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Barbaric Act Near Red Fort Claims Ten Lives,
Scores Injured In Mindless Terror Strike

NIA Suspects link to Recently Busted Multi-State Terror Module;
Several Vehicles Gutted in High-Intensity Explosion



■ HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, NOV 10: Panic and horror gripped the national capital on Monday evening when a powerful explosion ripped through a car parked near the Red Fort Metro Station, killing at least ten people and injuring twenty-four others. The high-intensity blast, which occurred around 6:45 p.m., gutted several vehicles and sent shockwaves through central Delhi.

According to officials, the explosion triggered a massive fire that engulfed six cars, two e-rickshaws and an autorickshaw near Gate No. 1 of the Metro station. The sound of the blast was heard several kilometres away, including at ITO, shattering windows and spreading chaos in the crowded Chandni Chowk area. "The blast occurred in a parked car near the Red Fort Metro Station. The intensity was very high. We have rushed all the

injured to LNJP Hospital," a senior Delhi Fire Service official said. Ten fire tenders and police teams immediately reached the spot, bringing the blaze under control by 7:29 p.m. Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association showed fireballs rising into the sky, with burnt-out vehicles and debris strewn across the road. Eyewitnesses described scenes of devastation, with body parts scattered and people fleeing in panic.

"There was a Swift car in front of my auto. Something inside it suddenly exploded I was thrown off balance," said an injured commuter, nursing a head wound. Sanjay Bhargaw, president of the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association, said his shop, located nearly 800 metres away, shook



PM Modi Reviews Situation After Delhi Blast, HM Amit Shah Briefs PM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken stock of the situation in the wake of the blast in Delhi. Sources said he spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and took an update on the situation.

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Amit Shah Visits Red Fort Blast Site, Says All Angles Probed

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that probe agencies were investigating all possible angles in connection with the blast near Delhi's Red Fort. Addressing the media at the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Hospital, Shah said that the real cause of the blast will

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CM Omar, LG Sinha Express Grief Over Delhi Blast

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 10: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed "deep shock" over the explosion near Red



Fort, which claimed multiple lives. In a statement shared on X by the Chief

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Leaders React to Red Fort Blast: 'Heartbreaking & Concerning'

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 10: As the investigation into the explosion continues, political leaders across Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and other parties have reacted to the concerning news. A car blast occurred near the Red Fort metro station in Delhi on Monday evening. As the investigation into the explosion continues, political leaders across Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and other parties

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Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh On High Alert

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 11: Mumbai is on high alert after eight people died and 24 were injured in a high-intensity explosion in a car at a crowded area near the Red Fort in Delhi today (Updates here). Security agency sources told NDTV that security is being ramped up at important

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39 Held in Ganderbal as Police Target Terror Support Network

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 10: In one of the biggest coordinated crackdowns in recent months, police in Ganderbal on Monday detained 39 individuals suspected of aiding the revival of terror networks in the Valley.

According to officials, simultaneous raids

● Turn on Page 2

Budgam, Nagrota set for high-stakes bye-polls today

Over 2.2 lakh voters to decide fate of 27 candidates

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, NOV 10: Two politically significant assembly constituencies, Budgam in Central Kashmir and Nagrota in Jammu district are set to witness a high stake bye-election on Tuesday with over 2.2 lakh voters to cast their ballots for the second time in 13 months



to decide the fate of 27 candidates in the fray.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Nagrota, polling will take place across 150 booths, where 97,893 registered voters will cast their ballots between 7 AM and 6 PM.

The bye-poll follows the death of

● Turn on Page 2

India global leader in key areas of innovation: LG Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 10: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha graced and addressed the annual convocation of Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that young engineers and scientists must focus on providing new solutions to take the industries and the nation forward, convert scientific and technical principles into real tools and ensure India leads in innovation. "Our prime objective is improving the lives of people and drive economic growth through cutting-edge innovation," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor asked the graduating students to explore new ground,



follow unconventional path, have courage to know the unknown to be an innovator and a pioneer.

"Where there is fearlessness, there is invention. Where there is courage, there is new scientific discovery," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation are still in relatively early stages and we are entering a new phase of acceleration which will drive the future growth and development.

"India is a global leader in key areas of innovation and we have succeeded in creating a dynamic technology ecosystem and will lead the deep-tech ventures of the world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his

● Turn on Page 2

Govt building knowledge-driven J&K CM Omar

Inaugurates 20th Foundation Day of IUST, Awantipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

AWANTIPORA, NOV 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday inaugurated the 20th Foundation Day celebrations of the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora, reiterating his Government's commitment to strengthen the higher education, skilling, and research ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir to enable youth to lead the region towards a progressive and knowledge-driven future.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister extended warm felicitations to the University for achieving the milestone, praising IUST's remarkable progress over two decades. "Great things often come from humble beginnings. The growth I see here today—in infrastructure, academic environment and the quality of students—reflects that IUST has evolved into a beacon of learning and innovation," he said.

Reflecting on the transformation in the education landscape, Omar Abdullah highlighted the significance of the new education policy and its flexibility for students.

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Javid Dar inaugurates 6th branch of KMCO bank at Kunzer Baramulla

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOV 10: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the sixth branch of Kashmir Mercantile Co-Operative Bank Limited (KMCO) at Kunzer here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the crucial role of cooperative banks in strengthening the rural economy, stating that the fully computerized KMCO branch will provide comprehensive financial services to local residents, benefiting the farming community and facilitating government welfare schemes.

Javid Dar highlighted KMCO's pioneering digital initiatives,



including the implementation of Core Banking System (CBS) in 2012, enabling real-time 24x7 access, and issuance of customized RuPay Debit Cards for seamless transactions nationwide.

The Minister announced that the Omar Abdullah government will also open branches of KMCO in other districts of the Union Territory, expanding the bank's reach and services to more areas. He added that this move aims to further strengthen the rural economy and provide accessible financial services to a wider population, aligning with the government's focus on rural development and cooperative growth.

MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officials of KMCO were also present on the occasion.

