



No Local Recruitment in Terror Outfits, No Militant Commander Alive Across Kashmir : LG Sinha

- 'Don't touch innocents, don't spare the culprits, our policy is clear'
- '76 govt employees terminated for supporting terrorism'

HT News Network

JAMMU, Feb 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that local recruitment in terrorist groups has dropped to zero and no commander of any outfit is alive in Kashmir.

In an interview to National Channel, LG Sinha according to the news agency—said, "Security forces are following a clear guiding principle: Don't



touch innocents, don't spare the culprits."

Referring to terrorists shifting their focus to Jammu region, LG Sinha said, "Jammu was never a challenge,

but the focus had shifted to Kashmir. Our neighboring country played a role in infiltrating people and disturbing peace in Jammu region, but we

are prepared to establish peace," he asserted, adding that the "people of Jammu are nationalists and they will never tolerate terrorism."

On action against terrorist supporters, LG Sinha said, "We have to wipe out the terror ecosystem." He revealed that 76 government employees had been dismissed for supporting terrorism.

He said that these measures played a pivot

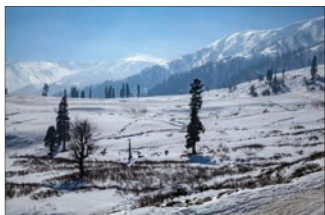
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

4-day wet spell begins in J&K, snow in upper reaches, rains lash plains

MeT predicts more snow for 3 days; depts directed to keep men, machinery ready

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 25 (UNI) Amid forecasts of widespread rain and snowfall over the next four days, several higher reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg, received fresh snowfall on Tuesday while plains received rains, officials said. Some higher reaches of Kashmir valley and the ski



resort of Gulmarg and Tangmarg in North Kashmir's Baramulla experienced a fresh snowfall this afternoon turning the destinations into a winter wonderland. The Indian Mete-

orological Department (IMD) on Tuesday predicted that a fresh Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to bring moderate to widespread rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir over the next four days.

As of today evening, Srinagar and other low-lying areas continued to experience rain, impacting daily activities. The inclement weather is expected to

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CM holds Pre-Budget Meetings With Key Departments Ahead of March 7 Budget Presentation

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 24: JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Setting the stage for the upcoming budget presentation on March 7, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a series of pre-budget meetings with several key government departments at the Civil Secretariat here to finalize proposals for the upcoming budget, which is scheduled to be presented on March 7.

The meetings were held to understand the sector wise priorities and to align it with government's development agenda.

The meetings would con-



tinue in the coming days with other departments also scheduled to brief the Chief Minister.

The meetings were attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, Minister for Rural Devel-

opment and Panchayati Raj Javed Ahmad Dar and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta,

Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, along with Administrative Secretaries from the Power Development Department, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, Tourism, Public Works Department (R&B), Health & Medical Education, Rural Development, Director General Budget Mohammad Sultan Malik and Joint Director Budget Shafat Yahya also attended the meetings.

During the consultations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need for a pragmatic and growth-oriented budget that addresses public aspirations and strengthens key sectors of the economy.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

If Accession is Permanent, How Come Conditions are not Permanent? : CM Omar Abdullah

J&K's accession with India was to be formalized through plebiscite: CM Omar Abdullah

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 25: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister & Nationa Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said that there is a context to word temporary or transitional associated with Art 370. Omar Abdullah has reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India was permanent, but so were the conditions and the framework that enabled it. Challenging the selective interpretation of constitutional provisions, he argued that both aspects must be treated equally, rather than one being considered permanent and the other temporary. "What was to happen in Jammu and Kashmir to make it permanent? Acceptance

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extends Herath (Mahashivratri) greetings to people of J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended his warmest greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Herath (Mahashivratri).

In his message, the Chief Minister described the festival as a joyous occasion, symbolizing faith, devotion and a moment of spiritual renewal.

He prayed for the sacred festival to bring peace, prosperity and divine blessings to every home



and to all those celebrating.

The Chief Minister also conveyed his greetings through his official X account, posting: "Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Herath! May this sacred festival bring peace, prosperity, and divine blessings to every home. Herath Mubarak!"

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Elderly man found dead under mysterious conditions in Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 25: A 65-year old man was found dead under mysterious conditions at his residence in Watal Kadal area of Central Kashmir Srinagar district on Tuesday. An official told news agency that a 65 year old man from Watal

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

HC orders toll reduction at 2 NH plazas until work finishes

HT News Network

Budgam, Feb 25: In a significant development for commuters using the National Highway-44 (NH-44) from Pathankot to Udhampur, the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Tuesday ordered a reduction in toll fees at two plazas along the highway.

According to the judgment, a copy of which lies with the news agency—the court ruled that only 20 percent of the toll fee should be collected until the completion

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Tarigami greets people on Mahashivratri

Farooq Rather

Jammu, Feb 25: CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami has felicitated Kashmiri Pandit Community on the eve of Maha Shivratri, popularly known as "Hearath".

In his message, Tarigami has said that the day reminds us about the communal harmony and brotherhood which is the landmark of Kashmiri's rich culture and ethos.

He said the occasion renews the resolve of the people of the region towards

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Have positive hopes on Omar govt's maiden budget: PDP's Parra

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 25: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra on Tuesday said they have positive hopes on Omar Abdullah-led government's first budget, which will be presented by

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Will prioritize progress, tourism, youth employment in Assembly Session: BJP

Backs liquor ban, slams PDP, accuses NC of deceiving people

HT News Network

Jammu, Feb 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday said that the party will raise the issues related to development, tourism, unemployment and others during the upcoming Budget Session of Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be held from March 3. A senior BJP leader and Jammu west



push for the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Speaker LA engages with Media in pre-budget session talks

Assures them of extending every assistance for smooth coverage of proceedings

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a crucial meeting with the media fraternity to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage



of the maiden Budget Session of Omar led government here.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Traffic, Faisal Qureshi; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat;

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Kashmir's papier-mâché artist clinches top prize at int'l handicrafts festival in Iran

Mir Arshad's fusion papier-mâché wall plate triumphs over 7,000 global entries

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 25: In yet another recognition at prestigious global event, Mir Arshad Hussain, a noted papier mache craftsman from Bota Kadal, Lal Bazar, has been conferred with the first prize and Diploma of Honor at the 9th International Fajr Festival of Handicrafts, Sarv-e-Simin, at Tehran, by the Iranian Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri.



Mir Arshad's entry of papier mache wall plate, which

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Tulip Garden to have 75 varieties this year, two more imported from Netherlands '1.7 million tulips to bloom, garden to open after March 15, parking capacity increased'

BY Qiesar Baba

Srinagar, Feb 25 (UNI) Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar is set to showcase a breath-taking display of 1.7 million tulip bulbs this year, including two newly introduced varieties imported from the Netherlands, officials said.

Nestled in the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, overlooking the iconic Dal Lake, the Tulip Garden in Srinagar remains a major attraction for tourists and nature lovers from around the world.



"Every year, the Floriculture Department strives to introduce new tulip varieties to

enhance the garden's vibrancy and appeal. This year, we have added two new

varieties to make the display even more colorful," said Assistant Floriculture Officer (AFO) Asif Ahmad told UNI.

Last year, the garden featured 72 tulip varieties in an array of colours. This year, the number has increased to 74, offering visitors an even more mesmerizing floral spectacle. The garden is expected to open to the public after March 20.

"The two new tulip varieties—Triumph and Darwin Hybrid—imported from the Netherlands, will add a fresh burst of colour and charm to the garden," Asif added.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Div Com holds preliminary meeting for notification of flood basin areas

Directs DCs to remain vigilant, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services in view of inclement weather forecast

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25: In a bid to demarcate & designate flood basin areas of River Jhelum, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today held a preliminary meeting to deliberate the modalities for notification of flood basin zones.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal besides Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control; Executive Engineers and officers of Wildlife and Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing departments.

At the outset, the concerned officers of I&FC gave a detailed presentation



wherein they gave an overview of inundation areas of September 2014 flood, affected areas viz land use and flood zoning of area to regulate human activity besides overall status & mapping of flood basins including Hokarsar Wetland, Nowgam Jheel, Higam

Jheel, Narkara Numbal, Anchar Lake, Wullar Lake, Left side of River Jhelum from Sangam to Padshahibagh.

The meeting deliberated over the diverse range of issues to tackle and mitigate the impact of floods. The meeting discussed the

classification of areas into prohibited zone, regulated zone and warning zone based on permissibility of human activities.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com impressed Deputy Commissioners to conduct meetings of members from Irrigation & Flood Control, Forest & Revenue departments to conduct comprehensive study & survey of flood basins and submit the tentative proposals for the notification of the areas.

Meanwhile, in view of the inclement weather forecast, Div Com directed DCs to remain vigilant and keep men & machinery in readiness mode to ensure smooth & uninterrupted operation of essential services across the valley to facilitate the general public.

MD NHM inaugurates 2 day training on National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25: Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, today inaugurated a 2 day capacity building training programme for the Medical Officers and District Coordinators of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) organised in collaboration with NVHCP Division, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at NHM office, Srinagar. Dr. Sandhya Kabra, Deputy Commissioner, NVHCP, Division, MoH&FW, GoI, Dr. Partha Rakshit, Joint Director, NVHCP, MoH&FW, GoI, Dr. Robin Marwal, Assistant Director, NVHCP, MoH&FW, GoI and others imparting the training. The programme is being attended by the Medical Officers posted at GMCs, DHs, CHCs/District



Nodal Coordinators of NVHCP from all the districts of Kashmir division along with the State Programme Management Unit, NVHCP, SHS and NHM, J&K. Speaking on the occasion, the Mission Director NHM, presented a brief description about the severity of viral hepatitis, explaining how it has become a major public health challenge which needs to be redressed at all levels. He also gave a brief description about the Seroprevalence

of Hepatitis B&C in the UT of J&K and showed his concern as J&K is having a high Hepatitis-C Seroprevalence/Seropositivity i.e. 34.89% in IDUs (Induced drug users) as compared to National Average (33.41%).

The Mission Director stressed upon the medical fraternity to tackle this grave public health challenge of such huge magnitude with utmost dedication and generate mass awareness among the high risk categories like blood/

organ donors/recipients, patients on haemodialysis, pregnant women, prisoners, Injection Drug Users (IDUs) etc.

He said that the training is important for building capacity of the service delivery points for effective implementation of NVHCP to ensure standardised, uniform quality of service delivery by different cadres of staff in the health system, using standardised training modules and facilitator guides. The training / capacity building is focussing on various components of NVHCP viz; operational framework of NVHCP; integration with other programs for optimising resource; diagnosis and treatment; data management/ MIS Portal; record keeping; viral load testing through machines existing in the health system; Supply Chain Management etc.

Distt Admin Srinagar bids warm farewell to Tharun Patnaik IAS probationer

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR FEBRUARY 25: The District Administration Srinagar today organized an impressive function at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to honour and bid warm farewell to Tharun Patnaik, 2023 batch IAS Probationer who completed his year long probation period in Srinagar District.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat presided over the function. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar extended his best wishes to the outgoing IAS Probationer Officer for his future endeavours to serve the public with enthusiasm and dedication. He lauded the passion and dedication of the officer and advised him to continue imbining excellence, integrity and commitment towards civil service which are rudimentary for public services and in shaping the nation.

DC also commended his ability shown during both Lok Sabha and J&K Legislative Assembly elections besides while working on the E-Arzi project in District Srinagar

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, Patnaik said that he will always remain indebted to the District Administration Srinagar and all Employees of the DC Office Srinagar for the support, cooperation and affection showered upon him during his year long period in the District.

He said that experience earned would always be a guiding light for him in future assignments. He expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat for hosting a farewell to honour him.

Srinagar Heritage Festival "Soun Meeraas" commences to celebrate rich cultural heritage of Kashmir

Event aimed to highlight local tradition, cultural heritage preserving essence of Kashmir's cultural legacy, traditional practices for future generations: DC Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25: Srinagar Heritage Festival "Soun Meeraas" an initiative of District Administration Srinagar aimed to celebrate Srinagar's rich cultural heritage begins here today to highlight local tradition, culture, heritage and art, through live exhibitions and demonstrations.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat launched the first leg of the mega event with Painting and Calligraphy competition at Jhelum River Front showcasing culture, heritage and tradition of Kashmir Valley. The Srinagar Heritage Festival that commenced from today shall continue till February 28 has been organized by District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts to



preserve the essence of Kashmir's heritage, cultural legacy and traditional practices for future generations. Speaking about the event, the DC Srinagar maintained that the Srinagar Heritage Festival "Soun Meeraas" is set to become a vibrant event, offering varied activities. Live Exhibitions of Traditional Markets and Winter Preparations, besides showcase Traditional Attire March, Painting Contests, Shikara Events, Folktales, Cultural performances, Demonstrations through Jhankies etc to provide a vibrant stage to present generation to learn about cultural background and develop a strong sense of belonging within their community. DC added that during the Srinagar Heritage Festival events will be held at Jhelum River Front, Poloview,

Dal Lake and at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah). DC hoped that the event will provide a memorable experience for participants and visitors as well, besides building a strong sense of identity, fostering community cohesion and promoting understanding and respect for diversity. DC has called out for maximum participation from all sections of the society. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat launched the first leg of the mega event with Painting and Calligraphy competition at Jhelum River Front showcasing culture, heritage and tradition of Kashmir Valley. The Srinagar Heritage Festival that commenced from today shall continue till February 28 has been organized by District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts to preserve the essence.

Blood Donation Camp in Langate: A Testament to Humanitarian Spirit

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



Langate, Feb, 25: In a commendable effort to address the shortage of blood donations during the holy month of Ramadan, a blood donation camp was organized at Langate today. The event was a joint initiative of the Indian Red Cross Society Kupwara, the Indian Army, and the Handwara Media Association.

The Handwara Media Association took the lead in organizing the camp, recognizing the urgent need to replenish blood supplies and support patients in critical need. The response from the community was overwhelming, with around 45 individuals stepping forward to donate blood, reaffirming the region's commitment to humanitarian causes. Speaking at the event, Tehsildar Langate underscored the importance of blood donation, stating, "To donate blood is to save a human life." His words highlighted the vital role that such initiatives play in emergency medical care, offering hope to those in need. The success of the camp not only helped bolster blood reserves but also served as a reminder of the collective responsibility of society in fostering a culture of selfless service. Blood donation remains one of the most impactful ways to give back to the community, as each donation has the potential to save multiple lives. The event was widely appreciated, with organizers and donors alike expressing their satisfaction at being part of such a noble cause. It also set an inspiring precedent for future initiatives, encouraging more people to come forward and contribute to life-saving efforts. By fostering a spirit of unity and generosity, the Langate blood donation camp once again proved that small acts of kindness can make a profound difference in the lives of many.

