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When Law Speaks Local, Justice Becomes Universal: PM Modi

Adresses National Conference on Strengthening of Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday underscored the need for simplifying the language of law to make it accessible to common citizens, asserting that “ease of justice” must be ensured for everyone, irrespective of their social or financial background.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the National Conference on Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms held at the Supreme Court premises, the Prime Minister said justice should not remain confined to a select few but must reach the last person in society. “When justice is accessible, timely, and free from social or financial barriers, only then does it become the foundation of social justice,” Modi said.

The event was attended by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, his successor Justice Surya Kant, and several judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts.



Modi called for simplifying legal language and translating court judgments into regional tongues so that people could better understand the law. “It is truly commendable that the Supreme Court has taken the initiative to translate more than 80,000 judgments in 18 Indian languages. I am confident this effort will extend to the High Court and district levels as well,” he said, adding that “the language of justice should be the one understood by those seeking justice.”

He said when people comprehend laws in their own language, it leads to better compliance and reduces litigation.

Applauding the progress made under the e-Courts project, the Prime Minister said technology has emerged as a “key medium for inclusion and empowerment.”

“The e-Courts initiative shows how technology can make the judicial process modern and humane,” Modi noted.

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Literature & Knowledge Keep Society Flowing Like a River: LG Sinha

LG Delivers Keynote Address at Ghazipur Literature Festival

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 08: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today delivered a keynote address at the Ghazipur Literature Festival.

The festival, organised by Bharat Dialogues, brought together authors, scholars, artists and policymakers from Indian diaspora in Mauritius, South Africa, Suriname, Fiji, Norway, and many other countries to celebrate shared heritage and ideas and identity. High Commissioner of South Africa in India, Prof Anil Sooklal and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Dr Sangeeta Balwant were among the special invitees at the event.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the contribution of Indian Diaspora to the humanity’s all-round evolution and global growth.

“With the hard work, integrity, dedication and following the ancient values, Indian Diaspora has gained global recognition and also helped in strengthening ties,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the writers and thinkers to act as a bridge between society and perspectives and ideas and strengthen the spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha



Bharat”.

He highlighted that the Writers and Thinkers hold a unique position to influence society and have a great responsibility to strengthen social progress and unity by promoting values like equality, justice and fraternity. They must also use their creative power to drive social change and make the world more aware

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Terrorists Roamed Freely in Kashmir Under Cong Rule: Amit Shah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 08: Asserting that Kashmir continues to remain peaceful under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that during Congress rule, terrorists used to “freely enter and leave” the



Valley after carrying out attacks.

Addressing a public rally in Katihar, Bihar, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “During the governments of

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Budgam’s high-stakes electoral battle heads for a photo finish

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SOIBUGH (BUDGAM), OCT 08: It is 3:00 PM on Friday, and a group of youngsters begin chanting slogans from the top of a vehicle in the main square of Soibugh village in support of independent candidate Sameer Ahmad. “Why should we vote for outsiders? Why not for our local candidate?” shouts a youngster sitting besides the candidate, who

hails from Soibugh.

As Sameer and his supporters head to another village for canvassing, BJP supporters take over the venue and begin shouting slogans mocking the National Conference (NC)-led government over its “unfulfilled” election promises ranging from employment and electricity to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s remarks on the installation of smart meters. “Naukri, Naukri-Ek Lakh Naukri! Unit,

Unit -200 Soo Unit! Cylinder, Cylinder -12 Cylinder, Meter, Meter-Smart Meter!” the BJP workers chanted repeatedly.

While BJP workers were deriding NC for 2024 promises, Awami Ittehad Party leaders were waiting for their turn to hold a similar event at the same venue. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had already addressed the public at the same venue in the morning.

The main contest in this segment,

which goes to polls on November 11, is between the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)—both of which have fielded candidates from the Shia community. In this segment, with a total electorate of over 1.25 lakh voters, the Shia community accounts for 35000 to 40000 votes.

The NC has fielded Aga Mehmood, a former minister, while the PDP has

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CS Reviews Developmental Initiatives & Schemes in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, NOV 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur district to assess the progress of ongoing developmental projects and flagship government initiatives across various sectors.

The meeting was also attend-

ed by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure besides other divisional and district officers of various departments.

He took this occasion to instruct the district administration to focus on upgrading road connectivity and installing mobile

towers in the Dudu-Basantgarh area to improve accessibility and communication infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary urged all departments to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under government schemes. He called for effective inter-departmental coordination, transparency, and dedication in execution.

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Our Priority is Children’s Bright Future: Director Education

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 08: Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, on Saturday said that the main concern of the department is the future of children and urged teachers to work with full dedication for their progress.

“Our main concern is children. We have to work hard for the bright future of our children,” Wani said during his visit to District Anantnag. He called on teachers to treat school students like their own children and to make every effort to improve learning standards. “Just like we work hard for our own children, we

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SIA Kashmir files charge sheet in narco-terror case

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 8: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before the Court of Special Judge (Designated under NIA Act), Srinagar, in connection with a narco-terror case registered as FIR No. 03/2025 of Police

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Div Com Kashmir Reviews Winter Preparedness & Power Supply

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 08: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting of KPDCI to review Winter Preparedness of the department, overall Power scenario, progress of implementation of PM Surya Ghar, installation of Smart Metering, RDSS - Loss Reduction Works and CAPEX Works.

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Fisher Folk, Conservationists Warn of Ecological Collapse in River Jhelum, Wular Lake

Call for urgent investigation into fish deaths

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 8: The Wullar Fisher folk union and the Nature Conservancy Alliance (NCA) have expressed alarm over the mounting ecological threats facing the river Jhelum and Wular Lake — lifelines for hundreds of fisher families and critical ecosystems of North Kashmir.

In a joint statement it has been said that despite repeated appeals, authorities have failed to take decisive and transparent action on issues that now pose both an



environmental and livelihood crisis. In October, a disturbing incident of mass mortality of Snow Trout (Schizothorax spp.) was reported across several stretches of the River Jhelum.

“This cold-water fish species, once abundant, has been declining sharply due to water pollution, habitat loss, and unregulated sand extraction. The Department of Fisheries has so far failed to conduct or make public a scientific investigation into the cause of this alarming event. The

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Rahul’s ‘Vote Chori’ Charge Baseless, Show Proof to EC: Rajnath

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SASARAM, NOV 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s allegation of ‘vote chori’ as “baseless”, and said he should approach the Election Commission if he has a complaint with evidence.

Addressing two election rallies in Rohtas district, Singh said Congress was facing a dearth of issues, and that’s why Gandhi was levelling such allegations.

“If Rahul Gandhi thinks that votes are being stolen in Bihar, he should file a complaint with the EC. He is not doing that; he is simply levelling baseless allegations against a constitutional body. He is simply lying,” he alleged.

Singh alleged Congress creates rift among the people over caste, creed and religion, as it believes in “divisive politics”.

“Rahul Gandhi is raising the issue of reservation in the defence forces. Our defence forces are above all these. He should not drag them into politics,” he said.

“BJP supports reservations. We have given reservations to the poor and other eligible sections of the society,” he added.

Hailing the armed forces for their success in Operation Sindoor, Singh said it has been “halted and not stopped”.

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Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stone of GDC Mattan, new building for PHC Mattan

Reaffirms Government's commitment to equitable development across all sectors
Also inaugurates Physiotherapy Unit at SDH Seer

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, NOV 08: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo today laid the foundation stone of Government Degree College (GDC) Mattan and new building for Primary Health Centre (PHC) Mattan, with an aim to expand access to higher education and better healthcare facilities to public, which form the core of Governance of present Government led by Omar Abdullah.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag East Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director Colleges, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Coordination new GMCs, Director Health Services Kashmir, other senior officers of district administration, students and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a mammoth gathering after laying foundation stone for college building,

Minister Sakeena reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring equitable development across all sectors, especially in rural and semi-urban regions. "Education and health form the backbone of a progressive society. Establishing a degree college and a full-fledged health centre in Mattan reflects our vision to empower the youth of this area and around it with quality learning opportunities as well as ensuring accessible healthcare for every citizen", she stated.

Minister Sakeena further remarked that education is the most powerful weapon which can bring positive changes in the world.

The Minister highlighted that the college building will be equipped with modern classrooms, laboratories, library and other advanced facilities, in order to promote holistic learning and provide new academic opportunities for the youth.

During the address, the Minister also highlighted various achievements of the Government, adding that significant



strides have been made in vital sectors of Health and Education. She added that ample number of posts in these departments have been referred to recruiting agencies, adding that vacancies of Principals in all Colleges have been filled almost to provide

better learning environment for the students.

The Minister further said that Doctors, Lecturers, Assistant Professors, Paramedical staff has been recruited in last one year and posted in deserving areas to provide best and

quality educational and health care services to the students and locals.

The Minister on the occasion also announced that Bus for the students will also be provided as the college caters to large area. She also announced that

Science stream will also be started in the college from next academic session, besides other streams as per demand of students will also be started.

Reflecting on the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government to holistic development of health infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, Minister Sakeena highlighted that advanced medical care facilities are being established in J&K, with special focus on far flung and under served areas.

She added that the new building of Primary Health Centre Mattan will be equipped best and diagnostic facilities so as to ensure timely and advanced medical attention at the local level.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag East Reyaz Ahmad Khan and MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Minister also visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Seer and inaugurated newly established Physiotherapy Unit.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena said that this

facility will strengthen rehabilitative and therapeutic healthcare services in the area. She added that the unit is equipped with modern physiotherapy equipment and trained staff to assist patients recovering from orthopaedic, neurological, and post-surgical conditions.

The Health Minister on the occasion also interacted with the medical staff and local residents, assuring them of continued support in upgrading healthcare services and addressing manpower gaps. She also directed health officials to maintain high standards of patient care and cleanliness in all health facilities.

During the visit, the Minister also interacted with locals and general public who projected various issues and problems before the Minister. She assured them prompt redressal of these issues. The locals expressed gratitude to the Minister for Government's proactive approach in bringing vital educational and health infrastructure to the area.

ACS Higher Education Visits Degree College Handwara, Reviews Progress and Staff Concerns

DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 08: Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shri Shantmanu (IAS), today visited Government Degree College Handwara to review the progress of various ongoing construction works, including the new auditorium and other academic infrastructure projects. The Additional Chief Secretary was warmly received by ADC Handwara, accompanied by Tehsildar Handwara, Principal GDC Handwara, and other civil and police officers. During his interaction



with Headlines Today, Shri Shantmanu said that the multipurpose auditorium hall at the college would be completed within a week, paving the way for cultural and educational activities to be held during the winter season. Addressing the issue of defunct college buses, the ACS advised the college administration to dispose of the old vehicles as per government procedure before submitting a proposal for new transport facilities. He assured that the department would explore avenues under the CSR quota to support this requirement. On the matter of vacant principal posts across several colleges, Shri Shantmanu said that the government is actively working to fill these vacancies permanently within the next 7 to 15 days. Discussing landscaping and campus beautification, he remarked that most colleges already have botanical parks, but due to budget constraints, the primary focus remains on strengthening the educational and infrastructural setup. He, however, assured that the green beautification issue will be taken up with higher authorities. Speaking about the salary structure of contractual lecturers, the ACS acknowledged that financial limitations have delayed pay hikes. However, he revealed that the department is planning to implement a Samagra Shiksha-like monthly payment system to ensure timely disbursement of salaries to contractual teaching staff. The visit of the Additional Chief Secretary was appreciated by the college administration and staff, who expressed optimism that the ongoing developmental and administrative issues would soon be resolved under his guidance.

Academy of Art & Culture, Jooaye Adab Kajrag Organise Seminar on Kashmiri Language at GDC Handwara

DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 08: A one-day seminar titled "Challenges and Prospects of the Kashmiri Language in the Contemporary Era" was today held at Government Degree College Handwara. The event was jointly organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Jooaye Adab Kajrag Handwara. The seminar brought together writers, poets, and scholars from across the district, who shared their insights on the importance of preserving and promoting the Kashmiri language in today's fast-changing world. Speakers highlighted the need for greater literary initiatives, curriculum inclusion, and community-level engagement to ensure the



survival and growth of the mother tongue. On the occasion, two books were formally released: one authored by Dr. Shah Faisal on the life and works of renowned Kashmiri writer and international scholar Dr. Reyaz Towheedi, and another book "Tawakal" written by Midhat Majeed. The participants appreciated the organisers for holding such a meaningful event that underscores the cultural and linguistic identity of Kashmir. They emphasized that such seminars play a vital role in reviving interest among the youth towards Kashmiri literature and heritage. The event concluded with a note of thanks to the organisers and participants, reaffirming a collective commitment to the promotion and preservation of the Kashmiri language.

