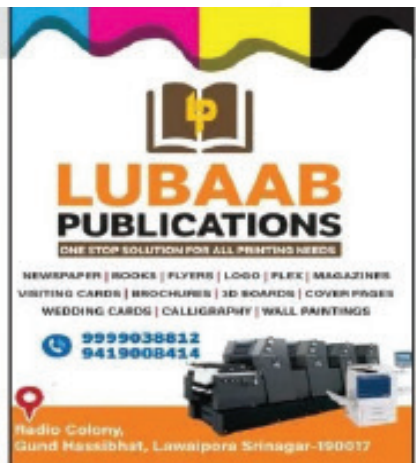


Srinagar
Sunday
November 01 | 2026
20 Jamad ul Awal 1448 AH
Issue No: 259
Volume: 16
Pages: 08
Price :Rs: 2/-



Abrogation of Article 370 integrated Kashmir with India: Amit Shah

Sets Dec 31, 2029 deadline for drug-free India; says ‘Nasha-Mukt Bharat’ key to ‘Viksit Bharat’

HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEWDEHLI, OCT 31 (UNI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370 had integrated Kashmir with the rest of the country, describing it as one of the major achievements of the Narendra Modi government. Addressing a gathering ahead of flagging off the ‘Run for Unity’ in New Delhi on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said several significant decisions had been taken during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tenure, including the abrogation of Article 370, elimination of Naxalism and implementation of the One Nation, One Tax system.



“When we succeed in building a drug-free India, it will be the most significant achievement among all these initiatives for the country’s youth and its future,” he

said. Shah set December 31, 2029, as the target for making India completely drug-free, saying the vision of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ begins with the creation of a ‘Nasha-Mukt Bharat’. He said India’s linguistic, cultural, traditional and religious diversity is its strength and reflected the message of national unity associated with Sardar Patel. Referring to the government’s fight against Naxalism, Shah said India has moved beyond the shadow of Naxalism on March 31 this year and was now moving towards becoming a drug-free nation. He said collective efforts are needed to protect the country’s youth from drugs and build a stronger and more prosperous India.—(KNO) The Home Minister also said India had moved beyond

SEE ON P-2

We did not buy peace, we established it: LG Sinha

More than 780 terrorists killed since 2020; stone-pelting erased, local recruitment ended, says LG



HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Srinagar, Oct 31 (KNS): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir had undergone a historic security transformation since the abrogation of Article 370, asserting that peace had been established through a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism rather than through compromises. Addressing the J&K Union Territory Foundation Day function in Srinagar, Sinha said more than 780 terrorists had been eliminated since 2020, local recruitment into militant ranks had ended and stone-pelting had been eradicated. “We did not buy peace, we established peace. Zero-tolerance policy crippled terror networks and restored normal life across Jammu Kashmir,” the Lieutenant Governor said. He claimed that terrorism, separatism and stone-pelting had

given way to democracy, development and public participation following the removal of Article 370 in August 2019. “Article 370 abrogation gave ordinary citizens freedom from fear and access to rights denied for decades. Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a model of peace, development and good governance,” Sinha said. The Lieutenant Governor said the changes introduced in 2019 had strengthened national integration, expanded opportunities for citizens and reinforced democratic institutions. He said the establishment of grassroots democratic institutions and the conduct of Assembly elections had enhanced public participation and accountability. Referring to the security situation, Sinha said the administration continued to pursue strong action against narco-terrorism, including arrests, attachment of illegally acquired properties and demolition of structures allegedly financed through drug

SEE ON P-2

Higher Education Department felicitates Shamima Firdous on appointment as Education Minister

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Secretary in Higher Education Department, Shafqat Iqbal and Director Colleges, Professor Twinkle Suri, along with officers and officials of the Higher Education Department, today felicitated Shamim Firdous on her appointment as Minister for Education. On the occasion, the Secretary and Director Colleges extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed Minister. They expressed confidence that her leadership and vision would provide fresh momentum to the growth, development and transformation of the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Shafqat Iqbal reaffirmed the Department’s commitment to work in close coordination with the Minister and implementing key educational



initiatives aimed at strengthening the higher education ecosystem across the Union Territory. Professor Twinkle Suri highlighted the importance of promoting academic excellence, institutional development, research and innovation, skill-oriented education, digital transformation and, above all, student welfare. She also emphasised the

SEE ON P-2

Pahalgam Attack Probe Officer Among 490 Distinguished With Union Home Minister’s Medal

HT NEWS DESK / CNS

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: S(CNS): An IPS officer who steered the investigation into the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack has earned a coveted place among 490 police and security personnel selected for the Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation for 2026. The officer, associated with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), has been recognised for his exemplary investigative prowess and professional diligence in handling the high-profile



terror attack case. The prestigious accolade has been bestowed upon personnel from various States, Union Territories, Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations for distinguished investigative

SEE ON P-2

EOW Kashmir Files Chargesheet Against Two in Overseas Job Fraud Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against two individuals accused of allegedly collecting more than Rs 15 lakh from people on the promise of overseas employment that was never provided. The chargesheet in FIR No. 32/2026 under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC and Sections 10/24 of the Emigration Act was filed before the Court of PT&E, Srinagar, against Sajad Abdullah Sheikh of Hamdaniya Colony.

SEE ON P-2

Advisor to CM calls for greater public-private partnership to strengthen education ecosystem in J&K

Attends 13th School Choice National Conference in New Delhi

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 31: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today called for greater collaboration between the government and private educational institutions, rationalisation of resources and renewed focus on skill-based education to strengthen the education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at the 13th School Choice National Conference in New Delhi, Nasir Aslam Wani said healthcare and education remain the foremost priorities of the Government. He emphasised that education must not only impart knowledge but also equip youth with skills and enhance their employability.



Highlighting the extensive network of Government schools in even the remotest areas of J&K, the Advisor said investment in physical infrastructure alone was not sufficient. He called for greater focus on human resource development, rationalisation of

SEE ON P-2

Sakeena Itoo convenes public outreach camp at Nagnard, D.H. Pora; distributes solar lights

HT News Network

KULGAM, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today convened a public outreach camp at Nagnard, D.H. Pora, Kulgam, to take stock of public issues and assess the developmental needs of the area. The Minister, accompanied by officers of various departments, listened to issues of public importance raised by community members including demands related to



civic amenities and welfare. Interacting with the people, Sakeena Itoo underscored

SEE ON P-2

No rebellion in NC, some MLAs may be upset over cabinet reshuffle: Javed Dar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31, Srinagar, Oct 31 (KNS): Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Dar on Saturday dismissed reports of rebellion within the National Conference following a meeting of party legislators, but acknowledged that some MLAs might be unhappy over their exclusion from the recent cabinet reshuffle. Speaking to reporters, Dar said legislators from Kashmir, Jammu and the Pir Panjal region had gathered at a colleague’s residence for a meal and discussed party affairs, but the meeting should not be interpreted as a revolt against the leadership. “Some of our colleagues went to a fellow legislator’s residence for a meal. They ate together and discussed party matters. That does not mean they have become rebels,” Dar said. He said none of the legislators who attended the gathering had publicly announced any decision to



challenge the party leadership or break away from the National Conference. “When they have made no such statement, how can it be concluded that they are rebelling? There is unnecessary speculation about what happened at the meeting,” he said. Dar, however, admitted that the recent cabinet reshuffle could have left some legislators disappointed, particularly those who were dropped from the Council of Ministers or were expecting induction.