J&K Bank Boosts Healthcare in Underserved Areas with Project MAMTA Training in Rajouri

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 25 : J&K Bank, in collaboration with the SPVLG Foundation and the Health Department, successfully concluded the second two-day training program under Project MAMTA in Kotranka, Rajouri.

The initiative focused on equipping health workers and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) with essential skills and knowledge related to maternal health, child care, and community health—particularly for pregnant women and lactating mothers. The training featured interactive sessions, workshops, and case studies, allowing participants to gain practical insights into best healthcare practices.

Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of JKSCSTBC Development Corporation, JKWDC

Emphasises sustainable livelihood opportunities for targeted beneficiaries, maximising awareness among common masses

Srinagar/JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (JKSCSTBC) Developmental Corporation at Civil Secretariat here. During the meeting, the Minister underlined the Corporation's role in uplifting marginalized communities by ensuring access to financial assistance, skill development as well as entrepreneurial opportunities. She directed the officers for efficient implementation of various schemes being operated by the Corporation so that the desired benefits reach targeted beneficiaries.

The Minister called for maximising awareness among the concerned communities so that maximum people can take benefit of these schemes. "Organise awareness camps and use media, especially traditional media like Radio and TV



to generate awareness among masses of these communities", Sakeena asked the officers.

She further called upon the management of the Corporation to collaborate with schools and colleges as well as skill development institutes for targeting desired beneficiaries in these institutions. While reviewing loan disbursement pro-

cedure, self-employment schemes and other ongoing welfare schemes, Sakeena Itoo asked the officers to maintain transparency and efficiency while implementing these schemes. She asked the management of the Corporation to streamline processes, strengthen coordination with financial institutions and introduce measures to facilitate sustainable livelihood

opportunities for the targeted beneficiaries.

The Minister also asked the Corporation for implementing single window system for processing applications under different schemes so that the people don't face any hiccups while applying for any of the beneficiary oriented schemes.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC).

During the review, Sakeena Itoo took stock of the Corporation's ongoing schemes, including livelihood generation schemes for women.

Addressing the officers, the Minister underscored the pivotal role of WDC in uplifting women by providing them with opportunities for skill development, entrepreneurship and financial independence. "WDC is a vital instrument in our mission to ensure gender equity and empower women to contribute meaningfully to society", Sakeena stated.

EDITORIAL

Unfair! Asking parents to pay 50% bus fee for winter months

The Directorate of School Education of Kashmir issued an order some-time back asking the parents to pay 50 percent of the bus fee for the winter months. The order has come in for sharp criticism from the people in general, especially the parents of the children. The parents say that it is unfair to direct them to pay bus fees for the period when their wards did not go to school as they were closed on account of winter vacations.

There is a general feeling among the people that the parents should not have been forced to pay the bus fee saying that the schools earn a lot of money and they could have paid the salary of the drivers and conductors out of the same. Some of the parents contend that since there is a Supreme Court ruling in this regard it is unjust for them to pay the bus fee during the winter break.

Most of the parents say that the Directorate of School Education has surrendered before the higher-ups of the private schools with the later issuing diktats to the parents whose children are studying in the different schools. Analyzing the things, it can be said that the parents are right in their contention and they should not have been forced to pay the bus fee for the winter months when the schools are closed on account of winter break.

Time and again there have been complaints against the management of different private schools on account of one complaint and the other. On most of these occasions the complaints are not looked into properly by the concerned department and as such the private schools run away with virtually no or less penalty. The Directorate of School Education needs to play a proactive role and they should be more concerned about the welfare of students rather than interests of the different private schools.

The monthly and annual fees being charged by the different private schools come up for discussion every now and then. There are complaints that the private schools charge the fee of their own and there is no system in the same. Virtually there is no uniformity in the fee structure and the parents are at loss as to how to cope up with this situation. In addition to this the schools charge the parents on account of one fund and the other and there is no one to stop them in this respect.

How Social Media And Modernisation Erode Privacy And Mental Well-Being

IQRA NAZIR

Technological advancement must be balanced with ethical responsibility. By cultivating a culture of consent, respect, and understanding, we can ensure that social media stays a tool for good interaction rather than a source of privacy violations.

Modernisation and the rise of social media have transformed communication, information sharing, and social interactions in today's digital world. However, these developments have also resulted in an alarming disrespect for human privacy. The ease with which moments can be captured and shared has blurred the barriers between public and private life, frequently having unanticipated effects on people's psychological well-being and ethical concerns.

Social media platforms have made it easy to film and share real-time experiences. While increased connectedness promotes engagement, it also creates ethical problems. Many people take photos, record videos, and include others in the content they create without authorization, violating privacy and reducing people's control over their personal information. Furthermore,

surveillance technology, data collection, and AI-powered analytics have increased the likelihood of privacy breaches. Users frequently unintentionally provide personal information that can be utilised for commercial benefit, deception, or even identity theft. This degradation of privacy undermines fundamental rights and highlights the need for more fierce digital ethics.

When personal information is shared without permission on social media, it can have serious psychological consequences such as stress, anxiety, and a sense of powerlessness. This loss of control can cause social anxiety, trust concerns, and a dread of being unintentionally recorded or photographed. Unauthorised content sharing can also lead to cyberbullying, harassment, and even defamation.

To foster ethical online interactions, social media users should obtain consent before uploading photographs or videos of others. Awareness of digital footprints is critical, as online material can have long-term implications. If privacy violations occur, users should report the content and notify the impacted parties. Additionally, educating others on appropriate social

media use can contribute to a more courteous online environment.

The widespread use of popular social media apps like Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat pushes users to share moments instantly, often without regard for the privacy of those around them. A typical behaviour, such as taking photos to maintain streaks or publicising events, frequently involves photographing strangers without their knowledge or approval. Over time, this has become an unconscious habit, normalising privacy breaches and creating a cycle in which people continue to record and expose others without their knowledge.

Beyond privacy concerns, the constant exposure provided by social media has serious mental health consequences. The persistent dread of being captured or photographed in public places causes increased social anxiety and stress. Individuals may feel compelled to constantly curate their looks and behaviour, which can lead to perfectionism and self-consciousness. This degradation of personal space might have an impact on self-esteem since people are exposed to unsolicited judgements and online monitoring. Furthermore, the

normalisation of documenting and sharing experiences without consent diminishes empathy and makes people less sensitive to the emotional effects of their actions.

The quest for likes, shares, and online attention frequently trumps the value of respect, privacy, and individual dignity. Without conscious effort, people gradually lose sensitivity to the emotional and psychological consequences of their digital acts. This emphasises the crucial need for moral education in the digital age. Schools, families, and organisations must prioritise ethical digital conduct while cultivating a culture of accountability and empathy. Teaching individuals, particularly young users, to respect others' privacy, seek consent, and understand the long-term consequences of their online behaviour is critical to restoring the balance between technical innovation and human values.

In an era dominated by digital connections, it is critical to remember that we have moral obligations to one another. Respect for privacy, dignity, and consent should not be compromised by the ease of quick sharing. Our ability to empathise and defend ethi-

cal ideals sets us apart from simply technology-driven habits. However, the acceptance of documenting and sharing moments without consent is weakening those obligations.

Real growth should not be defined solely by technology breakthroughs, but also by how successfully we sustain human values in the digital age. It is our responsibility to be cognizant of the influence our online actions have on others, ensuring that respect and ethical considerations remain central to our interactions.

While modernisation and social media have brought countless benefits, they have also contributed to a loss of privacy and an increase in mental health problems. Technological advancement must be balanced with ethical responsibility. By cultivating a culture of consent, respect, and understanding, we can ensure that social media stays a tool for good interaction rather than a source of privacy violations. Ultimately, safeguarding personal boundaries is not only an individual responsibility but a collective moral obligation.

n.iqra999@gmail.com

Champion's trophy 2025 Pakistan Present era is the era of cricket India



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Our nation has started their journey with a comprehensive win over Bangladesh and then upon Pakistan. Hopefully these victories will keep their level of confidence at high till finals. In the past, Australia has dominated in all formats, like in tests, one-day internationals, and twenty-twenty cricket. But in the present era, this situation is quite different because Indian cricket is at its best in all the formats. Today and in the past, Indian cricket has produced world-class and talented cricketers.

So far as my observations are concerned, I have observed that the Indian cricket team has talent that can win and turn the match in their favour in any situation, like the present team has the potential to bounce back from any situation.

The Indian squad for the CT-2025 is as follows: Rohit Sharma (skipper), Shubham Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardhik Pandiya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundhar, Kuldeep Yadhav, Harshit Ran, Mohammad Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, and Varun Chakravarthy.

There are eight teams who qualify for this prestigious tournament in Group A: New Zealand, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and Group B. THE TEAMS ARE Afghanistan, South Africa, Australia,

and England. We miss West Indies in this mega tournament because they did not qualify for this tournament.

Emerging team: For the last couple of years, Afghanistan cricket teams have been considered as the ones emerging and producing world-class teams like Rashid Khan, Noor, Mohammad Nabi, etc. This is the beauty of this game: those who work hard and take this as their passion are definitely making their place among the top players.

Why is Indian cricket progressing after every passing day?

Today, the Indian cricket board, commonly known as BCCI, is one of the richest boards in the cricket world. The board has great and passionate professionals who are taking it to new heights.

Cricket in India at the domestic level

This is one of the great reasons the domestic level is very strong, and players get changes and improve their techniques under coaching from farmers. Indian players at the international level after extreme hardship, and it is every player's dream to play among eleven players and to represent the country at the international level.

Who is making the dreams of passionate cricket come true?

The BCCI is providing all the basic facilities to the players at any level under different sponsorship programs, like setting up cricket academies at school level, college level, and university level. In academies there are professional cricket-

ers who train and guide the youngsters who are passionate about cricket.

Is there any risk in taking cricket as a profession?

For me, sports should be everyone's favourite because they have immense and great health benefits. Like sports activities, they keep us fit and healthy. So being involved in sports activities is always beneficial and provides you a great chance to keep away from lethal and dreadful diseases. Adopting sports as a profession, it is all about your level of techniques and luck. I have seen one ball is enough to make a star, and one ball is enough to spoil your career.

One thing is very unfortunate in our nation: every individual wants victory, whether it comes in an unprofes-

sional way. For the real fan who always supports fear and real games. Victory or loss is a part of any sports activity. We have checked the level of our cricketers and how much they are involved in the game. How much they are professional and always support the spirit of the game; never be a cheap fan.

IPL and the emergence of talent

IPL, or Indian Premier League I is one of the emerging and big leagues in the world today. There are world-class players from all the playing countries participating with new passionate cricketers. IPL is one of the platforms from which Indian cricket produced great players.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

From Queues to Clicks: CSC centres The architects of Digital India



NAWAZZ IBN AHAD

For generations, rural India has been ensnared in a bureaucratic labyrinth where obtaining essential government services meant endless waiting, cumbersome paperwork, and inefficiencies that tested the patience of the common citizen. The advent of Common Service Centers (CSCs), however, has heralded a digital renaissance, transforming archaic administrative frameworks into seamless, technology-driven ecosystems. These centers have not only democratized access to governance but have also empowered rural citizens with newfound

autonomy and convenience.

In the heart of India's rural landscape, a quiet yet transformative revolution is unfolding. The transition from long, winding queues to swift, seamless clicks symbolizes a profound shift in how governance is delivered and experienced. Common Service Centres (CSCs), once modest kiosks, have emerged as the vanguard of this digital renaissance, redefining rural administration and empowering millions with access to essential services.

CSCs are more than mere service delivery points, they are the cornerstone of a digitally inclusive ecosystem. By bridging the gap between the government and the governed, these centres have become the lifeline of rural India, offering a plethora of services—from banking and healthcare to education and agriculture—all at the click of a button. This digital intervention has not only stream-

lined administrative processes but also democratized access to resources, ensuring that no citizen is left behind in the march toward progress.

The impact of CSCs is particularly profound in regions where physical infrastructure and bureaucratic inefficiencies once posed insurmountable challenges. By digitizing services, these centres have eliminated the need for arduous travel, endless paperwork, and prolonged waiting periods. Farmers can now access weather forecasts, market prices, and government subsidies with ease. Students in remote villages can enroll in online courses and skill development programs. Women can open bank accounts and avail themselves of financial services without stepping out of their communities.

The proliferation of CSCs across India's hinterlands marks the dawn of a new era in rural governance—one that is trans-

parent, efficient, and citizen-centric. These centres are not just facilitators of change; they are pioneers of an equitable future, where technology serves as a great equalizer. By bringing government services to the doorstep of rural citizens, CSCs are dismantling the barriers of distance, literacy, and accessibility.

Moreover, the success of CSCs lies in their ability to adapt and innovate. From offering tele-health consultations to promoting digital literacy, these centres are constantly evolving to meet the diverse needs of rural communities. They are not only transforming how services are delivered but also fostering a culture of self-reliance and empowerment.

As India strides toward its vision of a Digital India, the role of CSCs cannot be overstated. They are the bridge that connects the urban-rural divide, ensuring that the benefits of

technology reach every corner of the nation. By enabling rural citizens to transition from queues to clicks, CSCs are not just revolutionizing administration; they are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient society.

The future is undeniably digital, and rural India is no longer a passive spectator. With CSCs leading the charge, rural communities are stepping into a new era of governance—one where efficiency, transparency, and accessibility are the norm. The journey from queues to clicks is more than a technological shift; it is a testament to the power of innovation in transforming lives and building a brighter, more equitable future.

The digital dawn has arrived, and rural India is clicking forward—with hope, determination, and a renewed sense of possibility.

Despite their monumental success, CSCs must navigate cer-

tain hurdles—sporadic internet connectivity, digital illiteracy among older generations, and occasional technical disruptions continue to pose challenges. However, with strategic government intervention, infrastructural enhancements, and continuous training for VLEs, these obstacles can be surmounted, further fortifying the digital governance ecosystem.

