



# Amid Haze, Fog Temperature Dips, leading to Fierce Cold Wave Across Kashmir

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** Cold conditions intensified as night temperatures plummeted in most parts of the Kashmir valley amid fog and haze engulfed plains, disrupting normal activities on Monday.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast the weather to remain dry over Jammu and Kashmir with morning fog at isolated places over the plains of Kashmir division during the next 24 hours.

Cold wintry conditions prevailed in Kashmir Valley, and the dry weather and cloudy sky in Srinagar, coupled with haze and fog engulfed at many places, including the famous Dal Lake and its adjoining localities, affected the visibility in the area on Monday.

The commuters had to move their vehicles on many roads in Srinagar, including the Boulevard Road, while keeping on the head-



lights amid dim visibility due to thick fog. The tourists on Boulevard Road on the

banks of Dal Lake were seen wearing

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## Army's Northern Commander, DGP Discuss Security Plan In J&K Ahead Of Winter



■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, NOV 20:** The Indian Army's northern commander and the director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police have reviewed the security plan against terrorism and the administrative arrangements ahead

of the winter months, the Army said on Monday.

This was the first interaction that RR Swain, the director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police, has had with the Indian Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen

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## NEWS BRIEF

### 2 Minor Girls Among 4 Dead In Two Separate Accidents In Kathua

**JAMMU, NOV 20:** Four people, including two minor girls, were killed in two separate accidents in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, police said on Monday.

Surjeet Kumar (40) and his daughter Sonali (11) of Shab-e-Check village of Rajbagh were killed when their motorcycle was hit by a truck at Lakhanpur on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway around 12.45 pm, a police official said.

They were returning to their village from Pathankot when their motorcycle was hit by the Jammu-bound

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### Rare Desert Poplar tree found in Ladakh's Nubra, reveals expert

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** A rare species with immense ecological significance known as Desert Poplar tree (Euphrates Poplar) has been found in Nubra valley of Ladakh, revealed a senior botanist.

He told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Desert Poplar is characterised by its polymorphic rhombic leaves, bearing different shapes of leaves on a single tree.

"Populus euphratica, commonly known as the Euphrates poplar or desert poplar, is a distinct species of poplar tree in the willow family," he said. For this reason, he said the

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### Footpath encroachments by shopkeepers in Ganderbal irk commuters

**GANDERBAL, NOV 20:** Residents in Ganderbal said they are "tired of complaining about the difficulties" they face while commuting on roads and walking on footpaths across the markets in the district.

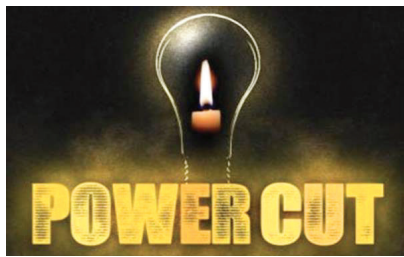
While police have taken some measures to clear up space on roads by challaning or seizing vehicles from no-parking zones, Municipal Committee Ganderbal seems least bothered about clearing footpaths of encroachments in the town, locals told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

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### This winter Kashmir sees worst-ever power crisis

■ Agencies / KNO

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** The consumers across Kashmir have been complaining of a worse power scenario for the past



couple of weeks, stating that it is for the first time that the power cuts with such intensity are being witnessed.

The news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), received phone calls from the consumers, hailing from different parts of Kashmir, saying that the power schedule is not being adhered to, thus pushing them to the wall.

"We are being forced to reel under darkness. The power cuts are being

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### Shrine Board slashes Atka Aarti fee for Vaishno Devi pilgrims availing facility online

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, NOV 20:** In a major relief, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has slashed the Atka Aarti fee for the pilgrims availing of the facility through online mode.

Now, four people, including two adults and two children (up to 10 years old), can attend the Atka Aarti for Rs 5100, as earlier the fee was Rs 2000 per person.

"The fee for attending Atka Aarti has been reduced to Rs 5100 for four people, including two adults and two children (up to 10 years),"

the Shrine Board official said here on Monday.

He said that earlier the fee was Rs 2000 per person, and the benefit of the slashed fee will be available to groups only through online booking.

"For on-the-spot booking, the pilgrims have to pay the same fee (Rs 2000 per person) and separate fees for accommodation at Bhawan," he said, adding that accommodation facilities are included in online booking.

"After the expansion of infrastructure, 400 to 500 devotees can now attend the

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### Don't Take Up Small Projects Under Capex Funding: H&UDD Tells Departments

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, NOV 20:** In a significant move, the Housing & Urban Development Department has directed the departments under its administrative control to refrain from taking up small-sized projects from the funds made available by the government, saying that they don't have any tangible impact on the ground and also face monitoring challenges.

The H&UDD has directed the authorities and agencies to avoid small-sized projects



from the funds made available by the government under different schemes.

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### Rs 1,162 Cr Earned From Scrap Disposal During 'Swachhata' Campaign: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

**NEW DELHI, NOV 20:** The Centre has earned a whopping Rs 1,162 crore from disposal of scrap during its special cleanliness drives and plans are afoot to further accelerate it with the help of states, Union Minister Incharge Personnel/ DoPT, Dr Jitendra Singh said today.

In an exclusive interview, the Minister said, a cleanliness campaign carried out at over 4 lakh sites resulted in weeding out of nearly 96.1 lakh files, including



electronic files besides freeing up of 355.5 lakh square feet of spaces, which

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### AI-based system introduced for detection of TB cases in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** Authorities in Kashmir have initiated Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to detect potential tuberculosis cases to enhance surveillance and work towards making the division TB-free.

An official of the State Tuberculosis Office told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that an artificial intelligence

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## Meet Farhan Muneer, the Powerlifting Prodigy of Kashmir

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** For years, 22-year-old Farhan Muneer has been training hard to build his physique.

A resident of Khayam Srinagar, Farhan gradually started feeling changes in his body after he transformed himself from a skinny to a chiseled lad.

Simultaneously, what Farhan observed was that he could easily pull heavy weights.

This is when he started getting serious about the game of powerlift-



ing and bodybuilding.

Come 2022, Farhaan has been awarded as the youngest certified trainer in Kashmir by Global Indian Fitness Federation.

"It was a kind of coincidence with me. I would hit the gym just for a good physique but then I started getting interested in bodybuilding. I learned about bodybuilding from my gurus and last year I was awarded a certificate by the Global Indian Fitness Federation," he told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

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### Power crisis chokes Industrial Sector in Kashmir; Production Plummet by 75%: Shahid Kamli

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** The escalation of the power crisis continues hitting the industrial sector of the valley, leading to a staggering 75% decline in production, claimed industrialists.

The valley for more than a month has been witnessing power crisis, which has affected both domestic as well as commercial consumers.

Shahid Kamli, president Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the current power scenario has escalated the loss of industrialists.

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# Principal Secretary PDD reviews power sector, emphasizes no power curtailment beyond schedule

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H. Rajesh Prasad, today reviewed the power supply position in J&K, particularly in Kashmir valley amid decreasing temperatures, during a meeting held with the Managing Directors of Corporations and all Chief Engineers and senior officers of the department.

During the review, it was informed that a curtailment schedule has been prepared based on the power availability in the region.

Accordingly, Principal Secretary asked the engineers to strictly

follow the schedule, emphasizing that no unscheduled power cuts shall be tolerated. He also stressed that under no circumstances should J&K engage in overdrawal of power, which is important not only to stay within the budget but also to uphold grid discipline and prevent unwarranted disruptions in power supply.

It was further highlighted that sufficient infrastructure has been created in recent years to improve the quality of power supply in the region. Additionally, J&K has availed loans under various Government of India schemes such

as Atmanirbhar Bharat and LPS Rules, whereby all outstanding dues of power generators accumulated over the years have been cleared. However, under the schemes the J&K has committed to the GoI that the losses shall be reduced to minimum to ensure the viability of the sector.

In line with the commitment to reduce the losses, Principal Secretary issued explicit instructions to the engineers to put an all out effort to eradicate the menace of power pilferage by adopting stringent enforcement measures. He asked to maintain regular power supply in areas

where people are regularly paying for their consumption, whereas in high loss areas, measures like metering and AB cabling be taken on priority.

Principal Secretary noted with deep concern that despite dispatching more energy to the valley during this year compared to previous year, there has not been much improvement in the revenue realization. As such, he directed the concerned officers to ensure that the bills are timely generated and distributed to the consumers. He also directed that the power outages be attended promptly and faults be cleared

with minimum downtime particularly the damaged Distribution Transformers (DT) be replaced in shortest possible time to avoid any inconvenience to people.

In conclusion, the Principal Secretary reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment towards stability and growth of the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The anticipated implementation of these directives is poised not only to improve the reliability of power supply but also to fortify the financial health of the power sector, ensuring a resilient and responsive energy infrastructure for the people of the region.

## Dr Andrabi inaugurates HRJP Council office, distributes blankets among needy

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, today inaugurated the new office of Human Rights Judicial Protection Council at Srinagar.

Shabnum Mehraj representing IHRJPC Kashmir Chapter was also present on the occasion.

The Council aims at providing social justice protection to the deprived sections of the society.



Dr Darakhshan Andrabi also inaugurated a blood donation camp on the occasion besides distributing blankets among the needy.

In her address, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that social service is the basis of public welfare and when the government is doing its best possible for serving people, the contribution of the volunteers also remains very significant. "Social service has always been at the core of my politics and I continuously remain busy in social service initiatives. We all need to develop the interest of your youth in volunteer services at a bigger scale", said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

She praised the youth of J&K who are taking part in different public welfare initiatives at individual and collective levels. "Drug addiction among youth is alarming and Waqf Board is planning to establish a Drug De-Addiction Centre for Girls in Srinagar", said Andrabi.

She also felicitated many volunteers on the occasion for their social contribution.

## Bajwani's Tral lacks sports facilities, players demand completion of work on stadiums

**PULWAMA, NOV 20:** Lack of basic facilities at the sports ground situated at Bajwani in Tral is causing distress to players.

Several athletes from Tral thanked the government for constructing Indoor sports stadium. But they said work on cricket and football stadiums has not been completed so far.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), despite being a historic ground, players from every nook and corner of Kashmir are coming to play here but they suffer in absence of facilities, they said.

Kaiser Ahmad, a local said that work on football stadium has left midway while cricket stadium needs immediate leveling, space for dug out, seating arrangements and washroom facilities

He said that the valley is facing the nuisance of drug addiction which is mainly due to lack of recreational opportunities given to youth and development of such playgrounds are very vital to keep them away from drugs.

Mehraj Ahmad another player said that several times officials visited the ground and assured that it will be transformed into a proper stadium but nothing has been done so far.

He added that the ground is lying in dilapidated condition and there is no toilet, washroom facilities, no fencing, no proper leveling, no water and electricity facilities available amid the claims that lakhs have been spent on the ground.

Several players said the government must investigate where the money was spent.

They said that due to unbalanced leveling, players most often suffer injuries while playing at the stadium.

Players said that if this ground was developed on modern lines, it would help players to nourish their talent and prove their mettle at mega stages.

## Shortage of Lecturers Hits Gurez Schools, Students Seek Intervention

**BANDIPORA, NOV 20:** Several Government Higher Secondary Schools in the Gurez area of North Kashmir are facing a shortage of lecturers, students complained here on Monday.

This problem emerged after several lecturers were transferred from these schools months ago, causing concern among students and locals about the quality of education.

Expressing their worries, students emphasized the impact on their studies, stating that the shortage of teachers is affecting their education.

They hope that the authorities take notice of the situation and promptly provide the necessary teaching staff.

The shortage of lecturers has resulted in larger class sizes and an increased workload for the remaining teaching staff, posing a challenge to maintain the educational standards the school is known for.

"Education is the backbone of any society. The shortage of lecturers at our school is a setback. We request the government to consider the long-term impact on our youth and provide immediate relief by assigning new lecturers," they added.

He highlighted that the transfer of lecturers has caused uncertainty among students and parents, who fear that their education may be affected.

Locals and students are urging Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, to expedite the appointment of new lecturers to fill the vacant positions and ensure uninterrupted learning for the students.

## Rising bear presence sparks fear, chaos in Bandipora village

### 3 captured alive in past five days

**BANDIPORA, NOV 20:** The presence of a wild bear in Ahamshareef village in North Kashmir's Bandipora district has instilled fear and chaos among residents, even as wildlife officials have already captured three bears over the last five days.

Residents told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the village has experienced a recent increase in the presence of black wild bears. "Over the last several days, people have been opting to stay indoors to avoid potential bear attacks," they said, adding that Bears have been spotted in residential areas, compelling people to remain indoors.

"It appears that bears have been wandering through the villages like dogs for the past week. People are shocked by the increased frequency of their presence," Mohammad Ayoob, a local resident said.

"Wildlife officials should take timely action before someone falls victim to these wild animals, allowing residents to breathe a sigh of relief," he added.

"Fearful of bears, we hesitate to let our children go outside. Wildlife



authorities should address this matter seriously before it becomes too late," said Mohammad Ayoob, another resident.

Fida ur Rehman, the Wildlife Range officer in Bandipora, said the frequent sightings of black bears in the area, causing fear among the local population.

"To heighten vigilance, we remain on high alert to prevent any emergencies. In pursuit of this, we have already captured three bears in Ahamshareef village, and there is a possibility of one more bear roaming in the area," he said. Rehman said that residents should still take precautions when venturing out or visiting their fields.

## KU shunts out Director, faculty at DDU Kausal Kendra after B.Voc course fiasco

### Shifts 2 programmes to MERC, IOT Zakura as degrees overrun deadlines

**SRINAGAR, NOV 20:** After facing major embarrassment amid allegations of large-scale academic and financial irregularities, the Kashmir University (KU) Vice Chancellor has sacked Director and contractual faculty of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushal Kendra after two of its B.Voc courses overrun deadlines by a huge margin, leaving the students in a state of shock and dismay.