Director Information, DIPR employees condole demise of JD Kashmir's Grandmother

Also extend sympathies with other colleagues

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 10: Director Information, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of paternal grandmother of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari.

In this regard, a brief condolence meeting, presided by Director Information, was held at Media Complex, Jammu in which Joint Director Information Headquarters, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information Central, Sunil Kumar; Deputy Director Information PR/AV, Javid Ahmad, other officers and officials of the department participated.

During the meeting, the Director paid rich tributes to the departed soul and extended heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with Joint Director Information Kashmir and his family. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. The employees of DIPR also expressed deep sympathies with the Joint Director Information Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the participants of condolence meeting also expressed sympathies with Hamid ullah Buchoo, Information Assistant of the department on the sad demise of his father-in-law and Iqbal Singh, Chauffeur of the department on the passing away of his mother. The officers and officials prayed for peace to the departed souls and conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and officials of the department.

Video Wall Installed at Aharbal to Boost Tourism in Kulgam

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 10: IN a significant step towards enhancing the tourist experience and promoting Aharbal as a prime tourist destination, a state-of-the-art Video Wall was installed today under the dynamic leadership of Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS), Chief Executive Officer, Aharbal Development Authority (ADA).

The newly installed Video Wall is designed to showcase the mesmerizing beauty of Aharbal popularly known as the "Niagara Falls of Kashmir." It will display promotional videos, tourist information, safety advisories, and real-time updates about attractions and facilities available for visitors. Speaking on the occasion, CEO Mohammad Rouf Rehman said that the initiative reflects the authority's commitment to promoting eco-friendly and technology-driven tourism in the region. "Aharbal has tremendous potential to emerge as a major tourist hub in south Kashmir. This Video Wall will not only serve as an information and awareness tool but also enhance the overall tourist experience," he said. He further added that the Aharbal Development Authority is continuously working to improve public amenities, ensure better sanitation, and develop sustainable tourism infrastructure to attract more visitors throughout the year.

Local residents, tour operators, and stakeholders have hailed the installation of the Video Wall, calling it a positive and progressive step towards strengthening tourism and boosting the local economy.

The initiative is part of a broader strategy by the district administration and the Aharbal Development Authority to make Kulgam a year-round tourism destination by integrating natural beauty, adventure tourism, and modern facilities.

Tourism Development Authority Kokernag, An Embassy of Tourism in South Kashmir

Focus on Infrastructure Development, Youth Empowerment, and Promotion of Tourist Activities

FAROOQ RATHER

KOKERNAG, NOV 10: The Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tourism Development Authority Kokernag, continues to emerge as a vibrant hub – an "Embassy of Tourism in South Kashmir" – dedicated to the holistic development of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of

tourist-related activities across the region. Under the dynamic leadership of Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS), CEO Kokernag Development Authority, the department has been actively working to transform Kokernag and its adjoining destinations into leading tourism attractions by improving facilities, enhancing connectivity, and creating livelihood opportunities for the local population. The CEO emphasized that special focus is being laid on youth inclusion within the tourism framework, enabling them to become integral stakeholders in the region's growing tourism ecosystem. "Our goal is to empower local youth to take active roles in the tourism value chain – from hospitality and adventure tourism to eco-friendly initiatives – help-

ing them 'fly high' in this sector where the sky shall be the only limit for their success," he said.

In addition to infrastructure development, the Authority is also promoting a range of tourism-related activities designed to attract visitors and revive local culture, crafts, and cuisine. The ongoing initiatives aim to ensure sustainable and responsible tourism, balancing development with ecological preservation.

The Tourism Development Authority Kokernag remains steadfast in its mission to make South Kashmir a preferred destination for both domestic and international tourists – a place where natural beauty meets progressive development, and where local communities prosper alongside the growing tourism landscape.

Budgam Bye-Elections: DEO urges voters to participate '173 polling stations set up for voting today'

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, NOV 10: District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Monday urged the people of Budgam Constituency to actively participate in the upcoming bye-elections, scheduled for tomorrow (November 11).

Speaking to the news

agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Bilal said that all arrangements have been put in place for the smooth conduct of polls. "The Government Higher Secondary School, Budgam, is a collection and distribution centre where poll parties are dispatched with EVMs. There are 173 polling

stations in total," he said. The DEO informed that voting will begin at 7 AM and continue till 6 PM. He added that a campaign for electoral literacy has also been carried out across the district to encourage voter participation. "All polling stations are equipped with webcasting facilities and the live feed will be monitored in our

district control room," Dr Bhat said, adding that booth awareness groups, BLOs and Anganwadi workers will be present at polling booths to assist voters. He appealed to the residents of Budgam to turn out in large numbers and exercise their democratic right peacefully – (KNO)

CS reviews implementation of Homestay Policy

Calls for greater digital presence and streamlined promotion

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review and strengthen the implementation of the Homestay Policy of the Tourism Department, aimed at promoting community-based tourism and enhancing the accommodation capacity across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; representatives from J&K Bank; and other senior officers of the Tourism Department.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of leveraging digital platforms to expand the reach and visibility of homestays across J&K. He directed the Department to enhance its presence on social media platforms and to integrate homestays with a dedicated



online portal that facilitates real-time booking, detailed information on amenities, and provision for public feedback and ratings. Emphasizing the need for financial support to promote homestay entrepreneurship, he urged J&K Bank to design and launch an exclusive loan product for homestay owners, modelled on the lines of housing loans and offered at a competitive rate of

interest. He also directed the Tourism Department to revisit and revise the existing guidelines in line with Government of India's Homestay Policy, ensuring the inclusion of a transparent and credible grading system for registered establishments. The Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, apprised the meeting that around 2,500 homestays

comprising over 18,500 rooms have been registered with the Department so far. He informed that the Department is taking multiple initiatives to give a substantial push to the homestay ecosystem, including the introduction of simplified registration processes, user-friendly guidelines, and enhanced marketing support to position homestays as a key component of the tourism

experience in J&K. Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, suggested incorporating QR code-based payment options and visual content integration including photos and videos on the booking portal to facilitate a seamless experience for customers from browsing to payment. He further emphasized the need for streamlined documentation, effective verification mechanisms, and a transparent digital process to ensure the success of the homestay policy and its sustainable contribution to the local tourism economy.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the Department's efforts and called for time-bound implementation of the discussed measures, highlighting that promoting homestays will not only diversify the accommodation landscape of J&K but also empower local communities, generate employment, and strengthen the rural tourism value chain across the UT.

