on Indian goods. The fine print is less severe than the headline. A bilateral trade deal capping duties at 17 per cent would still give India a slight edge over Asian competitors. The mild reaction suggests the market sees the proposal as an opening position in talks."

Sharan added that a slight pullback in the rupee provides a natural cushion for exporters who are facing both a firmer currency and tariff risk.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.70, higher by 0.09 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.86 per cent lower at USD 93.80 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, Sensex settled 390.31 points, or 0.46 per cent, higher at 84,328.59, while the Nifty went up 65.25 points.

Stock markets rally for 2nd day on foreign fund inflows, buying in IT shares

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, Nov 26: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second day on Thursday amid investors' optimism over sustained foreign fund inflows and heavy buying in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 390.31 points, or 0.46 per cent, to settle at 84,328.59. During the day, it jumped 613.46 points, or 0.73 per cent, to 84,551.74.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose 65.25 points, or 0.25 per cent, to end at 25,884.50.

From the Sensex pack, HCL Tech jumped 6.28 per cent followed by Tata Consultancy Services 4.97 per cent, Infosys 4.70 per cent, Tech Mahindra 3.33 per cent, HDFC Bank 2.70 per cent, and Tata Steel 2.67 per cent.

Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Trent were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,479.08 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.



Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.79 per cent to USD 93.86 per barrel.

The BSE Sensex has jumped 9,869.06 points, or 13.25 per cent in November so far, and the Nifty has rallied 2,831.4 points, or 12.28 per cent.

"Indian equities recovered from early losses in a volatile session, as sustained foreign inflows and selective buying outweighed firm crude and the proposed US tariffs. IT led the gains, tracking a rebound in Asian tech stocks after weeks of selling," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.Buy Maps

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rebounded after Wednesday's sharp decline.

Markets in Europe were trading significantly higher.

"Indian equities ended slightly higher on Thursday after a volatile session, with early gains tapering as uncertainty over the India-US trade agreement and firm US inflation data tempered risk appetite. The benchmarks oscillated between gains and losses through the session, reflecting a cautious approach amid renewed focus on global interest-rate expectations and the possibility of further Federal Reserve tightening in December," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Meanwhile, the US on Wednesday proposed 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, with a provision to cap them at 17 per cent if the two countries agree to a bilateral trade deal, giving it a slight edge over Asian competitors.The US equity markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. The Nasdaq Composite was down 0.62 per cent and S&P 500 declined 0.25 per cent.

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Indian consumers entitled to no less protection, information than those in US or UK: SC

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 26 :A consumer in India enjoys similar protection as that one has in the US or the UK, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while tightening the food labelling measures on packaged products in the country.

A bench of justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran noted that concerns have been raised that certain multinational Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating here adopt practices towards Indian consumers that differ from those they follow elsewhere, including in the composition of their products and in the information provided on their labels.

"Such companies comply with, and in some instances voluntarily adopt, FoPNL (front-of-package nutrition labelling) requirements in other jurisdictions, yet resist similar measures here. If true, such double standards are deeply troubling," the bench said.

"A consumer in India is entitled to no less protection, and no less information, than a consumer in the United States or the United Kingdom," it said.

The top court urged such multinational FBOs to adopt uniform standards across jurisdictions, and to extend to Indian consumers the same regard and respect for their health that they extend to consumers elsewhere.

Front-of-package nutrition labelling (FoPNL) is a nutritional information graphic on food packaging that can assist consumers in making an informed decision about food purchases and healthier dietary choices.

The bench directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to ensure that FoPNL treats "total sugars" and "saturated fat", rather than "added sugar" and "added fat", as nutrients-of-concern, alongside "salt", in alignment with its own long-standing consensus existing prior to the DGI (Dietary Guidelines for Indians), 2024.

The apex court delivered its verdict on an application filed in a petition by public charitable trust '3S and Our Health Society' which sought directions to the Centre, states and Union territories to implement mandatory FoPNL on packaged foods.

Passing a slew of directions, the bench said, "As regards sweetened beverages that do not exceed the threshold limits for the relevant nutrient-of-concern, the FSSAI shall ensure that no front-of-pack label which is identical or deceptively similar, in appearance, form or shape, to the warning label required for beverages that exceed the threshold limits, is displayed for the purpose of denoting its food category."

It directed the FSSAI to ensure that each hexagon in FoPNL carries a standardised pictorial representation of the nutrient-of-concern, together with the corresponding words "High Fat", "High Sugar" or "High Salt", as the case may be.

Cash-for-jobs scam: Gauhati HC suspends sentence of ex-APSC chief, grants bail till Feb 2027



Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI, NOV 26:The Gauhati High Court has suspended the sentence of former Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) chairman Rakesh Kumar Paul, convicted in the cash-for-jobs scam, and granted him bail till February 28, 2027, or disposal of his appeal, whichever is earlier.

A division bench of Justices Kalyan Rai Surana and Rajesh Mazumdar passed the order on November 23 in case (I.A.(Crl.)/1076/2026) filed by Paul seeking suspension of sentence during the pendency of his criminal appeal case of 2024.

Paul was convicted by a special court in Guwahati in July 2024 and sentenced to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment in the cash-for-jobs scam involving recruitment to government posts through the APSC.

His earlier plea seeking suspension of the sentence was rejected in June 2026, with the court then expecting an early disposal of all 20 connected appeals arising from the same case.

The high court, however, noted that the paper books in the connected appeals were yet to be prepared and that the appeals, listed for January 22, 2027, were unlikely to be disposed of early."There is no qualm at the Bar that the applicant has suffered incarceration for a period of over 8 years, even as the learned trial court had imposed a sentence of 14 years' rigorous imprisonment upon him," the bench observed, relying on a few Supreme Court rulings related to delay in appeal and completion of more than half the sentence.The HC bench also took note of the life-threatening condition of Paul's wife, who has reportedly lost function of both kidneys and has been advised a transplant, which requires his presence and assistance."The report produced by the learned Special PP does not contest or negate the ailment being suffered by the wife of the applicant, and therefore, his presence and care with regard to her treatment from a life-threatening condition cannot be overlooked.

Two convicted by Thane court for locking govt office over rent row; one acquitted

Press Trust of India

THANE, NOV 26 :A sessions court in Thane convicted two men for wrongfully restraining and obstructing public servants by keeping a government office locked over a rent dispute in 2010.

In his order of Wednesday,



Additional Sessions Judge SS Renge convicted Rohit Sushil Ruia (49) and Vishal Mohan Shinde (45) under sections 341 (wrongful restraint) and 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) of Indian Penal Code.