SEE ON P-2

J&K Tourism Bags Two Prestigious Awards at IITM Mumbai for Best Adventure, Best Experiential Tourism Destination

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 31: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism has added another feather to its cap by winning two prestigious honours at the India International Travel Mart (IITM) in Mumbai. The J&K was adjudged the Best Adventure Tourism Destination and Best Experiential Tourism Destination, recognising its growing popularity and immense potential as a premier destination for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism in the country. The awards were received by Waseem Raja, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir. The recognition reflects the increasing popularity of Jammu and Kashmir among domestic



travellers and its growing reputation as a destination offering diverse adventure activities, immersive travel experiences and breathtaking natural landscapes. IITM is a prominent tourism

promotion event organised across various states of the country, bringing together tourism departments, travel operators and other industry stakeholders on a common platform. J&K Tourism

participated in the event alongside several states, including Gujarat and Telangana, as well as private tourism stakeholders. The J&K Tourism pavilion attracted an overwhelming response from local tour operators, travel agents and tourism stakeholders from Maharashtra. Hundreds of visitors reportedly visited the pavilion during the two-day event, showing keen interest in the tourism potential and diverse travel experiences offered by Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K Tourism delegation comprised Waseem Raja, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, and Vivek Puri, Chief Executive Officer, Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority. During the two-day event, the delegation held detailed

SEE ON P-2

Srinagar Police organise Run for Unity events across district

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 31: Srinagar Police on Saturday organised ‘Run for Unity’ events at different locations across the district under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026 to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The events witnessed participation from students, police personnel and local residents, with an emphasis on promoting national unity, integrity and communal harmony. Police Station Ahmad Nagar organised a run in collaboration with Galaxy Public School, where students and police personnel participated in activities aimed at encouraging solidarity and strengthening the spirit of togetherness among young people. Similarly, Police Station Soura organised a race along the 90-Foot Road, covering the stretch from Ellahibagh to Awantabihawan Chowk. Students from various schools and local residents took part in the event.

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Continue from Front Page.....

HM

the shadow of Naxalism on March 31 this year and was now working towards eliminating drug abuse.

Highlighting the significance of national unity, Shah said India's linguistic, cultural, traditional and religious diversity was a source of strength and reflected the message associated with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Shah flagged off the 'Run for Unity' at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium as part of the National Unity Day celebrations.

October 31 is observed annually as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to mark Patel's contribution to India's national integration. The observance was instituted in 2014.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Valley of Flowers near the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on Friday during his two-day visit to the state. He also watched a theatrical presentation of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's 'Anand Math'.

Spread across 24 acres, the Valley of Flowers has been developed as a biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism attraction, with around 14 lakh plants belonging to 112 species, according to information shared about the project.

LG

trafficking.
"We have arrested thousands of drug smugglers and drug peddlers this year. Their illicit assets have been attached and drug-funded mansions were demolished," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also targeted what he described as "conflict entrepreneurs", accusing them of benefiting from separatism and terrorism.

"Conflict entrepreneurs who profited from separatism and terrorism stand exposed. People of Jammu Kashmir have embraced peace, progress and national integration," he said.

Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir's future depended on sustaining peace, ensuring equal opportunities and accelerating economic development.

"The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies not in the shadow of terror, but in the light of peace; not behind the walls of discrimination, but in equal opportunities; and not in stagnation, but in the momentum of progress," he said.

Paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, the Lieutenant Governor said the occasion represented a milestone in the region's journey towards integration, equality and inclusive development.

He said unity could be sustained only through justice, accountability and public trust, adding that institutions must demonstrate their commitment through action rather than promises.

"Public trust must be won not merely by promises, but by deeds. Justice and accountability are the strongest foundations of unity," he said.

Outlining priorities for the coming years, Sinha identified employment generation, youth empowerment, agriculture, healthcare, education, tourism, environmental sustainability, women's empowerment and transparent governance as key areas requiring sustained attention.

He stressed the need to equip young people with skills suited to the changing global economy and encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and participation in sports.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for modern agricultural practices, climate-resilient farming and value addition to improve rural livelihoods.

Referring to displaced communities, he said their safe and dignified return, along with the restoration of social trust, required collective commitment and cooperation.

Sharing his vision for 2047, Sinha said he wanted Jammu and Kashmir to emerge as a model of prosperity with a modern economy, world-class healthcare, quality education and a vibrant cultural heritage.

"Let us build a Jammu Kashmir where there is trust instead of fear, opportunity instead of scarcity, justice instead of injustice, and where every young person and every woman finds wings for their dreams," he said.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Unity Pledge and flagged off the Run for Unity to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. A documentary highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's developmental journey was also screened.

J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary to LG Govind Jaiswal, IGP Kashmir Sujit Singh, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg and senior officials from the civil administration and security forces attended the function, along with representatives of educational institutions, civil society members and youth.

SHAMIMA FIRDOUS

need to further the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, strengthen Government Degree Colleges, enhance the quality of teaching and learning, and expand meaningful educational and skill-development opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The officers and officials of the Higher Education Department conveyed their best wishes to the Minister. They expressed resolve to work collectively towards building a more vibrant, inclusive and progressive higher education system in the Union Territory.

MEDEL

accomplishments, professional excellence and exceptional service.

Instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2024, the annual award is announced on October 31 in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

ADVISOR CM

teacher deployment and addressing disparities in teacher-student ratios. He underscored the need to improve enrolment and retention, particularly in rural areas where dropout rates remain a concern.

Calling for collective efforts, he said government and private schools should complement rather than compete with each other. He advocated developing a mechanism for sharing infrastructure and resources between public and private institutions, including utilisation of surplus classrooms to ensure optimum use of existing facilities and improve enrolment.

Emphasising the significance of the National Education Policy

(NEP), the Advisor said skill-based and vocational education was essential, particularly for children from economically weaker sections, to enhance their employability and prepare them for the job market. He highlighted the government's Ease of Doing Business initiative and its trust-based approach towards simplifying procedures and encouraging private participation.

Referring to the opening up of opportunities for private universities in J&K, he invited investors and educational institutions to explore possibilities of establishing higher education institutions in the Union Territory. He expressed confidence that stronger public-private partnerships, improved resource utilisation and greater emphasis on employability would help build an inclusive, accessible and sustainable education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

SAKEENA ITOO

the importance of unity and collective efforts in ensuring holistic development of the area. She assured that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased manner.

She said road connectivity would be extended to far-flung areas and necessary steps would be taken to provide healthcare and education facilities through establishment of a dispensary, upgradation of the existing Middle School and improvement of mobile network connectivity.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to identify and address the highlighted issues on priority and ensure timely redressal of public grievances. She stressed that the benefits of government schemes and developmental initiatives must reach the deserving population.

On the occasion, the Minister distributed 106 solar lights among local residents.

The camp was attended by SDM Noorabad, CMO Kulgam, CAO Kulgam, CEO Kulgam, CHO Kulgam, Tehsildar D.H. Pora, XEN PWD (R&B) D.H. Pora, AD FCS&CA Kulgam and CDPO D.H. Pora.

