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"Noor-e-Nooraan" A Beacon of Devotion and Art

Lubaab Publications Srinagar in Collaboration with Adbi Markaz Kamraaz and ALMURAD Foundation held grand book-release ceremony;

Award "Khilat-e-Ameer" announced to honour senior writers.
Noted Poet and Legendary Writer, Muhammad Yousuf Taing Felicitated With The Maiden Khilat-e-Ameer Award

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 19 : A spiritually elevating and culturally rich literary event was held today at the Seminar Hall of Jammu & Kashmir Cultural Academy, Srinagar, where the much-awaited Naat collection "Noor-e-Nooraan" written by the eminent poet and scholar Syed Sad-ud-Din Saidi was formally released.

The grand ceremony, organised by Lubaab Publications Srinagar, in Collaboration with Adbi Markaz Kamraaz and ALMURAD Foundation held a grand book-release ceremony Which turned into a confluence of faith, art, and intellect, drawing a galaxy of Kashmir's leading poets, writers, scholars, and literary enthusiasts.

The dais was graced by distinguished literary figures including Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Dr. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, Rukhsana Jabeen, and The event was presided over by celebrated poet, critic, and scholar Ayaz Rasool Nazki, while noted intellectual and former Parliamentarian Sharif-ud-Din Shariq was the chief guest.

A Ceremony Steeped in Spiritual Essence

The programme began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, followed by Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool ﷺ, creating an ambience of serenity and reverence.

Speakers unanimously lauded "Noor-e-Nooraan" as a masterpiece of devotion and poetic craftsmanship, describing it as "a radiant document of love and reverence that enlightens the soul."

Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, while presenting a scholarly paper, said that Saidi's Naat poetry derives its inspiration from the divine message of the Qur'an and represents a pure reflection of Hub-e-Rasool ﷺ.

Ayaz Rasool Nazki, in his presidential address, remarked that writing Naat is not merely an act of poetry but a living expression of love for the Prophet ﷺ — something that Saidi has executed with sincerity, artistic maturity, and spiritual finesse. He proposed

that a separate seminar be dedicated to exploring the past and present of Kashmiri Naat literature.

Rukhsana Jabeen, in her remarks, said that composing Naat is one of the most delicate forms of expression, requiring both deep faith and literary discipline. Fayaz Tilgami also emphasised that Kashmiri language possesses a rich heritage of Naat writing which deserves further promotion and preservation.

Chief Guest's Reflections

Addressing the gathering, Sharif-ud-Din Shariq congratulated the author and described "Noor-e-Nooraan" as "a valuable addition to the contemporary tradition of Naat poetry in Kashmir." He said, "Poets and writers are the true architects of a nation. Their creativity defines our identity and sustains the moral and cultural fabric of society."

New Literary Award Announced "Khilat-e-Ameer"

At the conclusion of the event, Mr. Jahangir Bukhari, CEO of Lubaab Publications, made two significant announcements that added to the grandeur of the occasion. He declared the institution of an annual literary honour titled "Khilat-e-Ameer", instituted in loving memory of the legendary poet and writer Syed Ameer Shah Kreceri (RA). This prestigious award will be conferred every year upon a senior and distinguished writer for his or her outstanding contribution to literature and culture. And the Maiden Award for 2025 was given to living legend Mr Mohammad Yousuf Taing Sahib, who couldn't attend the function due to health reasons. The award will be presented to Taing Sahib on 21st of October at his residence in Srinagar. Former HoD of MERC University of Kashmir Mr Nasir Mirza will present the award to Taing sahib on behalf of Lubaab Publications CEO Mr Jahangir Bukhari.

Promotion of Kashmiri Language through Free Publishing Initiative :

In another major initiative, Mr. Bukhari announced that Lubaab Publications will publish books free of cost for financially weak poets and writers, as part of the organisation's literary service mission. He said the move is aimed at encouraging literary creativity and promoting the Kashmiri language by helping talented writers overcome economic constraints.

Vote of Thanks

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Syed Jahangir Bukhari, son of the author, thanked all dignitaries, writers, and participants for gracing the event. The ceremony concluded with the formal unveiling of the book, amidst applause and admiration from the literary fraternity.



Delhi's AQI continues to be 'very poor,' may deteriorate further

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: The national capital's air quality index today continued to reel under the "very poor" quality, going up a few more notches compared to the previous day.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the Average AQI recorded today was 345, falling under the 'very poor' category. On Sunday evening, it had crossed the 300 mark.

Amid the present scenario of the city's air quality, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the national capital region and adjoining area (CAQM) anti-pollution measures under the Graded Response Action Plan's stage-II remain invoked to prevent the situation from worsening.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) today, in its forecast, stated, "the air quality



is likely to be in the Severe category from 21.10.2025 to 22.10.2025 in case of enhanced emissions from firecrackers. The air quality is very likely to be in the Very Poor category on

23.10.2025."

As per the weather agency, it seems there are chances that the city's AQI may deteriorate further tomorrow. CAQM had yesterday invoked the GRAP-II measures

along with the stage-I curbs as part of the pollution prevention plan. Measures to curb dust, like mist sprayers and others, were seen in several places to settle the dust particles.

The CAQM is monitoring the situation and may take actions accordingly, in a bid to prevent the situation from worsening.

Meanwhile, as per the GRAP-2, there are several restrictions put in place in terms of construction and demolition activities and disposal of waste and other things in the city.

Under stage II of GRAP, CAQM has asked agencies concerned not to permit inter-state buses from NCR states, other than EVs, CNG, BS-6 Diesel, to enter Delhi, excluding buses and tempo travellers with an All India permit.

The committee has also urged the public to prefer public transport and take less congested routes, to prevent congestion.

The agencies responsible for implementing the orders have been asked to be strict regarding compliance, to ensure the GRAP is implemented without fail. UNI

Two shot dead, one injured in Greater Noida

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GREATER NOIDA, OCT 20: A dispute between two neighbouring families over a drainage issue in Sethli village, under the Jarcha police station area of Greater Noida, turned violent this morning, resulting in the death of two family members and serious injury to another.

The families of Ajay Pal, a retired CISF Sub-Inspector, and Prince Bhati had reportedly conflicted for some time over the flow of wastewater near their homes. Tensions had escalated the previous day, and the situation worsened the next morning.

According to police reports, Prince Bhati allegedly contacted some acquaintances, who arrived in two vehicles, a Swift and a Thar. The group is said to have confronted Ajay Pal's family near their residence. A verbal argument quickly escalated, and a physical altercation broke out.

As the situation intensified, members of the visiting group reportedly attacked Ajay Pal and his family members. During the clash, shots were fired, injuring Ajay Pal and his nephew, Dipanshu Bhati.



Another young man was also hurt during the incident. Local residents immediately took the injured to the hospital, where doctors declared Ajay Pal and Dipanshu Bhati dead. The third victim remains hospitalised in critical condition.

After the incident, the suspects left the scene in their vehicles. In response, family members of the deceased and local residents gathered outside the nearby police outpost and blocked GT Road, demanding the arrest of the accused.

Police officials from Jarcha station arrived on the scene and assured the protestors of swift and strict action. Following assurances from the police, the protest was called off and the road cleared. The bodies of the deceased were sent for post-mortem examination.

DCP Saad Miya Khan confirmed the details of the incident, stating, "In the Sethli outpost area, a violent incident occurred in which two people, Ajay Pal and Dipanshu Bhati, lost their lives. An FIR has been registered based on the family's complaint against Prince Bhati, Bobby Tomar, and Manoj Nagar."

The DCP added that four police teams have been formed to investigate the case and locate the suspects. Some individuals have been detained for questioning, and the investigation is ongoing. UNI

Govt opens 99 percent of offshore area for oil & gas exploration, widens crude import basket: Puri

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri today announced that the government has widened the import basket of crude to over 40 countries, up from 27 earlier. Furthermore, the country has opened up 99 percent of India's offshore area for oil and gas exploration.

The Minister said the move is part of a four-pronged approach that is shaping "a future where energy is secure, affordable & sustainable." These four strong pillars for India's energy journey include: diversification of crude imports, innovation, an increase in domestic exploration of oil & gas, and a clean transition reflected in the Green Hydrogen Mission and the 10.60 crore families who have benefited under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for subsidised LPG as clean cooking fuel.

Taking to social media platform X, Minister Puri said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Bharat is building a cleaner, stronger and self-sufficient energy future."

Puri reiterated that India has diversified its sources for buying oil in the global market, previously pointing out that India's oil purchases from Moscow played an important role in stabilising prices in the global market.

The Minister highlighted that crude oil prices could have skyrocketed to \$130 per barrel in the absence of the India-Russia oil trade when the Ukraine war began in 2022; prior to the conflict, India used to buy a mere 0.2 percent of its crude import requirement from Moscow.

Earlier this week, Puri also held discussions with Geraldo Alckmin, Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services of Brazil, on strengthening the expanding energy partnership between India and Brazil, noting that the meeting focused on the growing energy cooperation between the two nations under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UNI



Delhi govt releases Rs 325 cr for education, student development in 2025-26

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: The Delhi government has released Rs 325 crore so far in the fiscal 2025-2026 for the overall development of students and strengthening modern education infrastructure in the national Capital.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Rs 108 crore has been provided to 12 colleges affiliated with Delhi University for salaries, infrastructure, and operations, to make higher education institutions more efficient and well-organised.

Taking to social media platform X, the CMO today stated that an additional Rs 24 crore has been approved for maintenance and sanitation, ensuring campuses remain clean, safe, and conducive to learning.

"The government's goal is to provide excellent education to every



student, respect to every teacher, and a strong foundation to every institution," the CMO said.

"The aim of the government is to make the national Capital a global hub for education, and a beacon of knowledge, skill, and innovation," it

added.

Work is also being done to overall develop the personalities of students starting from their school days.

The emphasis is also on developing and nurturing young talents in sports and other activities. UNI

Diwali security beef-up: Delhi Police deploy personnel to ensure safety measures

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: Ahead of Diwali, Delhi Police have put in place a comprehensive, multi-tiered security plan across the national capital to ensure residents can celebrate safely, an official statement said.

Enhanced security measures have been deployed at major markets, busy public areas, and commercial centres with heavy foot-fall.

Delhi Police has stationed sufficient personnel in all districts, supported by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), to bolster security on the ground.

To handle the surge in traffic

during the festive season, Delhi Traffic Police has deployed maximum personnel to manage vehicles, ensure pedestrian safety, and facilitate smooth movement for the public.

Regular traffic advisories are being issued, providing updates on restrictions, diversions, designated parking areas, and essential guidelines for commuters.

Authorities have urged the public to adhere to traffic rules, follow official instructions, opt for public transport, and minimise the use of personal vehicles whenever possible.

Police officers are conducting foot patrols across all districts to ensure public safety and uphold



law and order. The increased presence aims to deter potential offenders and prevent crimes in busy areas.

Additionally, anti-sabotage inspections are being conducted at crowded markets, railway stations, and interstate bus termi-

nals, with support from Bomb Disposal (BD) units and Dog Squads.

To manage crowd movement, Delhi Police, in collaboration with market associations, have erected temporary watchtowers (machans) and installed public address systems to alert and advise the public to stay vigilant during festive celebrations.

Additional DCP Rishi Kumar Singh, ACP Karol Bagh, the SHO of Karol Bagh, and other police personnel conducted foot patrols in the area ahead of the festive season. On-site security arrangements were reviewed, and essential instructions were issued to ensure public safety. UNI

JNU: STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT AMONG 28 DETAINED; 6 POLICE PERSONNEL INJURED DURING ABVP PROTEST

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: At least 28 Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students were detained during a protest march to the Vasant Kunj police station, sparking tension on campus today.

While left-affiliated student groups accused the Delhi Police of using force, the police alleged the protesters broke barricades and injured personnel.

The All India Students' Association (AISA) alleged that JNUSU president Nitish Kumar and several students were "brutally assaulted" and detained by police at the university's West Gate. JNU students were

seen being pushed into buses by Delhi Police personnel in videos that surfaced on social media.