According to official documents in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director of DDU Kaushal Kendra, Dr Ghulam Hassan Mir along with three contractual staff members were relieved "with immediate effect" owing to closure of the project, which was launched by KU in 2019 with

much fanfare only to be left embarrassed three years later.

Notably, the B.Voc course in Automotive Technology and B.Voc course in Electronic Media overrun completion deadlines, with students of one batch left with incomplete syllabus and without examinations for more than a year. Surprisingly, while the Central project, worth Rs 3 crore, was closed almost a year ago, it is only this month that the KU acted to shunt out the contractual faculty and Director after academic and financial irregularities in the programme implementation surfaced in the media. "Now that DDU Kaushal Kendra failed to complete the courses, the remaining part of the two courses has now been handed over to

Media Education Research Centre in case of Electronic Media, and to Institute of Technology Zakura Campus in case of Automotive Technology," according to the available documents.

According to many students pursuing these courses, the Directorate of Kaushal Kendra fared poorly from day one on the implementation front.

From engaging local roadside mechanics for otherwise professional training in automotive technology to delayed classes in Electronic Media, complaints continued to pour in with KU authorities looking the other way, the students said.

"These courses were supposed to complete in 2022 with the whole project coming to an end, but one full batch is yet to complete the syllabus

while another is yet to appear in final examinations," the students said, regretting having joined the courses which "failed to yield the desired outcomes".

With KU now belatedly acting against Director and Contractual faculty, who overran contract period and thus drew salary and emoluments in excess, cry for a formal probe into the DDU Kaushal Kendra functioning by state investigating agencies has gained steam.

"Removing the director is not enough. We want a full probe into financial and academic irregularities in implementation of the Central scheme which has failed to prove beneficial to the students," the aggrieved students demand, seeking

personal intervention of LG and VC.

"There have been serious deviations in recruitments made in DDU Kaushal Kendra which need to be probed. Furthermore, some staff have still been retained despite the project's closure which is a scam," the insiders said.

Many students are also dismayed at shifting courses to MERC and IOT Zakura, saying these departments have their own courses to handle and "will pay least attention to our courses". "We have been betrayed in a big way despite paying huge money. This delayed degrees and delayed examinations are true for the University which is grappling with decline in student strength in almost all courses now," the aggrieved students rued.

## Performance of J&K athletes at National scene portraits picture of excellence in infra, coaching: Sarmad Hafeez

**JAMMU, NOV 20:** Terming fencers and their escorts from across the nation as the peace ambassadors, Secretary Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, said that the sports persons are the messengers of love, brotherhood and harmony.

Sarmad Hafeez said this after inaugurating 67th National School Games in the discipline of Fencing U-19 boys and girls in an impressive, colourful and well

attended function at Gymnasium Hall, University of Jammu here.

While extending thanks to School Games Federation of India for sanctioning four Nationals to J&K this year, Sarmad Hafeez said that the Government of J&K was committed to promote sports and possess all that was required to host mega sporting events in a most befitting manner.

He said, the performance of

J&K athletes at the National scene and the Indian athletes at the International arena portrayed the picture of enhancement in sports infrastructural facilities and excellence in coaching standards.

Secretary YSS said that this event is part of the series of National School Games that J&K has been hosting and till now four national level competitions in sports disciplines of Football,

Volleyball, Judo and Fencing have been organised during the current year. This has also immensely helped in sending out a message of changing J&K.

Sarmad Hafeez further said that last year 60 lakh youth from across J&K took part in various sports activities and this year the target is comparatively much more. He added that mega events like this apart from helping youth to showcase their sporting skills,

also help them to exchange their culture and language.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director Youth Services and Sports, Subash Chibber highlighted the achievements of the Department.

While encouraging the participants, Chibber said winning and losing is the part of the game but participation itself is an achievement. He assured the participating contingents of all

facilities and comfortable stay.

Meanwhile, J&KU-19 boys won sabre team gold on day-1 today.

The gold medal winners included Harshit Kohli, Anubhav Sharma, Vatsal Gandhotra and Amish Sharma. The silver medal in this category went to Haryana and the bronze was bagged by Punjab and Gujarat. In U-19 girls epee, Maharashtra clinched the gold and the winners included Gargee Nitin Dongare, Arpita,

Mahendra Kate, Mahi Kishore Aradwad and Vinaya Balukrushna Jadhao. The silver medal in this event went to CBSE Welfare Sports Organisation and the bronze by IBSSO and Kerala.

The medal winners were felicitated by Neelam Khajuria, Additional Secretary YS & Sports and Misbah Arjumand, Under Secretary Youth Services and Sports in presence of a galaxy of officers and officials.



# Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Central Prabhari Officer, DC finalize arrangements at Baramulla

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 20: The Principal Commissioner-Delhi Development Authority, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rajeev Kumar Tiwari, who is also Central Prabhari Officer for District Baramulla today, reviewed the arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Baramulla district.

In this regard, the Central Prabhari Officer chaired a meeting at Dakbarglow here, wherein action plan and preparations were discussed threadbare with all stakeholders.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar briefed the chair about the overall implementation of all centrally sponsored schemes and preparations and department wise arrangements being put in place to saturate schemes in the district. Discussing an action plan for



reaching out to all left-out beneficiaries in the district, the DC said that a Digital Van would traverse across the panchayats and municipal wards of the district, delivering the Prime Minister's message and hosting promotional events. Speaking on the occasion, the Prabhari Officer stressed on making adequate arrangements and ensuring successful conduct of yatra for better mobilization and reaching out to all left outs to cover them under welfare schemes. He instructed offi-

cers to take it in a mission mode manner and make best use of the 20 day window. Prabhari Officer further said that aim is to ensure saturation in all schemes for development of every segment of the society. During the meeting, the ARTO Baramulla was directed to supervise the implementation of route plan for IEC vans which shall traverse in all panchayats and municipal wards while as the RDD officer was directed to identify the beneficiaries.

## DC Ganderbal leads District Committee Meeting on CLU

■ Farooq Rather

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today presided over a District Level Committee meeting addressing Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the region, here at the VC Room of Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal.

During the session, in-depth discussions took place regarding comments from various departments on pending CLU cases.

Emphasizing the importance of timely resolution, the DC urged departments to provide quality comments and necessary NOCs within



the specified timeframe. He stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination due to the multifaceted nature of CLU cases and instructed officers to adhere to deadlines. The meeting was attended by

ACR Ganderbal, Chief Agriculture Officer, and other relevant officers. Representatives from various line departments involved in authorizing changes in land use were also present during the meeting.

## DC Shopian reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB exams

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming JKSSB OMR based written examination of Panchayat Secretaries, a meeting was today convened by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb at Mini-secretariat, here. At the outset, the DC discussed threadbare arrangements to be put in place at 13 examination centres set up for the smooth conduct of the SSB examination across the district. During the meeting, Police and Education departments were entrusted to ensure foolproof security and proper seating arrangements at all the centres while SDM and Tehsildars were instructed to monitor the seating



arrangements. Besides, arrangements for provision of drinking water, heating, electricity, transport, manpower, etc were also reviewed.

The DC instructed nodal officers to visit the examination centres and ensure all arrangements are in place well in time and impressed upon all stakeholders to work in close

coordination and ensure smooth and successful conduct of examination.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; POICDS, Nisar Ahmad Malik; SDM, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Addt. SP, Naresh Singh; Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmad, DTO, CEO, DIO, Tehsildar Shopian and other concerned officers and officials. At the outset,

the DC discussed threadbare arrangements to be put in place at 13 examination centres set up for the smooth conduct of the SSB examination across the district. During the meeting, Police and Education departments were entrusted to ensure foolproof security and proper seating arrangements at all the centres while SDM and Tehsildars were instructed to monitor the seating arrangements. Besides, arrangements for provision of drinking water, heating, electricity, transport, manpower, etc were also reviewed. The DC instructed nodal officers to visit the examination centres and ensure all arrangements are in place well in time and impressed upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination and ensure smooth and successful.

## Chairman DDC Kupwara reviews status of JJM, power scenario

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 20: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpuri today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at Handwara to review the status of Jal Jeevan Mission and power scenario in the sub division Handwara.

ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; DDC Members of Rajwar/Mawar/Nutnusa and officers from PHE and PDD attended the meeting.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the status of



various ongoing water supply schemes coming up in different areas of Handwara PHE division.

The Chairman DDC directed the concerned officers to speed up the completion of pending works under JJM so that people at large are benefited under the ambitious

programme which aims at providing potable tap water to every household.

Issues pertaining to transformers were also discussed in the meeting during which the Chairman asked the concerned engineers of PDD to ensure that the transformers damaged during the winter period

are repaired or replaced with buffer stock as per the set timeline so that people do not suffer.

The ADC also spoke and asked the officers for added dedication and coordination in facilitating the people with uninterrupted power and water supply in this winter season.

## Budgam DDC, Mission Youth organise Awareness programme at Town Hall Beerwah

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, The District Development Council (DDC) Budgam jointly with Mission Youth Jammu and Kashmir today organized an enlightening one-day awareness programme at Town Hall Beerwah. The event focused on engaging discussions addressing crucial topics including drug abuse and various self-employment schemes. During the event, Chairman DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan delivered an impactful address to the youth present, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among youth regarding the challenges posed by drug abuse and unemployment. He highlighted the neces-



sity of equipping the youth with knowledge to effectively navigate these pressing issues. The event witnessed the active participation of key dignitaries, including Tabish Saleem, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Mission Youth; Taufeeq Qazi, Sub-Divisional

Magistrate (SDM) Beerwah; Nazir Ahmad Khan, President MC Beerwah; and students from Degree College Beerwah and SAM College Beerwah. The discussions were geared towards fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the youth and exploring

viable solutions, particularly in combating drug abuse and promoting self-employment opportunities.

The event concluded on a positive note, aiming to inspire and equip the youth with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute meaningfully to their communities and society at large. The discussions were geared towards fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the youth and exploring viable solutions, particularly in combating drug abuse and promoting self-employment opportunities. The event concluded on a positive note, aiming to inspire and equip the youth with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute meaningfully.

## ADDC Kulgam reviews the power scenario Instructs concerned to ensure smooth power supply during winters

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 20: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the overall power scenario in the district.

The ADDC instructed upon the officers to follow the curtailment schedule during winters and to make the system vibrant to avoid



unscheduled power cuts. He also reviewed the winter action plan of the department and instructed the officers to intensify the enforcement drives against

crude devices.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Vikar Ahmad Giri; CPO, Ex. Engineer KPDCIL, AEE STD and other AEEs.

### PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL FOLK THEATRE OF KASHMIR

In an ongoing training workshops, classes of music, dance, drama, Sh. NSD Almani, Arshid Musthaq and sh. SNA Awardee, Shah-e-Jahan Bhagat Design and Direction National Bhand Theatre trained a number of artists in an ongoing training classes for promotional and Preservation of Traditional Folk Theater of Kashmir. The historical events, social problems, social evils, corruption, drug, adulteration, pollution etc. Bhand is a best source which aware people through entertainment. It is nature of Bhand Pather which attracts the people today on 18.11.2023 National Bhand Theatre J&K first production of folk play "Badshah Pather" at Tagore Hall Srinagar under the repertory grant, Salary grant for the year 22-23, Ministry of Cultural Government of India Budshah Pather is a historical play in a folk style. In this play, well known and young artists participated, Design and Director SNA Awardee, Shah-e-Jahan Ah. Bhagat, Mehraj



Mudlasir, Younis, Amir Mushtaq, Reyaz, Younis Majid,

## Office of the Executive Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Short Term e-Tender

NIT No: E-21 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders In two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money (Rate in Rs)	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Programme Head	Whether Accorded/ Position of Funds	Tender ID no.
1.	Shifting of stored material (pertaining to MISD Sopore) from Divisional stores Baramulla to sub-divisional office MISD Sopore.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.13	Rs. 260.00	120 days	07 days	M&R (2702)	Within Budgetary Provisions of ARD 2023-24/ AAA order no. 66-MCO of 2022-23 dated: 24-03-2023	2023_IFC_237517_1

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-11-2023(04:00pm).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-11-2023(06:00 pm) to 27-11-2023 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 28-11-2023 at 01:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day.

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

DIPK-12510/23  
Dated: 20-11-2023

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Baramulla



# DC Kishtwar Reviews Progress of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) & Electoral Rolls in Polling Stations

## HT News Network

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 20: Dr. Devansh Yadav Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kishtwar, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), on Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers of Election Cell Kishtwar to review the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in polling stations across the district besides taking Booth wise status of the progress under Electoral Rolls.

During the meeting, the DC meticulously assessed polling stations lacking Assured Minimum Facilities such as drinking water, toilets, electricity connections, ramps, and internet, not meeting the prescribed norms.

The Deputy District Election

Officer Kishtwar Naresh Kumar JKAS informed the chair that a total of 405 polling stations in the district require 201 ramps, 71 drinking facilities, 100 toilets, 105 electricity connections, and 189 proper signages.

The DC emphasized the urgent need for these facilities, highlighting it as a statutory obligation, and directed the Public Health Engineering (PHE), School Education Department, Power Development Department (PDD), and Rural Development Department (RDD) to ensure their availability within the stipulated time.

Additionally, the Block Development Officers (BDOs) were instructed to conduct joint visits to polling stations to ensure the adequacy of installed facilities.



Spot directives were issued by the DC for the construction of 201 ramps at polling stations lacking them, with a requirement for certification to ensure compliance with gradient norms for existing ramps.

The CEO Kishtwar received orders to expedite the construction of toilets in polling stations housed within educational institutions, aiming to ensure toilet facilities across all polling stations before December 26th, 2023.

The AEROs were directed to get added the eligible voters from educational institutions within a week's time under their supervision strictly.

Earlier, the DEO Kishtwar reviewed the progress of Addition, Deletion, and Transposition of voters by Booth Level Officers

(BLOs) in their respective polling booths.