JAVID DAR

“It is natural that some colleagues who were dropped may feel upset. They may feel they should have been included. Such things happen in politics,” he said.

The minister maintained that the decision to induct or remove ministers rested entirely with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had been authorised by the NC legislature party to exercise his discretion.

“The entire legislature party gave the Chief Minister the authority to decide whom to induct and whom to drop. He has exercised that authority,” Dar said.

He stressed that disappointment over ministerial appointments should not be confused with an intention to leave or split the party.

“Being upset is one thing, but leaving the party or breaking it is an entirely different matter. There is nothing to suggest that anyone is doing that,” he said.

Dar said every legislator had the right to approach NC President Farooq Abdullah or Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to raise grievances or discuss political and organisational matters.

“If they want to meet Farooq Sahib or Omar Sahib and place their concerns before them, it is their democratic right. There is no restriction on anyone,” he said.

Rejecting suggestions that the legislators had held a secret meeting, Dar said the party leadership was already aware of the gathering.

“We knew they were meeting. We had spoken to our colleagues earlier as well. There was nothing secret about it,” he said. The minister also recalled an incident before the cabinet expansion when some legislators had visited his residence for tea, prompting speculation about a closed-door political meeting.

“Some colleagues were sitting at my home having tea, while the media outside began reporting that a secret meeting was taking place. Nothing of that sort was happening,” he said.

Dar said discussions among legislators were a normal part of political life and that the recent gathering had been unnecessarily linked to reports of a possible split in the National Conference.

He expressed confidence that the party would remain united despite differences over cabinet appointments.

J&K TOURISM

interactions and meetings with prominent tour operators and tourism stakeholders from Maharashtra to explore avenues for strengthening tourism promotion, expanding travel partnerships and attracting more visitors to Jammu and Kashmir.

The double recognition at IITM Mumbai is expected to further enhance Jammu and Kashmir's visibility in the national tourism market and strengthen its position as a preferred destination for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism.

POLICE

Participants were felicitated with prizes and medals, while those securing the first three positions in the Soura race received medals in recognition of their performance. Refreshments were also distributed among participants.

Police said the events were aimed at strengthening police-public relations, encouraging youth participation in constructive activities and promoting the values of peace, brotherhood and national integration.

The initiative formed part of Srinagar Police's ongoing outreach activities under the Civic Action Programme 2026. (KNS)

EOW KASHMIR

Bemina, and Jahangir Ahmad Tanky of Sheshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, according to the EOW.

The case was registered following complaints alleging that the accused, proprietors of M/s Al-Aqsa Global Services Pvt. Ltd., located at Moomin-Abad, Lane-04, Batamalo, had promised complainants lucrative jobs with reputed foreign companies and collected advance payments exceeding Rs 15 lakh. The promised employment was allegedly not arranged, while cheques issued for refunds were dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

According to the investigation, the consultancy was registered as an excursion agent for tour and travel services and not as a recruiting agent for overseas employment. The EOW said it was operating without the requisite registration for overseas recruitment

and that payments had been deposited into the personal bank accounts of both accused.

The agency further stated that Jahangir Ahmad Tanky could not be traced despite sustained efforts and had been absconding since 2025. The investigation was concluded as proved, and the

chargesheet has been submitted for judicial determination.

The SSP EOW Kashmir has advised job seekers to verify the credentials of recruitment agencies and avoid paying advance fees to unauthorised agencies. [KNT]

Literary Conference held in Pulwama; DC announces major initiatives to promote Art, Culture and Literature

Cultural Centre, Mahjoor House, Literary Publication Support and Three-Day Cultural Festival ‘Waliv Samav’ announced

HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 31:

A vibrant Annual One-Day Literary Conference was organised today at Government Women's Degree College, Pulwama, by the District Cultural Society Pulwama in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, bringing together eminent poets, writers, academicians, journalists, intellectuals, literary personalities and cultural enthusiasts from across the district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, attended the conference as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by representatives of the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, members of the District Cultural Society Pulwama, poets, writers, journalists, college faculty and students and other prominent personalities associated with the literary and cultural landscape of the district.

The noted poet Ali Sheida, educationist Ghulam Hassan Talib, Academy representative Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, journalist Miraj-ud-Din Faraz and District Cultural Society President Shams Saleem, besides other distinguished literary and cultural personalities were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Krishan Sidha observed that while development brings prosperity and technology takes society to new heights, literature gives society a soul and culture gives it identity. He emphasised that culture is a living experience and cannot be preserved merely by organising occasional programmes; rather, it has to



remain embedded in everyday life, language, traditions, behaviour and social practices.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasised that development has both tangible and intangible dimensions, with culture constituting an important intangible component of society. He stressed the need to preserve the mother tongue, traditional values, etiquette and cultural practices, observing that societies which lose their connection with language and cultural identity risk losing an important part of their character and continuity.

Responding positively to the demands and requests placed before him, the Deputy Commissioner announced a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening the cultural and literary infrastructure of Pulwama. He announced that steps would be taken towards establishing a State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre/Cultural Hall in Pulwama, providing a dedicated platform for literary,

artistic and cultural activities.

He also assured the District Cultural Society and literary organisations that suitable government halls and other available facilities would be extended for literary and cultural programmes until dedicated infrastructure is established. He further assured that no advance payment would be charged for the use of government halls for literary programmes, thereby facilitating such activities without financial constraints.

The Deputy Commissioner also announced that work on the historic Mahjoor House in Pulwama would be taken up in recognition of the contribution of legendary Kashmiri poet Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor, popularly regarded as the "Wordsworth of Kashmir." He emphasised that preserving places associated with the region's literary heritage is important for connecting future generations with its rich cultural and literary legacy.

He further agreed to the request for organising a dedicated literary and cultural festival in Pulwama and announced that the district would host its own three-day literary and cultural festival, providing a dedicated platform for local poets, writers, artists and cultural performers. The proposed festival was suggested to be titled "Waliv Samav", subject to finalisation.

Highlighting the role of educational institutions in nurturing young literary talent, the Deputy Commissioner also responded positively to the request for strengthening cultural activities in colleges and suggested that cultural clubs and book clubs be established at Government Women's Degree College, Pulwama, at the earliest. He assured that the District Administration would extend the necessary facilitation and support for such initiatives.

He also announced that exposure tours would be facilitated for students to enable them to participate in literary and cultural events at the national level. He assured that all possible support would be extended to students and cultural groups representing Pulwama at wider platforms.

In another significant initiative to encourage local writers, the Deputy Commissioner announced support towards book publication and assured that genuine literary efforts requiring assistance for publication would be facilitated by the District Administration through appropriate arrangements. The Deputy Commissioner urged the District Cultural Society and the literary fraternity to use culture as a tool for inclusive growth, peace and development, emphasising that culture provides a strong

MLA Kokernag inaugurates Cooperative Mini Super Bazar at Uttersoo Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 31: The MLA Kokernag, Chaudhary Zafar Ali Khanata, today inaugurated the Cooperative Mini Super Bazar at Uttersoo, Anantnag.

