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CAT refuses to stay police SI examination, FAA result

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

PTI/KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 27: Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Srinagar has refused to stay the November 29 examination for police sub-inspector (PSI) posts in Jammu and Kashmir Police after candidates sought a deferment over the alleged irregularities during the recently-held Finance Accounts Assistants (FAA) examinations.

"In the absence of a detailed response from the respondents (including JKSSB), and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the allegations, we are not inclined to grant, at this stage, the interim relief sought by the applicants for staying all further proceedings pursuant to the FAA examination dated 15.11.2026, including declaration of its result and finalisation of the selection list, or for postponement of the JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination scheduled for 29.11.2026," the CAT Srinagar bench observed in its order passed on Thursday.

The FAA and PSI examinations are conducted by the same recruitment body, Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

The applicants have claimed that on the day (November 15) the FAA examination for 600 posts was held, three FIRs were registered at Police Station Domana, Jammu, concerning alleged organised cheating at different examination locations.

They also claimed that, during a press briefing conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police on November 22, it was disclosed that 20 people, including six government employees, had been arrested in connection with the alleged malpractice and that two candidates had been found cheating using electronic devices during the examination.

Demanding an independent inquiry into the matter, the applicants in their plea

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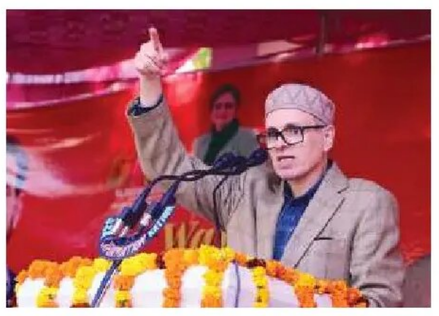
Political Opponents Misleading Youth Over JKSSB Exams: CM Omar Abdullah

Says 'FAA Paper Was Not Leaked'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 27: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday accused political opponents of exploiting the emotions of job aspirants and misleading them over the JKSSB recruitment process, claiming that the recent finance accounts assistant examination was conducted fairly and its question paper was not leaked.

Abdullah emphasised that providing government jobs to youth through a fair and transparent process was the government's responsibility, but regretted that politicians were trying to instigate young people for political gains.

"I must say, with deep regret, that politics has become such a dirty game that politicians are constantly looking for opportunities to exploit situations and play with the emotions of the youth. They try to instigate young people and push them towards the wrong path", he said while addressing the issue in Kathua's Bani area.

He alleged that

See on Pg. 10

LG for harmonising academic reforms with NEP 2020

Chairs 10th Executive Council Meeting Of BGSBU

KA NEWS DESK



Jammu, November 27: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired the 10th meeting of the Executive Council of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri, at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting

See on Pg. 10

Police attach property under NDPS Act

KA NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 27: Police on Friday attached an immovable property worth Rs 40 lakhs in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir belonging to an accused in multiple NDPS cases, officials said.

"In its continued crackdown against drug trafficking and the proceeds generated through illicit

See on Pg. 10

We're being subjected to cognitive warfare by adversaries: CDS

Calls For Need To Bolster Capabilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 27: Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani on Friday said the distinction between war and peace is "blurring" today and there is a "continuous state of contestation", cautioning that warfare in cyber, electronic and cognitive domains is already occurring.

Delivering an address here on the 'Future of warfare and India's preparedness to conduct multi-domain operations', he also said, without elaborating, "We are being subjected to cognitive warfare by our adversaries in an insidious way" to weaken the will and morale of the nation, and emphasised bolstering capabilities in all domains.

The general officer, during an interactive session after delivering his

See on Pg. 10

Winter vacation upto 8th standard from Nov 30

Classes 9-12 to observe break from Dec 14



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 27: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir on Friday announced winter vacation for all government and recognised private schools up to the higher secondary level in the Kashmir Division.

According to an order issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir, schools for pre-primary to Class 8 will remain closed from November 30 to February 28, 2027, while students of Classes 9 to 12 will

See on Pg. 10

SF Qadri appointed as advocate general after 2-year vacancy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Nov 27: Senior advocate Syed Faisal Qadri was on Friday appointed as the advocate general of Jammu and Kashmir, ending a vacancy of two years, weeks after the high court directed the administration to complete the process within a month.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha appointed Qadri, a senior counsel practising in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, to the Union

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Chowdry Ramzan Records 91% Attendance In Rajya Sabha

Participates In 21 Debates, Raises 32 Questions

KA NEWS SERVICE



Srinagar: Member of Parliament Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan has recorded 91 per cent attendance in the Rajya Sabha, participated in 21 debates

See on Pg. 10

Kashmir Shivers, Relief In Offing

KA NEWS DESK



Srinagar, Nov 27: Cold conditions intensified in Kashmir, with Srinagar city recording the coldest night of the season at minus 2 degrees Celsius, officials here said on Friday.

See on Pg. 10

BJP's 2-day meeting of national office-bearers begins, PM Modi participates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the BJP national office-bearers to participate in a two-day meeting of the party which began here on the Pusa campus on Friday.

Sources said the meeting, presided over by BJP president Nitin Nabin, has been called to deliberate on key organisational matters and the party's future plans.

This is the first structured meeting of the newly appointed national office-bearers of the BJP in which the prime minister has also participated. 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-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,"

See on Pg. 10

Cong Veteran Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed dies at 73



KA NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 27: Veteran Congress leader and Anantnag MLA Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed has died, officials said on Friday. He was 73.

The former president of the Pradesh Congress Committee breathed his last Thursday night at his Jammu residence. His body

See on Pg. 10

At Bani, CM announces new projects for education, healthcare and connectivity

KA NEWS SERVICE



Bani (Kathua), November 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed the government's commitment to equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir, saying that no region would be left behind in the ongoing development process.

Addressing a large public gathering at Bani during his visit to Kathua district, the Chief Minister said his visit was aimed at fulfilling the commitment he had made to the local MLA to return with concrete initiatives for the development of Bani and its adjoining areas.

Earlier, the Chief Minister dedicated a

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Arrangements for JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination finalised in Budgam

Kashmir Age News



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based examination for the post of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 29.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Additional Secretary, JKSSB, ASP Budgam and all concerned officers and officials.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the arrangements was undertaken, including the deployment of Centre Superintendents, Magistrates, Observers, Invigilators and security personnel at all designated examination centres.

The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation and monitoring of the examination proceedings.

It was further informed that CCTV cameras have been installed at the examination centres to facilitate live monitoring and enhance transparency.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed arrangements for the secure transportation and handling of sensitive and non-sensitive examination material, besides security arrangements, traffic management, seating capacity and availability of essential facilities at all examination centres.

Emphasising the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure that their respective arrangements are completed well in advance and responsibilities are discharged with utmost diligence.

He stressed strict adherence to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), examination guidelines and security protocols at every stage of the process.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all personnel deployed for examination duties to remain vigilant and perform their assigned responsibilities with utmost care and impartiality.

Heads of Institutions and Centre Superintendents were directed to ensure adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness and other essential facilities for candidates at all examination centres.The Deputy Commissioner underscored that foolproof security arrangements, continuous monitoring and close coordination among all stakeholder departments are imperative for ensuring the smooth, orderly, fair and transparent conduct of the examination across the district.

DC Budgam chairs 53rd district-level NCORD meeting



Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired the 53rd District-Level Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) meeting at the Conference Hall, DC Office Budgam, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam, Hariprasad KK, to review measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed enforcement measures, awareness initiatives, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, and the progress made by various departments in addressing the drug menace.

He directed all concerned departments to strengthen interdepartmental coordination and intensify efforts towards prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation.

He also stressed the need for regular monitoring of key agenda items and timely implementation of decisions taken during previous meetings.

Reviewing the functioning of chemist shops, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to conduct regular inspections and ensure strict compliance with prescribed norms.

He appreciated 100 percent CCTV and computerised billing systems installation at all chemist shops and asserted on regular monitoring.

Animal Husbandry Department organises mega awareness camp in Nowgam

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: Acting on the directions of District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Bandipora, today organised a Mega Awareness Camp in Nowgam area.



The camp primarily focused on sensitising livestock farmers and the general public about various schemes being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, with particular emphasis on eligibility criteria, mandatory documentation, application procedures, prevailing scheme guidelines and benefits available to eligible beneficiaries.

A large number of local residents and livestock farmers participated in the programme and actively interacted with the departmental officers to seek clarification and guidance regarding different schemes and their implementation.

The participating members of the public highly appreciated the initiative and expressed their gratitude to the department for organising the awareness camp and providing necessary information, guidance and facilitation at their doorstep.

The programme marked a significant step towards strengthening public outreach, ensuring transparency in the implementation of departmental schemes and facilitating greater participation of eligible beneficiaries in various government initiatives.

The programme was attended by Livestock Development Officer, Sumbal; Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Nowgam; and other officials of the department.

DM, SSP Bandipora review anti-drug measures at NCORD meeting



Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Tahir Saleem Khan, today chaired a District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) and NDPS Cases Review Meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to review the progress of NDPS cases and enforcement, preventive, awareness and rehabilitation measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

The meeting reviewed police station-wise details of NDPS cases registered, arrests made, contraband seized, properties attached and action taken against habitual offenders under PIT-NDPS. Progress on CCTV installation in medical shops and identified drug hotspots, financial investigations and prosecution of NDPS cases was also reviewed.

The meeting also reviewed the status of Drug-Free Campus initiatives in schools and colleges. The functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), District Hospital Bandipora, and measures being undertaken for treatment and counselling of persons affected by substance abuse were also discussed.

The Excise Department presented details of enforcement and preventive activities, including the destruction of wild cannabis and illicit poppy cultivation. The Drug Control Department was directed to guide pharmacists on proper collection and management of biomedical waste and ensure strict action, including issuance of challans, against violations by pharmacists.

The meeting also reviewed implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, including challans issued and fines collected, besides IEC and awareness activities conducted under the Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan.

ADC Sopore reviews arrangements for JKSSB JKPSI examination

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 27: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Sopore to review and finalise arrangements for the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination for the posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI), scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026, across eight examination centres in the district.

The meeting was attended by Superintendents, Magistrates and other concerned officers from the Police and Civil Administration.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed various arrangements pertaining to the smooth, transparent and hassle-free conduct of the examination. Detailed discussions were held on security arrangements, frisking procedures, adequate lighting, deployment of staff, sanitation, availability of drinking water and other essential facilities at all designated examination centres.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements, proper coordination between the Police and Civil Administration and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines. He further instructed that electronic devices and gadgets must not

be allowed inside the examination premises and directed the authorities to ensure thorough frisking and effective checking at all entry points to prevent any malpractice.

Emphasising the importance of timely preparedness, the ADC directed all concerned officers to ensure adequate sanitation, clean drinking water, proper lighting and other necessary facilities at every examination centre so that candidates face no inconvenience.

He stressed that all arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure the fair, smooth and transparent conduct of the examination.

DC Bandipora presides over cyber awareness programme

Kashmir Age News

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, presided over a Cyber Awareness Programme organised for officers and officials to sensitise them about cyber threats, online safety and secure digital practices. During the programme, District Informatics Officer, Bandipora, delivered a detailed presentation covering common cyber threats, including phishing, smishing, financial frauds, lottery scams, investment frauds and digital arrest scams.The presentation also highlighted cyber hygiene practices, including the use of strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, protection of personal information, safe use of public Wi-Fi and secure online transactions. Participants were also sensitised about UPI and WhatsApp security and precautions to prevent digital frauds.The participants were briefed about the mechanisms for reporting cybercrimes, including the national cybercrime helpline number 1930 and the online portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.

DDC Ganderbal reviews block-wise RDD progress

Kashmir Age News



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 27: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a comprehensive follow-up meeting in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review the block-wise physical and financial progress of developmental works under the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed, block-by-block appraisal from the concerned Block Development Officers and officials of the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) regarding the physical and financial progress of works under key flagship schemes and funding heads, including (PMAY 2.0), CAPEX, CDF, VB-G RAM G, Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP), Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP), and Spill-over works.

In addition to ongoing projects, the chair thoroughly reviewed the status of newly approved works under Untied Grants and Tribal UT Capex, assessing the tendering, allotment, and on-ground execution across all blocks of the district.Taking serious note of the pace of progress achieved since the previous review meeting, the DDC strictly impressed upon the RDD workforce and engineering wing officials to adopt a proactive, result-oriented approach. She directed the officers to maintain close synergy between administrative and technical wings to accelerate on-ground delivery and ensure .

DLRC meeting held at Kupwara to review progress of banks, line departments

Kashmir Age News



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27:The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Gh. Rasool, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara to review the performance of banks as on closing of Q2 2026-27.

The meeting reviewed progress under various schemes, including Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PMFME, KCC, HADP, PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY, besides Aspirational District indicators and Priority Sector Lending performance. Pending cases and areas requiring improvement were also discussed.

The chair advised banks and line departments to strengthen coordination, expedite pending cases, ensure saturation of eligible beneficiaries and work collectively towards achieving prescribed targets and improving the district's overall performance.

Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh, LDM Kupwara, emphasised the importance of close coordination between banks and line departments for effective implementation of government-sponsored schemes and improving credit delivery.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara, CEO Kupwara, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank, AD DECCO, AD Handicrafts, other district officers, representatives of line departments and Nodal Officers of banks.

MY Bharat Pulwama organises 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad – Samvidhan Diwas Edition'

Kashmir Age News

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 27: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Pulwama, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shivalik Event Organization, successfully organised the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad Programme (Samvidhan Diwas Edition) on Thursday.

Held under the national theme "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat," the event aimed to connect young citizens with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, deepen awareness of constitutional values, and mobilise youth as ambassadors for a drug-free society.

The programme was attended by Mohammad Yousuf wagay, Principal, BBHS, Kakapora as the Chief Guest, Divyanshu Jaiswal, District Youth Officer (DYO), alongside Youth Icon Meazan Rafiq Rather, and popular Media Influencer Shahid Reyaz.

Addressing the gathering, Mohammad Yousuf wagay underscored the enduring relevance of the Indian Constitution, urging the youth of Pulwama to uphold the core ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity while actively contributing to democratic governance and community welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Pulwama, highlighted the Ministry's nationwide outreach across 786 districts to commemorate Constitution Day. He



encouraged young participants aged 15–29 to register on the MY Bharat Portal and actively engage in volunteerism, civic leadership, and nation-building initiatives.

Youth Icon Meazan Rafiq Rather delivered an engaging presentation on the roadmap to Viksit Bharat@2047, highlighting India's developmental strides and explaining how substance abuse acts as a major barrier to individual potential, social harmony, and national progress. Media Influencer Shahid Reyaz interacted with the young participants, emphasising the power of peer influence, digital storytelling, and social media in spreading positive awareness and countering the menace of drug abuse across Kashmir.

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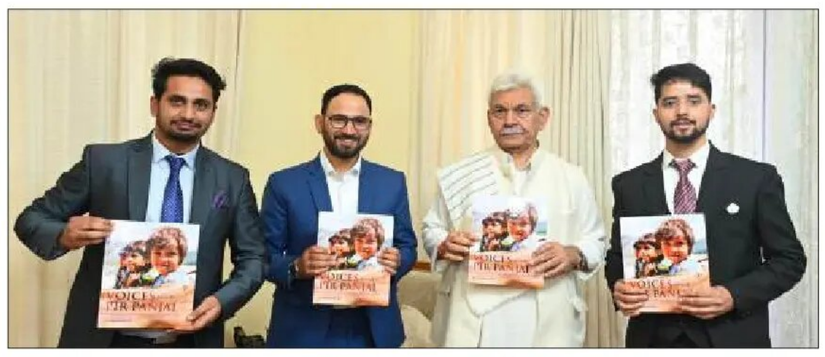
Dr Mir presents book to LG Sinha



Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was today presented with a book authored by Heritage and Cultural Sociologist, Dr. Suheel Rasool Mir, at Lok Bhavan. The title of the book is "Voices Across the Pir Panjal: An Ethnographic Study of a Pahari Tribe".

The book provides an in-depth understanding of the Pahari community, their social organization, identity and various challenges they encounter. It also offers a well-rounded comprehension of the tribe, framed through sociological and anthropological discussions.