They were, however, acquitted under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty). The court also acquitted co-accused Fatima Anwar Jafrani (56) of all charges, granting her the benefit of doubt.

As per the prosecution, on October 14, 2010, Suryakant Jagannath Gharge, then serving as Assistant Registrar / Sub-Registrar (Class-II), Thane-10, arrived at his rented office in Mira Road and found the premises locked.

The accused retained the keys and refused to open the rented government office premises over outstanding rent, even after senior officers arrived and offered cheques to clear the dues, the prosecution said.

On Gharge's complaint, Mira Road police registered an FIR, and arrested the three. They were released on bail on October 15, 2010.

During the trial, the prosecution examined six witnesses. The defence argued that the prosecution failed to prove ownership of the premises or that the accused placed the locks. It also contended there was no assault or criminal force.

Holding that there was no evidence of assault or use of criminal force by any of the accused, the court acquitted all three under section 353 read with section 34 of the IPC.

However, relying on witness testimonies regarding the presence of Ruia and Shinde, their refusal to open the locked office despite requests and offers of rent cheques, and the recovery of keys, the judge ruled that their common intention to wrongfully restrain and obstruct public servants was proved.

Two bike-borne snatchers arrested in Gurugram

Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM, NOV 26 :Police have arrested two bike-borne men for snatching a gold chain from a woman in Nobel Enclave, Palam Vihar, here, officials said on Thursday.

According to police, a woman filed a complaint at Palam Vihar Police Station, claiming that two unidentified persons riding a motorcycle snatched her gold chain on November 11.

Afterwards, police registered a case at Palam Vihar Police Station.



Police arrested Vinay alias Mota, a resident of Village Bhora Kalan, Gurugram, currently residing at Gopal Nagar, Najafgarh (Delhi), and Lalit Mishra alias Vicky alias Rahul, a resident of Village Dhangha, Saharsa, Bihar, currently residing at Baprola Vihar, Najafgarh (Delhi).

They recovered a motorcycle used in the crime.

A senior police officer said 25 cases involving offences such as attempt to murder, robbery, theft, Arms Act and other offences are registered against accused Vinay in Delhi.

"We are questioning the accused. Further investigation is underway," he said.

Goa-made liquor worth Rs 1.3 cr seized in Mumbra, one held

Press Trust of India



THANE, NOV 26 : The Maharashtra excise department seized Goa-made liquor valued at Rs 1.30 crore in Mumbra in Thane district and arrested one person, an official said on Thursday.

The operation was carried out on a tip-off by the Konkan divisional flying squad on Wednesday on the Old Mumbai-Pune Road at Parsik Retibandar, he added."A truck was intercepted. Its driver, Abhishek Jagtap, said the cargo comprised fans and spare parts. A search led to the seizure of 1,235 boxes containing 59,280 bottles of Goa-made liquor worth Rs 1.30 crore. The truck valued at Rs 24 lakh has also been impounded," said Abhijit Deshmukh, Deputy Superintendent, State Excise, Konkan Division. Jagtap was held under the Maharashtra Prohibition Act, he added.

Man held for murdering peanut seller in Gurugram; accused remanded to 4-day police custody

Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM, NOV 26 :A 21-year-old peanut seller was arrested for murdering his business partner by stabbing him with a knife and strangling him with a cotton scarf over a financial dispute and burying the body near an old water tank here, Gurugram Police said on Thursday.

The accused, Bablu, was arrested from his native village of Behta Gosai in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun district. He was produced before a court here, which remanded him to four days of police custody, they said.

According to police, on November 11, a person lodged a complaint at Sector 65 police station regarding the disappearance of his brother Naeem (25), who used to sell peanuts in Gurugram.

The complainant said Naeem left home on November 8 evening, stating that he was going to Delhi to collect a charger for a battery, but never returned. Despite efforts to trace him, no information about his whereabouts could be found.

Later, on receiving information about a mobile phone found in Sector 50, the complainant went there and recovered the phone, which belonged to his brother. He then filed a complaint at Sector 65 police station, based on which an FIR was registered.

A senior officer said a police team searched the surrounding areas, questioned locals and examined CCTV footage, and on November 22, recovered a body buried near an old water tank located in the vacant fields near Sector 63A, Kadarpur T-Point.

Crime and fingerprint teams were called to the spot, and necessary evidence was collected.

The body, which was identified as that of Naeem, was sent for a post-mortem and thereafter handed over to his family members.

Subsequently, sections related to murder were added to the missing person case. During subsequent investigation, the police team arrested Bablu from his native village in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. During interrogation, Bablu revealed that he and Naeem had been selling peanuts together in Gurugram for the last four to five years, and had been having arguments over financial transactions.

Four shot dead while having meal at dhaba in Haryana's Rohtak; Police suspect gang rivalry

Press Trust of India

ROHTAK, NOV 26 :Four men were shot dead by unidentified assailants in a suspected gang rivalry attack at a dhaba near Kharawar village here, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at around 1 am on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday when six to seven assailants came in two cars to the eatery and opened indiscriminate fire on the four men, who were having a meal at the Milan Dhaba, before fleeing, they said.

Panic-stricken people ran for cover as shots were fired. When one of the victims ran upstairs to save his life, the assailants chased him to the first floor and shot him there as well, according to a complaint which is part of the FIR.

The firing incident is suspected to be a fallout of the rivalry between Himanshu Bhau and Sunny Ritolia gangs.

The deceased have been identified as Rinku, Vinit and Harsh, residents of Dighal village in

Jhajjar district. The fourth victim was identified as Himanshu, a resident of Beri in Jhajjar. Rinku's cousin,

in his complaint, claimed that Himanshu was not an associate of the other three slain men.

Speaking to reporters, Haryana Special Task Force IG Simardeep Singh said that prima facie, it seems to be a case of inter-gang rivalry.

It is suspected that the assailants were from Himanshu Bhau's gang.

According to a complaint filed by Rinku's cousin Mannu, he received information at around 2 am that someone shot dead his cousin Rinku and his companions, Vinit and Harsh, in Kharawar.

According to the FIR lodged on the



complaint of Mannu, Rinku and his associates, Vinit and Harsh, suffered multiple gunshot wounds to their heads, chests, waists, necks and legs.

Mannu, in his complaint, said Himanshu, who had come for a meal, was also targeted as he was allegedly mistaken for an associate of Rinku and others. When

Himashu ran upstairs to save his life, the assailants chased him and shot him on the first floor, according to the complaint which is part of the FIR.