The mini super bazar belongs to the Kuthar Bala Sale & Service Cooperative Society Ltd. and was established by the Cooperative Department at a construction cost of Rs 55 lakh through Capital expenditure.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Anantnag, Muzaffar Ahmad Beigh, along with the Assistant Registrars Cooperative Societies of District Anantnag, Board of Management and members of the society, local residents and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA congratulated the management and members of the Kuthar Bala Sale & Service Cooperative Society Ltd. on establishment of the new venture.

He said that the Mini Super Bazar will provide quality goods and daily-use items to the people of the area at fair and affordable prices, and will help strengthen the cooperative movement at the grassroots level. He also stressed the role of cooperatives in generating self-employment opportunities and promoting local economic growth.

The Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Anantnag, Muzaffar Ahmad Beigh, said that the Department is committed to supporting cooperative societies in diversifying their activities and expanding



services for the benefit of the community.

The Mini Super Bazar will provide convenient access to essential commodities for the residents of Uttersoo and adjoining areas, while also strengthening the financial position of the society. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Anantnag, Muzaffar Ahmad Beigh, along with the Assistant Registrars Cooperative Societies of District Anantnag, Board of Management and members of the society, local residents and other dignitaries.

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District Administration Budgam Celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with ‘Run for Unity’ Rally

DC leads massive Unity Run; administers Ekta Pledge, participants reaffirm commitment to national unity & integrity

HT News Network

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 31: The District Administration, Budgam, today celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour by organising a ‘Run for Unity’ rally to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose vision and leadership played a pivotal role in the unification of India.

The rally was led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, and witnessed enthusiastic participation by hundreds of people, including local residents, particularly youth, school children and people from various walks of life.

SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, and other senior officers from the civil and police administrations also participated in the rally, reflecting their collective commitment to promoting national unity, harmony and integrity.

The rally commenced from Karipora Bridge and culminated at Railway Station Budgam, with participants



enthusiastically joining the initiative to uphold the spirit of Ekta and contribute towards building a united,

peaceful and progressive nation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner administered the Ekta

Pledge, during which participants reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the overwhelming public participation, particularly the enthusiasm displayed by students and youth. He said that Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed every year on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose vision, leadership and invaluable contribution to the unification of the country continue to inspire generations.

The DC emphasised that the occasion serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to strengthen national unity, integrity and social harmony. He urged people, particularly the younger generation, to uphold the values of mutual respect, brotherhood and togetherness and contribute meaningfully towards nation-building.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the District Administration's commitment to promoting the ideals of unity and integrity through active public participation and collective efforts. SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK, Additional Deputy Commissioner

Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, and other senior officers from the civil and police administrations also participated in the rally, reflecting their collective commitment to promoting national unity, harmony and integrity.

The rally commenced from Karipora Bridge and culminated at Railway Station Budgam, with participants enthusiastically joining the initiative to uphold the spirit of Ekta and contribute towards building a united, peaceful and progressive nation.

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Shopian celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with mega 'Run for Unity' Rally

DC, SSP lead the event, witnesses overwhelming public participation

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 31: Shopian today celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with enthusiastic participation in the ‘Run for Unity’ rally organised at District Police Lines (DPL), Shopian, under the theme “One Nation, One Spirit, One Run”. The Run for Unity was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, who also joined the participants in the Run for Unity.

The run commenced from DPL Shopian, proceeded along the main route towards Batapora Bus Stand and culminated back at the starting point.

The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with a large number of people from different walks of life, including school children, youth, local residents, departmental officers, officials and security personnel, participating enthusiastically. Officers and officials from the civil administration and police also joined the event in large numbers.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the DC and SSP highlighted the significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. They emphasised the importance of national unity, integrity, mutual harmony and collective responsibility in strengthening the nation's social fabric. The event highlighted the spirit of national unity, integrity and solidarity, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to promote harmony, brotherhood and togetherness. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was also celebrated in Sub-Division Zainapora.

Thousands join ‘Run for Unity’ in Kupwara to celebrate National Unity Day

HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, celebrated across the nation as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), the District Administration Kupwara today organised an energetic and grand ‘Run for Unity’.

The marathon was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma alongside Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Sudhanshu Dhama from the Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Kupwara Playground. Senior officers of the District Civil Administration, Police, and CRPF were also present on the occasion.

The run witnessed overwhelming and enthusiastic participation from a wide cross-section of society, including hundreds of students, district officers and officials, members of civil society, trader associations, youth, and the general public. Carrying the message of national integration, harmony, and solidarity, the participants marched enthusiastically through the main routes of the town before culminating at District Police Lines (DPL) Kupwara.

DC Srinagar inaugurates Blood Donation Camp at DC Office Complex under District Red Cross Initiative

HT News Network

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also Chairman of the District Red Cross Society, on Saturday inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp at the premises of DC Office Complex, with the objective of encouraging voluntary blood donation and creating greater awareness about its importance in saving precious human lives.

The camp was organised by the District Red Cross Society, Srinagar, in collaboration with SMHS Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, aimed at promoting voluntary blood donation and strengthening humanitarian services in the District.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy



Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Accounts Officer, Mohammad Iqbal, Officials of DC Office and members of District Red Cross Society.

During the camp, around 60 participants, including Officials of the DC Office Srinagar, Red Cross volunteers and local

residents, voluntarily donated blood, reflecting a commendable spirit of social responsibility, compassion and community participation. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiasm and selfless spirit of the blood donors, stating that voluntary blood donation is one of the noblest forms of community service, as a single act of donation can help save precious human lives.

DC Bandipora reviews facilities at District Hospital, emphasises Hygienic Food Services

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited District Hospital Bandipora to assess ongoing infrastructure development aimed at improving the convenience of patients, attendants and hospital staff.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the establishment of a prefabricated cafeteria at District Hospital Bandipora, being developed at an allotted cost of 18.32 lakh. The cafeteria is envisaged to operate round the clock (24x7), with the objective of providing hygienic and quality food to doctors, patients, attendants and other hospital staff.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of ensuring proper ventilation in the cafeteria and directed the concerned authorities to maintain a proper diet chart for children and post-caesarean women to facilitate access to appropriate and nutritious food.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need to ensure cleanliness, hygiene and proper management of facilities at the hospital,



with a focus on providing a better experience for patients, attendants and healthcare professionals.

On the occasion, the DC directed the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, to install an LED display board in front of the hospital store to prominently display the availability of medicines and information regarding doctors, enabling patients and attendants to access relevant information conveniently.

SGM Andrabi Attends Prestigious IIPA Annual General Meeting in New Delhi

Former SSP's Participation in National-Level Gathering Presided Over by Vice President of India Brings Recognition to Kreeri

HT News Network

New Delhi Oct 31st: Syed Ghulam Mohiuddin Andrabi of Kreeri participated in the 72nd Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), held at its headquarters in New Delhi, marking a proud moment for the region. The prestigious national-level gathering was presided over by the Hon'ble Vice President of India and attended by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), PMO, along with other distinguished dignitaries. Andrabi's participation in the important institutional gathering has brought recognition and pride to Kreeri, reflecting the region's representation at an esteemed national platform. His presence at the event is being viewed as a significant achievement and a moment of honour for the local community.



Run for Unity' Rally in Anantnag witnesses massive public participation on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas DC, DIG & SSP lead the Run

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the ‘Iron Man of India’, and mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), the District Administration Anantnag today organised a grand ‘Run for Unity’ rally, witnessed massive public participation and patriotic fervour.

The programme commenced from Sports Stadium Anantnag and culminated at Government Degree College (GDC), Anantnag. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with DIG, SKR, Javid Iqbal Matoo and SSP Anantnag, Amod Ashok Nagpure led the Run for Unity, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers



and officials of the civil and police administrations, besides students, youth and general public.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag highlighted the significance of the occasion and the invaluable contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel towards strengthening the unity and integrity of the nation. He emphasised that national unity and integrity are the cornerstones of a strong, peaceful and progressive

nation. He further observed that India's strength lies in its unity in diversity and that every citizen has an important responsibility in safeguarding the sovereignty, integrity and democratic values of the nation. The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the importance of engaging youth in constructive activities. He called upon the younger generation to become ambassadors of peace, harmony and brotherhood and contribute towards.



HT EDITORIAL

Winter Is Knocking, But Kashmir Is Already in the Dark

Unscheduled power cuts, erratic voltage and delayed maintenance expose glaring gaps in pre-winter preparedness

Winter has not yet tightened its grip on Kashmir, but the electricity crisis has already begun to haunt consumers. The announcement of scheduled power shutdowns across several areas of Srinagar from October 25 to November 15 for tree lopping and preventive maintenance has once again exposed the challenges confronting the power sector ahead of the harsh winter months.

While maintenance work is essential for ensuring the safety and stability of the electricity network, its timing raises serious questions about the administration's preparedness. Unscheduled power cuts, frequent voltage fluctuations and prolonged interruptions are already troubling consumers, including those living in metered areas. With temperatures declining, households, students, traders and small businesses are increasingly finding themselves at the receiving end of an unreliable power supply.

The most troubling aspect is that these disruptions occur almost every year, yet the lessons of previous winters appear to have made little difference to the system. Tree lopping, repair work and preventive maintenance are predictable requirements that should be completed well before winter. Consumers should not have to endure repeated shutdowns because of activities that could have been planned and executed during the more favourable months.

The government must also explain the widening gap between its assurances and the actual experience of consumers. People are expected to pay their electricity bills, comply with metering requirements and follow departmental regulations. In return, they have every right to expect a reliable supply. Metering and improved revenue collection cannot be projected as major achievements if consumers continue to face frequent outages and fluctuating voltage.

Electricity in Kashmir is not a luxury but a basic necessity, particularly during the long and severe winter season. The administration must move beyond routine assurances and take concrete measures to strengthen the distribution network, complete maintenance within stipulated deadlines and minimise avoidable shutdowns. The Power Development Department must also establish effective mechanisms to address voltage fluctuations and ensure accountability for persistent supply disruptions.

October has already provided an uncomfortable preview of what may lie ahead. With the peak winter season still to come, the government cannot afford to remain reactive. It must act now, before falling temperatures turn an existing inconvenience into a major public hardship. Kashmir's people do not expect uninterrupted power as a favour; they demand dependable electricity for which they pay. Another winter of darkness, erratic supply and unfulfilled promises would only deepen public frustration and raise serious questions about the effectiveness of the government's winter preparedness.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:

Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),

Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:

Syed Jahangir Bukhari,

Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio

Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora

Srinagar -190017,

Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad

Cell No - 9697071471,

Editorial Section: 7006846797,

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RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231

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The Passion, Perseverance and Legacy of Vikrant Sharma



By Mohd. Yaseen

Every artist has a defining moment that changes the course of life. For Vikrant Sharma, that moment came not under the glare of national recognition but on a rehearsal floor in Jammu, where a simple dialogue became the beginning of an extraordinary journey. What started as an accidental encounter with theatre gradually transformed into a lifelong commitment to acting, culture and artistic excellence.

Today, Vikrant Sharma stands among the most respected theatre personalities of Jammu and Kashmir, yet his story is not merely about awards or applause. It is about dedication, discipline and the unwavering belief that talent flourishes only when nurtured through constant practice and perseverance. His journey reflects how a child who entered a theatre workshop almost by chance grew into a nationally recognised actor who carried the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir to audiences across India and abroad.

His life demonstrates that success in the performing arts is rarely an overnight achievement. It is built through years of rehearsals, countless performances, continuous learning and the courage to embrace criticism as a path towards growth.

One of the most defining moments of Vikrant Sharma's career arrived on 27 November 2017, when he received the National Bismillah Khan Yuva Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the field of Acting at the Shrimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium in Guwahati. The award was presented by the then Governor of Assam, Jagdish Mukhi, in the presence of Sangeet Natak Akademi Chairman Dr. Shekhar Sen.

The honour carried significance beyond personal achievement.

With this recognition, Vikrant became the first actor from Jammu and Kashmir to receive this prestigious national honour in the field of acting during the post-Independence period. The award acknowledged not only his individual excellence but also highlighted the rich theatrical tradition of the region, which has produced generations of dedicated artists despite limited resources and challenges.

For many aspiring performers from Jammu and Kashmir, the recognition became an inspiring reminder that dedication to one's craft can earn national appreciation without compromising one's cultural roots.

Born in Jammu in 1978 to G.C. Sharma and Satya Sharma, Vikrant's introduction to theatre happened in the most unexpected way. In 1990, he accompanied his sister to a Children's Theatre Workshop organised by Natrang, one of the country's leading theatre institutions. He had not gone there intending to become an actor. He was simply watching a rehearsal.

That ordinary day soon became extraordinary.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, the renowned theatre director and founder of Natrang, noticed the young boy and asked him to deliver a single dialogue: "Bachpan Ki Yeh Duniya Dekho, Kaisi Rang Rangeeli Re."

The confidence and expression with which Vikrant delivered the line impressed everyone present. Without knowing it, he had already taken his first step into the world of theatre.

Soon afterwards, he was cast in Mere Hise Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai, written and directed by Balwant Thakur. That first opportunity laid the foundation for a lifelong association with theatre and established a mentor-disciple relationship that would play a crucial role in shaping his artistic journey.

Some careers begin with careful planning.

His began with a single dialogue. Over the years, Vikrant Sharma evolved into one of Natrang's most

dependable performers. His ability to portray diverse characters with emotional depth and authenticity earned him recognition among audiences and theatre practitioners alike.

His performances in productions such as Ghumayee, Bhaag Beta Bhaag,

pillar of Vikrant Sharma's life, another important aspect of his personality deserves equal attention—his passion for sports.

Long before national recognition in theatre, he had already established himself as an accomplished basketball player.



Ek Tha Gadha Urf Alladad Khan, Bawa Jitto, Aap Hamare Hain Kaun, Kanjoos, Fandi, Comedy of Terrors, Mahabhoj, Holi, Bagia Banchha Ram Ki, Lekhak, Suno Eh Kahani and Charan Das Chor showcased his remarkable versatility.

Whether performing comedy, satire, folklore or socially relevant drama, Vikrant demonstrated the ability to adapt himself to completely different characters without losing authenticity. His performances reflected not only technical skill but also a deep understanding of human emotions and storytelling.

Among these productions, Ghumayee remains one of the most celebrated chapters of his career.