The DEO meticulously examined the progress in compiling the Electorate Register. All BLOs received instructions to personally visit households in their jurisdiction to avoid excluding any eligible voters. Furthermore, BLOs were directed to conduct Summary Revisions after school hours.

In attendance at the meeting were Dy. District Election Officer Kishtwar Naresh Kumar, ERO (ADC) Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ERO (ACR Kishtwar) Varunjeet Singh Charak, AEROs, Dy. CEO, and concerned officials from the Election Cell Kishtwar. In attendance at the meeting were Dy. District Election Officer Kishtwar Naresh Kumar, ERO (ADC) Inderjeet Singh Parihar.

## Yasha Mudgul reviews progress on Special Summary Revision 2023-24 in Udhampur

### HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 20: Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgul, who is also the Roll Observer for District Udhampur, chaired a meeting at the DC Office Complex Udhampur to assess the ongoing Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls for the year 2023-24.

District Election Officer, Saloni Rai, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Deputy District Election Officer Gurdev Kumar, SDM Ramnagar Shishir Gupta, ACR, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) besides Booth Level Officers (BLOs) attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on progress on the revision, with the qualifying date set as 01-01-2024.

District Election Officer presented a detailed overview of the ongoing special summary revision in Udhampur. She highlighted the active participation in the district and the concurrent SVIEP activities aimed at creating awareness about the right to franchise.

Commissioner Secretary conducted a thorough review, enquiring about the pace of the electoral roll update from Booth Level Officers and assessing the ongoing Special Summary Revision. She asked the officials to ensure completion of the revision, including addition of new voters, rectification of omissions, and deletion of duplicate entries, within the stipulated timeline.

Emphasizing the need for dedication and efficiency, Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to mobilize resources and complete the SSR 2023-24 process within the given timeline, aiming for 100 percent enrollment of eligible voters.

In specific directives, the Secretary Cooperatives exhorted upon the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to finalize the special summary revision before the due date.

Subsequently, Commissioner Secretary visited various polling stations to assess the on-ground situation.

## Special camp for scouts & guides held at BMS Kuloosa

### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 20: The District Administration Bandipora on Monday organized a Bharat Scouts and Guides Camp at Boys Middle School in Kaloosa area of Bandipora district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, was the chief guest at the camp which offered young minds a mix of adventure, learning, and teamwork. The camp, themed 'Empowering Youth, Building Leaders' focused on teaching vital life skills, teamwork, and a sense of community responsibility. Participants took part in outdoor adventures, skill workshops, and team-building activities. The camp created an ideal environment for connecting with

nature and teaching important scouting principles. Emphasizing holistic development, it aimed to nurture physical fitness, mental agility, and social awareness.

During the camp, led by Ghulam Mohammad Lone, the former Chief Education Officer of Bandipora/Baramulla and National Awardee, along with the Vice President of Bharat Scouts and Guides Bandipora District Secretary and Scout Masters of District Bandipora, scouts and guides learned vital survival skills, practiced first aid, and engaged in environmental conservation projects. The activities aimed to build resilience, self-confidence, and a sense of service.

Beyond skill-building, the camp highlighted cultural exchange, bringing together scouts and guides from diverse backgrounds to celebrate differences.

## Union Joint Secretary AYUSH participates in Tribal Pride Week celebration at Jammu

### HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: In a significant stride towards fostering tribal welfare and inclusivity, Kavita Garg, Union Joint Secretary, Ministry for AYUSH, visited the Post Graduate Boys Tribal Hostel, Jammu.

The visit was a critical component of the broader Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and coincided with the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah, a week-long celebration honoring the rich cultural heritage and contribution of tribal communities in India.

As the Parbhari Officer for Jammu district, Garg's visit was instrumental in delivering a much needed asset to the hostel, a 63KV



generator set. This infrastructure enhancement, long sought after by the hostel's student community, signifies government's responsiveness towards the needs of tribal students.

The event was attended by the officers including Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Director Tribal Affairs Department, Sandeep Seointra, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu,

Ishita Rath, Dr. Abdul Khabir, Deputy Director of the department.

During her address, Garg highlighted the significance of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, emphasizing its role as the government's most expansive outreach initiative. She underscored the commitment towards ensuring that the fruits of government schemes reach every corner of the nation,

aligning with the vision of 100% saturation in service delivery. The occasion also dovetailed with the Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah, providing a platform to celebrate the unique cultures, traditions and achievements of India's tribal communities.

This event was one among a series of initiatives being held during the week that aimed to showcase tribal art, culture, and heritage, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation among the broader population.

Dr. Abdul Khabir, in his welcome address, outlined various initiatives being undertaken by the department for tribal students. He highlighted the reformative measures being implemented by the department.

## 70th All India Cooperative Week Celebrated at Udhampur

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, : The Department of Cooperative, Udhampur, marked the 70th Cooperative Week at Riwayat Udhampur, with Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgul, as the chief guest. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Champa Devi, Joint Registrar Banking and Finance, Rakesh Dubey, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, and officers from different departments were present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary inspected the stalls established by various government departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Handicraft, Handloom, and Cooperative Societies. He reviewed and discussed the progress achieved under these government schemes. Commissioner Secretary emphasized the department's achievements and activities, underscoring the historic role of the Cooperative move-



ment in uplifting the poor and uneducated masses. She asked the officials to engage all sections of society, especially farmers, in educating them about departmental achievements and opportunities. The celebration aimed to showcase cooperative sector achievements and plan future growth strategies. Yasha Mudgul urged upon the stakeholders to work towards realizing the Prime Minister's vision of revitalizing Cooperatives for a robust economy. She emphasised on bridging rural-urban gaps, creating income-generating opportunities, and marketing.

## Deputy Commissioner approves 93 HADP, 17 PMFME cases at Rajouri

### HT News Network

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal underscored

mation and unwavering support related to the PMFME scheme, including



RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 20: In a groundbreaking move to propel Agricultural development, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, led a pivotal District Level Committee meeting centered on the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) today.

Commencing the meeting, the DC meticulously examined the strides made in implementing all facets of the HADP encompassing a variety of sectors.

Notably, the committee approved a total of 93 applications comprising 42 under the Animal Husbandry sector and 51 of the Agricultural sector distributed across diverse projects and components.

In endorsing these applications, the DC emphatically directed the Agriculture and allied departments to expedite the fulfillment of targets outlined within the HADP framework for the district.

the imperative need for seamless collaboration among stakeholder departments towards the implementation of diverse initiatives.

He specifically directed these departments to extend their outreach to farmers residing in remote areas and foster awareness about cutting-edge agricultural technologies. The proactive and comprehensive approach underscores the commitment to not only approve applications but also ensure the expeditious and efficient execution of agricultural initiatives for the holistic development of the region.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also approved 17 cases under PMFME, paving the way for beneficiaries to access financial support under this laudable initiative. He emphasised the importance of equipping beneficiaries with comprehensive infor-

the swift disbursement of funds. He stressed the necessity for rigorous monitoring of the progress made by these enterprises, ensuring that the allocated funds are deployed judiciously for their intended purposes.

Officers who attended the meeting were CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; CAO, Sohan Singh; CAHO; Dr. Khalid Hussain; DSHO, PP Sagotra; DHO, Shafiqat Mir; DDM NAVARD, LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin and other concerned officers. He specifically directed these departments to extend their outreach to farmers residing in remote areas and foster awareness about cutting-edge agricultural technologies. The proactive and comprehensive approach underscores the commitment to not only approve applications but also ensure the expeditious.

## 70th All India Cooperative Week concludes successfully in Doda

### HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: The week long program of All India Cooperative Week concluded successfully here today in town hall Doda. The participants representing different cooperative societies and organizations had converged to celebrate and promote the cooperative movement in the region. The week-long event featured seminars, workshops, and cultural programs aimed at raising awareness about the importance of cooperatives in driving economic growth and empowering local communities. Earlier, the



valedictory event kicked off with the lighting of the traditional Lamp

followed by cultural dances presented by students of Doda Town

schools. Besides, a debate competition was also organized and students participated with great enthusiasm. The event also provided a platform to the cooperative members to exchange ideas, share best practices, and discuss challenges facing the sector. Representatives from government agencies and financial institutions were also present to offer support and guidance to cooperative societies. DDC, Harvinder Singh and SSP, Abdul Qayoom graced the closing ceremony at Town Hall Doda. DC Doda, while speaking at the closing ceremony, emphasized the role of cooperative societies.



EDITORIAL

## Administration Needs to take Call on Early Winter Vacations

■ [Andrew Sheng](#)

In a heartfelt plea, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) has implored the government to announce early winter vacations, particularly for lower classes, as the combination of dense fog and sub-zero temperatures renders the daily lives of school children arduous in the picturesque yet challenging region of Kashmir.

The appeal comes as an acknowledgment of the harsh weather conditions gripping the valley, significantly impacting the commute and overall well-being of the younger students. With temperatures plummeting and visibility compromised due to fog, the association highlights the genuine concerns for the safety and health of these children as they navigate their way to and from schools.

The risk of accidents in foggy and hazy weather has added to the concerns.

The winter season in Kashmir is notorious for its biting cold and heavy fog, making it difficult for students to travel comfortably and safely. The plea for early vacations for lower classes specifically underscores the vulnerability of younger children to the extreme weather conditions.

While education is of paramount importance, the association underscores the need to prioritize the well-being of the students, ensuring they are not subjected to unnecessary risks during their daily commute to schools. The appeal is not merely a request for time off but a plea for a compassionate response to the unique challenges presented by the winter climate in Kashmir.

In considering the Private Schools Association's appeal, the government is presented with an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the safety and welfare of the younger generation. Swift action in granting early winter vacations would not only alleviate the difficulties faced by school children but also showcase a collaborative approach between the government and private educational institutions in safeguarding the interests of the community.

As discussions unfold, the hope is that the government will heed this call for empathy and pragmatism, recognizing that the well-being of the youngest members of society should remain a top priority, especially when confronted with the formidable challenges posed by winter in the enchanting yet demanding landscape of Kashmir.

# Financial Stability In An Uncertain World



October is the month for the Annual Meetings of the World Bank/IMF, held this year in Marrakesh in Morocco. It is also the time when key reports on global economic and financial health are published. Essentially, the growth outlook overall has slowed, with weaknesses in the Chinese and European economies, and as war has broken out in Gaza on top of Ukraine, oil prices are again on the up with Brent crude topping \$90 per barrel. How strong is the global financial system? Earlier this year, the problems of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Credit Suisse highlighted that all was not too well.

But swift action by the Fed and the Swiss authorities stemmed the loss in confidence. Today, despite prospects of interest rates being "higher for longer", stock prices in Europe and the United States are about 10-12 per cent higher than at the beginning of the year, whilst overall financial conditions have not been as stringent since monetary policy has eased somewhat.

The IMF's Global Financial Stability Report October 2023 warned that there are still vulnerabilities out there. This is not difficult to see since global real estate values are roughly three times GDP, so that a 10 per cent decline in real estate prices would affect asset wealth by 30 per cent of GDP. History has shown that banks are vulnerable to real estate prices since these comprise the bulk of collateral for bank credit. According to the IMF, "in the advanced economies, real house prices fell 8.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2023, whereas emerging markets saw a smaller decline of about 2.4 per cent." With interest rates nearly 500 basis points higher than 2021, the lagged impact of "higher for longer" rates on real estate, especially commercial real estate, will surface over the coming months. The IMF has highlighted an even longer perspective by warning of the impact of climate warming on bank assets.

One of the biggest challenges for the financial system is how to provide funding for the current investment needs for climate action from roughly \$2 trillion to \$4 trillion annually. With rising natural disasters and violent conflict, the risks are rising, whereas current credit risk premia do not properly reflect the

underlying risks. The Financial Stability Board (FSB), created post-2008 to coordinate global financial stability, also released its Annual Report this month. FSB thinks that its basic framework and speedy action in March 2023 arising from SVB and Credit Suisse averted greater trouble, but vulnerabilities in the global financial system remain elevated aggravated by major changes in the nature of risks.

The FSB highlighted climate-related vulnerabilities, as well as cyber-risks. It is also spending more time on the cryptoasset market. The key structural issue over global financial stability is that the global financial system comprises roughly \$486.6 trillion at the end of 2021, of which non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) account for \$239.3 trillion or 49.1 per cent of total financial assets. The financial world is roughly divided into half banking system assets, which are tightly regulated, and half NBFIs, which are lightly regulated. The FSB tried hard in the post-2008 crisis to regulate NBFIs and was repulsed by very powerful fund managers. FSB's real fear is that sooner or later, regulatory arbitrage would shift system risks into the under-monitored NBFI area with hidden leverage.

The runs on money market funds in periods of tight liquidity, for example, are nightmares where central banks fear that problems in an underregulated sector can quickly spread through contagion to the banking system. The Center for Financial Stability, a non-profit think tank, has also just issued two important reports on "Supervision and Regulation after Silicon Valley Bank", as well as "The Role of Monetary and Fiscal Policies in Recent Bank Failures".

Authored by a group of authoritative experts, such as Sheila Bair, former Chairman of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and LSE Professor Charles Goodhart, the team highlighted how groupthink and blind spots enabled SVB, Signature Bank and First Republic to fail. Essentially, the financial regulators failed to take into consideration the impact of rising interest rates on financial stability. All regulators naturally like to blame bank managements for their lack of risk management.

But alert and experienced bank supervisors would have picked up the vulnerabilities of each failed bank, since the stock market was already signaling the weaknesses in SVB as early as November 2021. In hindsight, the

extremely loose fiscal and monetary policies during the Covid period created conditions whereby the failed banks were running risks by buying long-term treasuries that had low credit risk, but high duration and interest rate risks. When the Fed raised rates rapidly, these banks keeled over.

In every crisis, there are elephants in the room which no one wants to talk about. What worries me more about central bank monetary policy and financial stability (coined macroprudential policies) is the way in which central banks have expanded their "safety net" wider and wider, including using their balance sheet to buy all kinds of assets. For example, the Fed's Bank Term Funding Program (BTFP) is a lender of last resort facility created after the SVB failure in March 2023, to lend to other banks that had big unrealized losses on their holdings of government bonds and were consequently vulnerable to large-scale deposit withdrawals.