Meanwhile, Romi Sharma, Founder President, Parivartan (Change We Need), NGO called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

Chief Justice highlights enduring strength of Constitution

Releases booklet on Fundamental Duties at Constitution Day celebrations

Kashmir Age News



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Commemorating 77 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India and reaffirming the collective commitment to its cherished ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the High Court Legal Services Committee and District Legal Services Authority, Jammu, today observed Constitution Day, 2026 at Police Auditorium, Gulshan Ground, here.

The programme was graced by Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, as the Chief Guest, in presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Sanjay Parihar, Justice Yash Paul Bourney, Judges, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu.

The programme was aimed at rekindling constitutional consciousness among the masses, fostering respect for the supremacy of the Constitution and instilling a sense of responsible citizenship, particularly among the younger generation. It also sought to emphasize that preservation of constitutional democracy is a shared responsibility of institutions and citizens alike. In his presidential address, Chief Justice, through an engaging interaction with the students and several real-life illustrations, elaborated upon the three dimensions of justice i.e social, economic and political, as enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution. Highlighting the equal value of every citizen's vote irrespective of their social or economic standing, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, underscored the remarkable achievement of political equality while emphasizing the need for sustained efforts towards social and economic equality and securing a dignified life for every individual. Referring to the constitutional foresight of its framers, Chief Justice highlighted how Article 395 severed the remaining constitutional links with colonial rule and emphasized that the inherent flexibility of the Constitution is its greatest strength, binding the country's vast geographical.

LG Sinha pays tribute to veteran leader Girdhari Lal Dogra



Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOV 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today paid tribute to the veteran leader Girdhari Lal Dogra on his death anniversary.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "Paid heartfelt tributes to veteran leader Girdhari Lal Dogra Ji on his Punya-tithi. His lifelong dedication to public service, unwavering commitment to uplifting the marginalized, and monumental contributions to the development of Jammu Kashmir will continue to inspire generations to come."

Rajnath Singh to lead BJP's Loktantra Bachao padyatra in Jammu today

Kashmir News Observer



JAMMU, NOV 27 :Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Jammu on Saturday to lead the Bharatiya Janata Party "Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao Padyatra."

A BJP leader said the padyatra will commence at 10 AM from Radio Station, Panjtirthi, and culminate at Parade Ground near Brahman Sabha, where a public rally will be held.

BJP's Jammu and Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha Member Sat Sharma, Rajnath Singh and other leaders will address the rally, he added.

Party workers, legislators and senior leaders from different parts of the Union Territory, including Kashmir, are expected to participate in the rally, the leader said.

"The speakers will counter misinformation campaign of the opposition against the democratically elected Modi Government, aimed at creating confusion and political instability in the country," he said.

Another leader said the padyatra is intended to bring together party leaders, elected representatives, workers and citizens to

reaffirm their commitment to democracy, constitutional values, national unity and good governance.

Pertinently, BJP had launched its nationwide 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' campaign on October 22.

The campaign aims to strengthen democratic values and constitutional institutions and counter the alleged "misinformation being spread" by the Congress and its INDIA alliance partners.

The campaign is being organised in phases through public rallies, padyatras, youth conventions and grassroots outreach programmes—(KNO)

Minister Mir Saifullah vows to improve sports facilities for J&K youth

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 27 :Jammu and Kashmir Sports Minister Mir Saifullah on Friday said he would work to strengthen sports infrastructure and facilities for the youth, adding that he first wants to understand the department's functioning and requirements before initiating reforms.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Department Premier League cricket tournament at Bakshi Stadium here, Saifullah said it was encouraging to see more youngsters taking an interest in sports, which plays an important role in promoting physical fitness and mental well-being.

"It is great to see the younger generation coming towards sports as it helps strengthen mental health and physical fitness," he said.

The minister said he was relatively new to the department and needed some time to assess its needs. "I am new to the Sports Ministry and need a little time to understand this field so that I can make my best efforts to help people, particularly the younger generation, get better sports facilities," he said.

On the Sheshnag controversy, Saifullah backed the Forest Minister's clarification, saying no construction activity had taken place at the site. He reiterated the government's position that "not even a single particle" had entered the area.

Taking a swipe at the opposition, Saifullah said criticising the government was part of its political role and that opposition parties needed issues to remain relevant.

Antibiotic misuse fuels rising drug resistance in Kashmir, doctors warn

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 27 :Growing misuse of antibiotics, coupled with over-prescription and their unregulated sale, is contributing to an alarming rise in antimicrobial resistance in Kashmir, with doctors warning that even routine infections could become increasingly difficult to treat if corrective measures are not taken urgently.

Medical experts at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said that AMR has emerged as a major global health challenge, threatening to undermine decades of medical progress. "We are increasingly

encountering infections that do not respond to antibiotics which were previously effective. This makes treatment more complicated, prolongs illness and increases the risk of serious complications," a senior specialist said.

Doctors said AMR develops when microorganisms undergo changes that enable them to survive medicines designed to eliminate them. The problem becomes particularly dangerous when bacteria develop resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics, leaving doctors with fewer effective options and forcing them to rely on stronger or more expensive medicines.

They identified unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions, self-medication, incomplete treatment courses, poor infection-control practices and the unrestricted availability of antibiotics without prescriptions as major factors accelerating the crisis.

Dr Murtaza Ahmad of DHSK said, "People often take antibiotics for fever, cough and other illnesses without

consulting a doctor. Many of these conditions are caused by viruses, against which antibiotics have no effect. Such practices only encourage resistance."

Kashmir's weaving wisdom takes global stage in Dubai as architects showcase Kani legacy

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 26 :From Kashmir's famed Kani shawls and hand-knotted carpets to the international design stage in Dubai, two architects are taking the Valley's generations-old weaving wisdom to the world through an innovative installation that brings attention to the knowledge behind its celebrated craftsmanship.

Titled 'Taleem', the installation by VARUSSI, an architecture and research practice founded by Kashmiri architects Owais Asif Khan and Samreen Junaid Wani, was showcased at Dubai Design Week 2026 under the Abwab programme, translating the coded instructions used by Kashmiri weavers into an architectural experience.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the architects said the project was inspired by this year's Abwab theme, 'In Other Words', which encouraged them to explore forms of communication beyond spoken and written language.

Their research led them to the traditional instruction systems used by Kani shawl artisans and carpet weavers,

where designs are communicated through sequences of symbols and instructions that skilled craftsmen interpret and translate into intricate patterns.

Rather than reproducing textile designs, the architects explored the underlying logic of the weaving process and translated its traditional language into architecture.

The project also drew on research involving local weavers. Shah Ahsan Illahi, a researcher from Kashmir, visited artisans on behalf of the architects to document their techniques and understand the knowledge involved.

Through him, the team received interviews and videos of master weaver Ghulam Nabi Ganie at work, helping them understand the intricacies of the craft. The architects also studied existing documents and references before developing the installation.

Police foil attempted SBI ATM loot in Chadoora, seize JCB, vehicle

Kashmir Age News

BUDGAM, NOV 27: Police foiled an alleged attempt to loot a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM located adjacent to the bank's branch in Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district during Thursday-Friday night, seizing a JCB machine and a vehicle abandoned by the accused while fleeing.

A police spokesperson said that after receiving information about the attempted theft, Chadoora Police acted promptly and reached the spot within minutes despite the sub-zero temperatures, thereby foiling the attempt

The accused persons fled from the spot, leaving behind the JCB machine and the vehicle allegedly used in the attempted theft. Both have been taken into police custody, while a search operation has been launched to identify and apprehend those involved.

Police said the investigation is underway and efforts are being made to trace the accused involved in the incident. Meanwhile, the owner of the JCB machine, Bilal Ahmad, who belongs to Ichgam, Budgam.

Sakeena Itoo seeks Centre's intervention to strengthen safety, support mechanisms for Indian medical students pursuing studies abroad

Kashmir Age News



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo has sought the personal intervention of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare for putting in place a comprehensive institutional mechanism to ensure the safety, security and welfare of Indian students pursuing medical education in foreign countries.

In a communication addressed to the Union Health Minister, Sakeena Itoo expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, for facilitating the repatriation of the mortal remains of a student from Jammu and Kashmir who passed away in Bangladesh while pursuing his medical course.

The Minister observed that incidents involving the death or critical injury of Indian students overseas are a matter of serious concern, causing immense distress and trauma to affected families. She emphasised that while the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Medical Commission (NMC) regulate foreign medical qualifications, the safety, security and overall welfare of Indian students abroad also require a robust and coordinated institutional response.

Seeking the Union Minister's personal intervention in taking up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs, Sakeena Itoo urged the establishment of a structured and time-bound mechanism to ensure prompt assistance to students and their families in the event of any unfortunate incident abroad.

The Minister specifically called for initiating formal and transparent inquiries in coordination with host governments whenever the death or critical injury of an Indian student is reported overseas. She also stressed the need for a standardised, time-bound protocol within the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian diplomatic missions to facilitate affected families through requisite formalities and ensure expeditious repatriation of mortal remains.

Further, she called for a comprehensive review of the safety standards, emergency redressal mechanisms and student support services available at foreign medical universities recognised by the National Medical Commission.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach involving the concerned Central Ministries, the Minister said that families facing such tragic circumstances must receive timely institutional support, clear communication and all possible assistance, rather than being left to navigate complex procedures on their own.

Sakeena Itoo expressed hope that the Union Government would consider the suggestions favourably and take appropriate measures to strengthen the existing support framework for Indian students pursuing higher and professional education abroad.

Antibiotic misuse fuels rising drug resistance in Kashmir, doctors warn

Kashmir News Observer

SRINAGAR, NOV 27 : Growing misuse of antibiotics, coupled with over-prescription and their unregulated sale, is contributing to an alarming rise in antimicrobial resistance in Kashmir, with doctors warning that even routine infections could become increasingly difficult to treat if corrective measures are not taken urgently.

Medical experts at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said that AMR has emerged as a major global health challenge, threatening to undermine decades of medical progress. "We are increasingly encountering infections that do not respond to antibiotics which were previously effective. This makes treatment more complicated, prolongs illness and increases the risk of serious complications," a senior specialist said.

Doctors said AMR develops when microorganisms undergo changes that enable them to survive medicines designed to eliminate them. The problem becomes particularly dangerous when bacteria develop resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics, leaving doctors with fewer effective options and forcing them to rely on stronger or more expensive medicines.

They identified unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions, self-medication, incomplete treatment courses, poor infection-control practices and the unrestricted availability of antibiotics without prescriptions as major factors accelerating the crisis.

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

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

In the case of:-

Fatima Jan Minor daughter of Mohammad Rafiq Malik Represented through his natural Guardian and Father Mohammad Rafiq Malik S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o Bilal Abad, Warpora Sopore.

PETITIONER

V/s

UT of J&K through office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pattan.

RESPONDENT

In the matter of:- APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND ISSUANCE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN RESPECT OF Fatima Jan D/o Mohammad Rafiq Malik R/o Bilal Abad, Warpora Sopore.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant have instituted the above captioned petition in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 28-11-2026. If anybody have any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-applicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.

Announced
21.11.2026
Sd/-
Sub Judge Pattan
8279

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

In the case of :-

SAFOORA FAROOQ Minor daughter of Farooq Ahmad Bhat Represented through his natural Guardian and Father Farooq Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Wanigam bala Tehsil Patta Distt: Baramulla

PETITIONER

V/s

UT of J&K through office of the Block Development Officer Pattan

RESPONDENT

In the matter of :- APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND ISSUANCE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN RESPECT OF SAFOORA FAROOQ D/o FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT R/O WANIGAM BALA TEHSIL PATTAN DISTRICT BARAMULLA.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant have instituted the above captioned petition in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 28-11-2026. If anybody have any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-applicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.

Announced
21.11.2026
Sd/-
Sub Judge Pattan
8279

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) SOHA ROUF KHAN to (New name) SOHA KHAN. In future I will be known as (New name) SOHA KHAN. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

(RM)

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE

1ST CLASS, BIJBEHARA

Sania Jan
(Applicant)
Versus
UT OF J&K THROUGH REGISTRAR, BIRTHS & DEATHS/
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BIJBEHARA
(Non-Applicant)

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

PROCLAMATION / NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

Name: Sania Jan Parentage: Bashir Ahmad Waza Residence: Deeni Masjid Bijbehara Date of Birth: 21-07-2007 Place of Birth: Home. 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

Basita Jan
(Applicant)
Versus
UT OF J&K THROUGH REGISTRAR,
BIRTHS & DEATHS/MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BIJBEHARA
(Non-Applicant)

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

PROCLAMATION / NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

Name: Basita Jan Parentage: Bashir Ahmad Waza Residence: Bijbehara Date of Birth: 14-12-2010 Place of Birth: Home. 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that I am applying for Contract Card. In this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the office of concerned authority within 07 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Amir Sultan Bhat
S/o Mohammad Sultan Bhat
R/o Near J&K Bank, Nishat, Srinagar
R-1152

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sikander Ahmad Mochi want to correct my wards caste from Mugloo to Mochi (Mohammad Ehsan Mugloo and Arooba Jan), which has been mistakenly recorded in the school records however as per my personal documents and all the relevant official documents our correct caste is Mochi.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact Govt. High School Kanelwan within 07 days at the most.

Sikander Ahmad Mochi
F/o Mohammad Ehsan Mochi and Arooba Jan
R/o Kanelwan, Bijbehara
904

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr. Irfan Majeed S/o Mr. Abdul Majeed Mir R/o Gozahama, Wakura, Ganderbal, Kashmir intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Charminar Tour and Travels" situated at Gozahama, Wakura, Ganderbal, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as a Travel Agent. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc. for objection, if any, and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id: ddtreq123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

IRFAN MAJEED
PROP. CHARMINAR TOUR AND TRAVELS
AC/4296

PUBLIC NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE BARAMULLA WORKING JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (BWJA)

This is to inform the general public that elections of the Baramulla Working Journalists Association (BWJA) were conducted on November 21, 2026, following which the following office-bearers were duly elected through the electoral process. Subsequently, the elected body has applied for registration of the Association with the competent authority.

In this regard, any person having an objection to the proposed registration of the Association or its elected body may submit the same in writing to the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Elected Office-Bearers:

1. Abid Nabi Hakeem – Honorary Patron
2. Arawat Mehraj – Chairman
3. Suhail Khan – President
4. Mehraj-ud-Din Lone – General Secretary
5. Irfan Yattoo – Spokesperson
6. Muhammad Ayoob Ganai – Treasurer

(SN)

Government Middle School Gandwani celebrates Constitution Day



KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Government Middle School Wani Mohalla Gandwani, Education Zone D.H. Pora, District Kulgam, celebrated National Constitution Day with great enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of constitutional values, fundamental rights and responsible citizenship.

On the occasion, Headmaster Mohammad Ayoub Malik, along with teaching staff and students, participated in the celebrations and collectively took the Constitution Day pledge, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution of India.

As part of the celebrations, various activities, including a Run for Rights, quiz competitions and sports events, were organised to familiarise students with the significance of the Constitution and its fundamental principles.

Students participated enthusiastically in the activities and showcased their awareness of constitutional values, democratic responsibilities and national unity.

The programme aimed at fostering constitutional awareness among young minds and encouraging students to become responsible citizens who uphold democratic principles and respect the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

M Altaf Dar congratulates Faisal Qadri on appointment as Advocate General of J&K

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE



Srinagar, November 27: M Altafdar Rajbagh has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Senior Advocate Faisal Qadri on his appointment as the new Advocate General of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In his congratulatory message, Altafdar described the appointment as a significant recognition of Faisal Qadri's legal expertise, professional accomplishments and long-standing contribution to the legal fraternity.

He expressed confidence that Faisal Qadri, with his vast legal experience, knowledge and professional integrity, would fulfil the responsibilities of this prestigious constitutional office with dedication, impartiality and commitment to the rule of law.

He further wished him a successful tenure, expressing hope that his leadership would strengthen the institution of the Advocate General and uphold the principles of justice, fairness and constitutional values.

"My heartfelt congratulations to my dear friend Faisal Qadri Sahib. May Allah bless him with wisdom, strength and success in discharging his new responsibilities."

GDC Qazigund Organises 'Swasth Yuva, Swasth Bharat' programme

KASHMIR PRESS SERVICE

QAZIGUND, NOVEMBER 27: Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, in collaboration with the Block Medical Office Qazigund and MY Bharat Anantnag, organised a one-day health and wellness awareness programme titled "Swasth Yuva, Swasth Bharat" on Friday.