KU begins three-day workshop on 'Graphic Narratives'

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 10: The Department of English, University of Kashmir (KU) on Monday commenced a three-day workshop on 'Graphic Narratives' at the Main Campus. The event aims to explore the growing relevance of graphic storytelling as a hybrid medium of literature and art, encouraging students and scholars to engage with visual forms of expression in academic and creative contexts.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her presidential address said that workshops like these open new avenues of creativity and interdisciplinary learning for students. "Engaging with visual and literary art forms not only nurtures imagination but also helps students think critically and empathetically about the world around them," she said, adding that such initiatives reflect the University's commitment to promoting holistic and innovative education.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the need to integrate contemporary literary and visual studies into the academic framework to keep pace with global pedagogical trends.

In her keynote address, Ikroop Sandhu, graphic novelist,



illustrator, and animator, highlighted how graphic novels enhance visual literacy and allow readers to interpret narratives through art and emotion. Sarnath Banerjee, a renowned visual artist and author of graphic literature, said that the workshop provides a platform to critically engage with the evolving form of graphic narratives and encourage participants to explore how art and literature shape contemporary cultural discourses.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Head, Department of English KU, Prof. Ifat Maqbool, said that the workshop aims to inspire young researchers and students to experiment with diverse modes of storytelling and cultural representation.

The three-day workshop includes expert sessions on both theory and practice, featuring interactive exercises, demonstrations, and discussions on the evolution, techniques, and narrative power of graphic storytelling.

The event is being attended by research scholars and students from the Main and Satellite Campuses. The event proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Prof. Mufti Mudassir, faculty member, Department of English, KU.

DC Kulgam Reviews Progress under District Capex Budget 2025-26, CDF

Directs Officers to Ensure 100% Fund Utilization, Timely Completion of Projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to assess the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The meeting was attended by key officers and sectoral heads who reviewed physical and financial progress, discussed bottlenecks, and examined the status of works under execution across various departments.

The DC directed officers to ensure 100% utilization of available funds, timely completion of ongoing projects, and proper utilization of the working season to achieve maximum progress



on the ground.

He instructed the RDD and other departments to speed up execution and complete all tender-

ing and allotment of works within three days.

Emphasizing transparency, quality, and adherence to timelines,

the DC said that effective resource utilization and strict monitoring are vital for the timely creation of public assets.

He also directed departments lagging behind, to expedite works, focus on people-centric projects, and ensure third-party quality checks for accountability.

A block-wise review of CDF works was also conducted with respective BDOs, along with an assessment of financial and physical progress under the Capex Budget.

The DC added that no compromise on quality will be tolerated and directed all executing agencies to make full use of the current working season and complete all pending projects within set timelines.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Malik Suheel; Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, and officers from Agriculture, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, and other departments.

DEO Reviews Final Poll Arrangements at DCRC

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 10: Ahead of polling for the Bye-Elections to 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency on November 11, the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today visited the Distribution cum Collection Centre (DCRC) established at Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam, to review the final arrangements for dispatch of polling parties and election materials.

Besides, General Observer, Bhore Singh Yadav; Police observer Nachiketa Jha; Expenditure observer Ravinder Kumar; SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar, Returning Officer (RO) Budgam, Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), and other senior officers of the district administration were also present.

During the visit, the DEO conducted a detailed inspection of the DCRC facilities, including dispatch areas for EVMs and VVPATs, parking arrangements, sanitation and washroom facilities, and the availability of drinking water, electricity, and security provisions.

He also reviewed the installation of CCTV cameras and other logistical measures to ensure smooth operations during dispatch and collection.

On the occasion, the DEO met with the polling parties who were being dispatched to their respective polling stations across the constituency. He interacted with the teams, appreciated their dedication, and encouraged them to perform their duties with utmost professionalism, neutrality, and commitment to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process.

He emphasized seamless coordination between civil and security agencies to facilitate a peaceful, transparent, and hassle-free polling process, in strict compliance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The DEO reiterated that all arrangements have been meticulously put in place for the smooth conduct of polling, ensuring proper logistics, communication, and safety at all polling stations.

He urged all citizens of the Constituency to come forward and exercise their democratic right to vote, thereby strengthening the foundation of participatory governance.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO informed that voter slips serve as an important facilitative document, but in cases where a voter slip is not available, voters can establish their identity using any of the 13 documents approved by the Election Commission of India (ECI) viz. Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Aadhaar Card, MN-REGA Job Card, Passbook with photograph issued by a bank or post office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the Ministry of Labour scheme, Driving Licence, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension Document with photograph, Service Identity Card with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Government, PSUs or Public Limited Companies, Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and the Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. He said these provisions ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of their right to vote due to non-availability of a voter slip.

On the occasion, the DEO appreciated the dedicated efforts of the entire election machinery and reaffirmed that the District Administration Budgam is fully prepared to ensure free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections.

SHEW Shopian holds awareness camp at Zainapora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: Mission Shakti Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (MSEW), Shopian, under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao today organised an awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora.

The event was graced by SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the sincere efforts of Mission Shakti for conducting such awareness programmes aimed at promoting the education and empowerment of girls. He emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring that every girl child receives equal opportunities in education and personal growth.



The Principal of Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora, Farooq Ahmad Shah, who was the Guest of Honour on the occasion, lauded the initiative and encouraged students to become ambassadors of change in society.

Several resource persons and speakers highlighted the significance of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, discussing women's rights, gender equality, and the need to nurture the potential of young girls for a stronger and more inclusive future.

As part of the programme, a painting competition was also organised, where students showcased their creativity and ideas on the theme of "Empowered Girls, Empowered Nation." The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where participants and winners were honoured with certificates and mementos.

The programme received an overwhelming response and was appreciated by students, teachers, and locals for spreading awareness and inspiring collective action towards women empowerment.

