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The Fight Against Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir Reaches a Decisive Turning Point

Dr. Mayank Chaturvedi



New Delhi, November 20 (Hindustan Samachar). The fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has now reached a decisive turning point. A decade ago, the Kashmir Valley faced constant challenges from the influence of terrorist organizations, separatist activities, stone-pelting, and a system designed to incite youth to take up arms. Today, however, there are clear signs that the recruitment of local terrorists has dropped to near zero, and the network of active local terrorists has significantly weakened. The recent killing of Mohammad Latif Bhat—the last known active local commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba in Kulgam—serves as a significant milestone in this transformation. Since 2014, 1,891 terrorists have been neutralized in Jammu and Kashmir, while the total number of terrorists, insurgents, and extremists killed across the country during the same period stands at 4,952. The success of the security forces is now being tested by the objective of dismantling the entire terrorist ecosystem. Beyond striking at weapons, explosives, and terrorist hideouts, a decisive battle must also be waged against radical ideologies, recruitment networks, financial support systems, cross-border operations, and digital propaganda. According to data from the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), 1,891 terrorists have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014. The annual breakdown is as follows: 114 in 2014, 115 in 2015, 165 in 2016, 220 in 2017, and a peak of 271 in 2018. Subsequently, 163 terrorists were killed in 2019, 232 in 2020, and 193 each in 2021 and 2022. This figure stood at 87 in 2023, 69 in 2024, and 46 in 2025. So far in 2026, 24 terrorists have been neutralized. Compared to 2018, there has been a decline of approximately 83 percent in the number of terrorists killed by 2025. These figures reflect the sustained pressure exerted on the capabilities, local networks, and operational activities of terrorist organizations. Across the broader internal security landscape of the country, a total of 4,952 terrorists, insurgents, and extremists have been neutralized. This includes 1,891 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, while the remaining figures pertain to operations conducted against insurgent and extremist groups active in various other regions of the country. This indicates that the fight against terrorism is not confined to a single region but is being waged simultaneously across multiple fronts of national security. Following the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, the scope of counter-terrorism operations expanded significantly.

Drug smugglers change routes as winter sets in along Nepal border

By Sagar Suraj | Motihari

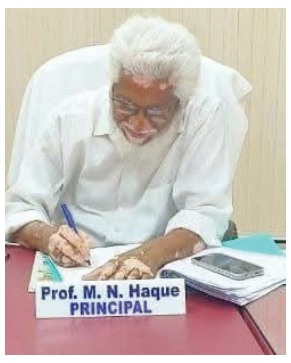
SSB steps up patrolling as trafficking networks explore alternative routes to evade seizures and transport consignments to metropolitan markets



Drug trafficking networks appear to be stepping up activity along the India-Nepal border with the onset of winter, prompting security agencies to intensify surveillance in Bihar's East Champaran district. While Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) battalions deployed along the Nepal border have increased patrolling, smugglers are reportedly changing their routes and modus operandi to evade detection and move consignments to major metropolitan markets. Recent seizures indicate the scale of the challenge. On November 6, a joint team of police and SSB seized 131 kg of ganja in Bhelahi, with an estimated international market value of 1.31 crore. Earlier, 10 kg of charas was seized in Dumariaghat. On November 10, police also recovered ganja worth around 30 lakh from Jihuli village in Patahi and arrested two people. According to figures released in September 2026, East Champaran police seized 8,967.024 kg of ganja, 117.7094 kg of charas, 52.516 kg of opium and 22.379 kg of smack over two years. The seizures underline the scale of the narcotics trade operating in the border region. East Champaran SP Swarn Prabhat has previously been in the news for his anti-drug campaign. Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi also publicly appreciated the district police's efforts. However, the latest developments suggest that dismantling trafficking networks remains a major challenge. Sources familiar with the developments said international smuggling syndicates were exploring alternative entry routes, including areas adjoining West Champaran and Sitamarhi, to avoid heightened surveillance in East Champaran. East Champaran shares a sensitive international border with Nepal, with Raxaul, Adapur, Chhauradano, Ramgarhwa and Ghorasahan among the important border areas. West Champaran also has a substantial stretch of the India-Nepal border, making inter-district coordination crucial. The growing availability of narcotics also raises concerns about youth addiction, particularly in border communities. Easy access, peer pressure and the lure of quick money can draw vulnerable youngsters into substance abuse and trafficking. Speaking to Border News Mirror, SP Swarn Prabhat said police were keeping a close watch on every move and tactic adopted by smugglers. With winter setting in, the real test for security agencies will be to intercept consignments, identify supply-chain operators and prevent narcotics from reaching larger markets.

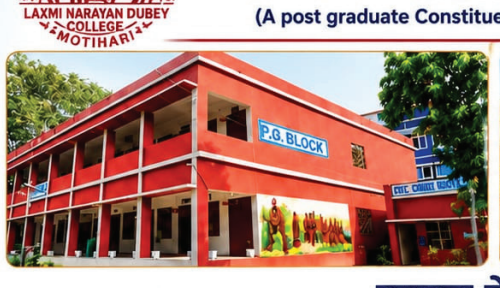
Allegations of University Order Violation, Financial Irregularities at Munshi Singh College; Principal Calls Charges Baseless