The Dogri play travelled beyond India to countries including Russia and Germany, where audiences responded with standing ovations. Such performances illustrated the universal language of theatre, proving that powerful storytelling can transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries.

For an artist rooted in regional theatre, performing before international audiences represented an important milestone.

It showed that local stories could find global appreciation.

During more than three decades in theatre, Vikrant has participated in over 70 plays and delivered more than 1,000 performances across India and abroad. These numbers represent far more than statistics. Each performance demanded preparation, discipline and emotional commitment.

His journey has taken him to numerous prestigious theatre festivals organised by institutions including the Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of Drama, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Nandikar, IPTA, Nehru Centre Mumbai, North Zone Cultural Centre and Bharat Bhavan.

Performing at such festivals requires more than acting ability. It demands professionalism, consistency and the capacity to represent one's institution and cultural heritage before diverse audiences.

Vikrant has consistently carried those responsibilities with dignity.

His commitment to learning did not stop after becoming an established performer.

Recognising the importance of continuous artistic growth, he received a two-year scholarship from the Department of Culture, Government of India, for training in narrative music in theatre. The training strengthened his understanding of how music, rhythm and storytelling can work together to create more impactful theatrical experiences.

This willingness to continue learning reflects an important quality that distinguishes accomplished artists.

They never stop being students. While theatre remains the defining

He represented Jammu and Kashmir in more than 20 National Basketball Championships, including Inter-University competitions. Competing at that level requires rigorous training, physical fitness, mental discipline and teamwork—qualities that also define successful theatre practitioners.

At first glance, theatre and basketball may appear to belong to different worlds.

Yet they share remarkable similarities.

Both demand discipline.

Both require trust in teammates.

Both reward preparation.

And both test an individual's ability to perform under pressure.

Vikrant's sporting journey helped cultivate resilience and commitment that later strengthened his artistic career.

The same determination that helped him compete on the basketball court became visible in his dedication to rehearsals and performances.

His artistic interests extended beyond theatre and sports.

In 2000, he reached the finals of Zee TV's Close Up Antakshari, revealing another dimension of his creative personality.

His participation demonstrated confidence, musical ability and stage presence—qualities that complemented his work as a performer.

Such experiences enriched his understanding of live performance and audience engagement.

Like many theatre artists, Vikrant also explored opportunities in cinema.

His journey took him to Mumbai, where he worked in films including Apharan and Utthaan and had the opportunity to work under filmmaker Prakash Jha.

The experience exposed him to a different style of performance, where the camera replaces the live audience

and subtle expressions often become more significant than theatrical projection.

Despite these opportunities, theatre remained the foundation of his artistic identity.

The stage had given him his first opportunity.

It continued to remain his true home.

Behind every successful artist stands a network of people who recognise and encourage potential.

For Vikrant, family played an important role in shaping his journey.

His brother Raj Kumar often criticised his performances. Instead of viewing those observations negatively, Vikrant treated them as constructive feedback that helped him improve.

His willingness to accept criticism became one of his greatest strengths. Raj Kumar has described him as someone who always listened, remained grounded and continued supporting

others even after achieving recognition. Their relationship reflects an important lesson for aspiring artists—that honest criticism, when accepted with humility, can become an instrument of growth.

His mother, Satya Sharma, has also spoken with pride about his journey, recalling him as the youngest and most lovable among her children.

Family encouragement provided emotional strength.

Personal determination transformed that encouragement into achievement.

No account of Vikrant Sharma's journey would be complete without acknowledging the influence of Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, who recognised his talent during childhood and provided him with opportunities to grow as an artist.

Balwant Thakur has described Vikrant as a multi-talented actor with immense possibilities, praising his devotion, professionalism and deep understanding of characters.

Such appreciation carries special significance because it comes from a mentor who witnessed Vikrant's evolution from his very first performance.

Their association also reflects the broader importance of institutions like Natrang, which have played a vital role in nurturing generations of performers from Jammu and Kashmir.

Beyond individual success stories, such institutions preserve cultural traditions, encourage creative expression and create spaces where young artists can discover their potential.

For me, Vikrant Sharma's journey represents something larger than personal achievement.

It reminds us that theatre is not merely entertainment.

It is a living expression of society, culture and identity.

Artists like Vikrant become cultural ambassadors who carry regional stories to wider audiences while remaining deeply connected to their roots.

His career demonstrates that excellence does not require abandoning one's heritage. Instead, it shows that local traditions, when presented with sincerity and artistic excellence, possess the power to earn respect on national and international platforms.

The National Bismillah Khan Yuva Sangeet Natak Akademi Award remains one of the defining milestones of his career.

But the award was never the final destination.

It became another milestone in a journey that continues through performances, festivals, workshops, training sessions and artistic exploration.

From a young boy who entered Natrang almost accidentally to a nationally recognised theatre actor, from representing Jammu and Kashmir on theatre stages across the world to representing the state in national basketball championships, Vikrant Sharma's life reflects the remarkable possibilities created by passion, discipline and perseverance.

His story offers an important message for every young artist.

Talent may open the first door.

Hard work keeps that door open.

People often remember the applause, the awards and the moments of recognition. Far fewer notice the endless rehearsals, the sacrifices, the uncertainty and the unwavering commitment that make those moments possible.

Vikrant Sharma's journey reminds us that true success is built quietly—one rehearsal, one performance, one lesson and one determined step at a time.

His story began with a single dialogue on a theatre floor in Jammu.

That dialogue became a performance.

The performance became a passion.

And that passion became a lifelong journey devoted to theatre, culture, sports and artistic excellence.

The stage may change, audiences may change and challenges may evolve, but for an artist whose life is guided by commitment, the journey of learning, performing and inspiring others never truly ends.

(The Writer is a National Scholarship and Fellowship Holder from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in the field of Theatre.)





15th JKAP IR Bn, Celebrates Ekta Diwas, Installs Wall of Unity at GG Jammu

■ **GULFAM BARJI**

Jammu/October: 31 15th JKAP IR Battalion organised an Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) celebration at its headquarters Gulshan Ground Jammu to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. On the occasion officers and officials of the Battalion collectively took the National Unity Pledge reaffirming their commitment to preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation. During the ceremony the participants pledged to promote national integration, patriotism, brotherhood and a sense of collective responsibility.



As part of the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, a Wall of Unity was also installed at the Battalion Headquarters. The initiative aims to spread the message of national integration, mutual respect, brotherhood and communal

harmony. SSP Dushyant Sharma CO 15th JKAP IR Bn, Deputy CO Zulfiqar Ahmad JKPS, DySP Sonali Kohli, DySP Anuradha Raina, DySP Almas Sharma and other officers and officials of the Battalion were present on the occasion. On the occasion

officers and officials who made significant contributions towards organising various activities and events under CAP 2026-27 were felicitated with certificates of appreciation and awards in recognition of their dedicated services. The efforts of all officers and personnel in making the programme successful were appreciated. Refreshments were also served to the participants. The occasion also paid tribute to the visionary leadership, remarkable contributions and historic role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. His determination, courage and political foresight played a significant role in strengthening the unity and integration of the country.

NIT Srinagar organises campus run to mark Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

■ **Farooq Rather**

Srinagar, Oct 31: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Saturday organised a campus run as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, aimed at promoting transparency, integrity and accountability in public life.

The run was flagged off by Kowsar Ali Mir, SAS Officer, at 10:00 AM from Fountain Park. Participants covered a designated route within the institute campus, with students, faculty members and staff participating enthusiastically.

The programme was organised under the directions and guidance of Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) and Dean Faculty Welfare, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad



Ahangar, as part of the Institute's initiatives to promote ethical conduct, probity and transparency in public institutions.

Organised by the Office of the Chief Vigilance Officer, the event sought to encourage collective participation in the fight against corruption and

reinforce the message that integrity and accountability are shared responsibilities.

Winners of the campus run were felicitated with medals and certificates in the presence of Kowsar Ali Mir, SAS Officer, and Mohammad Muzamil, Senior Office Assistant. The awards were presented in

recognition of the participants' performance and enthusiasm.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman and CVO Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahangar congratulated the winners and appreciated the participation of students, faculty members and staff.

They emphasised the importance of such activities in creating awareness about vigilance, ethical values and responsible conduct.

The initiative formed part of NIT Srinagar's broader observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, being marked across the country to strengthen public awareness about ethical practices and promote a culture of honesty, transparency and accountability.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 2568 0184 2007, belonging to Areeba Nisar, R/o Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, contains an incorrect name recorded as Dua Nisar. The correct name is Areeba Nisar, and the necessary correction is sought in the Aadhaar records.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid name correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority along with valid supporting documents for necessary verification. This notice is being published to invite objections, if any, from the general public regarding the proposed name correction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Number plate of my vehicle Bike (palsar n169) bearing Number JK05Q4401 now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody Having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...AABID ASHRAF SHAH
M/O...MOHAMMAD ASHRAF SHAH
R/O...KACHWA MUQAM
Dist...BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as JAFFAR AHMAD LONE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD MIR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No . 4208 0280 3625 while my correct name is JAFFAR MAJEED LONE S/L ALI MOHAMMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...JAFFAR MAJEED LONE
D/O...ALI MOHAMMAD MIR
R/O...DALIPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BASHIR AHMAD CHOPAN, hereby inform the general public that I seek correction of the name recorded in my minor child's Aadhaar Card. The details are as follows:
Aadhaar Number of Minor: 595065875992
Incorrect Name: IFAT JAN
Correct Name: IFAT BASHIR
That the name of my child was inadvertently entered incorrectly at the time of Aadhaar enrolment. Therefore, I request the concerned authority to kindly rectify the name in the Aadhaar records as per the correct details mentioned above.
I am enclosing the relevant supporting documents for verification and necessary action.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid proof and supporting documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name AB AHAD SHEIKH R/O...FRASTAHAR KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003631 wants to be registered on my name MOHD SHAREEF SHEIKH If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name.....MOHD SHAREEF SHEIKH
S/O...AB AHAD SHEIKH
R/O ... FRASTAHAR BLOCKWAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and Date of Birth has been wrongly written as SUMAIRA BANO & date of Birth is 04/03/2000 on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No . 7398 3356 6661 while my correct name is SUMAIYA AKHTER D/O ALI MOHAMMAD SHEIKH & correct DOB is 09/09/2004 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...SUMAIYA AKHTER
D/O ...ALI MOHAMMAD SHEIKH
R/O ...KREERI
BLOCK...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ovais Nisar Mir, S/o Nisar Ahmad Mir, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as Ovais Nisar in Driving Licence No. JK-1320150037015.
My correct name is Ovais Nisar Mir, as per my valid documents. Any person hving any objection may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

ICAR-CITH KVK Baramulla Concludes Five-Day Fodder Training, Distributes Seed Kits and Certificates Among Farmers

■ **DR. ABQAYOOM**

Baramulla, Oct, 31: ICAR-CITH Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Baramulla, in collaboration with the Regional Fodder Research Station, Alstaing, Shuhama, on Friday concluded a five-day training programme on "Quality Fodder Production" aimed at promoting scientific fodder cultivation and improving livestock productivity. The concluding programme featured the distribution of quality fodder seed kits and participation certificates among farmers who attended the training. The kits were distributed by the Chief Guest, Dr. M.K. Verma, Director, ICAR-CITH Srinagar. During the programme, experts highlighted the importance of

cultivating different fodder crops, adopting scientific farming practices and ensuring year-round availability of nutritious feed for livestock. Mr. Ashish, Farm Assistant, Regional Fodder Research Station, Srinagar, delivered a detailed lecture on the importance of different fodder



crops and their role in ensuring the availability of quality feed for livestock. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bumla, Associate Professor, Livestock Production and Management (LPM), Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Shuhama, emphasised the importance of incorporating different fodder crops into the feeding schedules of sheep and cattle to meet their nutritional requirements and improve their health and productivity. Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat, Senior

Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK Baramulla, sensitised the participating farmers about scientific cultivation of fodder crops, improved production practices and the importance of maintaining a consistent supply of quality fodder throughout the year. Addressing the gathering, Dr. M.K. Verma stressed the need for balanced feeding and quality fodder to maintain the nutritional health of livestock. He also highlighted the

significant role of ICAR-CITH Srinagar in producing quality planting material and making it available to farmers for establishing productive and sustainable orchards. Earlier, Dr. Verma, accompanied by the Head of KVK Baramulla and other scientific staff, conducted a field visit to the KVK campus. During the visit, he assured the scientific staff of all possible assistance in addressing the requirements related to fencing and land levelling at the KVK. Dr. Shoib Nisaar Kirmani, Scientist (Horticulture), coordinated the programme. Dr. Neeraj, Dr. Sajad and Mr. Vishal Vihan, Scientists of ICAR-KVK Baramulla, extended their support and played an important role in the successful organisation of the training. The programme aimed at strengthening livestock-based livelihoods through scientific interventions, improved fodder production practices and better livestock nutrition. ICAR-CITH KVK Baramulla reiterated its commitment to empowering farmers through need-based training, technology dissemination and capacity-building initiatives.

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu&Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 39 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2026-27/E-TENDERING/4281-95 DATED: 30-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contract or registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	Cost of T/ Doc (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Boundary Wall (Elementary) Middle School Dingowari Anantnag.	595776.12	504895.02	90881.10	300/=	11916/=	60 Days	Centrally Sponsored Samagra Shiksha	DEE & CEE CLASS

Position of AAA: Society order No.819-Chirag of 2026 Dated: 19-09-2026
Position of TS : Accorded.

1. The NIT Consistinfof QualifyingInformation, EligibilityCriteria, Specifications, Billof quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	From 30-10-2026 (11:00AM)
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	To 20-11-2026 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 30-10-2026 (11:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 20-11-2026 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	21-11-2026 (11:00 AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

2. EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE, PERFORMANCE SECURITY, SECURITY DEPOSIT/RETENTION MONEY, SAFETY CIRCULAR AND GST :-

2.1 EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE:- Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No. 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG (M/S Centralized Pool Account PW R&B), strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Office Order No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated 05.06.2026 issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. The Division Name, NIT No. & S.No./Name of the Work including transaction ID and transaction date against all the required deposits should be clearly mentioned on the Documentary proof/receipt evidencing of successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee and it shall be uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

Note:- Non mentioning of transaction ID and date of transaction on receipt shall render the bid as non-responsive.