Vibrant Celebrations Mark 150 Years of National Pride, Vande Mataram at Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: As part of the nationwide commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride 'Vande Mataram', special programmes and activities were today organized across Government Degree Colleges and all schools of District Shopian, including GDC Shopian and GDC Zainapora.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and staff from Government and Private Institutions. The celebrations included special morning assemblies, collective singing of Vande Mataram and a series of competitions such as essay writing, debates, quizzes, painting and slogan writing on the themes of patriotism and national unity.

The programme was coordinated by Principal GDC Shopian/Zainapora and CEO Shopian, ensuring vibrant participation at all educational institutions.

As part of monitoring and supervision, all Tehsildars visited the schools within their respective jurisdictions actively participating in the celebrations and ensuring smooth conduct



of events.

The day's activities reflected the collective spirit of unity and pride,

reinforcing the timeless message of "Vande Mataram" and celebrating the nation's glorious heritage.

Vande Mataram 150th Anniversary celebrations continue across Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 10: Continuing the weeklong celebrations to mark 150 glorious years of India's National Song "Vande Mataram," the District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Alyas Khan, organized a series of vibrant and patriotic activities across schools and colleges in the district.

The district administration has encouraged all citizens, students, and officials to participate in the national celebration by recording and uploading videos of themselves singing the National Song on the official portal. Participation certificates will be automatically generated from the portal upon

verification. Participants are required to sing at least one stanza or the full song live, ensuring that their faces are visible and the audio is clear for successful validation and certification.

At Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban, a range of activities were organised by the NCC, NSS, and Bharat Scouts and Guides units to commemorate the historic occasion. The events were held under the guidance of the College Principal Prof. Satish Kumar and coordinated by Nodal Officer Vande Mataram Celebrations Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Mir. The celebrations included group singing, cultural performances, and awareness sessions highlighting the origin, meaning and significance of "Vande Mataram."



Similarly, several schools and colleges across the district held programs themed around patriotism and the legacy of the National Song. At MHSS Ramban, students participated in essay writing and speech competitions on the history and importance of "Vande Mataram." Enthusiastic performances were also witnessed at Primary School Upper Jaman, UPS Sharore, where a debate on Vande Mataram was organized, and UPS Gagarisulla, where students presented a soulful rendition of the song.

The celebrations also continued at GDC Ukhral, where students and faculty joined the nationwide tribute with fervent participation, reflecting the unifying spirit of "Vande Mataram."

DC Poonch flags off group of orchardists for exposure visit under MIDH/ATMA schemes

40 Progressive Farmers to Get Hands-on Training in Advanced Horticulture Practices

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today flagged off a group of orchardists from the DC Office for a With-in-UT Training-cum-Exposure Visit organized under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) schemes. The program has been organized by the Horticulture Department.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the farmers and encouraged them to take full advantage of the government

schemes aimed at promoting modern horticulture practices. He extended his best wishes to the participants and emphasized the importance of acquiring knowledge of advanced cultivation techniques and scientific horticultural practices to boost productivity and income.

A total of 40 progressive farmers from different horticulture zones and blocks of District Poonch have been deputed for this training-cum-exposure visit. The group will visit Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)-Kashmir, the Central Institute of Temperate



Horticulture (CITH) and other leading research stations, nurseries and Centres of Excellence across the Union Territory.

The main objective of this exposure visit is to familiarize the farmers with modern, scientific techniques of fruit cultivation and to enhance their technical knowledge and practical skills in contemporary horticultural practices.

For effective supervision and coordination of the tour, District Level Officer, Dr. Syed Muddasir Hussain Shah and HDO, Jatinder Paul Singh have been deputed to accompany the farmers throughout the visit.



DC Pulwama reviews Progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the District Administrative Complex to assess the progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

At the outset, detailed presentations were presented outlining the overall progress, achievements, and present status of the scheme in Pulwama and Awantipora Divisions. The presentations covered various aspects, including the status of vendor-consumer agreements, installed capacity, processing of bank loans for beneficiaries, and disbursement of subsidies to eligible applicants.

While reviewing the subdivision-wise progress of rooftop solar installations against allocated targets, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and vendors to expedite the physical installation of Rooftop Solar systems. He emphasized the need to minimize the time gap between application approval and actual installation.

Reviewing the status of cases pending at various stages of bank



loan sanction, Dr. Qayoom instructed KPDCL officials to work in close coordination with banking partners

to simplify and fast-track the loan approval process, ensuring timely financial support to the beneficia-

ries. He further directed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to closely monitor the progress of loan disbursement and address bottlenecks in coordination with the concerned financial institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner also took detailed feedback from empanelled vendors regarding challenges being faced in executing pending installations and directed KPDCL to provide necessary support for early resolution of issues. He stressed the importance of active coordination among KPDCL, empanelled vendors, and banking partners to bridge the gap between applications received and installations completed.

Dr. Qayoom further called for an intensified public outreach campaign to raise awareness among citizens about the long-term benefits of the PM Surya Ghar initiative, which aims to ensure substantial savings on electricity bills while promoting the adoption of clean and renewable energy.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of KPDCL Electric Divisions Pulwama and Awantipora, along with concerned Assistant Executive Engineers and empanelled vendors.

DC Reasi reviews functioning of Revenue Department

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC Office Complex to assess the functioning of the Revenue Department and streamline revenue-related service delivery in the district.

Detailed discussions were held on key issues, including the Digitisation of Jamabandis, adherence to Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) in delivery of services, Revenue Court Cases Monitoring System (RCCMS), RDA and Section 27 cases etc. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in all revenue services.

While reviewing the implementation of the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) in delivery of services, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildars to ensure time-bound disposal of applications through the JK Revenue Portal and Service Plus Portal. She stressed that every service must be delivered within the prescribed timelines to enhance public satisfaction and avoid penalties for delays.

Reviewing the Revenue Court Cases Monitoring System (RCCMS), the DC instructed officers to expedite the disposal of pending cases and ensure regular and accurate up-dation of diaries on the portal.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of RDA and Section 27 cases,

with the DC issuing clear directions to the concerned officers to fast-track the resolution of the same. She emphasized close monitoring of all pending cases under different categories to strengthen governance at the grass-roots level.