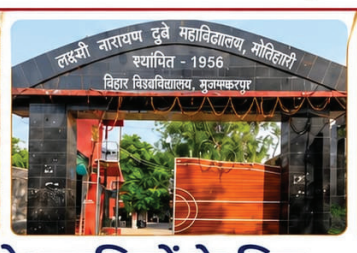
Sagar Suraj | MOTIHARI



Serious allegations of disobedience of university orders, irregularities in the deployment of non-teaching staff and financial misconduct have been levelled against Prof. (Dr.) Md. Nesarul Haque, Principal of Munshi Singh College, Motihari. Anwar Alam Ansari, former secretary of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee, has written to the Governor-cum-Chancellor, seeking an inquiry and appropriate legal action into the alleged irregularities. However, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Md. Nesarul Haque has dismissed the allegations as baseless, claiming that certain vested interests are deliberately giving the matter undue publicity. In his letter (No. 201, dated September 26, 2026), Ansari alleged that the college principal had failed to comply with an order issued by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, vide letter No. 311/BC dated August 11, 2026. According to the complaint, five non-teaching employees of Munshi Singh College were deputed to newly established government degree colleges under the university's order. However, the principal allegedly relieved only three employees, while the remaining two continued to remain attached to the college despite the university's directive. The complainant further alleged that the two employees were granted medical leave and other leave facilities instead of being relieved. He also claimed that despite being on leave, they continued visiting the college premises, which, he alleged, could be verified through CCTV footage. The letter also raises questions over the alleged appointment of junior employee Sunil Kumar to the post of Principal Assistant without prior approval or intimation to the university. Apart from administrative issues, Ansari has sought an investigation into alleged financial irregularities during the principal's tenure. These include alleged misappropriation and commission-related practices involving approximately Rs 10.50 lakh received under an disaster-management training programme, construction works, purchases of equipment and alleged irregularities in the examination department. Seeking accountability, Ansari has urged the Governor-cum-Chancellor to order an appropriate inquiry and initiate legal action. Copies of the complaint have also been forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University. Responding to the allegations, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Md. Nesarul Haque said, "The allegations are completely baseless. Some vested interests are trying to give the matter unnecessary publicity."

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Prof.(Dr.) Mrigendra Kumar
(PRINCIPAL)

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Sachin Kumar, son of Ram Swarth Prasad Yadav, resident of Kathahria, Ward No. 09, P.S. Chhoradano, District East Champaran, do hereby declare that my name in Aadhaar Card is Sachin Kumar (SACHIN KUMAR) and my date of birth is 05.11.2007. I have now changed my name to Aditya Kumar (ADITYA KUMAR) and my correct date of birth in all my certificates is 10.10.2010. I hereby declare that I shall be known and recognized by the name Aditya Kumar only.

Affidavit No. : 224012
Date : 05.10.2026

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GLP-1 Drugs Should Be First Choice for Obesity: European Doctors



New Delhi (Agency): Novo Nordisk's and Eli Lilly's blockbuster weight-loss drugs should be the first medicines doctors reach for to treat obesity and its complications, a major European medical association advised on Thursday.

Semaglutide, the active ingredient in Novo's Wegovy and Ozempic, and tirzepatide, sold as Zepbound and Mounjaro by Lilly, are so effective that they should be the first choice in almost all cases when substantial weight loss is necessary, according to a new guideline from the European Association for the Study of Obesity published in Nature Medicine. When a lesser degree of weight loss is required, other medications can be considered, including liraglutide, an older, less effective drug from the same class, naltrexone-bupropion, and phentermine-topiramate, the guideline says.

Novo shares were up 2.2% at 1007 GMT, outperforming European pharmaceuticals peers. The EASO guidelines are non-binding on individual countries.

Semaglutide, tirzepatide, and other drugs from the class known as GLP-1 agonists are completely transforming care of obesity and its complications, coauthor Dr. Andreea Ciudin of Vall d'Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona said in a statement.

Although no treatment algorithm can replace the nuanced clinical judgment necessary for comprehensive patient care, the new guidelines can serve to support therapeutic decision-making in obesity, she said.

The guideline authors analysed previous clinical trial results, evaluating the impact of medications on weight loss, their safety profile, and their effectiveness in the presence of specific complications.

For patients with the physical consequences of too much fatty, or adipose, tissue, tirzepatide should be considered as the first-line treatment for addressing obstructive sleep apnea, and semaglutide for those with knee osteoarthritis, the authors determined.

For patients with conditions linked with obesity-related metabolic and immune dysfunction, they recommend semaglutide as a first choice for those with a history of heart disease or stroke, tirzepatide for individuals with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and either tirzepatide or semaglutide for those with prediabetes or type 2 diabetes.

The class of drugs was originally developed to treat type 2 diabetes.

While the drugs are expensive and economic considerations are complex, the cost of not treating obesity at early stages, "thus enabling the progression to complications and end-organ damage, should be weighed equally in health policy and clinical decision-making," the guideline authors wrote. The management of obesity should not be limited to weight loss and its complications but should focus on enhanced mental well-being, physical fitness, social functioning, and overall health and quality of life as well, they also said.

Most of the newer medications have not been evaluated for the treatment of individual complications, they acknowledge.

Still, the authors say, the weight-loss effects have been strongly associated with improvements in various complications and there is growing potential for them to positively influence a broader range of disorders such as chronic kidney disease, neurodegenerative diseases, polycystic ovary syndrome, certain cancers, and mental health conditions.

"Given the rapid advances in the field of medications to treat obesity, EASO intends to update the present treatment algorithm regularly to incorporate the latest available evidence," society President Professor Volkan Yumuk of Istanbul University-Cerrahpaa said in a statement.

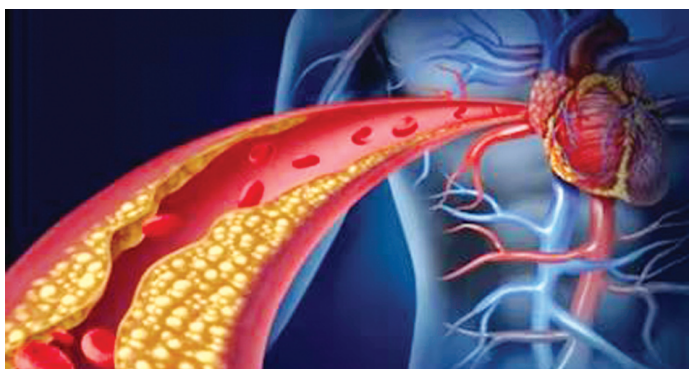
The American College of Lifestyle Medicine, the American Society for Nutrition, the Obesity Medicine Association, and The Obesity Society jointly advised in June that GLP-1 treatment must be accompanied by nutritional and lifestyle strategies. "Although GLP1s alone can produce significant weight reduction and related health benefits, several challenges limit its longterm success for individuals and populations," including gastrointestinal side effects, risk of nutrient inadequacies, muscle and bone loss, high costs, frequent discontinuation, and weight regain," the advisory said.