The programme was organised by the college's Red Ribbon Club, NSS and NCC units with the objective of promoting preventive healthcare, encouraging early diagnosis, creating awareness about HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, and motivating young people towards voluntary blood donation. The programme was organised by the college's Red Ribbon Club, NSS and NCC units with the objective of promoting preventive healthcare, encouraging early diagnosis, creating awareness about HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, and motivating young people towards voluntary blood donation.

The programme was inaugurated by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Singh in the presence of Block Medical Officer Qazigund, Dr. Shagufta Salam. Addressing the gathering, the Principal stressed the importance of health awareness and preventive healthcare, observing that educational institutions have an important role in promoting the overall well-being and responsible citizenship among students.

During the awareness sessions, experts highlighted various health-related issues. Mohd. Aslam, former Deputy Superintendent of Traffic Police Qazigund, spoke about drug abuse, provisions of the NDPS Act and road safety, while Dr. Shagufta Salam and Waseem from MY Bharat delivered an informative session on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and the role of the Red Ribbon Club.



Dr. Owais Ahmad Wani spoke on holistic health and youth well-being, highlighting the importance of physical, mental and emotional health. Student speakers Sheikh Sibbat Zahoor and Uzma Mushtaq Sofi also shared their views on healthy living, drug-free society, mental health and self-care.

A medical team from the Block Medical Office Qazigund conducted health examinations and screening of students. *A total of 60 students were screened, of whom eight were advised further medical follow-up.* Medicines and nutritional supplements were also distributed among students as required.

The programme also featured a voluntary blood donation camp aimed at promoting humanity, compassion and community service. Among the donors were Principal Prof. Sudhir Singh, Physical Director Sanjay Verma, students Sheikh Sibbat Zahoor and Mehwish Bashir, and local businessman Adil Manzoor, besides other student volunteers.

The blood donation drive was facilitated by Mohammad Lateef and Aijaz Ahmad from Emergency Hospital Qazigund.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ishtiyaq Ahmad Shah, who expressed gratitude to the Principal, medical professionals, resource persons, blood donors, students and supporting staff for their contribution.

The initiative brought together health education, medical screening and voluntary blood donation, reinforcing the message that a healthy and aware youth population is essential for building a healthy and progressive nation.

Kashmir Age
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28-NOVEMBER-2026

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

Sagar seeks special central package for J&K power sector

Flags winter deficit, infrastructure needs

Kashmir Age News



NEW DELHI, NOV 27: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today interacted with the Group of Ministers during the State Ministers' Conference on Power, held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal.

During the interaction, the Minister highlighted the distinctive challenges confronting Jammu and Kashmir's power sector and sought special financial assistance from the Government of India for its comprehensive modernisation, strengthening and long-term sustainability.

The Minister also submitted a detailed memorandum to the Union Minister for Power, outlining the sector's key requirements and seeking a dedicated financial package to address infrastructure gaps, reduce distribution losses, strengthen transmission networks, enhance hydropower generation and improve power availability, particularly during the winter months.

Emphasising the geographical and climatic challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, Sagar pointed out that the mountainous terrain, scattered habitations,

remote locations and extreme weather conditions make power infrastructure development and maintenance particularly demanding. He said that heavy snowfall, avalanches, landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods frequently disrupt electricity infrastructure, while winter demand rises sharply at a time when hydropower generation declines.

Highlighting the progress made in improving the financial and operational performance of power distribution companies, the Minister informed that revenue realisation by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had increased from approximately 3,060 crore in 2021–22 to 5,290 crore in 2025–26, registering a growth of nearly 73 per cent.

He also highlighted the reduction in AT&C losses, which had declined from 49.82 per cent to 27.13 per cent in JPDCL and from 65.61 per cent to 33 per cent in KPDCL. The gap between average cost of supply and average revenue realised had also witnessed substantial improvement.

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), 14.07 lakh smart meters have been sanctioned, of which nearly 12.25 lakh had been installed as of November 19, 2026. Distribution strengthening and loss-reduction works worth 4,708.52 crore have also been sanctioned, with substantial physical progress achieved in both power distribution companies.

No compromise on public health: Farooq Shah

Calls for strict action against spurious drugs, food adulteration; Committee on Petitions condoles demise of sitting MLA Peerzada Mohammad Syed



Kashmir Age News

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, today directed the concerned departments to take stringent action against those involved in food adulteration, sale of rotten meat and circulation of spurious and substandard drugs, asserting that no compromise would be made with the public health and safety.

The Chairman issued these directions while chairing a meeting of the Committee held in the J&K Legislative Assembly Complex, Jammu, to deliberate on the petition titled "Widespread Adulteration of Essential Food Commodities within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir" and review the Action Taken Report.

The meeting was attended by Legislators Javaid Riyaz Bedar, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Dr. Narinder Singh Raina and Shagun Parihar.

During the meeting, the Chairman sought a detailed status report from the Commissioner, Food and Drug Controller, J&K, and State Drug Controller, J&K, Rajesh Kumar Angurana, regarding the action taken on the issues raised in the petition.

Expressing serious concern over the use of synthetic pesticides and other harmful substances in food production besides the sale of rotten meat, spoiled food items and adulterated edible oils and spices, the Chairman observed that such practices pose a grave threat to public health. He categorically directed the departments to ensure that no life is endangered due to the circulation of spurious drugs or the sale of adulterated food items and unsafe meat. He stressed that those found violating the provisions of the relevant laws must face stringent action and that no leniency should be shown towards offenders.

Emphasising the need for effective enforcement of food safety and drug control regulations, the Chairman sought details regarding the monitoring of pharmaceutical companies, quality testing of generic medicines, seizure of substandard and spurious drugs, laboratory testing of samples and action taken against those involved in the sale of unauthorised medicines.

He also sought details about the functioning of unlicensed drug outlets and called for strict action against establishments operating in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. He stressed the need for regular inspections, greater accountability and a robust monitoring mechanism to prevent the circulation of unsafe and substandard medicines.

The Chairman further sought a comprehensive account of the action taken by the departments since the previous meeting, including the number of inspections conducted, samples collected and tested, cases registered, penalties imposed and highest fines levied against violators. He also enquired about delays in taking action and sought an update on the implementation of directions issued during the previous meeting.

Highlighting the public health risks associated with adulterated food, particularly unsafe milk and other essential food products, he stressed the need for sustained enforcement to protect people from serious health complications. He also reviewed the availability of essential enforcement infrastructure, including vehicles and manpower, and sought details of the measures being taken to address the gaps.

Commissioner, Food and Drugs Authority, J&K, Khalid Jehangir and State Drug Controller, J&K, Sanjeev Kumar Angurana briefed the Committee on the status of the petition and apprised the members of the action taken so far. They also outlined the measures undertaken and further steps proposed to strengthen the enforcement mechanism and ensure strict compliance with food safety and drug control laws. Members of the Committee raised various issues and offered suggestions for strengthening the monitoring mechanism, improving enforcement and taking firm action against those involved in adulteration and other violations. Earlier, the Committee conveyed condolences over the demise of sitting MLA from Anantnag and former Minister Peerzada Mohammad Syed, who passed away today. Among others, Joint Commissioner, Food Safety, J&K, Sanjeev Kumar; Deputy Commissioner, Food Safety Jammu, Rafi Ahmad Dar; Under Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Shabir Ahmad Wani and other senior officers of the concerned departments were also present at the meeting.

DHEW–Mission Shakti Kupwara organises awareness programme

Kashmir Age News

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27: The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare, Kupwara, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, organised an awareness programme at Middle School Rawathpora, Zone Kralpora, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

The programme aimed to sensitise students, teachers and local residents about the harmful consequences of child, early and forced marriage and to promote awareness about the importance of education, child protection and the rights of children.

During the programme, Majid Mir from NITI Aayog delivered an insightful address, highlighting the adverse social, educational and health consequences of early and forced marriage. The Gender Specialist from the DHEW, along with the school teacher, also shared their views and emphasised the importance of collective efforts to prevent child marriage.

Various sports activities were also organised for the students to encourage their participation and promote a positive learning environment. Free stationery kits were distributed among deserving students as a gesture of encouragement and support for their education.

The programme concluded with the administration of a pledge, wherein participants reaffirmed their commitment to raising awareness and working towards the elimination of child, early and forced marriage.

India moving towards becoming global hub for innovative drug discovery: Dr Jitendra Singh

Press Information Bureau



NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Vice President, CSIR, Dr. Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the state-of-the-art Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3)/Animal Biosafety Level-3 (ABSL-3) Facility and Dr. B. Mukerji Lecture Theatre at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, and hailed India's health innovations saying that India is moving towards becoming a global hub for innovative drug discovery and development.

The Minister said that the country must now move beyond its established position as a major global supplier of generic medicines and emerge as a discoverer and developer of innovative therapeutics, with indigenous research, clinical development and industry partnerships playing a critical role in this transition. This shift, he said, is essential for strengthening India's pharmaceutical leadership and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme was attended by Dr. Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI; Dr. Prabodh K. Trivedi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP; former Director of CSIR-CDRI Dr. Madhu Dikshit; representatives of ICMR–National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur; Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai; and Medanta Hospital, Lucknow, besides scientists, researchers, students, technical and non-technical staff and industry representatives.

The newly inaugurated BSL-3/ABSL-3 facility will provide high-containment research infrastructure for scientific studies involving Mycobacterium tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM), strengthening the Institute's capabilities in research on challenging infectious diseases. Dr. Jitendra Singh also congratulated CSIR-CDRI on the collaborative agreements signed with ICMR–National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences and Medanta Hospital, expressing confidence that these partnerships would lead to fruitful collaborative research programmes, accelerate clinical translation and deliver measurable benefits to society.

Joint team conducts field visit to leopard-attack-affected villages in Kupwara

Kashmir Age News

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27: A joint team comprising officers and officials from the Wildlife Department, Forest Department, Forest Protection Force and District Administration Kupwara, led by the Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, today visited Zonireshi, Marsary and

Mazpather villages of Chowkibal area to assess the situation and put in place necessary mitigation measures following the death of a woman in a leopard attack on November 24, 2026.

During the visit, joint patrolling teams were constituted on the spot for night surveillance. Two separate teams, each equipped with a tranquillising gun, have also been

deployed for night ambush operations to chemically immobilise the leopard identified as the problem animal.

Additionally, four trap cages have been installed at strategic locations, which will be baited and regularly monitored to capture the animal.

The joint team also held awareness meetings at Zonireshi and Chowkibal, attended by village heads and community representatives. The locals were assured that all concerned departments have mobilised their staff and formulated a coordinated strategy to address the situation at the earliest.

YYC in collaboration with IPHS Soura organises 3-day theatre workshop in Srinagar

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: Yamberzal Youth Club (YYC) Brain Nishat in collaboration with Iqbal Public High School (IPHS) 90 Feet Road Soura Srinagar organised a 3-day theatre workshop aimed at promoting theatrical activities and performing arts among students and young people. The workshop is being conducted under the Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme, approved and supported by the Ministry of Culture Govt, of India, New Delhi. The primary objective of the workshop is to promote theatre and acting skills among youths and students nurture their creative abilities and familiarise them with various aspects of theatrical art and performance. Through this initiative, efforts are being made to provide practical theatre training to the younger generation, particularly students, while creating a platform for them to explore and showcase their artistic talents. Such cultural initiatives play an important role in encouraging young people to take an active interest in performing arts. They also contribute towards the preservation, promotion and strengthening of J&K's rich cultural, traditional and theatrical heritage.

Director Agri reviews seed village programme

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a virtual meeting with all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and other concerned officers to deliberate on the fixation of district-wise targets under the Seed Village Programme for Kharief 2027. Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Director held detailed discussions on the proposed targets, emphasising the need for proper planning, effective coordination and timely implementation of the programme to ensure adequate availability of quality seeds to farmers across Kashmir Division. The meeting also reviewed the procurement achievements under the Seed Village Programme for Kharief 2026. The Director took stock of the progress made by various districts and stressed the importance of strengthening seed production and procurement activities to achieve the desired objectives of the programme. He called upon the Chief Agriculture Officers and other concerned officers to ensure realistic target fixation, close monitoring of field-level activities and coordinated efforts for the successful implementation of the Seed Village Programme. The Director underscored that timely availability of quality seeds is crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity and strengthening the overall seed production system in the region as per the existing seed policy.

JKSSB announces additional preventive measures for upcoming examinations



Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: The J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), after taking cognizance of the latest modus operandi attempted by unscrupulous elements to resort to unfair means in a recently held FAA examination, has decided to introduce additional preventive measures for upcoming examinations.

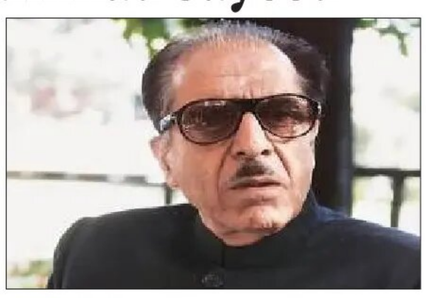
These arrangements will operate alongside the existing regulations regarding the conduct of examinations and are intended to strengthen fairness, transparency and security in the examinations. These additional measures include appointment and deployment of invigilation staff through a randomisation process by the concerned Deputy Commissioners from a pool of already identified staff. Candidates will continue to be allotted examination centres through randomisation. However, the period for downloading admit cards has been reduced from seven days to three days before the examination.

The security protocol at examination centres has been reviewed in consultation with the Police Department. Magistrates have been assigned to supervise the frisking of candidates and authorised examination-duty staff deployed at each centre. Magistrates will also ensure that no unauthorised person enters the examination premises and that no person leaves the premises until the examination concludes.

Likewise, Centre Observers appointed by the concerned Deputy Commissioners will be personally responsible for monitoring the movement of invigilation staff and examination material during the examination. They must ensure that unused or unissued Question Booklets and OMR Sheets belonging to absentee candidates are counted, packed and sealed inside the examination rooms or halls by the concerned invigilators, and kept under strict CCTV surveillance.

Prof Soz condoles demise of Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: "Former Union Minister Prof. Saifuddin Soz has expressed deepest sadness on the demise of senior Congress leader Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed.

I know it personally that Peerzada Sayeed served his neighbourhood to the best of his ability and the people accepted his gesture.

Late Peerzada Sayeed also contributed quite a lot to the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and always remained available for the interests of JKPCC.

His passing away is a great loss not only to his family members but also to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly to the Congress party. I offer my condolences to the bereaved family and pray to God to grant fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Editorial

Robust road network

A robust road network remains fundamental to Jammu and Kashmir's economic progress, social advancement and strategic preparedness. Given the region's challenging topography, harsh weather conditions and geographically dispersed settlements, reliable road connectivity remains much more than an infrastructure requirement. It is essential for ensuring access to healthcare, education, markets, employment and other basic services. Against this backdrop, the recent review of the Public Works Department by the Chief Secretary provides an important opportunity to assess both the scale of ongoing development and the challenges that lie ahead.

The infrastructure figures presented at the meeting indicate the magnitude of the government's ambitions. With approximately 42,121 kilometres of road network and an infrastructure portfolio valued at Rs 1.28 lakh crore, Jammu and Kashmir has a substantial pipeline of projects aimed at improving connectivity. Major initiatives, including the Zojila Tunnel, Srinagar and Jammu Ring Roads, and strategic tunnels along NH-244, could significantly reshape the region's transportation landscape.

The commissioning of the Z-Morh Tunnel, progress on the Zojila Tunnel and commencement of the Vailoo-Donipawa four-laning project are significant developments. Equally noteworthy are the efforts under Project SAMPARK and PMGSY-IV, which seek to improve connectivity in remote and inaccessible areas. For residents of border villages and mountainous districts, all-weather roads can make a decisive difference in accessing essential services and improving livelihood opportunities.

Nevertheless, ambitious plans and substantial financial allocations must translate into visible outcomes on the ground. Of the projects included in the overall infrastructure portfolio, several are still awaiting commencement, while others remain at the DPR or in-principle approval stage. Delays in land acquisition, statutory clearances and coordination among executing agencies must be addressed through effective institutional mechanisms. Timelines should be treated as binding commitments rather than indicative targets.