The facility allows banks to exchange assets such as U.S. Treasuries for cash at their full face amount, regardless of their current market value. In essence, the crisis was resolved through the Fed underwriting mark-to-market losses from banks onto its books. In essence, the global financial system looks stable, because central banks have expanded their balance sheets to \$44 trillion or 9.1 per cent of global financial assets, shifting more and more government and private debt onto their books, and some are already showing losses on a marked-to-market basis.

If reserve currency governments continue to run unsustainable fiscal deficits, funded ultimately by unsustainable debt, propped up by central banks, who will ultimately pay for the losses? We are socializing private risks onto public books. The investor market is complacent about financial risks, because they are still picking up pennies before a coming roller-coaster. They assume that central banks will forever bail them out. When government fiscal discipline does not exist, and central bankers do not take away the punch bowl, expect forthcoming financial instability or inflation, or both.

**The writer, a former Central banker, writes on global affairs from an Asian perspective.**

# ART INTEGRATED EDUCATION CAN PROVE A BOON IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

■ [Javaid Ahmad](#)

Art is the diverse range of human activities in creating visual, auditory or performing art crafts either for self amusement or for earning bread. Since the dawn of civilization man has used his brain to discover and invent things as per the required needs in his surrounding environment. Whether it is discovery of fire or wheel all didn't come so rapidly and conveniently. No doubt, sometimes things emerge in a deliberate and diligent manner even then the effort being put in them is a harbinger to the human race for ever.

Whether we talk of Harpa culture or Mohenjo-Daro civilization art in these civilizations has licensed mastery and we are still longing to have such building plans, drain layouts etc. Their pottery was carved and decorated in such a way that they deserve to be placed in the book of excellence.

It is often said that there is lack of mediation and creativity everywhere, especially in schools the arts are missing from our lives and we are giving way to violence. Government till date has released various policy

documents on art education area with certain deliberations for over all development of learners. It emphasis on the release of creative energy so that they may appreciate cultural heritage and cultivate rich interests which they can preserve in them and later in life stimulate and conduct research in a vibrant and collaborative research community that focuses on methodologies and content relevant to the visual arts in culture and society.

Art integration is another alternative way for the arts to be taught within schools. It is combining of the visual aspects in a concrete manner into the everyday curriculum within classrooms.

Art integration is especially important today when some schools no longer have art education programs.

Meanwhile in secondary education art, craft and music should be given a place in curriculum. Every student should devote some time to work with his hands and attain a reasonable standard of proficiency in a particular craft that, if necessary, they may support themselves by pursuing it.

This recommendation is not made for economic stability of



a child alone but when he works with his own hands the student learns the dignity of labour and experiences the joy of doing constructive work. Hence the need of hour is to

include art education in schools to avoid any iron curtain in the mechanism of understanding.

How Art can be implied in elementary classes. Every now and then man is

using all his skills up to his utmost potential to attain sustainability.

Child activities by nature are wanton and they waste their energy in amusement and

fun. This fun and amusement can be best implied or utilized in teaching learning process of the students so as to derive fruitful results.

In regular classrooms they are made to write letters and copy content from whiteboards, they are given dictation in note books, asked to learn things by heart but all this delay learning abilities.

Teaching content in relevance to art related learning strikes young hearts. Usually in regular classes children are taught solar system simply by making them cram the names of various planets and the sun.

In art integrated learning set number of student can be given the roles of planets and the sun as per their age and height. Next they can be made to sing in chorus song while rotating around the Sun. This may inculcate in them the concepts of rotation and revolution in solar system. Similarly there are hundreds of other examples for art integrated learning that can become a boon for concrete understanding of concepts in a class room.

**Author himself is a teacher and can be reached at [javoidsultan6@gmail.com](mailto:javoidsultan6@gmail.com)**



# Unlocking Health Technology's Potential For All

We must empower those countries' researchers, manufacturers, and governments to shape regional R&D and manufacturing ecosystems in the interest of the common good

■ **Mariana Mazzucato**

Covid-19 cases are on the rise again, offering a stark reminder of the lessons we ought to have learned from previous waves. Far from being confined to Covid, most of these lessons apply to infectious-disease threats generally.

The pandemic demonstrated that we have the scientific and manufacturing capabilities to develop and mass-produce safe and effective vaccines quickly in the face of novel threats. But the success of the Covid-19 vaccines also reflected two decades of tireless efforts by scientists in academia and the private sector; and when the moment of truth arrived, a timely injection of public funds carried that work across the finish line.

If there was one technology that played an especially pivotal role, it was mRNA – or messenger RNA – which offers a level of adaptability and scalability that makes it highly suitable for pandemic preparedness and response (PPR). Already, mRNA vaccines and treatments are being tested for a wide variety of diseases, and efforts are ongoing to expand the technology's usability (such as by improving its temperature stability). When the next viral epidemic hits, mRNA vaccines will most likely be the first solution out of the gates.

But though this scientific breakthrough saved countless lives during the last pandemic, the benefits were not equitably shared. One year after the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines, approximately 73 per cent of administered doses were concentrated in high- and upper-middle-income countries, whereas only 0.9 per cent had reached low-income countries.

This disparity was even more pronounced for mRNA vaccines, which were primarily used in wealthy countries that initially hoarded supplies. Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies maintained tight control over licensing and production, allowing them to reap eye-watering profits.

Another lesson of the pandemic, then, is that the mRNA platform will not realise its full potential unless we adopt a new approach that emphasizes equitable access and the common good. That means pursuing symbiotic public-private alliances that are better designed to share both risks and rewards.

When companies benefit from public funds – be it subsidies, guarantees, loans, purchase commitments, or procurement contracts – they should be required to maximize the public value of such investments. The conditions tied to public funding for mRNA-related research and development, production, and distribution, for example, could ensure affordability, equitable access, and reinvestment of profits into health innovation. The mRNA technologies that result from a collective effort should not be under the exclusive control of a few private companies; rather, they should be considered part of a global health commons, and made available and accessible to everyone in need.

A comparison of the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA) vaccines shows why such governance matters. Both partnerships received considerable public funding – \$445 million to BioNTech and \$1.3 billion to Oxford-AstraZeneca – and both benefited from large advance-purchase commitments. But while public funding for production of Oxford-AstraZeneca's vaccine was conditioned on the company setting lower prices in the interest of accessibility, Pfizer-BioNTech was permitted to set higher prices, and then rebuffed calls for it to offer licensing agreements and technology transfers. Next time, governments must ensure that contract provisions reflect the common good and regulate excess profit-taking.

Likewise, intellectual-property governance should seek to facilitate knowledge transfers between countries, in the interest of more decentralized innovation and manufacturing. We urgently need to redesign IP rules and practices



to ensure that critical health technologies – especially those heavily reliant on taxpayer funds and human capital (from researchers to participants in clinical trials) – are governed for the common good. That is why the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All, which I chaired, has called for patents on mRNA technologies to be governed on the basis of a public-good perspective, rather than a proprietary one.

In practice, this means that the criteria for granting patents – including secondary patents – should be made more stringent, including by requiring additional disclosures of information that can help

governments evaluate the scale of the market power they are granting. Patents should cover only fundamentally new innovations, and they should be confined more to downstream technologies, in order to prevent the privatization of basic research tools, processes, and platforms. The purpose of medical innovation should be to improve "Health for All" – the WHO's central mission – which requires timely and equitable access.

Providing access to essential IP and capital is critical to establishing the local and regional infrastructure needed to produce mRNA-based products. The WHO has explicitly recognized this need by launching an mRNA technology-transfer

program, with a hub in South Africa and new technology-sharing partnerships between companies in at least 15 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Strong financial and political backing, however, will be needed to ensure this initiative's success. For example, LMIC governments could go further by establishing regional R&D hubs to foster collaboration between public and private actors on joint R&D portfolios.

More broadly, as governments take a renewed interest in industrial policy, they should recognize the opportunity to mobilize more investment, innovation, and growth around the goal of Health for All. Brazil, to its credit, has already aligned PPR with industrial policy through its Health Economic-Industrial Complex, which will use public procurement to create a domestic market for locally developed mRNA vaccines, yielding important health and economic benefits.

As international negotiations on a Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Accord make headway, the issue of ensuring timely, equitable access to medical countermeasures – including mRNA technologies – must take centre stage. The mRNA platform has immense potential to deliver groundbreaking treatments and vaccines for diseases that primarily afflict LMICs and could be produced locally and affordably under the right IP regime.

**Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organisation's Council on the Economics of Health for All. A tenth anniversary edition of her book The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths (Anthem Press, 2013) was published by Penguin in September. Courtesy: Project Syndicate**

## The Underrated Role Of Philanthropy In The Climate Fight

Tackling the climate crisis requires an integrated approach, blending the might of state interventions, the private sector's innovation, and philanthropy's benevolence

■ **Ehtesham Shahid**

The clock is ticking. As our planet inches closer to irreversible climate tipping points, the onus of preventing catastrophe falls upon our global climate leaders. Policymakers are in a fervent race against time, crafting strategies to cut emissions, champion green technologies, and reduce pollutants. But can governments do it all?

Enter philanthropy. Beyond the corridors of power and sprawling corporate boardrooms, philanthropic organizations are emerging as powerful allies in the battle against climate change. These entities are bridging the gaps that exist in the system.

Philanthropic foundations fund ground-breaking studies aiming to decipher the complexities of climate change, devise mitigation strategies, and foster innovation. Such research is instrumental in laying down foundational insights that pave the way for broader public and private interventions.

The philanthropic sector is also an invaluable financial pillar, especially for pioneering projects that traditional investors might deem too audacious or nascent. For instance, a start-up focusing on carbon capture technology might struggle to attract conventional investment but could find a willing backer in a philanthropic entity eager to promote sustainable innovations. Charitable organisations can circumvent the bureaucratic red tape, acting promptly to fund initiatives and champion change.

Many philanthropic organisations

are active advocates, shaping public opinion and policy. By funding think tanks and research bodies, they foster an environment where sustainable practices are not merely an option but the norm. Their outreach initiatives, spanning educational campaigns to gripping documentaries, drive home the gravity of the climate crisis, galvanizing the public into action.

The tangible impact of these philanthropic endeavours is also evident on the ground. Vulnerable communities, often the first casualties of a warming planet, find allies in these organizations. Whether facilitating adaptation strategies, helping with disaster recovery, or transferring knowledge across borders, philanthropic entities ensure solutions resonate with local nuances.

### **Institutionalised collaborative spirit**

Their long-term commitment is a boon. NGOs and philanthropic organisations remain steadfast, ensuring the climate agenda never fades. It's heartening to see this collaborative spirit being institutionalised. The recent Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum hosted by the COP28 Presidency exemplifies this synergy. As COP28 President-Designate Dr Sultan Al Jaber remarked, businesses and philanthropists are central to achieving net-zero targets, and such platforms amplify their role.

Philanthropy is not a mere accessory in the climate fight. Their influence is profound, from nurturing innovative technologies, preserving ecosystems, and reshaping consumer behaviours. They're pushing



boundaries, funding initiatives like green bonds and climate funds, which might be too avant-garde for some but are essential in the larger tapestry of climate action.

As we navigate the tumultuous waters of the climate crisis, we must recognise and leverage every ally. With its resources, flexibility, and long-term vision, philanthropy is undeniably one of them. While they can't single-handedly steer us away from impending climate doom, their concerted efforts with governments, businesses, and civil society can make

the journey more hopeful.

Philanthropy has a commendable role in addressing the immense challenges climate change poses. The generous support from affluent donors can bring to life critical environmental projects that might otherwise remain on the drawing board.

### **Limitations of approach**

However, as we laud these endeavours, it is essential to assess the limitations of a philanthropic approach critically. The resources, for instance, can sometimes be

disproportionately channelled towards causes favoured by a few high-net-worth individuals, possibly neglecting areas of more pressing need.

Often swayed by short-term public relations goals, corporate philanthropic initiatives may miss the bigger picture, focusing more on immediate wins rather than sustainable, long-term solutions. The voluntary nature of philanthropy means that funding can be erratic, affected by economic downturns or shifting priorities.

This inconsistency can be detrimental to long-term projects that require steady financial support. Unlike elected officials, who are held accountable for their actions, philanthropic organisations operate without the same level of scrutiny, potentially leading to the misuse or misallocation of funds. One cannot ignore the "greenwashing" spectre, where some initiatives appear environmentally conscious but are mere PR exercises with minimal impact.

Add to this the bureaucratic overheads of large philanthropic bodies, the neglect of systemic changes in favour of symptom-based solutions, potential conflicts of interest, and the amplification of power disparities, and it becomes clear that while philanthropy is valuable, it is not without its shortcomings. Some efforts even risk being redundant without proper coordination.

Vital initiatives might face funding challenges as donor interests fluctuate with trends or leadership changes. While philanthropy brings much-needed resources to the climate battlefield, it cannot replace comprehensive governmental and global action.

Tackling the climate crisis requires an integrated approach, blending the might of state interventions, the private sector's innovation, and philanthropy's benevolence. Only then can we hope to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change effectively.

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# Strong and vigilant society is possible only through continuous awareness:Murmu

■ HT News Network

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu on Monday urged writers to continuously create awareness in the society through their writings.

Speaking after inaugurating the 36th Annual Conference and Literary Festival of All India Santali Writers' Association at Baripada, the President said authors are vigilant watchdogs of society. They make society aware and guide it through their work.

Murmu, who arrived in Odisha on a three-day visit today, stressed that creating awareness among the people of tribal communities is an important task.

The President said building a strong and vigilant society is possible only through continuous awareness.

She said literature is a mirror of the culture of a community and added that natural co-existence of humans with nature is seen in the tribal lifestyle. The



tribal communities, Murmu said, believe that the forest does not belong to them but they belong to the forest. The President highlighted that today climate change is a huge problem and nature-friendly living is very important to tackle this issue. Murmu urged writers to write about the lifestyles of tribal communities so that other people could know about the life values of tribal society.

She said India is a beautiful garden of different languages and literatures.

Readers of Santhali languages should be introduced to the literature of other languages through translation and similar efforts should be made to make Santali literature reach the readers of other languages.

The President said there is a need to keep children engaged in self-study right from the beginning.

Murmu said emphasis should be laid on creating interesting, entertaining and comprehensible children's literature not only in Santhali literature but in all

Indian languages.

She appreciated writers and researchers who are contributing to the Santhali language and literature.

The President also appreciated that All India Santali Writers' Association has been promoting Santhali language since its establishment in 1988. She noted that use of Santhali language has been increased in government and non-government sectors, after its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution on December 22, 2003.

## "Congress Made Rajasthan No 1 In Crimes Against Women": PM Modi's Charge At Poll Rally

■ HT News Network

Pali: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hit out at the ruling Congress government in Rajasthan and lashed out at chief minister Ashok Gehlot for his remarks in connection with crimes against women in the state.

He also alleged that the Congress was anti-poor, anti-farmer and anti-women and under Mr Gehlot the state had become number one in crimes against women.

Addressing a public rally in Pali, PM Modi said, "Congress has made Rajasthan number one in crimes against women. The CM says that the complaints filed by the women are fake. Can it ever happen that a woman in our country files a fake case? The CM should say that a probe is underway, and not that the cases filed are fake. Isn't this an insult to women?" The Prime Minister highlighted that wherever there is a BJP government, efforts are made to ensure that the schemes of the Central Government are implemented on the ground quicker or the state governments of



the BJP add something to it.

"The anti-farmer and anti-poor government of the Congress will never take any initiative in favour of the poor or the farmers," PM Modi said, in his latest attack on the grand old party. Addressing the rally, the prime minister said that under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, the BJP-ruled State governments provide 6,000 to farmers additionally from their side.

PM Modi said "...the BJP leaders in Rajasthan too have resolved that after the BJP government is formed, farmers in the state will get 6000 more."

Lashing out at the Congress and its 'Ghamandia' (arrogant) INDIA bloc alliance over remarks against

'Sanatan Dharma', the PM said, "This is not the first time that they have insulted Sanatan Dharma. The people of this country know what they have said".

He alleged that Dalits are being "targeted" under the "protection" of the Congress party. "You see what kind of language they are using against the Dalits and the women," PM Modi asked the crowd, largely comprising of women. "Ever since the law giving reservation to women 'Narishakti Vandan Act' was passed, they have started a campaign against women. The leaders of the arrogant alliance have made very objectionable comments about our mothers and sisters," PM Modi said. Referring to Bihar

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's remarks in the Bihar Assembly on birth control, the PM said, "He is the Chief Minister of that State. He used such crude language against a former Chief Minister of the State belonging to the Dalit community. A responsible citizen can't even use such a language in a conversation".

PM Modi also attacked the Congress for not condemning Nitish Kumar for his remarks.

"Not a single Congress leader said it was a strong statement and did not come forward to condemn him," PM Modi said. Rajasthan goes to polls on November 25. He alleged that Dalits are being "targeted" under the "protection" of the Congress party. "You see what kind of language they are using against the Dalits and the women," PM Modi asked the crowd, largely comprising of women.

"Ever since the law giving reservation to women 'Narishakti Vandan Act' was passed, they have started a campaign against women. The leaders of the arrogant alliance have made very objectionable comments about our mothers and sisters," PM Modi said.

## AAP Government To Hike Minimum Wages Of Delhi's Civic Body Employees

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Delhi government has decided to increase the minimum wage of MCD employees, a civic official said on Monday. Monthly minimum wages for unskilled workers of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be increased to 17,234 from 16,792. The wage will rise to 18,993 from 18,499 for semi-skilled workers and to 20,903 from 20,375 for skilled workers. Dearness allowance will be paid to all MCD workers starting April 1, the officials added. The AAP had announced a dearness allowance for all MCD employees with effect from April 1.

A government proposal on increasing the minimum wages will be tabled for approval in the next MCD House meeting. The accumulated dearness allowance for civic employees will be released after it is approved by the House, the MCD official said.

The minimum wages for clerical and supervisory staff will also be increased in all scheduled employment, according to the agenda of the MCD House meeting.

## Rape Convict Ram Rahim Again Gets Permission To Leave Jail For 21 Days

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, serving a sentence for raping two women, will be out of jail once again. This time for 21 days.

Earlier, in January, the Dera Chief Ram Rahim was granted 40 days of parole. In October last year, too, he was granted a 40-day parole. However, this time he is going to be out on a furlough.

While parole means the release of a prisoner either temporarily for a special purpose or completely before the expiry of a sentence, on the promise of good behaviour, a furlough is a short-term temporary release of convicts from jail. Following a controversy over the 40-day parole being given to Ram Rahim in January, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had said that getting parole after following all procedures was the Dera Sacha Sauda chief's right.

## India-UK Free Trade Agreement Faces Hurdle Over Medical Devices

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Finalising the rules of origin for the medical devices sector remains a sticking-point in the proposed free-trade agreement (FTA) between India and the UK and the talks are on to iron out the differences, an official said. Huge potential is there in the medical devices sector in India, as it imports about 80 per cent of its requirement, with the US, Germany, China, Singapore and Netherlands being top exporters of such devices to the country. "In the medical devices sector, a lot of issues related to rules of origin are still there. Demand for customs duty concessions is also there," the official said, adding negotiations are going on between the two countries to resolve the differences in both goods and services sectors.

## Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge Announces 7 Guarantees For Rajasthan's Economic Growth

■ HT News Network

Anupgarh, Rajasthan: Congress party chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday announced seven guarantees for economic empowerment dedicated to the progress and prosperity of Rajasthan as part of the Congress manifesto in the state.

Addressing a rally in Anupgarh, Rajasthan, the party chief said that Congress is completely dedicated to the progress and prosperity of Rajasthan.

"The Congress party's social justice schemes and seven guarantees of economic empowerment are eradicating inequality in Rajasthan and will make Rajasthan more prosperous," Kharge added. "PM Modi often speaks against the ideologies of Indira Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. They never even accept the works of Indira Gandhi," Kharge said in a poll rally in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh.

"The truth is that Congress has built everything from big dams to engineering and medical colleges in this country. Congress has also brought the Green Revolution into the country. Whereas, the Modi government is ruining this country," Kharge added. Rajasthan is set to undergo assembly polls on November 25 and the counting



of votes will be done on December 3. The BJP won 163 seats in the 2013 Legislative Assembly elections and formed the government in Rajasthan. In the 2018 assembly elections, the Congress won 99 seats, while the BJP won 73 seats in the 200-member House. Gehlot eventually took the oath as CM with the support of BSP MLAs and Independents. Mr Kharge further mentioned that the Congress party's guarantee manifesto for Rajasthan includes giving 10,000 every year to the female head of the family. "The Congress party's social justice schemes and seven guarantees of economic empowerment are eradicating inequality in Rajasthan and will make Rajasthan more prosperous," Kharge added.

## "It's In The Past": Sachin Pilot Looks To Work Together With Ashok Gehlot

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Three years ago, Congress leader and ex-Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot made headlines - for leading a rebellion that nearly brought down his party's government in the state.

Fast-forward to today and an energetic Mr Pilot is on the frontlines of a re-election bid, fighting (in apparent lock-step) with Chief Minister and long-time rival Ashok Gehlot, to ensure the Congress trumps the BJP and retains power in a state that has not voted for an incumbent in three decades. NDTV caught up with Sachin Pilot on the campaign trail - as he jumped in and out of helicopters - to discuss the November 25th election and the Congress' game-plan, and his relationship with Mr Gehlot.

"Double engine... double engine. What double engine?" Mr Pilot thundered at one rally, making pointed swipes at the BJP's



promise of development for states that vote for the saffron party in both Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, "One engine failed in Himachal Pradesh... another in Karnataka."

The Congress is confident of a positive result in Rajasthan and a NDTV pre-poll survey last month suggests they have cause for optimism; 76 per cent of voters seem satisfied with its government.

On Congress' Chances "The party is energised. We have never won back-to-back Rajasthan elections. Our attempt now is to break this cycle of a

revolving door (and) we are well-placed to do that. There is a change of mood."

"The key is delivery of social welfare schemes. If people don't feel you are credible... they won't believe in you. In Karnataka we delivered immediately..." Mr Pilot said, underlining the Congress' game-plan - to bank on the Ashok Gehlot government's welfare schemes to pull in the votes.

"We are looking at social welfare and also investment and wealth creation (for the people of Rajasthan). We need an equitable Rajasthan... we need to give youth opportunities."

On Chief Ministerial Race

However, amid speculation Mr Pilot could finally be named Chief Minister (should the Congress win this election), the NDTV pre-poll survey also indicated less than 10 per cent want him in that post.

Understandably, Mr Pilot was keen to play down any such talk.

"In the Congress, whenever party (central) leadership takes a call then that is final," he told NDTV. "It is a long-standing tradition (that) we don't declare a CM face. We are a national party and we don't have just one face. Once we get the mandate, then it is up to the MLAs to decide."

On Feud With Ashok Gehlot

"It is in the past..." Mr Pilot said when he was asked the big question. "We met (Congress boss Mallikarjun) Kharge and (Rahul) Gandhi... the party took cognisance (of my concerns)," he said. "The party high command told me to forgive and forget, and move on."

## Need Deeper Conversation With India On AI Regulatory Framework: US Envoy

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Monday made a strong pitch for "deeper conversations" between New Delhi and Washington on a regulatory framework for artificial intelligence, saying it could be an example of a "multiplicative relationship" between the two democracies. In an interactive session organised by the Observer Research Foundation, Mr Garcetti stressed the need to "get in front" of artificial intelligence (AI) to avoid facing catastrophic consequences.

He made it clear that while there had been deep conversations on the issue with India, there was no formal proposal yet from either side. Mr Garcetti noted that US President Joe Biden had spoken strongly on the issue. Last month, President Biden issued an executive order that required AI manufacturers to provide the federal government with an assessment of their applications' vulnerability to cyberattacks, the data used to train and test the AI and its performance measurements.

"If we don't get in front of AI, the consequences, even if it is a small percentage of likelihood, of something catastrophic hap-



pening with our official intelligence could be sooner than we believe," Mr Garcetti said. On the India-US 2+2 dialogue last week, Mr Garcetti said the two sides took important steps towards strengthening the major defence partnership which continues to grow and increasing the acceleration seen through initiatives such as the US-India roadmap in industrial cooperation and defence. He stressed that New Delhi and Washington should deepen their Artificial Intelligence (AI) conversation.

He pitched for India-US collaboration and cooperation in emerging domains.

"...we sometimes just focus on weapons and what is being sold, or potentially co-developed, but the operational level of our militaries... is as critical as any equipment," he said.

## UP govt to develop expressways as industrial corridors

■ HT News Network

Banda, Nov 20 (UNI) The Uttar Pradesh government is working on developing expressways as industrial corridors by setting up industrial centres along these expressways with an estimated budget of more than Rs 7,000 crore.

On the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has identified sites for industrial centers.

As per the plan, UPEIDA will set up industrial centers along 5 expressways, including Agra-Lucknow Expressway, Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway and Ganga Expressway in the state.

UPEIDA presented details of the identified industrial corridors along these five expressways to the CM in a high-level meeting on Saturday.

According to this, 11 sites have been selected for industrial corridors along the Ganga Expressway, which connects a total of 12 districts in the state, with a total area of 1,522 hectares. The estimated expenditure on this is around Rs 2,300 crore. Similarly, 6 sites have been identified along the Bundelkhand Expressway connecting 7 districts. The proposed area for this is 1,884 hectares, with an estimated expenditure of more than Rs 1,500 crore.

Sources said that 5 sites have been selected in 10 districts connected to the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. The total area for this is 532 hectares and the estimated expenditure for its development is around Rs 650 crore.

Meanwhile, 5 places have been identified for the industrial corridor on the Purvanchal Expressway connecting 9 districts, the proposed area of which is 1,586 hectares and the estimated expenditure is likely to be Rs 2,300 crore.



# Prisoner deal ‘edges closer’ despite fierce fighting in Gaza

■ HT News Network

DOHA: Hamas fighters battled Israeli forces trying to push into Gaza's largest refugee camp on Sunday, but despite the fighting, US, Qatari and Israeli officials said a deal to free some of the prisoners being held in the besieged enclave was edging closer.

Separately, a top health official said all 31 premature babies at Al Shifa Hospital had been evacuated on Sunday from the facility.

A deal to free some of the about 240 prisoners Hamas seized in its Oct 7 attack on Israel now hinges on “minor” practical issues, Qatar's prime minister said on Sunday, without giving details or a timeline.

“The challenges that remain in the negotiations are very minor compared to the bigger challenges, they are more logistical, they are more practical,” Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told a joint press conference with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

“The deal is going through ups and downs from time to time throughout the last few weeks,” the premier said. “I think that I'm now more confident that we are close enough to reach a deal that can bring the people safely back to their homes.”

Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog said Tel Aviv was hopeful that a significant number of prisoners could



be released by Hamas “in coming days”.

“I'm hopeful we can have a deal in the coming days,” he said in an interview on ABC's This Week on Sunday.

A White House official also said the “very complicated, very sensitive” negotiations were making progress.

“I believe we are closer than we have been in quite some time, maybe closer than we have been since the beginning of this process, to getting this deal done,” White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told NBC's “Meet the Press”.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas in

response to the Oct 7 attacks, which Israeli officials say killed about 1,200 people and saw the prisoners taken.

The army's relentless air and ground campaign has since killed thousands of people in the Gaza Strip. The Hamas government said on Sunday the death toll in the enclave has reached 13,000 since Oct 7.

More than 5,500 children are among the dead, alongside 3,500 women, with 30,000 more people wounded.

The civilian death toll in Gaza was “staggering and unacceptable”, UN Secretary

General Antonio Guterres said, again appealing for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Since Oct 7, Israeli troops and settlers have also killed more than 200 Palestinians in the West Bank.

31 premature babies evacuated

Mohammed Zaqut, director general of hospitals in Gaza, told AFP that “all 31 premature babies in Al Shifa hospital... have been evacuated” along with three doctors and two nurses.

“Preparations are under way” for them to enter Egypt, he added.

The move was confirmed by the Palestinian

Red Crescent Society (PCRS), which said its teams carried out the evacuation in coordination with UN agencies, including the World Health Organisation.

Al Shifa Hospital has become a focal point for Israeli operations with the army claiming Hamas uses it as a base. Since Nov 11, when fuel supplies ran out at Al Shifa, eight babies have died due to the lack of electricity to run incubator units, the health ministry in Gaza has said.

Three Israeli soldiers killed

The Israeli army said on Sunday three more soldiers had been killed in fighting in the Gaza Strip, raising the number of troop deaths there to 62 since the Oct 7 attacks. All three were reservists and died on Saturday in northern Gaza, the military said in a statement.

## “US Has Most Unsafe Border In The History Of World”: Trump Slams Joe Biden

■ HT News Network

Texas, US: Former US President Donald Trump visited Texas near the US-Mexico border on Sunday (local time) and attacked the Biden administration over his ‘anti-migrant’ rhetoric, calling the US borders the “most unsafe” in the history of the world, CNN reported.

Speaking at the South Texas International Airport, Trump bashed President Joe Biden over his handling of the border, arguing that the US now has the “most unsecure border in the history, I believe, really, of the world.”

During the visit, Trump also received the endorsement of Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

“We need Donald J. Trump back as our president of the United States of America,” the Republican governor said at an event with the former president in Edinburg, Texas.

The former president has been ramping up his rhetoric on the campaign trail, promising to conduct the “largest domestic deportation operation in American history” if he wins the White House next year. He has said that undocumented immigrants are “poisoning the blood of our country”.

“There's never been anything like this. Our country is being invaded. This is an invasion.”

Notably, the Republican frontrunner has made ‘curtailing illegal immigration’ a cornerstone of his 2024 campaign, CNN reported.

The former President is also planning a



widespread expansion of his administration's hard-line immigration policies that would restrict both legal and illegal immigration, should he be elected to a second term.

The plans include rounding up undocumented immigrants already in the US and placing them in detention camps to await deportation.

Such a proposal would necessitate building large camps to house migrants waiting for deportation and tapping federal and local law enforcement to assist with arrests of undocumented immigrants across the country, according to CNN. “Stopping the invasion at our southern border is an urgent national security necessity and one of President Trump's top priorities. For that reason, he has laid out - in his own speeches and Agenda 47 platform - by far the most detailed program for securing the border, stopping illegal immigration, and removing those who should never have been allowed into our country in the first place,” a spokesperson for the Trump campaign said in a statement to CNN.

## World Must Act Urgently To “Quickly Cool Down” Situation In Gaza: China

■ HT News Network

Beijing, China: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Monday the world must “act urgently” to calm the Israel-Hamas war as he hosted diplomats from Arab and Muslim-majority nations in Beijing.

A delegation of foreign ministers of the Palestinian Authority, Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are in Beijing this week for talks aimed at a “de-escalation” of the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

“Let us work together to quickly cool down the situation in Gaza and restore peace in the Middle East as soon as possible,” Wang told ministers at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in the Chinese capital. “A humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Gaza,” Wang told the delegates, including the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

“The situation in Gaza affects all countries around the world, questioning the human sense of right and wrong and humanity's bottom line,” he said.

“The international community must act urgently, taking effective measures to prevent this tragedy from spreading,” Beijing's top diplomat added.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas over October 7 attacks that it says killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and saw 240 hostages taken, in the worst-ever onslaught on the country.

The Hamas government in Gaza says at least 13,000 people have been killed in Israel's relentless aerial bombardment and ground operations, thousands of them



children. Following the outbreak of the war last month, Chinese officials, including Foreign Minister Wang, called for an immediate ceasefire and a “cooling down” of the situation.

China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinians and supportive of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

And it has this year sought to play a greater role in the Middle East, facilitating a historic rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran and sending an envoy to the region to push for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Wang told the diplomats on Monday that Beijing was “a good friend and brother of Arab and Muslim countries”.

“We have always firmly defended the legitimate rights and interests of Arab and Muslim countries, and have always firmly supported the Palestinian people's efforts to restore their legitimate national rights and interests,” he said.

## Khamenei urges Muslim states to cut ties with Israel for ‘limited period’

■ HT News Network

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appealed to Muslim states with political ties with Israel to at least cut them for “a limited time”, state media reported on Sunday, weeks after he called for an Islamic oil and food embargo on Israel.

“Some Islamic governments have condemned Israeli crimes in assemblies while some have not. This is unacceptable,” Khamenei said before reiterating that the main task of Islamic governments should be to cut off Israel from energy and goods. “Islamic governments should at least cut off political ties to Israel for a limited time,” Khamenei added. In a speech at an



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps aerospace force centre in the capital Tehran, Khamenei said “the defeat of the Zionist regime (Israel) in Gaza is a fact.” “Advancing and entering hospitals or people's homes is not a victory, because victory means defeating the other side,” he said. Khamenei said Israel has “killed thousands of children with-

out any remorse” because, as he claimed, “Zionists consider themselves to be a superior race.” During his visit, the Revolutionary Guard's aerospace force unveiled new defence systems and drones, state media said, and Khamenei inspected a drone which carried the name “Gaza”.

Jordan's King Abdullah said on Sunday the interna-

tional community should push for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to stop a humanitarian catastrophe caused by what he termed Israel's “ugly war against civilians”. In remarks made during a meeting with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, the monarch said global powers should force Israel to comply with international law to protect civilians and ensure Israel heeds calls to allow uninterrupted flow of aid into the enclave. But Abdullah said Israel was not acting in self-defence, as it maintains, by “indiscriminate strikes” that killed thousands of civilians. A White House official said, Israel should not embark on combat operations against Hamas in the south of Gaza.

## Turkish ship, 12 crew missing in storm

■ HT News Network

ANKARA: A Turkish cargo ship and its 12 crew are missing in a storm off the northwest coast of the country, Turkish authorities said on Sunday.

The Kafkametler vessel sent out a distress signal at 10:29am, according to a subdivision of the ministry of transport, which added that it gave off its last signal off the northwestern city of Eregli.

“Our efforts to contact the vessel and its crew have been unsuccessful,” the General Directorate of Maritime Affairs said.

“Due to bad weather, it is currently impossible to reach the vessel's location or establish close visual contact. Search and rescue efforts using air and sea vehicles will be launched as soon as the weather permits,” it added.

Twelve crew are on board the cargo ship, which was transporting ferrosilicon from the Russian port of Temryuk to Aliaga in Turkey. The captain said in his last communication with authorities that the ship was drifting towards a breakwater off Eregli.

Violent storms and strong winds hit many parts of Turkey on Sunday, particularly ravaging the northwest where two coastal towns experienced flood damage. Another ship registered in Cameroon broke in two due to violent waves off the coast of Eregli, after all its crew had been safely evacuated.

## Singapore to ban drones from flying over Its borders

■ HT News Network

Singapore, Nov 20 (UNI) Singapore will ban unmanned aircraft from carrying out cross-border flights starting from November 21, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and the state police force announced in a joint statement on Monday.

“Any UA [unmanned aircraft] operator found operating a UA into or out of Singapore illegally will be liable to prosecution by the authorities. The offence carries a penalty of a fine of up to \$50,000 [Singaporean dollars or \$37,000], an imprisonment term of up to two years, or both,” the statement, published on the official CAAS' website, read.

The statement added that the authorities would have a right to take down any unauthorised unmanned aircraft crossing the border.

“Such flights may pose a danger to public safety and security. Globally, we have seen cases of UAs disrupting airport operations, as well as being used for criminal activities, such as for smuggling, and to conduct terror attacks,” the authorities added.

In 2020, unmanned aircraft were used for cross-border drug traffic, the authorities said.

## China, Saudi Arabia sign currency swap agreement

■ HT News Network

Beijing, Nov 20 (UNI) The People's Bank of China and the Saudi Central Bank have signed a bilateral currency swap agreement, China's central bank said Monday.

The total value of the currency swap agreement is 50 billion yuan (about 6.98 billion U.S. dollars), or 26 billion Saudi riyals, the central bank said in a statement on its website.

The agreement is valid for three years and can be renewed upon mutual consent, according to the statement.

The currency swap arrangement will help strengthen financial cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia, expand the use of the two countries' currencies, and promote bilateral trade and investment facilitation, the statement added.

## 7 killed in northeast China house fire

■ HT News Network

Harbin, Nov 20 (UNI) Seven people were killed in a fire that engulfed a single-story, steel-structured house in Zhaozhou County of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local authorities said Monday.

The fire broke out at about 2 p.m. Monday and was put out 40 minutes later. An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

## Bangladesh's dengue cases soar past 300,000 with 1,549 deaths

■ HT News Network

Dhaka, Nov 20 (UNI) Bangladesh reported 1,291 new dengue cases and six more deaths on Sunday, bringing the tally to 301,225 and the death toll to 1,549 since January this year, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said.

The deaths include 201 so far this month.

During the first 19 days in November, according to the figure reported by the DGHS under the Ministry of Health, 30,080 more dengue cases were recorded after 67,769 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease last month.

The total number of recovered patients in the South Asian country stood at 294,757 including 1,522 new recoveries on Sunday, said the DGHS.

Bangladesh experienced its highest spike in dengue cases in September, with 79,598 new infections and 396 deaths reported.

Dengue fever, transmitted through the bite of an Aedes mosquito, causes an acute illness that usually follows symptoms such as headache, high fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash.

## Australians to vote on name of 1st moon rover

■ HT News Network

Canberra, Nov 20 (UNI) Australians have been offered the opportunity to vote on the name of the country's first moon rover.

The Australian Space Agency (ASA) on Monday announced a shortlist of four names for the rover, which were chosen from over 8,000 submissions from the public.

From Monday until Dec. 1, Australians will be able to vote on whether the rover will be named Coolamon, Kakirra, Mateship or Roo-ver, with the winner to be announced on Dec. 6.

The candidates were chosen from the submissions by an ASA panel of judges based on relevancy, creativity and the rationale provided by the person who submitted them.

A coolamon is a vessel used by Indigenous Australians for gathering and carrying. Kakirra means “moon” in the language of the Kaurna Aboriginal people of South Australia (SA) -- where the ASA is based -- mateship is a cultural term in Australia for a national character trait of friendship and roo-ver incorporates Australia's iconic kangaroos.



## Preparations for 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' finalized at Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 20: Angshuman Dey, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), Government of India Designated District Prabhari Officer for District Anantnag, today visited the district and was briefed about the ongoing 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' preparations in the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF. Hamid briefed the Prabhari officer about the district plan for the upcoming 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'.

The plan includes formation of Transport and route schedule, appointment of nodal person and training of the stakeholders about various facets of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. Joint secretary interacted with District officers and other stakeholders involved in the Yatra. Threadbare discussions focused on evaluating the impact of the initiative on various aspects such as infrastructure development, community engagement and overall socio-economic upliftment. He expressed satisfaction with the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved in the initiative. He highlighted the



importance of sustained community participation and emphasized the need for continued coordination among government agencies, local authorities, and the public to ensure the success of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'.

Joint Secretary stressed upon the officers to coordinate the arrangements for the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, besides organizing training sessions for the officers and resource persons of line departments. During the meeting, various sponsored schemes slated for promotion including PM Vishwakarma, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Mudra Loan, PMEGP, Mumkin,

Poshan Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, PM Awas Yojana (Rural), PM Kisan Saman, Kisan Credit Card, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Har Ghar Jal - Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. Prabhari Officer expressed confidence in the positive impact of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' and reiterated the government's commitment to the holistic development of District Anantnag.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the district administration is committed to saturation of all the schemes.

## KVK Ganderbal holds mega Interactive/ Training, awareness, Technology Exhibition on GAPs under HADP

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 20: A Mega Awareness cum Technology Demonstration Programme was conducted today at Government Degree College on "Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Innovative Approaches for Production and Processing of Agri-Enterprises" held by KVK Ganderbal, SKUAST-Kashmir under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Project.

The programme was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Ganderbal, Shyambir as Chief Guest and co-chaired by Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi. The dignitaries initially visited technology demonstration



stalls showcasing the latest technologies, varieties, hybrid seeds and value-added products developed by the University,

KVK Ganderbal entrepreneurs, startups, and NRLM. A large number of stalls were set up by line departments, progressive

farmers and entrepreneurs of District Ganderbal. In his presidential address, the DDC appreciated the relentless efforts of KVK Ganderbal in conducting such events from time to time and reaching out to farmers across the District.

He further encouraged the farmers for adopting good and ethical practices in Agriculture, for preserving the brand name of Kashmiri products which are in huge demand across the World.

Shyambir motivated farmers to take up entrepreneurial ventures and ensured full support and cooperation to them. In his keynote address, Director Extension highlighted the aims and objectives of HADP. He revealed that if followed in letter and spirit, such approaches will change the face of agriculture and allied sectors in the District.

## Voter registration camps under SSR held across Ramban

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, November 20, 2023 - The AG Office, Srinagar started the Audit Week on 19 November, led by Principal Accountant General Pramod Kumar and DAG Inabat Khaliq.

A blood donation camp was organised today attended by Dr. Masood Tanvir, Principal GMC, Srinagar, and Dr. Muzaffar Hussain Sherwani, Medical Superintendent LD Hospital.

A number of donors participated in the Camp, in continuation with the series of week-long activities. This was followed by a Rangoli Competition involving seven teams, showcasing their artistic skills at the premises of AG Office Srinagar.