The JNU Students' union (JNUSU) and left-affiliated student groups held a march yesterday demanding that police register an FIR against the RSS-linked ABVP for alleged violence during campus general body meetings. Conflict erupted at JNU's West Gate, with police and students protesting and pointing fingers at one another over who started the scuffle.

According to police, students became aggressive despite assurances that their concerns would be addressed and man-handled officers. The ensuing

commotion led to the detention of 28 students and the injuries of six police personnel.

Meanwhile, the All India Students' Association (AISA) claimed that JNUSU president Nitish Kumar and several other students were "brutally beaten" and detained by police at JNU's West Gate. "Delhi Police have taken Nitish and the students to Kapasera," the group said.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPIML Liberation) took to X to strongly condemn the "brutal assault" on JNUSU president Nitish Kumar and other students by Delhi Police at JNU's West Gate.



"Students peacefully marching to the Vasant Kunj Police Station to file an FIR against

ABVP's violence were met with police repression instead of justice," CPIML Liberation wrote

on X.

A senior police officer said around 6 pm, roughly 70-80 students gathered at JNU's West Gate, where barricades had been set up to prevent them from moving towards Nelson Mandela Marg. "Despite repeated warnings, the students forcefully pushed past the barricades, manhandled police personnel, used abusive language, and entered Nelson Mandela Marg, causing a temporary traffic obstruction," the officer quoted.

Reacting to the JNU incident, former JNUSU leader and Congress politician Kanhaiya Kumar wrote on X that the ABVP has been persistently trying to create disruptions since the

Student union election was announced.

"It is extremely shameful that assaults have been carried out on several people, including the current president of JNUSU. In such a situation, instead of taking action against the culprits, the police administration is engaged in protecting them," he wrote.

Adding to his statement further in the post, he stated, "For the past ten years, despite all the attempts by RSS-ABVP-BJP, the government, and their sycophantic media to defame JNU, JNU is fighting back, and just like every time before, this time too they will fail in their intentions." UNI

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Armed Forces Coordination Brought Pakistan To Its Knees : PM Modi

HT NEWS NETWORK

PANAJI, OCT 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the exceptional coordination among the three armed forces –” fear instilled by the Navy, extraordinary skills of the Air Force and bravery of the Army –” forced Pakistan to its knees during Operation Sindoor in no time.

Addressing the Navy personnel onboard INS Vikrant off the Goa coast,

he said the indigenously built aircraft carrier was a “powerful symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat” and its handover to the Navy led to renouncement of a major colonial legacy.

“A few months ago we had seen how INS Vikrant had given Pakistan some sleepless nights. INS Vikrant, the name itself puts an end to the courage of the enemy,” Modi said. Modi spent a night onboard INS Vikrant and witnessed the Navy’s air power at the high seas with

MiG 27 aircraft demonstrating its skills on the aircraft carrier built at the Cochin Shipyard.

He said that when the enemy is in front and war is imminent, the side that possesses the strength to fight independently always holds the advantage.

“The fear instilled by the Indian Navy, the extraordinary skill demonstrated by the Indian Air Force, and the bravery of the Indian Army, along with the exceptional coordination among all

three services, brought Pakistan on its knees swiftly during Operation Sindoor,” the prime minister said, adding that the armed forces deserved a special salute for their actions.

“For the armed forces to be strong, self-reliance is essential,” he said, asserting that over the years India’s forces have steadily advanced towards self-reliance.

“Missiles such as BrahMos and Akash
● Turn on Page 10



Omar Says He Never Wanted to Contest Two Seats

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, OCT 20: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday accompanied National Conference Budgam Assembly by-election candidate Agha Syed Mehmood to the nomination filing.



Speaking to the reporters outside the venue, J-K CM Omar Abdullah admitted that he never wanted to contest the election on two seats, one of which was the Budgam Assembly constituency, which he vacated later, necessitating a by-election.

Omar Abdullah extended his complete faith in Agha Syed Mehmood for the bypoll, scheduled
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Holy relics of Lord Buddha are back home: LG Sinha

Arrives at Delhi with Holy Relics of Lord Buddha

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha returned to Delhi Monday after concluding his three-day visit to the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia. He was leading the delegation to bring back the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha to India following their exposition in Elista, the Capital city of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia.



The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: “Holy relics of Lord Buddha are back home after week-long exposition at Kalmykia, Russia. The exposition underscored our commitment to foster mutual understanding, build trust and cooperation and create lasting connections through shared spiritual experiences.”

“Exposition of holy relics has deepened spiritual connect
● Turn on Page 10

NC to fight in Nagrota, Budgam on public issues: Dy CM

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 20: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday said the ruling National Conference (NC) will fight the bypolls to Nagrota and Budgam assembly seats on public issues, the biggest being the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

He expressed confidence that the

voters in both the constituencies will ensure the win of the NC candidates to strengthen the hands of party president Farooq Abdullah and chief minister Omar Abdullah.

NC fielded District Development Council (DDC) member Shamim Begum from Nagrota and former minister Agha Syed Mehmood from Budgam. The two seats
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Cong Leaves Nagrota, Budgam Seats For NC

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 19: After deciding not to contest Rajya Sabha elections, the Congress tonight left Nagrota and Budgam Assembly seats for the National Conference, which has already named Agha Syed Mehmood for Budgam seat. Tomorrow is last date for filing nomination

papers for Nagrota and Budgam seats, the by-elections for which will be held on November 11.

Congress leaders said taking into account broader parameters and principles of the coalition, the Central leadership of the Indian National Congress has decided to leave Nagrota seat for its ally-the National Conference in

large interests and goals to defeat the BJP.

They said a decision to this effect was taken after detailed deliberations over report of the JKPC and taking into account various factors including the fact that in 2024 Assembly elections, NC candidate had polled more votes than Congress in Nagrota seat.
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Border Fences Lit, BSF Remains Alert Along J&K Borders On Diwali

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: As Diwali was observed across India, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir marked the festival by lighting candles along the fences.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that

personnel placed candles in multiple sectors, including Tangdhar, Keran, Gurez, Uri, and Akhnoor, as well as along RSPura in Jammu and other IB and LoC areas. Night patrolling and monitoring continued in all sectors while the candles were arranged along the fences, they said.

“BSF teams are deployed around the clock to monitor cross-border movements and respond to any unusu-

al activity,” the officials said, adding that night patrols were intensified in key areas along both the IB and LoC, including north Kashmir and the Jammu division.

Army officials said that coordination with the BSF has been increased to maintain joint patrolling and observation posts in strategic locations. Surveillance continues to ensure prompt
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Prez Murmu, PM Modi, HM Shah extend Diwali greetings

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended Diwali greetings to the countrymen and wished for happiness and
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HC quashes PSA detention of Waqar H. Bhatti

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, OCT 20: The Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has quashed the Public Safety Act (PSA) detention of prominent social activist Waqar H. Bhatti from Rajouri



district, terming the order “arbitrary” and passed “without application of mind.” Bhatti was released after spending nearly eight
● Turn on Page 10

Will never form Govt with NC: LoP Sunil Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma made a strong statement during a massive nomination rally on Monday, asserting that his party will never align with the National Conference (NC) under any circumstances.

Addressing a charged gather-

ing of supporters and workers, Sharma emphasized that his party stands firmly for the dignity, peace, and progress of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and will not compromise those principles for political gain.

“We will never form the government with NC, nor do we have any need for it,” Sharma declared
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J&K reports around 2,200 dengue cases so far this year

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: Jammu and Kashmir has reported a surge in dengue cases this year, with nearly 2,200 infections recorded so far, health officials said on Monday. They urged people to take preventive steps to stop further spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

According to official data accessed by the
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Flash floods delayed completion of hydel power projects: Chatterjee

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: Jammu and Kashmir Bank MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee on Monday said the flash floods caused by heavy rains a couple of months earlier have delayed the completion of hydel power projects in the Union Territory by three to five months.

He, however, said that while there was no direct impact of it on the bank as of now, there was a possibility of cost overrun in these projects.

Jammu and Kashmir has been battered by a series of natural calamities like cloudbursts, extremely heavy rains and huge landslides in the past couple of months, which left several dead,

flattened infrastructure, and upended normal life.

“Most of the infrastructure projects, like the hydel (power) projects which are in progress in the state, are being delayed by three to five months. That is the negative impact that has happened (due to rains and floods).

“We had a review recently. The DCCO (Date of Commencement

and Commercial Operations) has been impacted by three to five months, which will impact the commercial production, and that will again have a negative impact,” Chatterjee said in an interview.

However, he said, there is no direct impact of it on the bank. “Our funding is in place. Mostly, in all these units, we have a share from our bank. The progress has

been halted, but I don’t see a major cost overrun. I have spoken to these (executing) companies, and they can fund it on their own.”

There are five major power projects with a combined generation capacity of nearly 3,100 megawatts, which are currently at various stages of construction in Jammu and Kashmir. These
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Sakeena Itoo Conducts Surprise Inspection of PHC Sheeri

PHC Boniyar, Takes Stock of Healthcare Facilities

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCT 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted surprise inspection of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Sheeri and PHC Boniyar in North Kashmir's Baramulla district here to take stock of healthcare facilities and assess on-ground functioning of these public health institutions.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the availability of essential medicines, diagnostic facilities, manpower position, and overall patient care services being provided at both these health centres. She inter-

acted with patients and attendants to gather first-hand feedback from them on healthcare delivery.

Interacting with doctors and other medical staff on the occasion, the Minister directed them to maintain people-centric approach while discharging their duties.

Expressing concern over certain deficiencies noticed during the inspection, Minister Sakeena instructed the CMO to take immediate corrective measures to ensure that all essential services are available round the clock. She also emphasized on strict adherence to duty rosters, proper maintenance of records,



and cleanliness within hospital premises.

"The government is committed to strengthen the public health system, especially at the primary level, to ensure quality healthcare reaches every citizen, particularly in remote and far-flung areas," the Minister stated.

She reiterated that transparency, accountability and dedication must form the core of health service delivery.

MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; CMO Baramulla and other senior officers of district administration also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Kulgam Police Nabs Two Long-Absconding Fugitives

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 20: In a major crackdown on fugitives evading the law, Kulgam Police have arrested two more absconders who had been evading arrest for several years. The arrested individuals have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Majeed Bhat, resident of Brazloo Jagir, wanted in case FIR No. 56/1996 under Section 7/25 Arms Act of Police Station Kulgam; and Mohd Rafiq, son of Mohd Azeem, resident of Satah Nayi Kali, Samba, wanted in case FIR No. 74/2018 under Sections 354, 323 RPC of Police Station Yaripora.

Both accused were apprehended by Kulgam Police during a special operation and have been produced before the Hon'ble Court for further legal proceedings.

Kulgam Police reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that all absconders and offenders are brought to justice, emphasizing its resolve to uphold peace, law, and accountability in the district.

GMC Handwara's Associated Teaching Hospital Set to Transform Healthcare Infrastructure in Kupwara

DR. AB. QAYOOM

HANDWARA, OCT 20: A major milestone in the healthcare development of north Kashmir is underway with the construction of the Associated Teaching Hospital at Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara. The state-of-the-art facility, being executed by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division Handwara at an estimated cost of ₹60 crore, is poised to become one of the most advanced medical infrastructures in the region. The hospital, designed as a 200-bedded facility, will span a plinth area of 2,500 sqm and a built-up area of around 12,000 sqm, spread over five storeys (G+4). Once completed, it will enhance the healthcare capacity of Handwara to a total of 500 beds, significantly strengthening patient care services across district Kupwara.