The pace of financial utilisation also warrants attention. Against the UT Capex allocation of Rs 5,969.55 crore for 2026-27, expenditure had reached Rs 2,142.13 crore by November 20. Ensuring that allocated funds are converted into tangible infrastructure assets requires stronger monitoring, timely tendering and accountability at every level of implementation.

Another critical priority is the resilience of infrastructure against natural disasters. The completion of 2,046 flood-restoration works is encouraging, but recurring floods, landslides and extreme weather events demand a more durable approach to construction. Scientific drainage systems, slope protection, geotechnical assessments and regular maintenance must become integral components of road development.

Ultimately, the success of Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure programme will not be determined by the number of projects announced or the value of investments proposed. It will depend on the quality, accessibility and durability of completed works. The administration must ensure that every investment delivers measurable public benefit.

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

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Dr. Irfan Ali: A Physician Who Earned Our Trust



BY SYED MAJID GILANI

I first took my mother to Dr. Irfan Ali, MD (Internal Medicine), in the winter of 2011. Her blood sugar was not coming under control despite treatment from several doctors. We had visited different hospitals and private clinics, hoping for relief, but her condition continued to worry us. As a son, it was painful to see my mother struggle with her health. I wanted to find a doctor who could help her.

On the advice of a cousin, we decided to consult Dr. Irfan Ali, a physician in Srinagar. I still remember that first visit. He listened to my mother patiently and allowed her to explain her problems without rushing her. He spoke gently, answered our questions, and explained things in simple language. We left his chamber feeling reassured.

In the months that followed, my mother's blood sugar came under control and has remained stable under his care. From that day onwards, he became our family's trusted physician.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate not only his medical knowledge but also the way he treats his patients. He gives them time, listens to their concerns, and does not make them feel that their problems are unimportant. Anyone who has accompanied a sick family member to a doctor's chamber knows how much this matters. At such moments, a few reassuring words can make a real difference.

I experienced this myself in 2017, when I consulted him for a health problem of my own. I was worried when I entered his chamber, but his calm manner and patient hearing put me at ease. He listened carefully and explained things without causing unnecessary anxiety. That experience further strengthened the confidence I had developed in him during my mother's treatment.

I also value his honesty. When a patient needs a specialist's opinion or a surgeon's attention, he guides them accordingly. In my view, recognising when another doctor's expertise is needed is an important quality in a physician. Patients and their families depend on such guidance when making decisions about treatment.

Even small details reflect his consideration for patients. His prescriptions are neat and readable, and his instructions are easy to follow. These things may seem ordinary, but they are helpful to people who are already worried about their health.

In Kashmir, people often seek advice from relatives, friends, and neighbours before choosing a doctor. Personal experience carries considerable weight. When a family finds a doctor who listens, speaks kindly, and offers honest guidance, that experience is naturally shared with others. Our confidence in Dr. Irfan Ali has grown in the same way, through years of personal experience.

Whenever a health concern arises in our family, he remains our first choice, unless the problem requires another specialist. This confidence has developed gradually, through the care and attention we have received over the years.



Looking back, I often remember that winter in 2011. We were worried about my mother's health and were searching for a way forward. A simple recommendation from a cousin brought us to a doctor who has since remained an important part of our family's healthcare journey. I remain grateful to that cousin for guiding us to him.

Medical knowledge and experience are essential for any doctor. But I believe that kindness, patience, and the ability to listen are equally important. A person who is unwell is often frightened and uncertain. A doctor who takes the time to understand that person's concerns can make a difficult experience easier to bear.

My appreciation for Dr. Irfan Ali comes from what I have personally experienced. He cared for my mother during a worrying period in our lives and treated me with the same patience when I needed his advice. For this, I remain sincerely grateful.

Some doctors are remembered for the medicines they prescribe; others are remembered for the way they treat people. Dr. Irfan Ali holds a special place in our family's memories for both his medical care and his considerate manner. Our experience has taught me that a good doctor does not simply treat an illness; he also listens to the person who is suffering.

Syed Majid Gilani is a storyteller, opinion writer, and government officer. He writes on family, faith, human relationships, and moral values, drawing inspiration from life and personal memories. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

The Wisdom of Learning Before We Fall



BY DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Almost every Indian household knows the sting of four familiar words: "I told you so." They are often heard after an avoidable mistake: a risky financial decision, a quarrel that went too far, or a warning dismissed as unnecessary interference. By then, the lesson has become expensive. The question is why we so often insist on paying for knowledge that was available to us for free.

An old insight captures the dilemma: the wise learn from everyone, while the foolish learn only after they fall. Its purpose is not to divide humanity into the intelligent and the unintelligent. Brilliant people can make reckless choices, and those with little formal education can possess extraordinary judgment. The real distinction lies in our willingness to listen, observe and reconsider before consequences force us to do so.

Learning from everyone does not mean believing everything we hear. An elderly neighbour may understand the history of a locality; a young colleague may know a better digital method; a child may ask the inconvenient question adults have stopped asking. Even a critic can expose a weakness in our argument. Wisdom begins when we separate the value of an observation from the age, status or popularity of the person offering it.

That is not merely a comforting moral lesson. Psychologist Albert Bandura's pioneering research on observational learning demonstrated that people, especially children, can acquire patterns of behaviour by watching others. Observation can transmit harmful conduct as readily as constructive habits. The challenge, therefore, is not simply to imitate. It is to examine what we see, test it against evidence and decide which lessons deserve to guide our own actions.

Consider two imaginary young professionals beginning their careers in Bengaluru on similar salaries. One watches an experienced colleague struggle under high-interest consumer debt and decides to build a modest emergency fund. She also learns useful software skills from a younger teammate. The other assumes that financial planning and retraining can wait. When an unexpected family expense or a change at work arrives, the second employee has fewer choices. Neither story guarantees success or failure; their difference illustrates how small, informed decisions can widen our room for manoeuvre.

Of course, it would be unfair to lecture a low-income household about savings when income barely covers rent, food and school fees. Debt is sometimes a necessity, not a luxury. Likewise, unemployment cannot be reduced to a failure to acquire skills. The wiser lesson is that individual foresight matters, but so do fair wages, accessible education, reliable public services and institutions that respond to warning signs. Personal responsibility must never become an excuse for ignoring structural hardship.



The Indian classroom offers a revealing test of our relationship with learning. For generations, many students have been rewarded for producing the expected answer more readily than for asking a difficult question. Yet genuine understanding requires the courage to admit confusion. In mathematics, a carefully examined error can teach more than a correct solution copied without thought. The teacher, too, must be willing to learn from a student who approaches a problem differently.

The learning challenge is real. The Annual Status of Education Report 2024 found that only 48.8 per cent of children in Standard V surveyed in rural India could read a Standard II-level text. This was an improvement over 2022, but it still revealed a substantial foundational gap. The National Education Policy 2020 rightly emphasises critical thinking and experiential learning. Translating that ambition into everyday classrooms will require patient diagnosis, regular feedback, teacher support and space for children to question without embarrassment.

The same attitude is needed at home. Indian families often pass down valuable experience across generations, but respect should not be confused with unquestioning obedience. A parent may know the value of thrift; a daughter may understand an emerging profession better. Young people need not reject inherited wisdom to establish independence, and elders need not surrender dignity when they change their minds. A household becomes stronger when experience and fresh knowledge can speak to each other.

In workplaces, the cost of refusing to listen can spread beyond one person. A junior employee spots a safety problem, but a supervisor regards the warning as criticism. A customer repeatedly identifies a defect, but management dismisses the complaint. An employee proposes a better process, yet hierarchy silences the suggestion. These are not simply failures of individual humility; they are failures of organisational design. The strongest institutions make it safe to report problems early and expect leaders to respond.

Road safety shows why learning after disaster is an inadequate national strategy. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India recorded 4,80,583 road accidents and 1,72,890 deaths in 2023. Behind those numbers are families who lost earners, children who lost parents and survivors whose lives changed permanently. Unsafe driving decisions are part of the problem, but road design, enforcement, vehicle safety and emergency care also matter. A responsible society studies near-misses and known hazards before another family receives tragic news.

Public life presents a similar challenge. Citizens can learn from history without treating every disagreement as disloyalty. Administrations can learn from independent research, local experience and criticism without surrendering their authority. When a policy fails, the useful questions are what the evidence showed, whose warnings were missed and what should change. Democracy is healthier when people are prepared to revise an opinion in the light of facts rather than defend it simply because it belongs to their group.

Our digital habits make this discipline more difficult and more necessary. Social media rewards quick certainty; thoughtful corrections rarely travel as fast as confident misinformation. We can surround ourselves with voices that repeat our own assumptions and mistake agreement for proof. Learning from everyone requires listening beyond that circle, while checking a claim's source, expertise and supporting evidence. Openness without judgment invites deception; judgment without openness hardens into prejudice.

What, then, can we practise? Before a major decision, seek three perspectives: someone directly affected, someone with relevant expertise and someone likely to disagree. Ask not only, "Who is right?" but also, "What evidence could change my mind?" When corrected, resist the immediate urge to defend yourself.

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The Socialisation of Compassion

What a Toddler's Gesture Taught Me About Education, Humanity, and the Circles We Draw



BY SAIMA BASHIR

It was an ordinary morning. Breakfast was on the table, my daughter was in her chair, and I was doing what mothers do—offering food, wiping little hands, and keeping the rhythm of the day moving.

Then she did something that made me pause. She took a little food in her hand and extended it—not towards me or her own mouth, but towards the wall. A housefly was resting there. She was offering it food.

My daughter was not yet two. Her world was still made up of a handful of words, gestures, expressions, and the familiar music of toddler babbling. Yet that small gesture raised a question that stayed with me: what moves a child to offer something to another living creature?

Was it imitation, curiosity, or an early experiment in sharing? I cannot know what she understood or intended. But the moment led me to a much larger educational question: how does our capacity to notice and care for others develop, and what happens to it as we grow?

This is not merely a sentimental question. It is an educational one.

The Early Roots of Prosocial Behaviour

Developmental psychology uses the term prosocial behaviour for voluntary actions intended to benefit others, such as helping, sharing, comforting, and cooperating. Research by developmental psychologists Felix Warneken and Michael Tomasello has shown that young children can display spontaneous helping behaviours during the second year of life.

This does not mean that toddlers possess the mature empathy or moral reasoning of adults. Their understanding is still developing. But it does remind us that the foundations of social responsiveness emerge early—well before children can explain their thoughts in words.

During the toddler years, children learn through observation, imitation, interaction, and experimentation. They gradually become more aware that other people have intentions, needs, and interests of their own. A child may offer a toy to a crying friend, help pick something up, or share food. These gestures can be simple and inconsistent, but they offer valuable glimpses into emerging social understanding.

Perhaps we underestimate how much children observe and interpret simply because they cannot yet tell us what they are thinking. One of the first lessons education must learn is that some of the most important developments are not immediately visible.

How Wide Is Our Circle of Compassion?

The incident also made me think about the boundaries of human compassion. We readily respond to the needs of people close to us—our families, friends, and communities. But our attention can become selective when we encounter unfamiliar people, animals, or other forms of life.

A bird searching for water, a stray animal seeking shelter, or a small creature crossing our path may go unnoticed in the urgency of everyday life. This is not to suggest that we should treat every living organism identically or ignore reasonable concerns about hygiene, safety, and survival. It is, rather, an invitation to examine the limits of our moral attention.

Compassion is not only a feeling; it is also a habit of attention. It begins, in part, with noticing that life exists beyond our immediate concerns. That morning, my daughter's gesture made me wonder what education might look like if widening this circle of consideration were treated as an important goal.

What Do We Learn to Care About?

Children do not grow up in isolation. Their understanding of the world is shaped by family, culture, education, language, and everyday social experiences. They learn what is acceptable, whom to respect, what to fear, and how to respond to different situations.

Albert Bandura's social learning theory helps explain the influence of observation and imitation. Children do not simply absorb what adults tell them; they also watch what adults do. A child who sees an adult treat an animal gently, help someone in difficulty, or speak respectfully to another person encounters values in action.

The reverse is also true. Repeated exposure to indifference, ridicule, or unnecessary cruelty can make such behaviour appear ordinary. Socialisation is essential: it helps children learn how to live responsibly with others. But it should not narrow their capacity for consideration.

The challenge for parents and educators is to teach children to understand boundaries and the beginnings of social differences without allowing those distinctions to become excuses for indifference.

Education Must Go Beyond Instruction

We often measure childhood development through visible milestones: language, reading, numeracy, physical growth, and academic performance. These matter, but they do not represent the whole child. Empathy, cooperation, emotional regulation, respect, and responsibility deserve meaningful attention too.

In early childhood settings, these qualities are nurtured through ordinary experiences: sharing materials, caring for plants, observing nature, cooperating with peers, helping others, and learning to recognise emotions. Such experiences are not decorative additions to the curriculum. They are part of how children learn to live with others.

A school that helps children achieve academically but gives little attention to how they treat people and the world around them leaves an important dimension of education unattended. Our responsibility is not only to develop capable learners, but also considerate members of society.

We assess reading and numeracy with considerable care. We should also reflect on how our classrooms encourage kindness, responsibility, and respect—not through simplistic scores, but through observation, relationships, and the culture we create.

Children Are Not Empty Vessels

We sometimes approach education as though children are empty vessels waiting to be filled with knowledge, skills, and social norms. Yet children arrive with curiosity, an urge to connect, and understanding. These capacities are still developing, and they need guidance rather than romanticisation.

Our task is not simply to tell children to be compassionate. It is to create environments in which compassion can be practised, protected, and expanded. This changes how we design classrooms: they become communities where care is demonstrated, not merely discussed.

It also changes how we understand the role of teachers. Teachers are not only providers of information; they are models of attention and conduct. And parents are not merely supervisors of academic progress. They are among the most influential guides in a child's developing understanding of other people and the world.

Sometimes, Children Make Us Examine Ourselves

I began that morning thinking only about breakfast. I ended it reflecting on something my daughter had unintentionally brought to my attention. I do not know whether she understood the needs of the housefly. I cannot assign a fully formed moral intention to a gesture made by a child still discovering the language of the world.

Perhaps the value of the incident lies precisely in that uncertainty. It encouraged me to observe rather than assume, and to think about the relationship between early childhood experiences and the values we carry into adulthood.

We often prepare children for the world by teaching them language, manners, discipline, boundaries, and knowledge. But children can also make us reconsider the world to which we have grown accustomed. Perhaps our responsibility is not merely to help them fit into society, but to help them retain their sensitivity, curiosity, and capacity for consideration as they grow.

That little hand extending food towards a housefly may have been an act of imitation, curiosity, or early sharing. We may never know. But it left me with a question every parent and educator should occasionally ask: as we teach children how to become adults, are we preserving the qualities that make us human?

Perhaps the purpose of growing up is not to outgrow compassion, but to give it a wider and more conscious expression. And perhaps the purpose of education is to raise individuals who do not merely succeed, but notice.

A Final Thought for Parents and Teachers

You do not need a separate lesson to begin nurturing compassion. You need attention. Notice what children notice. Respond thoughtfully to the offered toy, the shared snack, or the comforting gesture. Talk with them about what they may have seen or felt, without assuming that every small action has a fully developed moral meaning.

We are not filling empty vessels; we are helping developing minds and hearts find direction. The seeds of social understanding are already emerging. Our responsibility is to tend them with patience, example, and care.

What small gesture from a child has made you pause and see the world differently?

About the Author

Saima Bashir is a principal and early childhood educator interested in the intersection of compassion, education, and human development. She writes about making ideas from developmental science accessible and meaningful for parents and teachers.

During the toddler years, children learn through observation, imitation, interaction, and experimentation. They gradually become more aware that other people have intentions, needs, and interests of their own. A child may offer a toy to a crying friend, help pick something up, or share food. These gestures can be simple and inconsistent, but they offer valuable glimpses into emerging social understanding.

Your best chapter might start after intermission



SHAMPA DHAR KAMATH

A couple of months ago, I wrote about my new passion for jewellery making and how it had taken over my life, almost elbowing out my lifelong love for writing. I realised I could even make a second career of it if I nurtured it with enough attention, time, and resources.

