



Ram Temple Consecration Marks Advent Of New Era: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

AYODHYA, JAN 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said the consecration of the idol of Ram Lalla at the magnificent Ram temple here marks the advent of a new era and called upon people to build the foundation of a strong, grand and divine India of the next 1,000 years.

Addressing a gathering after the consecration ceremony, Modi said this occasion is not of mere triumph but of humility. The Ram Temple will be witness to the dawn of a prosperous and developed India, he said.

"From this auspicious moment we have to lay the foundation of India for the next 1,000 years. We have to move



beyond the construction of the temple and resolve to build a strong, grand and divine India," the prime minister said, addressing a select gathering comprising leading saints, political leaders, industrialists, film stars, poets litterateurs and sportspersons.

Earlier, the prime minister took part in the consecration ceremony inside the sanctum sanctorum of the grand Ram temple made possible by a historic Supreme Court judgment in 2019 on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit.

The temple, built in the traditional



PM Modi Has Started A New Era, He Has Lord Ram's Blessings: Rajnath Singh

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 22: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol in the Ayodhya temple, and said he has the blessings of Lord Ram.

Singh described the event in Ayodhya as a "revolutionary work" and said those who witnessed this moment are fortunate.

The defence minister's remarks came after he visited a Shiv temple here and offered prayers to mark the Ayodhya Ram temple consecration ceremony.

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Ram Mandir Construction Technically Assisted By Atleast 4 National Institutes: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 21: Shri Ram Mandir construction has been technically assisted by atleast four leading National Institutes of CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) and DST (Department of Science & Technology) under Ministry of Science & Technology, in addition to certain inputs from other institutions like IITs as well as ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).

Disclosing this here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science &

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Special Prayers Performed At Several Temples In Kashmir To Mark Ram Temple Consecration

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: Special prayers were performed at several temples, including the Shankaracharya temple here, in Kashmir on Monday to mark the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The devotees from the minuscule Hindu population and the tourists visited the Shankaracharya temple on the Zabarwan hills here to participate in the special prayers organised for the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, officials said.

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NEWS BRIEF

6 injured after being attacked by wild Bear in Kulgam

KULGAM, JAN 22: A wild Bear put authorities on their toes on Monday in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. After injuring 4 persons, the wild boar that appeared in Kulgam market from nowhere was administered over 4 tranquilizers in a locked bathroom and yet the beast was not tamed till the filing of this report.

"We are flabbergasted over the appearance of a wild Bear at a

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Drug module busted in Sopore, trio arrested: Police

SOPORE, JAN 22: Three persons were arrested along with a huge consignment of drugs in north Kashmir's Sopore, police said on Monday.

Sub Divisional Police Officer Sopore, Dr Raies Ahmed Mir said that on 11 January a naka was established at railway crossing, following which a truck was interrupted.

He said that during checking 3600 capsules of Spasmoproxylon plus were recovered from a bag and during

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Illegal Hooking: KPDCL conducts over 30,000 inspection in two months

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: In the past two months, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has carried out more than 30,000 inspection drives across Kashmir division to check hooking on bare conductor lines and use of crude appliances.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

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J&K admin transfers IPS among 33 cops

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 22: Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered transfer of 33 police personnel including an IPS rank officer.

As per the government order issued by the Home Department Shivam Siddharth, IPS, awaiting adjustment



is posted as Superintendent of Police, North Jammu, vice Kuldeep Chand Handa, Ranjit Singh, Superintendent of Police, awaiting adjustment is posted as Dy. Commandant JKAP-8th Battalion, Azhar Bashir Baba, Additional Superintendent of Police Security, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Dy. Commandant of Police, APCR Kashmir, against an available vacancy, Arif Amin Shah, Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Dy.

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JKRTC Norms Go For A Toss, Pastes Pan Masala Advertisement On Buses

SMC Writes To Corporation, Seeks Action Against Advertising Agency, Removal Of Advertisement On Vehicles

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: In an open violation of government advertisement policy 2012 and COTPA-2003, Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) buses in Kashmir can be seen pasted with advertisement of pan masala while the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has shot a letter to the corporation, seeking immediate



action against the agency and removal of the advertisements on buses. The people stated that

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Ayodhya Tells a Story of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, One Brick at a Time

■ HT News Network

AYODHYA, JAN 22: From snow-capped peaks in Kashmir to sun-drenched beaches in Kanyakumari, the echoes of Ram's name have woven a tapestry of devotion across India. Now, this devotion is taking a tangible form in the shape of the historic Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The majestic temple stands tall as a symbol of India's unity and

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20% Of Valley's Water Supply 'Badly Affected' Due To Dry Spell, Says Jal Shakti Dept

Water Scarcity Issue In Plains Not In Higher Reaches: CE PHE

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: Amidst a prolonged dry spell in Kashmir, approximately 20 percent of the valley's potable water supply is "badly affected", the Jal Shakti Department said on Monday.

Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Kashmir, Er Sanjeev Malhotra, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the situation may deteriorate further if

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PROUD MOMENT; For Muradabad Kreeri



12 Year Old Boy from Muradabad Kreeri, ISHFAQ HAMID Receiving Prestigious Rashtrya Bal Puraskar Award from President Draupadi Murmu

Youth Convention held at Bandipora

Youth have to take a lead role in the fight against drug addiction: Shakeel Ul Rehman

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather on Monday emphasized that the youth have to take a lead role in the fight against drug addiction and assured every possible step to all such initiatives aiming to ensure a drug-free society. He was speaking at a Youth Convention organised by Youth Federation Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration, Bandipora, at Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat, Bandipora. The DC said that the menace of drug

addiction has shaken the foundations of the society, and it is the responsibility of every single individual to stand up against this menace. He further said the youth have to take a leading role as they are the real targets of this menace, and only they can take this fight heads on.

He also discussed various issues related to menace of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug peddling, abuse, besides, cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district.

The DC highlighted the need for coordinated efforts between Government agencies, healthcare providers, civil society organizations and com-



munity leaders to effectively address the drug problem.

He appreciated the Youth Federation for organising the program and assured every possible help from the government to eradicate the menace. He urged the youths to work at a localised level to deal with the menace.

The program was also attended by ACR Shabir Ahmad Wani and Tehsildar Bandipora.

On the occasion President Youth Federation Bandipora and Brand Ambassador Nasha Mukht Bharat Faisal Ali Dar unveiled the activity calendar of the year 2024 and said that the year will be celebrated as "Drug Free Bandipora". He said different

activities will be taken up under the banner, including sports activities, seminars, counseling sessions, and awareness programs besides other activities to engage the youth in productive activities.

He said the main thrust will be on Sports, culture, and tourism to engage the youth and sensitize them about the ill effects of drug abuse.

On the occasion, the participants also undertook a pledge resolving their efforts against drug menace and to make Bandipora a drug free district. He said the main thrust will be on Sports, culture, and tourism to engage the youth and sensitize them about the ill effects of drug abuse.

DC Ganderbal approves 348 cases under PM Vishwakarma scheme

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today approved 348 cases under PM Vishwakarma scheme during a meeting of District Level Committee held in the V.C Room of Mini Secretariat, here. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ganderbal, provided an updated list of 348 artisans who have been approved at the district level committee after thorough second-level verification. The DC undertook a thorough evaluation of the progress in artisan registration, verification processes in rural and urban areas, stakeholder capacity building, and the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for artisans. He emphasized the importance of concerted efforts and creating awareness among masses to maximize the scheme's impact on the socio-economic development of artisans. The DC said that the PM Vishwakarma scheme is poised to directly benefit thousands of artisans and craftsmen in the district, providing them with essential tools, training, and financial support for their socio-economic development.

DC Pulwama chairs District Level Road Safety Meeting

Stresses on Traffic Management and Public Safety

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 22: In a proactive move towards enhancing road safety, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Monday chaired a comprehensive District Level Road Safety Meeting at Administrative Complex Pulwama.

The meeting gathered insights from various stakeholders, emphasizing the critical importance of road safety in the region.

During the meeting, Executive Engineer, R&B provided a detailed overview of 15 identified black spots in the district, along with the progress made in their rectification. DC directed the concerned to expedite the rectification process and urged them to identify additional black



spots, submitting prompt action reports.

Addressing the issue of emergency response, Chief Medical Officer Pulwama informed the chair about the presence of 8 critical care ambulances in the district, with plans to add more. DC directed the CMO

to prioritize handling accident victims during the Golden hour, ensuring swift and comprehensive care.