According to AEE R&B Division Handwara, Er. Mohd Hussain, the new complex will include four modular operation theatres, seven lecture halls, a modern conference hall, modular wards, doctor-on-duty rooms, HOD offices, and nurse stations, along with an inbuilt canteen. The structure will feature modern lifts, ramps, modular washrooms, and noise-proof windows and doors to ensure a patient-friendly environment. Despite challenges such as late site handover, limited construction space, uneven terrain, and high traffic flow, the project has recorded remarkable progress. Officially launched in April 2025, the work has already achieved around 30% completion, with the target date for completion set for March 2026. Meanwhile, Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara, Farooq Ahmad Shah, emphasized that this



project marks a first-of-its-kind modern construction in the district, designed with advanced engineering standards and sound-proof infrastructure.

"The site posed several challenges, from uneven contours and space constraints to traffic congestion, but our team worked tirelessly even in double shifts to keep the work on track," said Shah. "We are grateful to the district administration, the contractor, and our engineering staff for their dedication. With continued support, we are confident of completing it within the stipulated timeframe." Once operational, the Associated Teaching Hospital will not only bolster GMC Handwara's academic and clinical capabilities but also serve as a regional healthcare hub, addressing the rising patient load from Kupwara district and neighboring areas.

Qirat Competition Concludes in Kulgam; Farzaan Hamid Wins First Prize — Free Umrah Announced by Sadaqat Tours & Travels

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 20: A district-level Qirat competition witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than one hundred contestants from Kulgam and Shopian districts, showcasing their exceptional recitation skills.

The event, organized with community support, was graced by Dr. Ishtiyaq Ahmad Shah as the chief guest, who highlighted the importance of education in eradicating social evils and shaping youth into productive

members of society. The program was attended by several Muftis, Qaris, SHO Herman, and many prominent citizens, including village Numberdar, retired lecturer Ghulam Nabi Wani, and other respected members of the area.

The top four winners were felicitated with special prizes sponsored by Sadaqat Tours and Travels, which announced the following rewards:

- 1st Prize: Free Umrah Trip – Farzaan Hamid, Seh Laroo, Kulgam



- 2nd Prize: ₹20,000 – Ridmaan Babar, Main Town Kulgam
- 3rd Prize: ₹10,000 – Abrar Ahmad Wagay, Nadapora Awaneera
- 4th Prize: ₹5,000 – Usmaan Bashir, Lamad Kulgam

The event concluded with prayers and appreciation for the participants, organizers, and sponsors, reaffirming the district's commitment to promoting Quranic learning and moral values among the youth.

War Against Drugs Continues: Kulgam Police Arrests One Peddler, Contraband Seized

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 20: In its continued efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Kulgam Police have arrested a drug peddler and recovered a significant quantity of contraband substances from his possession.

A police party from Police Station Qaimoh had established a checkpoint at Khudwani Bypass, where one individual, upon noticing the police presence, tried to flee from the spot. However, the alert police personnel gave chase and tactfully apprehended



him. Upon searching his belongings, police recovered 09 grams of Charas and 01 kilogram of grinded Cannabis-like contraband substances. The accused was arrested on the spot. In this connection, a case under FIR No. 82/2025 has been registered at Police Station Qaimoh under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act, and further investigation has been initiated.

Kulgam Police reiterated its firm commitment to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse and trafficking, urging the public to share any information related to drug peddling or other anti-social activities in their areas.

"Together, we can build a drug-free society," the police stated.

POLICE ARREST DRUG PEDDLER IN KULGAM

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: In its sustained efforts to root out the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Kulgam on Monday said to have arrested a drug peddler and seized a significant quantity of contraband substances from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Khudwani Bypass arrested a drug peddler along with 09 grams of Charas and 01 Kg of grinded cannabis like substances, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Regarding the incident, police said that a case under FIR number 82/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qaimoh and further investigation has been initiated.

"J&K Police remains committed to its zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse and trafficking and urges the general public to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling or other anti-social activities in their areas. Together, we can build a drug-free society," the spokesman said.

J&K Contractors Coordination Committee Extends Warm Diwali Greetings To All

JKCCC Chairman Jeelani Purza Urges Togetherness, Peace & Prosperity In Every Home Across J&K

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 20: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights, Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC), Ghulam Jeelani Purza, extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country.

In his message, Jeelani Purza said, "May this Diwali strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. I wish the people a very Happy Diwali, hoping that the day augurs well for everlasting peace, prosperity, and happiness for all."

"On this joyful occasion, I extend heartfelt greetings to our Hindu contractor brothers and their families. May this festival bring light, success and good fortune to every home."

Chairman Purza further emphasized that festivals like Diwali play a



vital role in promoting unity and understanding among diverse communities. He said that Jammu and

Kashmir has always been known for its rich tradition of mutual respect and brotherhood and such occasions reaffirm the region's composite culture.

Jeelani Purza urged everyone to share happiness with the underprivileged and spread the light of hope and compassion across society.

The Executive Body and General Members of JKCCC also extended warm greetings to the people of J&K and across the nation. They collectively wished for peace, prosperity and strengthened communal harmony, urging everyone to celebrate the festival in the true spirit of inclusiveness, compassion and unity.

The JKCCC leadership said that Diwali is a festival of light and joy, reminding everyone to share happiness, kindness and goodwill with others. They added that such occasions help strengthen the spirit of unity and togetherness among all communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma attends closing ceremony of Diwali Cup 2025 Golf Tournament at JTGC Jammu

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma today attended the closing ceremony of Diwali Cup 2025 Golf Tournament held at Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) Sidhra here.

The tournament, organised by JTGC in collaboration with Tourism Department Jammu, was teed off by Director Tourism, Jammu, Vikas Gupta in presence of Secretary JTGC, Manav Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sharma said that Golf Tourism should be more boosted in future so that such tournaments and events shall be organized at Jammu Tawi Golf Course on a regular basis. He added that these events bring Jammu & Kashmir on the international Golfing map with an opportunity for local talent to showcase their skills.

The Minister also presented trophies and mementoes to the winners, Runner-ups and other players, who were adjudged best in different categories.



Secretary JTGC, Manav Gupta informed that several big international level tournaments like PGTI were conducted in 2022, 2023 & 2024 at JTGC in which many professional Golfers from all over India/South-East participated.

As many as 83 players participated

during the day-long tournament, who were divided into 21 four-balls.

Sanjay Mahajan and Dr. Anil Slathia/Atharv Rishi were adjudged as the overall winner and Runner up respectively of the tournament. Gurdeep Singh bagged the award for the straight

drive at Hole No.06. The longest drive award went to Col. Amit Gupta, Rajeev Thakur and Vedant Handa. While Closest to the pin went to Sunita Kapoor, Col. J.B Singh and Jaideep Manocha. Winner best net for Senior Citizen Category went to Danesh Chopra and Runner up Col. Vijay Mahajan.

Best among Fourball went to Garib Dass, Rakesh Gupta, Ashkooor Wani, Col. Manav Sharma, S.S Pathania, Col. Amit Gupta, Rohit Bhalla, Pankaj Thakur, Col. J.B Singh, Sanjay Mahajan, Faizan Choudhary, Akash Bhola, Sunand Kumar, Col. Yashpal Tora, Varun Raina, Firdous Masoodi, Hemant Kumar Sharma, Col. Vijay Mahajan, Danesh Chopra, Swarn Singh and Danin Khan.

Besides that, Women's putting competition was also conducted at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, in which 13 Womens golfers participated, Shafiqa Banoo, Karuna Pathania, Simridhi Pathania, Meenakshi, Pratibha Sharma, Farhat-un-Nisa, Arya, Wedhana, Shridha Gupta, Sambhavi Gupta, Tanvi Gupta, Ritu Slathia, Ekta Sharma participated in the Tournament wherein Farhat-un-Nisa was adjudged as winner and Wedhana was adjudged as runner-up and Shaheen Wahid was adjudged as 2nd runner-up.

Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Aijaz Qaiser; prominent Golfers and other officers of JTGC were also present on the occasion.

Javid Dar inaugurates Autumn Flower Festival (Chrysanthemum Show) at SKUAST-K

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Co-operative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated Autumn Flower Festival (Chrysanthemum Show) at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) here.



Speaking on the occasion, Minister Dar congratulated the university authorities, particularly the Faculty of Floriculture, for organizing the colourful event that celebrates Kashmir's floral diversity and artistic traditions. He said that the festival aims to showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir's flora while attracting tourists, students, and entrepreneurs to explore the vast potential of floriculture in the region.

Highlighting the significance of the event, Javid Dar said that the Autumn Flower Festival, featuring 15 indigenous varieties and over 80 colours of chrysanthemums, marks the first major attempt to promote autumn tourism in the Valley, complementing the region's traditional spring, summer and winter attractions.

Minister Dar emphasized that the initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of diversifying tourism and creating livelihood opportunities through agriculture and allied sectors. He said that the Agriculture Production Department is encouraging farmers to adopt floriculture as a viable business venture alongside their routine farming, given its growing market demand and export potential.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, and other senior officers and scientists were present on the occasion.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews departmental activities in Billawar

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today conducted an extensive tour of Sub-Division Billawar in District Kathua.

At the outset, the Director chaired a meeting at the office of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer to review the ongoing departmental activities, physical and financial progress under the central and UT Government sponsored schemes, including CAPEX, NABARD and HADP.

The meeting was attended by the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Subject Matter Specialists, Agriculture Extension Officers, Junior Agriculture Extension Officers, Agriculture Extension Assistants and other field functionaries.



During the tour, the Director Agriculture visited the Mushroom Shed of Kartar Chand, resident of Bhaddu Billawar, where he assessed on-ground mushroom cultivation practices and encouraged progressive farmers engaged in mushroom production. Director Anil Gupta appreciated the farmer and stressed upon the promotion of mushroom cultivation as a viable source of income generation and rural employment.

The Director Agriculture also inspected the Toria crop field of Amir Singh, resident of Bhaddu Billawar, where 12 kanal land has been brought under oilseed cultivation. He appreciated the farmer for adopting crop diversification and emphasized the importance of timely agronomic interventions, integrated nutrient management and the use of quality seed for achieving higher productivity.

Anil Gupta impressed upon the officers to work in close coordination with the farming community to ensure effective implementation of departmental schemes at the grassroots level. He exhorted farmers to avail the benefits of various government initiatives and adopt modern scientific practices for enhanced production and profitability.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner reviews arrangements for facilitation of Kashmiri migrant voters

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20: Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani, today took stock of the arrangements being put in place for facilitation of Kashmiri migrant voters at Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi, for upcoming Bye-Election to Legislative Assembly from 27-Budgam AC, with Assistant Returning Officers stationed at Jammu, Udhampur and New-Delhi.

During the meeting, Dr. Karwani was apprised about the arrangements in place for establishment of Special Polling Stations in Jammu, Udhampur

and Delhi, distribution and collection of polling material/EVMs and also the arrangements being put in place for Counting of Votes.

Relief Commissioner emphasized on ensuring all requisite Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) for voters like permanent ramps, drinking water, toilet facilities as per norms of Election Commission of India. Camp Commandants/Zonal Officers were directed to reach out to the voters and facilitate their participation.

He also emphasized upon the officers for adequate training of polling staff well in advance, and strictly follow the laid down instructions /guidelines for

free, fair and impartial polling.

Pertinently, special polling stations have been established for Kashmiri Migrants who are residing outside their territorial jurisdiction of their assembly constituency in Kashmir and who are staying in and around the Relief Camps in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi, as done in earlier elections. In addition, special arrangements have also been made for those Kashmiri migrant electors who are staying elsewhere in India outside Jammu, Delhi and Udhampur with the option of either to vote in person at the polling stations in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi or by postal ballot.

JKRERA HOSTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON REAL ESTATE REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT ACT-2016 AT UDHAMPUR

DC hands over registration certificate to first Real Estate Promoter of the District

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today handed over the first-ever Real Estate Project Registration Certificate issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Udhampur District to the project titled Universal Housing Colony, Lota Garnai at a brief function held in Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner was the chief guest at the event attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and other officers, besides a large number of stakeholders from the real estate sector.