Discussions were also held on the digitization of Jamabandis, geo-referencing of cadastral maps and other crucial components for modernizing land records and ensuring transparency in revenue administration.

DC Nidhi Malik further called for expediting redressal of public grievances received through JK SAMADHAN and encouraged officers to raise public awareness about the platform for effective grievances management.

She directed the officers to conduct regular inspections of records and submit weekly progress reports to strengthen administrative monitoring.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to responsive and transparent governance, DC Nidhi Malik emphasized that the Revenue Department must function with transparency, efficiency and accountability to uphold public trust and ensure good governance at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar; ACR Nitin Verma, Tehsildar Reasi and Tehsildar Bhomag in person, while SDM Katra, SDM Dharmari, SDM Mahore and other Tehsildars participated virtually.

Series of events held in Samba under Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 10: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025 celebration, a series of events were organised across District Samba to honour the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and to highlight the rich heritage of India's tribal communities.

Government Degree College Purmandal organised a Quiz and Painting Competition on the theme "Tribal Life and History", encouraging students to explore the traditions, art, and culture of tribal societies through knowledge and creativity.

Similarly, GDC Ghagwal hosted an extension lecture on "Birsa Munda's Legacy: Inspiring the Youth towards Social Justice and Equality", motivating students to imbibe the values of courage, justice and reform championed by



the tribal icon.

The Youth Services and Sports Department organised a sports event at Government High School Tarore-Zone Ghagwal, aimed at promoting fitness, team spirit and enthusiasm among students.

Likewise, Drawing Competitions were held at Anganwadi Centres across the district to nurture creativity and spread awareness among children about tribal culture and pride. In addition, Special Anemia and NCD Screening Camps were organised for the tribal population at AWC Battal and PHC Nud under NTPHC Goran, Zone Sumb. The camps provided health check-ups, awareness sessions on anaemia and family planning, and free distribution of medicines. The Department of AYUSH, Samba also held Yoga and Health Check-up Camps at Anganwadi Centres of Panchayat Bari, promoting holistic wellness among local women and children.

These collective initiatives across educational institutions, health centres, and community spaces reflected the district's deep respect for tribal heritage while promoting education, health and empowerment at every level.

350th Urs of Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) observed with religious fervour at Kishtwar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 10: The 350th annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) was observed with immense devotion in Kishtwar today, drawing devotees from across the District and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib, one of Kishtwar's most venerated saints, symbolizes the area's shared cultural heritage and interfaith harmony. Every year, thousands of devotees from diverse backgrounds and regions gather at his shrine in Kishtwar to pay homage and seek blessings.

The district administration in collaboration with the Auqaf Is-



lamia Kishtwar, made seamless arrangements to ensure a peaceful congregation. A significant number of devotees visited the shrine, facilitated by provisions made by the district administration and Auqaf Islamia.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of the Urs.

In his message, he prayed for enduring peace, prosperity, and communal harmony in the District. He also emphasized the importance of preserving the region's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, which continues to inspire unity and devotion among its people.

The DC had also directed all relevant departments to provide necessary facilities, including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, essential supplies, security, transport and sanitation for the devotees.

Additionally, a control room was set up by the district administration, in coordination with the Police Department and District Information Centre, to assist pilgrims during the Urs. A help desk was also established by the District Administration for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Besides, duty magistrates were deployed at various locations and at the venue to ensure a hassle-free, smooth and safe celebration of the Urs.

DHS Jammu Visits SDH Jagti, Reviews Healthcare Services and Infrastructure Needs

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, today visited Sub District Hospital (SDH) Jagti to assess the healthcare services and facilities being provided to patients.

During the visit, Dr. Zargar held discussions with the Medical Superintendent regarding the hospital's routine functioning and directed that the deficiencies related to infrastructure and staff strength be identified and addressed at the earliest.

He assured that key diagnostic and support facilities, including a Digital X-Ray, Dental X-Ray, CBC Analyzer, and Generator, will soon be installed to strengthen patient care. He further informed that work on establishing a Dialysis Centre at SDH Jagti will commence shortly to benefit residents of



Jagti and adjoining areas.

Dr. Zargar inspected various sections of the hospital including the Emergency Room, Emergency Ward, and NCD Section, and interacted with staff members. He emphasized the importance of patient-friendly behav-

ior and urged them to continue working with dedication and compassion.

Appreciating the efforts of the hospital team, he encouraged them to maintain high standards of service delivery and commitment towards community healthcare.

DC Bandipora Reviews Functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars Calls for Strengthened Farmer Outreach and Improved Service Delivery

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning and performance of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) across the district.

During the meeting, the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Bandipora, Javaid Ahmad Samoon presented a detailed report covering the overall status and performance of KKGs.

The CAO briefed the chair on multiple performance indicators, including department-wise farmer and farm registrations on the KKG App, KKG-wise per-

formance reports, non-operational Krishi Udyamis, online application status, visitor and beneficiary attendance, and revenue generated through each KKG.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the CAO to compile a sector-wise report reflecting the total number of farmers and farms, along with registration progress on the KKG App. She further urged that necessary directions be issued to all KKGs to enhance their performance and ensure effective implementation of the initiative in letter and spirit.

While addressing the participants, the DC emphasized that every KKG has been provided with complete setup, and there



should be no disruption in work. She informed that nearly 80% of the work has already been completed, and the remaining tasks would be finalized within the stipulated timeframe.

Highlighting the need for efficiency and independence in functioning, the DC urged Krishi

Udyamis that "if you are working under pressure, the results will not be as expected, you are supposed to work independently." She advised all district officers to coordinate closely with KKGs for the saturation of government schemes, leveraging their reach to ensure that benefits reach the last mile.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that if Krishi Udyamis are not earning at par with skilled manpower, it indicates a need to reassess operations and improve performance. She urged Krishi Udyamis to strengthen their services and outreach, reiterating that "farmers will long cherish the benefits for which efforts are being made today."