The transition "from queues to clicks" is emblematic of a progressive, technology-anchored metamorphosis in rural governance. CSCs are not merely service providers—they are architects of an equitable, digitally inclusive future. As they continue to proliferate across India's hinterlands, they herald the dawn of a transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric governance model—one that is poised to bridge the urban-rural divide and fortify the nation's digital edifice.

By propelling economic activ-

ity through e-commerce integrations, MSME support, and rural entrepreneurship, CSCs are not just digital enablers but harbingers of self-sufficiency and socio-economic upliftment. Their multifaceted contributions position them as the cornerstone of India's digital governance model, ensuring that the nation moves forward with inclusivity, efficiency, and technological prowess.

The future is digital, and rural India is no longer waiting in line—it is clicking forward. Digital India is not just a government initiative—it is a movement that empowers citizens. At the forefront of this revolution are CSC centers, tirelessly working to bridge the gap between technology and the people. As the country advances towards a self-reliant, digitally empowered society, CSCs will remain the backbone of Digital India, ensuring that no citizen is left behind in the digital age.

Performing arts and theatre are linked to sociopolitical movements

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABHI

As regional theater traditions have evolved, India's theater and performing arts have been catalysts for social and political change. Theatre has proven to be a powerful medium for promoting justice, resisting authority, and drawing attention to social injustice. Growing regional nationalism, the question of nation, and the complex narratives of anti-colonial struggle have influenced the development of regional theater traditions. For example, the Bengali play Nil Darpan (1860) narrated how indigo farmers were exploited during British rule. Modern theatre The intersection of colonial models of cultural production and traditional cultural practices has shaped modern theater. Performing arts, including theater, have remained a powerful tool for promoting social change and a vibrant platform for debate. Theatre has long been a powerful tool for raising awareness, reform, and resistance in India, influencing political movements as well as social structures. From classical rituals to contemporary street plays, it has never stopped changing to reflect and influence social changes. Social injustice has long been brought to light through theater.

The exploitation of indigo farmers during British rule was made public by the Bengali theatre's Nil Darpan in 1860. During the independence movement, people were largely organized through plays and folk performances. Through theatre, the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) promoted anti-colonial sentiment in 1943. Lower-class communities have been able to express their identity through theater. Dalit empowerment and Ambedkarite philosophy are promoted by Bhima Natya (Maharashtra). Theater has been used to expose corruption and criticize policies. In the 1980s, Safdar Hashmi's Jan Natya Manch presented street plays that criticized government policies; this led to his assassination in 1989. Law and social reform have been influenced by theater. Vijay Tendulkar's 1972 book Sakharam Binder's discussion of women's rights and revelations of domestic abuse resulted in strict censorship laws. Religious and social traditions: Ancient theater had strong religious and social roots. Kutiyattam (Kerala), recognized by UNESCO in 2001, still upholds the traditions of Sanskrit theatre. Social commentary through folk theatre: Current socio-political issues are reflected in folk traditions. Class struggle was depicted in Jatra (Bengal) during the Naxalite movement. Human rights, democracy, and corruption became new themes in modern theater. Habib Tanvir's Naya Theatre in the 1950s portrayed social issues by combining folk and modern themes. State intervention and censorship: Politically sensitive plays are banned by the government. Vijay Tendulkar's 1972 film Ghasiram Kotwal was banned for exposing caste-based corruption and exploitation. The popularity of digital platforms has increased the influence and reach of theater. YouTube-based theater groups, such as Jana Natya Manch, use digital performances for social activism. Government and private sources in India and abroad have supported Indian theater in its many forms since independence, but it has always been driven by elite talents and influenced by Western culture, while also turning to indigenous resources. Modernist playwrights such as Vijay Tendulkar, Badal Sarkar, Dharmavir Bharati, Mohan Rakesh, Girish Karnad, Chandrasekhara Kambur, P. Lankesh, and Indira Parthasarathy were born during this period; their plays have been used and studied all over the world.

Lizzy and her mom



BY NUHA NAVEED QUADRI
ABU DHABI GRADE 2

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Lizzy. She was 8 years old but she used to be angry on every thing. Her mom became sad. One day when Lizzy was packing her school bag ,she lost her favourite Karomi pen. She got so angry and screamed at her mom. Mom said "what happened"?She said "Her favourite Karoumi pen got lost. Her mom said. "Lets buy a new one.She said .NO!!! Her mom said ok ok calm down. She got even angry than before. So her mom said 'Go and watch TV.She was so happy. After 10 minutes she was bored and got angry again. Then her mom said ENOUGH !!! Stop this habit! .Lizzy got angry and went in her room. One hour passed she did not come out.Her mom checked, she was studying, She was quiet. She was so proud of Lizzy. She went to Lulu downstairs and brought her a donut but said nothing. Lizzy started to get angry. She went in the kitchen and opened the fridge, she took a strawberry and some sliced pineapple.She saw something new .Lizzy went to her room, while walking to her room one of her pineapple slice fell on the floor. She got angry but her mom said nothing. Then Lizzy's dad came ,Lizzy's mom told her to come out .Lizzy saw a new box on the dinning table .Her mom opened and gave her the Donuts. Lizzy was so happy. She ate it so fast. She also promised her mom that she will not be angry anymore and they lived happily ever after.

Gaza Has Changed The Discourse On Popular Resistance, But Are We Truly Listening?

RAMZY BAROUD

Palestinians and Israelis agree that the Gaza resistance was the main reason behind Israel's forced decision to accept a ceasefire and begin its gradual withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

The oddity is that Palestinians—dying, resisting, but remaining steadfast in Gaza—usually stand at the polar opposite of everything the Israeli government and military represent.

The same is true for the Israeli government. Yet, from the very start of the Israeli genocide, both sides entered into an undeclared agreement: the Israelis wanted to destroy the Palestinian resistance and take full control of Gaza, while the Palestinians wanted to thwart the Israeli objectives.

To carry out its mission, Israel has used over 85,000 tons of explosives, enlisting the support of the United States and other Western governments and intelligence.

To thwart the Israeli mission, Palestinians utilized everything they could muster to wage guerrilla warfare—a war of attrition made possible by the support of Gaza's inhabitants, who paid the price of their sumoud through one of the most devastating genocides (Gazacide) ever recorded in history.

As hundreds of thousands of Palestinians began marching from south to north on January 27, they celebrated their return, defined as a collective victory against the Israeli war machine and a victory for the people themselves, who produced a new model of popular resistance.

The Israelis agree, though of course, they would not use the same language as the Palestinians. For Israel, the Gaza fighters are terrorists, and the Gazan population is the popular foundation that supports such terrorism. Thus, there was collective punishment throughout the war and constant plotting to ethnically cleanse them to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Morocco, Somaliland, and anywhere else.

Israel's extremist

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir described the Israeli agreement to the ceasefire as “total surrender,” which contrasts with the “total victory” strategy repeatedly mentioned by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu throughout the war.

This defeat, or surrender, places Israel, in the words of retired Maj. Gen. Itzhak Brik, in an existential threat. Writing in Maariv, Brik does not deny that Israel's loss of its military superiority represents the greatest danger faced by the state in decades.

“A state that relies on miracles and not on real military capability will not survive for long,” he wrote.

Brik's views are shared by most of Israel's political and military elites. Even Netanyahu himself has hinted at the impossibility of the Israeli position, due almost exclusively to the toughness of the Palestinian resistance.

Israel is engaged in an “existential war,” he said last March while addressing a cadet graduation ceremony, and Israel has to achieve “total victory.”

Outside the realm of Palestinian and Israeli discourses, however, we rarely engage in honest conversations about the subject. Those who defend the Israeli position in the West do so, as they often claim, in the name of democracy, civilization, and against, in the words of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, “barbarity.”

The same contradiction can also be seen on the side of those who purport to speak in solidarity with Palestinians, if not speaking on behalf of Palestinians.

One constantly missing topic in many solidarity conversations about Palestine, and in media platforms that are wholly or partly sympathetic to Palestinians, is the subject of resistance.

Many pro-Palestine individuals behave as if the word “resistance” is a liability. Some may covertly support Palestinian resistance, but overtly ignore the issue altogether, as if it were not truly the single most important factor that has defeated all of Israel's objectives—

not just in Gaza, but in Lebanon as well.

In doing so, they also ignore Yemen, whose ability to disrupt Israel-linked shipping in the Red Sea represented the greatest geopolitical challenge to the US, which, in some ways, surpassed the tension between US and Chinese navies in the South and East China Seas.

Bryan Clark, a former Navy submariner and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, told the Associated Press last June that “this is the most sustained combat that the US Navy has seen since World War II.”

One could argue against or in favor of armed struggle on moral or philosophical grounds, or even for the sake of political expediency and pragmatism. However, doing so while denying facts altogether—that the Israeli army, per Israel's own definition, ‘surrendered’ in Gaza—is a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Note how Ukrainian fighters are often celebrated in mainstream Western media, and even among many Western progressive groups, as heroic figures for challenging the Russian army. The ideological background of some of these groups is often ignored, and the fact that Ukraine is almost entirely dependent on Western arms and many other forms of support is treated as a nonissue.

Instead, they are presented as homegrown freedom fighters, repelling foreign occupation, defending ‘democracy’ and ‘civilization,’ and so on.

The same logic applies to Syria today, as it applies to numerous other examples, including the mujahideen of Afghanistan when they fought against Soviet military intervention—not US-Western military occupation.

Unfortunately, some so-called progressives bought into that propaganda, thus judging the morality of armed struggle based on the nature of the enemy on the other side of this struggle.

Palestinians have always been the main exception to any definition of freedom fighting, although their cause is arguably the most just of all causes. Not only

are Palestinians fighting against military occupation, colonialism, and a racist apartheid system, but they are also fighting for mere survival as they endure an Israeli war of extermination and genocide, whose weapons are provided by most Western governments, and whose logic is constantly defended by Western media and so-called intellectuals.

Prior to the Gaza genocide, Palestinians were told repeatedly that armed struggle is neither strategic nor useful. They were often chastised for failing to see what is supposedly obvious to so many activists and writers, mobilizing and opining on Palestine thousands of miles away from the Gaza open-air prison or the West Bank's concentration refugee camps.

The Israeli genocide in Gaza, which aimed at exterminating and ethnically cleansing the survivors of the Gazacide, left Palestinians with no options but to fight. The resistance in Gaza materialized what was meant to be a symbolic reference by Mahmoud Darwish in his seminal poem - ‘The Mask Has Fallen’:

The mask has fallen from the mask, the mask has fallen.

You have no brothers, my brother, no friends, my friend, you have no castles.

You have no water, no medicine, no sky, no blood, no sail, neither forward nor backward.

Besiege your siege... there is no escape.

Your arm has fallen, so pick it up and strike your enemy...

There is no escape, and I fell near you, so pick me up and strike your enemy with me...

You are now free, free, and free...

Those who killed you or wounded you have ammunition in you, so strike with it.

It is as if Darwish was writing a prophecy, not a poem, and unbeknownst to all of his readers, that prophecy came true in Gaza.

While Gaza took on the responsibility of using its wounded body as ammunition—indeed, wounded and amputated fighters were seen fighting on the frontlines, from the lowest ranks to the top

leaders—it is the responsibility of intellectuals to document these moments in all their detail.

This documentation, however, is not convenient for everyone, because doing so can be a dangerous feat in today's environment, where the mere insinuation that Palestinians have the right to defend themselves under international law is considered an extremist act, and where figures like UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, along with numerous others, would be openly accused of belonging to Hamas.

However, the responsibility of the intellectual, aside from speaking truth to power, as Edward Said did, and challenging their role as orators to that of mobilizers, as Antonio Gramsci argued, is also to stand “for truth, no matter who tells it” according to Malcolm X.

Telling the truth should not be “a revolutionary act”, as George Orwell said; that if we indeed live in free, open societies where freedom of expression is a guaranteed right under various democratic constitutions. Sadly, this is not the case, and once again, Palestine remains the exception.

What is truly worrisome, however, is that if we continue to avoid the conversation that both Palestinians and Israelis are engaging in, we render ourselves completely irrelevant on an issue that requires deep and profound understanding. Without such understanding, no solidarity can carry much weight, and no amount of mobilization can make a difference.

Imagine the Israeli security cabinet making the ceasefire decision. Netanyahu is standing in front of one of his favorite visual media, a pie chart, which includes all the factors that support an Israeli acceptance of a ceasefire. Considering everything that we know about the war in Gaza, and judging by statements made by top Israeli active and retired military generals, it is certain that the Gaza resistance—coupled with Arab resistance elsewhere—was the main driver behind the Israeli decision.

While many are hin-

dered by fears, the confines of our ideologies, and wishful thinking, some may want to pretend that the Gaza resistance was the least relevant factor in the outcome of the war. The truth of Gaza, however, should be obvious for anyone else to see.

By acknowledging the resistance, however, we are not necessarily arguing that armed struggle or any other form of struggle is morally superior to all others. We are simply stating a fact, and in doing so, we are asserting that Palestinians resorted to such a choice only after being ignored by the international community for decades.

Denying Palestinians the right to resist is more than mere intellectual dishonesty; it amounts to denying them agency altogether and placing them squarely in the category of victims. This gives Israel, and ourselves, all the power to kill them at will in the case of the former, and to fight for their rights on our own terms in the case of the latter.

If the Gaza war has taught us anything, it is that Gaza and the Palestinian people have proven to be the most central players in this ongoing tragedy. It is they, their resistance, and their political discourse that will eventually defeat the Israeli occupation and bring peace and justice back to Palestine. Any attempt at circumventing this fact represents utter disrespect for the Palestinian people and for the legacy of the tens of thousands of innocent civilians who were pulverized by the Israeli-US-Western war machine.

- Dr. Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of six books. His latest book, co-edited with Ilan Pappé, is ‘Our Vision for Liberation: Engaged Palestinian Leaders and Intellectuals Speak Out’. His other books include ‘My Father was a Freedom Fighter’ and ‘The Last Earth’. Baroud is a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA). His website is www.ramzybaroud.net

Navigating differences: Lessons in collaboration from a life in leadership

SANJAY CHANDRA

I have been trying to set up a small library within my condominium complex. A lady was apprehensive about the criticism from a select few for the expenditure on this noble venture. Her sharp rejoinder that she could never stoop so low to my simple solution of inviting the critics to inaugurate the library left me seething.