On the occasion, an awareness-cum-sensitization programme on the Real Estate Regulation and



Development Act, 2016 was also organised for the stakeholders including promoters, real estate agents and Revenue staff.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of JKRERA in ensuring transparency, accountability and consumer protection in the real estate sector. She urged the promoters and real estate agents

operating in the district to register their projects and business activities with JKRERA as mandated under the Act.

She emphasized the need for planned and regulated urban development, protection of consumer interests and enhancement of credibility and transparency in real estate dealings. The DC reiterated that the district administration

would extend all possible assistance to promote fair and sustainable growth in the real estate sector.

Earlier, Deputy Secretary JK RERA Esha Chib gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on various aspects of the RERA Act. She explained the registration process for projects and agents, documents required, functions and duties of

promoters and agents, rights and responsibilities of homebuyers and the grievances redressal mechanism under the Act.

She also highlighted the positive impact of RERA on promoting transparency, accountability and investor confidence in the real estate market. She further informed the participants that the primary objective of the programme was to enhance awareness about the role, duties and obligations of promoters and real estate agents under the Act and to encourage greater participation in the registration process.

A question-and-answer session was also held, during which RERA experts addressed and resolved the queries raised by participants regarding registration procedures and compliance requirements.

DC Ramban convenes mega public outreach camp at Sangaldan

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a mega public outreach camp at Sangaldan to listen and address the grievances and developmental issues of the people on the spot. The camp was organised as part of the District Administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen public services delivery, promote participatory governance and ensure that government welfare schemes reach every household. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and people from different Panchayats of the Sangaldan area.

Chairperson DDC Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan; Assistant

Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gool, Imtiaz Ahmed and officers from all line departments were also present.

A large number of individuals and delegations projected their demands pertaining to basic amenities, road connectivity, water and power supply, education, healthcare, sanitation and livelihood opportunities. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to all concerns and resolved most of the issues on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned departments.

Responding to public demands related to education, the DC directed the Chief Education Officer to rationalize staff required to ensure smooth functioning of all government schools. He



assured that issues regarding vacant posts of Headmasters and Lecturers would be taken up with the higher authorities for early filling of the same.

Regarding the augmentation of sanitation, the DC asked the locals to identify land in coordination with administration for the construction of a community toilet unit in the main market. He further announced the construction of a tubewell near Sangaldan Railway Station to improve the water supply system.

Addressing youth-centric issues, the DC emphasized the role of self-employment schemes and instructed the banking sector to expedite loan disbursements under Mission YUVA, PMEGP and other livelihood programs to support entrepre-

neurship and job creation.

The DC also informed that relief compensation has been disbursed among families affected by recent flash floods, heavy rains and landslides, adding that pending or additional cases, if any, would be verified and addressed promptly.

He further directed the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) to complete the pending work of Meeting Hall at Sangaldan within the stipulated time frame.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that the District Administration would resolve all public grievances in a transparent and time-bound manner, ensuring equitable development and effective service delivery across the district.



HT EDITORIAL

With winter around developmental works come to standstill in Kashmir

The summer season has already come to an end in the Kashmir valley and the autumn season is in progress. As on date the day temperature is in 20s and the night temperature between 7 and 8 degrees Celsius. In such a scenario it becomes very difficult to carry out the developmental works in the Kashmir division and all such works come to a standstill.

Most of the people living in multiple areas of the Kashmir valley are up in arms since they complain that macadamization has not been carried out in such areas. These people say that since the winter season is knocking at the doors it is virtually impossible to carry macadamization now. Since there are maximum chances that the macadamization cannot be taken up in Kashmir this all important developmental aspect would not be covered this year and people would have to wait until next year.

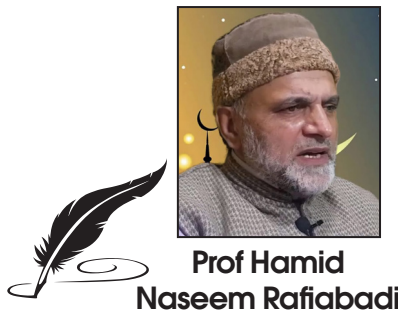
The legislators of the different assembly segments have complained that their constituency development fund (CDF) was not released on time and the same resulted in delay in taking up the developmental works in their respective constituencies. Given this situation the allocation of funds for the different developmental activities could not be done on time and there was a delay in taking up as well as execution of developmental works across the valley. The same has led to problems for the common masses more so when winter is round the corner.

Some years back during the PDP-BJP rule then works minister had claimed that macadam can be laid in Kashmir during winter as a chemical named as Evotherm is added to the same due to which the macadam does not come off the roads during winter even at freezing temperatures. For a year or so the process was carried out but the plan was shelved as complaints came that the macadam had come off from the roads after it was laid in winter season.

If the incumbent government is serious in laying macadam during winter in Kashmir it should consult the experts in the field. If the experts give their nod for laying of macadam during winter in Kashmir then the process should be taken forward. This would come as a huge relief for the common masses and they would believe that the present government is the government of the people in real sense. Any failure in this regard would not go well with the people and the politicians would have to face the music.

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Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Educational Pioneer and Contested Religious Reformer



Sir Syed emphasized
rational inquiry,
scientific thinking,
and the
reinterpretation of
Islamic history to
align with modern
sensibilities. His
insistence on the
study of Western
sciences alongside

religious studies
reflected a
commitment to
intellectual
adaptability, a trait
essential for survival
in the colonial and
postcolonial world.

In the broader
panorama of
19th-century Indian
Muslim reform, Sir
Syed stands out as a
figure who blended
social activism with
educational
innovation, leaving
a legacy that
continues to shape
the community's
intellectual
infrastructure.

Despite his
undeniable
achievements in
education, Sir Syed's
approach to religion
remains a matter of
significant debate



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–1898) occupies a pivotal place in the history of modern India, particularly in the context of Muslim social and educational reform. His legacy is often celebrated for the founding of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh, which later became Aligarh Muslim University, an institution that dramatically transformed the educational and socio-economic landscape for Indian Muslims. Yet, alongside this monumental contribution, Sir Syed's intellectual and religious positions invite critical scrutiny. While he undeniably catalyzed the modernization of Muslim society in India, his approach to religion, theology, and engagement with Western knowledge reflects serious deviations from orthodox Islamic teachings. A balanced appraisal must examine both dimensions: the transformative impact of his educational initiatives and the controversies arising from his religious misgivings. The most celebrated achievement of Sir Syed is undoubtedly the establishment of educational institutions designed to empower Indian Muslims in a rapidly changing colonial context. Following the catastrophic defeat of the Indian Muslim elite in the 1857 Revolt against the British, Muslims faced severe socio-economic marginalization. Sir Syed recognized that without modern education and proficiency in English, Muslims would be excluded from the emerging administrative and professional opportunities under British rule. The founding of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875 was therefore a strategic response to this crisis. The Aligarh institution not only imparted Western-style education, including science, literature, and administrative skills, but also became a hub for social mobility. It produced generations of professionals—civil servants, engineers, teachers, and scholars—who gained employment in government and private sectors. By linking education with tangible economic and administrative opportunities, Sir Syed helped uplift a community that had been rendered vulnerable and politically marginalized. In this sense, his contribution to Muslim society was both pragmatic and visionary: he created pathways for social and economic empowerment in a context of colonial subjugation. Furthermore, Sir Syed emphasized rational inquiry, scientific thinking, and the reinterpretation of Islamic history to align with modern sensibilities. His insistence on the study of Western sciences alongside religious studies reflected a commitment to intellectual adaptability, a trait essential for survival in the colonial and postcolonial world. In the broader panorama of 19th-century Indian Muslim reform, Sir Syed stands out as a figure who blended social activism with educational innovation, leaving a legacy that continues to shape the community's intellectual infrastructure. Despite his undeniable achievements in education, Sir Syed's approach to religion remains a matter of significant debate. His engagement with Western thought, while intellectually pioneering, led him to reinterpret Islamic doctrines in ways that many scholars consider departures from orthodox teachings. Sir Syed's insistence on rationalist and historical-critical approaches to the Quran and Hadith, his engagement with comparative religion, and his promotion of a rationalist interpretation of Islam were controversial. For instance, he often emphasized reason over traditional jurisprudence, and his writings reflect a tendency to harmonize Islamic principles with European rationalist thought. While this approach was intended to make Islam intellectually palatable to a Western-educated audience, it raised questions about fidelity to classical Islamic scholarship. Sir Syed's controversial stance on

certain theological issues, including the status of miracles, the interpretation of Prophetic traditions, and the role of Islamic law in contemporary governance, also attracted criticism. Many scholars argue that his rationalist tendencies diluted core religious principles and encouraged a selective reading of Islamic sources. His willingness to accommodate Western epistemology sometimes resulted in what critics consider religious compromises, weakening the authoritative weight of classical scholarship in favor of pragmatic alignment with colonial modernity. Moreover, Sir Syed's historical interpretation of events like the 1857 Revolt reflected a tendency to exonerate British policies and downplay Muslim resistance. By portraying the revolt as a religiously misguided uprising rather than a legitimate struggle against colonial oppression, he alienated traditional scholars and pious segments of society. Critics argue that this approach contributed to a religious and intellectual disjunction between Aligarh's modernist elites and the broader Muslim populace, fostering an enduring tension between reformist and orthodox strands in Indian Islam. The dual nature of Sir Syed's legacy is evident in how his contributions reshaped Muslim society while simultaneously creating ideological fissures. On one hand, his institutions equipped Muslims with the tools to survive and thrive in the modern world. They fostered critical thinking, technical competence, and administrative skill—qualities essential for navigating colonial India's complex socio-political landscape. On the other hand, his religious misgivings and selective adaptation of Islamic principles fostered a trend of rationalist reform that many considered a deviation from traditional religious norms. This duality has implications for understanding contemporary Muslim identity in South Asia. Aligarh graduates and their intellectual descendants have often pursued modernist, secular, and reformist agendas, sometimes at odds with orthodox scholarship. While this has enabled Muslims to engage effectively in professional and political spheres, it has also generated debates over authenticity, religious authority, and the balance between tradition and modernity. Sir Syed's life exemplifies the tension between pragmatic accommodation and theological fidelity—a tension that continues to shape Muslim intellectual debates today. In sum, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan remains a towering figure in the history of modern Indian Muslim reform, yet his legacy is neither unambiguously positive nor free from criticism. His establishment of educational institutions and advocacy for scientific and administrative literacy significantly transformed the social and economic prospects of Indian Muslims, providing avenues of empowerment previously unavailable. However, his rationalist reinterpretation of Islam, selective engagement with Western thought, and occasional deviations from orthodox religious teachings expose the limitations of his approach. A critical assessment of Sir Syed must therefore balance these dimensions. He was a visionary reformer who understood the practical necessities of his time but simultaneously a thinker whose theological choices sparked enduring debates within Muslim intellectual circles. His life reminds us that reform and modernization are complex processes: they can empower communities materially while challenging long-held religious and cultural frameworks. The legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is, thus, both inspirational and cautionary—highlighting the transformative power of education and the perils of theological compromise.