She stressed that counselling and training sessions be organized for Krishi Udyamis, with SDOs conducting regular interactive sessions. The DC further called for enhanced collaboration with banks and Banking Correspondents to streamline farmer-centric services and financial inclusion.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, District Agriculture Officer Bandipora, SDOs, District Manager CSC Bandipora, representatives from Animal Husbandry Department, LDM and other concerned departments.

DC Ramban reviews adherence to PGSA in services delivery, progress on RCC

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today convened a meeting of Revenue officers to review the status and progress on Revenue Court Cases and the services being provided under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commis-



sioner Revenue, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Banihal, Mohammad Naseeb Bajran; SDM Gool, Imtiaz Ahmed; SDM Ramsoo, Syed Mazahir Hussain Shah, besides all Tehsildars and Revenue officials.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of ensuring timely disposal of all pending cases to maintain transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Revenue Department.

While reviewing compliance to PGSA, the DC asked for providing the public services within the stipulated time frame as mandated under the Act. He directed officers that any delay or negligence in service delivery would be viewed seriously.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Tehsildars to ensure timely attestation of mutations, issuance of revenue and other certificates, besides updating of revenue records to maintain accuracy and transparency in the system.



HT EDITORIAL

KPDCL resorts to carrot and stick policy for curtailment during winter

The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has decided to adopt the carrot and stick policy with respect to the curtailment schedule for the winter season this year. The Corporation has decided to give incentives to the people living in areas where there are minimum aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses and penalize the residents who are living in areas where the AT&C losses are on the higher side.

This information was given to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday when he chaired a meeting of the KPDCL to review winter preparedness of the department. The meeting also reviewed the overall power scenario, progress of implementation of PM Surya Ghar, installation of smart metering, RDSS-loss reduction works and CAPEX works. The MD KPDCL informed that for essential feeders and declared 24x7 feeders with AT&C loss margin less than 15 percent there would be no curtailment.

It was informed that in areas with a loss margin between 15 percent and 40 percent curtailment is scheduled for two hours per day including one hour in morning and one hour in evening. It was told that in areas with loss margin more than 40 percent curtailment is scheduled for four hours a day with one and a half hours in morning and two and half hours in evening and in areas with loss margin beyond LCP curtailment is to be carried out for more than six hours.

It is good that the Corporation has framed a schedule for the curtailment to be carried out during this winter but the same needs to be implemented on ground. It is important that the people living in Srinagar city, districts, towns and villages are entitled to quality power supply since most of the people pay their electricity bills on time. There may be a few exceptions in this regard but the general rule of providing quality power supply needs to be ensured for the people of Kashmir valley.

One can understand that the KPDCL has to resort to power cuts in areas that have not been metered as yet but the cuts should be for a minimum period. At the same time the people living in the metered areas should be absolved of the power cuts as they are using the power efficiently and paying the power bills according to the reading of meters. Efforts should be doubled so that all the areas are metered.

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Vande Mataram: The Spiritual Inspiration of Nationalism



■ DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

"Vande Mataram" was the spiritual foundation of India's freedom struggle. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, this song was imbued with the spirit of worshipping the motherland as a goddess. It transformed nationalism not just into a political idea, but into a devotional spirit. From the Partition of Bengal movement to revolutionary struggles, this song inspired freedom fighters. Even today, it symbolizes national honor, unity, and self-respect. "Vande Mataram" awakened the soul of India and will forever remain the heartbeat of our national consciousness. "Vande Mataram" was not just a song, but it became the soul of the nation during the Indian freedom struggle. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the song was included in his famous work, Anandamath (1882). It presented Mother India as a goddess who bound the Indian people, suffering from colonial oppression, in a spiritual and cultural unity. This song not only connected Indians on an emotional level but also established the demand for independence as a moral and religious right. This was a time when India was under British rule, and society was living in a mentality of despair, division, and subordination. In such a situation, "Vande Mataram" ignited the spark of self-respect that was suppressed within Indians.

The first two lines of this song—"Sujalaam Suphalaam Malayajashitalam Shasyashyamalaam Mataram"—describe the geographical beauty and prosperity of India. Here, the land is depicted not just as a piece of soil, but as a mother who provides water, food, and life to her children. This emotional metaphor was deeply inspiring for

the people of that time. The feeling of motherhood was the most sacred for Indian society, and when the country was seen as a 'mother,' patriotism naturally took the form of 'bhakti.' This feeling is what transforms "Vande Mataram" from a simple song into a spiritual movement.

At that time, political consciousness was beginning to emerge in India, but participation among the general public was limited. The seeds of nationalism were sprouting among the educated class, but they lacked emotional energy. "Vande Mataram" filled this void. It gave nationalism not just a political but a spiritual and cultural dimension. When this song was sung, people realized for the first time that they were not subjects of any external power, but children of their own motherland, with a birthright to freedom.

When the British government partitioned Bengal in 1905, "Vande Mataram" became the central slogan of the Partition Movement. These words resonated on the lips of everyone—students, women, merchants, and farmers. When this song was sung collectively at rallies, meetings, and processions, it instilled an invincible power within the people. The British government found the song so dangerous that it banned its public singing. But despite the ban, the song grew even more popular. "Vande Mataram" began to be sung secretly in schools, colleges, and temples. It became a symbol of resistance, self-respect, and unity.

In a diverse country like India, where society was divided by language, religion, and caste, "Vande Mataram" served as a unifying force. This song gave all sections of society a common cultural symbol—"Mother." Whether in Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, or Tamil Nadu—every state saw in this song an image of its motherland. It laid the foundation for national unity, which later became the foundation of the freedom struggle.

Through "Vande Mataram," Indian nationalism found a new language and expression. It transformed political struggle into a religious celebration. It

was not only a symbol of protest against foreign rule, but also a call to recognize one's inner self-respect. This song made Indian society realize that subjugation was not only the shackles of external rule but also the chains of mental slavery. When people began to worship the motherland as a goddess, independence was no longer merely a political goal but a spiritual duty.