An array of activities are planned throughout this week till 25th November.

The celebration marks the foundation day of CAG India in addition to bringing people together on one page.

## 70th Cooperative Week celebrations conclude in Rajouri DC asks stakeholders to focus on marketing of local produce

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 20: A grand district-level function was today organised by the Cooperative Department Rajouri to mark the culmination of the 70th All India Cooperative Week.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal presided over the event which witnessed an array of speakers expound upon the rich history of the cooperative movement and its integral role in the socio-economic development.

At the outset of the event, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies highlighted the achievements of cooperative department Rajouri like establishment of Jan Ashudi Kendra, Common Service Centers, PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras through PACS etc.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner,



Vikas Kundal underscored the objective of the celebrations, which he said was to showcase cooperative sector achievements, raise awareness about its potential for emancipation of marginalized sections, share success stories and outline future strategies for strengthening the cooperative movement. He elaborated the district administration's efforts to fortify cooperative societies, emphasizing their pivotal role in self-employment generation and regional economic bolstering.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri outlined the road map to achieve the vision of the PM initiative, "Shahar se Samridhi" (Prosperity through Cooperatives). He emphasized the importance of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as institutions that provide a platform for the convergence of all agricultural and allied department schemes. To facilitate this, the Government of India has constituted a District Development Cooperative Committee (DDCC), comprising officers from agri-

culture and allied departments, to ensure effective coordination and implementation of these schemes. The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged cooperative members to explore new avenues and venture into unexplored areas to further enhance the impact of their cooperative initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal particularly emphasized the commitment of the district towards doubling farmers' income through cooperatives, with a keen focus on marketing local produce through these societies. He urged members to work diligently towards making the cooperative movement a resounding success, directing Cooperative Department officers and members to collaborate closely to achieve shared goals.

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

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam: November 20: In its ongoing process to address the grievances of general public, Kulgam police on the directions of SSP Kulgam held PCPG meetings at Police Station; \*Yaripora, DH Pora, Behibagh, Kund and Police Post Neehama\*. The meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional officers and were attended by respectable citizens including Market associations, Auqaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Numberdars, Sarpanchs, Panchs, youth and other representatives of Yaripora, Kanjikullah, Paltano, Behibagh, DH Pora, Kanchloo, Kund, Neehama 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. While addressing the participants, chairing officers urged upon in strengthening the Police public relations and also cooperate in eradicating all types of crime from the society so that a peaceful and crime free atmosphere is created in the area. The officers have also requested upon providing the information to police about smuggling of drugs and other illegal activities if any noticed for initiating appropriate action against the offenders.

## Crackdown on Traffic Violators continues in Anantnag; 4 DLs Suspended

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 20: A team of Motor Vehicles Department today laid special nakka at Khanabal-Bijbehara Road to check violation of the various visible offences under Motor Vehicles Act, 2019 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

During the checking, nearly 120 Vehicles were checked which included as many as 30 School Buses. 40 vehicles were blacklisted on spot for various offences such as diversion of route permit, carrying students in private vehicles, carrying excess students in school buses, Non use of seat belt, playing without fitness, without permit and tempering Speed Limiting Device. Fine to the tune of Rs 45000 is expected to be realised from the violators.

Meanwhile the inspection team also made the people aware about their duties towards observing traffic norms and road safety while travelling.

The violators were informed that similar checking drives would continue in the coming days and asked them to strictly adhere to traffic norms to avoid any further strict action by the department.

## DC Doda reviews implementation of schemes by Zila Sainik Welfare Office

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER, 20: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today visited Zila Sainik Welfare Office to take stock of implementation of welfare measures and schemes being run by the Government for the Ex-Servicemen.

Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Wing Commander, Tirath Singh (Retd) briefed about the duties and responsibilities of Zila Sainik Welfare Office and staff strength, Composition of KSB, RSB, ZSWO and present status of Ex-servicemen in the district. He also briefed about facilities and schemes available for Ex-Servicemen



(ESM). The DC applauded the efforts of the Zila Sainik Welfare officer for keeping the premises neat and tidy. He also appreciated the Zila Sainik Welfare Office for serving the one who served the nation and assured that the District Administration shall extend its full cooperation to the ZSWO for the welfare of Ex-servicemen. DC has assured that the shortage of staff and funds/

approval for construction of security/ compound wall shall be taken up with the concerned higher authorities for early consideration. The DC applauded the efforts of the Zila Sainik Welfare officer for keeping the premises neat and tidy. He also appreciated the Zila Sainik Welfare Office for serving the one who served the nation and assured that the District Administration.

## "Community Mobilization" and "Role and Responsibilities" Awareness program was organized in Mandi under the banner of Samagra Shiksha.

■ Sharaz Ah Mir

Poonch: Nov..20 // An awareness program was organized today in the context of Community, Mobilization and Role and Responsibilities (Training of SMC members) at Guidance Center Government Middle School Chakhri under the banner of Directorate of Samagra Shiksha in Tehsil Mandi of Border District Poonch. Done. Where 20-13-2020 FEDPRI and SMC members including entire guidance center schools were present. The agenda of the program was to create awareness about the role and responsibilities of SMC in school management. During the program Mr. Akbar Alibande ZNO Zone Mandi welcomed everyone for the said program and highlighted the importance of community mobilization and role and responsibilities of SMC in overcoming bottlenecks in school development. RP's of the program Mr. Miraj Khalid, Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq, Ms. Famedah



Naz also spoke on the topic and apprised the SMC about their roles and responsibilities in various components of the school and the improvement of learners especially enrollment and many other areas. Gave necessary training for Strategy regarding NEP 2020 was also discussed during the program. Zonal Education Officer Mandi Ms. Parveen Akhtarji and Zonal Education Planning Officer Mandi JB. Muhammad Latif Khan ji also highlighted the agenda and urged the people and SMC to take up this work on a proactive basis. In the gathering, some SMC and Panchayat nominated members expressed their views and praised the department. Educated for such a move.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Murad Ali, S/O Ghulam Nabi Shah, residing at Sir Syed Abad Sector 2A Srinagar holding Indian Passport No. L5696042 issued at PSK Srinagar on 25/11/2013 valid up to 24/11/2023, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows- I have changed my name from (old name) Murad Ali Shah to (new name) Murad Ali. I shall use this new name for all purposes in future. If anybody has any objection regarding this He/She may please contact Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication after that no objection will be entertained.

Name, Murad Ali,  
S/O Ghulam Nabi Shah,  
R/O Sir Syed Abad Sector 2A Srinagar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I inform to general public that my Sons name Wrongly mentioned as AFSHAAN MANZOOR instead of IFSHAAN MANZOOR in School record Now I am applying of its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in principal office of GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL KACHWA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT  
F/O...IFSHAAN MANZOOR  
R/O... KACHWA MUQAMBlock...WagoraDistt ...BARAMULLA



NEWS

Fragmentation of efforts leaves people to fend for themselves: Health minister



The inadequacy and fragmentation of efforts in the health sector leaves populations to fend for themselves and it is deeply concerning that the ongoing crises have exacerbated unequal access to health care and education, Union Health Minister Manuskh Mandaviya said on Friday.

Manadaviya made the comments while addressing the second edition of the Voice of Global South Summit, hosted by India. "It is imperative to recognise that the majority of epidemics and pandemics threatening global health -- from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome to COVID-19 -- have roots in zoonotic origins. Committees of the International Health Regulations have consistently highlighted the inadequacy and fragmentation of efforts, leaving populations vulnerable to fend for themselves," Mandaviya said. "It is also deeply concerning that the ongoing crises have exacerbated unequal access to health care and education," he added.

The health minister noted that the National Centre for Disease Control is at the forefront of significant One Health-related endeavours, implementing programmes grounded in 'One Health' as a fundamental principle.

"Today, the One Health concept is recognised as an effective approach to complex public health problems involving multiple disciplines, closely linking human health, animal health and environmental health," Mandaviya said.

"India's One Health programme diligently monitors and investigates emerging infectious diseases, particularly those originating from wildlife spaces, with a focus on fostering coordination among diverse groups for early detection and response," he added. Mandaviya noted that digital platforms, networks and services have the potential to play a pivotal role in tackling healthcare challenges and fostering equitable access to medical resources.

"We also understand that the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is a promising tool for propelling public health initiatives in the Global South. India has underscored its unwavering commitment to the implementation of a One Health approach. This commitment is demonstrated by the emphasis on the One Health-based approach in the leaders' declaration," he said.

"Furthermore, there is a dedicated focus on prioritising efforts to address the critical issue of AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance), including research and development, infection prevention and control," he said. The minister noted that the combined efforts should be directed towards nurturing collaboration, trust and growth in the Global South.z

Delayed Cord Clamping Improves Preterm Infant Survival Rates by 50%, Study Finds

Delaying the clamping of the umbilical cord of a premature baby may decrease the risk of death, according to new research.

The findings, published in The Lancet Trusted Source on November 14, show that delayed clamping, compared to immediate clamping, could reduce the newborn's risk of death by more than 50%.

Researchers looked at clinical trial data of thousands of premature babies, analyzing delayed cord clamping versus immediate cord clamping.

"We found that waiting just a couple of minutes can make a lifetime of a difference for babies that are born prematurely," first author Dr. Anna Lene Seidler, PhD, a senior research fellow and biostatistician with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) at the University of Sydney, told Healthline.

"Waiting to clamp the cord is a fairly easy intervention. But, it is important the baby is not just left without care for this time, but instead, initial care is provided with the cord intact. We are already talking to international guideline developers about how these results can be implemented. This will then hopefully guide clinical practice globally very soon," she said.

What are the advantages of delayed cord clamping?

The current study demonstrates a reduction in neonatal death after delayed cord clamping.

While further studies are needed to better understand the relationship between delayed cord clamping and the mortality rate of premature babies, a possible explanation could be the extra blood from the placenta.

"Researchers and clinicians are not sure



yet, but it is believed that providing an extra supply of blood from the placenta makes the infant less likely to need blood support and/or additional blood transfusions," said Dr. Susan Dulkarian, chair of Mercy's Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Newborn Services in The Family Childbirth and Children's Center at Mercy Medical Center. Dr. Dulkarian was not involved in the research.

Dr. Eran Bornstein, the vice chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, also not involved in the study, told Healthline the study confirms prior knowledge of the benefits of delayed cord clamping in premature infants.

"The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has therefore recommended this practice and states that

'delayed umbilical cord clamping is associated with significant neonatal benefits in preterm infants, including improved transitional circulation, better establishment of red blood cell volume, decreased need for blood transfusion, and lower incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis and intraventricular hemorrhage,'" Bornstein noted. Delayed cord clamping is safe for the mother and baby and is advocated by many organizations as the default practice, Bornstein explained.

How long should you delay cord clamping?

Prior research Trusted Source has noted insufficient evidence to show what duration of delay for cord clamping is best.

"The exact time for delayed cord clamping is controversial and differs between different organizations," said Bornstein.

"Based on the ACOG guidelines many institutions use a 1 minute delay. The current study provides evidence that a longer delay of 2 minutes might provide the best risk reduction."

There are some unique situations in which immediate cord clamping may be required especially when immediate resuscitation is needed, and safe initial breathing help with the cord intact is not possible, or in a low-income setting with limited medical resources, Bornstein noted. These should be individualized based on the specific scenario and availability of the team to provide neonatal resuscitation in conjunction with delayed clamping.

"An assessment is made at the time an infant is delivered of the stability of the baby and possible need for immediate resuscitation in order to do cord clamping," Dulkarian explained.

To ensure the health of the mother and child, the current recommendation is 30–60 seconds, Dulkarian added.

What causes early mortality in premature infants?

Breathing difficulties may cause mortality among premature infants.

Seidler explained that further evidence on the most effective methods for helping babies requiring immediate resuscitation at birth is needed.

"There are some large ongoing studies that will provide further clarity about when and how this care should be provided with the cord intact," said Seidler. "Whilst we found some encouraging early results for providing resuscitation with the cord intact, additional evidence is needed."

Other factors affecting a premature infant's survival is gestational age, or how early the baby was born.

Stress In Pregnancy Linked To Children's Behavioural Problems: Research

Children whose mothers are highly stressed, anxious or depressed during pregnancy may be at higher risk for mental health and behaviour issues during their childhood and teenage years, according to a research.

For the study, published by the American Psychological Association in the journal Psychological Bulletin, the team analysed data from 55 studies with more than 45,000 total participants.

All the studies measured women's psychological distress during pregnancy (including stress, depression or anxiety) and then later measured their children's



"externalising behaviours" -- mental health symptoms directed outward, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or aggression.

Overall, the researchers found that women who reported more anxiety, depression or stress

while pregnant were more likely to have children with more ADHD symptoms or who exhibited more difficulties with aggressive or hostile behaviour, as reported by parents or teachers. "Our research suggests that psychological distress during

the pregnancy period has a small but persistent effect on children's risk for aggressive, disinhibited and impulsive behaviours," said Irene Tung from California State University - Dominguez Hills. "These findings add to the evidence that providing widely accessible mental health care and support during pregnancy may be a critical step to help prevent childhood behaviour problems," Tung added. They found that even after controlling for later (post-natal) psychological distress, distress during pregnancy in particular increased children's risk of developing externalising problems.

The effect held true regardless

of whether the children were boys or girls. And it held true for children in early childhood (ages 2-5), middle childhood (6-12) and adolescence (13-18), though the effect was strongest in early childhood.

The findings are consistent with theories that suggest that exposure to stress hormones in utero can affect children's brain development, according to the researchers.

Future research should focus on increasing diversity to understand the cultural and socioeconomic variables that affect prenatal stress and to develop effective interventions, according to Tung.

Eat dates soaked in ghee for these wonderful benefits

Nourishing your body with the right food and the nutrients is the best way to maintain immunity and health. The ancient practice of Ayurveda has many such age-old diet secrets that can keep many chronic diseases at bay. One of such ancient remedies is the combination of dates and ghee, two powerful foods that can energise the body, keep bones and joints strong, and also help boost immunity and digestive health. According to Ayurveda, dates soaked in ghee are pure Ojas as they revitalize the deep tissues of the body. Ojas also means vigour can help support immunity, digestion, moods, and sleep. Those with strong Ojas rarely fall ill and are blessed with good health. In this edition of Ancient Wisdom, we look at various benefits of this ancient remedy. The magic of dates and ghee

Dates are high in fibre and are a rich source of iron. They are also cooling in nature and known to pro-



vide strength and vitality. They are an instant energy booster and many people break their fast with dates. They also help in balancing blood pressure and reducing cholesterol. Ghee on the other hand being a healthy fat can help the body maintain good cholesterol. Ghee has loads of antioxidants and linoleic acid which also supports cardiovascular health. Ghee is also known to pacify Kapha and Vata dosha, relieve anxiety and stress, insomnia and is good for bone health.

Benefits of dates soaked in ghee

Sushma Pattadur, Chief Dietician, Jindal Naturecure

Institute, says soaking dates with ghee can provide a variety of health benefits as per Ayurveda.

**Energy:** Dates contain natural sugars, so they provide quick energy.

**Digestion:** Ghee helps with digestion, as it promotes enzyme secretion.

**Fibre:** Dates contain fibre, so they help with constipation.

**Dosha balance:** Ghee helps balance the Vata dosha and the Pitta dosha.

**Bodily health:** Dates provide minerals to help with bone health.

**Joint health:** Dates lubricate the joints.

**Antioxidant rich:** Both

dates and ghee contain antioxidants, which fight oxidative stress.

**Immunity support:** The combination is thought to boost the immune system and support the body's defences.

**Women's health:** Dates and ghee may support women's health, particularly during pregnancy and after giving birth. It is important to note that everyone's response to the combination of dates and ghee may vary. Therefore, it is best to consult a health professional before making any significant dietary changes.

**Dates soaked in ghee:** How was this remedy used in ancient times

In ancient times, the use of dates soaked in ghee can be traced to Ayurveda, a traditional Indian system of medicine dating back thousands of years. "While specific historical details are not well-documented, Ayurvedic texts emphasized the balancing of doshas and the holistic well-being promoted.

How to Avoid Cholesterol Spikes During Thanksgiving

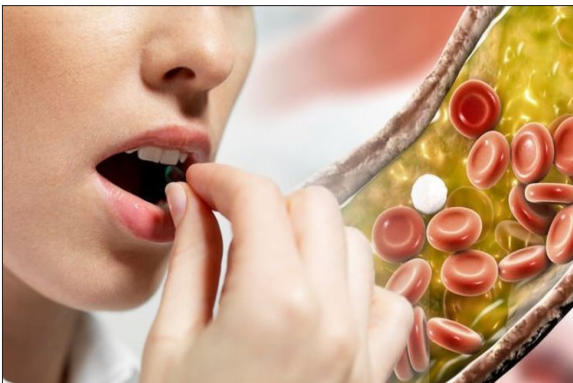
The holiday season might bring much joy to your year, but it can also reap havoc on your heart health.

In fact, research shows that bad cholesterol levels spike the most during this time of year, by nearly 20%.

"[We] notice around the holidays that there's a pretty consistent 3, 4, 5-pound weight gain as people start to eat a bit more around Thanksgiving and [drink] more alcohol," Dr. Norman Lepor, a cardiologist at Cedars Sinai in Beverly Hills, California, told Healthline.

The combination of splurging on unhealthy food and drinks and experiencing stress caused by the busyness of shopping, traveling, attending parties, and more may leave less time for mindfully eating and exercising. All this combined can have a negative impact on the heart.

"The three days that have the largest number of heart attacks in the calendar are December 25, 26, and Jan



1," said Lepor. How cholesterol levels can affect your health There are two kinds of cholesterol.

LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol, often called "bad" cholesterol, makes up most of the body's cholesterol. Having elevated LDL puts you at risk for heart disease and stroke.

Lepor explained it this way: Cholesterol travels in the arteries and veins, and gets into the blood vessel wall inducing the formation of plaque.

"I use the analogy of rust; it starts a process of rusting the arteries," said Lepor. "This process of rusting the

arteries pre-disposes you to the development of heart attacks if it's in the coronary arteries, or [if cholesterol is in] the carotid circulation, it predisposes you to stroke." In Western society, he said many people have too much LDL cholesterol. "We really consider someone who has an LDL cholesterol over 100 milligrams per deciliter as having an elevated cholesterol," said Lepor. HDL (high-density lipoprotein) cholesterol, which is considered "good" cholesterol, absorbs cholesterol in the blood and carries it back to the liver, which then eliminates it from the body. Having high

levels of HDL cholesterol can lower risk for heart disease and stroke.

Additionally, triglycerides, a type of fat in the blood used for energy, plays a part in heart health. The combination of high levels of triglycerides with low HDL and/or high LDL cholesterol levels can increase the risk of a heart attack.

"High triglycerides can lead to inflammation in the vessel walls, which makes it easier for plaque to build over time," Amy Pierce, a nurse practitioner and clinical lipid specialist at Norton Heart & Vascular Institute, told Healthline.

How lifestyle choices can help manage your cholesterol About 15 to 20% of cholesterol levels are affected by lifestyle habits like diet and exercise whereas 85% of cholesterol is made in the liver and is under genetic control.

"High cholesterol is predominantly caused by genetics. While diet and exercise are important and can assist in the treatment of many diseases.



# CWC: Six Indian players in ICC's team of the tournament



**DUBAI, NOV 20:** India may have lost the Cricket World Cup final to Australia, but six of their players feature in the team of the tournament selected by the International Cricket Council. In contrast, only two players of the Cup winning Australian team have found a place in the 12-man squad announced by the ICC on Monday. Two players from South Africa, and one each from Sri Lanka and New Zealand have been named in the side.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell and

spinner Adam Zampa are included after helping Australia to a record-extending sixth triumph.

KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah are among the Indian stars selected alongside leading run scorers Kohli and Sharma, as well as leading wicket-taker Mohammed Shami.

The selection panel consisted of Ian Bishop, Kass Naidoo, Shane Watson (Commentators), Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager, Cricket) and Sunil Vaidya (Journalist, Ahmedabad Mirror), an ICC media

release said.

**The team of the ICC Men's World Cup 2023 (in batting order) is:**

1. **Quinton de Kock (wk) (South Africa)** – 594 runs at 59.40
2. **Rohit Sharma (c) (India)** – 597 runs at 54.27
3. **Virat Kohli (India)** – 765 runs at 95.62
4. **Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand)** – 552 runs at 69
5. **KL Rahul (India)** – 452 runs at 75.33
6. **Glenn Maxwell (Australia)** – 400 runs at 66.66 and six

wickets at 55

7. **Ravindra Jadeja (India)** – 120 runs at 40 and 16 wickets at 24.87
8. **Jasprit Bumrah (India)** – 20 wickets at 18.65
9. **Dilshan Madushanka (Sri Lanka)** – 21 wickets at 25
10. **Adam Zampa (Australia)** – 23 wickets at 22.39
11. **Mohammed Shami (India)** – 24 wickets at 10.70
12. **12th player: Gerald Coetzee (South Africa)** – 20 wickets at 19.80.

## 275 players in fray for UKK season-2 player draft

**BHUBNESWAR, NOV 20:** The stakes are soaring high as the six Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) franchisees gear up for season 2 Player Draft here on November 21. The inaugural season ignited a sporting frenzy, thrusting it to claim the title of India's third-largest non-cricketing league in audience outreach.

Armed with Rs 3.90 Crore in the purse, the six franchisees will battle it out to secure a formidable lineup from the 275 players available in the pool.

The draft promises a fierce battleground with Maharashtra dominating the forefront with 18 players that emerged triumphant in the recently-concluded National Games held in Goa.

Promoted by Amit Burman in partnership with the Kho Kho Federation of India, UKK remains steadfast in its mission to reimagine the growth of indigenous sport with greater dynamism and engagement.

With a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 35 players, each franchise will have 35 draft rounds to complete their team combinations for the second edition. While 18 players have been retained by the teams; the remaining players have been put under four categories, A, B, C and D.

Category A players are priced at Rs 5 lakh, Category B will get Rs 3 lakh each and C and D are categorised at Rs 1.5 lakh and a lakh, respectively.

Franchisees will have the option to select players based on their respective draft sequence and purse capacity.

In all, 293 players are in the pool and have been divided into three segments.

The 18 players retained by the franchisees fall in the 'Power Players' category. Players who were part of Season 1, but have not been retained are known as Pole Players.

The new set of players recommended either by the franchisees or the Kho Kho Federation of India will be called Dream Players.



Defending champions Odisha Juggernauts have retained four players from the last season, while Chennai Quick Guns have three, including Player of the Tournament Ramji Kashyap and Young Player of the Tournament Madan.

Gujarat Giants showed faith in Defender of the Tournament Abhinandan Patil besides two others.

Mumbai Khiladis retained two players Gajanan Shengal and Sreejesh S from the previous season.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Warriors and Telugu Yoddhas have retained three players each.

The thrilling action from Season 2 will be broadcasted live on Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI)'s sports channels as well as livestream on Sony LIV.

## Australian greats reach 'the pinnacle' in a year for ages

**AHMEDABAD, NOV 20:** This Australian team are a phenomenal group of cricketers, excelling across formats and conditions, with this latest triumph underlining their status as one of the great teams of any era. Victory in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 comes six months after their ICC World Test Championship triumph, with the small matter of retaining the Ashes in between.

Add in the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup win that many of the same group of players featured in, and this crop of Australian cricketers have pulled themselves up to the level of all-time greats of the game.

This is a team that has it all – power at the top of the order, quality with the bat through the middle, all-rounder options, a brilliant seam attack, a hugely effective spinner. And let's not forget the strength of the fielding unit, which delivered in some style in Sunday's final to keep the pressure up on India.

It really says something when Pat Cummins describes this latest glory as the best and biggest yet, an ICC report said.

"I think it's the pinnacle of international cricket, winning a one-day World Cup. Especially over here in India, in front of a crowd like this," a beaming Australian captain said after his team's wonderful win in Ahmedabad.

"It's been a big year for everyone, but our cricket team has been here in India, the Ashes, World Test Championship and to top it off with this is just huge and these are the moments that you'll remember for the rest of your life," he said.

"You only get a shot at it every four years. Even if you have a ten-year career, you might only get two chances at it. Just the whole cricket world stops with this World Cup. So, it doesn't get any better," Cummins said. Strength and conditioning played a big role too, not least in the occasionally sweltering conditions that Australia were met with during the course of their campaign.

The wider staff did a superb job to ensure that the squad (one that was far from the youngest in the tournament and was carrying a few knocks) managed to peak at just the right moment.

There are few finer examples of that than Travis Head, who was backed to recover from a broken hand during the first half of the tournament before taking his place in the squad for the back end.

The physios and S&C guys worked their magic, Head buckled down, and the result was that Australia benefitted from a player hitting top form at just the right moment.

Back-to-back centuries and Player of the Match awards in both the semi-final and final – it doesn't get much better than that.

"Travis Head was phenomenal," Cummins enthused. "I think a lot of credit should also go to Andrew McDonald and George Bailey, the selectors, to take a punt.

## India retain pride in defeat after tournament to remember

**AHMEDABAD, NOV 20:** India coach Rahul Dravid said he is exceptionally proud of all of his players, singling out captain Rohit Sharma for particular praise, after the team's run to the final of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

India won ten straight matches to reach the final on home soil, but were beaten on the day by an Australian side who delivered in all facets of the game to run out winners by six wickets.

But India's head coach was still full of pride in his team's efforts across the whole campaign.

"We ran a really good campaign," Dravid said.

"I'm really proud of the boys, the way we played right through this tournament, the kind of cricket we played, just the quality of cricket that we played right through this tournament, I thought was quite exceptional. So really proud of the efforts, proud of everything that we gave," he said.

"Just at the last step in the final we probably didn't have our best game and credit to Australia. My congratulations to them. They played really well on the day and they were better than us," Dravid said.

Captain Rohit finished the campaign as the second-highest scorer, setting the tone at the top of the innings, an ICC report said.

And out on the field his captaincy was notably excellent, with Dravid saying that he couldn't have asked for any more from his skipper.

"I think he's been an exceptional leader," the coach said. "You know, Rohit's really led this team fantastically well, I think he's certainly got the dressing room. I just think he's given so much of his time and energy in the dressing room to the boys," Dravid said.

"He's always been available for any of our conversations, any of our meetings. Sometimes there's been a lot of planning, a lot of strategy that goes in. He's always committed to those things. He's given a lot of his personal time, energy into this campaign," Dravid said.

"And his batting as well, I thought it was fantastic, the way he set the tone for us. We knew that we wanted to play a certain way. We wanted to play a positive attacking brand of cricket. And he was very committed to doing that. And he wanted to lead by example. And I thought right through the tournament, he was quite superb in doing that. I just can't speak more highly of him as a person and as a leader," the coach said.

A disappointing slide with the bat saw India go from 80/2 after the powerplay in the final to 240 all out, struggling to unleash the shackles against an Australian bowling attack who kept things extremely tight during the middle overs.

Dravid said it wasn't necessarily a tactic for India to slow down the tempo to the extent that they did, pointing to Australia's excellence with the ball and the loss of wickets at key times as the reason that his team fell short of a target that would have been more competitive on the day.

"In hindsight, I think we fell about 30-40 runs short. It's not that we were looking to bat it out. I thought they bowled well through that period. I thought it just felt like the ball was stopping in the afternoon a little bit more than it did in the evening.

خوشی ہے آم کے لال علی کے تشریف لانے کی!

لا الہ الا اللہ

نور علی

محمد

اللہ

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بمقام مدرسہ فیضانِ بتول للبنات اجارہ پوئیہ ضلع بارہمولہ

26 نومبر صبح 10 بجے سے نماز عصر تک

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