Gender Discrimination is a Crime

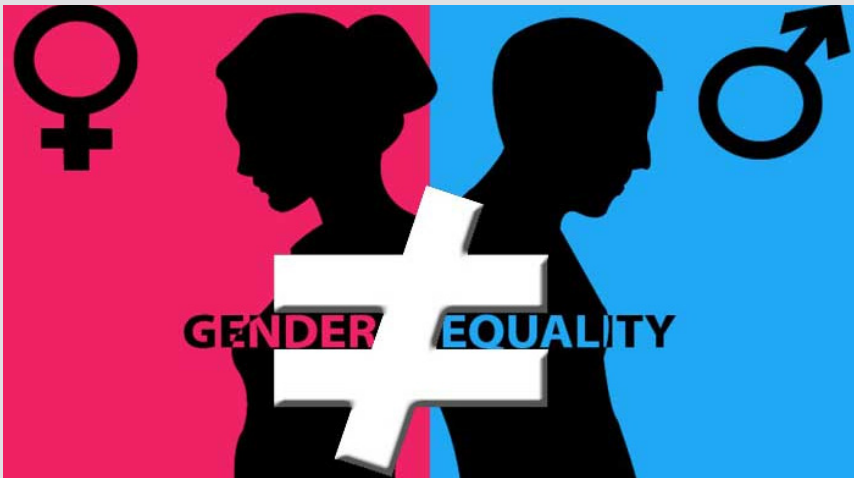


Wani Zikra

Gender discrimination is something we all have been facing since childhood. When I say discrimination, I don't mean that boys and girls are physically equal. Discrimination is something that can pull you back to zero when you are at the top of your life because it's something which targets your physical, mental, and emotional health. As a fan of reading, writing, and observing things, I can write a book on such themes. But every time,

I will start with something that I have faced myself. I got to know about gender discrimination when I observed that my close ones keep clearing out thing that girls and boys are equal, but at the end of the day, they expected more from boys and less from girls. We all feel that the idea of gender discrimination is fading in our society, but the reality is that deep down, it's still there.

When I say discrimination, I point out towards the smile that parents have when a boy is born in their family. When I say discrimination, I point out towards the extra love that parents show to their sons. We all know that our society is trying so hard to adopt western culture, and I am definitely not against it. But my only question is, why is our society still not able to accept this thing that boys and girls are equal? I can't



end this discrimination in one go, but the most important thing that I believe is education.

Educate your daughters, sisters, and wives because that's something which helps women in a lot of things. We all have seen that men beat their wives after marriage, but they always choose silence instead of taking any action. And I used to keep thinking about the reason for their silence until I found that if they will take any action, there would be no one to fulfill their financial needs. At that point of time, I realized the value of being financially independent.

Right now, I am writing about a problem which is gender discrimination, and the solution for it would be education, to make our society educated. And when I say education, I definitely don't mean literacy.

Now it's time to talk about another face of discrimination which is faced by boys. It might sound a little bit strange because whenever we hear the word discrimination, we label it as boys are superior and girls are inferior. Do you know that in our society, it's believed that boys don't cry? Now just imagine how hard it is to hide your

emotions when you are having tons of responsibilities on your shoulders. Boys are often labeled as earners in our society, but how strange it is, for boys it sounds like discrimination, and for girls it sounds like an achievement.

Now coming back to the theme, gender discrimination is a crime. I have discussed some very horrible things till now which trigger a person's mental, emotional, and physical health. So this point is as clear as water that when you ruin someone's mental peace, you are committing a crime. And there is no chance that we should normalize such kind of things.

Crime can be done in many ways (robbery, murder, etc.). But one of the most horrible way to commit a crime is to ruin someone's mental peace. And the most highlighted example of it is gender discrimination. Our society believes that gender discrimination is just their ideology, but they forget that sometimes a person's ideology can become a crime also. As a student, I can't take any strong action, but right now, my biggest power is my pen. I can just hold my pen and write about my ideas, and I can just keep waiting for the moment when I will be able to spread my ideas to our society.

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Are we Normalizing vulgarity in the name of Education and Modernization?



Raqif Makhdoomi

We often come across leaked call recordings between teachers and students. Only adding to the vulgarity and doing no good. These things spread like fire, with no one knowing where to stop. We don't know what our single share can do

We used to proudly flaunt about being "Land of Sufis". But now look at us we have become the slaves of western cultural. Our Sufi saints are limited to their anniversaries. We have shamelessly buried their teachings and still claim to be their lovers. We are merely their celebrators not their lovers. Their anniversary is celebrated and we forget their teachings as soon as the night falls. Whatever happening today in the name of "Modernization" is completely against the teachings of Sufi saints. Can we even imagine things unfolding today could ever have been their teachings? No, never for sure. We are normalizing vulgarity in the name of modernization.

The more this society is getting educated the more we are becoming vulgar and losing our moral values. Education makes a person disciplined and well behaved but we are seeing the opposite. The reason being education is now a business. We are seeing tuition centers having asset evaluation of worth cores and now it has become a race. In that race, education has become the victim. We often see viral videos of the professors teaching in online classes. They are nothing more than vulgar gestures by the professors and that's what has erased the line between teacher and student. The respect that the teachers have lost is not because punishment is an offense now, but because education has become a business. The owners only want money and want to have subscribers on you-tube and followers on Instagram, in this sanity has left and insanity has become the new normal. We can't be putting everything on the young generation. They have learned it from somewhere and it's we who have taught them this.

Allama Iqbal [ra], isn't only a poet. He was a revolutionary and a philosopher. His poetry when decoded proves out to be the prediction of the era we are living in. His poetry has covered all the spheres of life and education being the important part, he wrote "Allah se kare dur, to taalim bhi ftana. Amilak bhi, olad bhi jagir bhi ftana. Naahaq ke laye authe to shamshair bhi ftana. Shahshair hi kiya naarah takaber bhi ftana". { If you distance yourself from Allah, then even education is fitnah. If you rise up for the unjust, then even the sword is a fitnah. Not only the sword, even the slogan of Takbir is a fitnah }.

We must ponder upon the depth Allma Iqbal [ra] has gone to discredit unjust things. He hasn't even let go calling fighting in the cause of Allah as fitnah, if its unjust.

We often come across leaked call recordings between teachers and students. Only adding to the vulgarity and doing no good. These things spread like fire, with no one knowing where to stop. We don't know what our single share can do.

The tuition centers don't want you to be educated, they just want you to be literate and qualify exams so that they can flex about it and gain more admissions next time.

I have often heard people cursing these tuition centers but when its their time, they send their children to same centers and justify their acts by saying "Education is important. If my child won't study how will he compete with the world". And when you ask them about the reservation they had regarding these centers. They say "My son/ daughter won't do it". But they forget while they had reservations about these centers because seeing the environment and then accusing the students of the centers. They are also children of some parents who also believe same about their children. We are very fine with criticizing or cursing something until we aren't part of it. The same things becomes good while we become part of it. We close our eyes for our benefit but forget our closing eyes normalizes it and then leads to it spread, finally making it part of our life. "The society of today is evil". A very commonly used sentence in our discussions, but forgetting this society is use. Old men favorite topic is "Young generation" but in this discussion they forget they too have their part in it. Their children are also the part of this young generation.

While we discuss anything, we must introspect what all bad we pinpoint. What's our role we play directly or indirectly. The way we start doing it, our discussion shall become productive. It's already too late we must stop normalizing vulgarity in the name of education.

Raqif makhdoomi is a law student and a human rights activist.

Why Science Education Should Be Must In The Modern Digital World



SURINDERPAL SINGH

In the 21st-century which is better known as digital era, science education has become a vital foundation for personal growth, societal progress, well being of humanity and sustainable development. It helps to build and develop rational thinking, better understanding and technological competence. Moreover it also nurtures the ethical responsibility and global citizenship.

SCIENCE THE LANGUAGE OF THE MODERN WORLD

The modern digital world runs on the engines of science and technology. From smartphones and artificial intelligence to healthcare and environmental protection, every facet of life is guided by scientific principles. Science education, therefore, is not merely a subject rather it is the intellectual and moral framework that enables citizens to navigate and shape the future responsibly. Compulsory science education ensures that every individual, regardless of background, acquires the capacity to think critically, act rationally and engage constructively in a knowledge-based global society.

SPHERES INFLUENCED BY SCIENCE EDUCATION

Science education exerts a transformative influence on multiple spheres of human life. Some of them are discussed below:

Healthcare:

Scientific literacy enables understanding of hygiene, nutrition, disease prevention and medical innovation. It encourages evidence-based decision-making in personal and public health.

Technology and Industry:

A scientifically trained population fuels innovation in engineering, computing and digital design, ensuring economic growth and technological self-reliance.

Environment and Sustainability:

The Science education fosters ecological awareness, promoting renewable energy use, waste management and biodiversity conservation.

Agriculture and Food Security:

Application of biological and environmental sciences improves crop productivity, reduces chemical misuse and enhances food safety.

Social and Ethical Progress:

Rational scientific thinking reduces superstition, promotes gender equality and strengthens human rights through education and awareness.

INTEGRATING MINIMAL MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION

In the digital era, science education should not remain confined to theoretical understanding. It must include foundational medical and engineering literacy:

Minimal Medical Education:

The Students should learn basic human anatomy, first aid, vaccination importance, mental health awareness and lifestyle medicine. This promotes

health responsibility and reduces dependence on misinformation.

Minimal Engineering Education:

Elementary understanding of design thinking, renewable energy systems, robotics and digital tools empowers learners to engage creatively with technology rather than merely consume it.

Such interdisciplinary integration will produce a generation capable of solving real-world problems using both scientific knowledge and humanitarian perspective.

UNIVERSALISING SCIENCE EDUCATION

Universalisation of science education is a moral and developmental imperative. To achieve this: Digital Platforms and Open Resources:

Free access to quality digital science content ensures inclusivity for students in rural and underprivileged areas.

Teacher Training and Global Collaboration:

Educators should be equipped with modern pedagogical tools and scientific ethics to foster curiosity-driven learning.

Language and Cultural Adaptation: Translating scientific concepts into local languages and culturally relevant examples bridges the gap between traditional wisdom and modern knowledge.

Governmental and NGO Partnerships: Policies should mandate equal science learning opportunities for all genders and social groups.

SCIENCE EDUCATION AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN LIFE

Science education enhances human life not only materially but also spiritually and ethically:

Rational and Ethical Mindset:

Understanding scientific causality cultivates honesty, integrity and humility—values at the core of both science and morality.

Humanitarian Impact:

From healthcare access to climate action, science-driven empathy leads to collective well-being.

Improved Quality of Life:

Innovations in medicine, agriculture, energy and communication elevate life expectancy, comfort, and opportunity.

Moral and Global Citizenship:

Science unites humanity under a shared pursuit of truth, fostering cooperation over conflict, and wisdom over prejudice.

In a world where artificial intelligence, biotechnology and environmental challenges redefine existence, science education must be seen as a universal human right. It empowers individuals with the knowledge to live healthily, the creativity to innovate sustainably and the ethics to act justly. Integrating minimal medical and engineering literacy within school science curricula will prepare youth not only for technological competence but for compassionate citizenship.

Science education is thus not just about learning facts—it is about learning how to think, how to care, and how to build a better world.

Science education is the foundation of a responsible and enlightened civilization. Its universality and ethical integration remain the strongest tools to shape a peaceful, prosperous and scientifically aware humanity.

The Author is a Faculty in Science Department
Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab

Health First: Annual Medical Check-Ups at Ramzaan College Ensure Students' Holistic Well-Being



■ **MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI**

At Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, welfare of the students is given equal importance to their academic growth, indicating a holistic education policy. The college conducts comprehensive health check-ups for all students, demonstrating its commitment not only to academic excellence but also to the physical, mental, and emotional health of its students. These assessments are crucial in identifying potential health issues early, ensuring that students remain fit and capable of handling the rigorous demands of medical and paramedical education.

The medical student's life is tense with study for hours on end, clinic duty and test-anxious exams. Such a lifestyle may hide health issues, increase stress, and lead to fatigue or poor nutrition. Yearly routine check-ups identify such latent issues, providing the opportunity for early treatment. No aspect of a student's health is left to chance, reflecting the belief that learning and health go hand in hand.

On check-up in this year, the students were given a comprehensive series of tests that included height and weight measurement for tracking progress, measurement of blood pressure and pulse rate for cardiovascular health, temperature tests for infection check, hemoglobin tests for anemia screening, blood sugar testing, complete blood counts, vision screening, routine complete physical examination, and cardiovascular check. The nurses provided personalized care, observing even small signs of tension, anxiety or stress, an indicator that emotional and mental well-being were as important as physical well-being.