Not too long ago, people would have scoffed at the idea of a middle-aged woman planning a new career. Back then, people believed that talent—much like yoghurt—had a shelf life, and that if you hadn't peaked by 40 (or 50, if they were feeling generous), you might as well curdle onto a rocking chair and make complaining about your aches a full-time occupation.

Thankfully, those notions are disappearing. Longer life expectancies and rising living costs have made encore careerists increasingly common. It's not just about money: studies consistently show that being gainfully employed keeps older people healthy, happy, and socially engaged. Employers, too, have begun to appreciate the value that seniors bring to the workplace.

The numbers are more encouraging than we imagine. With Indian life expectancy extending well into the 70s, and even 80s in middle- and high-income households, someone switching careers post 55 could realistically work in a new field for 15-20 years—longer than many people spend in their first career.

Of course, it's not going to be all smooth sailing. As older workers, we will be less agile and energetic than our younger counterparts; and our learning curve will be steeper. Understanding new technology, for instance, can take us longer than it does the young. It isn't impossible; we just need to be patient with ourselves and factor in more time. There's also the challenge of identity friction. Being a beginner after decades of being boss can be brutal for our ego.

Yet age brings its own advantages. We have less to lose or to prove, more emotional stability, and few people policing our 'career trajectory'. We may also have fewer financial dependants, making it easier to take calculated risks. The key word, of course, is calculated. A second career should enrich our retirement, not jeopardise it.

The encouraging part is that we don't all have to start from scratch. Often, the smartest move is a pivot rather than a reinvention. Remember Karsanbhai Patel of Nirma fame? He was a government lab technician who, in his 40s, began mixing detergent in his backyard and selling it door-to-door. That backyard hustle went on to capture over 60 per cent of India's detergent market during its peak in the 1980s. Falguni Nayar, who became India's first female self-made billionaire after her company Nykaa was listed in 2021, started her entrepreneurial journey at the age of 50, after a 20-year stint as an investment banker.

Neither individual abandoned their past. They just gave their old skills a new coat.

If you're contemplating your own second act, here are three actions you could consider:

Monetise what you do for free. Hobbies pursued for 20-plus years (gardening, cooking, restoring furniture) already have skill-depth that most beginners lack—you just need to put a price on yours.

· Test before you leap. Freelance, consult or volunteer in the new field while you're still employed. This will allow you to test your assumptions, build confidence, and reduce financial and emotional risk.

Go where age is an asset, not a liability. Consulting, coaching, teaching, and many craft-based businesses reward experience and patience—qualities that compound with age.

At 30, a career change is about ambition. Post 55, it's about alignment—between your mind, body, and desires. It is about acting on the belief that it's never too late to be what you might have been.

Sometimes, your most rewarding chapter doesn't begin at the beginning. It starts after the intermission. (Source: New Indian Express)



Of course, it's not going to be all smooth sailing. As older workers, we will be less agile and energetic than our younger counterparts; and our learning curve will be steeper. Understanding new technology, for instance, can take us longer than it does the young. It isn't impossible; we just need to be patient with ourselves and factor in more time. There's also the challenge of identity friction. Being a beginner after decades of being boss can be brutal for our ego.

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Rupee nosedives 60 paise to settle at 92.98 against US dollar

Press Trust Of India



MUMBAI, NOV 27: The rupee depreciated 60 paise to settle at 92.98 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, paring its recent gains, amid a surge in crude oil prices and a sharp fall in domestic equity markets.

The local unit was also weighed down by a strong American currency even as the inflow of foreign funds provided support, according to forex traders.

In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.44 and touched the day's low of 93.01 before settling at 92.98 (provisional) against the greenback, logging a steep loss of 60 paise from its previous close.Buy Maps

On Thursday, the rupee settled down 18 paise to 92.38 against the US dollar, a day after jumping 65 paise to reach its highest level this fiscal year so far.

In the past seven months, the rupee became the best-performing Asian currency, recovering nearly 5 per cent from its lowest-ever close of 96.88 against the US dollar recorded on October 8.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee reversed gains on a sharp fall in domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices.

"Crude oil prices rose on Houthis attacking Aramco facility in Saudi Arabia. Dollar index, too, recovered from morning lows... Elevated dollar and month-end dollar demand may also pressurise the rupee," Choudhary said, adding, "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 92.65 to Rs 93.20."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.77, higher by 0.16 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.64 per cent higher at USD 97.19 per barrel in futures trade.

Analysts said oil prices regained above the USD 95-a-barrel level after reports of vessels being targeted in the Strait of Hormuz, fuelling concerns over supply-chain disruptions.

"Higher crude prices have increased dollar demand from oil importers and revived inflationary concerns, putting additional pressure on the domestic currency. Despite record foreign equity inflows of USD 15.16 billion in November, which have provided some support to the rupee and enabled the RBI to rebuild its foreign exchange reserves, rising oil prices and geopolitical uncertainty are currently weighing on market sentiment. From a technical perspective, USD/INR resistance is placed around 93.50-94.30, while the support zone is seen at 92.00-91.00," said Kaveri More, Commodity Technical Analyst at Choice Broking.

In the domestic equity market, Sensex crashed 989.33 points, or 1.17 per cent, to settle at 83,339.26, while the Nifty tumbled 277.30 points or 1.07 per cent to 25,607.20.Buy Maps

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,843.33 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data. (PTI)

Swara Baby Products' Rs 800-cr IPO to open on Dec 2; price band fixed at Rs 105-111



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: Swara Baby Products Ltd, a contract manufacturer of baby diapers, adult diapers and feminine hygiene products backed by FirstCry, will launch its Rs 800-crore initial public offering (IPO) on December 2, with a price band of Rs 105-111 per share.

The three-day issue will close on December 4, while the bidding for anchor investors will take place on December 1, according to a public notice on Friday.

At the top end of the price band, the company's market capitalisation is pegged at over Rs 3,200 crore.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares aggregating up to Rs 300 crore.

The company proposes to utilise the net proceeds from the fresh issue to set up a new manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh, repay or prepay borrowings and invest in subsidiaries Solis Hygiene, Swara Hygiene and K.A. Enterprises Hygiene for repayment of their outstanding borrowing.

Additionally, funds will be used to pursue inorganic growth through acquisitions and for general corporate purposes.

Founded in 2018, Swara Baby manufactures disposable hygiene products across baby care, adult incontinence and feminine hygiene segments. Its portfolio includes baby diapers, adult diapers, sanitary napkins and panty liners, primarily manufactured under contract for consumer brands.

The company supplies products to customers including Brainbees Solutions, Piramal Pharma and Himalaya Wellness Company. It also markets its own brands, Cuddles and Shield, through online and modern retail channels. In December 2025, it acquired K.A. Enterprises Hygiene, a manufacturer of feminine hygiene products.

Swara Baby operates four manufacturing

CREDAI moots tweaking affordable housing definition in Budget, doubling price cap to Rs 90 lakh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: In its pre-budget wishlist, realtors' apex body CREDAI has suggested that homes priced up to Rs 90 lakh each should fall in 'affordable housing' category as against the current cap of Rs 45 lakh, to boost demand-supply of low cost residential properties.Buy Maps



At present, housing units upto Rs 45 lakh each are treated as affordable housing.

There is a GST of 5 per cent without ITC (input tax credit) on under-construction flats. On affordable housing, the GST is one per cent without ITC. No GST is charged on completed units.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has submitted its recommendations for the Union Budget 2027-28.

It has sought changes in definition of affordable housing in line with prevailing market realities, while expressing concern over the decline in share of fresh affordable homes supply at around 20 per cent in the total new launches, as compared to 54 per cent share in 2018.

To address this issue, the association has proposed a uniform, area-based definition of affordable housing across GST, income tax and priority sector lending.

The recommended RERA carpet area limits are 70 sq metre in notified metros, 90 square metre in urban centres with a population of 10 lakh and above, and 120 square metre elsewhere.

"For income tax purposes, if a price ceiling is retained, CREDAI has recommended raising it to Rs 90 lakh, with an annual escalation of 5 per cent to offset inflation and rising prices of raw material and labour," the industry body said.

Affordable homes attract lower GST, and therefore the hike in price cap would increase consumer demand.

SBI to up lending under 'MSME Dream' to Rs 50 cr by March 2027

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI, Nov 27: The State Bank of India (SBI) aims to increase lending under its 'MSME Dream' product, which gives small businesses collateral-free digital loans, to Rs 50 crore by March 2027, a senior official said on Friday.Buy Maps

At present, the bank offers loans of up to Rs 5 crore under the product launched in December 2023 and there has been some Closed User Group (CUG) selling of loans up to Rs 10 crore at select branches, the official said.



"By November 30, we will increase the lending to Rs 10 crore across all branches and will launch a pilot project to do loans of Rs 50 crore each under the product on the same day," the official said.

The bank will increase the per loan borrowing under the product to Rs 50 crore across all branches by March next year, the official said.The country's largest lender has sanctioned Rs 2.25 lakh crore under the 'Dream' product till now, the official said, stressing that the asset quality is also much better on such loans.

WhatsApp to let users buy travel eSIMs in app; Jio, Verizon among partners

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: WhatsApp will soon let users buy and install a data eSIM for international travel without leaving the app, so they can keep using it on their existing phone number abroad, the Meta-owned company said in a blog post on Thursday, naming Jio among its partners.

The company said it was working with eSIM providers and telecom partners, including Jio, Smart Axiata, Smart Communications and Verizon, and would begin rolling out the feature in select countries soon. It did not name the countries or give pricing details.

"...We're announcing a new way to buy and install a data e-SIM when travelling internationally in just a few taps without leaving the app. It'll be as effortless as sending a message. That way, when you land, you can keep using WhatsApp on your same phone number as you normally would without having to find the closest airport kiosk to buy a local SIM card, hunt for a cafe with Wi-Fi or rack up roaming charges," WhatsApp said.



WhatsApp Head Kunal Shah described the effort as the company's early explorations around eSIMs in a post on X.

Gold rebounds Rs 1,500 to Rs 1.27 lakh per 10 gm amid rupee depreciation, bargain buying

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: Gold staged a modest recovery on Thursday, with prices rising by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1.27 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital as a fall in the rupee and renewed buying at lower levels lent support to the precious metal.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,27,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's close of Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams, according to local traders.



Silver, however, remained unchanged at Rs 1.50 lakh per kilogram, its one-year low.

Traders said the rupee's depreciation to 92.44 against the US dollar also supported domestic gold prices, as the weakening currency made dollar-priced bullion costlier in the local market.

"Gold prices made a modest recovery in the domestic markets on Thursday after briefly falling in the previous session, with bargain buying emerging following the sharp correction," said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at brokerage platform Lemonn.

However, the recovery remained cautious as stronger-than-expected US inflation data reinforced expectations of another Federal Reserve rate hike, keeping pressure on precious metals, he added.In global markets, spot gold declined by USD 21.57, or nearly 1 per cent, to USD 3,567.21 per ounce. Silver, however, traded marginally higher at USD 41.54 an ounce.Buy Maps

India's power sector needs Rs 200 lakh cr investments by 2047: Manohar Lal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 27: India's power sector will need investments to the tune of Rs 200 lakh crore until 2047 to achieve various targets, Union minister Manohar Lal said on Friday, and called for stock market listings of state-owned firms and participation from private players to raise funds.Buy Maps

Speaking at the Power Ministers' Conference of States and Union Territories here, Lal emphasised the need for the Centre and states to work as a team to tackle challenges related to transmission of renewable energy.

The power minster also said that the total loss of discoms across the country has reached Rs 7 lakh crore again, even after the central government absorbed about the same amount of losses in 2017 through UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana), a financial package scheme for revival of power distribution companies (discoms).

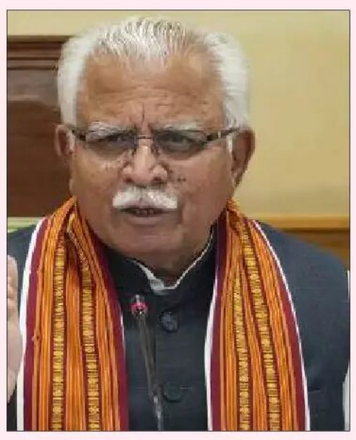
"We absorbed about Rs 7 lakh crore loss under the UDAY scheme in 2017. Losses of discoms of the entire nation have again reached Rs 7 lakh crore," he said.

He also pointed out that last year, all discoms together earned a profit of Rs 2,600 crore.

Now the challenge is that we should not turn this profit into a loss again, he said and suggested the states to use these profits to set off losses incurred earlier.

"We need to ensure that the financial position of our DISCOMs is strengthened and necessary changes in policy, operations and regulation should facilitate the continuation of this turnaround," he said.

About the investment opportunity in the power sector, he said, "There will be investment of Rs 200 lakh crore to meet fixed targets in the power sector only by 2047, which is equal to five years' budget of the government. We cannot do this investment alone. We need investments from the public and list our public sector firms as well as investment of private sector under the public-private partnership."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently stated that 500 GW more renewable energy would be added in the next 10 years.

Today we have 300 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, he noted.

For expanding the power transmission network, the Centre and states would need to work as 'Team India', he said, as he highlighted the lack of transmission network, especially for renewable energy, and said there is problem or issues in evacuation of solar power.Buy Maps

It is not a good situation that there is huge generation of power but there is a lack of transmission network to evacuate that, he said.

He further said that the power demand will increase due to expanding data centre infrastructure and increased usage of electric vehicles.

There is a need to focus on storage for optimum use of solar and other renewable sources, he said and urged states to encourage use of solar energy for agriculture and generation of electricity through rooftop solar.

He also highlighted that there are shortcomings in tariff, coordination and regulation (of tariff) of renewable energy sources, saying the regulation should be such that the discoms should not suffer losses.

The minister invited suggestions to add energy storage capacities, advocated the use of advanced technologies like pre-paid smart meters and AI tools to improve delivery, and asked states to clear pending electricity bills of government establishments and official residences to set the precedent.

Nestle India receives Rs 36.36 lakh EPFO demand

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 27: FMCG major Nestle India on Friday said it has received a demand of Rs 36.36 lakh from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), including damages and a penalty of over Rs 20 lakh for the period 2012-2019.

The order has been issued by the Regional Office of EPFO, Mysuru, under section 7Q and 14B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"The company has received an order from the Regional Office of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation demanding an amount of Rs 36,36,548, which includes an amount of Rs 20,09,516 on account of damages/penalty for the period of 2012-2019 under PF Code," it said.



The order, received by the company on November 26, 2026, has no material impact on its financials, operations or other activities, the filing added.

Under Section 7Q of the EPF Act, an employer is liable to pay interest on amounts due under the Act, while Section 14B empowers the EPFO to recover damages in the form of a penalty in cases of default in payment of provident fund contributions and other statutory dues.

Nestle India is one of the country's leading food and beverage companies, with brands including Maggi, Nescafe, KitKat, Milkmaid and Everyday in its portfolio.Buy Maps

Shares of Nestle India were trading at Rs 1,316.90 on BSE during the afternoon, down 0.29 per cent from the previous close. (PTI)

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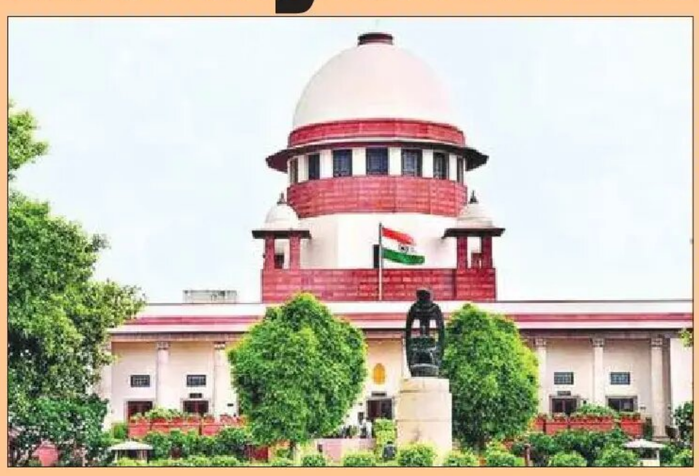
Concerns raised in plea on unclaimed financial assets substantially addressed: SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 :The Supreme Court on Friday said principal concerns raised in a 2022 PIL related to bank deposits and investments have been substantially addressed by reforms the government and regulators introduced while it was pending.