Dr Basharat during the meeting stressed the collaborative need for public safety on roads. He highlighted issues such as traffic congestion, inadequate

signage, overspeeding, and non-compliance with regulations. Directing authorities to rectify these concerns, especially in accident-prone areas, he urged stakeholders to pool resources for safer road infrastructure and sustainable transportation.

Emphasizing the importance of public awareness campaigns, DC also focused on conducting regular road inspections and minimizing accidents through targeted measures.

In his closing remarks, DC reiterated the commitment to creating safer road environments, urging collective action from all involved parties.

The meeting was attended by ACR Pulwama, CPO Pulwama, CMO Pulwama, ASP Pulwama, Executive Engineers, Principals of Degree Colleges and others.

DC Kupwara chairs Entrepreneurship Awareness programme

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: One day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme was today organized by the MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in collaboration with the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom at Town Hall, Kupwara.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was the chief guest on the occasion.

A large number of women folk of the district participated in the event. The DC enjoined upon the departments to take on board the interested women folk so that they can avail benefits of various government schemes. She also encouraged the participants to come forward and take benefits of the schemes.

The camp was attended by Assistant Director Handicrafts, Kupwara and Assistant Director MSME and other members from the Departments.

The speakers highlighted various platforms and departmental initiatives for the information and Awareness of the participants.

DC Shopian reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB exam

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a meeting of Head of institutions, Centre Superintendents and concerned Officers at Conference Hall of DC Office Shopian here to finalize the preparations of OMR based written examination for the post of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) of JKSSB, scheduled to be held on 28th of January in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that around 4148 candidates are expected to appear in the written examination at 13 centers across the District. For the smooth, free and fair conduct of examinations 13 Magistrates, Observers, Superintendents each and 1 Dy. Superintendent have been deployed in the district. Deliberations in the meeting focused on roles, responsibilities and coordination of manpower, meticulous arrangement of basic facilities, especially heating arrangements keeping in view the cold conditions, elaborate security arrangements, logistics for transportation, safekeeping of examination materials and efficient traffic



management. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that fair and transparent exams are the top most priority of the district administration. The DC directed to ensure the installation of CCTVs in control rooms of the educational institutions of the district where these SSB exams are going to be conducted along with videography of exams. The meeting was apprised that the police department was

directed to ensure adequate deployment of Police personnel for escort of examination material and for proper frisking. Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal, IMGDC Shopian, Prof. Mohammad Shafiq; Chief Education Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Shabir; Administrative Officer, Tehsildars, Superintendents, Head of institutions and other Concerned were present.

اطلاع عام

سو موڈرائیور اور حاملہ خاتون کے درمیان صلح و سمجھوتہ

چند روز قبل گلشن بانو زوجہ ہلال احمد منڈو ساکن کراہ یار عنواوری ایک سو موڈرائیور کے گھرانے سے گھرا احمد دھاندلہ عبدالعزیز ساکن کراہ یار عنواوری چار ہاتھ دھاندلہ مسافروں کے ہمراہ گاڑی کے درمیان سیٹ پر بیٹھ گئی۔ اس دوران ڈرائیور نے اسی سیٹ پر ایک اور سواری کو بیٹھانے کی کوشش کی جس پر گلشن بانو نے اس خاتون نے یہ کہہ کر اعتراض کیا کہ درمیان سیٹ پر صرف تین مسافروں کو بیٹھانے کی اجازت ہوتی ہے۔ اس بات پر سو موڈرائیور نے اس دھمکے دیکر گاڑی سے نیچے اتارا۔ بعد میں یہ معاملہ ٹریفک حکام کی نوٹس میں آیا۔ چنانچہ سو موڈرائیور نے آج خاتون کے جاکر معافی مانگی اور آئندہ اپنی بھی مسافر کے ساتھ ایسا نہ کرنے کا وعدہ کیا۔ اس دوران دونوں نے صلح سمجھوتہ کیا۔ خاتون نے ڈرائیور کی دھمک سے اس کے خلاف اپنی شکایت واپس لے لی۔ لہذا دونوں فریقین نے یہ فیصلہ اختیار کیا کہ متعلقین سے گزارش کرتے ہیں کہ انہوں نے یہ معاملہ اقبام و تقسیم سے نبھایا ہے اور انہیں ایک دوسرے کے خلاف کوئی بھی شکایت نہیں ہے

گلشن بانو زوجہ ہلال احمد منڈو ساکن کراہ یار عنواوری

گلزار احمد دھاندلہ سو موڈرائیور ساکن کراہ یار عنواوری

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name and Parentage is Wrongly Mentioned on my Driving Licence Bearing License JK 1520170000015 as Faizan Zahoor Dar & Zahoor Ahmad Dar Instead of Faizan Zahoor & Zahoor Ahmad Dar. Now I am applying for its Correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He//She may contact with Concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.



Name....Faizan Zahoor
S/O Zahoor Ahmad Dar
R/O ...Sunbal Sonawari Bandipora

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my Brother GH QADIR LONE S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN LONE R/O KACHWAMUQAM has died on 21/11/2023... Now I am applying for his death certificate. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/she may file his /her objection in the BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....GH MOHI- UD- DIN LONE
S/OMOHAMMAD SULTAN LONE
B/O LATE GH QADIR LONE
R/O..... KACHWA MUQAM
Block...WAGOORA Distt....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost Number Plate of my vehicle (SWIFT DZIRE) bearing registration number JK05L 8973. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with ARTO SOPORE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name ..NISSAR AHMAD WAZA
S/O ...ABDUL AZIZ WAZA
R/O.....MOMOSA PATTAN
Distt.... BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuing of RBA Certificate in Tahsil Office Anantnag. If any Body Have any Objection He may if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with Tahsil Dar Anantnag within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Aakash Ahmad Sheikh
S/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh
R/O: Bul-Bul-Nowgam
District - Anantnag
Tehsil - Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost My RC of my vehicle (M.CAR) Bearing Registration No JK01AP-1503 from MALOORA To LALCHOWK Srinagar. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with RTO Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....Fayaz Ahmad Bhat
S/O Abdul Rahman Bat
R/OMaloora Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport at somewhere bearing number U2963853 Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NameMOHAMMAD OVAIS LONE
S/OMOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE
R/O...HARNOW KAWACHACK Distt....BARAMULLA

EDITORIAL

Escalating Wildlife Attacks Heighten Human-Animal Conflict

In recent months, the serene valleys of Kashmir have witnessed an alarming surge in wildlife attacks on unsuspecting residents, painting a grim picture of the escalating human-animal conflict in the region. The latest statistics reveal a disconcerting rise in injuries and fatalities across different districts, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate these incidents.

Data collected from various sources highlights a significant uptick in wildlife-related casualties, with a notable increase in incidents involving bears and leopards. Tragically, the death toll has climbed, registering a stark reminder of the inherent risks faced by communities living in close proximity to wildlife habitats. In Bandipora alone, a district hitherto untouched by such events, three fatalities have occurred in the past month, raising concerns among both residents and wildlife authorities.

The root cause of this surge lies in the expanding human footprint encroaching upon traditional wildlife habitats. Rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion, and deforestation have led to a shrinking environment for animals, forcing them to venture into populated areas in search of food and shelter. This clash between human and animal interests has intensified, resulting in an unsettling spike in confrontations.

While the immediate response often involves wildlife rescue and relocation efforts, a more sustainable approach demands a multi-pronged strategy.

Community awareness programs, educational initiatives, and the promotion of responsible waste management are pivotal in reducing human-animal conflicts. Additionally, the establishment of dedicated wildlife corridors and buffer zones can facilitate the coexistence of communities and wildlife, mitigating the risk of confrontations.

As Kashmir grapple with this growing crisis, it is imperative for authorities to address the root causes and work collaboratively with communities to strike a delicate balance between human development and wildlife conservation.

Failure to do so not only jeopardizes the safety of residents but also threatens the delicate ecosystems that make Kashmir a haven for diverse flora and fauna.

Bytes of Diplomacy: Navigating the New Age



■ Faheem ul Islam

The term "digital diplomacy" refers to a type of public diplomacy that involves communicating with the foreign public through digital technologies and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Weibo, usually at no cost. The idea of digital diplomacy, focusing on the use of digital media in diplomacy and how nations use these tools to pursue their foreign policies, as well as the opportunities and challenges these media present for diplomatic activities. It makes the case that nations must be able to afford to be included in this era of digital diplomacy because they stand to gain greatly from these new diplomatic trends, but it does not replace traditional face-to-face diplomacy. Internet operations in general and digital diplomacy in particular can greatly help in projecting a state's foreign policy stances to domestic and foreign audiences. Traditional and digital diplomacy coexist and complement one another rather than compete with one another. Crabb (1972) stated, "Foreign policy comprises national objectives and the means to achieve them.