Technology Exhibition-cum-Farmers' Interaction Programme Held at Baghwani Sallar, Anantnag

FAROOQ RATHER

ANANTNAG, NOV 08: In a major step towards promoting innovation-driven and sustainable agriculture, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Friday organised a Technology Exhibition-cum-Farmers' Interaction Programme at Baghwani Sallar, Anantnag, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, scientists, officers, and students. The event aimed to bridge the gap between research and field application, highlighting SKUAST-K's commitment to empowering the farming community through technological advancement and knowledge dissemination. The programme was graced by Hon'ble MLA Dr. Syed Bashir A. Veeri as the Chief Guest, DDC Member Anant-



nag Shri Nisar Ahmad, and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai as the Guest of Honour. The gathering was welcomed by Prof. Haroon R. Naik, Director Research, who highlighted the University's efforts in transforming agriculture in the region. In his keynote address, Dr. Syed Bashir Veeri underscored the importance of greater agricultural awareness and adoption of modern technologies to enhance productivity, profitability, and sustainability in farming. He appreciated SKUAST-K's farmer-centric approach and urged for stronger linkages between researchers and farmers to ensure inclusive

rural growth. Addressing the gathering, DDC Member Shri Nisar Ahmad emphasized ongoing initiatives for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Fisheries at Baghwani Sallar through SKUAST-K. He said the centre would serve as a state-of-the-art hub for fisheries research, capacity building, and livelihood enhancement for local youth and fish farmers. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, reiterated the University's vision of integrating research, education, and extension for sustainable and resilient agricultural development across Jammu and Kashmir. As part of the programme, seed bins,

crates, rose cans, tarpaulins, oats seed, and protective nets were distributed among more than 450 farmers to promote scientific farm management practices. A special Animal Health Camp, jointly organised by KVK Kulgam and KVK Anantnag, also provided free veterinary medicines and health services to over 200 farmers.

The exhibition provided a valuable platform for farmer-scientist interaction, idea exchange, and live demonstrations of emerging agricultural technologies—reflecting SKUAST-K's strong dedication to innovation, sustainability, and the well-being of the farming community in South Kashmir. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Rainahana Habib Kant, Director Extension, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, organisers, and participants for making the programme a resounding success.

Drug peddler arrested in Shopian: Police

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 08: Police in Shopian have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

During routine patrolling at Arhama Bongam Axis, a police party of Police Station Shopian intercepted a suspicious person carrying a bag. During the search, 4.466 Kgs of Poppy Straw-like substance



was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Javaid Ahmad Sheikh resident of Bongam Shopian, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 243/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Shopian and investigation has been initiated.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that J&K Police reiterated firm resolve to maintain a drug-free society and appeals to the general public to support this noble mission—(KNO)

Deputy Chief Minister reviews progress of ongoing works on Sanat Nagar Flyover

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 08: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today visited the site of under-construction Sanat Nagar Flyover here and took on-spot assessment of overall progress and ongoing works of the project.

The Deputy CM was accompanied by MLA Chanpora, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo; Chief Engineer R&B, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, and other senior officers of the R&B department.

Taking a detailed appraisal of the work, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to speed up the pace of works and ensure timely completion of works on this much-awaited flyover so that it can dedicated to public use within this month. He said that the project holds great significance for easing traffic congestion and improving road con-



nectivity in Srinagar city.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is fully committed to com-

pleting all languishing and ongoing projects across Jammu and Kashmir in the shortest possible time.

"Several projects that were pend-

ing for years have now been completed, including the Qamarwari Bridge, while many others are in their final stages. At the same time, new projects are being launched, like the widening of Boulevard Road to further improve road infrastructure and provide better facilities to the people," he said.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Nowgam Bridge to inspect the condition of the road facility. He directed the engineers to take immediate measures for repair and maintenance to ensure smooth movement of traffic for public ease.

The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the executing agencies and asked them to continue working with dedication and sense of responsibility so that developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Multiple Activities Held Across Bandipora under Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 8: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025, a series of health and awareness activities were conducted across various locations in Bandipora district.

Health check-ups were conducted at different locations in Block Gurez at Primary Health Centres and AAM Centres. During the screenings, various national health programmes were implemented, which included Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and collection of sputum samples besides, free medicines were distributed among the beneficiaries.

In observance of Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas, dedicated medical camps were also organized at Village Dardpora and Chittay Bandy to extend essential health-care services to tribal communities.

A comprehensive range of services were provided during the camps, including general health check-ups, screening for NCDs (BP and Diabetes), maternal and child health services, distribution of essential medicines, health awareness and counseling, screening for anaemia and nutritional deficiencies, and awareness regarding Ayushman Bharat and other government health schemes.

A large number of beneficiaries availed services at both locations, reflecting strong community participation. Special focus was laid on early detection of illnesses and promotion of preventive healthcare among tribal families. The initiative aimed

to strengthen healthcare access in remote tribal areas in line with the government's vision of empowering tribal communities and recognising their invaluable contribution to the nation.

As part of the educational activities under the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025, a debate competition was held at the Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora. The participating students spoke about the life and contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and discussed various aspects of Gujjar tribal culture. An awareness programme at Government High School Chanpal, aimed at spreading awareness about various tribal scholarship schemes, hostel admissions, and other beneficiary-oriented initiatives for tribal students was also organized.

Speakers emphasized the importance of education and government support schemes in empowering tribal youth and encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunities available for their educational and personal growth.

These series of activities formed part of the broader celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, which commemorates the rich legacy and invaluable contributions of tribal freedom fighters and communities.

Through health outreach, educational programmes, and cultural engagements, the district administration reaffirmed its commitment to empowering tribal populations, preserving their heritage, and ensuring inclusive development across all sections of society.

DC Kulgam Inaugurates Two-Day Science Festival at Kendriya Vidyalaya Aamnoo

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today inaugurated a two-day Mega Science Festival organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Aamnoo Kulgam.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who showcased innovative scientific models and projects, reflecting creativity, curiosity, and practical learning.



Addressing the gathering, the DC said that the two-day Science Festival is a commendable initiative that provides students an opportunity to learn, explore, and present their innovative ideas.

He emphasized the importance of such events in nurturing scientific temperament and creativity among young learners, encouraging schools to actively promote participation in these educational activities.

While interacting with students and inspecting their science models, the DC appreciated their creativity, innovation, and understanding of scientific concepts. He congratulated the participants and teachers for their efforts in making the event successful and inspiring.

The Science Festival will continue tomorrow with more exhibits, demonstrations, and interactive sessions aimed at enhancing students interest in science and innovation.

The event was also attended by Commanding Officer, 18th Battalion CRPF, Jitendra Mohan Shilswal; Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Riyaz Ahmad Shah; Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Shabir Ahmad; Principal KV, Kapil Singh and other officers.

Budgam Celebrates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram at District Police Lines

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER. 08: District Police Lines in collaboration with District Administration Budgam hosted a grand event to commemorate the 150th completion anniversary of India's National Song,

'Vande Mataram'.

The event saw widespread participation from diverse sections, including dedicated personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

SMC Celebrates 150th Year of 'Vande Mataram' with Patriotic Fervor

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 8: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) today celebrated the 150th year of the iconic patriotic song 'Vande Mataram' with great zeal and national fervor at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

The event was organized under the directions of the Commissioner, SMC /CEO, Srinagar Smart City Ltd., Faz Lul Haseeb, in synchronization with the instructions issued by the Divisional and District Administration.

The celebration aimed to commemorate the historic legacy of the national song that continues to inspire generations with its message of love, unity, and devotion to the motherland.

The program began with the unfurling of the National Flag and the playing of the National Anthem, followed by the screening of a short film and the National Song 'Vande Mataram', presented with dignity and pride.

On the occasion Department of Information also participated enthusiastically, expressing their respect and admiration for the

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Celebrates 150 Years of Vande Mataram with patriotic fervor, honoring unity, Heritage and National Pride.



song that played a vital role in shaping India's freedom movement.

Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Suhail Ul Islam presided over the function and highlighted that 'Vande Mataram' is not merely a song but a profound symbol of India's unity, strength, and spiritual essence. He elaborated on historical significance of National song 'Vande Mataram', which became a rallying cry for freedom fight-

ers during India's struggle for independence, a lyrical embodiment of devotion to the motherland and the spirit of sacrifice, he added.

He emphasized that the song's message of "Mother as the Nation" continues to remind every citizen of their duty towards the country. He urged SMC officials to imbibe the spirit of patriotism, honesty, and dedication reflected in the song while serving the people of Srinagar.

Cultural Officer Kashmir also shared insights into the historical and emotional resonance of 'Vande Mataram'. He noted that the song, adopted as the national song of India, continues to serve as a reminder of unity in diversity, binding people across regions, faiths, and languages in the shared spirit of nationhood. He commended SMC for organizing the celebration with such devotion and respect for the country's cultural legacy.

The speakers emphasized that such occasions reinforce collective responsibility, harmony, and national integrity that are essential for societal progress and nation-building.

The celebration will continue till the 14th of November and will be observed across all 35 wards of SMC, featuring a series of cultural activities and community programs organized in collaboration with the Department of Culture to spread the message of unity, harmony, and national pride.

Prominent officers and officials present on the occasion included Joint Commissioner, SMC, Syed Abul Qasim ; Joint Commissioner (Works) Hamid Iqbal Mir; Superintending Engineer (City Drainage Circle), SMC, Divisional Forest Officer, SMC, Executive Engineer (City Roads) and Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC, along with other officers and officials of the Corporation.

Their participation added significance to the celebration and reflected the collective commitment of SMC towards fostering civic unity and patriotic values.

SHEW Shopian conducts awareness camp at Hushanpora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 08: Mission Shakti Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Shopian, today organized an awareness programme under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan at Anganwadi Centre, Hushanpora, Shopian.

The programme aimed to educate and sensitize participants about the growing menace of drug abuse, its harmful effects on physical and mental health, and the importance of community participation in eradicating this social evil.

During the session, the team high-

lighted various remedies and preventive measures, encouraging individuals to seek timely help and counseling.

Participants were informed about the toll-free helpline number 14446, which offers professional assistance and rehabilitation support for those struggling with addiction.

DLSA Shopian observes Legal Services Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 08: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today observed 'National Legal Services Day' at District Court Complex Shopian.

The events were organized under the supervision of Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasar Farooq.

The aim of celebrating the day is to ensure free of charge, proficient Legal Services to weaker sections of the society as well as to make them conscious about their rights.

The programme was attended by CJM Shopian, Sheikh Gowhar Hussain, Principal Magistrate JJB Shopian Bazila Bashir; Munsiff/JMC Shopian, Mohd Waseem Mirza; Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Shopian, Rameen Rashid Khan; Public Prosecutor Shopian, Secretary District Bar Association Shopian, DLSA Staff, District Court Staff, LADC Advocates, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members, PLVs, and large number of litigants present on the occasion.

Chairman DLSA Shopian addressing the gathering highlighted the importance of National Legal Services Day and explained various legal aid schemes available for the marginalized sections of society and the utility of Lok Adalat.

Secretary DLSA while appreciating the efforts of Para Legal Volunteers, also emphasized Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism as a great contribution towards dispute resolution. He also highlighted the importance of Lok Adalat and encouraged the concept of equality as the basis of social justice.

During the program, Deputy Chief LADC, Secretary District Bar, Social Activists and Advocates also spoke about the observation of National Legal Services Day.

DEO, SSP and Election Observers Hold Joint Review Meeting with Election Officers Ahead of Bye-Elections to 27-AC Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 8: To review the preparedness for the forthcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam scheduled to be held on November 11, a joint review meeting-cum-interactive session was today held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha, and Expenditure Observer, Ravinder Kumar.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Returning Officer (RO), DY.DEO, Assistant

Returning Officers (AROs), Election Nodal Officers, Zonal and Sector Magistrates, and Zonal and Sector Police Officers. The session was convened to ensure a comprehensive review of arrangements and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the conduct of the bye-elections.

During the meeting, the DEO underscored the need for close synergy between the civil and police administration to ensure the smooth, transparent, and peaceful conduct of elections. He emphasized that the officers on ground play a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process and ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders.

The DEO stressed strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and directed all officers to perform their duties impartially.

He instructed Magistrates to remain vigilant and ensure that all polling-related activities are carried out efficiently and in accordance with the prescribed guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

He highlighted that Magistrates are the first emergency responders in case of any incident on the day of polling whether it involves malfunctioning of EVMs, disruptions in voting, or law and order situations. They were directed to act swiftly, take immediate remedial measures, and communicate such developments to the higher election authorities without delay.

The DEO further instructed all Magistrates to visit their respective polling stations by tomorrow to take firsthand appraisal of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs), security arrangements, and any logistical gaps. He emphasized the

importance of submitting error-free voter turnout reports every two hours on the polling day, as these updates are critical to the effective management of polling operations.

He also advised the officers to ensure their active participation in the training sessions for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and related procedures to avoid any procedural lapses. The DEO reiterated that proper coordination between the Magistrates, Nodal Officers, and Police authorities is essential for ensuring a seamless polling process.

Addressing the meeting, the SSP Budgam directed all Zonal and Sector Police Officers to remain alert and maintain strict vigil to ensure a peaceful atmosphere during the election period.

He stressed upon the need for

constant coordination with Magistrates and the Election Control Room to address any law and order issues promptly.

The SSP also reviewed area domination exercises, route plans for movement of polling parties, and arrangements for security at strong rooms and polling stations.

The General Observer expressed satisfaction over the district's preparedness and appreciated the efforts of both the civil and police administrations. He advised all officers to remain proactive and ensure that every instruction of the ECI is implemented in letter and spirit to guarantee a free and fair election.

The Police Observer emphasised the importance of real-time communication between field officers and control rooms for timely response to any untoward incident.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal inaugurates New Court Complex in Bandipora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOV 08: In a significant development, the newly constructed Court Complex at Bandipora was inaugurated today by Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, and Administrative Judge for District Bandipora, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal.

The inauguration was carried out on the directions of the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, as the building was already complete and same be put to public use without delay to benefit the people of the district in general and litigants in particular.

On the occasion, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, lauded the visionary leadership of the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and inaugurated the building, on behalf of the Chief Justice acknowledging his efforts in making this project a reality.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary; Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora, Susheel Singh, SSP Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, Sub Judge/CJM, Bandipora, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Incharge Secretary DLSA, Bandipora, Sheikh Babar Hussain, Munsiff/ JMIC, Bandipora, Munsiff Gurez incharge ASMM Bandipora, President District Bar Association, Bandipora, Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer and other officers of Police Housing Cooperation, executing agency, officers from Judiciary/ District Administration Bandipora, members of the Bar Association Bandipora, and representatives from the legal fraternity.

Upon his arrival, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal was given a guard of honour by the contingent of District Police Bandipora.

After the inauguration, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal inspected various sections of the new Court Complex Bandipora, including Court Rooms, E-Court Room, Record Room, staffrooms, and other facilities. He took a detailed tour of the complex, examining the infrastructure and amenities provided.

The Administrative Judge gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers to ensure that the facilities are utilized optimally and maintained properly.

He also interacted with the staff members and enquired about their working conditions, directing the authorities to address any issues or concerns raised.

Later, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal attended a function held at the Conference Hall of the new Court Complex Bandipora, where he addressed a gathering of judicial officers, lawyers, and other dignitaries.

The ceremony began with the rendition of the National Anthem, marking a proud and historic moment for the people of Bandipora.

In his address, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal expressed his gratitude to the Chief Justice, Arun Palli, for providing him the privilege to inaugurate this magnificent project, a testament to the unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law." He also highlighted the serene district's extraordinary natural beauty and cultural richness.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal emphasized the significance of the judiciary in Jammu and Kashmir, which has a glorious history and rich traditions. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of judicial officers, court staff, and members of the Bar in Bandipora, who have continued to



serve with dedication despite numerous challenges. He stressed that judicial infrastructure is not a luxury, but a constitutional obligation, and an expression of the promise of justice enshrined in the Constitution.

He stressed that putting the new court complex to public use is a symbol of hope and trust for the people of Bandipora, Sumbal, and Gurez, and will play a crucial role in ensuring justice is delivered with dignity and efficiency. He also highlighted the importance of technology in modernizing the judicial system, citing the e-Courts Project, which has transformed the way citizens engage with the system.

Similarly, he emphasized the

need for modern judicial reform, combining structural improvement with technological modernization, to ensure accessible justice for all. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Bench and the Bar in ensuring justice is served.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal advises young lawyers to focus on preparation, discipline, and courtesy, rather than dramatics. He reminds them that success in law takes time, but it's worth the wait. He emphasizes the importance of integrity, humility, and compassion in the legal profession.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal reminds lawyers that they're not

just advocates, but also guardians of justice and voices for the voiceless.

In his speech, he also highlights the crucial role of judges in a democratic society, emphasizing the need for humility, integrity, and independence. He encouraged promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and acknowledged the contributions of court staff and administrative officers.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal congratulates the officers of the Judiciary, engineers, architects, and construction teams, as well as the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, for making this dream a reality. Speaking on the occasion,

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora, expressed his gratitude to all those involved in the project. He acknowledged the visionary leadership of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal for their guidance and valuable support for the time bound completion of mega project. He also appreciated the efforts of Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, M. K Sharma;

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and other officials for their contributions to the time bound completion of the project.

He said the new Court Complex Bandipora, is equipped with latest technology and amenities, will facilitate the Judges and lawyers to deliver justice in a calm and cozy atmosphere. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration and the Bar Association Bandipora for their tireless efforts in making the new Court Complex a reality. He also thanked the Administrative Judge for his guidance and support in ensuring the timely completion of the project.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, highlighted the importance of the new Court Complex in providing accessible justice to the people of Bandipora and expressed gratitude to the Administrative Judge

for his unwavering support to the district administration. The Deputy Commissioner also lauded the efforts of the judicial officers, lawyers, and other stakeholders who worked tirelessly to make the new Court Complex a reality. She emphasized the need for continued collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders to ensure that the justice delivery system is strengthened and make more effective and people friendly.

The President of the Bar Association Bandipora, Sofi Feroz, in his address, assured that the

Bar Association Bandipora will continue to work closely with the judiciary to ensure that the justice delivery system is strengthened and made more effective and public friendly in the district.

Later, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal held in-depth meetings with judicial officers, district administration officials, police representatives, and bar members to discuss the operational requirements of the newly constructed District Court Complex in Bandipora. During the meeting, he directed the concerned heads of the district administration to address several crucial and genuine demands to ensure the smooth functioning of the complex.

The demands put forth included the provision of a dedicated hotline connection for emergency communication, engagement of a gardener for maintenance and beautification, installation of a bore well to ensure uninterrupted water supply, deployment of a Safaiwala for cleanliness and hygiene, and posting of security guards for safety and access regulation including installation of CCTV camera's in the new building for safety and security measures. Additionally, the installation of signage and direction boards, provision of basic utility facilities like drinking water and public conveniences, and regular maintenance and sanitation support were also emphasized.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal also stressed the importance of prioritizing the disposal of old cases, directing the judicial officers to focus on clearing the pending cases and ensuring timely justice delivery.

The meeting was aimed at ensuring that the new court complex provides a conducive environment for the judicial process, benefiting litigants, lawyers, and judicial officers alike.

DLSA Jammu hosts awareness event to mark National Legal Services Day-2025

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 08: District Legal Services Authority Jammu, under the guidance of Y. P. Bourney, Chairman (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) and overall supervision of Secretary, Dr. Smriti Sharma, today organised an awareness programme to commemorate National Legal Services Day-2025. The programme focused on this year's theme "Access to Justice for All- Bridging the Legal Awareness Gap."

The event witnessed the participation of judicial officers, Members of the Bar Association, Mediators, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Panel Lawyers, Para-Legal Volunteers, and staff of DLSA Jammu.

The programme commenced with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu. The Secretary highlighted the significance of the day and emphasized the importance of equal access to justice for all sections of the society.

The event featured two distin-



guished resource persons, Additional District Judge Family Court Jammu, Prem Sagar and Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu, Advocate Pooja Jamwal.

In his address, the Additional District Judge Family Court Jammu highlighted the importance of legal awareness and the pivotal role of Judiciary in safeguarding citizens' rights. He discussed the Theme of National Legal Services Day 2025 - "Access to Justice for All- Bridging the Legal Awareness Gap."

The Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu discussed the role and responsibilities of LADCs, Pan-

el Lawyers, and PLVs in effective implementation of legal aid schemes under the aegis of NALSA and its subordinate bodies with a special focus on the role of District Legal Services Authority as interface between the legal system and the public in implementing NALSA's vision at the grassroots level.

Chairman District Legal Services Authority, (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu Y. P. Bourney, in his address, emphasized the importance of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the need to continue working towards ensuring free and competent legal services for the

underprivileged sections of society. He highlighted the critical role played by legal aid providers in strengthening justice delivery mechanisms and upholding the constitutional promise of equality before the law.

As part of the celebration, appreciation certificates were distributed to Mediators, Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs), Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers in recognition of their exemplary dedication and service in advancing the objectives of legal aid and public welfare. Their contributions were commended for spreading awareness and empowering citizens with knowledge about their legal rights.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu who reaffirmed DLSA's commitment to enhance legal literacy, encourage pro bono services and extend legal support to every corner of the district, so that Legal Services are accessible to every needy person.

10th District Jammu Handball C'ship culminates

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 8: The Three day 10th District Handball Championship in senior men and women and Junior Boys and Girls categories concluded today at Playfield Shastri Nagar.

The championship was organized by Players Association Handball Jammu in collaboration with J&K Handball Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Joint Director Information, Deepak Dubey was the chief guest while Advocate Legal Advisor and Standing Counsel for J&K Hand Ball Association, Achyut Dubey was guest of honor at the valedictory function. The dignitaries presented the trophies to the winning and runners-up teams along with individual prizes.

In his address, Deepak Dubey praised the sports talent in J&K, highlighting the achievements of local athletes at national and international levels. He encouraged further nurturing of talent by the J&K Handball Association (JKHA).

He congratulated the winners, runners-up and all participating teams, lauding the sportsmanship exhibited during the final matches, while congratulating the Player

Association Handball Jammu office bearers for organizing the championship.

Earlier, organizing secretary, Rajesh Kapoor welcomed the guests, players, officials, spectators and media persons.

Among others present on the occasion were Rajesh Kapoor Vice President, Rajesh Chandan General Secretary, Sanjeev Jamwal Treasurer, Sulekha Kundal Joint Secretary of JKHA and other members. Around 140 Players from various schools and handball clubs of the district Jammu are participated in the tournament.

The Final match in the senior men section was played between Sandeep Pal Club and Jammu Club in which the former defeated the challenger by 14- 11 Goals. The main scorer for Sandeep Pal Club was Sahil Padha, who scored 6 Goals. Nikhil scored 4 Goals.

The Final match of the Senior Women section was played between Sampark Handball Club and Sandeep Pal Club in which Sampark Handball Club defeated Sandeep Pal Club by 12- 11 goals.

The main scorer for Sampark Women Handball Club was Taniya Mehra who netted 5 goals. Another player Richa Rajput scored 4 goals.

DC Jammu reviews progress of RDD works under District Capex

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 8: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Rural Development Department works being executed under District Capex and flagship schemes - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

Dr. Minhas conducted a

block-wise review of ongoing rural development works and directed officers to ensure achievement of targets under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and SBM(G). He also instructed to initiate works promoting village sanitation and rural livelihood enhancement.

The Deputy Commissioner issued strict directions to expedite expenditure under the

District Capex budget, ensuring that all RDD works allotted are executed without delay.

He emphasised that land related issues must be resolved on priority by the concerned Tehsildars to avoid delays in execution. Officers were also instructed to take up supplementary plan works immediately and ensure timely completion of all projects on the ground.

While reviewing the phys-



ical and financial progress of ongoing RDD schemes, Dr. Minhas underscored the need for strict monitoring, inter departmental coordination, and transparency in execution to ensure that the benefits of government programmes reach rural citizens effectively.

He further stressed that PMAY (G) targets must be achieved within stipulated timelines and all works should

reflect visible impact at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Anmol Rathore, Chief Planning Officer, Ajaypal Singh, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shehzaada Noor ul Ain, Assistant Commissioner Development, Danish Rasool Mir, Block Development Officers besides other concerned officers.

HT EDITORIAL

Take practical measures to preserve rich art, culture, heritage of J&K

Over the past few years the people in general and more so those associated with art and culture have been stressing upon the need to preserve the culture and heritage of this place for posterity. Even though some steps have been taken in this regard by the government much more needs to be done. Once these steps are taken then art and culture lovers would feel relieved and they would be elated.

It was in this regard that the present government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, approved the chief minister's scheme for introduction of heritage courses. The main aim of starting these courses is to preserve and promote rich traditional crafts of Jammu & Kashmir through structured vocational education. Sanction has been accorded for continuation and revival of seven heritage craft courses across 25 units with a total intake capacity of 500 students—20 students per unit—across 15 government ITIs and polytechnics in the union territory.

Under the scheme, students enrolled in these courses will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 1,000, while the instructors conducting theory and practical classes will be paid a monthly remuneration of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 12,000, respectively. The decision is being viewed as a step towards the government's commitment for safeguarding traditional skills, encouraging youth participation in heritage-linked livelihoods and integrating local crafts into modern skill development frameworks. This initiative is likely to serve as a bridge between tradition and opportunity.

It is important that each and every step is taken to preserve the rich art, culture and heritage of Jammu & Kashmir so that the future generations come to know about the treasure of the union territory. Over the years there has been neglect in preserving the art and culture of Jammu & Kashmir and time has come to repair the damage and correct the wrongs. If corrective measures are not taken then the future generations would not forgive the present and past generations.

Over the years it has been observed that Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages has not been able to do justice with the mandate given to this organization. It is imperative that people running the academy pull up their socks and start improving their performance. A new life needs to be infused into the working of the academy and people at helm should understand that time to move beyond the stated position has come.

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HT TRIBUTE

When a Mentor Becomes a Memory: Remembering Shahid Masood Bukhari Sahib

Four years on, his voice, values, and vision continue to inspire



ABU HASNAIN

There are people whose influence outlives their time — whose presence continues to guide us long after they are gone. Shahid Masood Bukhari Sahib was one such figure. As we observe his fourth death anniversary today, journalists, colleagues, and friends remember not only a respected media professional but a human being defined by sincerity, patience, and humility.

A native of Tangmarg, Shahid Masood Bukhari Sahib earned a distinguished place in Kashmir's media fraternity through his unwavering commitment to truth and ethics. Having worked with several prominent television channels, he became known for his balanced reportage and deep respect for both his craft and his audience. His calmness under pressure, his gentle manner of communication, and his innate sense of fairness made him a mentor to many and a friend to all.

Those who worked alongside him recall how he led by quiet example. He never raised his voice instead of criticism. When challenges arose, he faced them with dignity and reason. His guidance was not about giving instructions — it was about



inspiring conviction.

I had the privilege of walking with him professionally for only one year, yet that brief period felt like an entire education in journalism and life. He taught that news is not merely about being first, but about being fair. That journalism, at its best, is an act of service — one that demands compassion as much as courage.

In today's fast-paced media world, where truth often competes with trend, remembering Shahid Masood Bukhari Sahib feels like revisiting the very conscience of the profession. His name evokes a time when journalism was about credibility, not

convenience — when mentorship was about nurturing values, not just skills.

Four years on, his absence is still deeply felt. Yet, his legacy lives through those he inspired — in every journalist who still believes in integrity, in every story told with honesty, and in every newsroom moment where decency prevails over drama.

May Allah grant Shahid Masood Bukhari Sahib the highest place in Jannah and bless his loved ones with strength and peace. His journey may have ended, but his example continues to illuminate the path for many.

Raiyar-Ich is an emerging village in the district of Budgam



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Alhamdulillah, every corner of the Kashmir Valley is heading towards the new developmental goals. Like road connectivity, electricity networks, tap water facilities, ration depots, and many more basic facilities. All of this happened due to various beneficial schemes like the Jal Jeevan mission and PMGSY (Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana).

With the passing of every day, the valley is heading toward developmental goals, but one thing is unfortunate: we have unemployed educated youth. The government should introduce beneficial schemes for them on a priority basis so that every soul and every household feels the pleasure of happiness and peace of mind. People are disturbed due to unemployment and financial crunch, and some do not have the basic commodities. Every soul should be thankful to Allah and then to the government. Our nation has great resources so that every citizen of our nation can live a happy life with great dignity and pride.

Today, in this article, I am going to share the beautiful scenes of my village, getting popularity as Raiyar-Ich, or the noon chai village, or the resting place for the tourists in Doodhpathri, Budgam.

Why is Doodhpathri famous in all the corners of the world? Doodhpathri has many other attractions, like trekking sports like Ashtar, Diskhal,

Tchanz, and Nukh; the main mountain of Doodhpathri recently received the first snowfall of the year 2025.

I have been working for the last 6 years to introduce every bit of my district to the world and want everyone to know my district with dignity and regard, and I like sharing the beautiful scenes of winter, spring, summer, and autumn. I hope government administration brings every corner of the valley on the tourist map, and everyone will benefit from the beneficial schemes and be capable of generating self-employment.

I am residing in Tangnar; such a belt is now becoming a housing area, and people are joyful to invest and are hoping for great business development. In the future, the Tangnar will become the main tourist attraction, and every bit should be getting placed in the papers.

A peaceful village in the district of Budgam

There are ten districts in the Kashmir Valley. Every district has its own unique, special, and endowed history, and District Budgam is one of them. The district of Budgam is 12 km from the heart of Srinagar's Lal Chowk. In the past, most popular areas presently included in the Srinagar district were considered in Budgam. So Budgam and Srinagar have been close bounds for decades.

Budgam district is one of the mesmerizing, picturesque districts in the Kashmir Valley. The Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Shrine in Charar-e-Shareef in the district of Budgam is very special for the district. The district has lavish, sensuous tourist places like Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri, and Sukhnag; many more will be explored in the future.

Today, in this article, I am going to explore the mesmerizing beauty of

Raiyar Ich.

Raiyar Ich is an emerging village in terms of rapid development. Raiyar Ich is a panchayat Halqa with nine panch wards and beautiful topography.

Raiyar Ich: It is a picturesque hamlet and a resting place for tourists who come from different corners of the world. Facts to know about the Raiyar Ich. "Raiyar" comprises two Kashmiri words, i.e., "Rai" means lost and "Yaar" means friend in the Kashmiri language. So the name had been given to this hamlet by the mystic Kashmiri Sufi saint, Sheikh Noor Ud Din Wali (RA). It's so that when he reached the said village from the forests of the Pir Panjal, he sent his friends to different parts of Kashmir to spread Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) teaching, and he managed to start his journey alone towards Dreyg-cave. (Source: Local legend of the village).

Why Raiyar is attractive to the tourists

The village is literally endowed with a vast and rich culture covered with lush green forests; during late nights, the crisp wind bestows peace of mind to everyone present in its surroundings. The smoothening sound of the Sukh-Nag River feels like someone is touching the guitar and is producing heart-touching music. The people of the village are so innocent and humble, living peacefully with their inherited culture. Raiyar is famous for rajma (kidney beans), maize bread, and walnuts.

Sources of income for the locals

It is very fortunate for the locals that Doodhpathri got a place on the tourist map. Doodhpathri is one of the emerging tourist destinations in the Khansahib tehsil and in the district of Budgam, and generates employment

for thousands of unemployed local youth.

What locals demand

1. Higher Secondary School: As the Raiyar Ich becomes the central hub for the adjoining villages, locals demand the upgrade of the high school Raiyar Ich into a higher secondary school. The population is underprivileged and can't afford to send their children to Khansahib; they have to spend Rs 50 on fare.

2. A highly equipped sports stadium for the local emerging sports stars.

3. A children's park for local children with safe sports equipment.

4. Grazing area for the locals: The population has been grazing cattle for centuries, and most of them are earning their livelihood and boosting the economy of the district.

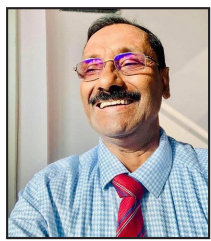
5. Computer skill centers under centrally sponsored schemes are very important for the local unemployed youth. The youth of the area are desirous of achieving their goals in all fields, like medicine, teaching, etc.

6. Stay-home scheme: All the households of the village should be covered under the stay-home scheme so that they get a chance to earn their livelihood. Benefits under the stay-at-home policy should be given to all the registered households for further upgrading of their residential houses.

7. Bhatti Mohallah, Tangnar Road connectivity should take priority: During harsh winters, tourist flow should be diverted from Bhatti Mohallah Tangan via TRC Tangnar. Tourists can enjoy and may learn about the culture of the locals of the area, and it becomes a way of earning a living for the locals.

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KASHMIR IN THE EYE OF TRAVELLERS DOWN THE AGES



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

When the British explorers arrived in the nineteenth century, their gaze was coloured by the romanticism of their age.

They compared Kashmir to the Alps, to Eden, to Switzerland — metaphors that sought to translate its beauty into European idioms. Moorcroft and Trebeck, who travelled through the valley in the 1820s, observed,

“Kashmir, indeed, is one of those happy valleys where Nature seems to have exhausted all her art in creating a scene of enchantment.” The statement carries an almost mythical tone, as if nature herself had poured all her creative powers into one last masterpiece. Sir Walter Lawrence, who served as the Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir and wrote the monumental *The Valley of Kashmir* in 1895, combined administrative observation with lyrical sensitivity.

“The valley of Kashmir lies like a beautiful emerald set in pearls, surrounded by magnificent snow-clad mountains.” In his words, one can sense both a surveyor’s precision and a poet’s reverence.

Lawrence’s documentation of the people, their customs, and their hardships remains one of the most valuable accounts of the valley during the late nineteenth century. Yet, beyond facts and figures, his love for the land glows through his language, showing how even a colonial officer could become a devotee before Kashmir’s beauty.

The archaeologist Sir Aurel Stein, who uncovered ancient manuscripts and Buddhist relics across Asia, saw in the valley of Kashmir a living continuity with the past. “Kashmir’s landscape seems to hold the past in its lap, as if time has conspired to preserve its ancient serenity.” This statement of Sir Aurel suggests that Kashmir is not merely a place but a repository of history, a cradle where civilizations sleep in the shadow of snow peaks. Kashmir has for centuries remained the most fabled valley of the Himalayas, a land where beauty seems eternal and time itself pauses in awe. From the earliest travellers who crossed its snow-bound passes to modern writers who reflect on its beauty and tragedy, Kashmir has stirred hearts and imaginations alike. Every age, every traveller, has tried to capture its essence in words, yet all have agreed that words fall short of what the eyes behold. The mountains, meadows, and murmuring rivers of the valley have created a canvas where nature paints endlessly and human spirit finds refuge. It is this timeless magnetism that has drawn pilgrims, poets, kings, and wanderers from distant lands to record their astonishment in enduring lines.

Even the anonymous voices of Kashmiri folk tradition echo this universal admiration. An old saying goes, “He who has not seen Kashmir, has not seen beauty.” This proverb, simple yet profound, encapsulates the collective pride of a people who know that their homeland is nature’s masterpiece. The earliest glimpses of Kashmir in recorded travel literature come from the seventh century Chinese traveller Xuanzang, known in India as Hiuen Tsang. On his spiritual journey through the Indian subcontinent, Xuanzang entered the valley through the treacherous mountain passes and was overwhelmed by what he saw. He described Kashmir as a country surrounded by mountains on all sides, with passes that were difficult to traverse, yet guarding a land of abundance. “The country is surrounded on all sides by mountains, and the passes are difficult. The people are brave and learned, fond of study and given to faith. The soil is rich and the climate mild; it produces abundant crops and fruits.” His observation not only reveals the valley’s geographical isolation but also its intellectual refinement and self-sufficiency in ancient times. He recognized Kashmir not merely as a physical paradise but as a cradle of learning, a center of Buddhist philosophy and art that had flourished for centuries before his arrival.

The Persian polymath Al-Biruni, writing in the eleventh century, echoed similar admiration. Though he could not visit the valley himself because of political constraints, his writings based on the accounts of Indian scholars celebrate Kashmir as a seat of knowledge. “Kashmir is a country situated in the mountains to the north of India... it is celebrated for its learning, particularly in astronomy and philosophy.” This recognition from one of the greatest scholars of the Islamic Golden Age confirms that Kashmir had already attained legendary status as a place of intellectual and spiritual distinction. Centuries before the arrival of Muslim scholars or Mughal emperors, Kashmir’s own chroniclers celebrated its uniqueness. Kalhana, the twelfth-century historian who wrote the *Rajatarangini*, the river of kings, perhaps captured its spirit best when he declared, “Kashmir may be conquered by the force of spiritual merit, but never by the force of soldiers.” In this single line lies the essence of the valley — unconquerable by arms, yet deeply moved by faith and wisdom. The historian saw in his homeland a place where power and piety were intertwined, where the landscape itself seemed sanctified by divine presence.

When the Mughals came to India, their imperial aesthetic found its most perfect expression in Kashmir. Emperor Jahangir, known for his deep sensitivity to beauty, fell under its spell during his visit in the early seventeenth century. His famous exclamation, “If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this,” remains immortal as the definitive tribute to Kashmir’s beauty. The Persian words — *Gar firdaus bar ru-e zamin ast, hamin ast-o hamin ast-o hamin ast* — were not just an emperor’s praise but a lover’s confession. Jahangir saw in Kash-



mir the earthly reflection of heaven, a living paradise that embodied Mughal ideals of symmetry, nature, and grace. He adorned it with gardens and canals, blending Persian design with Kashmiri landscape, creating a living dialogue between art and nature. The French traveller François Bernier, who visited during the reign of Aurangzeb in the 1660s, added his own voice to this chorus of admiration. In his *Travels in the Mogul Empire*, Bernier wrote with rapture, “Kachemire is the most delightful country in the world. It is full of gardens, meadows, and streams; the air is pure, the water excellent, and the fruits beyond description.” His account, written for the curious minds of Europe, introduced Kashmir to Western imagination as a region of Edenic charm. Bernier’s words were both scientific and lyrical — a physician’s precision mingled with a poet’s wonder.

When the British explorers arrived in the nineteenth century, their gaze was coloured by the romanticism of their age. They compared Kashmir to the Alps, to Eden, to Switzerland — metaphors that sought to translate its beauty into European idioms. Moorcroft and Trebeck, who travelled through the valley in the 1820s, observed, “Kashmir, indeed, is one of those happy valleys where Nature seems to have exhausted all her art in creating a scene of enchantment.” The statement carries an almost mythical tone, as if nature herself had poured all her creative powers into one last masterpiece. Sir Walter Lawrence, who served as the Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir and wrote the monumental *The Valley of Kashmir* in 1895, combined administrative observation with lyrical sensitivity. “The valley of Kashmir lies like a beautiful emerald set in pearls, surrounded by magnificent snow-clad mountains.” In his words, one can sense both a surveyor’s precision and a poet’s reverence. Lawrence’s documentation of the people, their customs, and their hardships remains one of the most valuable accounts of the valley during the late nineteenth century. Yet, beyond facts and figures, his love for the land glows through his language, showing how even a colonial officer could become a devotee before Kashmir’s beauty.

To other European travellers, the valley appeared as the Switzerland of Asia. Godfrey Thomas Vigne, the English traveller who visited in the 1840s, declared, “No part of the Himalayas can compare with Kashmir in loveliness — it is truly the Switzerland of Asia.” The comparison might have been an attempt to make the unfamiliar familiar to European readers, but it also reveals a deep-

er recognition that Kashmir’s beauty transcended the known categories of landscape. Alexander Cunningham, the great archaeologist, looked beyond the mountains and lakes to see a civilization preserved by time. “Kashmir is not only a garden of eternal spring but also a museum of Indian civilization.” In this perception, the valley became both a natural and a cultural sanctuary — a place where beauty and history coexisted in quiet harmony. Sir Francis Young, the British explorer and political officer whose adventures took him across Central Asia, found in Kashmir a peace that contrasted with his hazardous journeys. “Surely the valley of Kashmir is the fairest place that ever was seen.” Coming from a man accustomed to the harsh deserts of Tibet and the rugged passes of the Karakoram, his admiration carries the weight of awe and relief.

The poets too were not untouched. Long before the Europeans, the Sufi poet Amir Khusrau had written, “Kashmir, the garden of eternal spring, where the breeze of paradise ever blows.” In these few words, Khusrau immortalized the valley as a bridge between heaven and earth, between divine beauty and human longing. The Persian tradition saw in Kashmir not merely a geographical wonder but a spiritual metaphor — a symbol of harmony, freshness, and divine grace. When Rabindranath Tagore visited Kashmir in the early twentieth century, he was already the poet of universal humanity, the first Asian Nobel laureate who had seen beauty in many lands. Yet in his letters he wrote of Kashmir with a tone of wonder and devotion: “The morning in Kashmir is not merely a time of day — it is a poem, a prayer of creation.” To Tagore, the valley was not just scenic but spiritual, a manifestation of nature’s hymn to the divine.

Jawaharlal Nehru, who was to become India’s first Prime Minister, found in Kashmir both nostalgia and identity. He wrote, “Like some supremely beautiful woman whose beauty is almost impersonal and above human desire, Kashmir stands aloof and yet compels all.” His words reveal the intimacy of a man who loved the land of his ancestors, yet saw in its beauty something transcendent, almost sacred. Nehru’s emotional bond with Kashmir gave his political speeches a poetic resonance; it was a place that symbolized for him the eternal ideal of India itself — plural, serene, and humane. In 1947, as India was torn by partition and communal violence, Mahatma Gandhi visited Kashmir and uttered his often-quoted words: “While the rest of India burns, I have seen a ray of light in Kashmir.” His statement was not only a tribute to the valley’s peace amid chaos

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“Kashmir, indeed, is one of those happy valleys where Nature seems to have exhausted all her art in creating a scene of enchantment.” The statement carries an almost mythical tone, as if nature herself had poured all her creative powers into one last masterpiece. Sir Walter Lawrence, who served as the Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir and wrote the monumental *The Valley of Kashmir* in 1895, combined administrative observation with lyrical sensitivity.

but also a reminder of its moral and spiritual significance. For Gandhi, Kashmir represented hope, harmony, and the resilience of goodness in a time of darkness.

In our times, the Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul, reflecting on postcolonial India, described Kashmir in a single haunting sentence: “Kashmir is a place where beauty has learned to live with sorrow.” His words mirror the modern consciousness — aware that paradise and pain coexist in the same frame. The valley, in Naipaul’s vision, becomes a metaphor for the human condition itself — the simultaneous presence of grace and grief. French journalist Dominique Lapiere, who explored India and called Kolkata the ‘City of Joy’ with affection, called Kashmir “the smile of the Himalayas — tender, fragile, and radiant.” The metaphor of the smile suggests both joy and vulnerability. It is as if the mountains themselves smile through Kashmir, expressing both serenity and transience.

Through the eyes of travellers, Kashmir emerges not just as a place but as an idea — an enduring symbol of harmony, learning, and transcendence. It is a land where mountains guard memories, rivers whisper songs of time, and every breeze seems to carry a tale. The travellers may have come and gone, empires may have risen and fallen, but their words remain like petals on the river of history, floating together in admiration of a valley that defies the limits of description. In every age, in every tongue, Kashmir has been called paradise; and though paradise may now be touched by sorrow, it still gleams with the light that drew pilgrims, poets, and dreamers across the mountains — the light of eternal beauty that no passage of time can dim.

International Tagore Awardee writer Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee now President of Kolkata Indian American Society is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond & multilingual poet and columnist. Email prafra-tanbhattacharjee@gmail.com



Understanding Diabetes



Surinderpal Singh

Have we ever wondered where and how our body gets the energy it needs to fulfill its basic requirements? The straightforward answer to this question is that glucose (sugar) is obtained from food and it is the source of energy.

HOW DOES DIABETES OCCUR?

The human body's pancreas produces insulin. This insulin interacts with the glucose present in the body. If the amount of insulin is less than the glucose, it is medically referred to as low blood sugar. Conversely, if the glucose level is high and insulin is low, it is medically termed as high blood sugar.

WHO GETS DIABETES?

Generally, diabetes can occur in the following individuals:

1. Overweight or obese individuals have high risks of diabetes.
2. Individuals with a tendency to consume alcohol are in danger zone.
3. Those with a genetic predisposition could be the soft target of the dangerous disease.
4. Individuals in their 50s are at high



risks.

5. Individuals who are under chronic stress are liable to be effected with diabetes.

EARLY SYMPTOMS OF DIABETES

Increased Hunger

The body converts food into glucose which is used by the cells to generate energy. Cells require insulin to take in glucose. When diabetes occurs the muscles

do not receive the necessary energy from food. This lack of energy leads to increased hunger.

Frequent Urination

If the body is urinating more than usual, it is a fundamental sign of diabetes.

Dry Mouth

When the body uses most of its fluids for urination, moisture for other bodily functions decreases. This can lead to dehy-

dration and result in a dry mouth.

Mental Issues

High blood sugar levels can affect every system in the body and impact mood and quality of life. Patients may experience a decrease in their usual disposition and may show signs similar to depression due to high blood sugar levels.

Blurred Vision

Experiencing blurred vision is an early

sign of diabetes. Fluid can shift out of tissues, which may cause problems with seeing clearly at distances.

HOW TO PREVENT DIABETES?

Here are some important ways to prevent diabetes:

Balanced Diet:

Incorporate fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy sources of protein into your diet. Avoid sugar and processed food products.

Exercise:

Engage in regular physical activity such as running, walking, swimming, or playing sports. These activities help control weight and improve insulin sensitivity.

Weight Management:

Keep your body weight under control. Excess weight can increase the risk of diabetes.

Stress Management:

Stress can cause hormonal changes in the human body that can affect blood sugar levels.

Regular Check-ups:

Have regular check-ups with your doctor, especially if there is a family history of diabetes.

Sleep:

Getting sufficient sleep is also a measure to prevent diabetes.

Avoid Alcohol and Tobacco Use:

The use of alcohol and tobacco can increase the risk of diabetes.

All these methods can be helpful in preventing diabetes.

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

Suffering from Knee Pain? Try These Basic Knee Strengthening Exercises

Weak knees are a problem that many face. The seemingly simple issue can bring your life to a standstill or at the very least create hindrances in your regular activities. Touching upon this subject, health expert Yasmin Karachiwala said on Instagram that there can be several factors that could cause knee pain and it is important to identify them. Offering a solution that may provide relief, she shared a set of simple exercises that you could practise to strengthen your knees. Along with the video, she also added a note that said that it was extremely important to consult a doctor to evaluate the cause of pain.

Knee pain exercise: Try these exercises for relief

In the note, she said, "The most effective thing to do is ice it (knees) for 15-20 mins. Next, consult a doctor to evaluate the cause of the pain. Whether it's due to overuse, tight muscles around the knee, a sudden injury which has caused a tear or any underlying condition like arthritis, bursitis, chondromalacia patella."

Demonstrating some easy exercises that focus on strengthening the joint, she further added, "Today, I'm sharing with you some basic knee strengthening exercises."

The following exercises are part of the special routine

1. Bridging with Pillow (15 reps)
2. Double Leg Kick (10 reps)
3. Modified Clams (20 reps each side)
4. Seated on Chair, Leg Extension (5-10 reps each side)
5. Staggered Sit to Stand with Pillow on Chair (5 reps each side)

Yasmin also added, "If you have pain or swelling please consult your doctor before doing these exercises."

Previously, the celebrity fitness trainer had shared a bunch of videos that would help you say fit from the comforts of your home. One of the most popular video series on her list is the Cardio/Fat Burn HIIT Series. The trainer has dedicated the entire month to focus on fat-burning routines. She has also added a modified version for those who want to scale down the intensity of exercises.

The latest video in the series comprised exercises such as Reverse Lunge + Alt Knee Up + Kick (left leg), Reverse Lunge + Alt Knee Up + Kick (right leg), Push-up + Alternate Leg Lift, Superman + Reverse Angel. Sharing the video, she had written, "Perform 3 rounds of 45 seconds each, take 15 seconds of active rest in between exercises and a full minute between rounds!"

So, keep your knee pain in control with these exercises at home.

Courtesy Healthline

Working From Home? Try These 3 Stretches To Give Your Body The Required Break

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown has kept us indoors for a large part of the last 18 months. With the lockdown came hectic work-from-home (WFH) routines that force us to stay glued to our desks and computers for long hours at a stretch. While experts have recommended periodic breaks from work to walk around and stretch the body, a large part of the population does not get the time to indulge in such healthy practices. But now celebrity fitness expert Rujuta Diwekar has come up with a set of three simple stretching exercises that you can do on a workday, all while sitting on a chair.

Work from home: Take a break with these three stretches

Sharing a video on Instagram, Rujuta said that the first few steps involve shutting your laptop, turning the chair away from the desk and sitting on it while looking ahead. This is important, she says,



as you have not looked at anything except a screen for hours. Explaining further, Rujuta wrote in the caption, "3 easy stretches to break your sitting" and demonstrated the simple

stretches.

1. Take your arms up. Ensure that you are not pushing your stomach in front. You need to tuck your stomach in and thrust you back in front. Don't raise your

shoulders. Extend your arms and wrists. Now, look straight and bring your arms downwards on either side. Spread your legs on either side of the chair. Take your arms up once again and bend

forward. When you bend forward ensure that your hip is not rising. Now, squeeze your shoulder blade and take your arms backwards.

If possible, hold the back of your chair and stretch. While stretching, open your chest and keep your chest and chin raised. Hold this position for five counts. Slowly come back to your original positions and relax.

2. In the second stretch, spread your legs on either side of the chair and try to push the knee backwards. "Many women are experiencing period issues, leg cramps etc due to work from home. It is important to ensure that your thighs remain strong," she said.

Hold the position for 5 counts.

3. If you find this difficult, Rujuta suggested that you can sit facing the back of the chair. In this position, the edges of the chair can be used to push the inner thighs outwards. Hold the back of the chair, roll your shoulder backwards and lift the chest and open it. Hold the position for 5 counts.

Courtesy Healthline

Weight Loss Tips: Mistakes You Should Avoid For Sustainable Weight Loss

Losing weight should be a gradual process, requiring a lot of patience and perseverance, along with a balanced diet and workout regime. Taking a shortcut, such as eating less or starving, has never helped. At the same time, people also should not fall for fad or quick-fix diets, which promise to make losing weight an easy process and appear too good to be true. In short, there is no magic formula for weight loss. That's what even nutritionist Nmami Agarwal reiterates in her latest post on Instagram, where she says that a restrictive diet plan is never a good idea.

Weight loss tips: Why you should not try fad diets for sustainable weight loss

Nmami captioned the clip, "Things we go wrong on while planning to lose weight. Yo-yo effect. Following a restrictive diet plan is never sustainable. You end up craving a lot, demotivated



to follow, and eventually give up."

In the clip, the nutritionist explains the vicious cycle that restrictive diets engulf us in. She says, "You tend to pick up a trending diet style, you get motivated, lose weight, which is generally the water weight, then you hit a plateau, get

confused and give up. Then again, you start everything back because you're feeling guilty. Finally, again you end up picking another trending diet and get motivated." She tells her followers to "choose wisely and start doing something which is more sustainable".

Earlier, Nmami had busted a few myths around a strict juice diet for detox and weight loss. "Remember there are no shortcuts and no magical drinks. All you need is dedication and motivation to work hard. Listen to your body and your body will listen to you back," she added in the note. Nmami clarified that the liver and kidney perform the function of detoxifying. "A glass of vegetable juice is okay but not an exclusive juice cleanse diet," she said.

Even celebrity nutritionist Pooja Makhija, too, had stated facts around eating less for losing weight. While it is necessary to follow a disciplined routine to stay fit, it should not be done without verifying the authenticity of the remedy.

So, next time you think of following any fad diet, just remember that it's always better to instead take up some healthy food resolutions you're likely to keep for life.

Courtesy Healthline





Handwara Police Raid Houses of Terror Operatives' Relatives

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 08: In a major counter-terrorism initiative aimed at dismantling the local support network of banned organisations, Handwara Police conducted coordinated search operations at multiple locations across Police District Handwara on Saturday.

According to police officials, the searches were carried out in the houses and premises of relatives and associates of terror operatives currently operating from across the border, as well as individuals suspected of having links with banned organisations. The objective of the exercise was to identify any channels of communication, material assistance, or logistical support being extended to anti-national elements from within the region. The operations were executed under a well-planned and legally sanctioned framework, ensuring transparency and minimal inconvenience to the general public. During the searches, relevant digital and physical materials were examined, and several individuals were questioned to verify their possible involvement or connections with terror-related activities. A senior police officer said that such measures are part of a sustained effort to eliminate the ecosystem that enables terrorism. "Our goal is not only to neutralize active militants but also to cut off their local networks of facilitation,



funding, and propaganda," the officer added. Handwara Police has reiterated its commitment to maintaining peace, public safety, and the rule of law in the district. The department has appealed to citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, remain vigilant, and promptly report any suspicious activity that may pose

a threat to communal harmony or national security. The ongoing operations reflect the resolve of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to ensure that the region remains free from the influence and intimidation of anti-national elements, and that peace and development continue to take root in North Kashmir.

Kulgam Police Recover and Return 46 Missing Mobile Phones to Rightful Owners

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 8: In a commendable display of citizen-centric policing and public service, Kulgam Police have successfully traced and recovered 46 missing and stolen mobile phones, worth several lakhs of rupees, and handed them over to their rightful owners.

The recovery and return ceremony was held at the Cyber Police Station Kulgam, where DySP Headquarters Kulgam, Shri Nisar Ahmad (JKPS) formally handed over the recovered devices to the complainants in the presence of police officers and cyber unit staff.

During the event, DySP HQRS Kulgam interacted with the owners and reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir Police remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of every citizen while fostering transparency and public trust. He lauded the Cyber Police Station Kulgam team for their professional approach, technical proficiency, and consistent follow-up in tracing the missing devices through advanced tracking tools and coordination with telecom service providers.

The phones were recovered in response to various complaints received from across the district. Each case involved detailed technical analysis of IMEI numbers, data tracking, and coordination with multiple platforms, which led to the successful tracing of 46 devices.

Before being returned, the recovered phones were thoroughly verified and authenticated. The owner expressed gratitude to Kulgam Police for their timely response and professionalism, calling the initiative a "people-friendly step" that reflects transparency and efficiency in policing.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Kulgam, Shri Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS) appreciated the Cyber Police Station team for their effective and result-oriented efforts. He stated, "The recovery and return of lost property is an integral part of public service. Such initiatives strengthen community-police relations and enhance public confidence. Kulgam Police will continue to adopt technology-driven and citizen-focused methods to address public grievances swiftly."

He also urged citizens to remain vigilant against cyber frauds, online scams, and digital crimes, and to practice safe online behaviour by reporting suspicious activities promptly.

Public Advisory:

Citizens are advised to report cybercrimes, financial frauds, or online scams on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in or call the toll-free helpline



1930.

For reporting lost or stolen mobile phones, individuals can use the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal www.ceir.gov.in, managed by the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

WMDA, Manasbal Dramatics hold Jashn e Manasbal

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOV 08: To celebrate the onset of autumn, a day long cultural extravaganza was held here today by Wular Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with a local cultural group, Manasbal Dramatics.

The event was supported by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and Department of Information.

Artist groups from adjoining areas mesmerised the audience with their soulful renditions.

A special feature of the cultural event was the staging of play Nou Chapraes written by Saleem Yousuf depicting the current issues in the society which received applause



from the audience.

On the occasion, a collection of short stories-Rafaqat by writer Rasheed Gangeen was also released.

Chief Executive Officer, WMDA said the initiative is aimed to promote Manasbal as the scenic and cultural destination for the tourists.

Renowned broadcaster and patron of the Manasbal Dramatics, Nisar Naseem thanked the participant Departments for their support. He said the need of present times is to familiarise youth with their cultural roots.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MEHRAJ UN DIN MIR in my Aadhar card while my correct name is MEHRAJ UD DIN MIR S/O GH MOHD MIR as per my driving license which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in office of concerned

adhar authorities with in seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
**Name....MEHRAJ UD DIN MIR
S/ OGH MOHD MIR
R/O ...KHESHIPORA KREERI.
Distt. ...BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my DOB has been wrongly mentioned in school regards as Farhan Ahmad Wani DOB 11/03/2013 instead of Farhan Ahmad Wani DOB 11/03/2012 as for regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the New Meluleni Public School Handwara within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained

**FARHAN AHMAD WANI , DOB 11/03/2012
S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR WANI R/O BRARIPORA
TEHSIL HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWAR**

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that the name and date of birth of Noora Bagam have been recorded incorrectly in the Aadhaar Card. The Aadhaar Card shows the name as Noori with date of birth 01/04/1948.

The correct particulars, as per the Birth Certificate issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation, are as follows:

Name: Noora Bagam
Date of Birth: 20/04/1950

I am applying for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any objection in this regard may be communicated to the concerned authority within seven days of publication of this notice.

Public Notice

My Son's Mothers Name has been wrongly written on School Records as Amaan Rafiq Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Fareeda Akther While My Actual Name Is Amaan Rafiq Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Farida Akther.Now I want to Correct it.

If anyone have any objection with this regard He/She can contact Principal Mehboob_ ul-Aalam Mission School Paharoo B.K Pora Nowgam Dist:- Budgam within a period of 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name:-Amaan Rafiq Rather
S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather
Mothers Name:- Farida Akther.
D.O.B:-07-05-2017**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as GHULAM RASOOL GANAIE S/O GH MOHI UDDIN GANAIE in my driving license bearing license no JK- 0520160058280 while my correct name is GH RASOOL GANAIE S/O GH MOHI U DIN GANAIE as per Adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with ARTO BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name.. GH RASOOL GANAIE
S/O GH MOHI U DIN GANAIE
R/O ...AMARGARH SOPORE**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE S/O MOHD RAMZAN AALEI R/O WARIPORA PAYEEN for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that Mst RAJA BEGUM W/O FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE has passed away on 25/08/1997 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below:

- 1.... FATAH MOHAMMAD AALIE 80 years Husband old aged married
 - 2....ABDUL RASHID 44 years Son Labour married
 - 3....ABDUL MAJEED 47 years Son labour
 4. ...JAMEELA BEGUM. 42 years Daughter H/W
 - 5...FARHAN ZAHOOR 08 years Grandson studied unmarried
 - 6...RAHEELA ZAHOOR 12 years Granddaughter student unmarried
 - 7...FATIMA ZAHOOR 04 years Granddaughter // unmarried
- The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER has passed away on 04/11/1993 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below:

- 1... , FATIMA BEGUM Mother 80 years old aged married
 - 2.... JAVID AHMAD Brother 52 years labour married
 - 3...MEHMOODA BEGUM sister 45 years H/W married
 - 4....MOHD ABBAS Brother 40 years labour married
 - 5....SHABIR AHMAD Brother 39 years labour married
 - 6...MUSHTAQ AHMAD Brother 33 years labour married
- The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

My Son's Mothers Name has been wrongly written on School Records as Murtaza Ahmad Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Fareeda Akther While My Actual Name Is Murtaza Ahmad Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Farida Akther.Now I want to Correct it.

If anyone have any objection with this regard He/She can contact Principal Mehboob_ ul-Aalam Mission School Paharoo B.K Pora Nowgam Dist:- Budgam within a period of 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name:-Murtaza Ahmad Rather
S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather
Mothers Name:- Farida Akther.
D.O.B:-18-03-2020**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that the mother's name has been wrongly entered in the Date of Birth Certificate of my child issued by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Wagoora.

The details are as under:

Child's Name: KAAMIL HABIB
Father's Name: HABIB ULLA BHAT
Incorrect Mother's Name (as recorded): MASRAT AKHTER
Correct Mother's Name: MASRAT BEGUM
Date of Birth: 19/06/2019
Place of Birth: CHC KREERI

I am applying for correction of the said error in the records. Anyone having any objection to this correction may contact the office of the Block Development Officer, Wagoora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objections will be entertained.

**Name: HABIB ULLA BHAT
Address: BURZAWACHAN KREERI
Contact No.: 9596078385**

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name LONE PESTISIDE & Fertilizers situated at THINDIMA KREERI. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**RAASHID FAROOQ LONE
S/o FAROOQ AHMAD LONE
R/o THINDIMA KREERI
Cell No. +91 7051570283)**

Public Notice

I, Abdul Rashid Wani, son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, resident of Kalantra Payeen, intend to apply for the issuance of a DEE Class Contractor Card from Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara.

If anyone has any objections, in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara, within 7 days from the publication of this notification after that no objections will be entertained

**Name ...Abdul Rashid Wani
S/o.. Ghulam Mohammad Wani
R/o .Kalantra Payeen,Kreeri, Baramulla**

Office Of The President

JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KUCHWA MUQAM

I president JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM wants to write that our Masjid committee has decided that we had previous name in our J& K BANK KALANTRA PAYEEN on name MASJID shareef Para Mohalla After that we Applied for Pancard obtained with JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM we want to change name as per Pan card on our JAMIA MASJID Bank Account

PREVIOUS NAME .. MASJID SHAREEF PARAMOHALLA
NEW NAMEJAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM
JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM

Public Notice

My son's Date of Birth has been incorrectly mentioned as 31/07/2012 while his correct Date of Birth is 31/07/2014 as per school record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of GREEN LAND SCHOOL DAULATPORA KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA
DOB...31/07 /2014
TEHSIL....KREERI**

Public Notice

My son's name has been incorrectly mentioned as MOHAMMAD AATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMEED MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA as per adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA
TEHSIL....KREERI**



Aijaz Asad reviews implementation of RDD schemes in Anantnag

Also inspects ongoing construction of DDC Office Building at Kanjigund

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, NOV 08: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted comprehensive review of implementation of Rural Development schemes across Anantnag district.

During the meeting, the Secretary reviewed the progress of major programmes like MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NRLM, IWMP, and RGSA, besides assessing targets and achievements made under the UT Capex budget.

The meeting was attended by DG Rural Sanitation, Anu Malhotra; Mission Director NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; CEO IWMP, Rajnish Kumar; ACD Anantnag, ACP, BDOs and other senior officers.

The Secretary held detailed deliberations with the ACD, ACP, BDOs, and field officials, directing them to focus on time-bound achievement of all scheme-specific targets.

Reviewing MGNREGA for the current fiscal, it was informed that 20.21 lakh person-days have been generated.

The Secretary emphasized that MGNREGA is fundamentally a livelihood security programme and directed the district administration to ensure optimal utilization of available workforce so that every household seeking employment receives its entitled workdays without delay. He stressed that creation of durable and productive assets must remain central to MGNREGA planning.

Citing the development of a Play Field at Brad Block, Khoveripora as a model of community-focused asset creation, he instructed officials to prioritize works with long-term economic benefits in water conservation, land development, and rural infra-



structure, while ensuring strict adherence to quality and technical standards.

Calling for stronger scheme convergence, the Secretary said that assets created under MGNREGA like compost pits and segregation sheds should complement Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G). He also emphasized that individual-beneficiary works should align with NRLM to enhance agricultural productivity and support livelihoods.

Reviewing PMAY-G, it was informed that 10,324 houses have been completed, marking 94% progress.

Appreciating the district's performance, the Secretary directed officers to ensure early completion of all sanctioned houses and expedite disbursement of pending instalments to beneficiaries to achieve the goal of Housing for All in rural Anantnag.

Under SBM-G, cumulative achievements indicated substantial improvement in rural sanitation. The Secretary instructed the district administration to ensure sustainability and regular maintenance of sanitation assets, enhance public utilization of community facilities, and strengthen door-

to-door waste collection through optimal deployment of available machinery. He also stressed the importance of sustained behaviour-change communication to reinforce sanitation gains across all Gram Panchayats.

While reviewing the NRLM, Aijaz Asad highlighted its critical role in strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and improving access to finance and skills for rural women. He directed officials to reinforce the institutional framework of SHGs, ensure effective convergence with other schemes, expand livelihood opportunities, and

promote micro-enterprises and market linkages, particularly for marginalized households.

Emphasizing on financial literacy and transparent credit flow, he said these are essential for sustainable grassroots economic growth.

Under RGSA, it was informed that 23 Panchayat Ghars have been completed out of the target of 33.

The Secretary stressed the need for continued capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions through training, skill development, and better planning processes.

Earlier, ACD Anantnag, Shafeeq Wani, gave a detailed presentation on the progress of RD&PR schemes in the district.

Later, the Secretary visited the DDC Office Building at Kanjigund, where he reviewed the ongoing construction works.

The DDC building is being constructed at an allotted cost of Rs 1.68 crore, with December 15 set as the fixed deadline for its handover.

He directed the district authorities to ensure timely completion of the project.

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Email: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

Corrigendum No 1 for this office eNIT No. MIDB/24 OF 2025-26 Dated: 04-11-2025

Tender ID No. 2025_IFC_285429

Corrigendum

In view of non-acceptance of offered rats by LI firm, to this Office e-NIT No. 20 of 2025-26 work no. 05 (Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of 40 HP, three phase induction motor with allied accessories for lift irrigation Scheme Shahkhata.) and work no. 06 (Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of 40HP, Three Phase induction motor with allied accessories for lift irrigation Scheme Novla.) is being cancelled and put to tender afresh.

No. MIDB/CC-02/2514-18

Dated: 04/11/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

DIPK: 7906/25 | Dated: 08-11-2025

Office of the Block Medical Officer Keller

Sub: Dasti Quotation Notice for Purchase/Refilling of Gas Cylinders (19Kg) Commercial-Retender notice thereof.

Due to poor response of the Dasti Quotation notice issued by this office Vide No. BMOK/Tender/Heating/2025/1828-31, dated: 22-10-2025 and printed in the Newspapers vide DIPK No. 7512-25 Dated: 25-10-2025 on 26-Oct-2025 for purchase/refilling of 19kg Commercial Gas Cylinders for Medical Block Keller and in view of emergent requirement of the Heating System, the Dasti Quotation is hereby extended for 04 days from the date of issuance of this notice in the Print Media for Purchase/Re-filling of 19kg Commercial Gas Cylinders for Medical Block Keller.

All other Terms and Conditions shall remain same as issued by this office Vide Notice No. BMOK/Tender/Heating/2025/1828-31, dated: 22-10-2025.

No: BMOK/Tender/Heating/2025/222-25

Dated: 06-11-2025

Sd/- Block Medical Officer Keller

DIPK: 7901/25 | Dated: 08-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B)

MECHANICAL DIVISION CENTRAL KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS | (SHORT TERM TENDER)

e-NIT No: R&B/MDCK/NIT/FRESH17 of 2025-26 | Dated: 07.11.2025

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway/State/Central Government organization having substantial experience for the below mentioned work.

Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Time of completion	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Position of Funds
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of High Side Plumbing at Hon'ble Chief Justice Residence at Gupkar, Srinagar.	39,96,583	1100	30 days	79,932	Available with the Intending department

Position of AA: Revised Administrative Approval Accorded by Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs vide order no. 5698-JK(LD) of 2025. Dt: 19.05.2025

Position of TS: Accorded by Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Central Kashmir vide order no. XENMC/TS/09. Dt:- 13.10.2025.

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

S.No	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-11-2025		
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	07-11-2025	(16:00 hrs)
		To	14-11-2025	(16:00 hrs)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From	07-11-2025	(16:00 hrs)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	14-11-2025	(16:00 hrs)
5	Date and time of opening of Technical bid (online)	15-11 -2025 at/after 12:00 hrs in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division, Central Kashmir.		
6.	Date and time of opening of Financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.		
7.	Cost of Tender documents	Rs 1100/- (Rupees Eleven Hundred Only)		
8	Tender document to be deposited at	In the shape of e-challan as per details given below Account No:- 0005010200000283. Branch Name:- Residency Road, Srinagar-0005. Branch Code:- CHINAR IFSC:- JAKA0CHINAR MICR:- 190051056 or by uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Mechanical Division, Central Kashmir to be deposited in Major Head 0059. The Authority reserves the right to cross check genuinity of the receipt of tender documents.		
9	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 79,980 in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.		

No. XENMC/Sgr/1913-17 Dated: 07/11/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer

R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir

DIPK: 7894/25 | Dated: 08-11-2025

Celebration of 150 Years of National Pride “Vande Mataram” Observed at Town Hall Handwara

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 8: The celebration of 150 years of National Pride, “Vande Mataram”, was observed with great enthusiasm at the premises of sub division Handwara. The event saw active participation from students of different schools, who showcased their talent through a Quiz Competition and Patri-



otic Cultural Programmes, adding vibrancy and energy to the celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, highlighted the significance of the day and the enduring spirit of patriotism that the song “Vande Mataram” instills in every Indian.

The programme was attended by ASP Handwara, Tehsildar Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B division Handwara, Zonal Education officer Handwara, besides officers from all line departments of the division level, reflecting a strong sense of community involvement and support for the celebration.

As part of the event, certificates of appreciation were distributed among students and other participants to recognize their efforts and contribution to making the celebration a success.

The celebration concluded on a high note, reinforcing the values of national pride, unity, and love for the motherland among the young generation.

Preparatory Meeting held for formulation of GIS-Based Master Plan for Shopian under AMRUT 2.0

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 8: A preparatory meeting regarding the formulation of the GIS-based Master Plan for Shopian, approved under AMRUT 2.0, was convened today under the Chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting aimed to streamline the process for preparation of a comprehensive and future-oriented Master Plan to guide the town's sustainable urban development.

The ADDC stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure that all relevant data pertaining to 17 existing municipal wards and 26 peripheral areas proposed for inclusion in the planning area is provided within the stipulated time frame.

He emphasized that timely and accurate data collection



will enable effective planning and ensure that the Master Plan aligns with the vision of planned, sustainable and environment-friendly urban growth.

Detailed discussions were held on the modalities for collection and submission of spatial and non-spatial data required for the formulation of the GIS-based Master Plan.

It was decided that all concerned departments shall nominate nodal officers to coordinate with the consultant and planning team for smooth and speedy execution of the process.

The Master Plan, once finalized, will serve as a blueprint for guiding future development, infrastructure creation, and efficient utilization of land resources in Shopian town and adjoining areas.

The meeting concluded with directions for completing data finalization within the given timeline so that the draft Master Plan could be submitted for approval in due course.

During the meeting, officers from all line departments including Revenue, JalShakti, PDD, R&B, RDD, Education, Health and other stakeholder agencies participated.

Trump confirms Kazakhstan officially agrees to join Abraham Accords

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, NOV 8 : US President Donald Trump announced that Kazakhstan will officially join the Abraham Accords, normalizing relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations.

The move marks the first expansion of the accords, the US-brokered framework aimed at normalizing relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations, since they were signed in 2020, and represents a continuation of one of Trump's signature foreign policy initiatives.

The agreements led to the normalisation of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco shortly thereafter.

The announcement came after Trump said he had held a call with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

"I just held a great call between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is the first country of my second term to join the Abraham Accords — the first of many. This is a major step forward in building bridges across the world," Trump said.

"We will soon announce a signing ceremony to make it official, and there are many more countries trying to join this club of STRENGTH," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The Abraham Accords remain Trump's signature foreign policy accomplishment from his first term of US Middle Eastern diplomacy, and the White House is looking to expand the circle of nations participating in the agreement.

"Today, more nations are lining up to embrace peace and prosperity through my Abraham Accords. So much more to come in uniting countries for stability



and growth — real progress, real results. BLESSED ARE THE PEACE-MAKERS!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"This is a major step forward in building bridges across the world," Trump said as he announced the agreement. "Today,

more nations are lining up to embrace peace and prosperity through my Abraham Accords." He said a signing ceremony

would take place "soon" to formalize the agreement.

The announcement, which came as Trump met with leaders of five Central Asian nations.

Deputy Secretary Landau said, "Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan are great friends and partners of the United States. President Trump recognizes that foreign policy isn't just about the same relationships that we have been developing for the last 80 or 100 years. It's a very big world, and there are many important parts of the world that have not received the attention they deserve. One of those areas is these Central Asian republics, formerly part of the Soviet union and now independent for 35 years. The United States — I think it is high time that we really engage more actively."

"As a volatile Russia and an increasingly aggressive China pursue their own na-

tional interests around the globe at the cost of their neighbors, the United States offers Central Asian nations a real opportunity to work with a willing partner while lifting up each other's economies," Senator Jim Risch, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke at a reception marking the tenth anniversary of the C5 1 initiative, hosted by Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

"In support of this effort, I have joined Senator Daines and my colleagues in introducing a bill this week that paves the way to lift outdated barriers to increased economic engagement with our C5 partners — namely, the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik restrictions.

"It is fitting that, on the 10th anniversary of the C5 1 diplomatic platform, we are launching a new and exciting era of cooperation between our nations." UNI

3 confirmed dead in S. Korea's power plant boiler tower collapse

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SEOUL, NOV. 8 : Three workers were confirmed dead on Friday in South Korea's power plant boiler tower collapse, according to Yonhap news agency.

A 60-meter-high boiler tower, which was supposed to be dismantled, collapsed the previous day at a thermal power plant in Ulsan, about 310 km southeast of the capital, Seoul.

Three workers were confirmed dead, while two others were presumed dead, as they were found



crushed under the structure.

Two workers remained unaccounted for, and two others suffered injuries after being rescued early on.

The search was underway with all available resources, including search dogs, acoustic detectors, endoscopes, and thermal imaging cameras.

However, the search and rescue efforts were challenging, as the collapsed steel structure and materials were densely intertwined. UNI

Sudan's paramilitary forces agree to proposal of humanitarian truce

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KHARTOUM, NOV. 8 : Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said Thursday that it has agreed to "enter into the humanitarian truce" proposed by the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

The truce aims to "address the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the war and enhance the protection of civilians," RSF



spokesperson Al-Fateh Qurashi said in a statement.

"We look forward to implementing the agreement and immediately beginning discussions on arrangements for a cessation of hostilities," he said.

On Tuesday, the Sudanese army announced that it would press on with fighting against the RSF following a meeting of the Security and Defence Council to discuss a U.S. proposal for a humanitarian truce.

According to leaked details, the proposal envisions a three-month humanitarian truce to allow aid access, followed by a nine-month political process aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement and a permanent ceasefire.

The conflict between Sudan's army and the RSF has raged since April 2023, killing thousands of people and displacing millions of others across Sudan and beyond. UNI

BNP alleges conspiracy to 'derail' 2026 elections in Bangladesh

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DHAKA, NOV 8 : Flaring the massive bout of social unrest and political tensions, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has alleged that certain elements are conspiring to derail the February 2026 polls.

"Attempts are being made to create an unstable environment in the country. They are trying to foil the election. They are trying to postpone the election. The people will not accept this," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said during a rally in Jessore on Thursday, reports state media. "We have an opportunity to return to a democratic system. We cannot let this opportunity be wasted due to conspiracy," he added.

Fakhru reiterated the BNP's demand that the referendum on the July National Charter — a key policy framework

introduced by the interim government outlining electoral and governance reforms — must take place on the same day as the parliamentary election.

"We are in agreement on this issue. No referendum will be allowed before the parliamentary election," he said.

Appealing to rival political forces, Fakhru urged, "I want to call upon the political parties: please do not muddy the waters, do not lead the country towards instability. Please do not arrange to bring distress to the people of the country."

He also accused the National Consensus Commission, a body formed by the Yunus administration to facilitate political dialogue, of bias.

"Now you are saying that political parties must sit down and make a decision. Then what have you been doing all this time?" Fakhru said, claiming the BNP had already pro-

vided its input to the commission.

The BNP's remarks echoed a similar threat, given by the hardline Islamic political group, the Jamaat-e-Islami, which warned of large-scale protests if the government failed to meet its five-point demand by November 11. The Jamaat, along with several hardline Islamic factions have been pressing for the swift implementation of the July National Charter, along with a nationwide referendum to be held ahead of the polls.

Additionally, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, after submitting a memorandum to Chief Advisor Yunus, issued an ominous warning to the interim govt, warning that "a different situation will emerge in Dhaka on Nov 11," in the presence of "hundreds of thousands of people" should the government fail to act on its demands. UNI

Virgin Australia flight catches fire on arrival at Brisbane Airport

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY, NOV. 8 : A fire broke out in the brakes of a Virgin Australia flight shortly after landing at Brisbane Airport in Australia on Thursday night, triggering an emergency response.

Virgin Australia said on Friday that none of the 178 passengers and crew on board the flight were



injured.

The brake system of the Boeing 737-800 caught fire after flight VA454 from Darwin landed in Brisbane around 7 p.m. local time on Thursday night.

The incident prompted an emergency response, with several airport firefighter crews deployed to extinguish the blaze.

"The fire was quickly extinguished, and all guests and crew disembarked normally and safely," an airline spokesperson said.

They said that engineers would assess what caused the fire before the aircraft returns to service.

Virgin Australia said that the incident did not cause any delays and was not expected to impact scheduled flights on Friday. UNI

RBI Moving With Caution, But Need For Courage Led To Easing Of Bank Norm: Malhotra

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, NOV 8: Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday made it clear that the Reserve Bank continues to move with "caution", but the need to "display courage" has led it to easing of norms governing banks' activities recently.

Speaking at an event organised by SBI, Malhotra also made it clear that the higher responsibilities placed on banks are on the back

of better performance and improved governance, and added that the central bank possesses sufficient tools to reign-in any errant behaviour.

He also said that the RBI does not wish to micromanage, adding that no regulator can or should substitute for boardroom judgment and each case has to be looked at with merit by a regulated entity.

Last month, the RBI announced a raft of measures and intents,

including those on allowing banks to fund domestic acquisitions, and foreign borrowings for real estate sector, among others.

Since assuming office, Malhotra has stressed on making it easier for doing business and also taking on board the cost of regulations before announcing any move.

"...while we move with caution, we need to display courage," Malhotra said, explaining the rationale beyond the moves. Compromising

financial stability while chasing short-term growth can extract costs through long term impact on growth, Malhotra said, adding that the central bank also needs to be conscious of the economic context and play a balancing act. "Economic interest warrants increasing efficiency and promoting innovation, which also is the duty of RBI. We recognise that just like there are no free lunches, regulation to enhance stability too is not

devoid of costs," he said. The changes introduced are incremental in nature, and do not represent a sea change in the norms governing banks, Malhotra said. "All these measures are balanced and appropriate, built on the bedrock of a banking system that has been systematically fortified over the last decade, with financial stability remaining the unwavering cornerstone of a policy architecture," the RBI governor said.

MakeMyTrip's 'Travel Ka Muhurat' Maps India's Growing Global Footprint

Travellers opt for premium stays, hunt for value, and explore wider as early trends reflect India's evolving travel behaviour

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 08: Preliminary trends from the first six days of MakeMyTrip's inaugural 'Travel Ka Muhurat' (October 29- November 03) point to advance flight planning, wider destination discovery, and sustained preference for premium stays, all while travellers continue to seek value through deals and offers. Early bookings for year-end flights have doubled from a low base, serving as a good lead indicator for accom-

modation, where bookings traditionally follow in the subsequent phase. Premiumisation and category breadth remain the key highlights in accommodation.

The breadth of travel booked during the first six days underscores the scale of participation across categories. On the domestic front, travellers booked flights across India during the six-day period. Interestingly, international flight bookings spanned 362 airports across 115 countries, serviced by 113 airlines. On the

stays front, international accommodation bookings covered 7,911 unique properties across 834 cities in 109 countries, while domestically, travellers booked 40,038 unique properties across 1,441 Indian cities, including 603 properties that sold for the first time in over a year.

Premiumisation remained a defining theme, though travellers continued to display a sharp eye for value. In the domestic hotels' category, every third booking was for a 4- or 5-star property, a modest rise in aver-

age stay length from 1.7 to 1.8 nights. Internationally, 4 and 5 star stays accounted for 64.5% of bookings, with an average stay of 4.9 nights. Travellers upgraded to premium stays but remained value conscious, with 96% of domestic hotel bookers availing

discount coupons, leveraging offers from partner banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank, and network partners Visa and RuPay. Goa, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Lonavala emerged as the most booked domestic leisure hotel

destinations. Internationally, Dubai, Pattaya, Bangkok, Phuket, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bali, London, Krabi, and Langkawi were among the most booked destinations.

Timed offers and limited inventory deals also drove strong engagement. The daily Lightning Drops, held between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM, attracted high participation as travellers looked to secure best prices.

Rajesh Magow, Co-Founder & Group CEO, MakeMyTrip, said, "It's encouraging to see travellers

engaging earlier in the planning cycle and making more considered choices. With Travel Ka Muhurat, our intent is to create a platform that benefits everyone in the ecosystem, travellers, partners, and the industry at large, by enabling better planning, more value, and more predictable demand. These early trends are a positive start toward that direction."

The campaign continues through November, with weekly themes and partner offers set to drive ongoing engagement.



make my trip



Kane Williamson To Replace Taijul Islam at DSG Ahead of SA20 2026

NZ batter had represented the franchise in 2025, but was released despite being their highest run-getter

■ ESPNCRICINFO

LONDON: Kane Williamson is set to replace Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam at Durban's Super Giants (DSG) ahead of SA 2026, ESPNCRICINFO understands. DSG had bought Taijul for R500,000 (approx. US\$28,858) at the mega auction in September, but he's set to miss the upcoming fourth edition of the SA20. Williamson, meanwhile, had made his debut in the tournament when he represented DSG last season, but was released by the side despite being their

highest run-scorer. He scored 233 runs at an average of 46.60 and a strike rate of 118.87 in eight games. DSG finished at the bottom of the table.

Williamson's return to the SA20 continues his foray in the franchise world. Last month, he was appointed Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) strategic advisor in the IPL. Earlier this year, after his maiden stint at the SA20, he played in the Hundred for the first time in his career and in the Vitality Blast after seven years. Soon after, Williamson signed only a casual agreement with New Zealand

Cricket to have flexibility in playing overseas.

Last week, he also retired from T20Is with the T20 World Cup only three months away.

At the SA20 next year, Williamson will join Noor Ahmad (retained), Sunil Narine and Jos Buttler (both pre-signed), among others, as DSG look to improve on their performance from last season.

The fourth edition of SA20 begins on December 26, with DSG starting their campaign on December 28 by hosting MI Cape Town in Durban.

BCB to investigate Jahanara Alam's allegations of inappropriate behaviour by former selector

■ ESPNCRICINFO

COLOMBO: The BCB has announced that it will form a committee to investigate allegations made by fast bowler Jahanara Alam, claiming that a former selector approached her inappropriately during the 2022 ODI World Cup. The board has instructed the committee to submit its findings and recommendations within 15 working days.

In a statement released on Thursday, just before midnight, the BCB stated that it would take appropriate action based on the investigation's findings.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has noted with concern the allegations reported in the media made by a former member of the Bangladesh national women's cricket team regarding alleged misconduct by certain individuals associated with the team," the statement read. "As the matter is of a sensitive nature, the BCB has decided to form a committee to investigate the allegations thoroughly. The committee will submit its findings and recommendations within 15 working days. The BCB is committed to ensuring a safe, respect-



ful, and professional environment for all its players and personnel. The board takes such matters with utmost seriousness and will take appropriate action based on the findings of the investigation."

Jahanara, who now resides in Australia, stated in an interview with journalist Riasad Azim that a former selector behaved inappropriately toward her when he was the women's team selector and manager. She claimed that he asked her lewd questions. Jahanara also alleged that a couple of BCB officials acted inappropriately with her. She said she reported the incident to former BCB director Shafiul Islam Nadel and the board's chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

These allegations come shortly after Jahanara made similar claims in another interview, in which she accused Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana of physically abusing her team-mates. However, the BCB called them "baseless".

Jahanara has taken 48 wickets in ODIs and 60 in T20Is across 135 white-ball matches for Bangladesh. She is also the only Bangladesh player to have competed in the Women's T20 Challenge in India and the FairBreak Invitational T20.

ICC shortlists venues for 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka

■ ESPNCRICINFO

AHMEDABAD: The ICC has finalised Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai as the venues in India for the 2026 men's T20 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka as well. It is understood the ICC has shortlisted two venues in Colombo and Kandy as the three venues in Sri Lanka. The T20 World Cup is set to begin on February 7 and will conclude with the final in Ahmedabad on March 8. According to PTI, the ICC is likely to release the schedule next week, with just about three months to go for the start of the tournament. It is understood that the majority of the participating countries



have been waiting for the ICC to inform them about the grouping of teams as well as the schedule. The ICC is also yet to release ticketing information for the tournament.

Pakistan will play all their games in Sri Lanka as per the agreement reached between the BCCI and PCB for India and Pakistan to play at neutral venues during multi-nation tournaments

hosted by the other country. If Pakistan make the final, the fixture will be held in Sri Lanka.

The 2026 T20 World Cup will have the same format as the previous edition - 20 teams split into four groups of five each, with every team playing the others once. The top two teams from each group will progress to the Super-eight stage, where they will be placed into two groups of four. The top two sides from each Super-eight group will then qualify for the semi-finals. The winners of the semi-final will meet in the final.

Apart from hosts India and Sri Lanka, the other teams with automatic qualification to the tournament were the top seven teams from the 2024 T20 World

Cup - Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa, United States of America and West Indies. The three teams that qualified on the basis of their T20I rankings were New Zealand, Pakistan and Ireland.

Canada took the lone spot from the Americas Qualifier. Italy, first time T20 World Cup participants, and Netherlands qualified from the five-team tournament in Europe. Namibia and Zimbabwe grabbed the two spots from the eight-team Africa qualifier before Nepal, Oman and UAE made it from the Asia-EAP round.

India are the defending champions, having beaten South Africa in the final of the 2024 T20 World Cup in Barbados.

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