The usability of the check-ups was glaring. For instance, a strained pulse rate in a student confirmed an existing medical condition that was given immediate attention for their health. The majority of students had small problems like mild anemia, minor eye issues, or stress indicators, which could be corrected with ease if addressed within time. Apart from discovery, these screenings educate students on healthy living, maintaining balanced diets, exercise, sufficient rest, and stress mitigation.

The actual benefits of such check-ups are real and imminent. In this year's exam-



ination, one student was detected to have a pulse rate of 115, which necessitated further examination that revealed a pre-existing health issue. Early intervention enhanced the general health and energy levels of the student, illustrating how yearly assessments serve as early-warning systems to avert minor concerns from becoming severe medical issues. Also, minor indicators like vision deficiencies, mild anemia, and periodic stress were tackled, enabling students to embrace corrective strategies in time. These tests promote the development of healthy habits, such as well-balanced diets, regular physical activity, adequate rest, and proper stress management, developing habits for a lifetime of wellness.

Apart from medical advice, the students are also guided and mentored by teachers and coordinators. Our coordinator Ajaz Sir provides extremely helpful advice beyond text books, and teachers make sure to share their experience and knowledge each time, resulting in education, professional growth, and personal growth. Principal Jamsheeda Zaroo provides yet another buttress of strength to this well-balanced installation by commemorating every medical-related day such as Nurses' Day, Drug Addiction Day, World AIDS Day, and Mental Health Day in college. Her adherence to very high standards and never agreeing to compromise keeps students and teachers ever striving for excellence.

In addition to them, some committed faculty members were equally instrumental in making the health check-up sessions smooth, organized, and pleasant for all students. The genuine hard work of Ubaid Sir, Zahid Sir, Zeeshan Sir, Aabid Sir, Augib Sir, Rabiya Maam, Rimsha Mam and Mehak Maam must be particularly appreciated. Their professionalism, empathy, and patient-centric attitude ensured that the whole process remained smooth and comforting. Personally speaking, I have to say

that I didn't even notice when Rabiya Maam took my blood, a moment which clearly depicted her skill and tender care. This kind of experience instills confidence among the students and the faculty members, making what otherwise would be a tense medical process a soothing and experience-gaining one.

Such a practice also encourages a sense of responsibility among the faculty and staff, who are charged with helping students facing physical or mental illnesses. It is indicative of the college's concern for each student's overall well-being, not merely academic achievement. Being included in this year's check-up, I got first-hand experience of professionalism, dedication, and attention provided by our medical personnel and faculty. It was reassuring to see a learning environment where health is considered on par with education so that students can thrive academically, physically, and emotionally.

In conclusion, yearly health check-ups are not routine; they are essential for early detection of diseases, protection of mental and physical well-being, and encouraging healthy lifestyles for life. Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences is a model institution that places student health at the top of their priority list. In the guidance of coordinators, teachers, and Principal Jamsheeda Zaroo, not only are students receiving medical care but are also guided, motivated, and spurred on to do their best. The philosophy is holistic in nature, paving the way for a healthier, more productive, and satisfying life in the future, proving that knowledge and health together form the seeds of true success.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, Email: wania6817@gmail.com)

Health Benefits of Dates



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI**

Dates are sweet, delicious, and tasty fruits available throughout the year. They are often used in preparing different mixtures of dry fruits and other delicacies. Dates are primarily cultivated in Saudi Arabia from August to mid-November each year. Apart from Saudi Arabia, they are also grown in Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Pakistan, and several other countries.

During the holy month of Ramadan, the demand for dates rises sharply. Muslims across the world prefer to break their fast with a few dates, following the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). This practice is not only spiritually significant but also provides an instant source of natural energy after a day of fasting. In the market, various types of dates—ranging from low-quality to premium varieties—are available to meet the needs of customers.

Nutritional Value and Fibre Content
Dates are loaded with vitamins, minerals, and fibre. The high fibre content helps cleanse the stomach and maintain a healthy bowel system. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a single pitted date contains about 1.6 grams of fibre, which is roughly six percent of the daily recommended intake.

Fibre plays a vital role in digestion—it softens stool, prevents constipation, and reduces the risk of haemorrhoids. It also helps lower levels of "bad" cholesterol (LDL), combats obesity, and promotes a healthy colon, reducing the risk of colitis and colon cancer.

A review published in Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition found that the insoluble fibre in dates binds to fat and cholesterol, helping remove them from the body.

Heart Health

Eating dates is an excellent way to maintain a healthy heart. Dates are rich

in potassium, which helps lower the risk of stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. Combined with their ability to reduce LDL cholesterol, dates become a heart-friendly superfood. For best results, some experts recommend soaking dates overnight and eating them the next morning.

Rich Source of Essential Minerals and Vitamins

A study published in the International Journal of Food Sciences and Nutrition (2003) described dates as "an almost ideal food," providing a wide range of essential nutrients. Dates contain at least 15 minerals, several amino acids, and healthy fatty acids, making them beneficial for strengthening bones, preventing diseases like osteoporosis, and keeping blood strong and healthy.

Here are some key nutrients found in dates:

- **Potassium:** Maintains heart health, builds muscles, and regulates blood pressure.
- **Copper:** Aids in the production of red blood cells, improves iron absorption, and prevents premature ageing.
- **Magnesium:** Reduces inflammation, lowers blood pressure, and protects against arthritis and cardiovascular disease.
- **Selenium:** Boosts immunity and acts as a powerful anti-cancer agent.
- **Iron:** Essential for producing red blood cells and preventing anaemia.
- **Vitamin B6:** Enhances brain performance and promotes muscle and hair growth.
- **Niacin (Vitamin B3):** Helps convert food into energy and supports nerve function.
- **Vitamin A:** Keeps eyes, skin, and mucous membranes healthy.

In conclusion, dates are not just a symbol of tradition and faith but also a nutrient-packed superfood that supports overall health. Whether eaten fresh, dried, or soaked, dates remain one of nature's most complete and beneficial gifts.

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Bharat CSR Network Team Reaches Dardpora Lolab, Kupwara to Launch CSR Initiatives

■ HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, OCT 20: In a significant step towards uplifting rural communities in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharat CSR Network, led by Chairman Dr Sajid Saiyed, reached Dardpora Lolab in Kupwara district to initiate a series of developmental projects under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The visit is part of a broader mission to promote sustainable development and support local communities through focused CSR interventions. Dr Sajid Saiyed was accompanied by a women's delegation & Mohd Shafi, who are in the Valley to promote Kashmir tourism and culture.

CSR Network Chairman Dr Sajid was accompanied by Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah whose invita-

tion brought the Bharat CSR Network to Dardpora, Lolab. During their visit, the delegation held meetings with local stakeholders, including the district administration, ACR to identify key areas for intervention and cooperation.

The Bharat CSR Network team appreciated the District Administration especially DC Kupwara, ACR Kupwara, SDM Lolab, Tehsildar Lalpora and the District police for their cooperation during their visit.

Dr Sajid during the press conference announced the Key CSR Initiatives for Dardpora Lolab:

1. Health Centres:-

Establishment of modern health facilities in underserved areas to provide accessible and quality healthcare to the local population.

2. AI Labs in Schools &



Digital Classrooms.

Introduction of advanced digital infrastructure and AI-based learning tools to enhance digital literacy, promote innovation, and improve the education ecosystem.

3. Waste Management Facilities.

Development of sustainable waste management systems to promote cleanliness, reduce pollution, and improve public health.

4. Water Remediation Facilities.

Implementation of clean water projects to ensure safe drinking water and improve water sustainability in the region.

5. Training centres for self-help groups in Lolab.

Speaking to the media, Dr Sajid reaffirmed Bharat CSR's commitment to working close-

ly with local administration and communities. We are here to change that by investing in projects that make a real difference in people's lives," he stated.

The initiatives are expected to begin in phases starting later this year, with feasibility studies and community consultations already underway.

Bharat CSR Network's efforts in Kupwara mark a significant stride towards inclusive and sustainable development in Kashmir, reinforcing the organisation's dedication to social upliftment through meaningful action.

Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, while addressing the media, welcomed Bharat CSR Network and its chairman, Dr. Sajid, along with his team, to Kupwara district for announcing CSR initiatives in the remote village of Lolab.

Turban Queen Shivani opens traditional Dogra wear showroom

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 20: "SABHAYATA: The Traditional Wear." The Showroom, located in the Heart of the Old City Jammu at Shivaji Chowk, Lower Mastgarh, in Lane Opposite Pahalwan-Di-Hatti, Peer Mitha, Jammu Tawi, had a Grand Opening through the August Hands of Mrs. Priya Sethi, Ex. Education Minister and Senior Leader Bhartiya Janta Party. The occasion was also graced by Kunwar Ajatshatru and his wife Ku. Ritu Rani ji, the Icons of Dogra Dynasty, who are prominent social Activists dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Dogra Heritage, culture and Tradition. They participated in the event through visual mode to



bless Turban Queen Shivani, wish her great success and to reassure her, their fill support and cooperation. A large number of the invitees and customers too thronged the venue. Mrs. Priya Sethi, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated Truban Queen Shivani and praised her devotion towards the promotion of the Dogra Culture and Tradition. She added that when the Society in General and the Younger Generation (Gen-Z) in particular is blindly following the Western Culture, Life Style and is alienated towards their own Rich Cultural Heritage and Traditions, SHIVANI'S SABHAYATA; The Traditional Wear, is a clarion call for Coming Back to Home, which is the burning need of the hour, in recognition of our glorious past, rich cultural heritage as well as our civilisational grandeur. She further added that it is the most opportune and appropriate time for such adventure when our country is taking big strides in all the fields and to regain its lost prestige of "Vishavguru". Let us all support and stand by Shivani, in the wider interest of the Nation, Civilization, Culture and Tradition.

A wide range of uniquely blended, Exquisite Collection of the Best Fabrics, the Traditional Dogra Wear, and the Modern Fashion Styles, meant for all seasons and all occasions, for both Men and Women, at very affordable rates, was meticulously displayed at the showroom on this Occasion. All the present were mesmerised by the display of Magnificent, Aristocratic, Elegant, and Spectacular traditional attire on the Display. While speaking on the occasion, Turban Queen Shivani, narrated that the Grand Opening of the Brand 'SABHAYATA-The Traditional Wear' is not merely a matter of business for her, it is her mission, motive, and objective, and a dream come true for her. She said I was deeply impressed by the richness and grandeur of the Dogra Culture, Tradition, and the Attire since childhood and wished to restore and revive it, I am sure that with the blessings, active support, and co-operation from all of you, my mission of revival of Dogri culture, tradition, and Dogri attire shall turn into a movement.

Besides all of you I am greatly thankful to all around me who extended helping hand to me and specially my family, my mother and my Life Partner Mr. Rajan Gupta, who stood like a rock behind me, for their blessings, encouragement, and active support, without which it would not have been possible for me to accomplish this dream. Now, the overwhelming support, words of praise and admiration, received from all of you, who have graced this occasion by their benign presence, has further boosted my morale. I am heartedly grateful to all of you and extend my heartiest thanks to all of you, specifically Smt. Priya Sethi Ji Ex. Education Minister for sparing their valuable time from their busy schedule, to bless, encourage and to guide me as friends and philosophers. I hope all of you will always support me in this endeavour of mine.

Hexamed BIG Diwali Mela Lights Up Jammu with Festive Spirit and Excitement

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 20: The much-awaited Hexamed BIG Diwali Mela organised by 92.7 BIG FM lit up Jammu with grandeur, festive cheer, and community spirit. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from every nook and corner of the city as families, shoppers, and well-wishers came together to celebrate the festival of lights with joy, fun, and entertainment.

The evening was graced by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma (IPS), who attended as the Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of the organizers for creating such a vibrant and engaging platform that brought people together beyond the barriers of age and background. He lauded 92.7 BIG FM, Hexamed Diagnostics, and their partners for promoting togetherness and positivity during the festive season through creative, community-



oriented celebrations.

The highlight of the evening was a power-packed live performance by the Agnikosh Band, led by Mr. Ricky, whose electrifying vocals and energy set the stage ablaze. The crowd swayed to their beats, adding to the festive fervor that defined the evening.

The much-awaited Lucky Draw brought waves of excitement among the audience. Nargis

Nazia won a brand-new Hero Scooty, Rajvika took home an Apple Watch, while Vikram Singh and other participants won Sunshine Kitchen Appliances. The joy, smiles, and cheers of the winners perfectly captured the true spirit of Diwali happiness, sharing, and good fortune.

The event was beautifully hosted by RJ Juhie, one of Jammu's most popular radio personalities,

who kept the audience entertained with her warmth, wit, and festive charm throughout the evening.

Among the dignitaries and brand representatives present were Mr. Nigam Gupta, Director, Hexamed Diagnostics & Specialty Clinics; Mr. Madan Mohan Rana, Vice President, Wave Mall Jammu; Mr. Bharat Bhandari, Director, Wave Mall Jammu; Mr.

Ranjeev Khajuria from Škoda; and Mr. Rajinder Sharma, ASM, Sunshine Appliances J&K, Mr. Deepak Gupta, President, Traders Federation Ware House Jammu and representative of Deepak Trading Co.; Mr. Vijay Menon, Partner, Aroma Multicuisine Family Restaurant; Dr. Varinder Sharma, Consultant Sonologist, A-One Ultrasound Clinic, Gandhi Nagar; Ms. Rishika Kapoor, representative of Arpit Electronix Shoppee; Mr. Aashish from Hero Premia Tawi Automobiles; and Mr. Vikas Khajuria from JK Yamaha.

The Hexamed BIG Diwali Mela concluded on a high note, leaving the audience with smiles, laughter, and memories to cherish. The celebration not only captured the true essence of Diwali but also strengthened the bond among local brands, business partners, and the community. It was a shining reflection of cultural vibrancy, collaboration, and togetherness living up to 92.7 BIG FM's philosophy, "Dhun Badal Ke Toh Dekho."

Dogri Sangeet Sandhya spreads cheer, cultural harmony in Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 20: In a heartwarming celebration of culture, tradition, and compassion, a soulful musical evening titled "Dogri Sangeet Sandhya - Ek Shaam Buzurgon Ke Naam" was organized at "Home for the Aged & Infirmary (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu" on the eve of Diwali. The event was a joint initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and Nami Dogri Sanshtha (NDS), Jammu, dedicated to honouring the elderly residents and spreading festive joy among them.

The function was graced by Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary, Culture Department, J&K Government, as Chief Guest on the occasion. Shri Harvinder Kaur, JKAS, Secretary, Ms Sonali Arun Gupta, JKAS Addl. Secretary JKAACL, Ms. Shagun, Incharge Mission Shakti, Yati Satya Priya ji, Ex. Mayor, Sunder Nagar (H.P.), Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, Capt. L.K. Sharma, Ms. Anupma Sharma, Patron and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President, NDS Jammu, S/Shri Vijay Gupta, Jr. Secretary, R.C. Vaid and Satpal Sharma, MCMS S. Rajinder Singh and Dr. R. Thappa also graced the event.

At the outset, Er. Shri Pankaj Gupta, MCM of The Home for the Aged & Infirmary, extended a warm welcome to all the guests, artists, and participants. In his address, he expressed deep appreciation to JKAACL and Nami Dogri Sanshtha for choosing the Vridh Ashram as the venue for this meaningful cultural event, especially at a time when the festival of



Diwali symbolizes light, happiness, and care for others.

The program featured enthralling Dogri musical performances by eminent local artists, who presented traditional and melodious songs that beautifully reflected the rich cultural heritage of Duggar. The soulful renditions evoked emotions of nostalgia and pride among the elderly residents, who enjoyed the evening with visible enthusiasm and joy.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma lauded the initiative, stating that such events strengthen the bond between generations and reaffirm the importance of preserving regional art forms while caring for our senior citizens. He also assured

that henceforth such like programmes shall be held in this Home and Homes like SOS, Children Homes etc. Ms. Harvinder Kaur and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila also appreciated the efforts of the Home and the participating organizations for organizing a program that combines cultural promotion with humanitarian values.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary of the Home followed by interaction with the elderly residents and exchange of Diwali greetings. The entire atmosphere at the Home was filled with warmth, laughter, and music—a true reflection of the message of Diwali: spreading light, love, and happiness.

MLA Jasrotia inaugurates Paddy Procurement Mandi at Dhanni Bhakhta, Barnoti

■ HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, OCT 20: In a landmark move for the agrarian landscape of Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Jasrota, today inaugurated the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre) at Dhanni Bhakhta, Block Barnoti—a remote Kandi region that now stands to benefit more than 35 Panchayats. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua, Jitendra Khajuria and his worthy team, SDAO Ashwani Sharma, BDO Barnoti Suraj Singh, AEE PWD Mahesh, AEE PHE Himanshu, XEN Flood Control Kathua, Abnish Kumar, Sarpnachs Shivdev Singh, Balwant Singh, Randeep Singh, several Pancha and hundreds of prominent citizens in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said that newly-established centre is designed to ensure smooth, transparent, and timely procurement of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹2,369 per quintal for Common Paddy and ₹2,389 per quintal for Grade-A Paddy, thereby guaranteeing fair and assured returns to local farmers. He emphasised that such centres will strengthen the rural economy, eliminate middlemen and empower farming communities. He noted that the establishment of the Paddy Mandi in Jasrota Constituency fulfils a persistent demand of local farmers, offering better accessibility and convenience.

Jasrotia reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to farmer welfare through improved procurement infrastructure, enhanced transparency, and prompt payment disbursement. He called upon the Agriculture Department and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure efficient operations and timely payments. He urged field officers to extend full assistance to farmers, ensuring no inconvenience during procurement. He encouraged farmers to utilise the registration-cum-facilitation centre for seamless documentation and quick processing.

Jasrotia highlighted that awareness campaigns through Panchayat-level meetings, posters, and social media are being amplified to keep every farmer well-informed about MSP benefits and mandi operations. He affirmed that the centre will revolutionise paddy procurement in the Kandi belt, fostering prosperity and equity for the farming fraternity of Jasrota.

Sakeena Itoo visits Baramulla, inaugurates Additional Accommodation at GHSS Boniyar, lays foundation stone for additional classrooms

Also e-Inaugurates key educational projects for various Assembly Constituencies of North Kashmir

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated newly constructed Additional Accommodation at Government Higher Secondary School Boniyar, Uri.

The Minister also laid the foundation for additional classrooms at HSS Boniyar, being constructed under SAMGRA, further strengthening the educational infrastructure in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the government is working tirelessly to ensure that students in every corner of the Union Territory have access to modern, well-equipped educational facilities. "Education is the cornerstone of progress. Our goal is to bridge the infrastructure gap and create inclusive learning spaces that nurture the potential of every student," the Minister said.

The Minister also interacted with students and faculty members, encouraging them to make the best use of the improved facilities and to continue striving for academic excellence. He emphasized the importance of community participation in maintaining educational assets and supporting local schools.

Later, the Minister visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Baramulla and participated in Annual Day celebrations of the institution.

MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Baigh; MLA, Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Pattan Riyaz Bedar; MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Uri Dr. Sajad Shafi; Director General of School Education Kashmir, Dr. GN Itoo; district officers of various departments, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

During the program, Minister Sakeena, along with MLAs, inspected stalls installed by the students, showcasing innovative



projects developed in Atal Tinkering Labs.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of education, innovation, and holistic student development. She encouraged students to excel in academics,

sports, and co-curricular activities and highlighted the government's commitment to providing modern facilities and resources to support student learning and growth.

Minister Sakeena further said that the projects of students in

exhibition reflected the creativity and technical skills of the students, adding that it showcases the government's efforts of promoting innovation at school level.

The Minister, during the celebrations, also felicitated meri-

torious students and those who participated in various cultural and other competitions at UT and national levels. Students who performed exceptionally in academic, cultural, and sports activities were also recognized for their achievements, inspiring all attendees to pursue excellence.

As part of the Annual Day celebrations, students presented vibrant and energetic cultural performances, adding colour and enthusiasm to the celebrations. The performances included traditional dances, music, and dramatizations that enthralled the audience and demonstrated the all-round development of the students.

On the sidelines of the event, Minister Sakeena e-inaugurated several educational infrastructure projects as well as laid e-foundation of projects, amounting to nearly Rs. 2067.18 Lakhs in different Assembly Constituencies of North Kashmir. The projects e-inaugurated include additional accom-

modation of three storey building and renovation of old 12 roomed 3 storey building for Girls HSS Sopore, 10 roomed double storey building at HSS Mirgund Pattan, additional accommodation of 3 roomed double storey building at BHSS Uri, additional accommodation at Girls Middle School Kralpora Nehalpora Gulmarg, Additional Accommodation at PM Shri MS Raram Gulmarg, 3 roomed double storied building at HS Trigam Sonawari, 03 roomed double storied building at GHS Sumbal Sonawari, Additional Accommodation 6 roomed double storey at HS Rakhe Shilvat Sonawari, 3 roomed double storied building at HSS Madwan Sonawari and Additional Accommodation 06 roomed double storey building for Govt. HSS Budagam Gurez, besides e-foundation stone for construction of Teacher Quarters at Government Higher Secondary School Chandiloora Gulmarg was also laid by the Minister.

DC Ramban inspects facilities at 'Tatapani' Hot Water Spring

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited the Tatapani area in Subdivision Gool to review facilities and take first hand feedback from visitors regarding the amenities available at the popular spot.

The Hot Water Spring at 'Tatapani' Sangaldan is a natural geothermal marvel renowned for its therapeutic and medicinal properties.

The spring continuously emits naturally heated water believed to possess significant healing qualities that provide relief from various ailments. Owing to its curative potential, Tatapani has become a popular destination, drawing visitors from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighboring regions.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Hot Water spring, bathing points, changing facilities and sanitation infrastructure, emphasizing the need to maintain cleanliness, hygiene, and safety standards to ensure a better visitor experience. He interacted with visitors and local service providers about the requirements for improving the site's infrastructure and accessibility.

During the inspection, the DC directed the PWD and RDD departments to undertake immediate maintenance of roads, sanitation units and approach paths leading to the site. He specifically instructed officials not to use any unsafe or dilapidated infrastructure until it is fully repaired and made secure for visitors.

He further directed the Sub-Divisional



Administration and Police Department to ensure adequate civil, traffic regulation and security arrangements at the destination to facilitate smooth movement of visitors especially during ongoing peak season.

Keeping in view the tourism potential of Tatapani, the Deputy Commissioner said that the destination would be developed as a clean, sustainable, and visitor-friendly health destination aligning with the district's broader goal of promoting ecotourism and local economic development.

The DC also stressed on maintaining the natural ecosystem and aesthetic beauty of the site, while encouraging the involvement of local youth in tourism-related activities to generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

He assured that the District Administration would continue to monitor and upgrade facilities at Tatapani in coordination with the concerned departments to make it one of the most attractive wellness and recreation spots in Ramban district.

DC Rajouri inaugurates Badminton Court at Sports Stadium Kheora

Reviews sports infrastructure, urges greater youth involvement

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated a newly developed badminton court at the Sports Stadium-Kheora, marking another step towards strengthening sports infrastructure in the district.

After the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with sportspersons, including boxers, badminton players and other young athletes who regularly practice at the stadium. He appreciated their dedication and encouraged them to continue pursuing excellence in the sports of their interest.



The DC reviewed the existing sports infrastructure at the stadium and directed officials of the J&K Sports Council to focus on involving more youth in sports activities through outreach and engagement programmes. He emphasized creating accessible and inclusive opportunities in sports to channelize the energy of young people in the right direction. "The district administration is committed to promote youth engagement through sports and creating more modern facilities to nurture local talent," he added.

The DC was accompanied by Additional SP Bikram Kumar other officers.