In another instance, a lady unequivocally told me that she would not work with another lady in the Art and Literature Festival I am organizing within my society. I found their response irrational.I have worked in the government sector for more than 30 years out of the 35 years of an active professional life.

The initial 17 years were spent in handling big teams of literate or semi-literate staff. My suc-

cess depended upon their performance. I could not achieve much without the support of subordinates, peers, and superiors. I did not have the luxury of going back to my seniors to shift a person if he did not perform. I also could not go back asking for a transfer if I felt overwhelmed by the people who had strong unions, and who would not hesitate to run me down even at the slightest hint of weakness. I was taking stock of the previous day's performance with my senior supervisor in my very first posting in a maintenance shed that had more than 1,000 staff.

A group of staff and their leaders barged into the room to air their grievances. An unruly element from the crowd threw an earthen tea cup to landed right in front of me on the table. I had to gulp down the insult to pres-



ent a brave face as I thundered in the most authoritative voice I could muster that the meeting was over and I would not discuss any further.

It turned out that they were testing me and the leaders tried their best to be on my right side.A senior visited my shop floor during lunch hours in another posting in a production unit a few years later.

A place where a lot of grease

was used was usually quite gloomy with layers of the sticky substance accumulating over years. The shop floor would also not be the cleanest of the places at lunchtime. Railways was an extremely hierarchical organisation with the seniors considering themselves masters at insulting the subordinates, particularly the officers, who would not retaliate in front of the staff out of a sense of propriety.

This senior gentleman shouted at me that if the cleaning staff was not available, then I should have cleaned myself. My supervisor and the staff showed more compassion as they rushed around. There were many such incidents when I felt degraded and insulted. I did not have the same options that the two young ladies wanted to exercise. To give credit to both, they are well educated, one of them

having studied psychology in college, the other is a medical professional. I find a similar unwillingness in other younger professionals.

They are rigid in their approach to daily problems and would rather not talk to a person with contrary opinions than sit down to resolve them. The attitude often spills into the personal lives also. There would always be some difficult times. There is a need to discuss and find a middle ground.

I would like to bring their attention to the famous words of Abraham Lincoln, “I do not like that man. I must get to know him better.” It will take a lot of time and effort. But in the end, it will be worth it.

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

Subject: Grant of registration of the paying Guest house/ Home stay under the name and style " Chuk Inn Paying Guest House/Home Stay" Situated at Khayam Chowk Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas,I Mohammad Yousuf Wichka S/o: Ali Mohammad Wichka,R/o: Budshah Nagar Natipora Srinagar. At present:khayam Chowk Srinagar. Intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the Name & Style "Chuk Inn Paying Guest House/ Home Stay" Situated at near Khayam Chowk Srinagar. under Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attest photographs of the unit through Dy.Commissioner Concerned,Rent/Lease Deed /Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar,Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as HomeStay),Character Certificate of the applicant from the Concerned Police Station,undertaking from the owner as self declaration,Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media,list of family members Name,Age and Photograph self attested by owner,photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms),Inspection report by the Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view,the type of accommodation and amenity,aadhar card.Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley.Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

Mobile No.7889618248

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed travel unit under the name and style " M/s Anjoman Tour & Travel." Situated at Jawharpora Narbal Budgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where I Shazya Gulzar W/o: Omer Farooq R/o: Lasjan, Bye-Pass Srinagar Intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under Name and style "Osmi To Xplore" Tour & Travel." Situated at Lasjan, Bye-Pass Srinagar.under Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will,submit State Subject/Domocile Certificate,Qualification Certificate, Pan Card,Experience Certificate (Minimum of 5 years),Character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10,000),Site plan,Affidavit,Rent deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar,Printing Material (letter Head/visiting Card),photographs of the unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two passport size photograph to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourism Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is nearby notified for information of the General public/ Financials Institutions Bank / Organization,etcfor objection. if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (email id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this Notice in leading local newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 daya shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on name MOHAMMAD SUBHAN GANAIE S/O .GH RASOOL R/O JAHANGIRPORA ..Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000712 wants to be registered on my name SAJAD AHMAD GANAIE S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN R/O JAHANGIRPORA ..If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....SAJAD AHMAD GANIE
S/O ... MOHAMMAD SUBHAN
R/O JAHANGIRPORA

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ مجھے ہوم سٹے بنام ARURESIDENCE کی رجسٹریشن محکمہ ٹورازم پھلگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیرکنر ٹورازم پھلگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد ازاں معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستھر

محمد سفیع گنائی ولد مختار احمد گنائی

سکن انڈو پھلگام

ازد فتر نائب تحصیلدار کیری

درخواست منجانب سال غلام محمد چوپان ولد عبد کیر چوپان ساکنہ شیچورہ برآمد حصول OBC سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس اراو 294/144 بجٹ اولاد ان

اشتہار برآمد اگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد رئیس درخواست سال غلام محمد چوپان ولد ولد عبد کیر چوپان ساکنہ شیچورہ دفتر پائیس زیر اودانی سے اس نسبت رپورٹ پٹواری سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال کا نمبر (05) افراد پیش ہے سال چوپان ذات سے والدہ رکھتا ہے سال کے افراد مندرجہ ذیل ہے

1, غلام محمد چوپان ولد عبد کیر چوپان	سربہ	50 سال	مزدوری
2.. جمشید بیک زوچہ	45 سال	ہلکے پھلکام	
3... زیر احمد چوپان	پر	26 سال	زیر تعلیم
4... سیر جان	18 سال	11	
5... بوسرگ	12 سال	11	

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتایا گیا ہے ہا ہا ہا تمام غلام ناس و نام کو زیریہ اشتہار مطالع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی کو سرٹیفکیٹ نہ ملے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پنا عذر یا اعتراض سادھان کے اندر راندر پیش کریں معاد کو کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار کیری

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth SIDRA SHAHEEN D/O SHAHEEN MOHI UD DIN BHAT R/O VIZER Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/04/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

Subject:- Rate contract for SITC of Inverter Series Hot and cold Air Conditioning Units at vital locations of Govt. CD Hospital , LD, Children Hospital & B&J Srinagar Ref :1. This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2024-25/143/e-tendering Dated: 06.02.2025.CANCEL-LATION

CANCELLATION

Due to Administrative reasons and dubious authorization certificates which were withheld post opening of cover ist and declared invalid by the company the above referred NIT floated vide e-NIT No. M&HDS/TS /2024-25/143/e-tendering Dated: 06.02.2025 is hereby cancelled and shall be floated afresh shortly.

DIPK-12449/24
Date: Feb 25 2025

Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals
Division, Srinagar.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS(R&B)DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NO:T-1/EEA/10395-98

Date: 24 /02/2025

Extension

Subject:

S.No.	Name of Work
1	Restoration of road surface by way of construction of cement concrete Drain on Hurdmi Lariyar road

Reference: E-NIT No :142/EEA/RNB of 2024 :142/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/9814-24 DATED 08/02/2025 24 DATED 08/02/2025

It is notified for the information of all concerned that It is notified for the information of all concerned that single bidder has Participated for has Participated for above said NIT for s.no(01). Hence the above entioned work/Tender is hereby extended/modified . Hence the above mentioned work/Tender is hereby extended/ modified . Hence the above mentioned work/Tender is hereby extended/modified and fixed as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	03 -03 -2025 upto 3.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	04 -03 -2025 at 12.00P.M

All the other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs

DIPK-12426/24
Date: Feb 25 2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth ARHAAN IQBAL S/O MOHAMMAD IQBAL SHEIKH R/O CHOORA Tehsil KHOIE Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 19/07/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth MOHAMMAD ANAS D/O MOHD ASHRAF HAJAM R/O WADOORA PAYEEN Tehsil BOMAI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 17/12/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old Name) SYED JUNAID JAVAID NAQASH to (New Name) SYED JUNAID KASHANI. In future I will be known as (New Name) SYED JUNAID KASHANI. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Public Notice

My Son's name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD ZIYAAN in his Adhar card while his correct name is ZEEYAN NABI S/O GH NABI CHOPAN R/O NOWPORA JAGIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA / TEHSIL OFFICE WAGOORA within Seven. days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....GH NABI CHOPAN
F/O ZEEYAN NABI
R/O NOWPORA JAGIR

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as AB HAMID GANAI in my adhar card while my correct name is AB HAMID GANIE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA /Tehsil office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Public Notice

My son's name has been wrongly written as MOMIN MANZOOR DAR S/O MANZOOR AHMAD DAR in my Adhaar card while my correct name is MUYEEN MANZOOR S/O MANZOOR AHMAD DAR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA /Tehsil office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME.....MANZOOR AHMAD DAR
F/O MUYEEN MANZOOR. DAR
R/O NAGBAL

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Principal

Government Degree College Magam Budgam

NO.GDC/M/2025/147

Dated. 24 /02/2025

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Due to poor response to this office tender notice No: GDC/M/25/93 Dated: 06-02-2025 published in Daily newspaper Rising Kashmir on 07/02/2025 regarding the running of college canteen for the session 2025-26 last date for submission of tenders have been extended upto 20/03/2025. Rest of the terms and conditions as laid down in the above referred tender notice shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-12423/24
Date: 25-02-25

Principal
GDC Magam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION KASHMIR

Sub: CPSW No. 689/2016 in SWP No.25/2010 titled Javid Saleem vs Manoj Kumar Dwivedi & Ors.
Ref: Administrative Department's communication No.: Edu/LGLO/Kmr/152/2022-01 dated: 13/02/2025

Notification

Pursuant to the directions conveyed by Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar dated: 26/11/2024 passed in CPSW 689/2016 in [SWP No.25/2010] titled Javid Saleem vs Manoj Kumar Dwivedi & Ors coupled with the recommendations of J&K Service Selection Board vide Order No.586-SSB of 2017 dated: 25/10/2017 received through Administrative Department vide communication No. Edu/Legal/K/20/2016 dated: 23/11/2017 and the approval conveyed by Administrative Department vide communication No. Edu/LGLO/Kmr/152/2022-01 dated: 13/02/2025 in favour Shri. Javid Saleem S/o: Mohammad Saleem R/o: Sheikhhar Pulwama, District Pulwama, for his appointment as Teacher in pursuant to Notification No.01 of 2008 dated: 22/04/2008 under PH Category (Vision), Shri. Javid Saleem S/o: Mohammad Saleem R/o: Sheikhhar Pulwama, District Pulwama is hereby informed through the medium of this Notification informed to submit all the Testimonial/Certificates (in Original) and verification of Character & Antecedents Form (V-Roll) prescribed by the Government in light of Order No.528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 21/06/2021 in the office of Directorate of School Education Kashmir, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this Notification.

Note: After expiry of the stipulated time period, any of the Testimonials/Certificates, Verification of Character & Antecedents (V-Roll) received from candidate for his appointment shall not be entertained and the claim for his appointment as Teacher under any of the category shall not rightly be rejected.

DIPK-12445/24
Date: Feb 25, 2025

Sd/
Director
School Education I Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Machinery Division Srinagar

Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xeninds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2024-25/105
Date	25.02.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from registered contractors for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rupees)	Bid Security/EM D in (In Rupees)	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5
SITC & ITC (as the case may be) of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set / including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at bore well No.104 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron.	200.00	23,12,600.00	46250.00	Approved under NMS

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below :-

01	Publish date	25.02.2025 (18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	25.02.2025 (18:30hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	25.02.2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	04.03.2025 (18:55hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	05.03.2025 (14:00hrs)

Date: 25.02.2025
DIPK-12421/24

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar

Subject: Advertisement notice for engagement of Krishi Udyamis (KUs) Agricultural Entrepreneur in the district Srinagar. Applications on prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Krishi Udyami (KUs) on contractual basis for a period of two years (Extensible) subject to the terms and conditions laid down in contract agreement.

S.No	Details	Description								
1	Position	Krishi Udyami (KU) (Agricultural Entrepreneur)								
2	Number of Positions	07 Pre-identified Panchayat level Kissan Khidmat Ghars of the District Srinagar as per the Panchayat details whereof given as under:- <table><tr><td>S.No</td><td>Name of KKG</td><td>Name of Panchayat</td><td>Block</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Faqir Gujri A&B</td><td>Faqir Gujri A</td><td>Harwan</td></tr></table>	S.No	Name of KKG	Name of Panchayat	Block	1	Faqir Gujri A&B	Faqir Gujri A	Harwan
S.No	Name of KKG	Name of Panchayat	Block							
1	Faqir Gujri A&B	Faqir Gujri A	Harwan							
3	Duration	Initially for a period of 2 Years, with the possibility of annual extensions.								
4	Engagement	Qualification Diploma in Agriculture & Allied Fields or Graduation in science (BSc), Graduation in Agriculture and Allied Fields. (BSc/BVSc) Additional preference will be given to the candidates possessing post-graduation science (Agri & Allied) & computers diplomas/certificates Diploma courses: Diploma in Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture, agri Engineering, BHT, BAT from government recognized institution Agri Allied courses: BSc in agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture, B.Tech in agriculture engineering, and BVSc & AH/ General Graduation (Science) from government recognized institution. Diploma/Certification course in computers of 3 or more month's duration from a government recognized institution.								
5	Job profile	Job profile Operate Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)								
6	Remunerations	Remunerations The engagement is based on a self-earning/entrepreneur basis								
7	Last date for receipt of complete Application	Application on prescribed format may be submitted in the office of Chief Agriculture officer Srinagar by or before 10.03.2025 till 4.00 PM along with following documents 1. DOB 2. Marks Certificate of all qualifying examinations.								
8	Space requirement for Housing for KKG's (Phase II)	The Selectee Krishi Udyami shall have to arrange his/her own accommodation whether owned or rented within the Panchayat Halqa as per given break up. I) Core front Office functionality 300 to 350 Sqft II) Off-site storage arrangement to be assigned within the same Panchayat jurisdiction								
9	Age bar	Age bar Age should be between 21 to 45 Years as of the last date of submission								

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
The complete details of the scheme and terms of terms of engagements can be had from the office of Chief Agriculture officer, Srinagar during the office hours or can be downloaded (<http://hadp.jk.gov.in>)

DIPK-12408/24
Date: Feb 25 2025

Chief Agriculture Officer
Srinagar

District Admin Baramulla Organizes Orientation Program for Mission YUVA

■ HT News Network

Baramulla, February 25: The District Administration Baramulla in collaboration with District Employment & Counseling Centre Baramulla today organized orientation program for Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) at Dakbanglow Baramulla to foster entrepreneurship and job creation.

Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla Minga Sherpa, who inaugurated the program, highlighted the extensive groundwork done to identify poten-

tial entrepreneurs across the district. He informed that a comprehensive baseline survey mapped 57,000 potential entrepreneurs, with a dedicated workforce deployed across Baramulla to collect and analyze data.

This data will help us implement Mission YUVA in a way that ensures aspiring entrepreneurs receive targeted support," the DC said while speaking to the media. He further announced that Phase 2 of Mission YUVA will be launched very soon, focusing on structured support, financial assistance, and capacity building for identified entrepreneurs.

He further said that 165 Yuva Doots



will be deputized to assist entrepreneurs and facilitate their business ventures. Each Yuva Doot will be responsible for monitoring and supporting entrepreneurs across three Panchayats, ensuring that they receive the necessary guidance, mentorship, and access to government schemes. The orientation program covered key aspects, including an overview of Mission YUVA, detailed findings from the baseline survey, and the roles and responsibilities of SBDUs, BHDs, and Yuva Doots in providing direct business support and mentorship. Strengthening these units will ensure effective outreach

and implementation at the grassroots level. Mission YUVA operates through a decentralized support system, with SBDUs serving as district-level incubation and facilitation centers, while BHDs function as sub-division level help desks, offering tailored guidance to entrepreneurs. The Mission YUVA Portal/App also serves as a key platform, providing access to essential business resources, funding opportunities, and mentorship. With the successful completion of the first phase, the administration is now set to roll out Phase 2, which will focus on equipping identified entrepreneurs with financial assistance.

District Industries Centre Kulgam organizes awareness programme at ITI

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam, February 25: District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam today organized an awareness programme at ITI Chawalgam Kulgam.

General Manager DIC, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Lone, Principal Govt ITI Kulgam, Faculty Members ITI, IPOs and other resource persons were present in the awareness session.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager talked about industrialization and its importance and sensitized the participants about rapidly changing job market and economies of the world and need to adapt to changing situations and earn a decent livelihood by establishing the self employment units with the support of District Industries Centre.



He also sensitized the participants about prevailing drug menace and urged them to stay away from such activities and be focused to achieve their goals and upgrade their skills.

Principal ITI Kulgam, Ishaq Ahmad also delivered a speech and motivated young technically equipped students towards innovation and entrepre-

neurship.

During the programme detailed sessions regarding brief overview and benefits under PMEGP, NCSS, MSME, PM Vishwakarma and Land Allotment were discussed.

On the occasion five participants shared their inspiring strategies with fellow candidates highlighting how they successfully leverage their skills to generate income while

aspiring towards entrepreneurship.

The programme was followed by questions answer session and witnessed a threadbare discussion between the participants and speakers of DIC regarding the hiccups which are being faced by the entrepreneurs while applying/ availing benefits under various schemes of DIC.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Ramdhan Directed for uninterrupted water, electricity supply at peak hours

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 25: The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting of officers to review and finalize the arrangements for ensuing holy month of Ramadan.

During the meeting, DC instructed Officers of KPD-CL and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply to the consumers during the month of Ramadan especially at the Sehri and Iftar times.

Emphasizing on the sanitation of towns and municipality areas, DC directed Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to launch special cleanliness drives in the district



with focus on roads, lanes, drains and regular lifting of waste from markets.

He also directed con-

cerned for installation of more lights in their respective towns.

Concerned officers and

departments were instructed to carry special market checking squads to keep check on profiteering, hoarding and overcharging by shopkeepers.

Moreover, availability of essentials in the market was also reviewed during the meeting. While traffic authorities were directed to ensure availability of transport in evening hours.

The meeting among others was attended by ADDC, Mohammad Altaf Khan, ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mushtaq Ahmad, ACP, Exen Jal Shakti, Tehsildars, AEs of PHE, PDD, EOs, officers from Sheep and Animal husbandries besides Auqaf Committee members. Concerned officers and departments were instructed to carry special market checking squads.

KVK Kupwara Hosts Live Streaming of PM-KISAN 19th Installment Release

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, Feb, 25: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara, under the aegis of SKUAST-K, organized a live streaming event to mark the release of the 19th installment of the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme. The event, conducted online, coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official release of the installment from Bhagalpur, Bihar. On this occasion, a total of 63 farmers, including progressive farmers and agripreneurs from Kupwara district, participated in the program, reflecting its significance for the local farming community. The scientific staff of KVK Kupwara, including Dr. Shahid Hakeem and Dr. Raies Ahmad, actively engaged with the farmers, providing insights on sustainable agriculture and modern farming practices. Expressing their gratitude, the farmers thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the timely release of funds, acknowledging that while 2,000 may be a modest sum, it remains a valuable financial aid for their agricultural and horticultural activities. They also appreciated KVK Kupwara and SKUAST-K for their continuous efforts in raising awareness and providing scientific guidance to enhance farming productivity. The event highlighted the government's commitment to supporting farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the Kashmir region.

DC Baramulla reviews Ramzan arrangements; stresses seamless public services

■ HT News Network

Baramulla, February 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for the holy month of Ramzan, ensuring all necessary facilities for the public.

He directed concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, particularly during Sehri and Iftar hours. He also emphasized strict market regulation to curb hoarding and overpricing of essential commodities. Reviewing sanitation measures, DC instructed municipal authorities to maintain cleanliness around mosques and marketplaces. He further directed the concerned departments to install and repair streetlights in key areas to facilitate safe movement of people, especially during early morning and late evening hours.

Among others Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, Additional Superintendent of Police Sopore, Mir Murtaza, SDMs of Uri, Gulmarg, Pattan besides other concerned officers were attended the meeting.

DC Budgam reviews progress on upgradation, renovation works of Behisht-e-Zehra Par

■ HT News Network

Budgam, February 25: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo today took stock of beautification, renovation and redevelopment works being executed on the Behisht-e-Zehra park Budgam.

During the visit, the DC reviewed progress of infrastructure upgradation including walkway reconstruction using paver blocks & interlock tiles; seating platforms with tea & coffee resting blocks finished with granite; installation of decorative metal lights outside park; structural steel railings for walkway sides and other developmental works aimed at enhancing the aesthetic and public utility of park.

On the occasion, DC directed R&B department Budgam



to ensure that the work is executed as per specification, and instructed the site engineers to monitor the works properly to bring out quality results. DC while expressing pleasure regarding the ongoing works at the park stated that the work on enhancing, reno-

uating, and beautifying of park is progressing well.

Chief planning officer budgam Irfan Giri, Executive Engineer R&B division Budgam, Officials from the R&B Department, and other concerned departments accompanied the DC during the visit.

Forest Division Langate Hosts Workshop on Forest Fire Mitigation Strategies

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Langate, Feb, 25: In a proactive effort to strengthen forest fire preparedness, the Langate Forest Division, in collaboration with BSF Naugam, SDH Langate, the Wildlife Department, and the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), organized a one-day workshop on forest fire management and mitigation strategies. The workshop focused on equipping frontline forest personnel with essential skills in fire prevention, suppression techniques, jungle survival, first aid, and CPR. Experts from the Fire and Emergency Services, Border Security Forces, and the Health Department provided valuable training and guidance, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for the participants. With over 100 frontline forest staff in attendance, the event underscored the importance of timely intervention and inter-departmental coordination in effectively tackling forest fires.



Officials also stressed the need for greater community awareness and involvement in minimizing fire incidents, recognizing the role of local residents in early detection and prevention. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance forest protection mechanisms in the region, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to fire emergencies. By fostering collaboration between various agencies and improving the preparedness of forest personnel, the Langate Forest Division aims to mitigate the risks associated with forest fires and safeguard the region's biodiversity.

National Training Program on Natural Farming Begins at Directorate of extension SKUAST-K

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Srinagar, Feb, 25: A four-day National Training Program on Natural Farming was inaugurated today at the Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir. Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, the program aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices and equip experts with advanced knowledge in natural farming. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai, who has been instrumental in establishing the Centre for Natural Farming at the university, played a key role in making SKUAST-K one of the fourteen designated centers for natural farming across India. Under his leadership, the university has emerged as a pioneer in the field. Delivering the inaugural address, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, emphasized the need for a mission-



driven approach to achieving excellence in natural farming. She highlighted the importance of sustainable agricultural practices for long-term environmental

conservation and food security. The event witnessed insightful contributions from leading experts, including Prof. Purshottam Singh (Professor of Agronomy), Prof. Parmeet Singh (Associate Director Research), and Prof. Farahanaz Rasool (Deputy Director Trainings), who discussed various aspects of natural farming and its practical applications. The program has attracted program coordinators, scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and experts from the Directorate of Extension, ensuring a broad-based impact across the agricultural sector. The four-day training will cover key topics such as soil health management, water conservation, organic input production, and eco-friendly farming techniques, equipping agricultural professionals with the skills needed to promote sustainable farming in their regions.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rusheeba Manzoor, Deputy Director, SAMETI, who acknowledged the efforts of all participants and reiterated the significance of collective action in advancing natural farming initiatives.

Deputy Chief Minister holds review meeting at Sunderbani; Assesses public grievances

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a review meeting regarding functioning of various departments at Sunderbani.

The meeting focused on addressing the issues and grievances of the general public relating different departments.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to resolve the public grievances on priority basis, ensuring swift and effective solutions to the concerns of the local residents.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister also had a comprehensive review of the progress on various schemes of different departments. He emphasised the importance of raising public awareness about various government schemes and programs. He instructed the District Social Welfare Officer and Assistant Labour Commissioner to organise



special camps in the district, particularly in Nowshera and Sunderbani, to educate the public about their initiatives and ensure maximum coverage.

The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan; ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra; SE PWD(R&B), Devi Dayal; ACD, Vijay

Kumar; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; DMO, Mohd Sayeed; ALC, Pradyot Gupta and other officers.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also attended a mega event organised at Guru Ravi Dass Ji temple at Dheri, marking his continued commitment towards community welfare and spiritual engagement.

DC Bandipora visits CHC Sumbal, takes stock of Healthcare Facilities

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 25: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday visited Community Health Centre (CHC) Sumbal to review the available healthcare facilities and take stock of services being provided to the public.

During his visit, M.A Qadri conducted inspection of the various sections including OPD, wards, diagnostic units and other units.

While interacting with the staff, the DC emphasized to ensure that medical equipment and essential supplies are available besides enquired about the challenges faced in delivering quality healthcare services. He also interacted with patients and took feedback regarding the services provided to them.

Qadri emphasized the need for prompt action to address any gaps in services, ensuring that the healthcare



centre operates efficiently.

He asked the concerned to identify areas of improvement and steps that need to be taken to enhance healthcare delivery and make services more accessible. He asked the staff to maintain high standards of patient care and urged them to address any deficiencies to ensure better outcomes for patients. Among others, ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl, SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Shiekh and other concerned were also present. Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, accom-

panied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Zaffar Husson Shawl, on Tuesday paid a visit to the Tehsil Library Bandipora to assess the available facilities and took feedback from students and staff. During the visit, the students and library staff raised several concerns, including extending the library's operating hours, improving heating and cooling facilities, and address other infrastructure issues. The Deputy Commissioner listened patiently to the concerns and assured the students and staff that all genuine issues would be resolved within a specified time frame. He said District Administration Bandipora is committed to enhance the learning environment for students and address these concerns to ensure a better and more comfortable space for students.

M. A. Qadri said that the library is an important resource for which administration will make every effort to ensure that it meets the needs of the public.

Zamahdari Project 2.0 Promotes Literacy in Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 25: The Zamahdari Project 2.0 has taken a significant stride in educational reform with the launch of a three-day capacity-building training programme for key resource persons. The training programme was organized by District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kupwara in collaboration with PRITHAM, a renowned NGO, following the directions of DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. The primary goal is to enhance foundational literacy and numeracy skills among students, ensuring a stronger academic future for the children. The programme was inaugurated by Principal DIET Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, who in his address highlighted the crucial role of literacy and numeracy in a child's holistic development. He applauded the collaboration with PRITHAM, recognizing the NGO's dedication to educational transformation.

Coordinated by Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, In-Charge Trainings, the programme is meticulously designed to equip resource



persons with innovative teaching methodologies, assessment tools, and strategies to address learning gaps.

Participants appreciated the programme's dynamic approach, which blends theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The initiative also emphasises the significance of continuous professional development, enabling educators to adapt to evolving educational needs and methodologies.

This initiative marks a major step toward strengthening the educational framework in Kupwara, reaffirming the commitment to nurturing a generation equipped with essential learning skills.

Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt B'la organizes artisan exhibition cum awareness camp at Sopore

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA FEBRUARY 25: The Handicrafts and Handloom Department Baramulla organized a day-long Artisan Exhibition cum Awareness Camp at the Handicrafts Block Sopore.

The event was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and was attended by

Handicrafts Training Officer (HTO) Sopore, Owais Ahmad, Craft Instructors, artisans, members of various Industrial Cooperative Societies and trainees from different training centers.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, emphasized that the objective of the camp was to create awareness among artisans about various welfare schemes and programs offered by the department.

He urged artisans to register



with the department to avail the benefits of these schemes, which aim to support them in achieving economic independence.

During the event, HTO Sopore apprised the participants about the various training programs, cooperative initiatives, and design

support available through the School of Designs, Srinagar.

He also highlighted the benefits of the newly launched Credit Card Scheme, which provides artisans with a financial aid of Rs 2 lakh, along with a 7% subsidy for five years from the date of disbursement.

ment.

On the occasion, ADC distributed appreciation certificates to extraordinary trainees from various training centers of Block Sopore. The event was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and was attended by Handicrafts Training Officer (HTO) Sopore, Owais Ahmad, Craft Instructors, artisans, members of various Industrial Cooperative Societies and trainees from different training centers.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, emphasized that the objective of the camp was to create awareness among artisans about various welfare schemes and programs offered by the department. He urged artisans to register with the department to avail the benefits of these schemes, which aim to support them in achieving economic independence.

DC Shopian meets SBDU, BHD members under Mission Yuva

Sensitizes them regarding their role, responsibilities for impactful implementation

■ HT News Network

Shopian, February 25: A meeting was today convened by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta with all the members of Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHD) to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each member in the context of the Mission YUVA project.