The complainant said Rinku, Vinit, and Harsh were associated with Sunny, a resident of Ritoli in Rohtak district. Sunny had an old enmity with Himanshu Bhau, a resident of Ritoli village.

Bhau had earlier also orchestrated attacks on Sunny and his associates, according to the complainant.

An unverified post surfaced on social media, claiming responsibility for the murders, with police saying they were verifying it.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Rishi Kant said eight to nine police teams have been deployed for investigation, with all teams of the Rohtak district CIA (Crime Investigation Agency) and the police station concerned roped in to nab the accused.

Upon receiving information about the incident, senior police officers, including Rohtak Range Inspector General of Police Hamid Akhtar, Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rajpurohit and others, reached the spot.

A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory also examined the crime spot, police said. The DSP said an FIR has been registered in the matter.

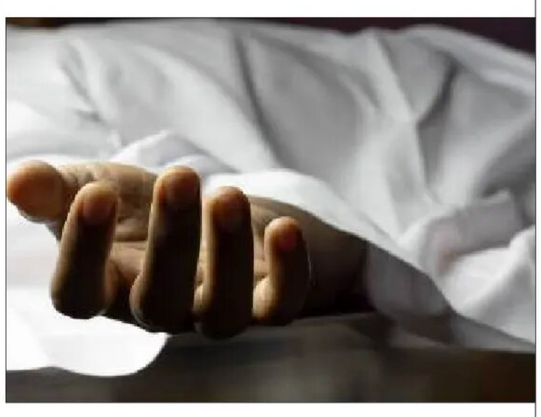
Efforts were on to identify the accused, he said, adding that they will soon be arrested. Police have not recovered any weapon so far, and are yet to ascertain how many rounds were fired, according to Kant. Asked whether any CCTV camera was able to provide a clue, he said that so far, no such footage was available.

Speeding truck hits motorcycle in Delhi's Shastri Nagar, rider killed

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 26 :A motorcycle rider was killed after his two-wheeler was hit by a speeding truck in the Shastri Nagar area of north Delhi, police said on Thursday.

The accident took place when the truck rammed into the motorcycle, leaving the rider with severe head injuries. He died on the spot due to the impact of the collision, they said.



The impact was so severe that the victim suffered extensive injuries to his head, with parts of his body scattered on the road, eyewitnesses said.

The motorcycle, bearing a Uttar Pradesh registration number, was also carrying some goods at the time of the accident. Police personnel from the Sarai Rohilla police station reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident.

The truck driver allegedly attempted to flee after hitting the motorcycle but was caught after the vehicle rammed into a police barricade, police said. The deceased's body was taken to a hospital for a postmortem examination.

Police are trying to establish the circumstances leading to the accident and are also investigating whether overspeeding or any other factor contributed to the collision. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

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Union

attended by senior officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, including Intelligence Bureau Director Mahesh Dixit, chiefs of Central Armed Police Forces, senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army officers and representatives of intelligence and security agencies, they said.

Apart from the current security scenario, the attendees discussed counter-terrorism operations, infiltration attempts, intelligence coordination, elimination of foreign terrorists operating in the mountainous and forest areas of the Jammu region and measures to prevent local youth from joining militant groups.

The review meeting was held against the backdrop of recent terror-related incidents, including the killing of two special police officers in the Dachhan area of Kishtwar district and the recent encounter in Kulgam in which Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Mohammad Lateef Bhat was killed.

Amit Shah

on this day in 2008 shook the entire nation. I salute the brave soldiers who laid down their lives while giving the terrorists a crushing response, and pay tribute to all the innocent people who lost their lives in these attacks," he said.

Terming terrorism the most heinous crime against humanity, Shah said, "The Modi government's 'zero tolerance' policy against terror is being praised worldwide. Today, India is playing a leading role in the global fight against terrorism, taking decisive action against every form of terror and every conspiracy."

On November 26, 2008, 10 heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who sailed into Mumbai from Pakistan launched a gruesome coordinated terrorist attack on innocent citizens in the cosmopolitan city, leaving 166 people, including foreigners, dead and more than 300 injured, making it one of the deadliest terror strikes in an Indian city.

The 2008 attacks that continued until the morning of November 29 targeted several iconic locations bustling with people, including the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Trident Hotel, Nariman House (Chabad House), Leopold Cafe and Cama and Albless Hospital.

The terrorists, guided by their handlers cocooned in Pakistan through satellite phones, launched coordinated attacks on unarmed civilians, taking hostages and engaging security personnel in prolonged gun battles in which several senior police officers of Mumbai Police, including Hemant Karkare, were killed.

The terrorists were neutralised by operations of Mumbai Police and NSG and the exemplary bravery of Constable Tukaram Omble, who made the supreme sacrifice while nabbing lone surviving Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab, braving bullets from the terrorist's automatic gun.

Kasab was tried and hanged for his crimes.

PM Modi

newspapers on Thursday, on the occasion of Constitution Day.

A party -- an obvious reference to Congress -- has the "dubious" record of imposing Article 356 almost 100 times, and one former prime minister scored a half-century in this field, he said, in an apparent reference to Indira Gandhi.

"The makers of our Constitution had hoped that it would be implemented in letter and spirit across India," he said.

The prime minister further said it has been 50 years since the 42nd amendment at the height of the Emergency and 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," he said.

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, introduced sweeping changes to the Constitution during the Emergency. Popularly known as the Mini-Constitution, it amended the Preamble by adding the words Socialist, Secular and Integrity.

In a social media post on Thursday, the prime minister said he has highlighted in the article the uniqueness of the Constitution and the Constituent Assembly.

"How the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of my journey. Ways the NDA government has strengthened the Constitution. Efforts towards boosting social and economic justice," he said.

Modi said he has also highlighted how the Constitution was trampled over by those who ruled the nation for five decades and how one party has devolved from being a 'Virodh Paksh' (opposition) to 'Avrodh Paksh' (obstructionist).

Referring to the abrogation of the constitutional provisions that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its residents, the prime minister said that 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," he wrote.

Modi said the Indian Constitution is integral to the lives of crores of citizens, including himself, and its extraordinary spirit has enabled even a child from a modest, unprivileged background to lead the world's largest democracy.

He also said his government's endeavour has been to deepen the Constitution's connect with the collective consciousness of the people, especially the youth, and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future.