Plant-Based Diet Can Ward Off Chronic Diseases, Keep Planet Healthy: Report



New Delhi (Agency): Eating a plant-based diet, including whole grains, fruits and vegetables, with moderate intake of foods such as poultry and egg, can not only boost human health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases, but also keep the planet healthy with less impact on climate change and biodiversity loss, according to a new report by the Lancet Commission on Friday. The report showed that food systems are key drivers of the world's most urgent challenges, from chronic diseases and rising inequality to accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss. Food production was also found to be a significant contributor to environmental degradation, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, leading to climate change, biodiversity loss, land use change, freshwater consumption, nutrient pollution, and novel entities such as pesticides and antibiotics. On the other hand, adopting the Planetary Health Diet (PHD) -- a flexible, plant-rich dietary framework -- offered a clear, science-based target for a sustainable, healthy, and just food future. The plant-rich, healthy diet in combination with global efforts to reduce food loss and waste by half can improve public health, restore planetary health, and provide enough food for an expected global population of 9.6 billion people by 2050, said the team. The analysis also reveals that shifting global food systems and diets could prevent approximately 15 million premature deaths each year by lowering rates of chronic diseases linked to poor diets, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. "Food systems are a major contributor to many of the crises we face today, and at the same time, the key to solving them," said Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Commission co-chair and director for nutrition, health, and food security at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). "The evidence laid out in our report is clear: the world must act boldly and equitably to ensure sustainable improvements. The choices we make today will determine the health of people and the planet for generations," she added. The PHD, first introduced in 2019, recommends plant-rich, flexible diets, including whole grains, fruits and vegetables, nuts, and legumes. While the diet is complemented by moderate intakes of animal-sourced foods such as red meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy, it also calls for limiting added sugars, saturated fats, and salt to reduce diet-related chronic diseases. The report associated adherence to the PHD with significant reductions in the risk of major chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and obesity. This includes an estimated 27 per cent lower risk of premature death, or the prevention of approximately 15 million premature deaths per year globally compared to current diets.

Five Food Items To Cleanse Arteries and Enhance Blood Circulation



New Delhi (Agency): As our busy lifestyle compromises our diet and fitness routine, our cardiovascular health may go for a toss, with the arteries narrowing down and causing a serious health issue. When ignored, cardiovascular complications may result in the plaque deposit hardening over time and resulting in a condition known as atherosclerosis. Once there, patients may experience increased risk of blood pressure challenges, strokes and even heart attacks. The good thing is that we can take a strong guard against these risks by making certain dietary changes that positively impact our arteries and could even reverse the early damage. Here are five food items we should immediately incorporate in our diets to cleanse our arteries and enhance blood circulation.

Oats are packed with soluble fibre that reduces the body's cholesterol levels. According to experiments conducted by the US-based National Library of Medicine, eating Oats on a regular basis is linked with 5-7 per cent lower levels of cholesterol. Oats' Beta-glucans help cleanse the arterial plaque, while also aiding the body's digestive system over time, which subsequently helps control the blood sugar levels and our cardiovascular health.

Moringa, or drumstick, is full of antioxidants, vitamins and bioactive compounds. Its healthy nutrients promote cardiovascular support. One of the influential antioxidants found in Moringa is Quercetin, which lowers the body's inflammation threat, enhances the flexibility of the blood vessels and lowers its cholesterol levels. Daily consumption of Moringa can help cleanse our arteries by inhibiting oxidative stress.

Walnuts are the richest source of alpha-linolenic acid, which is a healthy Omega-3 fatty acid and plays an influential role in arterial cleansing and decreasing the body's LDL levels. This acid also fights against inflammation and blood pressure complications, especially among patients suffering from hypertension. Fenugreek, or Methi, as it is called in Indian households, has nutrient compounds in its seeds that could be game-changing for cholesterol patients. Individuals who consume Methi on a regular basis experience a better lipid profile and enjoy several benefits in their cardiovascular health. The Kadhipatta, which is commonly available in Indian houses, is not just meant to garnish our food or raise its aroma. It is a powerhouse of heart health support, which is full of antioxidants and fibre that help reduce cholesterol oxidation, counter inflammation and enhance the body's blood circulation.