Rana extends warm Diwali greetings

■ HT NEW DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Diwali.

In his message, Rana said that Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. He urged everyone to celebrate the festival with love, harmony, and a spirit of togetherness.

"May this Diwali bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to all. Let us also remember to share our joy with the less privileged and keep our environment clean and safe," he said.

He underlined the tradition of celebrating festivals in an atmosphere of amity and brotherhood and called for strengthening same in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the occasion teaches us to rededicate ourselves in the service of people, reaffirm our commitment towards brotherhood and selfless service to humanity.

BJP celebrates Deepawali with religious fervour

■ HT NEW DESK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 20 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized Deepawali Milan and celebrated the occasion with religious fervour amid Vedic Aarti, distributed sweets and burst crackers, at the party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma CA, and general secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul accompanied by Priya Sethi, Rajiv Charak, Rekha Mahajan, Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Billawaria, Yudhvir Sethi, Ashwani Sharma, Surinder Ambardar, Prabhat Singh, Tilak Raj Gupta, Adv. Purnima Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Adv. Parimoksh Seth, S. Varinderjit Singh, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Ajay Vaid, Anuradha Charak, Neha Mahajan, Dharminder, Brah-mjyot, Arun Dev Jamwal, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Mookherjee Sharma, Ayodhya Gupta, Parduman Singh, Prem Gupta, Parmod Kapahi, Shailja Gupta, Vikrant Gupta, Hans Raj Loria, Ramesh Katoch, and others participated in the Aarti and the celebration of Deepawali.

Sat Sharma, while extending his greetings on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, celebrated on Kartik Amavasya, conveyed his heartfelt wishes to all fellow citizens. He said that the festival marks the triumphant return of God Shri Ram to Ayodhya, symbolizing the victory of good over evil. He further added that this sacred day also commemorates the divine incarnation of Mata Lakshmi. Wishing good fortune to all, Sat Sharma prayed that the festival of lights may illuminate everyone's lives with joy, prosperity, and happiness.

He also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the welfare and prosperity of every citizen as he leads the nation for the third consecutive term. Sat Sharma emphasized that the true essence of festivals lies in rising above differences and embracing each other as one family bound by harmony and affection.

Ashok Koul, in his message, also extended warm greetings to all BJP activists and fellow citizens. He said that Deepawali inspires everyone to follow the path of truth and to stand firmly for righteousness. On this sacred occasion, he prayed that the Almighty blesses all with virtue, wisdom, and a spirit of unity, so that humankind progresses with the world as one global family. He further wished that the divine light of the festival brings enduring peace, prosperity, and good health to the people of the nation and the entire world.

Sunil Sharma, Ashok Koul address nomination rally of Aga Syed Mohsin at Budgam

■ HT NEW DESK

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 20 : Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and General Secretary Anwar Khan joined the nomination rally of BJP Budgam Candidate Aga Syed Mohsin at Budgam.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from people across different regions, reflecting the increasing faith on people on the party.

Mudasir Wani, State Secretary, Arif Raja, State Secretary, Hakeem Ghazi Ruhullah, DP Budgam, Aga Syed Mohsin, Candidate, Dr Ali Mohammad Mir, Senior Leader, Prabhari Budgam Sheikh Bashir, Bhat Imtiyaz, Budgam Election Incharge, Bilal Parray, Co-Incharge All Cells, Er Aijaz, Co-Incharge Minority Morcha, Manzoor bhat, Spokesperson, Ashraf Azad, Senior Leader and others were also present.

Sunil Sharma made a strong and clear statement during a massive nomination rally today, asserting that his party will never align with the National Conference



(NC) under any circumstances. Addressing a charged gathering of supporters and workers, Sharma emphasized that his party stands firmly for the dignity, peace, and progress of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and will not compromise those principles for political gain.

"We will never form the government with NC, nor do we have any need for it," Shri Sharma declared amid loud applause. "We will never join hands with those whose hands are soaked with

the blood of innocent Kashmiris. Our commitment is to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, not to power politics or opportunistic alliances."

The LoP said that the days of dynastic politics and exploitation are over and that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have now seen through the divisive politics of the past. "Those who ruled this land for decades pushed our youth towards violence, destroyed institutions, and looted public resources. We are here to build a

new, transparent, and accountable political culture that will restore faith in democracy and governance," he added.

Sharma further stated that his party is capable of forming the government on its own strength whenever it chooses to do so, underscoring the growing trust and support among the people. "Whenever we want, we will form the government. The people of J&K are with us because they see in us a promise of peace, progress, and justice," he said.

Ashok Koul, in his address, said that the massive turnout at Budgam reflects the growing trust of people in BJP's vision and leadership. He emphasized that the party's strength lies in its commitment to service, unity, and the welfare of every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir.

Anwar Khan stated that BJP is the only party that believes in real empowerment and equitable development. He said that the people of Budgam have shown faith in BJP's agenda of inclusive growth and transparent governance, which will soon bring visible change on the ground.

Aga Syed Mohsin, the BJP candidate from Budgam, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people for their overwhelming support. He appealed to every voter to come forward and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by voting for BJP. Mohsin said that he is committed to serve the people with honesty, dedication, and transparency. Together, we will build a prosperous Budgam that reflects peace, progress, and unity, he added.



A New Chapter Unfolds Parveez Rasool Announces Retirement From All Forms Of Cricket

■ ZEESHAN

SRINAGAR: In J&K cricket, an era has come to a close, but a legacy of resilience and determination has just begun. Parveez Rasool, the cricketing icon from Bijbehara, Anantnag, has announced his retirement, leaving behind a trail of inspiration that will continue to empower aspiring cricketers. Born in a small town with limited cricketing facilities,

Parveez's remarkable journey is a testament to his unwavering passion, unrelenting hard work, and unshakeable commitment to excellence. As the first cricketer from Jammu & Kashmir to represent Team India, Parveez broke barriers, defied expectations, and paved the way for future generations. His impressive career, marked by numerous milestones, is a shining example of what can be achieved through perse-

verance, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As Parveez begins a new chapter, his legacy will continue to inspire, motivate, and uplift countless young cricketers, ensuring that his impact on J&K cricket will be felt for generations to come. Thank you, Parveez Rasool, for being a beacon of hope, a symbol of pride, and a shining example of the transformative power of sports.



Kashmir Adventure Race Showcases Grit, Endurance, and Team Spirit

■ HT SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Adventure Race was successfully organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (JKMBA) in collaboration with JKMAC, Badamwari Athletes, and KMBA. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and highlighted the growing passion for adventure sports in the Valley.

The race featured a challenging tri-discipline format — Hiking, Cycling, and Running — covering a total distance of approximately 54.5 kilometers. The event commenced with a 4.5 km hike at Suliman Teng, followed by a 40 km cycling route from Sonawar to Duck Park via Dal Lake

and Foreshore Road. The final segment was a 10 km run from Habak to Nishat and back, testing the stamina and determination of all participants.

Around 50 athletes representing various adventure sports associations and clubs took part in the event, demonstrating exceptional endurance and sportsmanship.

The race was flagged off by Syed Tahir, Secretary JKMAC, at UNO Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "We have a lot of talent in adventure sports and are committed to providing the right platform to the youth."

Riyaz Wani, President JKMBA, expressed his satisfaction with the successful conduct

of the event, stating that this marks only the beginning of a series of such initiatives aimed at preparing local athletes for national-level competitions.

Bilal Ahmad, President Badamwari Athletes, assured continued support for future events, while Mushtaq Bhat, President KMBA, congratulated all participants for completing the challenging race distance and showcasing remarkable spirit.

The Kashmir Adventure Race not only promoted physical fitness and outdoor sports but also emphasized the importance of teamwork, endurance, and a healthy lifestyle — truly reflecting the spirit of adventure that defines the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Salt, Brook fireworks set up crushing England win

■ ESPNCRICINFO

CHRISTCHURCH: Phil Salt and Harry Brook combined to blow New Zealand out of the water in the second T20I, as England sealed a dominant 65-run win in Christchurch to take an insurmountable 1-0 lead in this three-match series.

Both Salt (85 off 56 balls) and Brook (78 off 35) were independently brutal but came together in devastating fashion with a partnership of 129 from just 69 deliveries. England's 236 for 4 was a new record T20I score at Hagley Oval, comfortably bumping off the previous best of 208 with 10 balls still to go in their innings. New Zealand were eventually dismissed for 171 with two overs to spare. Mitchell Santner's decision to bowl first upon winning the toss was a case of rinse-and-repeat; both teams opting for the same XIs after Saturday's washout in the first T20I. Unfortunately for the Black Caps skipper, this was a truer surface than the one which saw England scrape to 153 for 6.

Drier with more pace, Santner's bowlers were up against it from the off, with all six used posting double-figure economy rates. They were not helped by two dropped catches that would have given them a more realistic target.

The one that mattered more gave Brook a life on 40, after he had successfully overturned a caught behind decision on 22. The visiting captain was at his destructive best, with 54 runs through boundaries, including five sixes, two of which were carted out of the ground. Despite Kyle Jamieson accounting for both Brook and then Salt in the space of three deliveries, Tom Banton's unbeaten 29 from 12 added the record-busting cherry on top.

Brydon Carse's twin strikes in the second over clipped the Kiwis' wings in pursuit of 237. And though Tim Seiffert and Mark Chapman restarted the chase with an engaging stand of 69, their respective demises to the spin duo of Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson all but confirmed the result.

Santner did his utmost to inject some late jeopardy with a breezy 36 off 15, before falling to Rashid's final delivery, the legspinner finishing a solid evening's work with 4 for 32. Luke Wood then had the honour of capping off victory in the 18th over with two dismissals in four deliveries, with New Zealand losing all 10 wickets to catches.

This new iteration of Salt is developing a knack of cashing in after missing out. His career-best 141 not out against South Africa in September came two days after a first-ball duck. And with as many days since 3 off 4 in the first T20I at Hagley Oval, he looked on course for a fifth century in the format.

No doubt Salt will feel he missed out in a different way, falling for 85 when he was caught on the long-off sponge, 15 short of three figures with as many balls of the innings remaining. Once again he spearheaded a record total a month after leading the breaching of 300. He upheld his first-over responsibility by putting Matt Henry's second ball on to the grass bank at midwicket, then whipping behind square leg along the floor once Henry had corrected. By the time Jos Buttler faced his second ball, Salt had already struck 20 from nine. That was as dominant as Salt was in his stands. Once Buttler was dismissed for 4, he adopted a secondary role during his work with Bethell (scoring 19 of their 44 together) and Brook (46 of their 129). Hardly a passenger but more than happy to cede the driving.

VOTE OF THANKS:

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS' Book Release Ceremony a Grand Literary Celebration

CEO Jahangir Bukhari thanks writers, poets, scholars, and special guests for making the event a remarkable success.

■ REPORT

SRINAGAR: LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS recently hosted a memorable Book Release Ceremony that brought together eminent writers, poets, scholars, and literary enthusiasts from across the region. The event was hailed as a grand success, reflecting the growing literary and cultural momentum in North Kashmir. Jahangir Bukhari, CEO of LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, extended his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing that their presence not only honored the occasion but also reinforced the shared mission of promoting Kashmiri literature and culture.

He expressed special appreciation for the dedication and hard work of LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS' staff, particularly General Manager Sheikh Mudhtaq, whose meticulous plan-

ning and coordination were instrumental in the smooth execution of the ceremony.

Mr. Bukhari also extended special thanks to Uncle SGM Andrabi and Senior Member of Kruhen Cultural Forum Muradabad Kreeri, Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri, for their active support and invaluable guidance in making the event a resounding success. In addition, the CEO acknowledged media representatives, patrons, well-wishers, and cultural organizations for their continued encouragement, which inspires LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS to nurture literature and preserve cultural heritage.

Concluding his vote of thanks, Mr. Bukhari remarked that the ceremony stands as a testament to the vibrant literary spirit of the region and a motivation to continue promoting literary excellence.