This song deeply influenced many great leaders of the Indian independence movement. Sri Aurobindo Ghosh said, "Vande Mataram is the mantra that will lead us to the attainment of Swarajya." Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose made it the national song of his Indian National Army. Revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh would have "Vande Mataram" on their lips when they went to jail or faced the gallows. It instilled a spirit of sacrifice and heroism within the youth.

Culturally, the song also became a symbol of the Indian Renaissance. At that time, artists and writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Abanindranath Tagore, and Nandalal Bose were striving to restore Indian identity. "Vande Mataram" provided a common inspiration. The image of the motherland in Indian painting, drama, music, and literature was influenced by this song. This was a period when Indian culture was trying to rediscover its lost glory, and "Vande Mataram" became its most powerful symbol.

For British rule, this song symbolized rebellion. The British attempted to portray it as a religious divide, but for Indians, it symbolized not just one religion, but the entire nation. While it contained metaphors for Hindu deities, its purpose was not to exalt any one religion but to establish the motherland as sacred. This song forged a new definition of the nation in the socio-cultural psyche of the time—one that placed patriotism above religion.

The power of Vande Mataram lay in its simplicity and emotional depth. Each line of it extolled the beauty and dignity of India. Lines like "Tvam hi Durga Dashapraharandharini" signaled that the land of India was not only

tender but also powerful—capable of protecting its children. It inspired people to see the power of Indian women and the power of the nation as one.

During the Indian freedom struggle, whenever the movement seemed to wane, the echo of "Vande Mataram" would reenergize the people. This song became so deeply ingrained in the hearts of the people that it became the symbolic sound of freedom. It became a tradition to sing it at the sessions of the Indian National Congress. Mahatma Gandhi called it the song of the soul of India. Although some religious communities objected to some of its lines, for most Indians it remained the supreme symbol of the spirit of the nation.

When India's Constitution was drafted after independence, "Vande Mataram" was recognized as the national song, while "Jana Gana Mana" was adopted as the national anthem. The Constituent Assembly's deliberations clarified that "Vande Mataram" would be respected as the national anthem, given its unique contribution to India's freedom struggle.

Even today, when this song is sung, its sound reflects the same passion, the same devotion, and the same motherly feeling that it had during the days of the freedom fighters. This song reminds us that the nation is not just a name for political boundaries, but a vibrant culture, a shared spirit, and a soul that binds us together.

"Vande Mataram" sowed the seeds of nationalism in colonial India and nurtured them into a tree under whose shade India reaped the fruits of independence. It proved that when a nation recognizes its culture, its language, and its motherland as its soul, no external force can enslave it for long. This song is not a song of Indian independence, but of Indian self-awakening.

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Building Bridges And Relation Army True Strength



■ MOOL RAJ

In the face of adversity, when nature unleashes its fury and uncertainty casts its shadow, the Indian Army has time and again emerged not just as a force of defence, but as a pillar of humanity and compassion. Beyond the battlefields and borders, its role in disaster relief, rescue operations, and rebuilding communities stands as a testament to its deep-rooted ethos, Service Before Self. The recent calamities that struck various parts of India, from devastating floods in the Himalayas to landslides and cloudbursts in remote valleys, have once again highlighted the Army's unparalleled commitment to saving lives and restoring hope.

In regions where the terrain is unforgiving and communication often collapses under the weight of natural disasters, it is the Indian Army that becomes the bridge literally and figuratively between despair and recovery. During the floods that hit parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in recent years, soldiers worked round the clock to rescue stranded civilians, rebuild broken bridges, and restore essential infrastructure. Their presence in remote areas, where civilian agencies struggle to reach, made the difference between life and death for thousands. Helicopters hovered over marooned villages, air dropping supplies, while men in uniform waded through freezing waters carrying the elderly and children on their shoulders. The Army's engineering wings constructed makeshift bridges across raging rivers, reconnecting communities cut off for days.

In the Kashmir Valley, where rivers like the Jhelum and Kishenganga have historically both nurtured and threatened livelihoods, the Army's response during natural disasters has consistently been marked by efficiency and empathy. The devastating floods of 2014 are still remem-

bered for the heroic rescue operations led by the Army and the Air Force. Once again, in more recent calamities, the Army has displayed remarkable readiness, launching coordinated operations with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local administrations to mitigate suffering and restore normalcy. The Army's involvement has never been confined to rescue alone; it extends to rebuilding relationships between communities, fostering trust, and showing that the soldier's duty transcends the call of arms. These humanitarian interventions have played a crucial role in strengthening civil-military relations, especially in sensitive and remote areas. When the Army rebuilds a bridge washed away by floods or repairs a school building damaged by landslides, it does more than reconstruct infrastructure—it rebuilds faith. It reminds the people that their protectors in uniform are also their companions in crisis. Many villages across North and Northeast India recall how soldiers worked side by side with local residents, using minimal resources but maximum willpower to reopen roads, divert rivers, and bring back electricity and clean water. These stories are not mere accounts of bravery; they are chronicles of compassion woven into the larger narrative of national unity.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Army's disaster response has been its swiftness and discipline. Whether it is rescuing pilgrims stranded on the Amarnath Yatra route after a sudden cloudburst or saving families trapped by flash floods in Ladakh and Sikkim, the Army's teams have consistently been the first to respond. Their expertise in navigating rugged terrain, coupled with their logistical readiness, gives them a unique edge. The Corps of Engineers, for instance, has often worked in hostile weather conditions to lay temporary bridges over collapsed routes, enabling the movement of relief material. In many instances, the Army's field hospitals have treated hundreds of civilians, including children, offering not just medical aid but emotional reassurance.

What stands out most profoundly in these calamities is the Army's humane approach. Soldiers, often far from their own families, have risked their lives to protect others. They have shared their rations with villagers, consoled the grieving, and ensured that no one is left behind.

Such actions blur the lines between protector and the protected, creating a human connection that endures beyond crises. In areas affected by floods in Assam and Bihar, people still narrate stories of soldiers who stayed for weeks, rebuilding embankments and restoring schools, long after the media spotlight faded.