The prime minister said that for a nation as diverse as Bharat, with its numerous faiths, languages, customs and schools of thought, it is important that the Constitution has a resonance far beyond the precincts of Parliament and the courts.

That is why, he said, over a decade ago, the ruling NDA government decided to mark November 26 as Constitution Day.

"For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys," he wrote.

Modi said whenever he looks back at his childhood, the humble circumstances in which he grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, he is filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards the 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," he said.

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

Modi said on November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, and today, everyone remembers Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly.

"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?" he wrote.

Modi said a recent World Bank report highlighted 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," he said.

Referring to the constitutional amendments, he said the 101st one ushered in GST, a long-awaited reform, while constitutional status was granted to the National Commission for Backward Classes via the 102nd, 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," he said.

For the first time since 1950, Modi said, an updated version of the Constitution is now available in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule, bringing it closer to the people.

The prime minister also referred to the overhaul of the country's criminal justice system by enacting the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, with the focus on moving from the colonial emphasis on punishment (Dand) to a citizen-centric pursuit of justice (Nyay).

In an apparent attack on the Congress party, he said there have been occasions in India's 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," he said.

Modi said 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," he wrote.

Modi said today, India stands at a defining moment. He said as the central government works towards 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, two simple yet powerful principles can guide the collective endeavours: "India First in our thinking and Kartavya (Duties) in our actions".

Police

forces in 2007.

However, he continued to evade the legal process and was wanted in 13 criminal cases registered between 2000 and 2007, involving offences such as murder, attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, and waging war against the government.

Acting on credible intelligence, a special team comprising personnel from Mahore police station and the Absconder Tracking Unit was constituted and sent to Tral, where the accused was traced and apprehended through coordinated efforts with Awantipora police, officials said.

The arrest brought a more than two-decade-long pursuit to an end, the police said, reiterating their commitment to tracking down absconders and ensuring accountability irrespective of the passage of time or geographical boundaries.

LG

India and self-reliant Union Territory.

Addressing citizens on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor noted that Constitution Day provides an opportunity to reconnect with the ideals that define the Republic and to renew commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Recalling the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, the Lieutenant Governor described it as a historic milestone that gave constitutional direction to independent India and laid the foundation for a democratic future based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living expression of India's collective aspirations and democratic commitment. Emphasising the achievements of the nation over the past 77 years, he observed that India is reaching new heights in areas such as space, semiconductors, digital technology, science and innovation, made possible by the strong constitutional foundation laid by the nation-builders.

Paying tribute to Baba Saheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of social democracy and fraternity in sustaining democratic institutions. The Lieutenant Governor underlined that legal and constitutional safeguards alone are not sufficient unless citizens recognise and respect the dignity, rights and aspirations of one another in everyday life.

Referring to rapid advances in artificial intelligence, quantum technology, biotechnology and space technology, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to protect liberty, privacy and human dignity in the digital age. The Lieutenant Governor said that technological progress must remain human-centric and aligned with constitutional values.

"Along with rapid technological change, our constitutional responsibilities are also growing. In the digital age, it is our responsibility to ensure that, amid technological progress, an individual's liberty, privacy and autonomy remain protected.

We must ensure that technology assists human beings, rather than making human beings subordinate to technology. At the same time, we must ensure that the spirit of mutual cooperation and coordination deepens in administrative processes at every level. Our goal should be that services and infrastructure reach every part of Jammu Kashmir with equal sensitivity and commitment, and that no person is left behind on the journey of development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the importance of equal opportunities for youth, education and empowerment of women, dignity for farmers and workers, and responsive public institutions. He said that true development must expand opportunities and improve the quality of life of every citizen.

"India is not waiting for the future but building it. The Constitution gave future generations the foundation to achieve the unimaginable. Now, we must focus on true development, which means expanding opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring dignity for every citizen," he said.

Calling upon citizens to contribute actively to nation-building, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to uphold constitutional propriety, practise digital ethics, promote equality, conserve the environment, encourage scientific temper, participate in local governance and strengthen public faith in constitutional institutions.

Hon'ble Speaker, Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Shri Abdul Rahim Rather; Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Shri Anil Kumar Singh; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Shri Govind Jaiswal; Commissioner Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Achal Sethi; Secretary, Culture Department, Shri Ramesh Kumar; senior officials, prominent citizens and youth in large numbers attended the Constitution Day Celebration.

CM

He said these enduring constitutional values continue to guide the collective endeavour towards building a stronger, more inclusive and equitable Jammu and Kashmir.

Weather

in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of one degree 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.

Education

country and inspiring academic excellence among students. He observed that the light of education is eternal and continues to grow when shared with others.

The Lieutenant Governor said that education's first and most important outcome is humility. Referring to India's rich philosophical traditions, he noted that education builds character, nurtures worthiness, and ultimately leads to meaningful and fulfilling lives.

He reminded students that examination results do not define a person's life. The Lieutenant Governor said that life presents unexpected challenges for which character, patience and courage are often more important than academic scores.

"It is true that marks can take you to a door, but how you live beyond that door will be determined by your character. Defeat is only an Event, not your identity. Be resilient, confident, give your best, and then accept the outcome with equanimity. No defeat or failure can break someone who can do this. A Marksheet is not the marksheet of life. Dream big, stay humble and rise above failure," he said.

Emphasising holistic development, he called upon students to light three lamps in their lives- the lamp of knowledge, the lamp of compassion and the lamp of character.

"Machine can provide information, but it cannot provide wisdom. It can give answers, but it cannot tell you which question is the right one to ask. A machine can calculate, but it does not possess values such as compassion.

So always remember that, in the future, the most valuable thing will be what a machine cannot do and that is your wisdom, your ability to distinguish right from wrong, critical thinking, patience, compassion, sensitivity, courage, and curiosity. Always remember that ability gives you height, but character gives you the strength to remain standing at that height," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also encouraged students to strengthen these uniquely human qualities, which will continue to be invaluable in the future. The Lieutenant Governor spoke about emotional well-being and urged students not to hesitate in seeking support during difficult times.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that fear, anxiety and setbacks are natural experiences and that true courage lies in accepting help and moving forward with resilience. He appealed to parents to view their children beyond marks and rankings and to prioritise their happiness and well-being.

Underscoring the importance of character, the Lieutenant Governor said that success is not measured only by achievement but also by integrity, humility and a commitment to service. He encouraged students to contribute to society, particularly by supporting those who may have fewer opportunities.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to play a leading role in realising the vision of a developed India by 2047. He urged them to combine knowledge with compassion, skill with values, and success with social responsibility.

"As you advance in your careers, do not forget that children in the villages who may not have access to coaching but whose dream is just as big as yours. When you succeed, turn back and hold that child's hand. I believe that true success is the success that returns to illuminate the paths of others," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Bavinder Vashishth, Resident Editor, Amar Ujala Himachal Pradesh; Prof. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shri Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Shri Abhishek Raj, Editor, Amar Ujala Jammu, Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers, students and their parents attended the felicitation ceremony.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur and other prominent citizens were also present on the occasion.

BJP

day meeting will extensively deliberate on various key organisational matters and the party's future action plans, among other things. The newly appointed national office bearers will also get an opportunity to receive Prime Minister Modi's guidance," a source said.

Sources said all the newly appointed national office bearers, including in-charges and co-incharges of states and BJP Morchas, will participate in the meeting.

On August 17, the BJP overhauled its national team under party president Nitin Nabin, bringing in many new faces and some prominent leaders like former Union minister Smriti Irani as general secretary and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav as vice president.

The party, which said it has maintained the right balance between youth and experience, retained a few veterans, including former chief minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje Scindia who was named as one of its 13 vice-presidents.

Out of the total 65 office bearers named in the expanded team, 51 were new. These include 12 women and six leaders from minority communities.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal was named national treasurer, a post he held earlier before becoming a minister in the first government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2014.

The BJP also retained B L Santhosh as National General Secretary (Organisation).

In the following months, BJP also appointed the party's in-charge and co-incharges of states and Union Territories.

AICC

and to protect our rights, democracy and the Constitution itself," he said.

Alleging large-scale irregularities in the electoral process, Hussain claimed that deletion of 15-16 per cent of votes could fundamentally alter election outcomes, particularly when victory margins were often between 2 and 4 per cent.

He said the Congress would intensify its movement once Parliament convenes and demand the removal of Gyanesh Kumar.

On senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on terrorism and dialogue, Hussain said the party's position was clear: terrorism and peace talks could not proceed simultaneously.

"Terrorism must stop, and terrorist infiltration must end. Only then can any dialogue take place," he said, referring to Gandhi's recent interaction at a university abroad.

On the Congress stand regarding Article 370, Hussain said the party was committed to its demand for restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and the reinstatement of democratic rights to its people.

"The Congress party's stand is absolutely clear: Jammu and Kashmir must be granted full statehood, and all democratic rights must be restored to the people. People must have the right to govern themselves," Hussain said, asserting that an unelected lieutenant governor should not rule the Union Territory.

"Jammu and Kashmir should also be given a good economic package and special status," he said, arguing that the region, being a border area facing security challenges, deserved special constitutional provisions like those available to states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.

On the controversy surrounding Vande Mataram, Hussain said the Congress supported the singing of only its first two stanzas.

He cited the views of Rabindranath Tagore and Subhas Chandra Bose in support of the party's position and criticised the BJP for its "disregard" for the country's national icons.

Rajnath

increasingly co-existing with cyber attacks, disinformation, economic coercion, disruptions to supply chains and other forms of hybrid warfare, "blurring the boundaries" between internal and external security, and peace and conflict.

He emphasised that India's geographical location, extensive land borders, maritime interests and growing international responsibilities place it in a complex strategic environment, necessitating a forward-looking approach to national security.

Singh emphasised that strategic leadership lies not in waiting for perfect information or ideal circumstances, but in making well-considered decisions while remaining conscious of their "wider operational, economic, diplomatic and institutional implications".

He also suggested that the NDC, in consultation with the defence ministry, institutionalise a "mechanism to identify a few significant contemporary national security challenges" for intensive examination during every course.

Mock

saw the participation of the CISF, CRPF, Indian Air Force, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), local police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), state fire services, medical teams, airline representatives and other stakeholders, it said.

A debriefing session was held after the exercise, during which observations and shortcomings were discussed to identify areas for improvement, the force said.

The drill underscored the importance of inter-agency coordination and operational preparedness in ensuring an effective response to emergencies, it added.

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Need to be a bit braver: Morkel's message to India pacers for Christchurch Test

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 26 : India bowling coach Morne Morkel has urged the fast bowlers to make better use of the new Kookaburra ball and attack with greater intent when they face New Zealand in the series-deciding second Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch from Friday.



With India's hopes of reaching the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final under pressure, Morkel believes the visitors must strike early, particularly on a green surface where the ball could lose its effectiveness as the game progresses.

Drawing on his 16 years of experience playing with the Kookaburra ball, the former South Africa pacer said India's quicks needed to be prepared to take risks rather than focus only on restricting runs.

"It does make life a lot harder, especially when the surface also loses a little bit of pace with the softer ball. That is my experience, playing for 16 years with the Kookaburra ball, that you need to make that new ball count.

"You need to get the ball in the right area, sometimes be a bit braver in terms of your lengths and your lines, even going for a few runs, because when the ball gets soft, you can always put a ring field in and bring the run rate back."

"We play with the SG ball in India, where we bring spin into the game. But playing with the Kookaburra ball in these conditions, there is a different pattern that you need to be comfortable with, and you need to sometimes be brave," he added.India are fourth in the WTC standings with a points percentage of 50, behind South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Morkel acknowledged that reaching the final would be difficult but said the team must concentrate on producing its best cricket rather than becoming distracted by setbacks.

"All these guys want to play in that (WTC) final, and they will give everything possible to make it. But realistically, if we are honest about it, it is going to be a challenge," Morkel said.

"So after every bad session, we can't get caught up in things that we need to do. We just need to focus on playing our best cricket, coming up with solutions, and from there take it forward. That will be one thing we will speak about a lot, breaking it up session by session, focusing on how we can play our best brand of cricket," he added.

The Christchurch pitch has a thick covering of grass, but Morkel cautioned against assuming that it would offer consistent assistance to the fast bowlers. The Wellington surface, too, had promised pace and bounce before slowing down considerably.

"The pitch from what I have seen looks again very green. I think it is a longer sort of grass cover they have got there. We will have to see how it plays," he noted.

"Everybody expected the wicket in the last game to be fast and bouncy, and it wasn't like that. We can't control that. We just need to, with bat and ball in the first session, play the conditions we are going to face as best as possible," he added.

Gurnoor in contention for Test debut

Uncapped pacer Gurnoor Brar is among the options India could consider for the second Test, having impressed in the recent ODI series against New Zealand. He claimed nine wickets at an average of 15.89, including best figures of 4/30, to win the Player-of-the-Series award.

Morkel believes the youngster's pace and bounce could suit the conditions but said he must remain focused and be ready when an opportunity comes.

"There is a lot of excitement about him since he has joined the Indian team, with his pace and bounce. I think he is a guy that will be well suited to the conditions here. We will see how it goes."

"Gurnoor has been knocking on the door. He's doing all the right things. The selection as a player is something that he can't control. He needs to just make sure he's ready when he gets the opportunity. A lot of times, when we're close to that opportunity, as a bowler you can get distracted. When he gets his opportunity, my job is to make sure he's 100 percent ready," the former South Africa quick said.

Morkel defends Kamboj, backs Siraj

Morkel also came out in support of Anshul Kamboj, who finished with match figures of 3/114 from 45 overs in Wellington. He felt the young pacer, playing only his second Test, should not be judged solely on his performance on a surface that offered little assistance."Anshul (Kamboj) did a great job. It is quite hard to judge from the outside, sitting in the dressing room, after the second day, if the wicketkeeper is standing up to a bowler who is two metres tall, that is worrying."

India face pace-versus-depth dilemma with series on the line in Christchurch



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 26 :India will look to put their Wellington disappointment behind them when they take on New Zealand in the must-win second and final Test at Hagley Oval from Friday, with the pace-bowling combination likely to be a key talking point ahead of the series decider in Christchurch.

The visitors dominated large parts of the opening Test but could not force a result after the normally seamer-friendly Basin Reserve surface lost its pace and became increasingly favourable for batting. With the series on the line and a place in the World Test Championship final, India will need a more incisive bowling effort to take 20 wickets and secure a series victory.

A green surface awaits both teams in Christchurch, although India will be cautious about reading too much into its appearance. The Hagley Oval pitch has offered pace and bounce in the past, but has also been known to flatten out as the Test progresses.

New Zealand's Matt Henry and bowling coach Jacob Oram have indicated that the surface could provide more assistance to fast bowlers than the Wellington track. However, the West Indies managed to save a high-scoring Test at the venue last year, while India A batters Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel struck centuries there only three weeks ago.

India's bowling attack will therefore need to be prepared for conditions that could change considerably over five days. Jasprit Bumrah was the standout performer in Wellington, with Akash Deep also producing a couple of incisive spells, but Prasidh Krishna and Anshul Kamboj failed to make the desired impact despite bowling 45 overs each across the two innings.

The team management is understood to be considering its options, with uncapped Gurnoor Brar emerging as a possible inclusion. The tall pacer offers extra pace and bounce and could replace either Prasidh or Kamboj. However, the four frontline quicks - Bumrah, Akash Deep, Prasidh and Kamboj - did not bowl during Thursday's net session, suggesting India could retain the same combination.

Gurnoor, Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja had extended bowling sessions, while net bowlers Auqib Nabi and Arshdeep Singh also took part.

The selection dilemma also reflects India's preference for batting depth. Captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir have placed a premium on having batting options until No. 8. With Nitish Kumar Reddy's bowling not considered incisive enough in these conditions, India have relied on both Akash Deep and Kamboj to maintain that balance.

Siraj's continued absence from the playing XI has also attracted attention. Gill had admitted that leaving out the Hyderabad pacer in Wellington was a difficult call but felt his inclusion would not have significantly altered the outcome on a slow surface.

Veteran left-arm spin-bowling allrounder Ravindra Jadeja has also missed out, with off-spinner Washington Sundar preferred because of New Zealand's left-handed-heavy top order. However, Bumrah had already dismissed the opposition's top-order left-handers before Washington was brought into the attack.

Uganda Sand Cranes target maiden beach soccer AFCON title

United News Of India

KAMPALA, NOV 25 :Uganda is aiming for its first title at the 2026 CAF Beach Soccer Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), head coach Geofrey Akabwai said Wednesday.

The Sand Cranes are among eight teams competing in the tournament, which runs from November 28 to December 6 in Dakar, Senegal.

"Facing the likes of the defending champions like Senegal will not be an easy task. But if a team is to emerge champions, they must be prepared to face the best teams," Akabwai told Xinhua before the team departed for Senegal on Wednesday.

Uganda, making its third appearance at the tournament, was drawn in Group A with host Senegal, Mozambique and Ghana.

"Our target is now the title because we were semi-finalists in our first appearance in 2021, and came fifth in 2022. Now our target is to go for the title," Akabwai said. Senegal has won five consecutive titles since 2016.

Uganda is the only representative of the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) at the tournament. Mauritania, Morocco, Malawi and Angola make up Group B. The two finalists will qualify for the 2027 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

500 Alumni, 115 PLUS CXOs, 21 Institutions to take part in IIMBAA Alumni sports fest in Bengaluru

United News Of India

CHENNAI/BENGALURU, NOV 25 :Bringing together some of India's finest management institutions on a common sporting platform, the IIM Bangalore Alumni Association (IIMBAA) is hosting a two-day inter-institutional Alumni Sports Festival in Bengaluru this weekend (Novembr 28 and 29), with participation from 21 premier institutions, including IIM, ISB and XLRI alumni communities.

The event is expected to bring together approximately 500 alumni participants and 300 visitors, making it a significant gathering of India's management alumni community. The event is particularly distinctive for the participation of more than 115 senior corporate leaders, founders, CXOs, partners and Vice Presidents from leading organisations, who will step away from their boardrooms and business responsibilities to compete alongside fellow alumni on the sports field, according to a press release.The participating institutions include IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Amritsar, IIM Bangalore, IIM Bodh Gaya, IIM Calcutta, IIM Indore, IIM Jammu, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Lucknow, IIM Mumbai, IIM Raipur, IIM Ranchi, IIM Rohtak, IIM Sambalpur, IIM Shillong, IIM Sirmaur, IIM Tiruchirappalli.

Gu Ailing likely to miss home FIS World Cup after shoulder dislocation

United News Of India

BEIJING, NOV 25 :Olympic freeski halfpipe champion Gu Ailing said on Wednesday she is unlikely to compete at next month's World Cup stop in Zhangjiakou after dislocating her shoulderin training in Austria.



"A few days ago, unfortunately, I dislocated my shoulder during training in Austria. I drove for about an hour to the hospital, where I immediately had X-rays taken and my shoulder was reduced," Gu wrote on Chinese social media platform Weibo.

"I am still waiting for the doctor's assessment, but at the moment the possibility of competing at the Yunding World Cup stop is relatively small. I am very sorry to disappoint friends who have already bought tickets or arranged their travel plans to come and cheer for me in person," she added.

The FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboard Halfpipe World Cup is scheduled for December 9 to 13 at Yunding Snow Park in Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei Province. It will be the first of four major FIS events at the venue between December 2026 and February 2027.

Gu had been expected to return to the venue where she won last December. Gu retained her Olympic freeski halfpipe title at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics in February, earning her third career Olympic gold after winning two at Beijing 2022. It was also her third medal at Milan-Cortina, where she took silver in both slopestyle and big air.

FIDE World Chess

2nd game between Gukesh, Sindarov too ends in draw

United News Of India

CHENNAI, NOV 26 :The second game between defending champion India's D.Gukesh and his Challenger Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekists in the SalesforceFIDE World Championship Match ended in a ended in Geneva on Wednesday night (IST).

After just 2 hours and 20 moves, both the contenders eventually concluded that there was little the position could offer to upset the balance and shook hands sharing half a point each. The contest stands at one point each.

The game opened with the London System, a solid setup that generally allows both sides to develop their pieces naturally. Gukesh has plenty of experience with this opening from the white side. His most recent success with it dates back to the India-Uzbekistan match at the Olympiad in Samarkand last September, when he defeated Sindarov's teammate Ortik Nigmatov.

Although Black has several reasonable ways to meet the London System, Sindarov followed the aforementioned game until the sixth move. Both players seemed familiar with the line up to around move 10, when they began spending more time on their decisions.

Gukesh gradually arranged his pieces in preparation for the first clash between the two armies. Sindarov, meanwhile, manoeuvred efficiently, using little time while maintaining a solid position. After 15...f5, Gukesh took some time to assess whether the position could be opened up. He may have been tempted to try 17.c4, either on this move or the previous one, but evidently did not consider his position promising enough to enter the ensuing complications.

One possible continuation is 17...cxd4 18.exd4 dxc4 19.Bxc4 Nd5! 20.Qxe6 Bf7 21.Qe2 Bg5, when Black enjoys very active piece play as compensation for the sacrificed pawn. Sindarov admitted afterwards that he had not calculated the consequences of the c4-break precisely, as he felt the position was not yet ripe for such a break.



SMAT: Delhi seal Super League berth with win over Railways; Rajasthan knock out Bengal

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 26: Delhi qualified for the Super League stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with a comprehensive win over Railways, bowling them out for 122 in 19.5 overs before completing the chase comfortably. Suyash Sharma led the attack with 3 for 14, while Rajneesh Dadar also claimed three wickets and Digvesh Singh Rathi picked up two.

In response, Delhi's batters made short work of the target. Priyansh Arya struck an unbeaten 56 off 30 balls, while Tejasvi Dahiya scored an unbeaten 42 off just 16 deliveries, hitting five sixes to seal the win.



Rajasthan end Bengal's Super League hopes

Rajasthan knocked Bengal out of the race for the Super League with a six-wicket win, chasing down 158 with 20 balls to spare. Shakir Habib Gandhi top-scored for Bengal with 69 off 43 balls, while Karan Lal contributed 28 as the side finished on 157/9. Deepak Chahar and Arafat Khan claimed three wickets each to restrict Bengal.

Rajasthan's chase was powered by Mahipal Lomror, who smashed 74 off just 35 balls, including five sixes, and Abhijeet Tomar, who anchored the innings with an unbeaten 74 off 52. The pair added 119 runs for the fourth wicket to take Rajasthan to a comfortable victory. Azharuddeen century takes Kerala into Super League Mohammed Azharuddeen continued his impressive form with a 57-ball 101 to power Kerala to 268/4 and a 67-run victory over Himachal Pradesh. Rohan Kunnummal (35 off 16) and Sanju Samson (44 off 21) provided brisk support, while Abdul Basith added a late flourish with 24 off just five balls.

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YSS trekking camp: Trekkers explore new trails in Pahalgam

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Pahalgam: The fourth day of the five-day trekking camp for boys, being organised by the District Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Anantnag at the famous tourist destination of Pahalgam, witnessed a range of trekking, sporting and recreational activities, providing young participants with valuable exposure to nature, adventure and outdoor living.

The day's programme was conducted in two trekking shifts under the guidance of departmental trekking experts and the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag, Zahoor Ahmad Wani.

During the morning shift, the young trekkers undertook a short expedition along the Circuit Road, passing through forest stretches and experiencing the scenic natural surroundings of Pahalgam. The session also included warm-up exercises aimed at preparing the participants physically for the day's activities.

The second shift offered a more challenging and adventurous experience, as the participants explored a dedicated forest trail leading towards Hajikoot. Unlike the relatively gradual morning route, the trail exposed the young trekkers to natural forest terrain and varying surface conditions, giving them practical experience of outdoor trekking.

Guided by experienced departmental trekking experts, the participants successfully completed the trail and gained valuable knowledge of trekking techniques, physical endurance and outdoor safety.

At Hajikoot, the trekking experience was combined with sports and recreational activities. The participants took part in cricket, Kabaddi and other recreational exercises in an open stretch of land that served as a natural playground.

The active participation of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Zahoor Ahmad Wani in the sporting activities proved to be a major source of encouragement for the young trekkers. His direct interaction and participation alongside the children created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and motivation, encouraging them to participate wholeheartedly.

Besides trekking and sports, the participants also made preparations for the evening campfire, formed groups and participated in various outdoor group activities. These activities provided them with opportunities to develop teamwork, mutual cooperation, leadership skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility.

The fourth day of the camp thus emerged as an important learning and experiential day for the young trekkers, taking them beyond their routine surroundings and exposing them to challenges and situations that are seldom encountered in everyday life.

The trekking camp is aimed at providing participants with meaningful exposure to outdoor living, physical fitness, adaptability, teamwork and adventure, while helping them develop the confidence and skills required to face unfamiliar situations positively.

AMGD College Kilam holds parent-teacher meet

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



KILAM, NOVEMBER 26: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Altaf Memorial Government Degree College, Kilam, on Thursday organised a Parent-Teacher Meet to strengthen coordination between parents and teachers and promote students' academic progress.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of parents and students.

Welcoming the participants, Principal Prof. Mohammad Syed Shah highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the college to ensure quality education. Emphasising the importance of academic discipline, he called for collective efforts by parents and teachers to ensure regular attendance of students and improve their academic performance.