A comprehensive and detailed presentation was shared with the members, outlining the specific roles and duties of each member.

The committee members were sensitised about their job profile and helped to clarify expectations and facilitate a deeper understanding of the tasks at hand.



DC Shopian emphasized the importance of

their specific and critical roles in the project and stressed that a clear comprehension of responsibilities would ensure a smooth and efficient execution of the Mission YUVA project.

Furthermore, he directed that each Yuva Doot will be identified after filling all the details of their selection as per the Yuva Doot Document. Additionally, the panchayats will be allocated to them, ensuring that the next steps can be taken accordingly in the project.

One SBDU at district level and two BHDs at sub divisional level at Shopian and Zainapora have been set up for the effective implementation of Mission Yuva in the district.

MD takes financial review of Jal Jeevan Mission

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today had a financial review of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu & Kashmir through virtual mode. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department besides Superintending Engineers Hydraulic circle's and Executive Engineers of all divisions including their counterparts of Mechanical Engineering. The Mission Director enquired about the unspent funds above one crore in Single Nodal Account (SNA) of each division. He directed the Executive Engineers to expedite the process of payment to the firms who have satisfactorily completed the works allotted. Khurshid Shah called for synergy



between the Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers for clearing the liabilities well before the completion of financial year in March. The Mission Director enjoined upon the officers to clear the liabilities on account of completed works which will pave way for transition to new payment system.

The meeting further directed the divisions to upload the details of infrastructure created on Gati Shakti portal for which training is being imparted by National Jal Jeevan Mission to the nodal officers.

Athar Amir Khan kick starts "Clean Kulgam, Green Kulgam" campaign

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam February 25: In an inspiring move to protect the environment, District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with the Municipal Council launches the "Clean Kulgam, Green Kulgam" awareness drive here at the conference hall of Mini-Secretariat.

The initiative kick started by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan, aims to clean up local waterbodies and raise awareness about the urgent need to protect these crucial natural resources from pollution.

The campaign kicked off with an energetic cleanup drive, where volunteers and municipal authorities joined

forces to remove waste from the region's water bodies. The event also aimed to educate the community on the harmful effects of pollution on aquatic ecosystems and the critical importance of preserving them.

Deputy Commissioner while speaking at the event emphasized the significance of collective action for environmental conservation.

"Our waterbodies are vital to our ecosystem so it is essential that we unite to prevent the further pollution of these resources", he said and added that the initiative is just the start of a larger movement to ensure a cleaner and greener future for our nation.

"As a individual we owe the responsibility of keeping



the surroundings neat and clean", he stated.

Executive Officer MC Kulgam Zahid Sajjad, expressed

the governments unwavering support for such envi-

ronmentally focused efforts.

The residents of Kulgam have been encouraged to actively take part in the ongoing cleanup efforts and spread the message of environmental responsibility.

The "Go Green Nation, Waste-Free India" initiative calls on people across the region to work together for a cleaner, greener future for Kulgam and the country as a whole.

Earlier the Yaad Gaar art and music theater performed a skit depicting the importance of keeping our waterbodies pollution free.

At the conclusion of the awareness programme, the different people were awarded with mementos and appreciation certificates for remarkable work in making

environment pollution free.

Among other, the programme was attended by ACR Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Sanitation Officers & workers of MC, Civil Society members and school children. The "Go Green Nation, Waste-Free India" initiative calls on people across the region to work together for a cleaner, greener future for Kulgam and the country as a whole.

Earlier the Yaad Gaar art and music theater performed a skit depicting the importance of keeping our waterbodies pollution free.

At the conclusion of the awareness programme, the different people were awarded with mementos and appreciation certificates for remarkable work in making environment pollution free.

Principal Secretary APD reviews wayside amenities along highways across J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the status of wayside amenities and toilet facilities along major highways and roads across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was aimed to address the growing needs of both local commuters and the increasing number of tourists visiting the Union Territory.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, senior officers from NHAI, BRO, NHIDCL, R&B and the Tourism Department attended the meeting.

The meeting had detailed discussion on enhancing infrastructure to improve travel experience and ensure seamless access to essential facilities along major routes.

The Principal Secretary asked the offi-



cers to identify the locations along the roads and acquire/ transfer land in consultation with the concerned Deputy Commissioners for raising requisite facilities for the local and outside visitors.

The Principal Secretary directed the officers to ensure installation of signboards marking toilet facilities and indicating

distances along highways to enhance visibility and accessibility. He directed the Beacon authorities to submit a location plan for wayside amenities within fixed timelines besides asking the NHAI to ensure that all existing amenities become functional.

The PWD and Tourism Departments

were asked to conduct a gap analysis to identify location specific requirements for new wayside amenities along major highways. This will ensure an overall infrastructural development plan that meets the evolving needs of both the residents and the visitors.

He also directed the concerned agencies to ensure wayside amenities and toilets facilities are incorporated in the DPRs of road construction projects. The Principal Secretary directed the officers to ensure installation of signboards marking toilet facilities and indicating distances along highways to enhance visibility and accessibility. He directed the Beacon authorities to submit a location plan for wayside amenities within fixed timelines besides asking the NHAI to ensure that all existing amenities become functional.

The PWD and Tourism Departments were asked to conduct a gap analysis to identify location specific requirements for new wayside amenities along major highways.

Commissioner R&R visits migrant camps; reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Organisation, Dr Arvind Karwani, visited Jagti, Nagrota, Muthi and Purkhoo migrant camps to take stock of necessary arrangements being put in place for the annual Maha Shivratri Festival.

Dr Karwani inspected the stalls put by different departments for sale of flowers, vegetables, walnuts, pooja and food items at these migrant camps besides prominent locations at Jammu, having substantial population of Kashmiri Pandits. The Commissioner asked the Floriculture Department and Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing to ensure adequate supply at Jagti, Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota and non camp areas like Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Janipur Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Gangyal, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Udhaywala and Talab Tillo during the festival days. Dr Karwani also inspected the Ration Depots in the migrant camps to take stock of the availability of ration.

The Department of FCS&CA assured smooth supply of all quality food items in all migrant camps and non-camp areas.



Mission YUVA project... DC discusses modalities for seamless implementation in Poonch district

■ HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 25: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with the members of the SBDH and BHD committees to discuss their role and responsibilities in the context of the Mission YUVA project.

A comprehensive and detailed presentation was shared with the members, outlining the specific roles and duties of each member.

The Deputy Commissioner guided the committee members through a detailed PPT, ensuring that everyone clearly understands his individual responsibilities. The personalized approach helped to clarify expectations and facilitated a deeper understanding of the tasks at hand. "A clear comprehension of responsibilities will ensure a smooth and efficient execution of the Mission YUVA project," he added.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commis-



sioner directed that each Yuva Doot will be provided identity cards after filling all the details of their selection as per the Yuva Doot Document. "Each of them will be allotted a panchayat, ensuring that the next steps can be taken as per the project.

Participants included Officers from RDD Agriculture, Labour & Employment, Banks, NABARD, NRLM, JKEDI,

ITI, the institutional heads of Government Degree Colleges Mandher, Poonch, Surankote, besides CEO.

In addition, Block development officers, who joined virtually, were directed by the DC to identify the names of employees who had previously worked well in the baseline survey for the appointment as Yuva Doots.

Javed Dar extends Maha Shivratri greetings to people

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, also celebrated as Herath in Kashmir, Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javed Ahmad Dar, today extended his hearty greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance of the festival, which is celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm across both Kashmir and Jammu regions, the Minister said that the festival hold deep cultural and spiritual importance for devotees, symbolising faith, unity and the spirit of togetherness.

He emphasized that such festivals reinforce the values of peace, harmony and the idea of co-existence among different communities. "These occasions remind us of our rich cultural heritage and the need to uphold communal harmony. Such auspicious occasions serve as a unifying force, bringing people together beyond religious and regional boundaries," he said. The Minister also underscored the role of traditional celebrations in fostering goodwill and mutual respect among all sections of the society. He expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, prosperity and well-being to every household in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged upon the people to pray for lasting peace, development and brotherhood in the region. "May this festival strengthen the bonds of love and mutual understanding among us and inspire us to work towards a more peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister added.

Sakeena Itoo extends Herath (Mahashivratri) greetings to people of J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri (Herath).

In her message, the Minister described the festival as a sacred occasion to rededicate oneself to live a virtuous life. She added that Herath holds a special place in the history, culture and pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena said that the warmth with which Herath is celebrated across J&K, defines the communal harmony Jammu and Kashmir is known for.

The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

STD conducts simultaneous search and seizure inspection at various locations, urges taxpayers to follow fair-trade practices

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25: As part of its ongoing drive to check the practice of conversion of B2C invoices into B2B and passing on fake ITC to dealers especially those registered as work contractors, Jammu and Kashmir, State Taxes Department (STD) conducted simultaneous search and seizure inspections at various locations across Jammu division here today.

The Department has urged the dealers to follow fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC as it is continuously monitoring such actions through AI based data analytics tools and any dealer indulging in such activities shall be dealt with seriously under GST law.

The department made an appeal to all the taxpayers to practice invoice-based business and report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

The Department has impressed upon the taxpayers that any fraudulent activity is generating red flag inputs in various AI tools including Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal and other portals of enforcement wings and therefore need to be avoided.

HIV awareness program held at GDC Neeli Nallah

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 25: Red Ribbon Club and IQAC Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society organized an HIV/AIDS awareness programme today featuring Poster making and Debate Competitions. The event was conducted under the guidance of the Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora. She praised the students for their active participation and highlighted the importance of education and awareness to counter misinformation. In poster making competition Nilakshi Devi, Sabia Akhter and Banshika Devi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. A debate competition was also organized in which Himanshi Sharma, Shreya Sharma and Nilakshi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Certificates were also given away to the students for their active participation. In the end, the Principal lauded the efforts of the participants and congratulated.

Mahashivratri Celebrations: 2-Day Kisan Mela begins at Airwan Shrine amid festivity

MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan, DC Dr Rakesh Minhas inaugurate mega event

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 25: The annual Mahashivratri celebrations at the historic Airwan Shrine began today on a grand note with a vibrant Kisan Mela organized by the District Administration Kathua. The event brought together farmers, artists, and devotees, creating a lively atmosphere of cultural and spiritual festivity.

The Kisan Mela opened with a special ceremony, setting the stage for two days of engaging activities. The fair showcased a wide range of locally grown farm produce, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and grains, highlighting the agricultural richness of the region. Farmers from surrounding villages participated enthusiastically and interacted with experts to learn about the latest farming techniques.

To further benefit the farming community, stalls were set up by the agriculture and allied departments, providing information on modern farming techniques, government schemes, and best agricultural practices. Farmers got the opportunity to interact with experts and gain insights into modern practices in crop production, animal husbandry and horticulture.

Adding to the cultural charm of the event, artists from the Information Department presented a mesmerizing show of Shiva Tandava and Shiv Vivaha. The rhythmic act captivated the audience, reinforcing the deep spiritual and artistic traditions associated with Mahashivratri.

MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, who



inaugurated the event, lauded the District Administration and the Airwan Mandir Committee for putting in sincere efforts in organizing the Mela. He emphasized the importance of such events in strengthening community bonds, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and preserving cultural heritage.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh

Minhas highlighted that the Kisan Mela not only added to the festive spirit of Mahashivratri but also served as a platform to educate farmers on modern agricultural techniques and allied practices. He encouraged farmers to take advantage of the opportunity and learn about new farming methods and government schemes designed to support their growth.

Dr. Minhas also announced that as part of the Mahashivratri celebrations, a grand Ganga Aarti will be held at 6 PM on Mahashivratri day at Airwan Shrine. The event will feature the lighting of 1,100 Diyas (oil lamps), showcasing a breathtaking visual spectacle. He invited the public to participate in this sacred event and experience the divine atmosphere.

The Airwan Mandir Committee, led by Tehsildar Nagri Aana Jamwal, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, participants, and organizers for their support in making the event a success. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and promoting traditional cultural values while ensuring that Mahashivratri celebrations continue to be inclusive and spiritually enriching.

The Kisan Mela has set the stage for the main Mahashivratri celebrations, bringing together farmers, devotees, and cultural enthusiasts in a unique blend of spirituality and tradition. The event underscores the Airwan Mandir's deep-rooted significance as a center of devotion and cultural heritage, drawing visitors from across the region.

On this occasion, the DC extended his warm greetings and best wishes to everyone, emphasizing that Mahashivratri is not just a religious festival but also a celebration of unity, spirituality, and India's rich cultural heritage.

Earlier, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Athletic competitions were played which witnessed mammoth attendance.

DDC Nagri Sandeep Majotra, ADC and other officials were also present on the occasion.

**Atishi among 21 AAP MLAs suspended from Delhi Assembly amid uproar****AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, FEB 25 (UNI)

The Delhi Legislative Assembly on Tuesday suspended 21 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Atishi, for three days for creating ruckus and sloganeering during Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's address.

Regarding the disruption caused by AAP MLAs during Mr. Saxena's address, Cabinet Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh brought a resolution in the House demanding strict action against those who indulged in undignified acts, which was supported by MLA Abhay Verma and demanded suspension of all 21 members for three days.

Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta moved a motion to suspend 21 AAP MLAs for three working days, which was accepted by the House by a voice vote.

Of the 22 AAP MLAs, Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan was not present in the House on Tuesday.

Kharge alleges massive cuts in scholarships for marginalised youth**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, FEB 25 (UNI)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the central government of "massive cuts" in scholarships for SC, ST, OBC, and minority youth and said that without adequate support, their progress would be hindered.

He alleged that the Modi government had not only made massive cuts in the number of beneficiaries but had also spent 25 percent less funds.

On social media platform X, Kharge said, "Your government has usurped the scholarships meant for SC, ST, OBC, and minority youth!"

"These shameful statistics show that the Modi government has not only drastically reduced the beneficiaries in all scholarships but has also reduced the funds by an average of 25%, over the years!" he alleged.

He said that "until the students of the weaker sections get opportunities, their skills are not encouraged; how will we be able to increase jobs for the youth of our country?"

"Your slogan of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' cruelly mocks the aspirations of the weaker sections every day!" he said.

Ex-MLA Abdullah Azam released from jail after 16 months**AGENCIES**

HARDOI (UP), FEB 25 (UNI)

Abdullah Azam Khan, former MLA and son of senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan, was released from Hardoi district jail after being granted bail by a special court here in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, official sources said here.