Diplomacy, often called the "engine room" of international relations, involves states using techniques to articulate their international strategy and coordinate efforts to influence foreign governments. It aims to preserve peace, develop goodwill, and ensure cooperation or neutrality through dialogue, negotiations, and other non-violent means. Digital diplomacy, as highlighted by Manor and Segev, focuses on the use of social media platforms by countries to achieve foreign policy goals and manage their global image. Operating at the foreign ministry and embassy levels, it tailors messages to local audiences, considering history, culture, and values. Lewis defines digital diplomacy as diplomats using digital communication tools, while Potter and Hanson emphasize diplomatic practices through digital and networked technologies.

The eight policy goals for digital diplomacy include Knowledge Management, Public Diplomacy, Information Management, Consular Communications, Disaster Response, Internet Freedom, External Resources, and Policy Planning. These goals leverage digital tools for effective communication, crisis response, and the advancement of national interests on the global stage.

Evolution Of Digital Diplomacy

Since Lord Palmerston's initial concerns about the telegraph in the 1860s, subsequent technological advancements like the telephone, fax machines, and the internet have not brought about the end of diplomacy. Harold Nicolson criticized the telephone in the 1960s, emphasizing its potential risks in transmitting information. Ritto highlighted the significance of the telephone, emphasizing its role in improving international relations by facilitating faster communication between nations. The fax system, emerging after 1980, revolutionized diplomatic communication by enabling swift transfer of documents and photos across borders. The internet, according to Friedman, has been a crucial force in global connectivity, leveling the playing field and facilitating direct business and information access worldwide. Abbasov noted the gradual shift from telegrams to modern communication tools, indicating a move towards virtual diplomacy. Present-day applications, prioritizing social networking and multimedia content, are accelerating the shift from traditional communication methods to internet-based platforms. Grant emphasized the internet's impact on foreign policy, reshaping the global flow of information. In an increasingly

connected world, diplomacy is evolving to incorporate technology, with governments using it as a tool for communication, information gathering, and values promotion. Digital diplomacy aims to validate information, provide quick responses, and counter misinformation, adapting to the fast-paced changes in communication styles and technology.

Digital Diplomacy Across the world

In the dynamic landscape of the twenty-first century, nations are leveraging digital platforms such as websites, blogs, and various social media channels to advance their diplomatic efforts. Twitter, in particular, has undergone a significant transformation in foreign policy, providing unfiltered information and fostering global participation across political affiliations and nationalities, as noted by Schwarzenbach (2015). The increasing prevalence of cellphones in developing nations has further democratized the exchange of information, empowering citizens and civil society to hold governments accountable for political actions and statements.

The U.S. Department of State has positioned itself at the forefront of digital diplomacy, embracing 21st Century Statecraft to engage with an expanding international audience. This approach recognizes the impact of new, disruptive forces shaping international relations and calls for a reevaluation of diplomatic agendas. Statecraft in the twenty-first century involves broadening perspectives, introducing new instruments, and adapting principles, utilizing innovation as a valuable resource. The U.S. State Department established the Office of Diplomacy in 2002, pioneering eDiplomacy, and later evolving into the Office of eDiplomacy. With over 150 full-time social media workers across 25 offices, this initiative aims to enhance knowledge sharing and communication, addressing obstacles that led to the 9/11 attacks. Internally, the State Department maintains Diplopedia, a Wikipedia resource with over 14,000 entries.

Other nations have also embraced e-diplomacy. The UK FCO's Office of Digital Diplomacy, Sweden, Poland, Japan, Germany, Israel, Russia, and France are actively using digital tools to shape diplomatic discourse. The extensive use of Twitter by over 4,100 embassies and ambassadors highlights the global impact of digital diplomacy. India, despite limited resources, has emerged as a digital innovation leader in Asia, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraging ambassadors to stay ahead in digital diplomacy and embrace change (Lewis, 2014).

Benefits of digital diplomacy

In the contemporary landscape, digital diplomacy has become a pivotal component of foreign policy, with states and non-state actors vying for influence in the virtual arena inhabited by over 3 billion people, most of whom access the internet through mobile devices. Executed effectively, digital diplomacy complements traditional methods, assisting nations in achieving foreign policy objectives, expanding international influence, and reaching audiences who may not engage with traditional embassies (Lowy Interpreter, 2015). Fisher (2013) highlights the rapid communication benefits of social media, providing an instantaneous connection with people across borders. Social media platforms offer interactive spaces, facilitating increased engagement and contributing to diplomatic objectives. The cost-effectiveness and ease of use make social media appealing for embassies facing budget constraints, enabling dynamic content distribution, including videos, images, and links. Digital technologies play a crucial role in various aspects of public diplomacy, such as communication during emergencies, consular operations, and information processing. While financial investments can yield significant returns, the focus is often on cost-cutting. Permyakova (2012) emphasizes the human element's importance, stressing the need for workers to acquire new skills, engage with online audiences, process electronic data, and produce relevant information. Digital diplomacy differs from traditional diplomacy but, when used wisely, can efficiently and

economically enhance a state's foreign policy efforts. It does not replace traditional diplomacy but complements and strengthens it, serving as an essential element in realizing foreign policy goals. The direct engagement with the public and involvement of non-state actors drive countries to use social media and digital diplomacy to maintain legitimacy and foster relationships in a rapidly changing world (Deos 2015).

Risks of Digital Diplomacy

This is not to say that criticism of digital diplomacy doesn't exist. Social media's role in politics has been criticized for being risky and ineffectual. Information about breaking international crises that used to take hours or days for government officials and the media to disseminate is now being relayed in real-time to the world via radio, television, and the Internet, according to Solomon (2000), President of the United States Institute of Peace and a former US Foreign Service officer. Ironically, however, rapid information sharing about nearby and distant events is turning out to be more of a liability for policymakers than a benefit. Put differently, there are dangers associated with digital diplomacy, such as data leaks, hacking, and user anonymity. An outstanding illustration of information leakage is the WikiLeaks episode. "On November 28, 2010, pandemonium spread among foreign ministries worldwide as WikiLeaks began publishing about 250,000 diplomatic cables sent between US missions worldwide and the State Department in Washington," according to Manor (2015a). US diplomats' candid evaluations of world leaders, governments, and their host nations were included in these cables." Another risk that has existed since the creation of the Internet is hacking.

The internet's "culture of anonymity" presents another difficulty for digital diplomacy since anyone can assume any identity, use any address, or even target anyone (Yakovenko, 2012). Anyone can mimic, pose as someone else, or try to get into trouble. It's interesting to note that mistakes are occasionally made by proponents and practitioners of digital diplomacy. For instance, Permyakova (2012) reports that the Swedish foreign minister, Carl Bildt, tweeted something extremely politically incorrect the night before the 2012 World Economic Forum in Davos, drawing a lot of criticism from its microblog followers: "Leaving Stockholm and heading for Davos," he tweeted. Anticipating tonight's World Food Program dinner. The problem of world hunger is urgent! Davos. Tweeters criticized the minister right away, labeling his tweet as a "fail." You would occur that a lavish dinner and hunger do not mix well. Building on various insights from practice approaches, we believe that further study of the digital transformation of diplomacy holds great potential for theoretical, methodological, and empirical advances.

In conclusion, the Internet, particularly through social media, has ushered in a transformative era in global diplomacy. Twenty-first-century statecraft, or digital diplomacy, as defined by Ross (2011), complements traditional foreign policy tools with innovative instruments, leveraging the networks and technologies of our interconnected world. Diplomats utilizing social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter have gained direct access to citizens both within and outside their nations, enabling more effective communication and the accomplishment of diplomatic goals without traditional filters. The landscape of traditional diplomacy has evolved, with foreign affairs ministries adapting their procedures and organizational frameworks to the information and communication technology revolution. While digital diplomacy presents opportunities for nations to address social issues and connect with global audiences, it also comes with challenges, including the risk of overreliance on social media. Nevertheless, the benefits of digital diplomacy outweigh the difficulties.

Faheem ul islam hails from Achan pulwama and is the masters student of international relations at Aligarh Muslim university

Why Every Soul Will Taste Death?



■ By Mool Raj

Life is short, and we are just tiny parts of a much bigger picture. In the crowded hospital corridors where sounds echo abrasively, where hope and sadness meet, life unfolds with its blend of happy and sad moments. This is not just a story of what happened but a look at how we deal with someone's death and how we usually forget this most certain part of life, which is Death. It all started with an elderly person, someone dealing with many health issues. She got

admitted to the hospital, a place where every step is filled both with optimism and negativity. The patient's body was fragile, dealing with multiple problems, each demanding enormous attention. Though the doctors were behaving as careful performers for treating one issue while being guarded because fixing one thing was prone to worsen another ailment. For instance, giving antibiotics for a chest infection led to diarrhoea and decline in kidney function, a side effect nobody wanted. For the medics, it was literally walking on a tightrope, trying to find the right balance. Then, one evening, things took an ugly turn. The elderly patient, while fighting her deteriorating health, took her last breath. It was a quiet peaceful moment, like the final note of a swan song. The ward was filled with the weight of woe, mixed with thoughts and questions. The dear and near ones began suggesting ways things could have been

done, wondering if another hospital and team of docs might have proven finer to save her. The feeling of "this could have been done differently" floated around. The next day, during the condolence meet, something dreadful and saddening happened. A well-read person, in his early sixties, while discussing various life issues at the funeral, suddenly felt dizzy. He was moved out of the room.

Unconscious, he was immediately rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Cause, a massive heart attack! The shocking part was that he was suffering from no serious health issues. It took only 15 minutes for him to expire, and there was no chance to save him. The second death left no space for arguments, ifs and buts — not even a chance to discuss what they call the 'golden hour' in cardiology, those critical 60 minutes following the onset of cardiac arrest

symptoms. As everyone tried to process this unexpected tragic loss, a simple truth stood out starkly—Death is inevitable... 'Every soul will taste death'. It doesn't wait for any 'right' time; it has its own calendar that doesn't alter a sec. Every one of us has to face it. However, we tend to forget this fundamental truth. Easily. Every day. These moments of loss and reflection teach us to stop and think. Life is brief, and death is a part of it. Instead of getting lost in the complexities of our daily lives, let's take a moment to appreciate the short time we have. The moot point is as to why do we humans forget the one thing that is certain: death? Life is surely a fleeting moment poised between our birth and our death, and we simply fail to remember it. We overlook the impermanence of life, the fragility it carries and the unpredictable twists it takes in a jiffy. We often get lost in our plans, and the idea that things will stay

the same forever. The reality is that each of us is just a traveller on the same journey, and we will all meet the end. The destination is dust. Eventually. Anytime. Life is short, and we are just tiny parts of a much bigger picture. Life is even too short to be small. To act small, to live vain. As such, being kind and compassionate becomes even more important when we acknowledge the briefness of our own voyage here on this planet. So, in the face of fixed and definite mortality, humility becomes crucial. To do well for others, and let go of the idea that "I" am the centre of everything. It's in this humility, recognizing life's shortness that we discover the true meaning of our collective course—a passage where, in the end, only the echoes of kindness and compassion remain.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

DC Doda joins Grand celebration of Ram Mandir Ayodhya Pran Pratishtha at Radhey Shyam Temple

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh along with SSP Abdul Qayoom, and ADC Ravi Kumar Bharti graced the vibrant celebration of the Ram Mandir Ayodhya Pran Pratishtha here at Radhey Shyam Mandir Temple.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of thousands of devotees from all parts of the Doda town.

Similar celebration was organised at all temples across the Doda town, where thousands of enthusiastic devotees from different parts of the district paid their obeisance to the Lord Shri Rama.

The temple premises were adorned with religious fervor as attendees,



led by Mandir Committee President Mohinder Singh Rana, Sanatan Dharam Sabha's Gajay Singh Rana, and Ved Prakash Gupta, Chairman of Doda, came together for this auspicious occasion. The entire Radhey Shyam Mandir was beautifully decorated, creating a divine ambience.

Notably, a large screen was installed within the temple, broadcasting the

live ceremony of Ayodhya Shri Ram's Pran Pratishtha. Devotees were captivated as they witnessed the sacred moment, feeling a spiritual connection with the historic event.

In addition to the religious ceremonies, a Langar Bhandara was organized within the temple premises, exemplifying the spirit of community service. Devotees and attend-

ees were treated to a hearty meal, fostering a sense of unity and brotherhood.

The grand celebration included varied rituals and ceremonies, symbolizing the unity and devotion of the community. The presence of DC Doda, Harvinder Singh, added a significant touch to the event, emphasizing the importance of cultural and religious harmony in the region.

President of the Mandir Committee, Mohinder Singh Rana, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the district administration and community. Sanatan Dharam Sabha's Gajay Singh Rana and Chairman Ved Prakash Gupta echoed similar sentiments, acknowledging the collective effort that went into making the celebration a memorable one.

Commissioner Secretary inaugurates IIT Jammu's Leadership Bootcamp Vidyabhira'ma'24

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu marked a historic milestone with successful commencement of its inaugural Leadership Bootcamp, Vidyabhira'ma'24, here today.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, who inaugurated the event, addressed the participants and expressed his views on the subject. He hoped that the Bootcamp will further add to the knowledge of the participants regarding different aspects of leadership.

The event witnessed informative lectures by eminent speakers, including Dr. Barnali Chaudhary, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu, Dr. Amitash Ojha,



Assistant Professor, IIT Jammu, Dr. Javed Mohammad Iqbal, Assistant Professor, University of Ladakh, and Praveen Bangera Founder, XVERSE Limited.

Attended by 41 participants from renowned institutes of Jammu including GGM Science College, J&K College of BBA, SMVDU

focus on "Design Thinking and Sustainability."

Premveer Singh, final year student at IIT Jammu and the convener of the Bootcamp, expressed his aspirations to observe this initiative as an annual event. Professor Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu, proposed expansion of the Bootcamp to a more extensive 3-5 day format, thus concluding this impactful leadership program on a promising note. Attended by 41 participants from renowned institutes of Jammu including GGM Science College, J&K College of BBA, SMVDU Katra, MIET Jammu, and IIT Jammu itself, among others, this one-day bootcamp featured insightful guest talks, followed by sessions addressing 10 problem statements related to J&K challenges.

The participants suggested several innovative solutions with a dedicated

Empowering Women: SBI, RSETI organise 30-Day Tailoring course at Bhalesa

■ HT News Network

DODA JANUARY 22: In a commendable initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) and Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Doda have collaborated to launch a 30-day Tailoring course for women in the remote and inaccessible village of Dhadkai-B of Bhalesa Block.

The initiative, financially supported by NABARD, aims to empower women of one of the remotest villages in the region by imparting them Skill training. The skill development program was inaugurated by Tariq Parvez Qazi, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), signifying the official commencement of the 30-day Women's Tailor batch. The event was graced by the presence of Director RSETI Doda, Rajesh Kumar, and the local Sarpanch, Lateef. The registration for the program saw enthusiastic participation, with 35 applicants, including specially-abled women who are deaf and mute. Notably, this initiative aligns with the Rural Self Employment Training Institute's objective of fostering self-employment and skill development in rural areas. By extending its reach to a village as remote as Dhadkai-B, the program exemplifies the commitment to inclusivity, aiming to empower women, including those with special needs, through vocational training and financial support. Notably, this initiative aligns with the Rural Self Employment Training Institute's objective of fostering self-employment and skill development in rural areas. By extending its reach to a village as remote as Dhadkai-B, the program exemplifies the commitment to inclusivity, aiming to empower women.

Kishtwar Town gets Fire Hydrant System 10 Fire Hydrants installed at crucial locations

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 22: In a significant stride towards enhancing fire-fighting capabilities in the congested town of Kishtwar district, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav and SSP Khalil Ahmed Poswal inaugurated the Fire Hydrant system at 10 crucial points in the town area, today. The inauguration ceremony marked a pivotal moment in bolstering the town's preparedness for fire emergencies.

The newly inaugurated Fire Hydrant system is designed to provide a reliable and efficient water supply to combat fire incidents swiftly, given the congested nature of the town, where Fire Extinguishing Vehicles face challenges in timely and effective responses. This initiative reflects the



administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents in Kishtwar town.

During the inauguration, DC Kishtwar expressed optimism about the positive impact of the Fire Hydrant system in mitigating fire-related risks. The strategic placement of the system in key locations within the town aims to minimize response time during emergencies, thereby safeguarding both lives and property. There are a total of 10 designated fire hydrants laid in the town.

DC Kishtwar also emphasized the use of such hydrants in and around

town areas, as many buildings have suffered losses in the past.

DC Kishtwar disclosed that "Aapda Mitras" from local volunteers in the town area shall be instrumental in tackling emergent situations as part of the rapid response system, in addition to the Fire tender and emergency system. DC Kishtwar also urged for proposed training through mock drills for the volunteers in the coming days.

He appealed to locals to be a responsible citizen and co-operate and provide a conducive environment to the emergency teams during emergency situations.

DC Kishtwar stated that more hydrants will be installed in the remaining parts of the town if required.

The occasion witnessed the presence of AD Fire Services Amit Shivgotra, Tehsildar Kishtwar, Muneeb Umar, XEN Jal Shakti Sunil Sharma, prominent personalities, besides officials from Fire Tenders and team members of Red Cross Kishtwar.

The event also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about fire safety measures and the importance of community involvement in emergency preparedness.

As the Fire Hydrant system became operational, DC Kishtwar emphasized the administration's commitment to ongoing efforts in enhancing civic infrastructure and creating a safer and more resilient environment for the residents of Kishtwar town.

Road Safety campaign MVD spreads awareness among commercial other drivers at Ghat-Doda

■ HT News Network



DODA JANUARY 22: Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Doda under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the supervision of ARTO, Rajesh Gupta, conducted a road safety measures event at Ghat Road.

The primary objective was to enhance awareness among commercial drivers and other road users regarding safety while driving. As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month, a special enforcement cum awareness program took place on the 8th day of the month at Ghat Road. The focus was on educating bike riders about the imperative need for wearing helmets, emphasizing the importance for both the rider and the pillion rider. Additionally, participants were enlightened about ensuring the safety of pedestrians on the road. The program was conducted under the supervision of ARTO Doda and other officials from the Motor Vehicle Department, emphasizing the community's commitment to promoting road safety and preventing accidents.

LDB Jammu interacts with MAITRI workers invited for R-Day Parade at New Delhi

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: An interactive session with special invitees of Rashtriya Gokul Mission for Republic Day Celebrations 2024 was organised today in the office of Chief Executive Officer, Livestock Development Board Jammu. The event was hosted under the supervision of Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Director, Animal Husbandry Department Jammu. Fifteen numbers of MAITRI workers have been nominated who will visit New Delhi from 23rd Jan to 27th Jan 2024 to participate in Republic Day Parade 2024. Dr. Raman Kumar Gupta, CEO, LDB Jammu and Dr. Naveen Kumar, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and the Nodal Person who would accompany the MAITRI candidates to New Delhi, interacted with them. The MAITRI candidates were also given the opportunity to share their experience for being nominated as special invitees for RD parade 2024 participation. The candidates expressed their gratitude and thanked Govt. of India and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying for giving this opportunity to them.

Pranprtishta celebration Chairman DDC Doda pays obeisance at Bhaderwah Temples

■ HT News Network

DODA JANUARY 22: Chairman District Development Council Doda Dhananther Singh today paid obeisance at various temples in Bhaderwah to join devotees on the auspicious occasion of Pranprtishta celebration at Ayodhya Ram Temple.

During the visit, the DDC Chairman made a special stop at the renowned Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Gupt Ganga, ancient Vasuki Naag temple and Hanuman Mandir at famous hill station Nalhi. His presence at these sacred sites underscored the importance of the day, marking the celebration of Pranprtishta. Expressing his reverence for the occasion, he extended heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the people on this historic day.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra facilitates effective execution of Govt Schemes in Rajouri District

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 22: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues its odyssey across Rajouri District ensuring effective execution of government programs and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Central to this endeavor is an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van, a dynamic mobile platform designed to effectively communicate and create awareness about the diverse initiatives undertaken as part of the Yatra. The van plays a pivotal role in engaging with local communities, imparting crucial



knowledge, and empowering residents to avail themselves of the benefits offered by government schemes. Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Godhar, Dhangri Lower, Baljarallan, Argi, Kakora Upper, Kakora Lower, Pallulian and Tunditrar of blocks Dhangri and Pangrain of Rajouri district.

This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the district and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives are felt at the grassroots level. The impact of the Yatra is evident in enhanced access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, contributing to the overall progress of Rajouri District. Meticulously planned and executed, this initiative aligns with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community. The VBSY has recorded notable success in the implementation of various government schemes in Rajouri District. These schemes, crafted to elevate living,

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra traverses across Banihal Town on 54th day

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 22: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, led by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary in Ramban, is gaining momentum. With a remarkable 98,000 participants, including 37,500 women, this 54-day journey aims to boost the implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes in the district by year-end. Today, the Yatra reached Panchayats in Sumber Upper A, Dheeda, and Ward No-03 Nagbal in Banihal town, highlighting its commitment to inclusivity. Covering the entire district over the past 54 days, the Yatra has become a powerful platform to inform

people about various government schemes. 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' allowed beneficiaries to share heart-touching stories of positive change in their lives after benefiting from different Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Under the Deputy Commissioner's guidance, all departments are actively promoting and extending the benefits of their respective schemes. The Yatra also celebrated Ramban District's diverse heritage through cultural programs, enriching its cultural tapestry. The collective Viksit Bharat Sankalp Pledge-taking ceremony at the heart of the Yatra unified the community, symbolizing shared aspirations. Initiatives like PMAY-G, PMAY-U, PM-JAY Ayushman Card.

Farmers imparted expertise in sustainable development through forestry technologies at Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Samba

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 22: ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, with the courtesy of CAMPA Extension, organized a one day training programme on sustainable development through forestry technologies for progressive farmers at Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Samba. Dr. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-G, Head of Division Extension and Training Coordinator/Coordinator, ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla said that the objective of this training program is to increase productivity and generate sustainable income. The aim is to disseminate information on forestry technologies to stakeholders, progressive farm-



ers so that they can pass on the knowledge to others as master trainers. Apart from this, he said that the institute has developed models for growing medicinal plants as intercropping with horticultural plants. The farmers can use the space between the

horticulture crops to grow medicinal plants for additional income. He also threw light on the suitable medicinal plants that can be grown in the region. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director, ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, highlighted the

importance of modern nursery and plantation techniques to increase productivity. Apart from this, he informed about five new high quality varieties of Kadu, Nihani, Vanakkari medicinal plants developed by the institute. He also gave information on the status, use and conservation of herbs of the Himalayan region and said that there was great potential for commercial cultivation of high value medicinal plants in the region and also making it a sustainable income generating activity. The only way to protect and conserve these valuable medicinal plants is to cultivate them. He encouraged farmers to go for organic farming as organic farming is good for the environment and also in respect of economic gains.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri interacts with media persons

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 22: To foster corporation with the media, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired an interactive session with the local media persons.

During the engaging discussion, media persons commended the District Administration for its proactive measures to address public grievances and enhance the overall development of the district.

The discussion focused on the crucial role played by media persons in generating widespread awareness about online services and the national campaign for a "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Addiction-free India).

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the importance of media cooperation in highlighting people's concerns and expressed gratitude for the efforts of the journalists in shedding light on both developmental



initiatives and public issues.

Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to ensuring the comprehensive progress of the region. He outlined the dedication of the administration to foster a responsive, transparent, and accountable system.

Acknowledging the journalists of Rajouri for their impartial and positive journalism, he encouraged them to continue working with dedication and without bias, urging

them to fearlessly present public issues for swift resolution by the administration.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat urged media professionals to actively disseminate information about government schemes among the public, facilitating the accessibility of benefits to every individual. Recognizing the power of well-researched reporting, he appealed to media persons to provide fact-based reports, especially those pertaining to public interest, contributing to an

informed and engaged citizenry.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, highlighted the significance of leveraging media platforms to educate the masses about the collective effort required to make the district free from the scourge of drug addiction.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the collaborative role media plays in the development process and called for sustained cooperation in disseminating accurate information and advocating for the well-being of the community. The session concluded with a shared commitment to fostering a robust partnership between the District Administration and the media for the betterment of the region.

Among the others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria; District Information Officer, Auqil Nuvaid and media persons attended the meeting.

DM Jammu reviews arrangements for JKSSB exam

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today convened a meeting of concerned officers here in Teachers' Bhawan to review the arrangements for OMR based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance) of J&K Service Selection Board, scheduled to be held on Jan 28, 2024 in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal, Regional Transport Officer, Chief Education Officer JK Padha, Member JKSSB Atul Kumar and other concerned.

The DM was briefed by ADM with respect to the status of arrangements at 87 examination centres setup across the district for 33793 candidates. The Centre Superintendents, Observers, Magistrates for each centre have been nominated and briefed with respect to their roles and responsibilities.

The meeting discussed various aspects of the examination process, such as security arrangements, logistics for transportation, safekeeping of examination material and efficient traffic management, role and responsibilities of manpower, the arrange-



ment for basic facilities, pre and post exam procedures.

The DM stressed that free, fair and transparent exams are the top most priority of the District Administration and any laxity in following SOPs of conduct of examination will be dealt with strictly.

He emphasized the importance of time, urging all officers and staff to strictly adhere to the timeline. Additionally, he stressed the need for thorough frisking of both male and female candidates and their belongings to ensure no candidate enters the exam center without proper screening.

The DM directed the concerned officers to facilitate the candidates and make the process smooth and seamless.

Udhampur commences training under PM Vishwakarma scheme



■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 22: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organized a five day long training program on cutting, tailoring and barberry skills here today marking the commencement of the first batch of training under the PM Vishwakarma scheme in Jammu division.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, graced the event as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the training program.

The ceremony was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Joint Director MSME G. Velladurai, GM DIC Pankaj Anand, Chairman, GK Educational trust, Gourav Khajuria and other notable officers, besides representatives of GK Trust.

In her address, the DC congratulated GK Educational Trust for initiating this training program under the Vishwakarma scheme. She engaged with the trainees, emphasizing the scheme's objectives and encouraging them to actively participate in the program. DC assured full cooperation from the administration for the socio-economic uplift of the participants, urging them to seize the opportunity.

The DC highlighted the significance of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, noting it as a pivotal step towards improving the lives of traditional artisans and craftspeople. The scheme aims to provide skill upgradation, honing the skills of artisans and offering relevant training opportunities to enhance their capabilities.

Illegal Narghile use in Nagrota prompts action by Administration

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Officials in Nagrota have acted swiftly against unauthorised possession and consumption of Narghile (Hookah) in two well-known establishments in the area.

The action followed multiple complaints and tip off from the reliable sources, leading to an immediate response from the concerned authorities.

Tehsildar Sumit Kohli, accompanied by Naib Tehsildar and a police team led by SHO Nagrota, conducted a late evening visit to the premises on January 21, 2024. The inspection revealed that Narghile (Hookah) was being kept without proper permission, violating Section 133 Sub-section (b) of the CrPC.

Considering the health risks associated with the unauthorized use of Narghile (Hookah), four units – two from one establishment and two from another – were seized on the spot. The seized items were handed over to SHO Nagrota for further action.

The establishments involved were also directed to provide an explanation for why legal action should not be taken against them for the violation.

SDM Jammu North seizes vehicles involved in illegal mining

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Sub Divisional Magistrate Jammu North, Nitish Rajora today conducted impromptu inspections that uncovered multiple instances of unauthorised mining activities involving heavy machinery. At Kangrail, 2 earth movers (JCB) and 1 dumper were seized for engaging in mining activities without the requisite permissions.

A similar situation unfolded in Jandyal, where 1 Earth Mover was seized.

Additionally, 1 dumper each was confiscated at Ghaink and Bhalwal for indulging in unauthorised transportation of minor minerals, lacking valid permissions.

NIFT Srinagar celebrates foundation Day, felicitates artisans for their exemplary contribution

■ HT News Network

Srinagar Jan 22: : The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar on Monday commemorated its foundation day (pan-India level) by organising a series of the events. As part of the celebratory activities, the institute honored three exemplary artisans, each contributing significantly to the arts and crafts of the region.

One of the artisans felicitated was Abdul Majeed Dar, a tweed weaver with exceptional abilities, hailing from the village of Bandipora in North Kashmir. The felicitation was the acknowledgment of a Divyang (Deaf & Dumb) tweed weaver with three decades of experience, illustrating that skill knows no boundaries.

Despite being deaf and dumb, Majeed's weaving skills have thrived for three decades, making him a beacon for the endangered art of tweed weaving in the region. The event also spotlighted Iqbal Hussain Wani, a seasoned craftsman specializing in Papermachie from the renowned hub, Zadibal area of Srinagar. Iqbal's expertise lies in Naqashi (painting) of papermachie items, a skill he has perfected over 25 years, ensuring the preservation of this traditional craft. Another artisan, Abdul Gaffar Sheikh, engaged in carpet weaving, brought pride to Wailo Kralpora Tangmarg in Baramulla district. With 40 years of dedication, Abdul Gaffar continues the legacy of high-quality carpet weaving, standing firm against the trend where many have shifted to alternative livelihoods.

37th Convocation of IGNOU to be organised in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar January 22: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is going to conduct its 37 th Convocation on 20 th February 2024. The main venue of the convocation is IGNOU HQs at New Delhi.

The programme will be telecast live on Gyan Darshan, Swayam Prabha, Doordarshan, webcast through IGNOU website and through social media platforms of the University. The 37 th Convocation function will also be organized in Srinagar by the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar for the Learners of the Kashmir region and the UT of Ladakh. All the Learners who have completed their programme in the Term End Examination December 2022 and June 2023 are eligible to apply for receiving the degree during the Convocation function. Online registration and remitting the requisite fee has started and the portal will remain open till 10 th February, 2024. The eligible students who have not paid the requisite registration fee of Rs. 600/- per certificate online for the 37th Convocation, so far, may pay the requisite fee through <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/>. Dr. Shah Nawaz also informed that the admission for the January 2024 admission cycle has started and the last date of fresh admission for all the programmes offered in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online (OL) mode is 31 st January 2024. The prospective students can refer to the e-prospectus 2024 of IGNOU for the complete details regarding all the programmes. The e-Prospectus is available on the website of IGNOU (www.ignou.edu).

DHEW organises special gram sabha at Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 22: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), in collaboration with One Stop Centre (OSC) Udhampur, organised a pledge ceremony and a special gram sabha at the conference hall of DPO Poshan Udhampur today.

The pledge ceremony aimed to emphasise the education of the girl child and to ensure that girls are born, loved and nurtured to become equal and empowered citizens of the



country. Further, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme was organised in different panchayats of District Udhampur, namely Kashirah, Upper Kawa, Sundrani and Muttal, where Mamta Kits were distributed to the newborn babies and the locals were made aware of the various women-centric schemes

implemented by the government.

All these programmes were organised with a focus on Corporate Social Responsibility and child protection and highlighted the importance of skill development among girls. The participants were requested to spread the message of BBBP. The special sabha drew attention to saving, protecting, nurturing, and educating the girl child by ensuring the enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act in the district.

Former HC Judge Justice Muzaffar Hussain bereaved

Judges, lawyers, others offer condolences

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: : Raja Begum, the mother of the former Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and the former Chairperson of the Fee Fixation Committee, Justice Muzaffar Hussain Attar, passed away after a brief illness in Srinagar.

Renowned legal experts, judges and employees of the judiciary, religious and social personalities have expressed their condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads. The deceased was suffering from minor ailments for some time, but her condition suddenly deteriorated two days ago. She was admitted to the hospital on January 21, where she breathed her last. As soon as the news of her death was received, a large number of her loved ones and relatives and leading personalities gathered at her Naz Colony Pantha Chowk residence to participate in the funeral. A large number of people attended the funeral. On this occasion, the local religious scholar, after throwing a brief light on the philosophy of life and death, lead the funeral prayer (Jinazah) of the deceased.

JKOPA Elects New Office Bearers for 2024-2026 Term

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Offset Printers' Association (JKOPA) conducted its 14th Annual General Body meeting today, where new office bearers were elected for the period 2024-2026.

At the meeting's commencement, Avinish K Anand, the General Secretary, presented the minutes of the 13th AGM, approved by the attendees. Rajneesh Kaushal, the Finance Secretary, presented the annual accounts under the Presidency of Sudesh Gupta. The first session involved extensive discussions on issues facing the printing industry.

In the second session, members unanimously elected the new office bearers. The elected team comprises Pankaj Sethi as



President, Rahul Mahajan as Senior Vice President, Avinish K Anand as Vice President, Sanjay Kumar Soni as General Secretary, Rajneesh Kaushal as Secretary, Kuku Ji Bhan as Finance Secretary, and Nishant

Chadha as Joint Secretary.

Returning Officer Satish C Jandiwal announced the unanimous election of the office bearers for the 2024-2026 term.

The newly elected team paid tribute to

former Presidents Ravi Gupta, Arun K Gupta, Sudesh Gupta, and Girish Kapoor. President Pankaj Sethi also honored Avinish K Anand of A-Won Printers and Satish C Jandiwal of Rohini Printing Industry for their awards in the National Award for Excellency in Printing organized by the All Indian Federation of Master Printers, New Delhi.

President Pankaj Sethi expressed his commitment to working honestly and diligently for the upliftment of the printing industry in Jammu and Kashmir. He extended gratitude to Sudesh Gupta and his outgoing team for their contributions in the previous years. The calendar for the year 2024 was released by senior members of the Association, and newly elected General Secretary Sanjay K Soni concluded with a vote of thanks.

DDC B'la reviews Srinagar-Baramulla NH1 4-Lane expansion work

Directs executing agency to accelerate the work for on-time completion of the project

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today conducted a thorough assessment of the ongoing construction and road widening activities along the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway NH1, specifically from Narbal to Uri, during his on-site visit. During the visit, the DDC and a team of officers con-



ducted a comprehensive on-site inspection of key construction sites, including Khan QQ pora Bypass, Delina Flyover, Sangrama Flyover, Pattan Bypass, Narbal/Mirgund Package 1-B, Hamray and other sig-

nificant locations. The executing officers provided the DDC with a detailed overview encompassing the current status, progress, projected timeline, hurdles and various facets pertaining to the ongoing construc-

tion activities. While reviewing the progress of the project, the DDC directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the work on the project and complete it within stipulated time frame thereby benefiting the commuters by significantly reducing the travel time. Minga Sherpa further directed the officers of the various departments to collaborate and swiftly address any impediments hindering construction work.

DC Bandipora reviews Winter preparedness, urges officers to gear up to deal with upcoming challenges

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review the winter preparedness in view of the weather advisory predicting snowfall in coming days aiming to gear up the administration and machinery to deal with any disruption/eventuality. The meeting was attended by ADDC Bandipora Mohd Ashraf Bhat, Executive Engineers of PHE, PDD, R&B, MED, PMGSY, and other officers from civil administration and police. SDMs of Gurez and Sumbal along with concerned Tehsildars attended virtually through video conferencing. The DC took a detailed review of over-



all winter preparedness in the district including Power scenario, stock of essentials, health care facilities, availability of ration, fuel, LPG and other essentials, besides arrangements put in place for timely snow clearance across the district to ensure smooth movement of vehicles, ambulances etc in case of snowfall as predicted by

the Metrology Department. At the outset, the DC stressed taking preventive and precautionary measures well in advance so that routine functioning at all essential installations, besides trade, transport, essential supplies, and other routine works, are not affected. He stressed the officers on readying men and machinery to ensure timely redressal of weather vagaries and subsequent disruptions of supply of water, electricity, and road closure due to snowfall. He also stressed upon officers to ensure a prompt response system to ensure hassle-free supply of essential services to the people and instructed that response time should be minimized while facing any emergency like situations.

Director Sericulture conducts field visit to Pulwama Takes stock of ongoing developmental works & other departmental activities

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PULWAMA, JANUARY 22: The Director Sericulture Development Department, J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Monday conducted a comprehensive field visit to District Pulwama to take stock of the ongoing developmental works and other departmental activities, there. Director Sericulture on the occasion visited various Mulberry Farms, Blocks and Nurseries. He also inspected many nurseries in the district including Tumlhal Mulberry Farm/ Nursery which is spread over an area of 700 Kanals. The primary objective of the visit of the Director was to closely monitor and assess the ongoing developmental activities and functioning of the Department.



On the occasion, Director emphasized upon the officers and other field functionaries to exert concerted efforts and work on mission mode to disseminate awareness among Silkworm rearers, farmers and youth vis-a-vis different schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and facilities pro-

vided by the department so that large number of people can avail the benefits and earn dignified livelihood by engaging themselves with Sericulture Department. Besides, in order to achieve all the targets and goals the District Sericulture Officers were also directed by the Director Sericulture J&K to promptly update him about

progress made with regard to departmental activities and developmental works being carried out on a regular basis. The Director recounted that District Pulwama was once renowned for its thriving sericulture activities and in order to bring back the glory of Sericulture in the district the Department is committed to rejuvenate and promote silk production and revive the past legacy of Sericulture in transforming the economic condition of people. He emphasized the officers and officials to actively engage with the local populace for providing them support, training and all other facilities proactively. The Director reiterated that Cocoon Auction Markets will be organized on time and the preparation in this regard will be anticipated by the Department in due course of time.

VBSY Triumph: Pulwama achieves 100% Household Saturation in PM-JAY

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PULWAMA, JANUARY 22: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) continues its transformative journey, leaving an indelible mark across Pulwama district. On the 25th of November 2023, the Yatra that had commenced its journey in the District, inspired by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister reached unprecedented milestones. In its relentless pursuit, the Yatra has ensured maximum coverage, touching every corner of the district while maintaining the utmost respect for local traditions. The commitment to reach the unreached echoed through the Yatra's successful traverse of Municipalities, Panchayats, and now the villages of the district. The Yatra stands as a game-changer in the region, with beneficiaries sharing firsthand accounts of the life-altering impact of various schemes. The anecdotes from "Meri Kahani Meri Zabani" paint a vivid picture of improved lives and prosperity brought about by Government initiatives. A highlight of the Yatra has been its on-the-spot services, showcasing a commitment to citizens' welfare. Remarkably, 100% eligible Households numbering to 111416 of District Pulwama have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, one of the two components of Ayushman Bharat scheme. The implementation of this scheme, facilitated through the golden card, ensures comprehensive health benefits for all.

Arrangements for Accounts Assistants (Finance) exam reviewed at Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at Mini Meeting Hall of DC Office complex here to finalize the preparations of OMR based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance) of J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB), scheduled to be held on Jan 28, 2024 in the district. At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gh Nabi Bhat, apprised the chair about the status of arrangements being made for seamless conduct of SSRB examination in which around 10,341 candidates are expected to appear in the OMR based written examination at 46 centers across the district. Deliberations in the meeting focused on elaborate security arrangements, logistics for transportation, safekeeping of examination materials and efficient traffic management, roles and responsibilities of manpower, meticulous arrangement of basic facilities, pre and post exam procedures. The DC said that free, fair and transparent exams are the top most



priority of the District Administration and any laxity in following SOPs of conduct of examination will be viewed seriously. She said that time is the sacrosanct and adherence to the timeline should be conveyed down the line. She also said that proper frisking of male and female candidates and material should be ensured and no candidate should enter into the exam centre un-frisked. DC emphasized upon the concerned officers to facilitate the candidates and make the process smooth

and seamless. She said that candidates coming from Machil, Keran and Karnah be told to come the day before the written exam keeping in mind weather advisory. During the meeting, the ARTO Kupwara was directed to ensure proper transportation arrangements to the designated examination centers and lifting of the material. Dy.SP Headquarters Kupwara was directed to provide adequate deployment of Police personnel for proper frisking of candidates and escort of sensitive material.

Training for conduct of SSB FAA Examination imparted at GDC Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 22: To facilitate smooth conduct of the upcoming J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) examination for Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) Recruitment, the District Administration Shopian today organised a training programme for supervisory staff, invigilatory staff and heads of institutions in the Auditorium Hall of GDC, Shopian. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz briefed about the roles and responsibilities of officers involved in conducting the JKSSB examination. Training was imparted by Member, JKSSB Yar Ali Khan. He threw light on the rules and regulations to be adopted during examination and the detailed procedure for its conduct. Principal, GDC, Shopian, Prof. Mohammad Shafiq, ASP, Shopian, Naresh Singh and other concerned officers were present.

The training covered all aspects of the OMR-based objective-type written examination in order to acquaint the staff with necessary information and practice of conducting the examination smoothly. Later, a question and answer session was held and queries regarding the JKSSB examination were also raised and satisfactorily resolved by the team of JKSSB.