2.2 PERFORMANCE SECURITY/PERFORMANCE GAURANTTEE (including APS) :- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security (Performance Guarantee) 5% and Additional Performance Security wherever applicable within 7 Days before fixation of Contract in account no bearing 0017010200000356 PERFORMANCE SECURITY A/C EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B QAZIGUND and shall be released after DLP obligations are over. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division as Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head, Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

The tender/bid shall be liable to rejection if the bidder fails to fulfill the requirements stipulated in the NIT. All other terms and conditions shall be as per PWD Form-25.

DIPK-7260/26
Send Date: Oct 31 2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PW(R&B) Division QAZIGUND





Jurel, Padikkal steady India A after early collapse against NZ A in 2nd unofficial Test



United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 31 (UNI) India A recovered from an early setback through substantial contributions from Devdutt Padikkal (80) and captain Dhruv Jurel (99 not out), reaching 291/7 at stumps on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against New Zealand A at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Saturday.

Jurel struck 11 fours and three sixes during his 155-ball stay and took charge in the final session, scoring 131 runs with the loss of two wickets in 35 overs. He found useful support from Manav Suthar, who made 22, in a 62-run stand for the seventh wicket. Akash Deep then joined the captain to add an unbeaten 69 for the eighth wicket, finishing the day on 25 not out. Earlier, Padikkal steadied the innings after Yashasvi Jaiswal was dismissed for a four-ball duck in the opening over. The left-hander scored 80 off 10 boundaries and shared a 91-run partnership with Sai Sudharsan, who contributed 41. India A

went to lunch at 87/1 after being put in to bat.

Sudharsan fell soon after the break, triggering a collapse in which India A lost three wickets for six runs in six deliveries. Yash Rathod was dismissed for 13 before Fraser Sheat bowled Padikkal off an inside edge and trapped Ravichandran Smaran lbw for a first-ball duck. Washington Sundar also fell lbw to Sheat for eight.

Sheat was the pick of the New Zealand A bowlers, returning figures of 4/50 from 19 overs, while Randell, McKay and Jayden Lennox picked up a wicket apiece.

Jaiswal's early dismissal added to his recent struggles. He had managed scores of 17 and five in the first unofficial Test, following returns of 77 runs across the two-Test series in Sri Lanka.

The opening four-day match between the two sides ended in a draw after bad light brought an early close.

Brief Scores: India A 291/7 (Dhruv Jurel 99 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 80; Fraser Sheat 4/50) vs New Zealand A.

Fifth T20I vs NZ... India look to plug bowling gaps, fine-tune combination

United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 31 (UNI) India's team combination will be the central talking point as the world champions look to make a few adjustments for the fifth and final T20 International against New Zealand in Hamilton on Sunday, with the series already secured at 3-1.

While the result may not have a bearing on the series outcome, the contest offers the team management an opportunity to assess its bench strength and address a few concerns before shifting focus to the upcoming five-match ODI series. The heavy defeat in the fourth T20I could also prompt the think tank to revisit its combination, particularly in the batting and bowling departments.

The possible return of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is one of the key selection questions. Sanju Samson could make way for the youngster after an inconsistent run at



the top of the order. Samson has managed scores of 67, 14, 18 and 4 in the series, and a break could give him time to regroup while allowing Sooryavanshi another opportunity to showcase his attacking potential.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer's place in the batting order is another aspect that could come under scrutiny. Since registering his maiden T20 hundred,

the middle-order batter has struggled to produce a substantial innings, with his subsequent eight outings yielding scores of 40, 1, 16, 22, 42, 7, 5 and 22.

His lack of consistency has, however, received less attention because of the contributions from the lower middle order. Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir and Nitish Kumar Reddy have provided India with valuable late-order hitting,

repeatedly rescuing the innings with their aggressive strokeplay. Their growing importance also makes it difficult for the management to tinker too much with the batting structure.

Will Kuldeed finally get a chance? The bigger selection dilemma, perhaps, lies in the bowling department. India have struggled to find consistent wicket-taking options beyond Arshdeep Singh, with Axar Patel offering some control in the middle overs.

The much-anticipated return of Bhuvneshwar Kumar has not gone according to plan, with the experienced pacer managing just one wicket in three matches while conceding 139 runs at an economy rate of 11.58.

Arshdeep remains the only Indian bowler to have maintained an economy rate below 10 in the series, underlining the need for greater support from the other end. The management could consider bringing in either Kuldeep Yadav or Varun Chakravarthy to strengthen the spin attack.

Abhishek's brace hand India 4-1 win over Japan in ACT hockey

United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 30 (UNI) Striker Abhishek Nain scored a brace as five-time champions India beat Japan by 4-1 to continue their winning juggernaut and register their third consecutive win at the men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Friday.

India had earlier thrashed Bangladesh 13-0 before getting the better of China 5-2 in their first two matches, while Japan beat South Korea and Bangladesh 3-2 and 1-0 respectively.

Abhishek (11th, 51st minutes) scored two field goals, while skipper Harmanpreet Singh (47th) sounded the board from India's only penalty corner of the match. Vishnukant Singh (56th) also found the net with a field goal.

Shota Yamada (15th) scored the lone goal for Japan from a penalty stroke.

Asian Games champions India will next play Malaysia, whom they defeated 5-1 in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games recently, on Sunday, while Japan will face China.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks as Japan enjoyed possession early on and secured a penalty corner in the second minute, but Ken Nagayoshi's try from a variation went wide of the target.



The lack of coordination between the Indian midfield and forward line was quite evident, with vice-captain Hardik Singh doing the bulk of the work without much support from others.

With Mandeep Singh missing the game, the Indian forward line looked clueless and out of ideas as the hosts failed to create enough goal-scoring chances.

With time, the Indians got their footing in the match and took the lead in the 11th minute with a nicely built-up field goal.

Hardik did all the link-up play to find Sukhjeet Singh inside the circle near the left corner, and he passed the ball to Abhishek, who was playing his 150th international match, to simply guide it home and hand India the early lead.

Manisha becomes India's first women's wrestling world champion

United News Of India

Astana (Kazakhstan), Oct 31 (UNI) Manisha Bhanwala became the first Indian wrestler to win a women's freestyle gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships after a stunning comeback victory in the 59kg final here.

The 29-year-old Manisha, competing at the World Wrestling Championships 2026, came back from 6-0 down to beat reigning Pan American champion Abigail Nette of the USA 8-6 in the gold medal bout on Friday. Manisha became only the second Indian wrestler to win a senior world title. Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar was previously India's only world champion, having won the men's 66kg freestyle crown in 2010, according to olympics.com.

The gold marked a new high in the career of Manisha, the



2025 Asian champion, who had competed at three previous senior World Championships without winning a medal. She made it to the bronze medal bout in the non-Olympic 65kg division in Tirana in 2024 but lost 8-2 to Japan's Miwa Morikawa. Earlier this month, Manisha competed in the 57kg division at the Asian Games 2026, where she ran into Japanese star Akari Fujinami in the quarter-finals. Fujinami, the Paris 2024 Olympic champion and a two-time world champion, beat Manisha 3-0 in a closely fought contest.

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