Sources said that Abdullah Azam was lodged in Hardoi district jail for more than 16 months in a fake date of birth certificate case. "The bail warrant reached the district jail from Rampur after which the verification process was completed and then Abdullah Azam was released," they said.

The party workers were very happy with the release of Abdullah Azam. SP MP Ruchi also reached Moradabad on this occasion. Abdullah Azam left from here for Rampur with a convoy of dozens of vehicles.

On October 22, 2023, Abdullah Azam was transferred from Rampur to Hardoi district jail. He was lodged in Hardoi jail for more than 16 months. On Monday, the warrant for his release was sent to Hardoi jail from the MP-MLA Magistrate Trial Court and he was released on Tuesday.

Youth shot dead in Prayagraj**AGENCIES**

PRAYAGRAJ, FEB 25 (UNI)

A 24-year-old youth was shot dead by other youths in Colonelganj area of Prayagraj district here in Uttar Pradesh, police sources said here on Tuesday.

Police sources said that the incident took place late on Monday night when Shashank (24), a resident of Jagdishpur, in Civil Lines Market, had a dispute with some persons. "After the altercation while Shashank attempted to flee the attackers chased and shot him in the chest near the fountain intersection in Mumfordganj," they said.

Police sources said that the injured youth was taken to the Bailey Hospital where doctors declared him dead. "Police investigation revealed that cases were lodged against the deceased Shashank Singh under various sections in many police stations including Colonelganj," they said.

CAG report tabled in Delhi assembly, citing loss of over Rs 2000 cr due to excise policy**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, FEB 25 (UNI)

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta tabled the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report, highlighting the alleged financial irregularities during the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) administration, including alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise liquor policy.

The report was tabled on the second day and mentioned that the Delhi government suffered a massive financial setback, incurring losses of over Rs 2,000 crore due to "flaws" in its 2021-22 excise policy.

The report 'Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi' was tabled following the suspension of 12 AAP MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Atishi, in a face-off with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party over an auditor report. The report pointed out that recommenda-



tions of an expert panel, formed to suggest changes for the formation of the now scrapped policy, were ignored by then deputy CM and excise minister Manish Sisodia.

Additionally, the Excise Department lost Rs 890.15 crore due to the surrender of licenses and the department's failure to re-tender liquor zones, the report said. The CAG report also flagged an irregular waiver of Rs 144 crore granted to licence holders, citing Covid-19 restrictions, a decision personally approved by Manish Sisodia despite finance depart-

ment objections.

Earlier, the assembly session began with an address by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena but quickly descended into chaos as opposition members protested the reports.

The move triggered a massive uproar from AAP MLAs, leading to their expulsion from the House by speaker Vijender Gupta.

Slamming the AAP government, Speaker Vijender Gupta said, "It is amazing to know that the CAG report has not been tabled in the assembly after 2017-18. It was much needed to

obtain the financial condition of the state. Unfortunately, the CAG report was not tabled, and the previous government violated the Constitution."

Presenting the CAG reports, LG Saxena said, "My government, in its first Cabinet meeting, decided to table the CAG reports. This will pave the way to identify and address administrative deficiencies of the last government."

LG said, "In the coming months, we will focus on corruption-free governance, women empowerment, clean Delhi, Yamuna rejuvenation, and clean drinking water."

Saxena also pointed out the importance of cooperation between the Delhi government, the Centre, and other states, saying, "Continuous clashes and blame games over the past 10 years have hurt Delhi. My government will work in coordination with the Centre and other states."

President suggests Bihar to develop many centers like PMCH**AGENCIES**

PATNA, FEB 25 (UNI)

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu said that Bihar should develop many centers like Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) to provide good medical treatment to the people of Bihar which will also boost the economy of the state.

Addressing the centenary celebration of PMCH here on Tuesday, Murmu said that PMCH is among Bihar's invaluable heritage and it has a glorious history of preserving antiquity and constantly moving towards modernity. PMCH was among the best hospitals in Asia, she said adding that the alumni of this institute have brought glory to themselves and PMCH in the country and abroad on the strength of



their talent, service, and dedication.

Suggesting the Bihar government to open more such centers, the President said that going to another city or state for treatment affects in many ways such as delay in treatment, problems of food, accommodation, and employment. This also overburdens the medical institutions of major cities. She said that decentralization of good medical institutions across

the country would solve all these problems. Cities like Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Indore have developed as centers for specialty treatment.

She said that Bihar should also develop many such centers. This would not only provide good medical treatment to the people of Bihar but would also boost the economy of the state. PMCH and its alumni can greatly contribute to this endeavour with

their experience.

The President said this is the era of technology which is playing an important role in the medical field as well. Technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Robotics are making the medical process simpler and more accurate. She urged all stakeholders of PMCH to always be ready to adopt the latest technologies. She said that it would not only make the treatment easier but would also increase doctors' knowledge and efficiency.

The President said that doctors are researchers, therapists, teachers, and counselors as well. In all these roles, they serve the people and society and contribute to nation-building. She urged them to make people aware of the importance of blood and organ donation.

When in power SP gave 'Samajwadi' name to every work: Yogi**AGENCIES**

LUCKNOW, FEB 25 (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that during the Samajwadi Party government, only people connected to the party received financial help for medical treatment.

Replying to a query during the Question Hour in the Legislative Council, the CM said that during the SP rule, every work was given the 'Samajwadi' name, even though the money came from government funds. He also pointed out that the CM's Discretionary Fund was misused similarly.

He said, "Getting medical treatment is no longer difficult for the poor. Under the PM Ayushman Bharat and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana, 10 crore people in the state receive free health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh."



Yogi said that government employees are benefiting from free medical services through the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Cashless Health Scheme. He said that in the past eight years, financial assistance from the CM Discretionary Fund has been provided to every needy person without any discrimination.

He said that under the current government, healthcare benefits are

being provided to all citizens without any discrimination. He said that, unlike the previous SP government, his administration is working sensitively to ensure that no one is deprived of medical aid.

The CM said, "The government is also covering additional medical expenses when needed, as every human loss affects not just the family but also society and the state."

Highlighting the rapid expansion of medical facilities, he said that until 2017, there were only 17 government medical colleges in UP. "However, now, efforts are underway to establish a medical college in every district. These colleges are being staffed with qualified professors and District Magistrates have been directed to appoint skilled doctors at district hospitals, CHCs, and PHCs. Steps are also being taken to develop super-specialty blocks and strengthen faculty in medical colleges," he said.

Yogi said, "The government has launched the Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Mela, which is held every Sunday at PHC-level facilities, providing health services under both central and state schemes. Free dialysis services are now available in every district, ensuring accessible treatment for patients across the state."

Mukesh Ambani to increase investment in Assam to Rs 50k crore in next 5 years**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, FEB 25 (UNI)

Billionaire industrialist and Reliance Group Chairman Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday announced quadrupling its investment to Rs 50,000 crore in the state of Assam in the next five years from Rs 12,000 crore now.

"In the coming years, Reliance will more than quadruple this investment in Assam to over Rs 50,000 crore over the next five years in five priority areas," Ambani said at the Advantage Assam Summit.

Our first priority area is to make Assam Tech-Ready and AI-Ready. For us, Assam's digital transformation is a noble and patriotic mission, he said, adding that Jio has made Assam not only "2G-mukt but 5G-yukt".

After building world-class connectivity infrastructure, we will now install high-performance computing infrastructure.

Reliance will establish an AI-ready Data Center in Assam, which will benefit students with AI assisted teachers, patients with AI assisted doctors, agriculture will benefit from AI assisted farmers and AI will help Assam's youth to learn from home and earn from home.

Our next priority is to make Assam a hub of clean and green energy. This will include Nuclear Energy, in line with the Government's new policy to invite private participation in the nuclear industry.

And Reliance will build two world-class hubs of Compressed Biogas (CBG) over wastelands in Assam, he said. This will produce



8 lakh tonnes of clean biogas annually, enough to fuel 2 lakh passenger cars every day.

Our third priority is to help Assam become a major supplier of food and non-food consumer products to national and international markets.

"We will set up a Mega Food Park, which will add value to the abundant agricultural and horticultural produce of Assam. We have already set up a world-class bottling plant in Assam for our Campa Cola and Independence range of packaged drinking water," he added.

Our next priority is to double the number of Reliance Retail stores in the state from existing 400 to 800 stores in the next five years. And the next that is fifth priority area is to boost high-end hotel and hospitality economy in Assam.

Reliance will build a luxurious, seven-star Oberoi hotel in the heart of Assam.

These five mega initiatives will also create tens of thousands of direct and in-direct employment opportunities for the youth in Assam.

India, UK agree to resume negotiations towards balanced, mutually beneficial FTA**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, FEB 25 (UNI)

India and the UK have agreed to resume negotiations towards a balanced, mutually beneficial and a forward-looking free trade deal that delivers mutual growth and builds on the strengths of the two complementary economies.

This was decided as India and the UK have resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between the two countries.

This announcement was made by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade of the UK Jonathan Reynolds in Delhi, a statement from the UK High Commission said today.

The two ministers agreed that the strengthening of the trading relationship between the two countries has the potential to unlock opportunities for business and consumers across both our nations and build further on the

already deep ties.

The two leaders directed the negotiators to work together to resolve the outstanding issues in the agreement to ensure a fair and equitable trade deal for shared success.

The announcement on resumption of the FTA is an outcome of the discussions held at the level of Prime Ministers of the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 to underline the importance of resuming trade negotiations at an early date.

India and the UK have a close partnership, built through collaboration on security and defence, new and emerging technologies, climate, health, education, research and innovation, green finance and people-to-people contacts. At the centre of this relationship is the collective aspiration to deliver economic growth and sustainable development.

'Less oil, more physical activity, balanced meal key to fight obesity'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Reducing the amount of oil intake, while increasing physical activity, as well as eating a balanced meal are crucial to fight the rising menace of obesity in our country, said experts on Tuesday.

This comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday in his "Mann ki Baat" programme nominated 10 personalities to push the campaign against obesity in the country, as part of his 'Fit India' initiative.

Dr Naval Vikram, Professor of Medicine, at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS it's high time to consider obesity very seriously, as its prevalence is increasing rapidly across the age groups and across the socio-economic status in the country.

"Obesity is no longer a cosmetic problem. It now is a chronic persistent dis-



ease which leads to several other non-communicable diseases, like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, as well as several cancers. It is a lifestyle disease, and it is 100 per cent preventable."

He also lauded PM Modi for highlighting the problem of obesity and the importance of preventing it.

While lifestyle is the most important factor in

preventing and managing obesity, diet also plays a very critical role. Individuals must try to avoid foods which are rich in high fat, high sugar and high salt -- generally very high in most processed foods, said Vikram.

"Eat a well-balanced diet and preferably, a home-cooked meal," the expert said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also urged people

to cut down the consumption of oil by 10 per cent.

"It is an important step in preventing as well as managing obesity," Vikram said.

Dr Anoop Misra, Chairman and Director, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Fortis C-DOC Hospital, New Delhi, told IANS that "oils contain twice the calories of carbs and protein".

"With rising obesity rates, it is important to limit oil intake to 15-20 ml per day," he added.

"Oils rich in monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) help lower bad cholesterol and support heart health. Mustard oil remains the best choice considering cost and health benefits," the doctor said, while recommending against saturated fats to reduce the risk of liver disease, heart attacks, and strokes.

HT-HEALTH

NIT Rourkela develops AI model to improve blood sugar predictions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

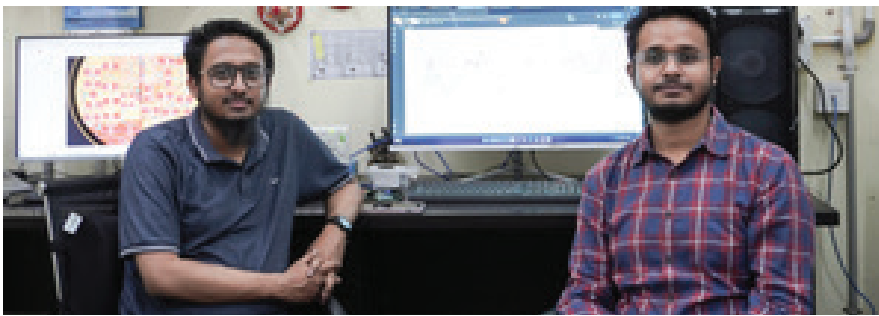
The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela on Tuesday said it has developed an advanced AI-driven model to improve blood sugar predictions for people with diabetes.

The model is designed to help individuals and healthcare providers make better and more personalised treatment decisions.

Unlike traditional forecasting methods, which often require manual adjustments and struggle with long-term glucose trends, this AI model automatically processes data to identify key patterns.

By learning from past blood sugar fluctuations, it delivers precise predictions, allowing for timely and personalised adjustments in insulin doses, diet, and physical activity.

The model has outperformed existing techniques by offering more



reliable predictions tailored to an individual's unique glucose patterns.

Additionally, it has been optimised for use on devices like smartphones and insulin pumps, making it accessible for everyday diabetes management.

According to the research team led by Professor Mirza Khalid Baig, assistant professor of biotechnology and medical engineering, the AI-driven approach could significantly improve diabetes care.

"Our core innovation lies in using multi-head attention layers within a

neural basis expansion network, which allows the model to focus on the most relevant data points while ignoring unnecessary noise," Baig said.

He added that this results in better performance without the need for large amounts of training data or extensive computing power.

"By combining precision with efficiency, we aim to provide a practical tool that can be integrated into digital health solutions, helping patients and doctors manage diabetes more effectively," Baig mentioned.

It has the potential to be integrated into smart insulin pumps for automated insulin delivery, mobile health apps for real-time glucose tracking, and clinical settings to assist doctors in creating personalised treatment plans.

Currently, the researchers are planning extensive clinical trials at hospitals in collaboration with senior diabetologists in Odisha.

The project has received support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and NIT Rourkela.

Elderly, middle-aged at high risk of developing and dying from cancer: ICMR study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Older adults and middle-aged adults are more at risk of developing cancer, and dying from the deadly disease in India, according to a study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The study published in "The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia" journal showed that the elderly (aged 70 years and above) had the highest risk of developing cancer -- more than 10 per cent --, and dying from it -- 7.7 per cent.