Drugs Control Department Bandipora conducts inspection of retail sale establishments

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Drugs Control Department Bandipora under the supervision of Assistant Drugs Controller Bandipora/ Ganderbal Negeena Akther inspected various retail sale establishments around District Hospital Bandipora to enforce the installation of CCTV Cameras, Computer Billing system in the retail Drug sale establishments in order to curb the illegal use of Habit forming Drugs. During inspection, extensive check of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs sold by the Pharmacies has been verified from their Purchase, sale record. Sale of four medical shops outside District Hospital Bandipora has been temporarily suspended for not adhering to the conditions of licenses as mandated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945. The team directed the retail establishments not to dispense any drug without the seal and signature of the Doctor and in the case of habit forming Drugs containing prescriptions, the dispensed seal must be put on the prescription while dispensing the medicine in order to avoid the misuse of repetition of the prescription. The team directed the retail establishments not to dispense any drug without the seal and signature of the Doctor and in the case of habit forming Drugs containing prescriptions.

Road Safety Month: MVD B'pora organises Medical Camp at sumbal

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Bandipora on Monday organised a medical camp for drivers at Sumbal. Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Bilal Ahmad Mir said that the camp was organised as part of ongoing Road Safety Month to conduct health check ups of drivers. The camp was aimed to create awareness about the importance of physical well-being of drivers. The healthcare professionals on the occasion conducted physical check up particularly Eye sight check up of more than 100 drivers. The road safety experts from the transport department highlighted various road safety measures and importance of physical well being for drivers. In his message, ARTO Bandipora urged road users to follow traffic rules and regulations in letter and spirit. The healthcare professionals on the occasion conducted physical check up particularly Eye sight check up of more than 100 drivers. The road safety experts from the transport department highlighted various road safety measures and importance of physical well being.



DLC approves 7 cases for Change of Land Use DC urges for issuing necessary NOCs timely

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a meeting of officers, here to finalise the department wise arrangements to be put in place for ensuring Republic Day, 2024 celebrations. The meeting held threaded discussions on arrangements to be put in place at the venue including security, seating, transportation, illumination of buildings, refreshments, water and power supply, Public Address System, medicare facilities and other facilities. The DC instructed the concerned to organise scintillating cultural programmes to mark the event



with vibrancy along with an impactful presentation of March Past and called upon officers to put in place elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of the function. On the occasion, department wise responsibilities were finalised for adherence, and directed to ensure celebrations at sub divisional, tehsil and village levels besides the main district

level function. The DC called upon departments to make fool proof arrangements for Republic Day celebration and Full dress rehearsal especially heating and seating arrangements. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ASP, Shopian, Naresh Kumar; Principal IMGDC, CPO, ACR, and other district officers and sectoral officers.

Chittergul wholeheartedly backs Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 22: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has unfolded gracefully in Block Chittergul with IEC Van journeying through Chittergul C, Cherpora, Chaklipora, Dethoo A, Dethoo B, Panchalthan, and Chowgam Gram Panchayats witnessing a substantial surge in community engagement, epitomizing a collective dedication to advancing the region. The VBSY, an unprecedented nationwide initiative aimed at bolstering awareness and maximizing participation in the Government of India's welfare programs, has reached significant milestones across the district. In a remarkable achievement for the Yatra in the Anantnag district, a staggering number of over 2.53 lakh people have actively engaged and participated, showcasing the profound impact and immense potential of this movement in unifying the populace towards the common

goal of a developed India. The Yatra, spanning the farthest reaches of the district, has been instrumental in disseminating awareness regarding various government welfare schemes, ensuring their reach even to the most remote corners. Complementing its outreach, on-ground services like PM Ujjwala Yojana enrolments, MY Bharat volunteer registrations, and distribution of Ayushman cards have been provided, facilitating direct engagement and access to essential social welfare programs.



Cummins, Starc and Hazlewood Could Play Both West Indies And New Zealand T20is

A lighter-than-expected workload for Australia's three-format fast bowlers across the Test summer so far could allow the selectors to pick them for one or both of the upcoming T20I series against West Indies and New Zealand, which are the only six T20Is Australia play before the T20 World Cup in June.

Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc have got through four Tests unscathed so far, with none of the four home matches reaching a fifth day. Neither has had to bowl more than 38 overs in a game, and Cummins is the only one who has bowled 20 overs in an innings more than once; but he has only done it twice in eight innings across the summer.

All three are being rested from the ODIs against West Indies in early February, and it

seemed likely they would be rested from the T20Is too. But given how their workloads have unfolded across the summer, there may be an opportunity to play one or both of those series, with the selectors meeting on Monday to finalise those squads.

"We'll give some thought to that," Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said. "There'll be some that may play, and there'll be some that might not play. It'll be different squads [for each series]. We'll look to potentially be at full strength for the New Zealand series."

"We've got six games before the World Cup. A lot of the World Cup planning is in place at the moment. We'll try to be as close to full strength for the New Zealand series as possible. The West Indies series is slightly nuanced."

There were concerns over how all three

would come out of the ODI World Cup into the Test summer, but those fears have disappeared as they are in great shape and keen to play all seven Tests this season, including two against New Zealand in early March.

Australia's selectors are wary of the workload that both Cummins and Starc will have at the IPL as big-money signings, meaning they could be rested from the West Indies series before only playing part of the New Zealand series. However, Hazlewood would be the likeliest of the three to play both T20I series, given he is not going to play in the IPL unless an opportunity arises to be a replacement player.

None of the three played any of Australia's eight T20Is last year, as they were all rested in order to be fit for Test assignments and the ODI World Cup. Australia even defied the odds

to win a T20 World Cup in the UAE in 2021 and an ODI World Cup in India in 2023 with

"We'll give some thought to that," Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said. "There'll be some that may play, and there'll be some that might not play. It'll be different squads [for each series]. We'll look to potentially be at full strength for the New Zealand series."

an attack comprising Cummins, Hazlewood, Starc and only one specialist spinner in Adam

Zampa. Glenn Maxwell was the second spinner and first-choice fifth bowler, with other overs being provided by allrounders.

It appears as if Australia will back the same structure in for the T20 World Cup on the slower pitches in the West Indies, with Australia not scheduled to play any matches in the US.

David Warner to play both series McDonald confirmed that David Warner would be selected for both the West Indies and New Zealand T20Is, and will be required to leave the ILT20 to return to Australia by February 7. Tim David is in the same boat, having signed for MI Emirates, and will likely return to Australia if selected. Marcus Stoinis, who is at the SA20 with Durban's Super Giants, might also return home early if he is selected for both of Australia's series as expected.

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- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calendars
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers



**Dwarshuis
credits
India
experience
for his BBL
success**

After taking a career best 5 for 21 to lift Sydney Sixers into the BBL final, fast bowler Ben Dwarshuis credited a T20I stint with Australia for his purple patch of form.

The 29-year-old had his best return in 105 BBL games for Sixers in the 39-run qualifying final win over Brisbane Heat on the Gold Coast on Friday.

Dwarshuis played in two T20Is for Australia in December against India and took five wickets with his left-arm seamers. Since returning to the BBL he has been a regular wicket taker.

"In India, I just think how calm the environment is in the Aussie set-up at the moment was really nice," Dwarshuis said.

"It was easy to slide in and be clear on your roles and execute. Going to India, who are the powerhouses of T20 cricket, and putting in a few good performances there a few weeks out from the BBL let me start the tournament with plenty

of confidence. Fortunately, I've been able to keep that form going. One more game, and hopefully it keeps going."

Sixers host the BBL final on Wednesday at the SCG, despite not having a single player named in the team of the tournament.

Instead of taking that as a negative, Dwarshuis said it was a reflection of the culture captain Moises Henriques and coach Greg Shipperd had built.

"We don't have anyone in the team of the tournament, but if there was a second or third team of the tournament most of our squad would be in there," Dwarshuis said. "We are a team where everybody stands up when they need to. We don't just rely on one or two players game-in and game-out."

"Everyone has made great contributions throughout the BBL and when you get in pressure moments that's a really important thing to have in your team. It's a great trait and one of the reasons why the Sixers have been so successful the last few years."

Sixers have played in six BBL finals and won three in their history. The current side is a real band of brothers who have stuck together through what has been a mostly wonderful time for the franchise.

"I look at the team now and there are probably six or seven who have played 100 games with the Sixers," Dwarshuis said. "We have this core group who like to stick together and play great cricket together. We know each other's roles and are comfortable with each other."

"I've won two finals and lost two. I love it here at the Sixers. Hopefully, we can make it three wins. Our win in Perth [to secure second spot] and this win here shows we are peaking at the right time in the tournament. There are some positive signs leading into Sydney."

"The home ground advantage is a saying for a reason. We have played four of our games there this year and know what to expect."