This Simple Change Is All You Need To Make To Manage Your Blood Pressure

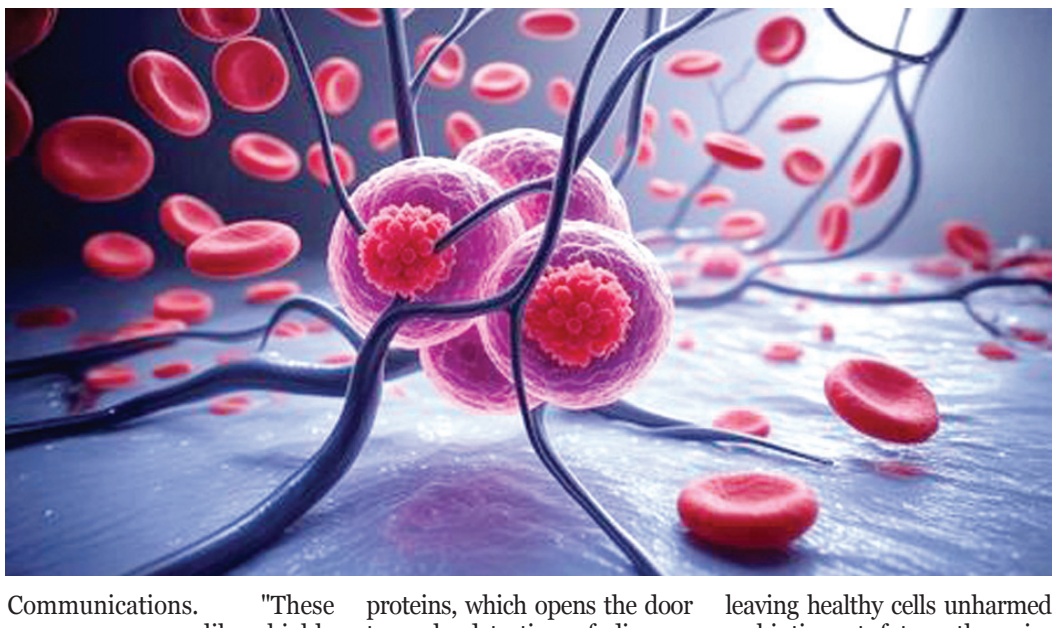


New Delhi (Agency): In a busy world with compromised diets and lifestyles, the number of blood pressure patients is growing rapidly, even as managing the blood flow and heart health is not as complex an exercise as we may believe. One might experience life-transforming results by something as simple as reducing their salt intake or swapping brands.

Despite growing awareness of sodium and its excess consumption aggravating hypertension, the salt substitutes are alarmingly underutilised. According to a thorough analysis presented by researchers in the American Heart Association's Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2025, less than 5 per cent of US residents take salt substitutes in their regular food consumption. The analysis revealed a shocking ignorance among Americans of these substitutes, even as the researchers believe they are capable of significantly influencing our blood pressure levels. The researchers analysed the data collected from 37,080 American adults, who took part in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) between 2003 and 2020. The NHANES survey was a nationally representative programme that monitored the eating patterns and overall blood pressure levels of local Americans.

When asked which salt they intake, the respondents came up with answers divided into three categories: (a) the regular salt, including iodised, sea salt, and kosher varieties, (b) no salt and (c) salt substitutes, made out of potassium chloride that fully or partially replaces the sodium found in regular salt. After monitoring data, researchers carefully observed individuals with elevated blood pressure and also other individuals who had healthy blood flow and kidneys, with no medicines interfering with potassium.

Mirror, Mirror in Lab: BRIC-RGCB Scientists Build Tiny Nanopores to Spot Diseases Early



Thiruvananthapuram (Agency): Imagine a microscopic tunnel that can tell whether you might be developing cancer -- well, scientists at BRIC-RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram, are turning that imagination into reality. In a breakthrough study, researchers have created mirror-image nanopores, tiny protein-like channels designed to act like a reflection of natural molecules. Led by Dr. K.R.Mahendran, the team built these synthetic structures, named DpPorA, from special peptides that are flipped versions of natural proteins. Computer simulations confirmed that the mirror-image pores are structurally opposite to their natural counterparts -- and surprisingly, this "mirror trick" makes them more stable and selective. Their findings were recently published in Nature Communications. "These nanopores are like highly selective gates," explained Dr. Mahendran. "We can tune them to let certain molecules pass while blocking others. That means we can detect everything from tiny sugar rings to full-size proteins, which opens the door to early detection of diseases and even personalised diagnostics." But the innovation doesn't stop there. Lab tests revealed that these mirror molecules can target and damage cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed -- hinting at future therapies that could fight cancer safely. Prof. Chandrabhas Narayana, RGCB Director, hailed the discovery as a game-changer. "It has enormous potential -- not only in cancer, but also in healing wounds, repairing muscles, and boosting immune function. It could even help tackle neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," he said. The work was a collaborative effort, involving CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, Constructor University, Germany, and the Centre for Human Genetics, Bengaluru. Funding came from top Indian science bodies, including the Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, ICMR, and CSIR. By combining chemistry, nanotechnology, and cancer biology, this research has created a powerful new tool that could revolutionise medical diagnostics. These tiny mirror-image pores may one day help detect diseases early, safely, and precisely, transforming the way doctors diagnose and treat illnesses.

Hindu population growth to fall behind other religions in India, globally: Pew Study

New Delhi, Agency: India's Hindu population is projected to increase by 176 million between 2020 and 2070, but Hindus are expected to account for a slightly smaller share of the country's population as Muslims continue to have higher fertility rates, according to new projections by the Pew Research Center.

Despite the projected shift, Hindus are expected to continue making up more than three-quarters of India's population by 2070.

The global Hindu population is also projected to grow by 199 million over the same period, reaching nearly 1.4 billion. However, as the rest of the world's population is expected to grow at a faster pace, Hindus' share of the global population is projected to decline from 15% in 2020 to 14% in 2070.

The projections are part of a broader Pew Research Center study examining changes in the size and composition of major religious groups between 2020 and 2070. The estimates take into account differences in fertility rates, age profiles, religious switching and international migration. Pew said that although



India's overall fertility rate has declined rapidly in recent decades, Muslim women continue to have more children on average than Hindu women. Combined with the younger age profile of India's Muslim population, this fertility gap is expected to increase the Muslim share of the country's population while reducing the Hindu share.

India had 1.1 billion Hindus in 2020, accounting for around 95% of the global Hindu population. Nepal, with 24 million Hindus, Bangladesh with 13 million, Pakistan with 5 million and Indonesia with 4 million made up the other countries in the top five.

The rankings are expected to change by 2070, with the United States projected to have the world's fifth-largest Hindu population. Australia is also expected to enter the top 10, ranking ninth with around 3 million Hindus, while the United Arab Emirates is projected to drop out of the list.

Pakistan's Hindu population is expected to double to 10 million by 2070, although the country is projected to retain its fourth position in the global rankings.

Outside India, much of the projected growth in the Hindu population is expected to come from Pakistan and the United States. Pakistan is likely to see an increase primarily through natural population growth, with births outnumbering deaths, while immigration is expected to be the main driver of growth in the US.

The Asia-Pacific region, home to 99% of the world's Hindus, is projected to account for most of the community's growth over the next five decades.

BRIFF NEWS

The sky will not fall': SC denies to stay Azam bail



Lucknow, Agency: Samajwadi Party veteran Azam Khan walked out of Ghaziabad's Dasna jail Wednesday, a day after the Allahabad high court granted him interim bail in the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar University and Jauhar Trust case, holding that ED failed to supply written grounds of arrest when taking him into custody. Justices Rajiv Gupta and Devendra Singh gave ED a week to file a detailed reply and allowed Azam 10 days to submit his rejoinder. The next hearing is on Dec 10.

On Wednesday, ED moved Supreme Court against the HC order, seeking an urgent hearing. However, Justice Joymalya Bagchi rejected the plea, saying, "The sky will not fall. Let him remain on interim bail." The matter is scheduled to be taken up on Friday. Azam, 78, had been lodged in jail since Nov 17 last year in a double PAN card case. Although he had briefly walked out of Rampur jail on Oct 31, he was immediately arrested by ED in the Jauhar University case. He was subsequently shifted to Dasna jail. ED has been examining alleged diversion and misuse of govt funds and construction material, land purchases and the sources of money used in developing the university. It has identified Rs 426.5 crore as alleged proceeds of crime and, on Oct 28, provisionally attached land and buildings belonging to the university valued at the same amount.

Govt hospitals to hike Ayushman packages from 23 to 112



New Delhi, Agency: Patients covered under Ayushman Bharat may soon get access to a wider range of routine medical treatments and surgical procedures, with govt proposing to expand packages reserved for public health facilities under the scheme from 23 to 112.

The 89 additional packages cover conditions such as anaemia, hypertension, bronchitis, diarrhoea, urinary tract infections and diabetes-related complications. Procedures include hysterectomy, circumcision, biopsy and treatment for haemorrhoids, cysts and lipomas, besides screening for diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

The focus is on treatments that can be provided at govt facilities, particularly community health centres and sub-divisional hospitals, subject to infrastructure and staff availability. Since 2019, 23 packages covering obstetrics, gynaecology and mental health have been reserved for public facilities. National Health Authority has invited states to suggest changes by Nov 25. The revised framework is proposed to take effect from Dec 1, after considering their feedback.

Bihar initiates disciplinary proceedings against East Champaran cooperative officer

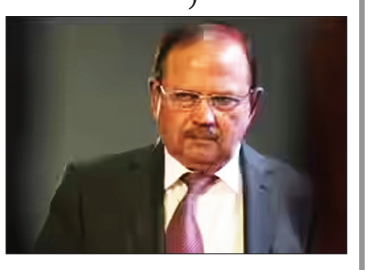
Sagar Suraj

MOTIHARI: The Bihar government has initiated disciplinary proceedings against East Champaran District Cooperative Officer Prince Anupam Singh over alleged large-scale irregularities and corruption in paddy procurement and the implementation of departmental schemes. According to a resolution issued by the state Cooperation Department, the action follows a complaint lodged by former Bihar minister and Harasiddhi MLA Krishna Nandan Paswan, who had alleged financial irregularities



in paddy procurement and various departmental schemes. The department subsequently conducted an inquiry into the allegations. Subhash Kumar, then Additional Registrar-cum-Advisor (Schemes) in the Cooperation Department, submitted the inquiry report on April 6, 2026. Based on the findings, the Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, issued a charge sheet against Singh on June 23. The department sought a written explanation from the officer on July 14, following approval from the competent authority. Singh submitted his reply on August 6, 2026. However, after examining the charges and his written defence, the government rejected his explanation and decided to proceed with departmental action under Rule 17(5)(k) of the Bihar Government Servants (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 2005. The government has appointed Vikas Kumar Bariyar, Additional Registrar (Judicial), Cooperative Societies, Bihar, Patna, as the Conducting Officer. Shambhu Sen, Joint Registrar (Planning), Cooperative Societies, Bihar, Patna, will serve as the Presenting Officer. Copies of the government resolution and charge sheet have been forwarded to the concerned officials and the officer facing the proceedings for information and necessary action. The departmental inquiry will examine the allegations against Singh. The charges are yet to be established.

US court to Delhi courts: Help serve summons to RAW ex-chief, Doval



New Delhi, Agency: A US district court has ordered alternative delivery of summons through Indian courts on NSA Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing chief Samant Goel. However, sources said the summons was not binding.

The Clerk of the US Court has been directed to send the necessary judicial documents via international mail or courier to three district courts in Delhi - Patiala House, Dwarka and Tis Hazari district courts.

The order was issued by Judge Katherine Polk Failla of the court of Southern District of New York in a civil lawsuit filed by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, founder of pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

"The court respectfully requests the assistance of receiving Indian courts in effecting service of process upon the defendants in this civil action pending before this court," says an order by a US district court, seeking to serve summons on Ajit Doval and Samant Goel.

Private bikes, delivery services can generate 18 cr jobs: Gadkari

New Delhi, Agency: The Centre on Wednesday asked all states and Union territories to implement the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, pointing out that only around half a dozen states have fully adopted the norms, nearly a year after they were notified.

Among the key provisions of the guidelines issued by the road transport ministry are allowing privately registered motorcycles to be onboarded by aggregators for commercial use and mandating insurance cover for drivers and passengers. Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said the sector, which also includes private two-wheelers used for food deliveries, has the potential to generate around 18 crore employment opportunities, compared



with barely four crore at present.

"Just consider the number of families that will benefit once all states come on board, as it will be a source of earnings. Allowing private motorcycles to ferry passengers will meet the needs of a large section of people who currently have no last-mile connectivity from national highways to villages," he said.

The minister also urged drivers to help crash victims get quick medical care and said such people will be honoured as "Rahveer" and get a reward of Rs 25,000.

Can an Italian raise slogans against govt while in India on visa? SC to hear PIL

New Delhi, Agency: Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a PIL asking whether it was legally permissible for an Italian visiting India on a conference visa, to raise the political slogan "vote chor, gaddi chhod" in support of opposition's campaign against Election Commission and Modi govt at the Bharat Summit organised by Telangana Congress govt in Hyderabad.

The plea alleges Giacomo Filibeck, the secretary-general of the Party of European Socialists, raised the "vulgar, derogatory and demeaning political slogan" and translated it for other foreign delegates as "vote thief, leave from seat." Senior advocate Rizwan Ahmad sought an urgent hearing on the petition filed by Zahid Ali.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant



and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana agreed to list the petition before a bench Friday.

Ahmad informed the court that Filibeck, endorsing the leader of the opposition's campaign, told the audience that the largest democracy in India had become corrupted and declared that "we stand by Rahul Gandhi, the Indian Congress party in defending the democracy in India".

Ahmad said the petitioner did not question Indian politicians criticising govt but "the endorsement and amplification of such domestic political positions by foreign political representatives, who are themselves associated with political organisations in other countries, raises a distinct concern regarding foreign participation in India's internal political discourse, particularly when such participation extends to the endorsement of controversial domestic political positions..."

The petitioner said when home ministry rules prohibited foreign delegates from taking part in any activity beyond the purpose of their visit to India, it was necessary for the court to examine whether Filibeck conformed to the visa conditions by getting involved in the political activities espoused by the opposition.

35 yrs on, a landmark moment: Forces kill Kashmir's last active local terrorist

New Delhi, Agency: Security forces killed 22-year-old Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Mohammad Lateef Bhat in a shootout outside a mosque in Kulgam district early Wednesday, ending a weeklong hunt and eliminating Kashmir's last known active local terrorist, according to J&K police.

The killing marked what police described as a watershed moment in Kashmir's 35-year fight against terrorism, dealing a blow to Pakistan's efforts to project terrorist violence in the Valley as a home-grown movement. It also marked a turning point in Kashmir's counterterror campaign, with police saying local recruitment into terrorist ranks had fallen to almost zero. Home minister Amit Shah hailed the operation as a coordinated success of J&K police, Army, CRPF and intelligence agencies, saying Bhat was Lashkar's last known active local terrorist in the valley.

Lateef Bhat, who carried a Rs 15 lakh bounty, was killed outside a mosque in Zangalpora village after a week-long chase across south Kashmir. His associate, Nisar, a new recruit, was killed near Larnoo bypass on Nov 16.

J&K Police DG Nalin Prabhat called it a milestone in the fight



against three decades of terrorism, saying local recruitment had fallen to almost zero. Only two Kashmiri youths joined LeT in the past two years, he said, adding that the force was working to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem. "We have been fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years," Prabhat said.

Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha said only a handful of foreign terrorists remained and J&K would soon be terrorism-free.Home minister Amit Shah posted on X, "Lateef Bhat was neutralised in an operation in Kulgam in the early morning hours. One of his terrorist associates, Umar Nisar, was also neutralised in Kulgam, the day before. The entire operation was marked by a very high level of synergy. The nation salutes the brave Jawans."

Local recruitment has fluctuated sharply over the years. The number fell from 54 in 2010 to 16 in 2013 before climbing to 53 in 2014, 66 in 2015, 88 in 2016 and 126 in 2017, according to security agencies. It peaked at 196 in 2018, declined to 143 in 2019 and rose again to 174 in 2020. Of those recruited in 2020, 76 were killed and 46 arrested. In 2021, 128 local youths joined terrorist groups - 73 were killed and 16 arrested. Bhat's killing followed a cat-and-mouse chase that began after the Nov 11 attack on a CRPF picket in Kulgam, in which three personnel were wounded. Human intelligence, CCTV footage, cyber surveillance and details from a phone Bhat had dropped while fleeing helped security forces trace him.

Bhat, a resident of Khrewan Chader village in Kulgam, had been wanted for the killing of a J&K police head constable in Anantnag and two migrant workers in Kulgam in July. He had escaped a shootout in Shopian in July, when his LeT associate, Zakir Ganie, was killed. Security forces cornered the duo in Kulgam on Nov 16. Nisar was killed near Larnoo bypass, but Bhat escaped, discarding his clothes to evade the cordon.

SC starts contempt case against lawyer for remarks against CJI

New Delhi, Agency: SC Wednesday initiated contempt proceedings against advocate Pravin Singhal for making derogatory remarks against CJI Surya Kant while appearing before his bench on Nov 16.



A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta, Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana directed the erring lawyer to file his response by Jan 8 and also ordered him to appear personally before it on the next date of hearing on Jan 20.

"Having perused the papers placed before us, which includes the requisite consent of the learned Attorney General for India under Section 15(1)(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, we are prima facie satisfied that the motion made by the petitioner - Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) - for initiation of proceedings against the sole respondent / alleged contemnor for the alleged derogatory remarks referred to in the petition together with the attempt to scandalise the authority of the Court deserves to be taken forward," the bench said in its order.

The controversy arose after the lawyer, aggrieved by an alleged procedural lapse in non-listing of a petition, questioned the integrity of the CJI in open court proceedings and went to extent of telling him "You cannot sit in that chair. You do not deserve. You do not have the integrity for that."

Taking strong exception to the lawyer's scandalous behaviour, SCBA took the initiative to kick off the process against the lawyer. It first approached attorney general to take his consent which is needed to file a contempt petition. After getting his approval, the petition was drafted and filed and the court also showed the urgency to immediately list the case.

SCBA president and senior advocate Pradeep Rai said that the court must deal with such people with an iron hand as such incidents keep happening. "They feel that no action can be taken against them and that they can keep doing this.

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From Actor Salman Khan to Tiger Shroff

FWICE Flags Concerns Over Safety of Film Stars



Concerns over the safety of artistes in the film industry have mounted following the firing incident near actor Tiger Shroff's residence. The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has now raised the issue of security for film stars and industry personnel, stating that recent incidents of firing, threats and extortion have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity across the fraternity. FWICE has sent a letter to the Mumbai Police Commissioner referencing the recent firing incident involving Tiger Shroff along with earlier cases linked to actor Salman Khan and filmmaker Rohit Shetty. The body noted that such incidents are no longer confined to individual artistes but have become a matter of serious concern for the entire film industry. In its letter, FWICE stated that film stars are increasingly being targeted by criminals due to their popularity and public profile, facing threats, extortion and targeted criminal attacks. Such episodes not only endanger the lives of the artistes and their families but also breed fear and uncertainty across the wider film community. The organisation urged the police commissioner to treat threats and attacks against film personalities with seriousness and take appropriate security measures for artistes facing credible threats or risk of attack. It also called for proactive security arrangements to prevent similar incidents in the future. FWICE further sought stepped-up surveillance at industry workplaces, requesting Mumbai Police to strengthen security around film sets, studios, shooting locations, production houses and other venues frequented by film stars. It emphasized the need for closer coordination among production teams, private security staff and local police officials to ensure safety during shoots.

Calling for strict legal action against individuals and groups involved in threatening, intimidating, extorting or attacking any member of the film industry, FWICE highlighted the sector's contribution to the country's cultural identity and economy. It noted that the livelihoods of millions—including actors, directors, producers, technicians, artistes and other workers—depend on the industry, stressing the need for them to work and lead normal personal lives without fear, threats or criminal pressure.



Relationships Are Personal, Not Public Entertainment



Actor Avinash Mishra has broken his silence amid widespread rumours of a breakup with actress Eisha Singh and allegations of infidelity, urging social media users to respect their privacy. Sharing a note on his Instagram Stories, Mishra appealed to fans and netizens not to intrude into his personal life. While the actor neither officially confirmed the breakup nor addressed the cheating claims directly—and refrained from naming Eisha Singh—his statement sought to put an end to ongoing online speculation. "Guys, let's end this here and move on. The past few weeks have been difficult for many people. I request everyone to respect everyone's privacy. Relationships are personal, not public entertainment. Not everything is meant for views and engagement. Let people live in peace," Mishra wrote. His post comes at a time when speculation surrounding the duo's alleged split has gained momentum online. The rumours intensified following a viral social media post by Eisha Singh's mother, Rekha Singh, after which fans noticed that Eisha had unfollowed Avinash on social media, though he continues to follow her. Meanwhile, certain social media posts have also alleged that Mishra cheated on Singh, further fuelling the chatter. Neither actor, however, has issued an official statement confirming a split. Avinash Mishra and Eisha Singh previously appeared together on the popular reality show Bigg Boss 18, where they grew close and frequently supported each other. Following the show, the two were spotted together on several occasions.

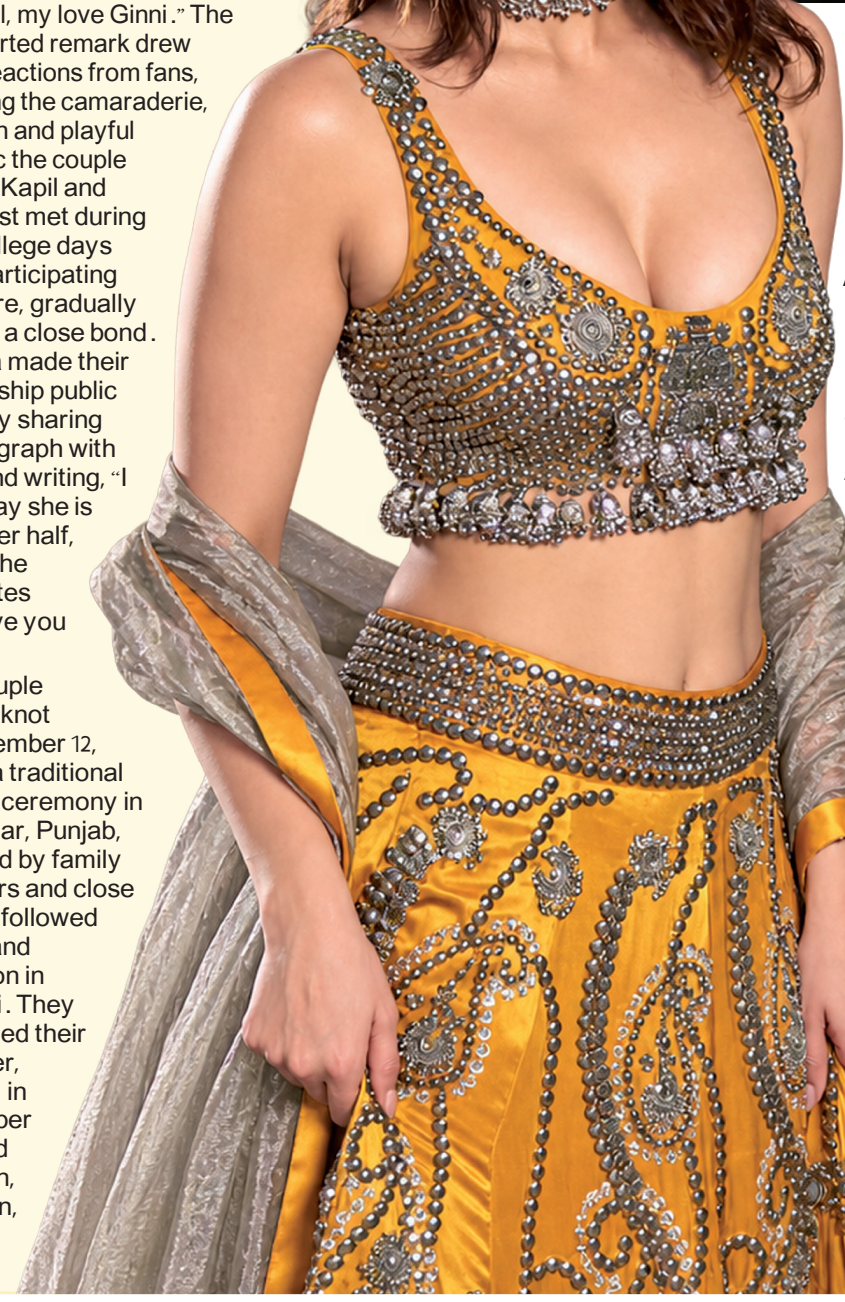
Kapil Sharma Thanks Wife Ginni for Making His Journey 'More Difficult', Quickly Corrects Himself in Hilarious Post



Comedian and actor Kapil Sharma, who is currently vacationing abroad with his family, shared a series of charming photographs from the trip on social media, featuring a selfie with his wife Ginni Chatrath and candid family moments with their children. Accompanying the pictures was a playful caption in Sharma's signature humorous style, in which he jokingly thanked Ginni for making his journey "more difficult" before quickly correcting himself to say "more beautiful," highlighting the warmth and banter in their relationship. In the first photograph shared on his Instagram handle, Sharma and Ginni are seen posing outdoors for a selfie at a scenic location. Both opted for coordinated all-black ensembles paired with stylish sunglasses—Sharma in a black sweater and Ginni in a matching black outfit. Another picture captures the couple posing happily outside a historic building alongside their two children, Anayra and Trishaan. Captioning the post, Sharma wrote, "The journey becomes even more beautiful when you have good company. Thank you for making my life's journey more difficult sorry, thank you for making it even more beautiful, my love Ginni." The lighthearted remark drew warm reactions from fans, reflecting the camaraderie, affection and playful dynamic the couple shares. Kapil and Ginni first met during their college days while participating in theatre, gradually forming a close bond. Sharma made their relationship public in 2017 by sharing a photograph with Ginni and writing, "I won't say she is my better half, rather she completes me. Love you Ginni."

The couple tied the knot on December 12, 2018, in a traditional Punjabi ceremony in Jalandhar, Punjab, attended by family members and close friends, followed by a grand reception in Mumbai. They welcomed their daughter, Anayra, in December 2019, and their son, Trishaan, in 2021.





Sharvari Wagh Heaps Praise on Alia Bhatt, Calls Her a 'True Multitasker'

Actress Sharvari Wagh recently opened up about her experience of working alongside Alia Bhatt in the upcoming film Alpha, applauding her co-star's ability to effortlessly juggle multiple responsibilities on set. According to Sharvari, while Alia remains completely immersed in her character in front of the camera, she simultaneously manages schedules for her home, young daughter and business ventures in between shots. Calling Alia both an extraordinary actor and a remarkable multitasker, Sharvari said working with her proved to be an enriching learning experience. Sharvari shared these insights during a recent appearance as a special guest on a popular television show. In conversation with the host, she spoke at length about admiring Alia's body of work and observing her discipline up close during the shoot. "Alia is my favourite actress. The kind of films she has done, the stories she has brought to the screen and the diverse roles she has played have always been an inspiration to me. I have always wanted to do films like hers, so when I got the opportunity to work with her, I was thrilled," Sharvari said. She added that sharing screen space with Alia was more than just a professional milestone—it was an opportunity to observe and learn. "I had decided that I would quietly stay around her and absorb as much as I could. As a person too, she is wonderful. I remember thinking how young she looks herself, yet she has a little daughter. Even between shots, she is constantly planning things and is aware of everything going on. When the camera rolls, she is completely focused on her craft and gives her hundred per cent, while also managing her home, her brands and everything else. She is truly a multitasker." Impressed by Sharvari's remarks, the show's host also lauded Alia's dedication, noting that she excels not just as an actor but in balancing every facet of her life. Directed by Shiv Rawail, Alpha is an action-thriller forming part of Yash Raj Films' Spy Universe. The film features Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh in pivotal roles and marks Sharvari's debut in the high-octane spy franchise.

Yeh Prem Mol Liya: Sooraj Barjatya's Film of Love and Family in an Era of Action

At a time when Hindi cinema audiences are gravitating largely towards films packed with action, bloodshed, revenge sagas and violence, veteran filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya is bringing back a project that places love, relationships and family at its core. With his upcoming film Yeh Prem Mol Liya, the director is returning to the family-oriented entertainment genre that he played a major role in shaping, offering moviegoers



an experience distinct from today's high-octane spectacles and grand action set pieces. This shift in Hindi cinema has been hard to miss. Recent titles such as Animal, Pushpa 2: The Rule, Chhaava, Dhurandhar and Border 2 have drawn audiences to theatres on the strength of large-scale visuals, intense action and aggressive narratives. Meanwhile, family dramas—once among Hindi cinema's defining strengths—have become a rarer sight on the big screen. Industry observers note that viewers are increasingly selective about heading to cinema halls, and decisions to watch films together as a family are now made much more cautiously.

Madhuri Dixit Praises Mumbai's Helping Spirit During 'Kon Honaar Crorepati' Appearance with Bhuvan Bam

Actress Madhuri Dixit recently spoke fondly about her deep affection for Mumbai and praised the city's residents for their warmth and readiness to help others, during a guest appearance by actor and social media creator Bhuvan Bam on the Marathi quiz show Kon Honaar Crorepati. During the episode, the conversation turned to what makes the financial capital special, with Dixit highlighting the spirit of Mumbaikars that sets them apart. She noted that people in the city are big-hearted and always willing to step up for those around them. When Dixit asked Bam what he likes most about Mumbai, he replied, "The



people here." Expressing her agreement, Dixit said, "People here immediately come forward to help, and there is a strong sense of belonging." Bam quickly agreed, responding, "Hundred percent," after which Dixit let out a whistle and raised her hand in a salute to Mumbaikars. Dixit has long-standing roots in the city, having grown up in Andheri, attended college in Vile Parle, and built her Bollywood career in Mumbai. After marriage, she moved to the United States and spent several years away from the city while raising her children before returning to resume her career in Indian entertainment. Her connection to Marathi cinema has also grown steadily since making her Marathi film debut with Bucket List. Alongside her husband, Dr. Shriram Nene, she has worked as a producer on projects including 15 August and Panchak, continuing to remain active across both Hindi and Marathi cinema as an actor and producer.