The risk of middle-aged (15-49 years) developing cancer is 8.3 per cent, while their odds of dying from the disease is 5.5 per cent.

The researchers emphasised the need to increase targeted inter-



ventions and strategies "to tackle the escalating cancer burden in India, with about 70 per cent of cases and deaths occurring in the middle- and older-age groups", the team said.

The ICMR researchers also projected that in

the coming two decades, India will face a formidable challenge in managing deaths related to cancer incidence, with a yearly increase of two per cent in cases as the population ages.

Using the Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN)

2022 and Global Health Observatory (GHO) databases, the team examined trends in 36 types of cancer across age groups and genders in India over the past 20 years.

Notably, it showed that three in every five people in India are likely to succumb to cancer following diagnosis.

The findings also revealed that the five most common cancers affecting both genders collectively account for 44 per cent of the cancer burden in India.

However, women in India were found to bear a "disproportionate burden", as breast cancer continues to be the most prevalent cancer. Breast cancer contributes to 13.8 per cent of new cases from both genders followed by cervical cancer (9.2 per cent).

New research holds potential to treat opioid use disorder

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

New research into GLP-1 receptor has opened a realm of new treatment possibilities to treat opioid use disorder (OUD), a report said on Tuesday.

A three-week Phase I study conducted at the Caron Treatment Centers in Pennsylvania in the US, enrolling 20 participants undergoing residential treatment for OUD, assessed Novo Nordisk's Saxenda (liraglutide), a GLP-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1RA), as a monotherapy for OUD.

The study displayed its potential to rival existing treatments and showed a 40 per cent reduction in opioid cravings among those taking Saxenda, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

Originally developed for treating diabetes, GLP-1RAs work by stimulating insulin secretion and sup-



pressing glucagon release, thereby helping regulate blood sugar.

"However, there are GLP-1 receptors in the brain's mesolimbic system, which is inextricably linked to motivation and reward. This has piqued the interest of drug developers looking to expand the label of

their products to combat the opioid crisis," said Jos Opdenakker, pharma analyst at GlobalData.

Early clinical work has shown that GLP-1RAs are a promising new avenue in the treatment of OUD, as the current treatment landscape is stifled by a lack of innovation and

a heavy reliance upon opioid agonist therapies, he noted.

According to GlobalData's Drug Database, six out of the seven agents currently in late-stage development (Phase IIb-III) are non-opioids.

Currently, there is a lack of available efficacy data for many of the pipeline agents. Therefore, despite the presence of non-opioids in the pipeline, high-efficacy non-opioid OUD treatments remain an exploitable opportunity.

In addition to OUD, GLP-1RAs are also being investigated in other neurology indications, such as to treat Alzheimer's disease and associated cognitive impairment, Parkinson's disease, alcohol dependence, peripheral neuropathy, and intracranial hypertension.

Developers have recognised the potential of GLP-1RAs, and a new class of neurological agents is developing.

Need for stringent regulations, quality control in Nutraceuticals market: Ayush official

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

There is an urgent need for stringent regulations and quality control in the growing Nutraceuticals market in the country, a key Ministry of Ayush official said on Tuesday.

Dr Srinivas Rao Chinta, Joint Advisor of Ministry of Ayush, asked for regulatory aspects to be advanced to increase efficiency and safety issues.

Licensing is a key factor that should not be overlapped in this emerging market, he said during the Assocham's '10th Nutraceutical Summit' in the national capital.

Nutraceuticals are the formulation of nutrients which helps in prevention and treatment of some diseases, in addition to a supplement diet.

Dr Chinta focused on the importance of Nutraceuticals and how regulatory bodies play a key role in monitoring products for daily usage.



He advocated the holistic approach of Ayurveda routine that is being followed with the help of Nutraceuticals as everybody is concerned for their health these days.

The integration of Ayurvedic principles into modern Nutraceuticals has been a focal point in recent policy developments.

The FSSAI, in collaboration with Ayush Minis-

try, introduced the 'Ayush Aahar' category to regulate and promote Ayurvedic nutritional supplement to ensure that products align with traditional Ayurvedic recipes and processes thereby facilitating their production and marketing.

According to Sandeep Verma, Co-Chairperson, Assocham National Wellness Council, expressed how consumers continue

prioritising health and wellness and the nutraceutical industry is poised for exponential growth.

With advancements in personalised nutrition and AI-driven supplement recommendations, the future of nutraceuticals looks promising, he noted.

Meanwhile, the country's Nutraceutical industry is looking to expand globally with support from its rich heritage of traditional knowledge, especially in Ayurveda.

India's longstanding history in health science, especially Ayurveda, offering unique traditional knowledge is a key advantage in the Nutraceutical industry.

Moreover, besides expertise in pharmaceutical formulation, influencing high-quality nutraceutical standards, the country also boasts of a thriving startup ecosystem with a growing number of successful nutraceutical companies catalysing sectoral growth.

'National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards' showcase India's contribution to global healthcare

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ayush has conferred the prestigious 'National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards' for the current year on three distinguished practitioners for their exceptional contributions to the field of traditional Indian medicine.

This year's recipients are Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma, renowned Nadi Vaidya and author; Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal, a distinguished scholar of Dravyaguna Vigyana with six decades of service; and Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni, founder of the Vishwa Vyakhyannmala national conference.

Each recipient received a citation, a trophy featuring the Statue of Lord Dhanwantari, and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, according to the ministry.



The National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards represent India's commitment to advancing holistic healthcare while preserving traditional medical knowledge.

"The awards showcase India's immense contribution to global healthcare. These visionaries have demonstrated exceptional dedication in promoting Ayurveda worldwide, perfectly aligning with our mission to integrate traditional wisdom with modern healthcare systems," said Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister

of State (IC), Ministry of Ayush.

According to Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, through decades of research and innovation, these practitioners have modernised Ayurveda practices while maintaining their authentic essence.

"Their work exemplifies how traditional knowledge can be adapted to address contemporary health challenges," he noted.

Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma, renowned for his mastery as a Nadi Vaidya, has also distinguished

himself as an insightful author.

Equally inspiring is the journey of Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal from Uttar Pradesh, a visionary in Dravyaguna Vigyana. With over six decades of unwavering dedication, his prolific writings and stellar administration have inspired many.

Adding to this league of legends is Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni, whose contributions span more than four decades. The founder of the Vishwa Vyakhyannmala national conference and Vishwa Ayurveda Prabodhini, he has built platforms that have transformed Ayurveda education.

Over the years, the awards have evolved into a symbol of national pride, celebrating those who have pushed the boundaries of Ayurveda from local roots to global reach.



Cummins hits out at Australian sports website for misquoting him on India, CT

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins has strongly criticised the media outlet for misquoting him about India's venue in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy.

Code Cricket, in a deleted X post, alleged that Cummins called out the unfair advantage given to India by the ICC in the Champions Trophy and termed the tournament 'farce', saying that teams should not be able to pick and choose where they want to play their matches. The fast bowler, who is not part of the tournament due to ankle injury, took to social media on Tuesday to slam the Australian digital sports platform for fabricating his words. "I have definitely never said this @codecricketau," Cummins posted on X.

Ruud rolls into Mexican Open second round in Acapulco

AGENCIES

ACAPULCO, FEB 25

World no. 5 Casper Ruud has moved into the second round of the Mexican Open with a 6-4, 6-3 victory against Arthur Rinderknech.

The Norwegian has now won seven of his past eight matches and will next take on Aleksandar Vukic or wild card Rodrigo Pacheco Mendez in the second round.

Ruud, who is the second seed in Acapulco, is fresh off a run to the Dallas final and is 14-4 at ATP 500 events dating back to the start of last season, according to ATP.

In the first game it did not appear the match would be so simple. The Frenchman hit two sizzling winners and Ruud misfired off his trusted forehand wing to lose serve to 15.

Champions Trophy

England, Afghanistan face must-win battle in Lahore

AGENCIES

LAHORE, FEB 25

England and Afghanistan will lock horns in a high-stakes Group B encounter on Wednesday, at Gaddafi Stadium, as both teams search for their first win in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. With a loss already in the books for both sides, another defeat could severely dent their chances of progressing to the knockout stage, making this a virtual do-or-die contest.

England came into the tournament with high expectations but were left stunned in their opening match against Australia. Despite Ben Duckett's heroic 165-run knock, the Three Lions failed to defend 352, exposing their bowling frailties.

Adding to their woes, pacer Brydon Carse has been ruled out due to injury, which could prompt the inclusion of young leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed to bolster the spin attack alongside Adil Rashid. Afghanistan, on the other hand, were outclassed by South Africa in their opening clash. Chasing 316 in Karachi, they faltered at 208 despite a



valiant 90-run effort from Rahmat Shah. The Afghan side will look to put that defeat behind them and draw inspiration from their historic victory over England in the 2023 World Cup, where they stunned the cricketing world with a 69-run triumph.

Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium has already witnessed high-scoring thrillers in this tournament, with the Australia-England clash being a prime example. The pitch is expected to be a batting paradise once again, meaning bowlers will have to be at their absolute best to contain the opposition.

The weather forecast is favourable, with clear

skies and temperatures in the 20s, ensuring no interruptions in play. Given the conditions, a score in excess of 320 could well be on the cards, making it crucial for both teams to strategise their bowling plans effectively.

Afghanistan's explosive opener Gurbaz will face a stern test against England's pace spearhead. If Gurbaz can negate Archer's early threat, Afghanistan could set the tone for a competitive total.

Duckett, fresh off his record-breaking 165, will once again be England's mainstay at the crease. Left-arm pacer Farooqi, however, will be keen to make early inroads and

remove the southpaw before he settles in.

England's captain has struggled against quality leg-spin in the past, and Rashid Khan will look to exploit that vulnerability. Buttler's ability to counter Rashid's variations could decide England's fortunes in the middle overs.

England and Afghanistan have faced off three times in ODIs, all in the last three editions of the ICC World Cup. England dominated the 2015 and 2019 encounters with nine-wicket and 150-run victories, respectively. However, Afghanistan turned the tables in 2023 with a stunning 69-run win.

IPL 2025: Venkatesh Iyer ready for KKR captaincy, calls it 'just a tag'



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

India all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer is willing to accept the leadership role at defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (IPL) for the IPL 2025 season. Venkatesh, who joined the franchise for Rs 23.75 crore at last year's mega auction, feels that captaincy is "just a tag" as any player can contribute to the team's cause. KKR and Delhi Capitals are the only two sides to not name their captains for the IPL 2025, set to commence on March 22 with a clash between KKR and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at Eden Gardens.

"Definitely, I'm ready. Again, I've always said this: captaincy is just a

tag. I believe in leadership. That is a bigger role to play, being a leader," ESPNcricinfo quoted Venkatesh as saying.

"You don't necessarily need the tag of a captain to be a leader in your dressing room. You need to set examples. You need to be a good role model, both on and off the field, which I am doing right now in MP. I'm not the captain of the MP team, but my opinions are respected and I really love to be in an atmosphere where every individual - again, new or experienced, 20 lakhs, 20 crore, whatever - you just need to have the freedom to voice your opinion. Or you just need to have the freedom to give opinions and give suggestions and them to be taken in the right spirit.

IDCA announces squad for T20I tri-series and ODIs for Deaf Cricket

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) has declared the 16-member Team India squad for the upcoming International T20 and ODI Deaf cricket series. The T20 International tri-series between India, South Africa and Australia will be held from March 2 to 8 in New Delhi.

Following the tri-series, the Indian Deaf Cricket team will be playing a three-match ODI series with Australia from March 10 to 12. Team India Deaf squad was picked by the All-India Men's Selection Committee. The team will be led by Virender Singh.

The Indian deaf cricket team will be undergoing extensive training and practice sessions under the expert guidance of head coach Dev Dutt and assistant coach Susheel



Gupta. Dev Dutt lauded chief selector Vinod Kumar Matta for selecting a highly competent and promising squad. He further extended gratitude to IDCA for their support in organising and hosting the series.

President of IDCA, Sumit Jain, said, "The Indian squad looks extremely promising. I stay optimistic that our players in the Deaf Cricket Team will deliver stellar performances to be on the top of both the tournaments. The international tri-series and ODI series will be a massive platform for the Indian Deaf Cricket Team to showcase their outstanding performanc-

es on a consistent stretch. This will also be an opportunity for the players to establish the team as one of the bests in the world."

Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) is a member of the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC). DICC works closely with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the promotion of cricket amongst hearing-impaired athletes all over the world.

IDCA CEO Roma Balwani, said, "IDCA has always been dedicated towards organizing and hosting series like these to promote and keep appreciating the special athletic talent of our hearing-

impaired players. I keenly look forward to witnessing competitive tournaments ahead, where players from all teams will be showcasing their exceptional talents. My fingers always stay crossed for our Indian players, who have the potential to excel and win many such tournaments."

Squad India Deaf: Virender Singh - Captain (Himachal Pradesh), Umar Ashraf-WK (Jammu & Kashmir), Abhishek Singh (West Bengal), Akash Singh (Haryana), Yashwanth Naidu (Andhra Pradesh), Sanju Sharma (Rajasthan), Santosh Kr. Mohapatra (Odisha), Kuldeep Singh (Haryana), Vivek Kumar (Haryana), Sudarsun E (Tamil Nadu), Krishna Gowda-WK (Maharashtra), M. Shramith, (Karnataka), Sibun Nanda (Odisha), Ankit Jangir (Rajasthan), Sharik Majeed (Jammu & Kashmir).

India don't need to be complacent, should focus on big matches ahead: BCCI Secy

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 25

After India's thumping six-wicket win over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia lauded the team for their effort and advised them to not be complacent and focus on the big matches ahead.

Virat Kohli's stunning unbeaten century guided India over the line in 42.3 overs in the chase of 242. His knock was laced with seven boundaries, includ-



his critics of his vintage days.

During the match, Kohli became the fastest batter to complete 14,000 ODI runs and also surpassed Mohammad Azharuddin's feat for most catches for India as a fielder in ODIs. He was named Player of the Match for his dual heroics.

In bowling, Kuldeep Yadav bagged three wickets while all-rounder Hardik Pandya returned with the figures of 2-31 in his eight overs.

ing his picture-perfect cover drives, reminding

Increasing business profitability
by reducing printing cost

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
9419008414
Tel: 0194 2496287
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar

Our Printing Services

- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calenders
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers