

Century of centuries not out of question for Virat Kohli: Ravi Shastri

Pj12

Amid erratic power supply in Valley, Govt says adequate electricity available

Pj3



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# We are Committed to Eliminate Terror Ecosystem from entire J&K : LG Manoj Sinha



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: The Jammu and

Kashmir administration is committed to eliminating the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha said on Thursday during a meeting to review security measures.

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# India Committed To Unimpeded Lawful Commerce In International Waters: Rajnath

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, NOV 16: India is committed to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters in accordance with global norms, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday against the backdrop of China's increasing military muscle flexing in South China Sea.

In an address at a meeting of 10-nation ASEAN and some of its dialogue partners in Jakarta, Singh also underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy to ensure enduring peace and stability in the world.

The defence minister reaffirmed India's message to the world at large, that "this is not an era of war", and spoke about the imperative to give up the "us versus them" mindset.

Singh said India is committed to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in the international waters in accordance with international laws, including United Nations Convention on the Law of



the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

There have been growing global concerns over China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons.

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## NEWS BRIEF

### President of India graces 3rd Audit Diwas celebrations

NEW DELHI, NOV 16: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 3rd Audit Diwas Celebrations in New Delhi today (November 16, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that under the leadership of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, government's audit community has made significant contributions in strengthening integrity, governance and system building.

The President said that people of India want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047. All important institutions and communities of the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Gun battle erupts in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: An encounter broke out between militants and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, police said.

There were no reports of any casualties so far.

The encounter began after security forces launched an anti-terrorist's operation in the Samno, Damhal Hanjipora Alshpora area after receiving information about the presence of terrorists there.

"Encounter has started at Samno, D.H Pora area of Kulgam district. Police & Security Forces are on the job. Further details shall follow."

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### SIU Attaches Orchard Property Of JeM OGW In Pulwama

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu & Kashmir Police on Thursday attached property of a Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) Over Ground Worker (OGW) under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Pulwama district, officials said.

The SIU attached an orchard property measuring seven kanals and seven marlas under Khasra Number 207 at village Chitrat, Arigam

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### PM Modi's life-size cut out big attraction for Lal Chowk visitors

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: A life-size cut-out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the historic Lal Chowk is a new attraction for tourists.



They can be seen taking photographs and

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### In 35 days, 89000 MTs of Kashmiri Apple hits India's biggest fruit mandi Azadpur

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: A total of 7267MT of apples have been imported from Iran and Afghanistan during the last 35 days to India's biggest fruit market Azadpur against 89000 MTs of Kashmiri apple during the same period.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the valley fruit growers and dealers have been claiming that the



flow of Iranian apples reduced the demand for Kashmiri apples by more than 40 per cent.

Following the claims of heavy losses to Kashmir's horticulture made by the valley fruit growers, authorities initiated an exercise to assess the quantity of imports coming from Iran and Afghanistan.

As per the figures accessed by KNO, in last 35 days (October 10- November 15), a total of 29 MT of apples have been exported from Iran to India's biggest fruit market Azadpur Mandi

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Police unearth pilferage of LPG, seizes tankers, arrest two persons in Samba

HT News Network

JAMMU, NOV 16: Police on Thursday unearthed pilferage of essential commodity and seized two tankers of Indane Gas Agency and gas cylinders by arresting two persons red-handed in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The accused were arrested while extracting gas from tankers using pipes and filling the same in the commercial gas cylinders to be sold at the price lower than market rates.

However, a case under relevant sections was also registered at Police

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Key Terror Launch Commander Killed In Uri Infiltration Bid

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: In a major blow to terror infrastructure and terror sympathisers in the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have eliminated key launch commander Bashir Ahmad Malik in an anti-infiltration operation in the Uri sector, the army said on Thursday.

Malik and another terrorist were killed Wednesday in a joint operation, codenamed Op Kali, by the army and Jammu and Kashmir Police along the Line of Control.

"The salient aspect of this operation is the neutralization of Bashir Ahmed Malik, one of the two terrorists killed. He was an important cog in the Pakistan-enabled crossborder terrorism Jammu and Kashmir. He was an important terrorist launch commander for terror tanzems (organisations) from Leepa in the North to the areas in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



### JTFRP significant in raising critical infra and livelihood creation: CS

Chairs 5th PSC Meeting of this vital Project here

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the 5th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the World Bank funded Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) implemented by J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) here.

Besides the Secretary Tourism & CEO, ERA the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Com-

merce; DG, Planning; and others concerned.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the pace of the ongoing projects and stressed on further enhancing it for projects nearing completion so that these are dedicated to public before the onset of winter season. He further instructed for completing the infrastructure projects in all respects so that people do not face any kind of inconvenience in their smooth utilization.

Dr Mehta called JTFRP very pivotal in improving public utilities like schools, colleges, hospitals and other disaster mitigating assets. He

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### India's Global Supremacy To Be Determined By Its Scientific Prowess: Dr Jitendra

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, NOV 16: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said, India's global supremacy will be determined by its scientific prowess.

He said that the recent twin achievements of Chandrayaan-3 and Covid vaccine have placed India's scientific community at par with international benchmarks.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public

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### Div Com conducts spot inspection of safety measures at accident site

HT News Network

DODA, NOV 16: In response to tragic road mishap in Doda, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today visited the accident site at Assar to take first-hand evaluation of the road condition.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, DIG DKR Dr Sunil Gupta, DIG Traffic Jammu, Sridhar Patil, Transport Commissioner Jammu, Chief Engineer PWD, SSP Doda, SSP Traffic, Executive



Engineers and other officials, the Div com conducted thor-

ough assessment and

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

**J&K Admin.....**

Sinha's statement came during a meeting here to review the security situation and development projects in ten districts of the valley.

"Chaired a high-level meeting in Srinagar today to review the security and development scenario in all 10 districts of Kashmir Division," the office of J-K LG posted on X.

The LG said the Jammu and Kashmir administration is "committed to eliminating the terror ecosystem and ensuring inclusive and progressive development" of the Union Territory, the post added.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha Thursday reiterated that without peace there can be no development. He urged common citizens to come forward and play their role in ensure and retain peace in the region.

"Without peace there cannot be development. It is imperative to ensure peace if we need development and reformation. It is not duty of police and security forces only to work for peace but citizens as well should realize their responsibility and should come forward and play their role in ensuring and retaining peace in the region," LG Manoj Sinha as per KNS said while speaking while addressing a function organized by Srinagar Smart City Limited. LG at the occasion inaugurated SSC's 4 Dal Lake Front projects which will be city's most unique and serene attractions.

LG Sinha urged citizens of J&K to play their role in ensuring peace in the region. "If we left everything on forces and administration and run away from our responsibilities then peace is a distant dream which cannot happen," LG Sinha said.

Speaking tough against those trying to disturb peace in the region, the LG Sinha said the time of conflict profiteers is over although but still there are elements who want to disturb peace in J&K. "I want to say the time of conflict profiteers is over. Still there are elements who want to disturb peace whether anything big happens in J&K or not? They use issues pertaining to outside world to incite J&K people towards violence," he said.

LG added that we should realize the way tourism is improving leads augmentation of infrastructure and urban transformation. "We should proud on developmental process and reformative exercises, not of this matter that we have a person who killed 100 people," he added.

He also added the day when peace will be disturbed there will be no tourism, development, employment and infrastructure. There are elements who are talking and inciting people without having any evidence.

LG appealed to common citizens of J&K to come forward if they feel any wrong in decisions taken by the government. "I reiterate if any citizen of J&K feels our decision wrong, we welcome him with open heart and are ready to talk with them. But it is not good to spread rumors and hoodwink common masses," LG continued.

**India Committed.....**

Several countries in the region including Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei, have counter-claims.

In his remarks at the meeting of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), the defence minister described terrorism as a serious threat to international peace and security and called for concerted efforts to deal with it.

The ADMM-Plus is a platform comprising 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its eight dialogue partners – India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

Indonesia is hosting the meeting as the current chair of ADMM-Plus.

The defence minister called for regional security initiatives that are consultative and development-oriented to reflect the larger consensus among various stakeholders.

He committed towards nurturing practical, forward-looking and result-oriented cooperation with ADMM-Plus for enhancing maritime security in the region, the defence ministry said here.

India became the dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi in October 2010. Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus ministers have been meeting annually to bolster regional security cooperation. (Agencies)

**PM Modi's.....**

selfies with the huge cut-out that was installed late Tuesday.

The cut-out shows the Prime Minister wearing a white full-sleeved Kurta and Pyjama alongside a striped waistcoat.

The tourists express their delight and attribute positive changes in the region to his leadership.

This is the first time that any such cut-out of a Prime Minister has been installed in the historical Lal Chowk.

"This unexpected attraction reflects not only the popularity of the Prime Minister but also the positive sentiments associated with the perceived development in the region", said a tourist couple who were seen taking pictures with Modi's cut-out in Lal Chowk.

A message in Hindi has also been erected - "Buzargoun ka Samaan..." or respect for the elders.

"This is India," said a tourist, adding "We should respect our elders...I feel very good to see this message".

The tourist said she had never expected such changes in Kashmir and even five years ago there was no idea that "we can visit Kashmir even once". "I feel very uplifted to take a picture with my husband with the cutout of Modi ji in Srinagar's Lal Chowk", she said.

"We were very afraid that we could go to Kashmir", she said and added, "Now we are here

because of Modiji..we should feel proud that we are Indians" UNI

**In 35 days.....**

New Delhi. Official figures said that during these 35 days, a total of 89000MT of apples were shipped from the valley to Azadpur mandi.

Simultaneously, from Afghanistan, a total of 7238 MT of apples were imported to Azadpur fruit mandi during these 35 days.

Deputy Director Central, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing department, Manzoor Ahmad Mir told KNO that so far the valley's fruit industry has not had any impact due to the flow of Iranian and Afghani apples.

"Our country has a free trade policy with Afghanistan and during the last 35 days 7238MT of apples have been imported from the country. From Iran, which is imposed with export duty, exported 29MT of apples. During the same time Kashmir shipped 89000MT of apples, which suggested that these imports from both these countries are comparatively less than the quantity of apples shipped from Kashmir," he said.

Mir said the market demand for Kashmir apple this year has been on a higher side. "We had a better market demand for Kashmiri apples this year. Our growers got better rates in different markets of India," he said.

Meanwhile, the growers and dealers have shot a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking attention over the flow of Iranian apples via Wagah border.

The apple growers and dealers' association in the letter expressed their apprehension of suffering heavy losses due to the invasion by Iranian apples.

"Heavy Flow of Iranian apple in the name of Afghanistan via Wagah Border in the Indian Markets has again started bothering valley fruit growers who are already having apprehensions of suffering heavy losses. The Valley based fruit growers who were hopeful of compensating their losses during festive season, are now again pushed into mental agony," the letter reads.

The KVFGDU in the letter mentioned that the rates of Garde 'A' Kashmir apples has reduced by Rs 600 per box. "Only two weeks ago, Kashmiri Apple box would sell at Rs. 1000-1300 per box in various fruit markets of India but now the same sells at Rs.800 per box. The Valley Based Fruit Growers are, therefore, extremely worried of the situation," it said.

The apple growers and dealers' union in the letter highlighted that the heavy flow of Iranian Apple is not only disastrous for small and marginal growers of Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand "but also results in huge losses to state exchequer."

The apple growers and dealers have appealed to the Prime Minister to ban the import or impose 100 percent excise duty on Iranian apples.

"Under the circumstances explained above the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union which is an elected apex body of all Fruit Growers Associations of the valley appeal your good self kindly consider imposition of ban or alternatively imposition of 100% excise duty on arrival of Iranian Apple in the Indian Markets so that the Fruit Growers of Valley, Himachal and Uttarakhand will feel a sigh of relief," the letter reads.

Horticulture is the mainstay of Kashmir's economy with seven lakh families directly and indirectly associated with the sector. Horticulture contributes eight percent to the Gross State Domestic Product of Jammu and Kashmir.

More than 3.38 lakh hectares of land is under the fruit cultivation in the valley. Of which 1.62 lakh hectares is under the apple cultivation.

**Police unearth.....**

Station Samba through Police Post Supwal and investigation is underway.

The arrested accused have been identified as Ravi Kumar of Motlian Kalan Uttarbehni, tehsil Vijaypur, district Samba and Hapary Manyal of Diani, tehsil and district Samba.

However, two drivers of the tankers managed to flee from the spot taking advantage of darkness, police added.

Police added that they too have been identified and raids are being conducted to arrest them and some more arrests are likely in this case of criminal conspiracy for pilferage of essential commodity, criminal breach of trust, act of habitual receiving of pilfered property having knowledge that the same was pilfered and rash act with combustible matter endangering human lives.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh, said initial investigation revealed that the same pilferage of gas from Indane gas tankers had been committed for the last over four months at the same place during midnight hours.

The Indane gas tankers coming from Punjab side to Indane LPG Bottling Plant Bari Brahmana, Samba used to come to this particular place i.e Chhajwal Barian, Supwal Samba at odd night hours for pilferage purpose.

On the intervening night of November 15 and 16 at around 2 am, alert Police conducted raid at Chhajwal Barian in the jurisdiction of Police Post Supwal and arrested two accused red-handed while extracting gas from big gas tankers and filling it in the big sized commercial gas cylinders.

The nocturnal raid on the specific tip off was conducted by the Police team of PPSupwal headed by Chowki Officer Supwal, Deepika Jalotra and investigation is being conducted by SHO Police Station Samba Inspector Daljit Singh under the supervision of DySP Garu Ram and Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary.

The tankers and gas cylinders were seized in the presence of Executive Magistrate First Class

and Gazetted Police Officer DySP Garu Ram.

The SSP said night patrols and raids have been intensified by Police in Samba district to curb criminal conspiracies, pilferage, thefts and smuggling during night hours and perpetrators of crime being nabbed one after the other. (UNI)

**Key Terror.....**

PoJ&K, opposite Rajouri in the South," an army official said.

The official said Malik, who was active for the past 30 years, had enabled infiltration of a number of terrorists who caused the death of many Indian citizens, both security forces personnel as well as civilians.

"His neutralisation is a major blow dealt by us to the terror infrastructure across the line of control and its sympathisers and supporters," the official said.

Repeated infiltration attempts through the same area in the Uri sector of Baramulla district was a display of desperation by the adversary to push more terrorists into the Kashmir valley to spoil the prevailing peace and tranquility, he said.

"We have a robust line of control security grid and we are on a high vigil. The Indian Army is well prepared to defeat any such infiltrations attempts and we will not let the enemy succeed with his devious designs," he added.

The joint operation was launched in the early hours of 15 November on specific intelligence from "own sources and SB, Srinagar, with respect to the likelihood of infiltration of terrorists across Line of Control in Uri sector", the officials said.

It was the second infiltration bid in the area with the last few days. The first bid was also thwarted.

"Based on the intelligence own counter intelligence and surveillance grids in this area was strengthened and own ambush were deployed," the official said.

He said the weather during the operation was inclement and the area of this operation was treacherous in terms of terrain.

"This operation has resulted in neutralisation of two terrorists, whose mortal remains have been recovered. However, there may be more terrorist casualties who could be on the other side of the Line of Control. We did not cross the Line of Control. "The other recoveries included war-like stores encompassing two AK series rifles, two pistols, four Chinese hand grenades, ammunition along with medicines, eatables, Rupees 2630 in Pakistan currency and Pakistan National identity Card," the official added. (Agencies)

**India's Global....**

Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh was briefing the media about the upcoming 9th India International Science Festival (IISF) - 2023 to be held in Faridabad in January 2024.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last over 9 years under the Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, scientific breakthroughs have been used to bring 'Ease of Living' for the common man.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, IISF is an outreach festival for those who could get benefited by Science, Technology and Innovation. The role of science & technology has permeated in every aspect of our lives as almost all Ministries and Departments are having STI applications for sectoral development, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, whether it is the Roads, Railways, Smart City project, Telemedicine, Deep Sea Exploration, Ground Water Mapping, Crop Imaging, the applications of S&T are quite visible to all.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Science Festival will be celebrated at three levels, - first, the number of success stories which are of global implications, will be shared with key stakeholders like Startups, Industry bodies, Innovators, Researchers, Students and scientific community from India and abroad; second, we are at the same page now in major global scientific breakthroughs as the National Quantum Mission recently announced, is having the R&D with an elite league of six other countries.

The Third reason by the S&T Minister is that India has set an example before the world that scientific research is meant for development purposes and more so, in the last almost ten years, almost all the Flagship Schemes have the footprint of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood said that IISF will kindle the spirit of entrepreneurship in our young people and will provide an opportunity to showcase the marvels of science around us through exhibitions and Startup conclave.

Secretary, DST, Dr Abhay Karandikar said that more than 10,000 school children will participate in IISF, apart from 500 young researchers who will deliberate on new initiatives and cutting edge technologies. More than 100 Startups will exhibit their achievements and it is expected that over 12,000 delegates will be part of this grand event.

The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 will be held at Faridabad, Haryana from January 17th-20th, 2024.

India's mega Science Fair will be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) of Department of Biotechnology in Faridabad.

The theme of the present edition is 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'. IISF 2023 aims to provide a platform for inspiring the public at large and individuals with diverse levels of interests like students, educators, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs and science communicators.

IISF 2023 will have a total of 17 themes to showcase scientific achievements offering diverse benefits to participants and the general public.

During the IISF-2023, IISF Challenge will be a unique event wherein a new record will be created and put up at global level as a challenge. This year nearly 500 Satellites (WeMoSat) will be developed by the team of two students from Class 9th. All such meteorological satellites will measure pressure, temperature, humidity etc. upto the height of 200 meter. All the assembled satellites will be taken to such height by paramotor.

Nearly 100 women scientists and successful entrepreneurs will participate in the festival and will showcase their achievements and successful stories among the delegates. Besides, nearly 40 to 50 international experts are likely to visit the festival and will deliver talks and interact with various stakeholders for the possible collaboration in various streams of S&T.

**JTFRP significant.....**

asserted that project has also revived the traditional handicrafts which has directly and indirectly provided employment to thousands of our artisans and craftsmen.

Regarding the unutilized funds lend by the World Bank to JTFRP the Chief Secretary directed for looking into the ways and means for securing extension of the project, if possible. He made out that the projects completed under it have proved lot more beneficial for the people and the funds can be used to bring about further improvement in critical infrastructure and livelihood opportunities for people.

Dr Mehta took note of the delay caused in 2019 & 2020 due to unforeseen Covid-19 situation. He asked for making best use of the time window available with them. He also advised them to prioritize the projects that can be implemented in a short span of time.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the detailed progress of all the sub-projects and directed that the ones under execution through JKPC shall be taken over by the Public Works (R&B) Department on priority basis.

The Chief Secretary asked the Public Works Department to take-up the incomplete infrastructure projects for executing them within the deadline. He also directed the respective line departments to take over all the completed sub-projects under JTFRP within a weeks time.

He asked for bringing in innovation and further augment the productivity of these projects poised to create livelihood opportunities for our people. He called for examining the projects completed till date so that their functionality is ascertained afresh especially that of the Storm Water Drainage projects around the Srinagar city.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the budget and audit report of the agency during the meeting. He directed the CEO to rework the cost of the AMC of the projects beyond the project completion period. He also gave directives for increasing the efficiency of projects besides broadening their scope for encompassing people from other walks of life.

In his presentation, the CEO, ERA, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah highlighted the performance of the agency made from 2019. He gave out that out of 213 works, 174 stands completed and 39 are currently at the advanced stages of completion. He further informed that contracts worth 1763 Cr stands awarded against which cumulative expenditure to the tune of 1320 Cr has been incurred till October this year.

It was revealed that the JTFRP focused on recovery and mitigating risks linked to occurrence of floods here and it has largely achieved this goal. It was given out that the restored and improved public buildings have served 2,185,798 people, way above the target of 1,000,000.

Moreover the infrastructure works completed under JTFRP includes 52 Schools, 4 higher education buildings, one fire station, 80 km of roads, 4 bridges, 75 km drainage network and 33 storm water drainage pumping stations.

It was added that critical medical equipment and supplies to 36 hospitals, augmenting 100-Helpline with 68 critical care ambulances, commissioning of 30 oxygen generation plants covering all districts of Jammu and Kashmir was also achieved under this project.

With respect to livelihoods augmentation it was said that market access for 600 families associated with cocoon rearing, enhanced cocoon procurement capacity and production capacity has already been created. In addition to these interventions similar developments were made in wool, handloom and handicraft sectors of the UT, as was given out in the meeting.

**Div Com conducts.....**

discussed immediate safety measures to prevent such mishaps in the future.

The Div Com directed the Executive Engineer PWD to identify and compile a list of black spots along the Highway and other roads in the district. To enhance the road safety, he instructed concerned officers to

raise the crash barrier height and install signages and mirrors to improve visibility and awareness on the roads.

After comprehensive assessment and discussion with the experts, he asked the stakeholder departments to take every possible step to ensure the safety of commuters and prevent future mishaps on the roads of Doda.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner visited Government Medical College & Hospital Doda and inquired about the condition of those injured in the accident.

Senior doctors apprised the Div Com about the health status of injured and medical procedures being followed. The Div Com directed the District administration to appoint a nodal officer for coordination and to take care of the injured at Associated Hospital GMC Doda. It was informed that 15 injured were admitted to GMC Doda for treatment and all are stable.

He directed the Hospital Administration to provide best possible medical care and assistance to injured persons for their speedy recovery.

Later, Ramesh Kumar chaired the Road Safety Committee meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC office complex to assess the cause and discuss future Safety measures to minimize such fatal road accidents.

Instructions were passed to post a senior doctor and paramedic in the CHC Assar and a station a critical care/ Advanced Life Support Ambulance between Assar and Khellani to strengthen the rescue and response system to attend to the emergency situations and to minimise the loss of life.

The Div Com asked ARTO to take strict action against the defaulters and habitual traffic rule violators, besides increasing the roadside checking of vehicles and drivers.

The PWD, PMGSY, and NHIDCL authorities were directed to install proper crash barriers, signages, speed limit monitors, and other safety equipment along all the black spots for the safety and awareness of the commuters.

The Divisional Commissioner further asked for strengthening control rooms, Inter-District coordination and health care infrastructure in the erstwhile District Doda. He asked to have an updated and active blood donors group, disaster response teams and local rescue volunteers. He impressed upon the district authority to arrange for advance training of Civil Defense volunteers, and general public for immediate rescue response when required. He emphasized immediate audit of the causes of accidents and casualties by the designated officers drawn from Civil, Police, MVD, Health, and Traffic Department.

**President of.....**

country, including C&AG, have to contribute to achieve this goal. She was happy to note that C&AG has taken many forward looking steps, including the establishment of the Centre for Data Management and Analytics, in which digital technology and other modern methods are being used in line with the future.

The President said that the entire team of C&AG is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's developmental journey. She stated that C&AG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world.

The President said that the impact of today's market system characterized by global competition is relevant to all institutions and enterprises. The ability to compete on the basis of ethics should continuously increase in all enterprises and activities of the country. Removing obstacles in achieving the national goals of accelerated growth and development while ensuring financial propriety and legality is the touchstone of effective contribution by every institution and individual responsible for good governance, including the C&AG. She emphasised that the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics. She added that they should be considered guides whose scrutiny teaches us to follow the right path.

The President said that India's leading position in the world community is also visible in the field of audit. The emphasis on the issues of Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence during India's presidency of Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI 20) is a good effort to prepare a roadmap for the future. She was happy to note that C&AG is also playing a leading role in other international forums.

**Gun battle.....**

Kashmir Zone Police posted on X. This is the second gun battle in Kashmir in the last 24 hours. On Wednesday, two infiltrators were killed in a gun battle in Uri sector of Baramulla district. (UNI)

**SIU Attaches.....**

Pulwama, belonging to one Gulam Nabi Wani, father of accused Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, resident of Chitrat Arigam Pulwama.

"The property has been attached under section 25 of UA(P)A through an order dated 13.11.2023, by the competent authority", a statement of the agency said.





# Proposed land allotment policy faces criticism in Ladakh

It is assault on powers of Hill Councils: LAB, KDA

**SRINAGAR, NOV 16:** The draft land allotment policy for industries in the newly carved out Union Territory of Ladakh has come under sharp criticism from the bodies spearheading agitation for statehood and safeguards for jobs and land. As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the draft “Ladakh Industrial Land Allotment Policy”-2023 was put in public domain by the UT administration last month for seeking suggestions/comments.

Both the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have termed the proposed policy as an assault on the powers of the elected Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils. The LAB has said that the policy appears to bypass the powers and responsibilities of the Hill Councils. “The policy should respect the roles and powers of LAHDCs in land allocation and leasing, as outlined in the relevant legal provisions. Ignoring these provisions directly violates the authority of LAHDC Act-1995, undermine the autonomy of these councils and is against wishes of the local population,” the LAB said. The Leh Apex Body has pushed for involvement of elected representatives of LAHDCs, Municipalities and Panchayati Raj Institutions to “ensure that the interests and concerns of the people of Ladakh are adequately represented in the decision-making process.”

In their objections, the KDA has said that the policy usurps the land allotment powers of the Hill Councils of the UT. “As on date, the Autonomous Hill Development Councils are the concerned authority to lease the land for public purpose. The new policy is silent on how the powers of the Autonomous Hill Development Councils will be accommodated and what role the Hill Development Council will have in the allotment of land for industrial purposes,” the body said.

The KDA has demanded involvement of the Hill Councils in the land allotment, saying the power of transfer of land lies with them by virtue of laws governing the Councils. Citing eco-fragility and tribal identity of Ladakh, both the bodies have also pushed for incorporating environmental safeguards in the land allotment policy. They have also pushed for reservation and priority to inhabitants of Ladakh.

## Royal Bengal Tiger pair to roar in Jambu Zoo

**JAMMU, NOV 16:** A pair of Royal Bengal Tiger, the National Animal, aged 9 years, is reaching Jambu Zoo today from Aringar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Pertinently, the tiger pair has been brought here in exchange of a pair of Himalayan Black Bear from Jambu Zoo to Aringar Anna Zoological Park as part of an animal exchange programme.

The Royal Bengal Tiger is one of the largest, fiercest, and most powerful member of Big Cat family. Every tiger has a distinct strip pattern which makes them different from other tigers and makes it easy



in counting them during the tiger census. There are around 3,167 tigers in India's forests, which is more than 75% of the global Tiger population as per the 2023 Tiger Census.

The Tiger pair will be housed in a naturalistic and enriched enclosure having a space of more than 4500 square meter as per the Central Zoo Authority's norms with water ponds, machans, heating and ventilation facility for extreme weather condition. The Tigers will be kept under quarantine for a week's time and thereafter will be released in the paddock for public display.

Royal Bengal Tiger will be an additional attraction in the family of Jambu Zoo and a great delight for the public especially children, wildlife enthusiasts and other the visitors.

## GMC Hospital Anantnag lacks MRI facility, patients suffer

Official says MRI facility yet to be approved

**ANANTNAG, NOV 16:** Patients are suffering due to non-availability of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility at Government Medical College Hospital in Anantnag. Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Patients said they are forced to visit private diagnostic centres in absence of MRI facilities.

Mohammad Abbas, a patient from Anantnag said that doctors advised him to go for an MRI but in absence of the facility at the GMC, patients like him are forced to visit private diagnostic centres.

He said that it costs Rs 5000-6000 for a patient to undergo an MRI at a private diagnostic centre but there are dozens of patients who can't afford it.

Patients said that poor patients are suffering mainly as they are unable to bear the expenses of the scan, hence their treatment gets delayed.

They requested the concerned authorities to set the facility as a hospital so that poor people won't suffer.

A doctor posted at GMC Anantnag who wished not to be named said they urgently need an MRI facility at GMC in the face of its need to scan patients before treatment. MRI is a diagnostic powerhouse that illuminates the inner workings of the human body with unparalleled precision. This extraordinary technology harnesses the potency of a magnetic field and radio waves to craft intricate visualizations of internal structures.

“The hospital administration has already earmarked a dedicated space for the installation of an MRI scanner in A-Block and are hopeful that the facility will be installed soon,” he added. A top official of GMC Anantnag told KNO that the government hasn't approved an MRI facility for GMC Anantnag yet. But efforts are on to make MRI available at the hospital soon, the official added.

## Kashmir's Wetlands abuzz with hues of Migratory guests

**SRINAGAR, NOV 16:** As winter sets in, the wetland reserves of Kashmir valley have become a vibrant refuge for hundreds of migratory birds from Europe and Western countries.

This annual migration, deeply rooted in centuries-old patterns, marks a significant event in the ecological calendar, showcasing the enduring appeal of Kashmir as a winter haven.

Last year witnessed a staggering twelve lakh migratory birds undertaking the arduous journey from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to the wetlands of Kashmir.

This migration, originating from diverse locations such as Siberia, China, the Philippines, Eastern Europe, and Japan, commences around October as these winged visitors seek respite from the harsh winter conditions in their native habitats.

An official of Wildlife Department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that Kashmir's wetlands, including renowned sites like Hokersar, Wular Lake, Haigam, and Shalbugh, transform into bustling habitats for these migratory birds, offering a haven of relative warmth and sustenance during the colder months.

He said that the migratory period extends until March, when the birds

return to their distant homelands, completing a cycle that has played out for centuries.

He further said that the recent influx of migratory birds, numbering in the thousands, has infused the wetland reserves of Kashmir with vibrant hues and melodious sounds. The official attribute this surge to the conducive day and night temperatures in certain parts of the valley, providing an inviting environment for these avian visitors.

In Wular Lake, the official said the arrival of Black-headed Gulls. These migratory birds breed in various regions of Europe and Asia, choosing Wular Lake and other parts of South Asia as their wintering grounds.

He said that their migratory behavior is influenced by seasonal changes and the availability of food resources. During the non-breeding season, many black-headed gulls migrate to warmer regions in search of food and more favorable weather conditions.

“Known for their diverse diet, these gulls feed on fish, insects, small crustaceans, and other aquatic invertebrates. They exhibit impressive skills in catching flying insects and foraging for food in shallow water bodies,” he added.

“Measures, such as maintaining sufficient water levels in all wetlands, have been implemented to create a

conducive environment for these avian visitors,” he added.

“Among the myriad bird species gracing the wetlands are the Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Brahminy Duck, Garganey, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard, Red-Crested Pochard, Ruddy Shelduck, Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, and Eurasian Wigeon,” he said, adding that their presence creates a captivating spectacle, attracting bird watchers and nature enthusiasts alike.

However, the beauty of this annual migration is not without its challenges. Over the years, the threat of poaching has been a cause for concern, posing risks to the well-being of these migratory birds.

The Wildlife Department has, nevertheless, intensified its efforts to curb illegal activities and protect the avian guests. “We have heightened our vigilance and are conducting regular checks in and around these wetlands to prevent the illegal hunting of migratory birds. Also, we have established highly active squads to actively curb this illicit practice of killing migratory birds,” the official added.

The official added that the conclusive count of these birds will be available by the end of next week.

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## Indian Woman Evacuated From Gaza Reaches Cairo; Looking Forward To Her Homeward Journey To Kashmir

**JERUSALEM/CAIRO, NOV 16:** After being evacuated from war-torn Hamas-ruled Gaza with the help of Indian missions in the region, Lubna Nazir Shaboo is now looking forward to her homeward journey from Cairo to Kashmir.

Lubna, an Indian from Jammu & Kashmir living in Gaza, and her daughter Karima had crossed the Rafah border on Monday evening and reached the Egyptian capital the next day. “I safely crossed over from Gaza at the Rafah border and am now awaiting my return to Kashmir,” Lubna Nazir Shaboo told PTI from Cairo.

She said the return journey plan was in the works.

She profusely thanked the Indian diplomatic missions in the region — in Ramallah, Tel Aviv, and Cairo — for making the evacuation possible from the war-torn area. Soon after the Hamas-Israel conflict broke out on October 7, Lubna reached out to PTI on October 10 seeking help.

Lubna's one son and one daughter have been studying in Cairo.

Soon after she reached Cairo, the Indian Embassy in Cairo tweeted along with a photo of the Indian ambassador to Egypt Ajit Gupte with Lubna and her

daughter: “Amb @AjitVGupte received Mrs Lubna Nazir Shaboo, Indian national who has just arrived safely in Cairo, after being evacuated from Gaza. She and her family are in good health. Mrs Lubna expressed deep gratitude to @indemb-cairo, @indemtel and @ROI Ramallah for their assistance (sic).”

She also shared a video with PTI, which she had recorded at the Rafah border after reaching the Egyptian side.

“The situation was too bad in Gaza. We did not have water, electricity or internet and the telecommunication was too bad. We went through a very



bad phase over there. The situation is worsening day by day. There are people who are dying

every day and there are people who are injured and there are dead people who are also lying

under the debris.”

“There is a scarcity of everything. Food supplies, medicines. There is no medical care. Hospitals are out of service. Bombardment is happening everywhere,” she said in the video and added: “I hope that this video will reach the people and it will convey the message that Gaza is getting choked by every second.”

“There is no phone, there is no electricity. There is no internet and on Thursday, they are going to declare Gaza to be out of any telecommunication service. There will be no communication anymore. And we will not be knowing what is going

on in Gaza anymore. Gaza is in a very bad situation (sic),” she described.

Narrating the conditions in the Gaza Strip, pounded by Israel after the October 7 Hamas attack, and how babies, children, women, and civilians in general have been killed, Lubna said, “We don't know what more is going to happen in the coming days. There is hope that this thing will stop at once and pray for peace in this place.”

More than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since Israel began retaliatory attacks after the initial Hamas attack killed over 1200 Israelis.



# 70th All India Cooperative Week celebrated at Town Hall Kupwara

## HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 16: On the eve of 70th All India Cooperative Week, the Department of Cooperatives, District Kupwara, in collaboration with Cooperative Societies today organized a seminar to highlight the achievements of the cooperative sector in the district and to generate awareness among general public.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat was Chief Guest on the occasion.

At arrival, the ADC hoisted the Cooperative flag in presence of Deputy

Registrar Cooperative, Mohammad Arif Shah and other concerned officers to mark the celebration of the event.

While addressing the function, the ADC impressed upon the concerned officers to provide mass awareness to the people about the schemes of the Cooperative department so that they could get benefitted properly. He directed them for proper coverage of success stories of the department so that unemployed youth in particular will be encouraged to earn their livelihood through different avenues provided by the department.

The ADC highlighted the role of Cooperative Societies in the socio-



economic upliftment of the members of the Societies and emphasized the need for formation of new Cooperatives in different fields by involving more and more unemployed educated youth. He impressed upon all the stakeholders to work hard for revitalizing the vast infrastructure of cooperative societies and generate maximum avenues for the employment of unemployed educated youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies highlighted the achievements of Cooperative Societies in the district. He provided detailed awareness

regarding various schemes of the Cooperative department in the district. The other speakers enlightened the fundamentals of the cooperative movement and its essence in the present scenario. Special emphasis was given to persuade the educated youth, women and people from weaker sections to join the fold of cooperatives for earning their livelihood in multiple diversified sectors.

Among others, Cooperators, Managing Committee Members, office bearers and employees of various Cooperative Societies participated in the function. redressal camp.

## DC Anantnag Inaugurates 70th Cooperative Week

Cooperative Sector on top priority for District Administration: SF. Hamid

### HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 16: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, S.F Hamid today inaugurated the 70th Cooperative Week, underscoring the pivotal role of the cooperative sector in the district's progress.

The district level function was organized by the Department of Cooperative District Anantnag in collaboration with Cooperative Banks and Cooperative Societies, and witnessed participation from various stakeholders.

The DC on the occasion said that the new initiatives taken by the UT Administration through the intervention of Ministry of Cooperation, Govt of India for strengthening of Cooperative sector at ground level has vast scope for employment generation particularly in rural areas by making Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) as vibrant entities and stressed for enhancing membership base of the Cooperative



Societies, so that benefits of schemes can be best reaped in the interest of social transformation.

He said that the 70th All India Cooperative Week celebrations in Anantnag were a resounding success, bringing together stakeholders from various cooperative sectors to strengthen the cooperative movement.

Earlier, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Anantnag, Muzaffar Ahmad Beigh highlighted the

achievements of the Cooperative Societies and informed that in District Anantnag 56 Cooperative Societies including two Cooperative Banks registered under J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 are functioning. He said, during the year 2022-23, the Cooperative Societies have registered a business turnover of Rs 1643.33 lacs which include fertilizers Rs 287.58 lacs, consumer goods Rs 759.92 lacs, medicines Rs 444.40 lacs, Poultry business Rs 18.70 lacs, Dairy Rs 10.55 lacs, Timber Rs 56.14 lacs, and Sugar 66.04 lac. The programme was attended by District Audit officer Cooperative Societies Anantnag, General Manager Super Bazaar Anantnag, General Manager Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank, Assistants Registrars, Bank officers, field functionaries of Cooperative Department and representatives of different Cooperative Societies including Central level Cooperatives.

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## Arrangements reviewed for smooth conduct of JKSSB exams at Kulgam

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 16: In connection with the forthcoming JKSSB OMR based written examination of Panchayat Secretary, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam at mini-secretariat Kulgam.

At the outset, the ADC discussed threadbare arrangements to be put in place for the smooth conduct of the SSB forthcoming examination.

It was informed that there are 35 examination centers in the district.

During the meeting, the Motor Vehicle Department was asked to ensure proper traffic arrangements. Besides, arrangements for drinking water, heating, power, seating arrangements, security etc were also reviewed.

## District Police Kulgam held Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings

Farooq Rather

Kulgam: November: 16: In its ongoing process to address the grievances of general public, Police in Kulgam on the directions of SSP Kulgam held PCPG meeting at Police Station; DH Pora, Qazigund, Behibagh, Devsar and Police Post Frisal. The meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional officers and were attended by respectable citizens including Market associations, Auqaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Numberdars, Sarpachs, Panchs, youth and other representatives of Qazigund, Frisal, Shirpora, Nasu Badragund, Pahloo, Devsar, Palnoo, Behibagh and other adjacent villages.

Participants while speaking on this occasion, appreciated the process of organising such events in the Kulgam by police department in which an opportunity is being provided to highlight the prevailing issues of the society like drug abuse, domestic violence, speedy justice and seeks their redressal for the betterment of all. The officers present at the meetings gave a patient hearing to their issues and assured them that their issues which are pertaining to other departments will be taken up immediately with the concerned officers for appropriate action besides issues related to Police would be resolved on priority.

## Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated at Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel Shirmal Shopian

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: The District Administration, Shopian today celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas which marks the birth anniversary of Birs Munda, the iconic tribal freedom fighter at Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel Shirmal, Shopian. Joint Director Planning Khursheed Ahmad Khatana presided over the function. Speaking during the event, JDP said that this is for the first time that the programme is being organized on a large scale to pay tributes to great tribal freedom fighter for his selfless services for the nation. Highlighting the measures being taken for the welfare of the tribal community, JDP said that the Government is very much concerned for the socio-economic uplift of the SC/ST and OBC sections and highlighted major interventions of the Government for their upliftment.

On this occasion, a variety of cultural performances including Painting, Drama and Patriotic songs in Gojri were also presented by the students.

## 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Additional Secretary PMO attends activities in Gurez

Says VBSY a march towards a stronger, more vibrant India

### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 16: Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Punya Salila Srivastava Thursday undertook a comprehensive visit to the Gurez Valley under the banner of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a transformative journey aimed at fostering development and progress across the Nation. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad along with SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, was present on the occasion.

During the visit, Punya Salila engaged with locals, PRI, community leaders, and residents to gain firsthand insights into the needs and aspirations of the



region. The Additional Secretary said that Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, is a proactive initiative to bridge the developmental gaps and ensure that every corner of the nation flourishes through various centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

She said that the Yatra aims to bring together government officials, local leaders including DDCs, BDCs, PRIs, and communities to chart a course for inclusive and sustainable development of every nook and corner of the country. The objective is to ensure outreach and last mile

delivery of the government's developmental initiatives to all the people, especially those in the farthest and most remote parts of the country.

Punya Salila said that VBSY underscores the commitment of the government to leaving no area behind in the march towards a stronger, developed, and more vibrant India.

On the occasion, the DC informed that during the yatra, several schemes including Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM PRANAM Yojana and Urea Subsidy Scheme will be showcased and 100 per cent saturation ensured.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 120/9293-9301/2023-24/RnB/Bla Dated 13.11.2023  
(Fresh NIT No:- 116/8791-8800/2023-24/RnB/Bla Dated 31.10.2023)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Registered With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments on JKPWDOMS for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1.	Repair/Renovation of ACR Residence at Baramulla	2.00	4000/-	200/-	15days	DEE	MH-4059-NFB/D/S	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	Accorded (No 125/DDC of 2023 dt: 19.07.2023)	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13.11.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14.11.2023 to 20.11.2023 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	14.11.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	20.11.2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	21.11.2023 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/ bid security dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/ bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as L1 immediately after opening of financial bid.

7.6. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Works executed/ under execution by the agency during the year 2022-23

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/ receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rates inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. Price escalation & taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

DIPK-12341/23

Dated 16.11.2023

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Baramulla

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport Bearing passport No. T3480967 at Lalla Ded hospital car parking Srinagar. Now I Have Applied for its Duplicate . If anybody have any objection he/she may file his/ her objection in the Office of the Regional Passport office Nehru Park Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained .

Inayat Habib  
S/o Habib ullah Rather  
R/ o Nehalpora pattan, Baramulla



# B2V5: Sanjeev Verma chairs mega Gram Sabha at Panchayat Maitra-A

## Emphasizes implementation of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan on Mission mode

HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 16: Commissioner Secretary, General Administrative Department, Sanjeev Verma, chaired a mega Gram Sabha and listened to the issues of PRIs and general public at Panchayat Maitra-A, Ramban block, under "Back to Village" phase-V on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, DDC member, Renuka Katoch, ADDC Rajinder Sharma, ADC Harbans Lal, ACR Ghias Ul Haq, ACD Ashok Katoch, Sarpanch Mohinder Singh and other senior officers,

besides PRIs and people in large number participated in the programme.

Appreciating the commitment of public representatives from all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system for development of their areas across the district, Commissioner Secretary asked them to work in coordination with the district administration to ensure infrastructural as well as social development of the society.

Sanjeev Verma lauded the role of frontline workers including ASHA and Anganwadi staff in sensitizing and maintaining physical health of children and women folk.

Commissioner Secretary directed



the District Administration to focus on implementation of employment and other job oriented schemes on a mission mode, besides encouraging the youth to participate in recruitment process, especially for notified posts of police department at different levels. Inspecting the stalls set up by the various departments including Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Cooperative Department, Labour and Employment, Handloom and Handicrafts, District Industry Centre, ICDS, Social Welfare, J&K Bank and Lead Bank, SBI-RSETI and Jal Shakti, Commissioner Secretary directed them to

provide benefit of the schemes to general public.

Sanjeev Verma impressed upon the Agriculture, Handloom, Handicraft and Cooperatives to scale up production of their products to ensure sufficient supply in the market which help to generate more job opportunities for the locals. He also advised them to ensure quality, attractive and eco-friendly packaging of their products for its value addition. He directed them to set up Rural Haats to provide marketing assistance to the handicrafts and village industries, artisans and farmers for their agrobased products.

## District Road Safety Committee reviews implementation of Action Plan in Samba

DC asks for regular checking to curb traffic violations

HT News Network



SAMBA, NOVEMBER 16: The District Road Safety Committee today reviewed the implementation of road safety plan in District Samba here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to take immediate and necessary steps to minimize road accidents. Detailed department-wise review of implementation of safety measures was conducted, and SP Traffic and ARTO were directed to raise awareness among drivers about road safety rules. They were also tasked with conducting regular checking to curb traffic violations and ensure the implementation of traffic rules.

To promote a comprehensive approach, the Chief Education Officer was directed to submit an Action Plan for organizing year-round activities on road safety in all Hr. Sec. Schools to educate students about traffic rules.

The CMO was asked to conduct free health checkup camps for commercial vehicle drivers, ensuring their physical and mental fitness for safe driving. The health department authorities were asked to ensure prompt availability of Ambulances in case of road accidents.

The Executive Engineer (R&B) was directed to make roads pothole-free, install crash barriers, and road signs at vulnerable points. The R&B was asked to complete all assigned works under the district road safety action plan by November 30, 2023. The Officer from the National Highway Authority was instructed to take corrective measures on the National Highway, including pothole removal, blacktopping of side roads, installing road signages and creating a by lane at Bus Stop, Vijaypur.

The SDM Ghagwal was directed to identify space at Nonath for idle parking of about 300 trucks on Mansar road due to the closure of the National Highway. This aims to prevent road accidents caused by traffic jamming on the Samba-Mansar road.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for immediate steps and safety measures across all concerned departments to minimize road accidents and safeguard precious human lives in the district.

The meeting saw the participation of key officials, including Additional S.P Samba, SDM Ghagwal, Vijaypur, Executive Engineer PWD(R&B).

## Enforcement teams launch major crackdown on illegal mining in Doda

HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 16: In a major crackdown, Geology and Mining Department and police seized huge stashes of illegally mined minor minerals and heavy machines from 2 separate locations in District Doda.

District Mineral Officer (DMO), under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, conducted the raids with police and seized a heavy excavator involved in illegal mining in the Malik Pura area of Sub-division Gandoh. The operation, conducted in the presence of the Naib Tehsildar and the police party, signifies a decisive step against unauthorized mining activities. In another concerted effort, a joint operation led

by District Mineral Officer Sunil Kumar Manhas and the police department resulted in the seizure of a JCB and 100 M.T of illegally crushed material at Diamond Stone Crusher in Tehsil Kahara. The operation, executed in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, reflected the commitment of the District Administration to enforce regulations outlined in the Mineral Act to curb the detrimental impact of unauthorized mining practices. The entire seizure operation was meticulously executed, demonstrating adherence to the laws outlined in the Mineral Act. This decisive action against illegal mining not only safeguards the region's natural resources.

## Deputy Commissioner reviews progress on Jal Jeevan Mission Schemes in Rajouri District

HT News Network



RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, aiming to ensure clean drinking water access for rural communities. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the crucial aspects of high-quality work, timely project completion, and effective supervision to achieve the goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The discussion highlighted significant advancements in Rajouri, with 293 JJM schemes approved and active work on 266 schemes.

To accelerate the implementation of these schemes, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal directed officers to adopt a results-driven approach, adhering to strict timelines. Through focused efforts and dedicated work, the mission is rapidly transforming into a reality, promising a healthier and happier life for the residents of the region. For the schemes where the work has not been started yet, the Deputy Commissioner directed officer to promptly address

issues hindering the initiation of work on such schemes. Ensuring a swift resolution, he emphasized the need for immediate action to kickstart the projects at the earliest. The Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the need for a holistic approach towards water management, emphasizing that it is not just about providing access to clean drinking water but also about preserving and sustainably utilizing this vital resource.

This meeting was a testament to the commitment of the District Administration to implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission effectively, ensuring that rural areas have access to a basic necessity - clean drinking water. The Deputy Commissioner directed them to continue working with dedication and commitment to achieve the objectives of the mission.

## DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Gurupurb celebrations

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POONCH, NOVEMBER 16: In preparation for the Gurupurb (Prakash Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev Ji), Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today presided over a meeting here in the conference hall of DC Office to discuss the arrangements for the auspicious day with the stakeholder departments and representatives of religious organisations. It was informed that the Morning Parbhat Pheri would commence on November 19th, followed by the Nagar Kirtan procession on November 25th. The main congregation will be held at Gurdwara Singh Sabha on November 27th. The attendees highlighted a range of issues pertaining to the event's organization, including the provision of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, security arrangements, medical facilities and the installation of barricades for the performance of martial arts (Gatka) at the college ground. The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the Executive Engineers from the Jal Shakti and Power development departments to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply to all Gurudwaras on the day of Parkash Diwas. The Municipal authorities were asked to maintain cleanliness and clear the dump sites, if any, near the Gurudwara Sahib and other religious places. The meeting attendees were informed that comprehensive security and traffic plans have been formulated to facilitate the smooth movement and joyful celebrations of Guru Purab.

## B2V5 concludes in all 237 panchayats of Doda on high note

HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 16: With the culmination of third and last round of Back to Village Phase-5 in 68 Gram Panchayats, the flagship programme of UT Government concluded in all the 237 Gram Panchayats of 17 CD Blocks of Doda District here today.

The Back to Village (B2V) Programme is the flagship public outreach, participation, and feedback programme. During the programme, the Prabhari Officers visited their allotted panchayats, stayed there for a specific period to interact and obtain public feedback so as to tailor Government efforts in improving the delivery of village-specific services. The B2V Programme is aimed at involving the people and government officials in a joint effort to deliver the mission of equitable development in rural areas.

Many senior government functionaries including Principal Secretary to Government PDD, H Rajesh Prasad; Pawan Singh Rathore, Special Secretary to Govt Hospitality and Protocol Department; Suraj Parkash Rakhwal, Special Secretary DMRR Department; Ms Kanta Devi, Special Secretary, School Education Department; Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, JD Employment; Sanjeev Rana, Addl Secretary, J&K AACL; Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, Director Forensic Laboratory; Dr Tahir Firdous, Addl. Secretary PDD; Pankaj

Katoch, Addl. Com. in the Div Com office; Bharat Bhushan CEO IWMP; Yasir Sharief, FA&CAO Skill Dev Deptt. and others, were seen in their allotted Gram Panchayats holding interaction with the PRIs, Public, listening their issues and imparting awareness of government schemes, initiatives, and policies.

Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H. Rajesh Prasad, who was Visiting Officer for Chinote Panchayat of Bhaderwah block, conducted multiple activities with huge participation of all stakeholders.

Prasad conducted a special Gram Sabha at Panchayat Ghar, Akhrot Bagh, Chinote and took stock of grievances and demands raised by the participants. He issued on the spot directions to the concerned officers to prepare a Detailed Project Report for all feasible works projected by the people. He also inaugurated many works completed under the Capex Budget in the Panchayat and attended a Cultural program held at GHS Mathola.

The designated Visiting/Prabhari Officers, along with supporting staff and

field functionaries of the line departments listened to villagers and prepared Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as per the wishes of people of the village. The Prabhari Officers also ensured the awareness and saturation of all the government schemes and a detailed report shall be submitted to the government on the aspirations and feedback of the people of their respective panchayats. The VOs were exhorted upon to focus on the penetration of online services in the rural population to expedite the public services delivery in a transparent manner.

The mega outreach programme in Doda, under the unique initiative of the UT Government, was supervised and managed by the District Administration Doda, under the leadership of District Development Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh.

They also visited the sites of ongoing and completed works under MGNREGA, Capex Budget, PMAY, SBM, and other such schemes. Visiting officers also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of some of the important public assets.

## 'Back to Village' Phase V, Shaleen Kabra visits Sool panchayat, assesses development works, public grievances

HT News Network

REASI, NOVEMBER 16: The fifth phase of transformative 'Back to Village' Programme witnessed overwhelming public response which resonated throughout Reasi district.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, Visiting officer and Mentor Secretary for Reasi, held extensive interactions with Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and various line departments at Panchayat Sool.

ACS participated in the Gram Sabha session and inspected stalls established by different departments for public awareness regarding their respective schemes. He



had detailed feedback from the PRIs and general public regarding implementation of government schemes in the area. He took stock of ongoing developmental projects besides assessing the impact of flagship

initiatives. Shaleen Kabra inaugurated a link road from Pamote to Dharote, constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 87.30 lakh.

Similarly, various Panchayats witnessed inauguration of projects,

sports and cultural events, plantation drives, Gram Sabhas, inspections of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other development works. The interactions spanned diverse facets, including engaging with farmers, visiting Anganwadi centers and other government institutions besides and conducting awareness sessions on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Furthermore, Shalin Kabra distributed land passbooks, Swamitva property cards and other documents. District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, ACD Anirudh Rai, SDM Katra Deepak Dubey, SE, Jal Shakti Department, Executive Engineers Jal Shakti and PWD Katra, BDO Panthal and other district officers were present on the occasion.



EDITORIAL

Islam's Compassionate Core Shines Amidst Global Turmoil

In a world gripped by violence and strife, the tenets of Islam stand as a beacon of compassion and humanity. Amidst the chaos, Islamic beliefs emphasize a pro-

found sense of empathy and kindness towards all members of the human family. Islam's core teachings echo a call to mercy, encouraging compassion not only within their community but towards the entire world.

Central to Islamic philosophy is the concept of 'Rahmah' or mercy, a principle deeply woven into the fabric of the Islam's holy book, the Quran, repeatedly underscoring the importance of compassion. Prophet Muhammad is portrayed as a merciful leader, urging adherence to the message even in the face of adversity.

As violence unfolds in various corners of the globe, the Islamic principle of brotherhood becomes increasingly relevant. Islam encourages believers to view humanity as a united entity, transcending borders and differences. This interconnectedness, rooted in compassion, challenges the divisive narratives that often fuel conflicts.

In the midst of geopolitical tensions and social unrest, it is crucial to recognize Islam's inherent commitment to peace and humanity. By embracing the teachings of compassion embedded in Islamic belief, individuals can contribute to a world where understanding triumphs over discord, and kindness prevails over animosity. In these challenging times, Islam's compassionate core offers a timeless guide for navigating the tumultuous seas of a troubled world.

HT FRIDAY FOCUS

found sense of empathy towards all members of the human family. Islam's core teachings echo a call to mercy, encouraging compassion not only within their community but towards the entire world.

Making the international financial system work

Rather than attempt to work outside the system by creating alternative fora, we must make the system we have work

- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou
- Rania Al-Mashat

In the last two years, a series of international summits have focused on the future of the global financial architecture. But as we convened in Marrakesh for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, many were asking whether it made sense to try to fix the existing system. Some were already convinced that this is neither possible nor desirable.

**Let's prove them wrong.** We arrived in Marrakesh four months after leaders gathered in Paris for the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, where they laid out four principles that should guide our global efforts. The pillars of the so-called Paris Pact for People and the Planet echoed the finance-related outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) that took place in Sharm El-Sheikh seven months earlier; and they animated the negotiations at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, and the recently concluded UN General Assembly in New York.

What are these principles? First, no country should have to choose between fighting extreme poverty and fighting the climate crisis. Second, country ownership of development and climate-transition strategies is essential, with each country charting its own path according to its specific national circumstances. Third, a shock of concessional finance is needed. And fourth, private investment must be leveraged to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Do we need figures to appreciate what the Paris Pact has achieved so far? On concessional finance: G20 leaders agreed in September to unlock \$200 billion in additional lending firepower from multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Do we need voices to attest to how fast the global financial system is changing for the better? Here we are. We come from very different countries,



Egypt and France, but we are united by the knowledge that we can indeed reshape the existing global financial architecture. In fact, in just the past few years, we have witnessed major steps toward that end. We will keep carrying that effort forward.

Two years ago, for example, the implementation of a global fiscal stimulus to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic seemed a formidable challenge. But we managed to reach a global agreement that led to the historic issuance of \$650 billion worth of special drawing rights (SDRs, the IMF's reserve currency), and secured a commitment from developed economies to channel 20% of their allocations to the countries that needed the funding most. France went even further, scaling up its reallocation ratio to 40%.

Three years ago, who would have thought that all the largest bilateral creditors would coordinate on sovereign-debt treatment for countries hit by a debt crisis? And yet, in 2020, creditors from across the G20 – including China, the United States, and the Paris Club – came together to do just that, and the Common

Framework for Debt Treatments was born. Though it remains a work in progress, the Common Framework has already done considerable good, such as for Chad and Zambia.

Two years ago, climate-finance negotiations were still paralysed by a thorny issue: developed economies' delay in delivering the \$100 billion in annual support for climate-change mitigation and adaptation they had promised to their developing-country counterparts. At COP27 in Egypt, we overcame this issue and even agreed to create new financial arrangements, sponsored by the European Union, to address loss and damage.

Two years ago, few would have imagined that climate vulnerabilities would be integrated into the core of MDBs' operating models. Yet today, the largest such institutions, such as the World Bank, are making progress toward this goal. Moreover, some bilateral development partners, such as France and the United Kingdom, have decided to include climate-related clauses in their loans and now allow countries to suspend debt servicing when facing climate disasters.

Two years ago, we lacked an

innovative toolbox to establish development partnerships in line with the national priorities of the supported country, as per the "country ownership principle." Now, "country platform" is becoming the new normal. Having served on both sides of such negotiations, we can tell you that this new approach is working. Egypt showed the way with its Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy (NWFE) program, launched at COP27. France and other development partners have worked this way with Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa, and Vietnam, among others, to build Just Energy Transition Partnerships, which support these countries as they move along their respective paths away from fossil fuels or coal.

Two years ago, who could have foreseen a consensus on reforms to the international financial architecture? And yet we enacted game-changing advances in Marrakesh. Echoing the Paris Pact adopted in June, we confirmed that we want to eradicate poverty and ensure a livable planet, and we agreed to further financial support for global public goods, such as public health.

This year's spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington unlocked an additional \$50 billion for the World Bank. In Marrakesh, some countries launched innovative instruments to boost the Bank's capacity even further.

Almost a year after COP27 in Egypt, the 2023 annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, hosted by Morocco, proved it once again: where there is political will, there is a way forward. We can make meaningful progress towards a fairer, more efficient international financial system. Rather than attempt to work outside the system by creating alternative fora, we must make the system we have work.

**Chrysoula Zacharopoulou is French Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships. Rania Al-Mashat is Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation. Courtesy: Project Syndicate**

Bishan Singh Bedi: A connoisseur's delight, man of uncompromising principles, IPL cynic, proponent of better pay for cricketers

- Tushar Bhaduri

Bishan Singh Bedi the bowler and Bishan Singh Bedi the person were two distinct entities, and need to be analysed separately.

While the left-arm par excellence was full of guile, variety and deception – foxing the best batsmen of his time – and retiring as the highest wicket-taker in Tests for India, his straightforwardness in matters of cricket administration, and life in general, took few prisoners.

Who else would dare to declare a Test innings as India captain in the West Indies in protest of what he believed to be intimidatory bowling after several of his teammates had been put in hospital, effectively losing the game? Or forfeit an ODI in Pakistan against biased umpiring? Or charge England left-arm pacer John Lever of using Vaseline to swing the ball during a tour of India? Or become a big proponent of a better pay structure for cricketers, when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had full sway over the players?

His outspokenness continued after his playing days, frequently taking on the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) over various matters of omission and commission, including renaming the Feroze Shah Kotla as the Arun Jaitley Stadium. He even wrote to DDCA asking for his name to be removed from one of the stands.

Bishan Singh Bedi in full flow. From the deep edge of the crease, Bishan Singh Bedi released the ball like a loose-limbed yogic, every cell choreographing and culminating in that action of gods. The pivot was a pirouette, the follow-through is so smooth you wonder whether he had one at all. It was such a big move as Bedi was the biggest reason Delhi became a force to be reckoned with in domestic cricket, providing stiff competition to Bombay, the perennial Ranji Trophy champions through the 1960s and 70s. During the second half of the 1970s and the next decade, whenever these two sides met – invariably in the semifinals or final – there used to be a distinct edge to the contests, with the quality of cricket on show almost being of Test standard. Most of the players from the national capital, who went on to play for the country, consider Bedi as their mentor.

Bedi never considered Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling action as legal, despite the Sri Lankan off-spinner scalping 800 victims in Tests. "If Murali doesn't chuck, then show me how to bowl," he once famously said.

Speaking his mind came naturally to the 'Sardar of Spin', who passed away on Monday, but his prowess as a tweaker was also something else. Such was his control of the ball that it often seemed like he had it on a string and could change the trajectory and length as he desired. Batsmen



would often step out or go for a big shot to a generously-flighted delivery, only to find that the ball was not where they expected it to be.

Or they would go back to a ball they expected would provide them the width or length to play an attacking shot, only for the delivery to slide in to hit the pads or the stumps.

**Man of principle**

His adherence to principles he held dear was strict to the point of stubbornness. He never compromised on flight, even when his captains

would have liked a more conservative approach, citing the match situation. It owed much to his aggressive approach in playing the game, always looking for wickets, a trait he showcased throughout his 22-Test stint as India captain.

The Indian spin quartet of Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan may not have won that many matches for India if one solely uses the scorecard as the yardstick. But they captured the

imagination of the cricket world, and gave a sense of pride to a young nation trying to excel at a colonial sport.

The very best in the history of the game – such as Donald Bradman and Garfield Sobers – have been effusive in their praise about Bedi's sublime skills.

It was a connoisseur's delight – how he followed up his languid run-up (or was it amble) to the stumps with an ingenious wizardry of flight, loop, spin and pace without any discernible change of action. And

his bowling was full of confidence and generosity. If a batsman was quick-footed or good enough to hit him for a six, Bedi would be the first to applaud the shot.

Bedi was a hard taskmaster, which could be a reason why his tenure as India head coach didn't last long. On a tour of New Zealand in 1990, he allegedly threatened to throw the whole team in the sea after losing a relatively low-scoring tri-series ODI to Australia.

And he was never a fan of the Indian Premier League – arguably the biggest annual event in the cricketing calendar. The man who believed in old-school values "just did not like players being treated like horses being sold to the highest bidder".

His loyalty to such values may have left him out of the BCCI ambit that allows most of the retired cricketers to earn a good living through lucrative commentary assignments or roles in administration. But that never seemed to bother Bedi. He never hesitated from calling a spade a spade, even if it required targeting the Indian team.

For him, cricket was a way of life to be cherished, which should not be treated in a parochial or partisan manner.

He was one of the last of a special breed. They don't make them like him any more.

Courtesy: The Indian Express



Michael Wyession

Between the record-breaking global heat and extreme downpours, it's hard to ignore that something unusual is going on with the weather in 2023.

People have been quick to blame climate change – and they're right: human-caused global warming plays the biggest role. The weeks-long heat wave that started in June 2023 in Texas, the U.S. Southwest and Mexico would have been virtually impossible without it, one study found.

However, the extremes this year are sharper than anthropogenic global warming alone would be expected to cause. September temperatures were far above any previous September, and around 3.1 degrees Fahrenheit (1.75 degrees Celsius) above the preindustrial average, according to the European Union's earth observation program.

July was Earth's hottest month on record, also by a large margin, with average global temperatures more

which influences temperatures and weather patterns around the globe.

Essentially, the atmosphere borrows heat out of the Pacific, and global temperatures increase slightly. This happened in 2016, the time of the last strong El Niño. Global temperatures increased by about 0.25 F (0.14 C) on average, making 2016 the warmest year on record. A weak El Niño also occurred in 2019-2020, contributing to 2020 becoming the world's second-warmest year.

El Niño's opposite, La Niña, involves cooler-than-usual Pacific currents flowing westward, absorbing heat out of the atmosphere, which cools the globe. The world just came out of three straight years of La Niña, meaning we're experiencing an even greater temperature swing.

Based on increasing Pacific sea surface temperatures in mid-2023, climate modeling now suggests a 90% chance that Earth is headed toward its first strong El Niño since 2016.

Combined with the steady human-induced warming,



strong magnetic field aligned with its spin axis and causes this field to fully flip and reverse every 11 years. This is what causes the 11-year cycle in emitted solar radiation.

A chart shows regular waves of increasing and decreasing sunspot activity. The current cycle is above what was forecast but not near previous highs.

Earth's temperature increase during a solar maximum, compared with average solar output, is only about 0.09 F (0.05 C), roughly a third of a large El Niño. The opposite happens during a solar minimum. However, unlike the variable and unpredictable El Niño changes, the 11-year solar cycle is comparatively regular, consistent and predictable.

The last solar cycle hit its minimum in 2020, reducing the effect of the modest 2020 El Niño. The current solar cycle has already surpassed the peak of the relatively weak previous cycle (which was in 2014) and will peak in 2025, with the Sun's energy output increasing until then.

**A massive volcanic eruption**

Volcanic eruptions can also significantly affect global climates. They usually do this by lowering global temperatures when erupted sulfate aerosols shield and block a portion of incoming sunlight – but not always.

In an unusual twist, the largest volcanic eruption of the 21st century so far, the 2022 eruption of Tonga's Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, is having a warming and not cooling effect. The eruption released an unusually small amount of cooling sulfate aerosols but an enormous amount of water vapor. The molten magma exploded underwater, vaporizing a huge volume of ocean water that erupted like a geyser high into the atmosphere.

Water vapor is a powerful greenhouse gas, and the eruption may end up warming Earth's surface by about 0.06 F (0.035 C), according to one estimate. Unlike the cooling sulfate aerosols, which are actually tiny droplets of sulfuric acid that fall out of the atmosphere within one to two years, water vapor is a gas that can stay in the atmosphere for many years. The warming impact of the Tonga volcano is expected to last for at least five years.

**Underlying it all: Global warming**

All of this comes on top of anthropogenic, or human-caused, global warming.

Humans have raised global average temperatures by about 2 F (1.1 C) since 1900 by releasing large volumes of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is up 50%, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles and power plants. The warming from greenhouse gases is actually greater than 2 F (1.1 C), but it has been masked by other human factors that have a cooling effect, such as air pollution.

A line chart shows sea surface temperatures by year since 1981. The 2023 line is far above the others.

If human impacts were the only factors, each successive year would set a new record as the hottest year ever, but that doesn't happen. The year 2016 was the warmest in part because temperatures were boosted by the last large El Niño.

**What does this mean for the future?**

The next couple of years could be very rough.

If a strong El Niño develops over the coming months as forecasters expect, combined with the solar maximum and the effects of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption, Earth's temperatures will likely continue to soar.

As temperatures continue to increase, weather events get more extreme. The excess heat can mean more heat waves, forest fires, flash floods and other extreme events, climate models show.

A person carries a sandbag on their shoulder while walking through shin-high water past businesses in the rain. A fire hydrant is almost submerged in the flood water.

In January 2023, scientists wrote that Earth's temperature had a greater than 50% chance of reaching 2.7 F (1.5 C) above preindustrial era temperatures by the year 2028, at least temporarily, increasing the risk of triggering climate tipping points with even greater human impacts. Because of the unfortunate timing of several parts of the climate system, it seems the odds are not in our favor.

**Michael Wyession is Professor of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences, Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. This article, originally published in The Conversation on July 27, 2023, has been updated with September's record heat.**

# Global temperatures are off the charts for a reason: 4 factors driving 2023's extreme heat and climate disasters

than half a degree Fahrenheit (a third of a degree Celsius) above the previous record, set just a few years earlier in 2019.

Human activities have been increasing temperatures at an average of about 0.2 F (0.1 C) per decade. But this year, three additional natural factors are also helping drive up global temperatures and fuel disasters: El Niño, solar fluctuations and a massive underwater volcanic eruption.

Unfortunately, these factors are combining in a way that is exacerbating global warming. Still worse, we can expect unusually high temperatures to continue, which means even more extreme weather in the near future.

**How El Niño is involved**

El Niño is a climate phenomenon that occurs every few years when surface water in the tropical Pacific reverses direction and heats up. That warms the atmosphere above,

Earth may soon again be breaking its annual temperature records. June 2023 was the hottest in modern record. July saw global records for the hottest days and a large number of regional records, including an incomprehensible heat index of 152 F (67 C) in Iran.

**Solar fluctuations**

The Sun may seem to shine at a constant rate, but it is a seething, churning ball of plasma whose radiating energy changes over many different time scales.

The Sun is slowly heating up and in half a billion years will boil away Earth's oceans. On human time scales, however, the Sun's energy output varies only slightly, about 1 part in 1,000, over a repeating 11-year cycle. The peaks of this cycle are too small for us to notice at a daily level, but they affect Earth's climate systems.

Rapid convection within the Sun both generates a

# Why a trip to Philadelphia is a must

PHILADELPHIA, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE "CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE," IS A CAPTIVATING DESTINATION WITH A RICH HISTORY AND A VIBRANT CONTEMPORARY CULTURE.

Philadelphia, often referred to as the "City of Brotherly Love," is a captivating destination with a rich history and a vibrant contemporary culture. Nestled in the heart of the US' East Coast, this city offers a multitude of compelling reasons to visit. From its iconic historical sites to its diverse culinary scene, thriving arts community, and tax-free shopping, the city has something for every traveller. Explore the top reasons to pack your bags and embark on an unforgettable journey to Philadelphia.

**A Gateway to the East Coast**

Philadelphia is considered one of the premier entry points for those travelling to the East Coast because of its accessibility. As a transatlantic gateway, Philadelphia International Airport offers numerous direct and connecting flights to international destinations, including India. Once you land, Center City is a quick 20-minute drive or 25-minute train ride. Major US cities such as New York and Washington DC are a short drive or train ride away for those on a multi-destination trip.

**Home to History**

Philadelphia is known for attractions that tell America's story. For visitors curious about American history, there is no better place than "America's most historic square mile." In the Old City historical district, walk the same streets and enter the same buildings as America's Founding Fathers. At Carpenters' Hall, visitors can enter the First Continental Congress site, where the Founding Fathers met to discuss independence. Nearby is Independence Hall – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – where the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were signed. And, of course, see the

iconic Liberty Bell, an international symbol of freedom.

**Iconic Art**

Art surrounds you in Philadelphia. The city is known for its iconic LOVE and Rocky statues, but visitors can discover much more. Philadelphia's affection for art is visible on the streets, where visitors can find an incredible outdoor art gallery and over 4,400 murals. For a breathtaking experience, lose yourself in a maze of mosaics at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens along South Street. Mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar crafted the mixed media art environment. He uses handmade tiles, bottles, bicycle wheels, mirrors, and international folk-art techniques to chronicle his life and influences in the space.

**World-class Museums**

Philadelphia is home to incredible museums where visitors can learn, play, and connect with the arts and sciences. Modeled after the Champs-Élysées in Paris, Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway is home to some of the city's iconic art museums. The Philadelphia Museum of Art's collection spans over 2,000 years, from the Renaissance to contemporary pieces. Just blocks away, the Rodin Museum stores one of the largest collections of famed sculptor Auguste Rodin's work outside of Paris. Next door, the Barnes Foundation houses one of the world's finest private collections of early French-Modern, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings. Philadelphia is also home to world-class science and history museums. Founded in honour of America's famed scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute promotes science education with interactive exhibits. Kids and adults alike can marvel



at the stars in the Fels Planetarium or explore the iconic Giant Heart. For those interested in history, the Penn Museum invites visitors to explore 10,000 years of human existence through artefacts, such as the largest Sphinx in the Western hemisphere.

**An Acclaimed Culinary Scene**

Thanks to its roster of renowned chefs and restaurateurs, Philadelphia boasts an exceptional dining scene. Critics from The New York Times to Bon Appetit have showered praise on Philadelphia's chef-driven culinary scene, hailing it as one of the finest in the world. With restaurants helmed by James Beard Award winners such as Michael Solomonov, Greg Vernick, Marc Vetri, and Ellen Yin, among others, you can savour unforgettable meals. Alternatively, immerse yourself in the taste of Philadelphia at the historic Reading Terminal Market, which hosts

over 80 local vendors.

**Performing Arts**

Considered a top theatre city in the US, Philadelphia boasts a rich community of esteemed performing arts organizations. The Kimmel Cultural Campus is home to many legendary ensembles, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Philadelphia Ballet, and Opera Philadelphia. The historic Walnut Street Theater is the oldest operating theatre in America. The city is also full of new artists premiering ground-breaking works. Visitors can see these performances at centres for emerging artists like FringeArts and Penn Live Arts.

**The Great Outdoors**

As the most walkable city in the US Philadelphia is the perfect destination for travellers looking to spend time outdoors. Philadelphia's park system spans over 10,000 acres and has over 270 miles of recreational trails, offering

numerous outdoor adventures. Nature lovers can hike through Fairmount Park or Wissahickon Valley Park. For those who prefer a water view, the Delaware River Trail offers access to several piers and pop-up parks. On the other side of the city, admire more spectacular waterfront views on the Schuylkill River Trail.

**Tax-free Shopping**

Clothing and shoe purchases are tax-free in Philadelphia, making it a prime place to go shopping. Visitors will find international brands and locally owned boutiques in neighbourhoods. For one-stop shopping, head to the Fashion District Philadelphia in Center City. For more shopping, make your way to the countryside, where over 400 retailers await at the King of Prussia Mall.

**One-of-a-kind Communities**

Philadelphia is a city of neighbourhoods. Each one has a unique set of restaurants, shops, and experiences inspired by cultures from around the globe. In South Philadelphia, visitors can seamlessly transition from the restaurants to the locally owned boutiques that line East Passyunk Avenue. Head north for the chic cafes, bars, and colourful street art that fill trendy neighbourhoods Fishtown and Northern Liberties. Enjoy luxury shops and restaurants in picturesque Rittenhouse Square or Washington Square West – home to the city's Gayborhood. And over in West Philadelphia, the campuses of prestigious universities quickly give way to a close-knit community tucked along tree-lined streets. Every neighbourhood has its own culture and atmosphere, and visiting them feels like an adventure in a new place.



## India, US Ink Pact To Boost Cooperation Among Startups, Promote Innovation

HT News Network

San Francisco: India and the US have signed an agreement to promote innovation through increasing cooperation among startups, address regulatory hurdles and share best practices on fundraising by entrepreneurs, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) on enhancing innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake under the framework of India-US Commercial Dialogue was signed on November 14 in San Francisco.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is in San Francisco. The Commerce and Industry Ministry said the MoU was signed at an industry roundtable meeting.

Indian industry players, CEOs from major ICT companies, executives from venture capital firms, and founders of startups in the critical and emerging technology space participated and discussed ways to enhance US-India technology collaboration.



"The MoU is signed with the objective to connect the two sides' dynamic startup ecosystems, address specific regulatory hurdles to cooperation, share information and best practices for startup fundraising and promote innovation and job growth, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET) as identified under India-US initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)," the ministry said.

It said the MoU signals a joint commitment to strengthen the startup ecosystem in deep tech sectors and promote cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

"It is poised to positively impact economic activity, attract investment, and

generate employment, especially in startups working in CET areas," it said.

The scope of cooperation would include a series of India-US Innovation Handshake events. Two events are scheduled to take place in India and the US in early 2024, which include an investment forum aimed toward helping startup companies of the countries take their ideas and products to market, and a hackathon in Silicon Valley, where US and Indian startups will pitch ideas and technologies to help address global economic challenges, it added.

The dialogue is a cooperative undertaking at the ministerial level between India and the US to facilitate regular discussion to deep-

en ties between business communities, encompassing regular government-to-government meetings to be held in conjunction with private sector meetings to facilitate trade and maximise investment opportunities.

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Piyush Goyal have led the roundtable meeting to officially launch the two ambitious 'Innovation Handshake' agenda, previewed by US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June.

"Through the Innovation Handshake, the United States and India are forging a critical tech partnership that will further strengthen our interconnected innovation ecosystems," Raimondo said, adding that this is an important step to bolster the US-India commercial relationship.

In June, Prime Minister Modi paid a state visit to the US at the invitation of President Biden.

Piyush Goyal said that the Handshake signals a joint commitment to strengthen the startup ecosystem and promote cooperation in CET between the two nations.

## Kiren Rijiju To Represent India At Maldivian President-Elect's Oath-Taking

HT News Network

New Delhi: India on Wednesday announced that Union minister Kiren Rijiju will represent it at the oath-taking of Maldivian president-elect Mohamed Muizzu on Friday.

The Maldives had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the oath-taking of Muizzu.

Prime Minister Modi had attended the swearing-in ceremony of incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in September 2018. His visit to the Maldives had laid the foundation for strong ties between the two countries.

Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu defeated incumbent President Solih in the presidential runoff in September.

After winning the election, Muizzu has maintained that he will keep his election promise of evicting Indian military personnel from his country.

While Prime Minister Modi was the only head of a government to attend Solih's swearing-in ceremony, it is learnt that several foreign leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping have been invited to Muizzu's oath-taking.

"At the invitation of the President-elect of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Earth Sciences will visit Maldives from 16-18 November to represent India at the inaugural ceremony of the presidency," the MEA said.

It said the high-level ministerial



representation from India at the inaugural ceremony underscores India's commitment to further deepen the substantive cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between the two countries.

"Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and occupies a special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy,'" the MEA said in a statement.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

Solih had been consistently focusing on boosting ties with India and

was pursuing an "India First" policy. In May, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Maldives during which he handed over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the island nation.

In August last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Solih kick-started the India-funded Greater Male connectivity project, billed as the largest infrastructure initiative in the island nation.

Under the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) project, a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Vililingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

The Maldives is also one of the biggest beneficiaries of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

## Chhattisgarh all set for final phase of voting today

HT News Network

Raipur, Nov 16 (UNI) Preparations are complete for the second and final phase of voting amid heavy security arrangements in 70 Assembly constituencies of Chhattisgarh on Friday.

The clamour of campaigning died down at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Even the last day of canvassing witnessed stalwarts of both the ruling Congress and the principal opposition BJP addressing public meetings to drum up support for their respective candidates.

The campaign trail saw all-out endeavours by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Affairs and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, BJP Chief Jagat Prakash Nadda, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, his predecessor Rahul Gandhi and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

## Maha: Shinde inaugurates CIIT center at naxal affected Gadchiroli

HT News Network

Mumbai, Nov 16 (UNI) In cooperation with the state government, district administration, and Tata Technology Limited, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde opened the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training Centre (CIIT) on Wednesday evening, a statement issued by the Chief Minister Office (CMO) on Thursday.

The goal of the initiative is to enhance students' skills in the Naxal-affected district of Gadchiroli and promote industry-based training within the district. The Chief Minister said, "Not only children will be trained through this training centre but also entrepreneurs will be created from districts like Gadchiroli. The overall economic development of Gadchiroli will be boosted. With the opening of a centre equipped with modern technology, many opportunities for training and employment will be available to the youth of Gadchiroli." Gadchiroli is focusing on developing infrastructure in the district with a view to the overall development of the district.

Action is being taken rapidly regarding roads, railways, communication facilities, and mobile networks, and we are trying to connect Gadchiroli district by air by developing an airport in the district.

## UP govt makes more than 4.15 cr Ayushman cards so far

HT News Network

Lucknow, Nov 16 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading state in the country in making Ayushman cards under Ayushman Bharat by issuing more than 4.15 crore cards so far. The CEO of the State Agency for Comprehensive Health and Integrated Services (SACHI) Sangeeta Singh said that the Chief Minister's aim is to provide free and high-quality treatment to the poor people of the state. "Intensive efforts are being made at the war-footing to create Ayushman cards for 100 percent eligible beneficiaries in the state. Special campaigns are conducted across the state from time to time for this purpose," she said. She said that the monitoring and guidance of the Chief Minister have resulted in UP leading the country in making Ayushman cards.

## Tunnel Escape Plan: Workers To Squeeze Through Pipes Less Than 3-Foot Wide

HT News Network

New Delhi: Five days after an under-construction tunnel collapsed in Uttarakhand and trapped 40 labourers, a piece of special machine has been flown to the spot to expedite the rescue work, Atul Karwal, the chief of National Disaster Relief Force, told NDTV during an exclusive interview. He said they are "hopeful" that the labourers could be brought to safety within "12 to 15 hours". The American Auger drill is expected to cut through 70 meters of rock -- much of which came down from the roof during the rescue efforts -- in an approximate 12 to 15 hours. The machine works at a "theoretical speed" of 5 meters an hour. The authorities are planning to bore through the rock and insert an 80 mm (less than 3 feet) through which the labourers can crawl through. In case anyone is incapacitated or injured, "we can use stretchers and harnesses to bring them out," Mr Karwal told NDTV. The rescue work that started on Sunday after a section of the tunnel roof collapsed, suffered several setbacks due to rock fall. The last few have increased the length of the blocked portion from an initial 40 to 50 meters to an approximate length of 70 meters. "The



American Auger machine is at work and as per the last update, the first length of the pipe has been inserted through the rubble and the they are welding the second section. At a theoretical speed of 5 meters an hour, we should be able to do it in the next 12 to 15 hours," he said. He however, added that the situation at the spot is completely "unpredictable". "We might find some obstruction in the path," he said citing as examples iron rods from the roof that were already touching the rubble or more rock falls from the roof. The rescuers have already spoken to the team that managed to rescue 12 teens in Thailand's Chiang Rai province. The junior footballers and their coach got trapped in Tham Luang Nang Non, an under-water cave system in Chiang Rai province.

## Rajnath Singh holds bilateral meetings with his Indonesian and Vietnamese counterparts in Jakarta

New Delhi: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Jakarta, Indonesia on November 16, 2023. In his address, he affirmed the ASEAN centrality and appreciated its role in promoting dialogue & consensus in the region. He also reiterated India's commitment to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in the international waters in accordance with international laws, including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

The Raksha Mantri called for regional security initiatives that are consultative and development-oriented to reflect the larger consensus among various stakeholders. He committed towards nurturing practical, forward-looking and result-oriented cooperation with ADMM-Plus for enhancing maritime security in the region.

Highlighting that the conflicts extract a terrible toll in terms of human lives



lost and livelihoods destroyed, disturb the stability at regional as well as global level and have adverse implications for food security, energy security etc, Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated India's commitment to work with ASEAN and Plus countries to ensure peace, prosperity and security, which is an apt theme for this year's ADMM Plus. He cited Mahatma Gandhi's famous quote on peace "there is no way to peace, peace is the only way".

The Raksha Mantri stressed the role of dialogue and diplomacy to have

enduring peace, and in ensuring global stability. He reaffirmed India's message to the world at large, that "this is not an era of war", and spoke about the imperative to give up the "us versus them" mindset.

Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated ASEAN Member States' enthusiastic participation in India-ASEAN activities, particularly the Initiative for Women in UN Peacekeeping Operations, and Initiative for Marine Plastic Pollution Response. He also appreciated ASEAN Member States' active participation in the maiden

## "Want To Make Rajasthan A \$350 Billion Economy": Union Minister

HT News Network

Jaipur: Expressing confidence that the BJP will win the Rajasthan election 2023 to be held on November 25, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday said that the saffron party wants to make the state a "USD 350 billion economy."

This comes after the BJP released its manifesto for Rajasthan that promises schemes for youth, women, farmers, and labourers. "BJP has prepared its manifesto to make Rajasthan advanced. In that manifesto, there are schemes for youth, women, farmers, and labourers. We want to make Rajasthan a 350 billion dollar economy," said the senior BJP leader Meghwal.

The party's manifesto outlines several key resolutions aimed at improving the lives of citizens: The party plans to increase the financial assistance provided to farmers under this scheme to 12,000 per year under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.

The Laho Incentive scheme aims to support poor families by providing a savings bond at the birth of their daughters. The bond will mature over time, providing 26,000 in class 6, 18,000 in class 9, 10,000 in class 10, 12,000 in class 11,



14,000 in class 12, 50,000 in the first and last year of vocational courses, and a lump sum of 1 lakh at the age of 21.

BJP also aims to help the economically weaker families' students, who will receive annual assistance of 1,200 to purchase school bags, books, and uniforms through Direct Benefit Transfer.

It also plans to invest 40,000 crores in the health sector under the Bhamashah Health Infrastructure Mission, which aims to expand and modernize health infrastructure.

The party plans to form a Special Investigation Team to quickly investigate power leak cases and take strict action against the culprits.

## UP: 19 injured as sleeper coach of Vaishali Express catches fire

HT News Network

Etawah (UP), Nov 16 (UNI) Nineteen people were injured when a sleeper coach of Vaishali Express between Delhi and Saharsa caught fire in Friends Colony area of Etawah district here in Uttar Pradesh, Government Railway Police (GRP) sources said here on Thursday.

GRP sources said that the incident took place around 2:30 am on Wednesday night when the toilet of S6 coach of Vaishali Express caught fire. "This led to panic among the passengers during which 19 people were injured," they said. Sources said that the injured were taken to the district hospital from where 11 passengers having problem in breathing were referred to Medical University in Saifai. "Remaining 8 passengers are being treated at the district hospital," they said.

Circle Officer (CO) GRP Uday Pratap Singh said that fire broke out in Saharsa bound Vaishali Express for Delhi due to unidentified reasons. He said that no loss of life has been reported in the incident so far.

He said that 19 passengers were injured in the incident and were being treated at the district hospital and Saifai medical university.

Emergency Medical Officer (EMO) of Dr Bhimaro Ambedkar government hospital Dr Raghendra said that 19 passengers of Vaishali Express were brought to the utility of which 11 having problem in breathing were referred to Saifai medical university. Sources said that the injured included Munna Ram (20), Deepak (18), Mohit Kumar (20), Govind, Rahul Kumar (28), Gulshan (27), Sandeep (22), Manish Kumar Thakur (23) Dushyant Kumar (20), Dhanpati (22), Asaruddin (35), Sarita Devi (36), Chhotu Kumar (27), Vivek (24), Sachchidanand Prasad (23), Shweta Kumari (22), Lakshmi (30), Ashok (35) and Achhe Lal (53).



# Biden, Xi restore military ties despite 'dictator' comment

HT News Network

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed at their first summit in a year on Wednesday to restore military communications between the two countries, even as Biden went off script by saying he still considered Xi a "dictator".

The leaders shook hands and strolled around a garden at a historic California estate during four-hour talks aimed at preventing growing tensions between the world's largest economies from spiraling into conflict.

They also agreed that China would crack down on the production of ingredients for fentanyl, responsible for a deadly epidemic of opioid abuse in the United States, with Xi saying he "sympathises" with US victims of the deadly drug, which has ravaged communities across the country.

But Xi and Biden remained far apart on the wider flashpoint of Taiwan, with the Chinese president telling his US counterpart to stop arming the island and that reunification was "unstoppable".

Beijing claims sovereignty over the self-ruling democracy and has not ruled out seizing it by force.

The two leaders had not met in person since they held talks in Bali in November 2022, and relations nosedived after the United States shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February this year.



But Biden told a press conference at the Filoli estate that his talks with Xi, whom he has known since 2011, were "some of the most constructive and productive discussions we've had".

"He's a dictator" The United States would compete "vigorously" but "responsibly" with an increasingly assertive China "so it doesn't veer into conflict or accidental conflict," Biden said.

"He and I agreed that each one of us could pick up the phone, call directly and we'll be heard immediately."

The separate move to restore high-level

US-China military-to-military communications, which China severed after then-US House speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in 2022, was "critically important" to avoid possible conflicts, Biden added.

The two sides also agreed to hold talks on artificial intelligence and to deepen cooperation on climate change ahead of the COP28 conference in Dubai next month.

But a day of painstakingly choreographed diplomacy ended with a not-so-diplomatic remark as Biden walked offstage after his press conference.

When a reporter asked if he would still

say Xi was a dictator as he had in June, a remark that prompted an angry response from Beijing at the time, Biden replied: "Well look, he is."

"He's a dictator in the sense that he's a guy who's running a country, a Communist country, that's based on a form of government totally different than ours."

Diplomats had spent months trying to get the talks to happen, and then arranging the smallest details at the exclusive estate, which featured in the US television soap opera "Dynasty" in the 1980s.

Xi appeared to brush off the comment, telling an audience hours later that growing US-China ties were vital to both countries.

"I believe that once the door to China-US relations is opened, it will not be closed again," he said.

"China is ready to be a partner and friend of the United States."

The carefully cultivated symbolism of the day saw red carpet handshakes, delegations sitting on either side of a huge table, and culminating with Biden and Xi taking the air in the grounds.

They also shared a working lunch of herbed ricotta ravioli and tarragon chicken with gold rice pilaf.

'Stop arming Taiwan'

Xi and Biden waved at reporters during their garden walk, and Biden had raised two thumbs up when asked how the talks went.

## Soldier, 4 terrorists killed in separate clashes in NW Pakistan

HT News Network

Islamabad, Nov 16 (UNI) A soldier and four terrorists were killed in two separate clashes between security forces and the militants in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday, a military statement said.

One of the incidents happened on the outskirts of the provincial capital city of Peshawar, where the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation on the reported presence of terrorists, the military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in the statement.

The operation triggered an exchange of fire in which four terrorists, highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies, were killed, the statement added.

"Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including extortion and target killings in the area," the statement said. The other operation was conducted in Dera Ismail Khan district of the province, where a soldier was killed after an intense exchange of fire with terrorists, the ISPR said.

"Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any other terrorists found in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," the statement said.

## Meta, TikTok challenge EU's new rules for digital market

HT News Network

Moscow, Nov 16 (UNI) Meta (banned in Russia for extremism) and TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, have appealed against the European Union's decision to brand their services as a "gatekeeper" that will have to comply with certain obligations and prohibitions under the new Digital Markets Act (DMA) aimed at making online markets more competitive, media reported on Thursday.

TikTok challenged the decision on Thursday, saying that it did not meet the necessary thresholds to be affected by the legislation, while the designation as a "gatekeeper" could hamper the company's ability to develop and grow, the Financial Times reported. In a separate appeal on Wednesday, Meta challenged the EU's move to designate Facebook's Messenger and Marketplace as "core" services under the DMA, the report said. It added, citing people familiar with the appeal, that Meta would argue Messenger is a chat functionality of the popular social network platform and not a separate service, while Marketplace is just a consumer product rather than a "gateway" for businesses to target consumers.

## Indonesian Air Force plane crashes in East Java

HT News Network

Jakarta, Nov 16 (UNI) An airplane of the Indonesian Air Force has crashed near the city of Pasuruan in East Java, the Detik news portal reported on Thursday.

The aircraft crashed on the slope of Mount Bromo, the media said, adding that Director of Data Information and Disaster Communication of the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency Abdul Muhari confirmed the crash. The details of the plane crash, including the possible death toll, are still pending. In videos posted on social media of Pasuruan's residents, the aircraft's tail number, -3103, is visible.

## International Cultural Forum to open in Russia's St Petersburg

HT News Network

St Petersburg, Russia, Nov 16 (UNI) The Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum (SPICF) will open on Thursday, November 16, in Russia's so-called cultural capital, bringing together delegates from 80 countries. The SPICF has been designed as a platform to talk over the most pressing social and cultural issues.

The forum will be comprised of several thematic units, which are "Learning History Through Culture," "Artificial Intelligence: Threat or Boon for Culture," "Traditional Culture as the Foundation for Building a Society," "Theatre," "Museums," "Cinema," "Musical Culture," "Business Culture," "Media Culture."

Over 11 memorandums and cooperation programs within culture are expected to be signed on the margins of the SPICF. The SPICF will be held from November 16-18.

## Madagascar to hold presidential election

HT News Network

Moscow, Nov 16 (UNI) Madagascar is holding a presidential election on Thursday, with a total of 13 candidates running for office. Former Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina, who resigned in September in line with the country's constitution in order to run for reelection, is among the candidates. Hery Rajaonarimampianina and Marc Ravalomanana, both former presidents of the island-nation off Africa's southeastern coast, are also running as candidates. Initially, the election was scheduled to take place on November 9, but it was postponed until November 16 amid opposition protests in the country.

DOHA: Qatari mediators were on Wednesday seeking to negotiate a deal between Hamas and Israel that includes the release of around 50 prisoners from Gaza in exchange for a three-day ceasefire, an official briefed on the negotiations said. The deal, under discussion, which has been coordinated with the US, would also see Israel release some Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails and increase the amount of humanitarian aid allowed into Gaza, the official said. Hamas has agreed to the general outlines of this deal, but Israel has not and it is still negotiating the details, the official said.

It is not known how many Palestinian women and children Israel would release from its jails as part of the agreement under discussion. The scope of the Qatari-led negotiations has changed significantly in recent weeks, but the fact that the talks are now focused on the release of 50 prisoners in exchange for a three-day truce and that Hamas has agreed to the outline of the deal have not been reported before. The wealthy Gulf state of Qatar, which has ambitious foreign policy goals, has a direct line of communication with Hamas and Israel. It has previously helped mediate truces between the two. Such a deal would require Hamas handing over a complete list of remaining living prisoners held in Gaza.

## Qatar seeks deal for prisoners' release, three-day truce

HT News Network

Ahead of the vote, there was high political drama within the Labour party as SNP-led ceasefire vote split opinion. Thousands of constituents rang Labour MPs, including frontbench shadow ministers, and persuaded them to vote against the party's position and for a ceasefire in Gaza. Nearly 70 Labour MPs defied their leader to call for a ceasefire now, and nearly 50 councillors resigned from the party over the leadership's position on the war.

Zarah Sultana, Labour MP for Coventry South, tweeted, "In my nearly 4 years as an MP, I've been contacted by more constituents about Gaza and the call for a ceasefire than any other policy issue."

Manchester Gorton followed, resigning from his post as shadow minister for exports. Tory MPs, however, reiterated their support for humanitarian pauses, and took exception to the term ceasefire. One MP said the word ceasefire implies "only one side, that is Israel, should stop violence, which is not the solution."

## Israelis 'withdraw' after West balks at hospital raid

HT News Network

GAZA: An Israeli army operation in Gaza's biggest medical facility on Wednesday set off a wave of international condemnation, with even Tel Aviv's staunchest supporters criticising the move, as the World Health Organisation said it had lost contact with staff at the hospital.

Israeli forces pushed into Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital — a sprawling complex of buildings and courtyards — in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Israel claimed the action was a "precise and targeted" operation against Hamas, but since the raid, the military was yet to produce any evidence to back their claim of Hamas running a command centre beneath the hospital.

The UN estimates there are at least 2,300 people inside Al-Shifa. The hospital was caring for 36 babies as of Tuesday, according to medical staff there.

Late on Wednesday night, a journalist trapped inside the hospital told AFP that Israeli troops had withdrawn from the building after entering it overnight, and had redeployed around its outskirts.

During the operation, Israeli troops interrogated dozens of civilians, many of whom were stripped to their underwear, but they were released when the troops withdrew, said the journalist in contact with AFP.

"All men 16 years and above, raise your hands," a soldier shouted in accented Arabic through a loudspeaker at those sheltering inside the hospital.



"Exit the building towards the courtyard and surrender," the soldier ordered, according to the journalist who visited the embattled hospital several days ago for interviews and was trapped inside by intense fighting.

About 1,000 Palestinian men, their hands above their heads, were soon led into the vast hospital courtyard, some of them stripped naked by Israeli soldiers checking them for weapons or explosives, the journalist told AFP.

"Bombardment. Shooting around the hospital and within the hospital. It's really horrible you can feel that it's very near to the hospital. And then we realised that the tanks are moving around the hospital," Doctor Ahmed El Mokhallalati told Reuters by phone from Al-Shifa hospital.

"They just parked in front of the hospital emergency department. All kinds of weapons were used around the hospital," and staff avoided being near the windows.

He said he felt relief when troops finally entered the complex, despite concerns among staff, as the fear of being bombed from outside had been immense.

## France issues arrest warrant for Syrian president

HT News Network

PARIS: France has issued an international arrest warrant for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accused of complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes over chemical attacks in 2013, plaintiffs in the case said on Wednesday.

In one of the more than decade-long conflict's many horrors, sarin gas attacks saw more than 1,400 people suffocate to death near Damascus in August 2013.

The organisations that filed a legal complaint hailed the move, saying it was the first time a sitting head of state had become the subject of an arrest warrant in another country for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Three other international warrants were also issued for the arrests of Assad's brother Maher, the de-facto chief of the Fourth Division, Syrian army's elite military unit, and two generals. The Paris court's unit concerned with crimes against humanity has been investigating the chemical attacks since 2021. France can prosecute alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed anywhere in the world under the principle of universal jurisdiction. A judicial source, who asked not to be named, confirmed the issuing of the four warrants by investigating magistrates of the Paris court's crimes against humanity section.

The probe followed a complaint filed by the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) NGO, lawyers' association Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and the Syrian Archive, an organisation



documenting human rights violations in Syria. "It's a huge development," SCM president Mazen Darwish said of the warrant for Assad's arrest.

"An independent jurisdiction is recognising that the chemical attack couldn't have happened without the knowledge of the Syrian president, that he has responsibility and should be held accountable," he said. Three other international warrants were also issued for the arrests of Assad's brother Maher, the de-facto chief of the Fourth Division, Syrian army's elite military unit, and two generals. The Paris court's unit concerned with crimes against humanity has been investigating the chemical attacks since 2021.

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## Labour rebellion as UK MPs vote on Gaza ceasefire

HT News Network

LONDON: With a massive pro-Palestine demonstration taking place outside parliament, UK's House of Commons voted on Wednesday on a divisive amendment calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, with nearly 70 Labour MPs going against the party leadership. However, both motions on Gaza were defeated, as majority MPs voted against them. The Labour motion on Gaza called for a humanitarian pause whereas the Scottish National Party (SNP) motion sought release of Israeli prisoners, end of the Gaza siege and an immediate ceasefire.



drama unfolded live as Labour MPs voting for the SNP's ceasefire motion simultaneously tweeted resignations from their frontbench posts. Labour MP and shadow minister for women and equities Yasmin Qureshi was the first to resign from her post as she supported a ceasefire vote. MP Afzal Khan from

Manchester Gorton followed, resigning from his post as shadow minister for exports. Tory MPs, however, reiterated their support for humanitarian pauses, and took exception to the term ceasefire. One MP said the word ceasefire implies "only one side, that is Israel, should stop violence, which is not the solution."

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# 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' celebrated at Anantnag

Preserving & promoting the unique heritage of Janjati community top priority for District Administration: S.F. Hamid

**HT News Network**

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 16: The District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with Chief Education Officer (CEO) Anantnag celebrated the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (National Tribal Day) across the District. The main function was organised at Eklavya Model Residential School Salia Anantnag where the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag S.F. Hamid was the chief guest and paid the homage to Birsa

Munda. The programme witnessed huge participation of masses particularly members of the tribal community.

The DC applauded the work culture of the tribal community. He emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting the unique heritage of the Janjatiya community. He also highlighted the need for inclusivity and unity among community members, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity.

S.F. Hamid expressed his gratitude to the participants, volunteers, and sponsors who contributed to the success of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations. He emphasized the importance of such events in fostering a sense of pride, unity, and cultural continuity within the Janjatiya community. A series of cultural exhibitions and workshops were organized, providing a platform for Janjatiya artisans and craftsmen to showcase their skills. Handicrafts, traditional attire, and indigenous art forms were on display, allowing attendees to appreciate and support the rich cultural tapestry of the



Janjatiya community. The event also served as an occasion for dialogue on the challenges faced by the Janjatiya community and ways to address them. Discussions revolved around education, healthcare, and socio-economic development, with a focus on empowering Janjatiya individuals and ensuring equal opportunities for growth. The programme was also attended by the PRIs, Officers from various departments belonging to Tribal Community and a good number of locals.

# 'Back to Village' Phase V: Principal Secretary Finance chairs mega event at Qazibagh, Budgam; participates in multifarious activities

**HT News Network**

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 16: Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh Kumar Vaidya, today chaired "Back to Village Phase V" programme at Qazibagh panchayat in Budgam block.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary inspected stalls, set up by various departments to showcase their products and create awareness on various welfare schemes for the general public.

During the inspection, Santosh Vaidya

reviewed implementation of various schemes and interacted with the beneficiaries seeking their feedback.

He also chaired a Bal Sabha at Middle School Zoorigund and interacted with local students.

Principal Secretary took stock of progress on developmental works particularly raised and discussed during last Back to Village programmes in panchayat halqa Qazibagh.

During public interaction, Santosh Vaidya listened to the demands



of locals of Qazibagh, Zoorigund, Thukarpura and other adjoining vil-

lages of the Panchayat halqa. He assured them that all their issues and

concerns would be taken up with the concerned for an early redressal.

Principal Secretary said that the UT Government is committed towards robust development of Panchayats ensuring prompt redressal of the issues of general public through programmes like 'Back to Village', under which the government itself reaches out to the general public to their doorsteps.

He emphasized speedy work completion of all ongoing developmental works in the area

while asking the executing agencies for expeditious execution of their respective works.

Later, Principal Secretary visited the playground at Qazibagh and inaugurated series of sports events there. He also held interaction with the budding sports persons and encouraged them to accord complete focus on games for brighter future.

On the Occasion, Santosh Vaidya felicitated the winners who participated in Tug of War, kabaddi and sack race sports activities.

# Dengue control measures discussed in Samba

**HT News Network**

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 16: A meeting to discuss Dengue control and treatment measures was today chaired by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma here in DC office complex Samba.

The Chair reviewed the number of dengue cases village-wise, emphasizing the identification of hotspot areas.

The DC Samba issued clear instructions to monitor each case diligently and actively. Further, the DC conducted a comprehensive assessment of testing and treatment to effectively manage the dengue situation in the district.

The meeting was attended by CMO, SDM Ghagwal, District Nodal officers, District Epidemiologist, Block Medical officers, and EOs of respective municipalities.

# DC Udhampur inaugurates civic works in MC Ward No-6

**HT News Network**

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Saloni Rai today visited Ward No-6 and inaugurated five newly constructed lanes and drains, along with tile works in the municipal ward. Councillor Vikram Singh Slathia was also present at the inauguration.

Interacting with locals, the DC highlighted the ongoing government initiatives aimed at upgrading lanes and drains in Udhampur. Emphasizing environmental responsibility, she urged residents to avoid single-use plastics and polythene to maintain cleanliness in the lane and drains.

The DC extended congratulations to the area's residents, acknowledging the fulfillment of a long-standing demand. The DC encouraged locals to take advantage of various welfare schemes and programs launched by both the Union Territory and central governments.

# DC reviews preparations for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in District Kishtwar

**HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav today chaired a review meeting with the stakeholder departments and asked them to gear up for making foolproof arrangements for the upcoming Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure maximum public participation, particularly youth in Yatra which aim to raise awareness about the Government's achievements and extend benefits of Centrally Sponsored Schemes among beneficiaries.

It was informed that 3 Digital Vans will traverse all Panchayats delivering the Prime Minister's message and hosting promotional events.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also scrutinized the comprehensive schedule to cover all blocks and urban areas, with Nodal Officers assigned specific duties for a smooth yatra passage.

# HDFC Bank Marks International Fraud Awareness Week

Srinagar, Nov 16, KNT: HDFC Bank, hosted a one-day conference on 'Banking Cybercrime Prevention and Detection' in collaboration with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), to commemorate International Fraud Awareness Week (IFAW). This is the 4th year in a row that HDFC Bank has been actively contributing to Cyber Fraud Awareness during the IFAW.

The Conference was attended by eminent dignitaries from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, IIPA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC), CERT-in, Delhi Police, Haryana Police, Uttar Pradesh Police and senior officials from leading banks and financial intermediaries. S N Tripathi DG, IIPA (Retd. IAS) said, "In the digital age, the battle against cybercrime requires a united front. Collaboration and awareness should be our strongest shields. Let us stand together against cyber threats, ensuring the safety and trust of individuals and organizations alike." Speaking on the occasion Prashant Mehra, Group Head, Retail Portfolio Management and Fraud Control, HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat to the privacy and well-being of individuals and organisations as well as to national security. The Bank has also been educating people about safe banking practices that would protect them from being victims of fraud. Through this conference our aim is to foster dialogue and collaboration among the participants and to generate concrete and actionable recommendations for enhancing cyber security and resilience." On the sidelines of the conference, HDFC Bank unveiled industry's first transaction verification method which operates over WhatsApp. This allows verification without voice information by customers.

# DC Rajouri presides over B2V5 Program at Muradpur-B Panchayat

**HT News Network**

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 16: The fifth phase of the ambitious Back to Village (B2V5) program, a transformative initiative aimed at comprehensive development culminated successfully in Rajouri district. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, embarked on a detailed tour of Muradpur-B Panchayat in the Rajouri block on the last day of the program.

Engaging with both officers and the public, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal delved into discussions that unveiled valuable insights into public concerns. From power supply and water availability to road conditions and health services, the dialogue with locals revealed a collective desire for improvements in these essential services, recognizing their crucial role in shaping daily lives.

In an impassioned



address to the public, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the dedication of the administration to delivering essential facilities directly to the doorsteps of the common masses. The ongoing efforts to alleviate daily inconveniences were highlighted, with Back to Village identified as a key initiative in efficiently addressing public grievances.

Providing a comprehensive overview, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal shed light on various welfare schemes and government programs designed

for the general public. He assured the community that the administration, under LG leadership, is committed to ensuring that the benefits of these initiatives reach every individual in the Union Territory.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal also actively sought feedback on the implementation of government schemes in the Panchayat, and the public responded with a notably positive reception. The engagement not only provided an avenue for the residents to voice their opinions but also reflected

a constructive dialogue between the administration and the community.

In a forward-looking approach, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal took the opportunity to motivate the youth, encouraging them to seize the benefits of self-employment schemes initiated by the government. Recognizing the potential for empowerment and economic growth, he emphasized the importance of active participation in these programs, aiming to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal astutely emphasized the pivotal role of public awareness in ensuring the optimal implementation of government schemes. Recognizing that an informed community is instrumental in the success of these initiatives, he underscored the need for heightened awareness among the public.

# Job fair held at GDC D.H Pora, Kulgam

**Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 16: In an endeavour to provide a suitable and convenient platform to the educated unemployed youth/job seekers and facilitate their interaction with the Private Companies and Employers for Training, Skill and placement, the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam today organised a One day Job Fair at GDC Damhal Hanjipora, here.

The Job fair was inaugurated by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Bashir ul Hassan in presence of Principal GDC DH Pora and officers of DE&CC Kulgam.

11 Private Companies and Skill Development Organisations operating in Education, Finance, Skill Development, Agriculture and Insurance sectors including Ilena Technologies, Agile, Bombay Stock Exchange Institute, Think & Win Technologies, PMKK, Bajaj Alliance etc. participated in the event.

On the occasion stalls were also installed by Govt. line departments including District Industries Centre, KVIB, Hand-



loom & Handicrafts Department, JKRLM, Horticulture Lead Bank Kulgam and the concerned Resource persons also disseminated the information about their respective schemes and programmes.

The event saw an overwhelming response from the job seekers and companies.

SDM visited the stalls and interacted with the participating youth and representatives of private companies.

Addressing the youth, the speakers emphasized upon them to come out of the traditional mind set up and participate in such kinds of events to extend their horizons of vision and wisdom.

# Inter-College Seminar to celebrate World Philosophy Day organized at Amar Singh College

**HT News Network**

Srinagar, November 16: The Department of Philosophy, Amar Singh College Cluster University, Srinagar today organized an Inter-College seminar on the theme 'The Human of The Future', to celebrate the World Philosophy Day, 2023, here.

The program commenced with the welcome address proposed by Prof. Tabasum Lone, Head Department of Philosophy. In her address Prof. Tabasum reflected on the importance of World Philosophy Day and also accentuated the importance of this year's theme The Human of The Future.

Prof. Tabasum pointed out that by awakening minds to the exercise of thinking and the reasoned confrontation of opinions, philosophy helps to build a more tolerant, more respectful society and that shall be the determining force in moulding the human of the future. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Principal Amar Singh College and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division col-



leges. He pointed out that Philosophy is an inspiring discipline as well as an everyday practice that can transform societies. By enabling to discover the diversity of the intellectual currents in the world, philosophy can go a long way in stimulating intercultural dialogue. Prof. Ajaz contended that the awakening minds to the exercise of thinking and the reasoned confrontation of opinions can go a long way to build a more tolerant, more respectful society. Immediately after the presidential address the seminar commenced and the students from seven participating colleges of the Kashmir division elaborated and exchanged their ideas about the human of the future.

# OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KARGIL LADAKH

Where an application has been received from Shri/ Smt. Ashraf ALI. S/O Ghulam Rehim R/O Bhanbat Dram HPA Cancellation With J&K Bank Kargil.

Now therefore, it is notified for general information that objection, if any to the proposed HPA cancellation of vehicle NO: JK07.5806 Shall be filled in writing in the office of the ARTO Kargil with in a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily news paper Headlines Today.

NO: ARTO/K/2023 Regional Transport Officer  
Date :16.11.2023 Kargil

# Office of the Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

Notice  
Whereas joint application has been received from Mohammad Saleem Mir S/O Mohammad Sidiq Mir R/O Kala Mohalla Lal Bazar (TRANS-FEROR) And Bashir Ahmad S/O Gh Nabi Zargar R/O Zori Bagh Budgam (Transferee) for transfer/Re- registration of Vehicle No JK01AQ-4951.

Now therefore it is notified for general information that objections if any to the proposed re-registration of the said vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport officer Srinagar within a period of 07 days of publication of the notice in the daily newspaper .

Dated:..16/11/2023 Regional Transport Officer  
Srinagar



# Balancing blood sugar: A guide to preventing diabetes through diet

A balanced diet means eating the right amount of foods from all food groups and it contains an adequate amount of all the nutrients required by the body to grow, remain healthy and be disease-free but eating a balanced diet that keeps your blood sugar levels from fluctuating can be challenging in our daily lives. There are seven essential factors for a balanced diet: carbs, protein, fat, fibre, vitamins, minerals and water.

India is just one country where millions of people suffer from the chronic illness known as diabetes, which is characterised by high blood sugar levels that can harm your organs if uncontrolled and involves renal failure, heart disease, stroke and blindness. The good news is that you can prevent diabetes in a number of ways through mindful eating where you can assist, maintain healthy blood sugar levels and lower your chance of developing diabetes by following a few easy dietary modifications. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Srinath Aswathiah, Consultant Diabetologist and Endocrinologist at BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital in Bengaluru, asserted that it is equally important to not deprive ourselves of meals one loves. He said, "We have to understand that lack of carbohydrates could lead to exhaustion and fatigue. A balanced diet should offer around 60% of total calories from carbohydrates, 10-15% from proteins and 20-25% of total calories from fat." Stating that diet can play an important role in controlling blood sugars, especially if one has diabetes, he encouraged to understand how our body processes food differently and shared, "Carbohydrates break down into glucose faster than other nutrients. It is therefore



ideal to consume right amount of foods with carbohydrates, proteins and fats. This will help to balance sugar levels in ideal range. Foods that are high in protein and fats are advised to maintain healthy diet provided one doesn't suffer from kidney related health issues. For Vegetarians snack on non-fat Greek yogurt and walnuts for non-vegetarians' foods like fatty fish like tuna and salmon helps. Snacking on these foods not only maintains blood sugars levels but also help keep blood pressure in check while maintaining a healthy weight. Also, to balance one's meal non-starchy vegetables like asparagus and green beans adds added benefit. It's always important to understand that foods that are high in fat like avocados and nuts are great additives for a diet to lower blood sugars." He advised, "Foods that need to be avoided are diet with high carbohydrate content which can affect blood sugar and also

weight. Keeping a watch on processed foods like potato chips, packaged grains and fast food is vital. Trans fats, found in many processed foods, are also a danger to heart health. This step will help you avoid foods that will spike blood sugar levels. Low-calorie drinks fill you up and balance glucose levels. Examples include citrus fruits, cucumber with mint. These can be taken anytime. Remember that foods high in fat and protein help you curb cravings. Limit starchy and packaged foods for a healthy diet and to consume foods like whole wheat rich fibre and no added sugar." Edwina Raj, Head of Services - Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics at Aster CMI Hospital in Bangalore, explained, "Diabetes is a condition when the body either produces insufficient insulin or uses it improperly. This results in a build up of glucose in your blood, which may cause health issues. The two main types of dia-

betes are type 1 and type 2. In type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune disease, the body's immune system specifically targets and destroys the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. The most prevalent kind of diabetes is type 2, which is brought on by a combination of hereditary and environmental factors."

Talking about how diet can help to prevent diabetes, she said, "Maintaining a healthy weight and regulating your blood sugar levels with a balanced diet will help you avoid developing diabetes. You are less likely to have blood sugar rises after meals if you follow a balanced diet. Additionally, you are less likely to put on excess weight, which is a significant risk factor for type 2 diabetes."

According to her, following are some helpful suggestions for controlling blood sugar levels in India -

Choose Indian cuisine at its best: Include whole grains but in moderation, add lentils, and vegetables which are the main ingredients in many traditional Indian dishes, all of which are beneficial for controlling blood sugar. For instance, roti, dal, and sabzi may be found in an Indian dinner.

Utilise spices: Numerous Indian spices, including fenugreek, cinnamon, and turmeric, have been found to reduce blood sugar levels. To benefit, add these spices to your meals.

Pay attention to portion sizes: Even while consuming nutritious foods, it's crucial to pay attention to portion proportions. Any food in excess might cause blood sugar levels to rise. Frequently consume meals and snacks: Regular meals and snacks help to maintain stable blood sugar levels. Attempt not to miss meals or going long periods without eating food.

## NEWS

### Is Sitting Too Much Bad for Your Health?



#### People sit more than ever before

Sitting is a common body posture. When people work, socialize, study, or travel, they often do so in a seated position.

However, that doesn't mean that sitting and other sedentary behaviors are harmless. Over half of the average person's day is spent sitting, doing activities such as driving, working at a desk, or watching television.

In fact, the typical office worker may spend up to a whopping 15 hours per day sitting. On the other hand, agricultural workers only sit for about 3 hours a day

#### Sitting limits the number of calories you burn

Your everyday non-exercise activities, such as standing, walking, and even fidgeting, still burn calories.

This energy expenditure is known as non-exercise activity thermogenesis (NEAT), the lack of which is an important risk factor for weight gain (3Trusted Source).

Sedentary behavior, including sitting and lying down, involves very little energy expenditure. It severely limits the calories you burn through NEAT. To put this into perspective, studies report that agricultural workers can burn up to 1,000 more calories per day than people working desk jobs

This is because farmworkers spend most of their time walking and standing.

#### Sitting increases your risk of weight gain

The fewer calories you burn, the more likely you are to gain weight.

This is why sedentary behavior is so closely linked to obesity.

In fact, research shows that people with obesity sit for an average of two hours longer each day than do people with a normal weight.

#### Sitting is linked to early death

Observational data from over 1 million people shows that the more sedentary you are, the more likely you are to die early.

In fact, the most sedentary people had a 22-49% greater risk of early death.

However, even though the majority of evidence supports this finding, one study found no link between sitting time and overall mortality.

This study had some flaws, which likely explain why it contradicts all other research in the area. The fewer calories you burn, the more likely you are to gain weight. This is why sedentary behavior is so closely linked to obesity. In fact, research shows that people with obesity sit for an average of two hours longer each day than do people with a normal weight

## High Triglycerides May Lower Dementia Risk but Raise It for Stroke, Heart Disease

A study found that higher levels of triglycerides were linked to a lower risk of dementia.

They were also associated with slower cognitive decline as people got older.

However, there was insufficient data to state the effect of higher than normal levels.

Experts advise that people should not be seeking to have high levels of triglycerides.

Rather, a healthy diet and exercise are the best ways to reduce your dementia risk.

According to new research, older adults with higher triglyceride levels within the healthy to above-normal range appear

to have a reduced risk of developing dementia. They also have slower cognitive decline as they age.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) states that triglycerides are a type of fat found in our blood.

Sources of triglycerides include butter, oils, and other fats found in food.

They can also come from eating more calories than we need. Any time we consume more calories than we require for energy production, they are stored in the body's cells in the form of triglycerides.

The NIH notes that some tri-



glycerides are necessary for good health. However, excess amounts in the blood can increase the risk for conditions like heart disease and stroke.

The study, published on October 25 in Neurology, speculates

that having triglycerides in the upper end of the normal range might indicate that a person is engaging in a lifestyle protective against dementia.

"Triglyceride levels may serve as a useful predictor for dementia risk and cognitive decline in older populations," the study authors concluded.

Can high triglycerides cause dementia?

The research team identified over 18,000 people with an average age of 75 who were undiagnosed with dementia.

These individuals were then followed for an average of six years to determine who subse-

quently developed dementia with 823 people eventually going on to receive the diagnosis.

During each year of the study, a lipid panel was run, which included:

- total cholesterol
- low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol
- high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol
- triglycerides

People were then divided into four groups based on their fasting triglyceride levels. The lowest triglyceride group had levels less than 62 mg/dL.

The next highest group had 63 to 106 mg/dL levels.

## Power of protein: Why older adults should eat more protein

The notion that protein intake needs to be reduced with increasing age is in fact a myth for both men and women. In fact, maintaining the protein intake or even increasing it in older adults; both men & women may be beneficial for overall health. Hence, it is essential to understand the benefits of adequate amounts of protein in the diet for the older population.

The benefits of adequate protein in the diet include-

#### Bone health:

Consumption of adequate protein helps in maintaining bone health and is associated with improved bone mineral density and prevents osteoporosis and risk of fractures commonly observed in older ages.

#### Preserving Muscle Mass:

As people age, they tend to lose muscle mass, a condition known as sarcopenia. Consuming an adequate amount of protein is crucial for preserving muscle mass and strength, which is essential for maintaining mobility and overall functionality in daily activities.

#### Metabolic Rate:

Adequate intake of protein is associated with improved metabolic rate which usually slows down as people



age. This helps in better weight management by preserving muscle mass.

#### Wound Healing:

As people age, maintaining a strong immune system and promoting wound healing become more crucial for sickness prevention and recovery. One of the key components to these processes is protein.

#### Satiety & Appetite Control:

Protein helps in improved appetite control helps achieve satiety faster and helps remain full for a longer period of time. This is beneficial for adults with changing appetites and

helps to avoid overeating.

This being said, it is important to take into consideration other factors like physical activity levels, presence of other comorbidities like impaired renal function and overall health. One must consult a dietician or healthcare professional before making any drastic changes in the diet. However, for a healthy individual there is no requirement for decreasing the protein intake with increasing age. Adequate protein intake is essential for older adults to maintain bone health, preserve muscle and for overall well being.

## What happens to your body if you have olive oil every day?

Olive oil, often referred to as "liquid gold," is a staple in Mediterranean cuisine and a symbol of good health. Its benefits go beyond enhancing the flavour of your dishes, as daily consumption of olive oil can have a profound impact on your overall well-being.

With the spectre of the festive season looming large over our heads, we've all started eating more oily foods. Whether you're at your own home or visiting a friend's home to "give them Diwali," as the North Indians call it, we're all eating much more oil-rich foods than we would usually. In such a situation, is it a good idea to switch to eating olive oil every day, instead of your regular oils and ghee?

Dr Sri Karan Uddesh Tanugula, general physician, Yashoda Hospitals, explained that olive oil is rich in polyphenols and monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA). "The former are antioxidants, which



help in reducing the risk of developing chronic diseases. MUFA helps in reducing LDL cholesterol levels i.e. bad cholesterol levels thereby decreasing the chances of developing cardiovascular diseases." He also pointed to recent evidence that olive oil consumption may lead to decreased incidence of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. Dr Somnath Gupta, consultant physician & diabetologist, Yashoda Hospitals, also concurred, adding that it also decreases the risk of heart disease. What are the benefits of having olive oil

every day, especially in the festive season?

Olive oil adds a rich, distinct taste to your dishes, enhancing the enjoyment of festive meals

Olive oil contains essential nutrients such as vitamin E and antioxidants, which can enhance the nutritional value of your meals.

During times when rich and indulgent foods are common, using olive oil can be a healthier cooking option, promoting cardiovascular well-being.

Olive oil's antioxidants may help combat the oxidative stress that can occur

from consuming high-calorie, indulgent foods during festivities.

Olive oil's anti-inflammatory properties may aid in digestion and help alleviate digestive issues.

While it's calorie-dense, using olive oil in place of saturated fats can support weight maintenance due to its satiety-inducing properties. Are there any drawbacks to having it daily?

According to Dr Tanugula, 3-4 tablespoons of olive oil per day along with a balanced diet would be helpful. "More than the required amounts would result in excess consumption of calories as olive oil is essentially a fat."

Some individuals may have sensitivities or allergies to olive oil, so it's essential to monitor for adverse reactions. Dr Gupta explained that the health benefits of olive oil largely depend on its quality. "Extra virgin olive oil is the most beneficial, while lower-quality oils may not offer the same advantages."



# Century of centuries not out of question for Virat Kohli: Ravi Shastri

**MUMBAI, NOV 16:** After coasting to a record breaking 50th ODI century in India's Cricket World Cup semi-final victory over New Zealand, India great Ravi Shastri believes Virat Kohli's meticulous approach to preparation and physical performance sets him up for a push at matching Sachin Tendulkar's mark of one hundred hundreds.

Kohli was unperturbed in spite of a shaky start in Mumbai, edging onto his pad and surviving an lbw review off the bowling of Tim Southee early. Circumspect and not tempted to match the early fireworks of Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, Kohli travelled well under a run a ball throughout the early part of his knock, moving through the gears to finish with 117 from 113 balls, on India's path to 397/4.

The knock provided a launchpad for Shreyas Iyer (105 off 70 balls), KL Rahul (39 not out from 20) and a returning Gill, who finished with 80 not out from 66 balls, in India's late flurry. In response, New Zealand fell 70 runs short, bowled out for 327.

Speaking on the latest podcast of The ICC Review after India's victory, Shastri looked at Kohli's body language as the tell of his confidence and calm at the crease, remaining unflustered when others may have lost their way in the same situation.

"I think his composure, just his body language, his composure, his calmness of the crease (was telling)," Shastri began.

"I have seen him come out in



previous World Cups where he's like a cat on a hot tin roof. He wants to get on with it straight away. None of that sort here," he said.

"He's taken his time, marked his guard, soaked the pressure, given himself time, and understood his role of batting deep in the innings. And he's just been wonderful," Shastri said.

Kohli cruised to reach the record ton and paid tribute to the man he passed, soaking in the cheers from the crowd. It was a moment of perspective for Shastri having watched the right-hander up close through his time as coach, though the commentator believes Kohli wins the battle against his opponents before a ball is bowled, and earning the plaudits by doing the hard work when no one is watching.

When asked to pinpoint Kohli's

standout qualities, Shastri looked at a combination of mental shifts, technical tinkering and an emphasis on fitness in the great batter's meticulous preparation.

"It's a mix of all three," he noted. "It gives him some time, to be calm and composed at the beginning of the innings," Shastri said. "His shot selection in the first 10, 15 runs, he doesn't take that extra risk. He's quite prepared to leave deliveries, knock the ball around," Shastri said.

Stringent in his diet, and working through a regimen cardio and fitness program, Kohli's preparation means he can eke out runs with his legs, rather than just dealing in boundaries, according to Shastri.

"One of the features of his batting has been his running between the

wickets. The fact that he doesn't have to hit boundaries and sixes, he can run hard between the wickets because of his physical fitness," Shastri said.

"That takes the pressure off him. Even when he's not getting the boundaries, he's still rotating the strike," he said.

"And he always has that uncanny ability of making it up towards the back end of the innings," Shastri said.

Kohli turned 35 less than a fortnight ago, though with the emphasis on fitness, there's scope for one of the game's greatest to hang around a little while longer.

Looking to Tendulkar's figure of 100 centuries, a number many believed would never be matched, Shastri believes it would be foolish to rule Kohli out from matching his compatriot.

"Who would have thought when Sachin Tendulkar got 100 hundreds that anyone would come close and he's got 80, 80 international hundreds, 50 of them in the one-day game and which makes him the highest. Unreal," Shastri said.

"Nothing's impossible because such players, when they start reeling off hundreds, then they score them pretty quickly. His next 10 innings, you might see another five hundreds," he said.

"You have three formats of the game and he's part of all those formats," Shastri said.

"To think that he still has three or four years of cricket ahead of him is simply mind-boggling," Shastri added.

# Australia trump SA in thriller to enter 8th ODI WC final



**KOLKATA, NOV 16:** Yawn. Australia are in another World Cup final.

Except, this wasn't Steve Waugh's mentality monsters or Ricky Ponting's Invincibles. These men were fallible. They almost didn't make it. South Africa refused to let them. Eerily enough, the target to win was also the score both of these immensely watchable sides had put up in what was for a very long time the greatest ODI ever played, 213.

This classic, like the one in 1999, owed much to the spinners. Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi weren't turning the ball so much as helping it develop a mind of its own. They operated in tandem for 16 overs, producing a dot once every two balls, a false shot once every four balls and almost the same number of wickets as boundaries - 3 vs 4.

The men they dismissed were Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne and extremely crucially, Glenn Maxwell for a duck. Australia were 137 for 5.

South Africa had recorded their lowest 10-over score in 15 years of ODI

cricket. 18 for 2. They came into this semi-final scoring that many runs in a single over 14 times. The tournament's most fearsome batting line-up was shut down like a computer that caught a virus. Only David Miller was immune. He raised 101 for 1 from his end. The others collapsed to 100 for 9 from theirs.

Things didn't get much better in the chase either. South Africa needed 52 balls to get their first boundary. Australia needed two. Marco Jansen leaked 12 runs off one delivery. Reeza Hendricks dropped Head on 40 and watched him hit a hat-trick of fours - one of those was a drop too - to get to his half-century. More than half the score they had to defend had vanished in the 15th over.

The ghosts of knockouts past had all arrived at Eden Gardens with pop corn and everything. Shami, though, told them to bleep all the way off. He was the one who made Labuschagne look very, very silly in the 16th over, an lbw shout turned down even though his leg was literally before the wicket.

# AB de Villiers: This can be year South Africa's semi final record changes

**KOLKATA, NOV 16:** South Africa and World Cup semi-finals have produced so many heartbreaking moments over the years - my hope is that 2023 will be the year that it all changes, said former South Africa cricketer AB de Villiers.

"It is not just that we have played in four of them and lost them all, it is that on each and every occasion, the fates have conspired to make the defeats as painful as possible," he said.

"I was too young for the 1992 and 1999 games but ask anyone about 22 off one and they will know immediately what you are referring to," De Villiers said. He said seven years later against the Aussies was even more painful. There is obviously the legend of the Steve Waugh jibe to Herschelle Gibbs about dropping the World Cup, but even after that defeat in the Super Six, South Africa had so many chances in the semi-final.

"Watching the Allan Donald run-out does not get any easier, and we have seen a lot of it this week given that, once again, it is Australia standing in the way of a place in the final," De Villiers said.

"The first World Cup semi-final that I played in was also against the Aussies, their all-conquering 2007 side. They had already beaten us once, but we still backed ourselves going into the game," he said.

"The aim was to be aggressive, but after choosing to bat, Glenn McGrath tore through our top order and I fell to Shaun Tait, who was flying that day. We were 27 for five inside ten overs and never able to make it competitive," De Villiers said. "My final World Cup game might be the most painful of all from a personal perspective. We had got a big win over Sri Lanka in the quarter-final, a first knockout win, at long last," he said.

"Against New Zealand, we batted well, Faf du Plessis made big runs, David Miller teed off late on, and I also got a handy score. We thought that defending 298 in 43 overs would be possible, and we had our chances. That day though, our fielding cost us. Grant Elliott played an incredible knock but that one still stings," De

Villiers said. e said it was eight years ago, and so much has changed from a South African perspective since then. Only Quinton de Kock and David Miller remain from that team.

# Kane Williamson lauds IND after semi-final loss

**MUMBAI, NOV 16:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was characteristically magnanimous following his side's 70-run defeat to India in the first ICC Men's Cricket World Cup semi-final here on Wednesday.

The New Zealand bowlers were put to the sword in the first innings, with India racking up 397/4 thanks in large part to centuries from Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer.

And then the Kiwi resistance, led by centurion Daryl Mitchell, was undone by India's strong bowling attack, spearheaded by Mohammed Shami.

"They're the best team in the world and they're all playing their best cricket," Williamson said.

"The way they've played throughout this tournament has been incredible," he said.

"They haven't missed a beat really and to come into a semi-final, you go through your round-robin and you try and get to the stage and it starts again, but the way they came out and played shows the mindset that they have and the space that they're in," Williamson said. "I've got no doubt they'll go into that next match full of confidence," he said.

For a brief period it looked like New Zealand might just pull off something remarkable, with Williamson putting on 181 for the third wicket with Mitchell, who scored his second ton of the tournament against India, finishing with 134 from 119 balls, an ICC report said.

"Mitchell is a phenomenal player and just the ultimate competitor," Williamson said.

"He goes out there, he loves the occasion, and he's been outstanding for us throughout this whole tournament," the New Zealand captain said.

"To go out and do what he did today, giving us a chance, albeit a slimmest chance, was a fine effort from a world-class player," he said.

The 33-year-old Williamson and 32-year-old Mitchell are among a crop of Kiwi players who could have featured in their last Cricket World Cup, with Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Tom Latham among those approaching the back-end of their careers.

The Black Caps have appeared in all six T20 and ODI World Cup semi-finals since 2015, reaching three finals without claiming a title.

But Williamson says it's not quite the moment to call time on his team's era just yet.

"I think it's been, I suppose, an ongoing effort as a side to keep trying to get better and push the boundaries of where we can get to as a team.



خوشی ہے امت کے لال علیہ السلام کے تشریف لانے کی!

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سالانہ میلاد النبی ﷺ کا انفرنس و رداپوشی

مقام مدرسہ فیضان بنگلہ لہنات اجارہ بویار ضلع ہارمور مورخہ 26 نومبر 10 بجے سے نماز عصر تک

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