Disposing of the PIL filed by journalist Sucheta Dalal, a bench of justices Vikram Nath and R Mahadevan lauded her for raising concerns regarding the substantial amounts of unclaimed money lying with banks and other financial institutions and the difficulties faced by depositors, nominees and legal heirs in identifying and recovering such amounts.

Referring to subsequent developments, the verdict said, "We are of the considered opinion that the principal concerns raised in the present writ petition have been substantially addressed through the measures undertaken by the respondents.



"We take on record the statements and assurances made in their respective affidavits and expect the concerned authorities to continue their efforts towards improving the accessibility, efficiency and transparency of the mechanisms for identifying and recovering unclaimed financial assets."

Writing a 26-page verdict for the bench, Justice Nath declined to order a single portal for all financial assets and permitted Dalal to approach the Social Justice Ministry on senior citizens' welfare funds.

"As regards the broader demand for a single portal covering all categories of financial assets, we are unable to accept that its absence warrants further intervention by this Court. Banking, securities, insurance and other financial sectors operate under distinct statutory and regulatory frameworks, with different requirements concerning ownership, verification and transmission," the verdict said.

While greater coordination between these mechanisms may be desirable, the establishment of a unified platform involves questions of regulatory policy, technical feasibility and administrative coordination, it said.

Man gets life term for murdering second wife, abandoning her children on train in Keralam

Press Trust Of India

KANNUR (KERALAM), NOV 27 :A court on Friday sentenced a Karnataka native to life imprisonment for murdering his second wife in 2017 at Iritty here and abandoning her two young children on a train.

Thalassery Additional District Judge Denny C J sentenced Manjunath P R, a native of Tumakuru in Karnataka, to life imprisonment and imposed a total fine of Rs 3 lakh.

The court found him guilty under Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 75 (cruelty to children) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

It awarded life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 2 lakh under Section 302 of the IPC, five years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 under Section 201 of the IPC, and three years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 under Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

All the substantive sentences will run concurrently.

The court ordered that, upon realisation of the total fine, Rs 1.25 lakh each be paid to the two minor children of the deceased as compensation.

It recommended that the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kannur, provide compensation to the children under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

The court appreciated the investigation team and Circle Inspector Anshad S and recommended that the officer be given a government award.

The case relates to the murder of Shobha, a nomadic woman from Tumakuru, whose decomposed body was found in a well near the old Iritty bridge on January 21, 2017.



A case was initially registered as an unnatural death. However, subsequent investigation established that she had been strangled and her body dumped in the well.

According to the prosecution, Manjunath and Shobha had been living together with her two children while travelling through parts of Wayanad and Kannur and earning their livelihood through begging.

Manjunath decided to kill her after she opposed his plan to return to his native place in Karnataka and threatened to reveal their alleged involvement in the murder of her first husband, Raju.

Investigators found that Manjunath had strangled Shobha on January 14, 2017, and dumped her body in a well. Following the murder, he took her two children, then aged five and four, to Bengaluru.

On January 17, he allegedly abandoned them on a Mumbai-bound train at the city's Majestic railway station before fleeing.

The children were later traced in Mumbai following an investigation led by then probationary Sub-Inspector Anshad S, who is now a Circle Inspector with Thrissur East police.

The investigation also brought to light the alleged murder of Shobha's first husband, Raju, in Karnataka on December 21, 2015.

According to the investigation, Shobha and Manjunath had allegedly strangled Raju in a forest area at Unchinaluhalla in Tumakuru district and set his body on fire. The case is being investigated separately by the Karnataka police.

Three arrested for stealing Rs 10 lakh from Delhi light shop, Rs 9.7 lakh recovered

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 :Three persons have been arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 10 lakh in cash from a light shop in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar, police said on Friday.

The police have recovered Rs 9.70 lakh of the stolen amount, they said.

The theft took place on November 20, when the accused allegedly broke open the shutter lock of the shop and stole cash and important documents kept in a locker, a senior police officer said.A case was registered at Tilak Nagar police station on November 20, following which a team was formed to identify and apprehend the accused.Teams arrested the three accused, identified as Sharwan Kumar alias Chotu (21), Gautam Kumar alias Bholu (18) and Arun Kumar (18), all residents of Delhi.During interrogation, they disclosed their involvement in the theft, following which Rs 9.70 lakh was recovered. Further investigation is underway. The theft took place on November 20, when the accused allegedly broke open the shutter lock of the shop and stole cash and important documents kept in a locker, a senior police officer said.A case was registered at Tilak Nagar police station on November 20, following which a team was formed to identify and apprehend the accused.

India, Singapore can exchange experience, encourage early mediation: CJI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 :Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday said India and Singapore can exchange experience in institutional design, professional standards, training and technology, and encourage the early use of mediation.

Speaking at the Indian Council of Arbitration's (ICA) symposium on "India–Singapore: From Shared Legal Foundations to the Future", the CJI said predictable dispute resolution is central to the confidence that drives trade and investment between the two countries.

He said India's growing engagement with mediation, including the establishment of the Mediation Council of India, creates further avenues for cooperation, including through multi-tiered dispute resolution clauses.

"Sometimes, the best outcome is not a victory for one side but an agreement that enables both sides to move forward," he said.

Justice Kant recalled the 2024 memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Law and Dispute Resolution between the two countries, the first meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Consultative Committee in 2025, and the India-Singapore Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Conclave convened by the ICA in New Delhi on September 10, and said the relationship must rest on reciprocity.



"Neither needs to replicate the other's institutional model. The opportunity is to learn from each other.

"The corridor must be a two-way channel for expertise, professional opportunities and institutional knowledge, measured by the confidence it creates on both sides," the CJI said.

Singapore Law Minister Edwin Tong said India and Singapore should aspire not merely to succeed in international arbitration but to make it better.

Three armed men rob jewellery shop of 20 sovereigns in Palakkad

Press Trust Of India

PALAKKAD (KERALAM), NOV 27 :Three men allegedly robbed around 20 sovereigns of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop at Peringottukurissi here on Friday after threatening employees with a gun and a knife, police said.

The incident took place at 'Ishan Gold' jewellery, where the accused arrived in a vehicle pretending to be customers interested in purchasing ornaments, police said.



While a salesperson was attending to them, the men aroused suspicion, prompting the employee to call the manager.

When the manager arrived, one of the accused took out a pistol while another threatened the staff with a knife, police said.

The gang allegedly grabbed gold rings kept on the display shelves and attempted to flee.

However, employees resisted the robbery and raised an alarm, police said.

The shop owner said the assailants fired one shot during the robbery.

Preliminary estimates put the quantity of gold stolen at around 20 sovereigns, police said.

Police suspect that the accused are youths from outside the state.

The Kottayi police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Police teams are pursuing the suspects and taking steps to prevent them from escaping from the state, as the jewellery is located close to the Keralam-Tamil Nadu border. CCTV footage of the incident has been circulated among police stations to help identify and trace the accused, police said.

Meerut hotel worker arrested after viral video shows him spitting on roti

Press Trust Of India

MEERUT (UP), NOV 27 :An employee at a hotel here was arrested after a video, purportedly showing him spitting on a roti during food preparation, went viral on social media, police said on Friday.

Circle Officer Mawana Pankaj Lavania said a video of the incident, which allegedly took place in Mahalka outpost area on Thursday, is circulating across social media platforms.

The video purportedly shows the accused, a resident of Mahalka village, spitting on a roti.

Police took cognisance of the video and initiated an investigation, the official said.

It was found that the incident allegedly took place during food preparation at the hotel, and the person seen in the video was an employee at the establishment, he said.

The accused has been arrested, and further legal proceedings in the matter are underway, he added.

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The accused has been arrested, and further legal proceedings in the matter are underway, he added.

Two killed as speeding SUV collides head on with motorcycle in UP's Chandauli

Press Trust Of India

CHANDAULI (UP), NOV 27 :Two men were killed and a child sustained injuries after a speeding SUV rammed into their motorcycle here on Friday, police said.

The accident took place around noon on the Sakaldiha-Kamalpur road near Gauspur village under Sakaldiha police station area.

Sakaldiha Station House Officer (SHO) Bhupendra Kumar Nishad said the deceased have been identified as Anjeet Gupta (35) and Deepak Vishwakarma (28), both residents of Char village.

The two men were taking the child to Kamalpur for medical treatment when the accident took place, he said.

According to police, a pickup van travelling parallel to their motorcycle took a sudden turn. In an attempt to avoid collision with the van, the motorcycle swerved, bringing it into the path of an oncoming speeding SUV, which hit them head-on.

Both men died on the spot, while the injured child was admitted to hospital.Police have seized the SUV and apprehended its driver, the SHO said.The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and further legal proceedings are underway, he added.

Man stabbed to death after asking car occupants to drive slowly in Delhi's Shakurpur

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 :A 27-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by an occupant of a car following an argument between the two sides over rash driving in Shakurpur here in the early hours of Friday, police said.



After returning from a wedding function around 1 am, Yogesh, a resident of JJ Colony in Shakurpur, and his friends were standing on G-Block Road when they had an argument with the occupants of a Hyundai i20 over alleged rash driving in northwest Delhi, a senior police officer said.

The altercation escalated into a violent confrontation and one of the occupants of the car allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed Yogesh in the neck before fleeing from the spot along with others, police said.

The officer said Yogesh sustained a life-threatening injury and was rushed to Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The hospital informed police, following which a team reached the spot and opened an investigation. The two sides knew each other and belonged to the same locality, the officer said.

"We have identified the accused and are conducting raids to arrest them. Police have registered a case," the officer said. Police are examining the sequence of events leading to the stabbing and the roles of those present in the car.

The victim's family alleged that the incident stemmed from a seemingly minor objection to the speed of the car. They demanded stringent action against those involved.

Yogesh's grandmother said he had gone to attend a wedding function with his friends and was returning home when the incident occurred. She said Yogesh asked some people travelling in a car to drive slowly, after which an argument broke out between him and the occupants.

Couple found dead with multiple injuries inside house in Thrissur

Press Trust Of India

THRISSUR (KERALAM), NOV 27 :A couple was found dead with multiple injuries inside the kitchen of their house at Kizhuppillikkara here on Friday afternoon, police said.

The deceased were identified as Santhosh (55) and his wife Shini (46).

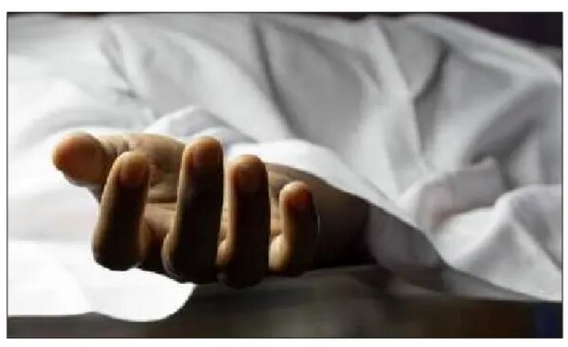
Police said Santhosh ran an electronics shop in Thrissur.

The incident came to light when the couple's son returned home and found the kitchen door locked from inside. He broke open the door and found his parents lying dead with multiple injuries, police said.

Personnel from the Anthikad police station reached the house and launched an investigation.

A machete was found near Santhosh's body, police said.

Preliminary findings at the scene indicated that Santhosh may have been responsible for Shini's death, following which he may have died by suicide. Police said the circumstances surrounding the deaths were being investigated and that no possibility had been ruled out.



The couple's son, who first discovered the bodies, collapsed and was taken to a hospital, they added. sibility had been ruled out.

The bodies would be shifted to the Government Medical College after the inquest proceedings for postmortem examinations, police said.

A fingerprint team and a dog squad would examine the crime scene to ascertain whether anyone from outside had entered the house, officials said.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CAT

contend that despite those developments and the ongoing investigation, the respondent Board declared the examination uncompromised without disclosing any comprehensive or independent assessment of the examination process.

The bench comprising Justice Ritu Tagore and Prasant Kumar said the larger issue regarding the nature and extent of the alleged irregularities, as well as the adequacy of the measures adopted by the respondents, would require consideration after the respondents place their detailed stand on record.

The bench directed the official respondents to ensure preservation of all relevant physical and electronic records pertaining to the Finance Accounts Assistants (FAA) examination held on November 15, including OMR sheets, available CCTV footage, biometric records, question paper custody records and examination-centre logs.

The CAT bench gave four week's time to the respondents to submit their response to the application.

JKSSB

some political leaders, who earlier held responsible positions, were telling aspirants that they could not compete in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examinations.

Referring to allegations of irregularities in the recent Finance Accounts Assistant examination, Abdullah said he had examined the matter in detail and found that the system had functioned properly.

"When I went into the details of the issue concerning the recent Finance Accounts Assistant examination, which is being used to mislead young people these days, I found that there had been no malpractice in the examination and that the system had functioned properly. The paper was not leaked. There was no theft of the question paper, and no ineligible candidates secured jobs", he said.

However, he acknowledged that some candidates had attempted to cheat by taking the question paper outside the examination hall and seeking answers through wireless communication.

"They were caught on the spot and arrested. They were not allowed to continue with the examination," he said.

The chief minister noted that instead of appreciating the authorities, particularly the ASPs, for preventing the paper leak and foiling attempts to cheat, some people were criticising the government on social media.

Abdullah stated that he was always ready to acknowledge mistakes and did not believe in hiding behind excuses or resorting to falsehoods for political gains.

"I am not someone who would distort the truth or present falsehoods as facts merely to gain political mileage," he said.

LG Sinha

was attended by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Shri Govind Jaiswal, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Shri Ravi Kumar Sihag, Registrar, BGSBU; Prof. O P Mishra, former Dean (Research) IMS BHU; Prof. Shahid Akhter, Department of Management Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Dr. Titi Xavier, Dean, Academic Affairs, BGSBU, and other members of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council accorded in-principle approval to various agenda points and proposals presented during the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to transition toward a skill-centric, employment-oriented curriculum and devise a long-term framework for self-sustained funding.

He underscored the importance of harmonising academic reforms with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, advancing faculty capacity building, and fostering robust industry-academia partnerships.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Executive Council to convene its meetings on a biannual basis and ensure the timely conduct of the convocation. He stressed the need for maintaining institutional discipline and fostering a conducive academic environment, calling for stringent action against any elements attempting to disrupt campus harmony.

He further issued directives to strengthen institutional accountability and organise national-level programmes along with student outreach initiatives such as Yuva Connect.

The meeting also deliberated on vital academic and administrative matters including faculty recruitment, career advancement, admissions, new academic programmes, the promotion of research publications, and infrastructure upgrades to enhance the university's overall functioning.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification.

The Executive Council also reviewed the Action Taken Report pertaining to the previous meeting held in January 2026.

Police

activities, police in Anantnag attached a double-storey residential house worth approximately Rs 40 lakh belonging to Mohammad Yaqoob Khan under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act," a police spokesperson said.

He said the accused is involved in multiple NDPS cases registered at Police Station Srigufwara.

"The attachment proceedings were initiated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act as part of sustained efforts to dismantle the financial networks of drug trafficking and curb the proceeds generated through the illegal drug trade," he added.

CDS

talk at a seminar, also asserted that "we are well-geared, along our northern frontier".

Asked how he saw China successfully launching on Wednesday its Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship carrying three astronauts, including Pakistan's Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, the CDS said Pakistan's space capability is "improving" with China's help, and positional navigation and other domain-related capabilities available with the Chinese will be available to the Pakistanis, so that will have to be "factored into our calculus".

He also spoke on the significance of air power, and said that for bolstering the Navy's prowess, there is a need for more unmanned surface vessels, unmanned underwater vessels and enablers to increase their range.

"We want to be joint in design, multi-domain in orientation, have a tech-enabled capability, be Aatmanirbhar in thought and action, and finally a capable human-centric leadership," the CDS said.

Gen Anil Chauhan (retd), who was the CDS during Operation Sindoor last year, moderated the session hosted by think-tank Vivekananda International Foundation in Delhi.

The CDS, in his address, outlined 10 major trends which, he said, are defining the future of warfare, underlining that the first is the expanding nature of the battlefield.

"Secondly, the distinction between war and peace is increasingly (getting) blurred. We are in a state of continuous contestation.

"Cyber, space, electronic warfare and cognitive warfare are already occurring, and that means they will precede a conflict, they will occur during the conflict, and they will outlast the conflict. So, we cannot say that we are either in a state of peace or war; we are in a continuous state of contestation," he said.