Addressing the gathering, IQAC Convenor Dr. Shabir Ahmad Padder stressed the vital role of parental involvement in the academic development of students. He also briefed the parents about the academic and infrastructural facilities available at the institution.

Several parents shared their views, observations and valuable suggestions with the college administration and faculty members, highlighting various aspects of the institution's academic environment.

Kulgam Police observe 'Constitution Day'

Reaffirms commitment to constitutional values

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Kulgam Police on Thursday observed Constitution Day-2026 across all police establishments in the district, reaffirming their commitment to the principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The main function was held at the District Police Office (DPO), Kulgam, where DySP Headquarters Kulgam, Aashiq Hussain (JKPS), administered the pledge based on the Preamble of the Constitution to officers and police personnel.

Similarly, DySP DAR Kulgam, Mehboob-ul-Haq, administered the Constitution Day pledge to officers and jawans at District Police Lines (DPL), Kulgam. Station House Officers (SHOs) also administered the pledge to police personnel at their respective police stations across the district.

Mega Enrolment Drive

30 students enrolled in Govt schools in Chandanwari zone



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Uri: The Zonal Education Officer Chandanwari organised a Mega Enrolment Drive programme today with the aim of encouraging parents to enrol their children in government schools and creating awareness about the facilities and educational opportunities available in government institutions.

The programme was attended by the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Baramulla, Principal/Cluster Head Bijhama, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Chandanwari, DNO Dr. Nazir Ahmad Lone, DNO Ishfaq Noor, Zonal Nodal Officer (ZNO) Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Cluster Coordinator Bijhama Bilal Ahmad Khan, Cluster Coordinator Gingal Israr Ahmad, besides headmasters, head teachers and teaching staff members.

During the drive, 30 new students were enrolled in Government Middle and Primary Schools, marking an encouraging achievement towards strengthening government educational institutions in the area.

The officials appreciated the collective efforts of headmasters, head teachers, teachers and committee members for their dedication and active participation in making the enrolment drive successful.

The Education Department also appealed to parents to come forward and enrol their children in government schools, highlighting the availability of quality education and dedicated, qualified teaching staff.

The initiative aims to strengthen public confidence in government educational institutions and ensure that every child gets access to quality education.

90 Battalion CRPF celebrates Constitution Day at Uranhall

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 26: The 90 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at its Unit Headquarters in Uranhall, Anantnag, commemorating the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949.

On the occasion, Commandant Kamlendra Pratap Singh led officers, subordinate officers (SOs) and jawans of the Battalion in collectively reading the Preamble to the Constitution and reaffirming their commitment to its ideals and principles.

Addressing the personnel, the Commandant highlighted the significance of Constitution Day and emphasised the core constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

He sensitised the officers and jawans about the importance of upholding constitutional principles, respecting democratic values and performing their duties with integrity, impartiality, discipline and a strong sense of responsibility.

He further observed that the Constitution forms the foundation of India's democratic system and stressed that every citizen, particularly those entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the nation, must remain committed to its ideals and uphold the spirit of unity, integrity and national solidarity.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from all ranks of the Battalion. The programme concluded with a renewed pledge to uphold the Constitution, safeguard its values and serve the nation with unwavering dedication, sincerity and commitment.

Constitution Day

Kulgam: Officials reaffirm commitment to values



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) was celebrated across Kulgam district on Thursday to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirm the commitment to the values and principles enshrined in it.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), administered the Constitution Day pledge to officers and officials at the Conference Hall, Kulgam, urging them to uphold constitutional values and democratic principles in the discharge of their official duties.

Meanwhile, a separate pledge-taking ceremony was held at the Auditorium of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, where Additional District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan (JKAS), administered the pledge to the participants.

Civic Action Programme 2026-27

Kulgam Police concludes football tournament



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Kulgam Police on Thursday successfully concluded a football tournament under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, as part of its youth-centric initiatives aimed at promoting sports and engaging young people in constructive activities.

The tournament was organised to promote a sporting culture, provide a positive platform to local youth and channelise their energy towards productive pursuits.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young footballers, who displayed their talent, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition. All matches were conducted in a disciplined atmosphere, with players demonstrating fair play and a spirit of healthy competition.

The initiative also aimed at strengthening police-public relations and encouraging sporting excellence among the youth.

At the concluding ceremony, all participating teams were appreciated for their performance, while the winning and runner-up teams were felicitated with trophies and prizes.

Kupwara Police observe Constitution Day, hold Preamble reading ceremonies



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

Kupwara, November 26: District Police Kupwara on Thursday observed Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) across all police establishments in the district, reaffirming its commitment to the principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The main ceremony was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Kupwara, where officers and police personnel collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution and pledged to uphold its ideals, values and Fundamental Duties.

On the occasion, officers highlighted the significance of the Constitution in strengthening democracy, safeguarding citizens' rights and promoting justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. They also emphasised the importance of discharging official duties with dedication, integrity, discipline and a strong sense of responsibility towards the nation and society.

Kashmir's Chahat honoured with Lal Ded International Award

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



SRINAGAR: In recognition of her devoted service towards vulnerable children and underserved communities in Jammu and Kashmir, Chahat of Borderless World Foundation (BWF) has been honoured with the prestigious Lal Ded International Award at a ceremony held in Mumbai in the gracious presence of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray.

The recognition celebrates a remarkable journey of quiet determination, compassion, sacrifice and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of humanity. It is a journey that has transformed personal grief into a lifelong purpose of nurturing hope and shaping the future of young lives.

A daughter of Kashmir, Chahat has witnessed and experienced the painful consequences of violence from close quarters. She lost her father, who was associated with the Indian Army through his work, to militancy. The violence in Kashmir claimed the lives of eight members of her family, leaving deep and lasting wounds.

These deeply personal experiences shaped her understanding of human suffering, particularly the emotional and social challenges faced by children growing up without parental care.

Over the years, she discovered a deeper purpose in life — one rooted in compassion, kindness and the responsibility of standing beside those in need.

Her journey reflects the quiet strength of a woman who chose to transform her personal grief into a source of hope and healing for others.

Before entering the field of humanitarian service, Chahat worked as a Human Resources Manager with an information technology company in Bengaluru, where she had a promising professional career.

During this period, she came to know about the humanitarian work of Adhik Kadam, founder of Borderless World Foundation, who had dedicated his life to the care, education and rehabilitation of girls affected by violence and difficult circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir.

The mission resonated deeply with her own experiences, values and understanding of life. Recognising the significance of this humanitarian endeavour, she chose to leave her corporate career and devote herself to the cause.