The CDS said that in coordination with the three services, efforts are underway to "modernise our electronic warfare architecture".

Elaborating his point on the idea of "continuous contestation" and the blurring of the distinction between peace and war, he said, "Even today, we are being subjected to cognitive warfare by our adversaries in an insidious manner, to sow (seeds of) division in society, create internal rifts, weaken the will and morale of the nation."

"Therefore, it is important that we understand cognitive warfare and information warfare, and a commander today will have to spend as much time on operations as he has to devote time to information warfare," the CDS added.

It is "not a supporting function", it is a "primary function of the commander". It is one of the important building blocks as far as multi-domain operations are concerned, he said.

He cited multiple conflicts in the last few years, from the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict to the Ukraine conflict and the US-Israel-Iran conflict.

"Economically, wars in one part of the world can affect everybody... When we look at the Iran-Israel war, we see that closure of Strait of Hormuz in terms of critical minerals, fertilisers, energy is affecting each and everybody in the world, and led to loss of (US President Donald) Trump in the (US) mid-term elections. So, unintended effects," he said.

"The other unintended effect as far as we are concerned is the Makkah alliance," the CDS said.

Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in Makkah on August 7. The pact establishes a framework for collective deterrence and stipulates that an armed attack against any one of the three countries would be regarded as an attack against all three.

The CDS also cited Operation Sindoor, terming its second phase an excellent example of joint, integrated, multi-domain operations, and asserted that India not only had control over the escalation matrix and escalation dominance, but it also resulted in a "decisive victory" for India.

Gen Raja Subramani underlined the evolving nature of technology and the warfare, however, cautioning that technological superiority is "only transitory" and this will need constant improvement to stay prepared for future wars.

He emphasised that a whole-of-nation approach is needed to fight and sustain a prolonged war.

The general officer said multiple-domain operations is not about combining all the capabilities, rather it implies integrating different capabilities to "pose multiple dilemma to an adversary".

He said integration of military-space architecture and the ability to communicate effectively are key to carrying out such operations and cyber defence is an integral component of it, he added.

The CDS further said an integrated command and control system is a prerequisite for conducting such operations.

On military preparedness, at a time when multiple conflicts are underway, he said, "We need not look at a prescribed template. We need to have our own template."

Qadri

Territory's top law officer post, which had remained vacant since former Advocate General D C Raina resigned on October 18, 2024, following the formation of the Omar Abdullah-led government.

The Abdullah government had proposed Raina's name again for the post, but the Lieutenant Governor's administration did not clear it.

The prolonged vacancy had recently come under the high court's scrutiny during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate Harsh Dubey.

The petitioner had flagged concerns that the absence of an Advocate General was hampering the administration of justice and the discharge of statutory functions, including those of the Jammu and Kashmir Advocates' Welfare Fund Trustee Committee, which is chaired by the Advocate General ex officio.

On November 5, Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli had assured a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajnesh Oswal that the appointment process was underway and the post would be filled within a month.

According to a notification issued on Friday by Commissioner-Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi, Qadri's appointment was made under Section 79(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Qadri has previously represented the government and its various departments in several key constitutional, service and legal matters.

According to the terms and conditions notified by the government, Qadri will receive a monthly remuneration of Rs 1 lakh, besides rent-free furnished accommodation in Jammu or Srinagar. If he opts to reside in his own house, he will receive a compensatory allowance of Rs 12,000 per month.

He will also be entitled to an official car free of charge, a monthly sumptuary allowance of Rs 3,000, medical reimbursement, and travel allowances on par with a sitting High Court judge.

The notification also specifies his fee structure for appearances before the high court, the Supreme Court and other courts and tribunals, with separate rates for effective and non-effective hearings.

Security will be provided to him by the Home Department as per requirement, it added.

Chowdhary

and raised 32 questions during his parliamentary tenure, according to performance records published by PRS Legislative Research (PRS India).

Ramzan, who represents Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha, took oath on December 1, 2025. According to the parliamentary performance report, he participated in three parliamentary sessions and attended 45 sittings between December 1, 2025 and August 13, 2026.

The report shows that his attendance stood at 91 per cent, compared to the national average of 80 per cent and the state average of 87 per cent. He participated in 21 debates, against the national average of 58.4, and raised 32 questions, compared to the national average of 66.47.

During the period under review, Ramzan participated in discussions on various Bills and raised matters of public importance through Special Mentions, Zero Hour interventions and Calling Attention proceedings.

The issues raised by him covered several areas concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including infrastructure, road connectivity, employment, tourism, education, healthcare and other matters of public concern.

The report also notes that the third parliamentary session during the period witnessed significant disruptions due to protests, resulting in the loss of substantial parliamentary business.

The detailed performance record, available on the Parliament portal and compiled by PRS Legislative Research, provides session-wise attendance, participation in debates and details of questions raised by the MP.

Winter

observe vacation from December 14 to February 22, 2027.

The order states that all teaching faculty shall remain available for any academic activity during the vacation period. Teaching staff have also been directed to report back to their respective schools four days before reopening to make arrangements for the resumption of classes.

The Directorate warned that any default by heads of institutions or teaching staff in following the schedule will attract strict action under the rules.

The announcement comes as cold conditions tighten their grip on the Valley, with most stations recording sub-zero temperatures last night.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, minimum temperatures remained above normal at many places in the Kashmir Division.

The hill resort of Pahalgam was the coldest among the main weather stations at -2.8°C.

Srinagar recorded a low of -2.0°C, 1.6 degrees below normal for this time of year, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, shivered at -2.4°C, 1.7 degrees below normal.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded -1.5°C and Kokernag -0.3°C

n contrast, the ski resort of Gulmarg stayed above freezing at 1.0°C, 3.8 degrees above normal, while Sonamarg recorded 0.8°C and Kulgam 0.5°C.

The weather is likely to remain dry till December 3.

Kashmir

This is Srinagar's fourth consecutive coldest night of the season.

The minimum temperature last night saw a slight drop from Wednesday night, when it had settled at minus 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir with a minimum temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, even though it marked a slight improvement from the previous night's minus 3.2 degrees Celsius.

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

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of 1 degree Celsius, they said.

The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather in the Valley till the end of this month, with a possibility of night temperatures dropping further. A change in weather conditions is likely from December 4 onwards under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance, which may bring light rainfall to the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather system is expected to persist till December 7, with temperatures likely to witness a further decline. Daytime temperatures in Kashmir are likely to settle around 6 to 8 degrees Celsius, while night temperatures may hover between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius.

Modi

a source told PTI.

The meeting, which will have several sessions on various topics, will conclude on Saturday, the sources said.

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

On August 17, the BJP overhauled its national team under party president 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 Modi in May 2014.

The BJP also retained B L Santhosh as national general secretary (organisation).

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

Peerzada

was brought to his native village in Anantnag district early in the morning and laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Damhal.

Hundreds turned up for the politician's wake.

Sayeed, a four-time MLA, was a minister in PDP-Congress and NC-Congress coalition governments from 2002 to 2014.

He won his first assembly election in 1987 from Kokernag Constituency and retained the seat in the 2002 and 2008 elections, but lost it in 2014.

Sayeed contested from the Anantnag segment in the 2024 assembly polls after Kokernag was reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates in the 2023 delimitation. He won the seat.

Tributes poured in from politicians across party lines for Sayeed.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Sayeed's loyalty to the Congress party and his contribution to public service will always be remembered.

"The news of the passing of Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, former president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee, former minister and popular legislator from Anantnag, is deeply saddening," the Congress leader said on X.

"I express my deepest condolences to his family, friends and supporters at this time of grief. His loyalty to the party and his contribution to public service will always be remembered," he added.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Sayeed's "unwavering commitment" to the Congress and dedicated service to the people shall always be remembered.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of former J&K Congress President, former Minister and Anantnag MLA, Shri Peerzada Mohammad Syed... My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and supporters," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed "deep grief" over the death of the Congress leader and offered his condolences to the bereaved family through his office.

Abdullah recalled Sayeed's long and distinguished career in public service and his invaluable contributions to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, according to a statement posted on X.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti remembered Sayeed as a "thorough gentleman."

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed Sahib. Besides being an astute public figure, he was a thorough gentleman, known for his humility, warmth and deep compassion for his people. His passing is a great loss.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat and give his family strength to bear this irreparable loss," she wrote on X.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad described Sayeed as an exceptionally hardworking and dedicated individual who displayed commitment to public service from the very beginning of his political career.

"I share a long association with him dating back to my Youth Congress days. His commitment, sincerity and passion for public service remained evident throughout his political journey," Azad, a former Congress leader, said.

He credited Sayeed with shouldering important organisational responsibilities with great dedication.

CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam M Y Tarigami expressed shock and grief over Sayeed's death and said the Congress leader was a seasoned politician, an able legislator and a colleague with whom he had shared a long association spanning several decades.

"We worked together in the Legislative Assembly and across different public responsibilities, during which I had the opportunity to closely observe his commitment to public life and his concern for people's issues," Tarigami said.

CM Omar

series of educational and healthcare projects to the public, besides laying foundation stones for new infrastructure, with a total project investment of 9.69 crore.

At Government Degree College (GDC), Bani, he laid the foundation stone of a 50-bedded Girls' Hostel to be constructed at an estimated cost of 3.40 crore and inaugurated the Laboratory Block, completed at a cost of 2.60 crore. The laboratory facility will strengthen science education at the college, with facilities for Chemistry, Botany and Physics, enabling local students to pursue science studies without having to travel to Kathua.

At Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Bani, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of residential quarters for doctors, costing 1.62 crore, and inaugurated the OPD Complex constructed at a cost of 1.80 crore. He also inaugurated a Dialysis Unit established at a cost of 27 lakh to facilitate patients requiring regular dialysis, particularly those from far-flung areas.

Addressing the gathering, Omar Abdullah appreciated the people of Bani-Lohai-Malhar for electing Dr Rameshwar Singh as their representative, observing that they had made the right choice for the area. He credited the MLA with consistently raising local development issues and conceptualising initiatives to promote Bani as a tourism destination.

Mir Saifullah Inaugurates Department Premier League Season 12 Winter Edition at Bakshi Stadium

Kashmir Age News

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: Minister for Planning, Monitoring & Development, Youth Services & Sports, Culture and ARI & Trainings, today inaugurated the Department Premier League Season 12 Winter Edition at the iconic Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar



The tournament, organised by the Kashmir News Service (KNS), witnessed the participation of representatives and sports enthusiasts, marking another important initiative towards promoting sporting activities and encouraging a culture of fitness, teamwork and healthy competition among employees of various government departments.

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Tanazul Mukhtiyar was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister appreciated the Kashmir News Service for taking the initiative to organise the Department Premier League and providing a meaningful platform for employees from different government departments to demonstrate their sporting abilities. He said that such initiatives go beyond competitive sports, as they help bring people together, strengthen institutional bonds and promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

The Minister observed that sports are an essential component of a progressive society and play a vital role in shaping discipline, leadership, perseverance and team spirit. He emphasised that participation in sporting activities should not remain confined to professional athletes and young players alone, but should become an integral part of everyday life, including within government institutions and workplaces.

He said that the Department Premier League reflects the growing enthusiasm for sports among government employees and provides an opportunity for individuals to balance their professional responsibilities with physical fitness and recreational activities.

Highlighting the importance of developing a comprehensive sporting ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister said the Government is committed to strengthening sports infrastructure, expanding access to sporting facilities and creating opportunities for people across different age groups and sections of society.

He emphasised that the Youth Services & Sports Department, in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and other stakeholders, would continue to encourage sporting initiatives at the grassroots level while providing adequate opportunities for emerging talent to flourish.

The Minister further observed that sporting events organised during the winter season carry particular significance, as they help sustain sporting enthusiasm and encourage people to remain physically active even during colder months.

He also appreciated the organisers, participating teams and all those associated with the successful conduct of the tournament, urging the players to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, discipline and mutual respect.

The Minister said that winning and losing are integral aspects of sports, but the real achievement lies in participation, dedication and the ability to work collectively towards a common goal.

He encouraged all participating teams to utilise the tournament as an opportunity to strengthen interdepartmental relationships and promote a spirit of healthy competition.

The presence of the Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, as Guest of Honour further reflected the importance of institutional support and collaboration in promoting sporting activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

FIDE World Chess : Tense 3rd game between Gukesh, Sindarov ends in 60 move draw

United News Of India

CHENNAI, NOV 27 :The third game between India's D.Gukesh and his Challenger Javokhir



Sindarov of Uzbekistan in the Salesforce FIDE World Championship match ended in a draw after a tense 60 move battle at Geneva late on Thursday (IST).

The match is tied at 1.5-1.5 after three rounds, heading into the first rest day on Friday (today).

With black pieces, Gukesh sprang the first surprise of the day, deviating from the course of the first game with the slightly unusual 5...Be7, known as the Rio de Janeiro Variation of the Berlin Defence in the Ruy Lopez. This move was frequently played towards the end of the 19th century and was later ventured from time to time in top-level encounters. One may notably recall the second game of the 1981 World Championship match, when Korchnoi tried to catch Karpov off guard with it, albeit without success.

Sindarov needed some time to recover from this surprise and try to recall his preparation. Presumably, he had not looked at this particular line during his morning preparation and therefore had to rely on work he might have done several months earlier.

In any case, the Uzbek challenger followed a promising line, including the interesting 12.Nc3, which had only been played in three earlier games. Gukesh continued to follow his preparation until 16.b3, after which he took a long time before deciding to exchange queens.

The sequence that followed might have given the impression that Black had seized the initiative, but 22.Nc5 led to an endgame with opposite-coloured bishops. The drawish nature of this type of endgame is well known, but with all rooks still on the board, both players felt there was plenty left to fight for.

According to the players, a critical moment arose after Gukesh moved his bishop from f5 to c4, a manoeuvre he was not happy with in hindsight. This allowed Sindarov to launch a kingside pawn break with the attractive 29.f4.

Ponnam Prabhakar calls for identifying and nurturing sports talent in BC Gurukul Schools

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, NOV 27 :Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday said the state government was committed to identifying and nurturing sporting talent among students of BC residential



schools and encouraging them to achieve success at state, national and international levels.

He was speaking after inaugurating the state-level sports competitions at the Turkapally campus of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential Schools and Junior Colleges (Nampally and Jubilee Hills). He lit the Olympic torch and handed it over to national-level athletes before inaugurating the volleyball tournament. He also played volleyball along with MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy to encourage the students.

The Minister announced that Khelo India sports festivals would be organised in every village across Telangana from December 11. He said the government aimed to develop Telangana into a major sports hub and was establishing a Young India Sports University in line with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's vision.Stressing that sports were as important as academics, he urged students to participate in athletics, kabaddi and volleyball with a competitive spirit. He said talented sportspersons could also secure opportunities in high-ranking government jobs, including DSP-level positions.

Blundell's unbeaten 50, Phillips' support lift New Zealand to 246/5 against India on opening day

United News Of India

CHRISTCHURCH, NOV 27 :Tom Blundell struck an unbeaten half-century and Glenn Phillips provided valuable support as New Zealand recovered from a middle-order collapse to reach 246 for five at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against India at Hagley Oval here on Friday.

Blundell was unbeaten on 53 off 117 deliveries, including six boundaries,

while Phillips remained not out on 36 off 64 balls as the pair added an unbroken 62-run partnership for the sixth wicket to revive the New Zealand innings.

The hosts had resumed after tea at 131 for four and lost Daryl Mitchell for 31, but Blundell and Phillips ensured there were no further setbacks before stumps.



Mitchell, who faced 74 deliveries and struck four boundaries, was dismissed by Washington Sundar, with Dhruv Jurel taking a spectacular catch at leg slip. Jurel moved sharply to his left and held on with soft hands to complete an excellent catch, ending Mitchell's resistance.

Mitchell's dismissal came against the run of play after he and Blundell had helped New Zealand rebuild following the loss of four wickets for 110 runs.

Blundell and Mitchell had taken the score past 150 in 59.4 overs and put together a useful 74 runs partnership. Blundell played some attractive strokes against both pace and spin, finding the boundary off Jasprit Bumrah, Washington Sundar and Akash Deep.Mitchell also benefited from some luck, surviving a couple of edges that flew through the slip cordon. Akash Deep was particularly unfortunate when a thick edge from Mitchell raced between second slip and gully.

After Mitchell's dismissal, Phillips joined Blundell and the duo added 62 runs to take New Zealand past the 200-run mark. Their partnership reached the 50-run milestone in 85 balls, with Phillips contributing 36 and Blundell 14 during that phase, apart from extras.

New Zealand crossed 200 in 69.5 overs, with 20 extras contributing to the total. Blundell completed his half

-century off 114 balls, including six fours, as the hosts negotiated the final overs confidently.

India took the second new ball at 80.3 overs but failed to break the partnership before the close of play.

Earlier, India made a promising start after winning the toss and opting to bowl. New Zealand were 77 for one at lunch, with captain Tom Latham and Devon Conway putting together a 77-run opening stand.

Conway scored 31 off 79 balls before Gurnoor Brar trapped him leg-before-wicket on the final delivery before lunch. The dismissal gave Gurnoor his maiden Test wicket.

Latham went on to score 59 off 128 deliveries, including six boundaries, and completed his 32nd Test half-century. He was eventually dismissed by Akash Deep, edging a good-length delivery to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Tilak Varma says bowling failure cost team dearly in semifinal defeat

United News Of India

DOHA, NOV 27 :India A captain Tilak Varma admitted that his side failed to execute its bowling plans after Sri Lanka A chased down a challenging target of 319 runs to register an emphatic eight-wicket victory in the first semifinal and knock India A out of the tournament.

India A had posted 318 runs after a strong start, scoring 95 in the first 10 overs, but Sri Lanka A responded with a commanding 174-run opening partnership to take control of the chase.

Tilak said India A had expected a total of around 320-330 to be competitive, particularly as the pitch became slower as the innings progressed.

"Initially, the first 20 overs, the ball was coming nicely on to the bat. But after that, the wicket became slightly slower, with a few deliveries gripping and staying low. We lost three wickets in quick succession, but Tanuj (Tanush Kotian) and Shahbaz brought us back into the game. So, 318 was a good total on the board," he said.

Explaining the strategy while defending the target, Tilak said the first 15 overs were identified as crucial, with the bowling unit asked to restrict Sri Lanka A to around six runs an over.

"We thought if we could restrict them to six runs an over in the first 15 overs, it would put us in a good position, as the wicket was expected to get slower later. That was our plan, but unfortunately, we couldn't execute it," he said.



Acknowledging Sri Lanka A's dominant opening stand, Tilak credited the opposition batsmen for their performance, while admitting that none of his bowling options could provide the breakthrough needed.

"Credit goes to both their openers. They played really well. I kept trying different bowlers, but it was one of those days when nothing worked for us. Credit to the Sri Lankan batsmen," he said.

Despite the semifinal exit, the India A captain said the tournament had provided valuable

Abhishek, Tilak, Shahbaz power India A to 317/8 against Sri Lanka A

United News Of India

DOHA, NOV 27 :India A posted a challenging 317 for eight in 50 overs against Sri Lanka A in the first semifinal of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium here on Thursday, riding on half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma, captain Tilak Varma and Shahbaz Ahmed, while Sri Lanka A's sloppy fielding and missed opportunities helped the Indian side build a formidable total.

Abhishek top-scored with 78 off 63 balls, including 11 fours and a six, while Tilak contributed 53 off 66 deliveries. Shahbaz provided the late fireworks with an unbeaten 54 off 48 balls, including four sixes, to lift India A past the 300-run mark.



India A, who won the toss and elected to bat, got off to an explosive start as Abhishek and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi added 80 runs for the opening wicket in just 48 balls.

Sooryavanshi smashed 40 off 27 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and three sixes, before Janith Liyanage dismissed him in the eighth over, with Lasith Croospulle taking the catch.

Abhishek continued the attack, reaching his half-century in the 14th over, while Tilak provided support as the pair added 79 runs for the second wicket.

Abhishek was given an early reprieve when Sri Lankan captain Pavan Rathnayake dropped a straightforward catch at cover off Garuka Sanketh in the 20th over. The missed opportunity proved costly as Abhishek went on to make 78 before being caught by Liyanage off Lahiru Samarakoon in the 22nd over.

MY Bharat Baramulla announces 100th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle

Kashmir Age News

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 27: District Youth Officer Srijan Singh Patel, MY Bharat Baramulla, today addressed a press conference to announce the organisation of the 100th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026.

In Baramulla district, the cycling event will commence at 11:00 AM from Jeel Bridge, Singhpora Pattan, and culminate at Motipora, Pattan.

During the press conference, Srijan Singh Patel highlighted the significance of the initiative in promoting fitness, a healthy lifestyle and greater participation of citizens, particularly youth, in sporting activities.

100th edition celebrates India's growing sporting culture and its aspirations towards the Olympic dream, reinforcing the message of making fitness an integral part of everyday life.

The event will also be integrated with Week-11 activities under the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat (NMYVB) Campaign, conveying a strong message of a healthy, active and drug-free society.



The initiative, organised under the Fit India Movement, aims to encourage people from all walks of life to adopt cycling and other physical activities as part of their daily routine.

The District Youth Officer appealed to youth, sports enthusiasts and the general public to participate enthusiastically and make the 100th edition a grand success.

SSP Kulgam chairs security review meeting



Kashmir Press Service

KULGAM: SSP Kulgam, chaired a security review meeting at District Police Office (DPO) Kulgam to assess the prevailing security situation and review the overall security arrangements across the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the current security scenario, operational preparedness, intelligence sharing, area domination, surveillance and measures to strengthen the security grid and emphasized the need for maintaining heightened vigilance, enhancing inter-agency coordination and ensuring proactive measures to effectively address emerging security challenges.

He directed officers to remain alert and ensure robust security arrangements for maintaining peace, public order and safety across District Kulgam.

Monarch Secondary School Handwara earns recognition at 'IMAGINE 2026'

Kashmir Press Service



HANDWARA: In a moment of immense pride and distinction, Monarch Secondary School Handwara has been honoured with the prestigious Founding Edition Honour at IMAGINE 2026 – Art-Kashmir, an initiative by Asian Paints celebrating artistic excellence, creativity and the imaginative potential of young minds across Jammu and Kashmir.

The honour recognises the school's valuable participation in the inaugural edition of IMAGINE 2026 and acknowledges its contribution towards promoting artistic expression and nurturing creative talent among students.

Further adding to the institution's achievement, Hoorian Jan, a student of Monarch Secondary School Handwara, received a Certificate of Appreciation and a medal in recognition of her outstanding artistic achievement and participation in the event.

This recognition marks an important milestone for the institution and reflects its commitment to providing students with meaningful platforms to showcase their abilities, explore their creative potential and achieve excellence beyond conventional academics.

The School Management expressed its heartfelt congratulations to Hoorian Jan, her parents and the faculty members for their contribution to this achievement. The management stated that such accomplishments reinforce the school's vision of fostering holistic education by giving equal importance to academics, creativity, innovation and co-curricular development.

The achievement stands as a testament to the institution's continued pursuit of excellence and its commitment to creating opportunities that inspire students to discover, develop and demonstrate their potential.

SDM Karnah interacts with media representatives



Kashmir Press Service
Peerzada Sayeed

KARNAH NOVEMBER 27: Sub Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Firdous Ahmed Qadri (JKAS) today presided over an introductory-cum-interactive session with members of the Sub division media fraternity. Organised by the Tehsil Information Centre Karnah, the meet aimed to strengthen coordination between the administration and the press for community-centric governance.

During the meeting, media representatives extended their best wishes to the SDM and expressed their commitment to maintaining a constructive and cordial relationship with the Sub-Divisional Administration for the larger public interest.

Interacting with the media fraternity, the SDM appreciated the vital role of the media in highlighting public grievances, disseminating government initiatives and acting as an important bridge between the administration and the general public.

The SDM urged the media fraternity to act as integral partners in the development of the Sub division. Assuring them of an open-door policy, the SDM encouraged journalists to bring forward public issues not merely as administrative matters, but as collaborative partners working in unison to steer society forward.

He emphasised the importance of responsible journalism, factual reporting and mutual coordination for ensuring transparency, accountability and effective governance. He also assured the media representatives of his full cooperation and stressed that genuine public issues would receive due attention.

The media fraternity welcomed the SDM's positive approach and expressed hope for strengthened coordination and close cooperation between the media and the administration in the days ahead.

The session concluded with an exchange of ideas on streamlining communication channels and ensuring prompt redressal of public issues highlighted through the press and overall development of Sub division karnah.

Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) offers complete framework for humanity's welfare: Allama Hami

Kashmir Press Service

SRINAGAR: Chairman Karwani Islami International, Allama Dr Ghulam Rasool Hami, has emphasised that the blessed life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) provide a



comprehensive framework for humanity's moral reformation, social welfare and collective progress.

Addressing thousands of worshippers during his Friday sermon at Central Jamia Masjid, Kausa Khalsa, Allama Hami said that practical adherence to the Seerah and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (SAW) is essential for overcoming contemporary social and ethical challenges and ensuring success in this world and the Hereafter.

He stressed that the Holy Qur'an and Islamic history unequivocally establish adherence to the Prophetic tradition as the foundation of individual success and sustainable social development. He urged the Muslim community to develop a deeper understanding of the Seerah and incorporate its teachings into everyday life.

Highlighting the fundamental values of the Prophetic tradition, Allama Hami said that human dignity, compassion, mutual respect, solidarity, religious tolerance and concern for the underprivileged are essential principles for building a harmonious and morally upright society.

He observed that the solutions to numerous challenges confronting contemporary society lie in the teachings and exemplary character of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He called for collective efforts to translate these timeless principles into practical action, emphasising that social transformation requires the active participation of every individual.

Speaking about the contributions of righteous predecessors and Awliya-e-Kiram (revered Muslim saints), Allama Hami said that scholars and spiritually accomplished personalities have played an invaluable role in preserving and transmitting authentic Islamic teachings and the principles of Shariah across generations.

He added that the Awliya-e-Kiram and pious predecessors have made remarkable contributions towards safeguarding human dignity, upholding fundamental rights and strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of society.

Emphasising the importance of connecting younger generations with this spiritual heritage, Allama Hami said that the lives and teachings of the revered saints offer enduring guidance for establishing a civilised, cohesive and ethically responsible society.

MP Ramzan, Tarigami mourn Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed's demise

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: Member Parliament Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan and CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, have expressed deep shock and grief over the untimely demise of veteran Congress leader and legislator Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, who passed away on Thursday night in Jammu.

In his condolence message Ramzan said, "Saddened beyond words by the passing of my esteemed colleague, Peerzada Mohammad Syed Sahib, His demise is an immense loss, not only to the political fraternity but to all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a noble and humble soul, a gentleman of rare grace, dignity and simplicity.

His service to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and his contribution to public life will always be remembered. For me, this is a deeply personal loss, one that words cannot express."

My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this incredibly difficult time. May Allah(SWT) grant them strength and sabr to bear this irreparable loss and may He bless the departed soul with the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous," he added.

CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami described Sayeed's demise as a great loss to Jammu and Kashmir, Tarigami said that he was a seasoned politician, an able legislator and a colleague with whom he shared a long association spanning several decades.

He recalled that they had worked together in the Legislative Assembly and across different public responsibilities, providing him an opportunity to closely observe Sayeed's commitment to public life and his concern for people's issues.

Tarigami said that Peerzada Sayeed remained accessible to ordinary people and consistently raised their day-to-day concerns, irrespective of the position or responsibility he held. He firmly believed in dialogue, democratic values and the constitutional rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting his contribution to public life, Tarigami said that Sayeed's political conduct reflected a deep understanding of public concerns and the importance of democratic institutions in addressing people's issues.

"At a time when our democratic institutions need experienced and committed voices the most, his absence will be deeply felt. His passing is not merely a loss to the Congress party but also to the people of Anantnag and Kokernag, who looked up to him as a representative and a voice for their concerns and aspirations," he said.

Tarigami extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, party colleagues and the people of his constituency, expressing solidarity with them in this hour of profound grief..

3-day training on advanced Trout and Carp culture concludes at SKUAST-K



Kashmir Press Service

RANGIL: Directorate of Extension, Skuast-K successfully concluded a three-day training programme on "Advances in Trout and Carp Culture: Biosecurity, Fish Health and Sustainable Production Technologies" at the Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, with the objective of strengthening the technical capacities of Fisheries Department officials in scientific fish farming, biosecurity, disease prevention and sustainable aquaculture practices.

The valedictory session was graced by Prof. Gohar Bilal Wani, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST-K, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the participants, he highlighted the importance of scientific interventions, effective fish health management and stringent biosecurity measures in promoting sustainable and economically viable aquaculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

The three-day programme witnessed the participation of 26 Fisheries Department officials and featured 10 expert lectures covering advanced trout and carp farming practices, disease prevention, fish health management, biosecurity and sustainable aquaculture technologies. Participants also benefited from technical interactions and knowledge-sharing sessions with subject experts.

Dr. Raja Aadil Hussain Bhat, Deputy Director (I&P), Directorate of Extension and Coordinator of the programme, highlighted the key outcomes of the training and emphasized the importance of translating scientific knowledge into improved field-level practices.

The programme concluded with an interactive valedictory session and distribution of certificates to the participants.

Khet Bachav Abhiyan

KVK Kupwara organises practical training programme on high-density orchards



Kashmir Press Service

KUPWARA: In continuation of its commitment to promote scientific horticultural practices and enhance farmers' income under the ongoing Khet Bachav Abhiyan, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara today organised a comprehensive practical training programme on the scientific training and pruning of high-density orchards at its campus.

The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around three dozen progressive orchardists and farmers from different areas of the district.

The main objective of the programme was to familiarise farmers with modern scientific techniques of canopy management, training and pruning of high-density fruit plantations, which play a crucial role in improving orchard productivity, fruit quality, sunlight penetration, aeration and the overall economic returns from horticultural ventures.

DPS Srinagar wins national filmmaking title for short film 'AALAV'

Kashmir Press Service



SRINAGAR: Delhi Public School, Srinagar, won the national title at the Filmmaking Competition 2026 organised by The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF) JA India for its psychological short film AALAV (The Call). The competition drew entries from 175 schools across India, with 20 films making it through to the final shortlist. Distinguished by its unconventional premise and imaginative visual treatment, AALAV secured the top honour.

The film was written and directed by Hadi Imtiyaz, with Manaal Hussain responsible for cinematography and Zaigham Wajahat for editing. The three student filmmakers developed the project under the guidance of Mr Sajid Reshi, a faculty member of DPS Srinagar, who mentored the team throughout the filmmaking process.

At the heart of AALAV (The Call) lies a disquieting proposition: what if the thoughts we instinctively keep to ourselves could suddenly be heard by others? The film examines the fragile boundary between the private world of the mind and the social world we inhabit. In a distinctive cinematic departure, the young filmmakers give human thoughts a physical presence on screen, allowing the audience to witness the tension between an individual and the often contradictory workings of the mind.

As the narrative unfolds, relationships begin to fracture under the weight of unspoken thoughts suddenly laid bare. Momentary resentment can coexist with genuine affection, just as an impulse born of concern may appear cruel when stripped of its context.

The film challenges the tendency to judge individuals by their involuntary thoughts rather than their deliberate choices and actions. In doing so, it presents mental privacy not as an act of concealment but as a fundamental condition of individuality, dignity and human coexistence.

Congratulating the students and their mentor, the Principal of DPS Srinagar, Ms Shafaq Afshan, remarked, "Beyond the distinction of winning a national competition, what deserves particular appreciation is the intellectual maturity with which our students have approached the subject.

To recognise the complexities of human behaviour at such a young age and give them a meaningful cinematic expression is a commendable accomplishment."

The Chairman of DPS Srinagar, Mr Vijay Dhar, expressed his appreciation for the team, stating, "The purpose of education extends well beyond the acquisition of knowledge. It must encourage young people to think independently, question prevailing assumptions and discover their own means of expression.

This achievement is a fine example of what students can accomplish when given the freedom to explore their ideas and the encouragement to pursue them."

The national recognition marks another significant milestone in the school's pursuit of excellence beyond conventional academics.

Through AALAV, the young filmmakers have demonstrated that cinema can serve not merely as a medium of artistic expression but also as a means of examining some of the most intricate aspects of human experience.