The Indian Army's role in calamities also reinforces the idea that true strength lies in service. It exemplifies how discipline, courage, and compassion can coexist seamlessly. The Army's humanitarian missions showcase India's model of integrated disaster response, where the forces work hand in hand with civil agencies, NGOs, and local volunteers. This cooperation not only accelerates recovery but also symbolizes the unity of the nation in moments of collective trial.

Moreover, these acts of service have a profound psychological impact. They dissolve misunderstandings, nurture goodwill, and reaffirm that the Army's relationship with the people is one of guardianship and shared destiny. In the long run, such gestures fortify the emotional bridges that bind soldiers and civilians, ensuring that mutual respect and cooperation flourish even in peace.

As climate change intensifies the frequency of natural disasters, the relevance of the Army's role in disaster management becomes ever more critical. Its preparedness, adaptability, and spirit of service make it an indispensable force in the nation's humanitarian framework. Each bridge it builds across a broken river is also a bridge across hearts connecting regions, rebuilding lives, and reinforcing the idea that humanity is the highest form of duty.

In every flood rescued, in every bridge rebuilt, and in every hand extended to pull someone to safety, the Indian Army reflects the essence of India itself resilient, compassionate, and united in adversity. It is this spirit that transforms calamities into opportunities for connection, and crises into chapters of collective courage. The bridges they build are not just of steel and rope; they are bridges of faith, empathy, and enduring brotherhood binding the Army and the nation in an unbreakable bond of trust.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER



By M S Nazki

Faith and Enthusiasm Make Life Worth Living

Not a visible enthusiasm but a hidden one, an excitement burning with a cold flame!

Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm. Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music. Embrace your blessings. Make today worth remembering.....This is what Vibha Lakhera w/o Lt General V Lakhera thinks and is fairly expressive about the same!

I began to realize how important it was to be an enthusiast in life. He (Victor Lucky) taught me that if you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it at full speed ahead. Embrace it with both arms, hug it, love it and above all become passionate about it. Lukewarm is no good. Hot is no good either. White hot and passionate is the only thing to be.

Enthusiasm can help you find the new doors, but it takes passion to open them. If you have a strong purpose in life, you don't have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there.....Mrs Vibha Lakhera as we could make out from her message!

Another thing we could make out from the message was, protect your enthusiasm from the negativity and fear of others. Never decide to do nothing just because you can only do little. Do what you can. You would be surprised at what "little" acts have done for our world."

Message of President, Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association (ARWWA):

It is my honour and privilege to assume the office of President, ARWWA. I extend my warm greetings to all members of ARWWA family. I am proud to connect with women of extra-ordinary talent, admirable creativity and great zeal. The ARWWA fraternity is indeed unique – it transcends the entire length and breadth of North East Region and remains a vibrant embodiment of 'Caring and Sharing' in Assam Rifles.

I am proud to lead this motivated and talented team of ladies who have volunteered to contribute towards the betterment of our community despite their commitments and responsibilities at home along with their own domestic commitments. I intend to further pursue the values and ethos laid by our predecessors and take ARWWA forward in all its endeavours.

ARWWA symbolizes a unique bond which holds Assam Rifles wives together and makes a significant contribution to our community. The commitment and dedication of our ladies have strengthened this bond further over the years. Our ARWWA activities demonstrate that when women connect with their marvelous power, they can utilize it, direct it, harness it and make this power available for the collective good of not only the Assam Rifles, but the entire society.

I look forward to interacting with the teams and collectively move towards our quest at achieving our objective of community welfare and growth. Let us pledge to join our hands together for an effective ARWWA aiming at a progressive and constructive environment in the Force.

Appreciate the effort of all members who devote their valuable time to ARWWA activities, as individually each one of us can bring about positive change to the organization.

With humility, I pray to the Almighty for her benevolence on the entire ARWWA fraternity. May

each of you be blessed with success, happiness and prosperity. Regards and best wishes,..... Mrs Vibha Lakhera (President ARWWA)

Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association (ARWWA) Conference 2025 was held at the Laitkor Garrison, Headquarters Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong on 03 November 2025. The conference was

Then, one night, as she sat on the terrace of her house, watching the stars twinkle in the clear Naga sky, she reflected on her journey, and realized that 'the smiles I had received were not just expressions of friendliness but invitations to connect, understand, and belong!

This became the very reason for the inception of



chaired by Mrs Vibha Lakhera, President ARWWA and attended by ARWWA representatives from various Formations. During the conference, wide-ranging discussions were held on initiatives related to family welfare, empowerment, education and community development.

Vibha Lakhera had no idea what to expect from Kohima or its people when she came to Nagaland's state capital for the first time in February 2022, she vividly recalled that everywhere she went, she found herself spontaneously smiling at people and being the recipient of smiles.

Young children playing by the roadside grinned at me, elders sitting in front of their homes nodded in acknowledgement, and shopkeepers welcomed me with open expressions of friendliness, she expressed.

Following her varied delightful experiences in Nagaland, she found herself wondering what lay behind this extraordinary warmth and softness even as she put across, 'was it a cultural trait, an inherent high empathy quotient, or something else entirely? What was governing the consciousness of people?'

She further observed that there are flower pots in front of every house, big or small, irrespective of the economic status. 'In Delhi, this is a feature reserved for the affluent, usually,' she observed.

She was also struck by how these elements seemed to intertwine seamlessly to create a society that valued human connection above all.

the project 'Naga Oral History: Stories of Empathy,' she shared even while stating belief that 'everything that happened between then and now, when I'm assembling all the experiences into this project, was a prelude to a deep feeling of expression.'

With students who were equally engaged in gathering the village elders' oral history, she underscored that 'the students have been the real heroes of this project! Bridging cultural divides and healing historical wounds through the power of storytelling,.....Vibha Lakhera!

Mention may also be made here that "The Naga Oral History: Stories of Empathy project was born from a desire to bridge cultural divides and heal historical wounds through the power of storytelling." With the Naga people having long experienced isolation, conflict, and struggles for self-identity, the project also emerged as part of Project Empathy—an initiative aimed at fostering understanding, compassion, and solidarity across communities.

On November 5 in a landmark initiative, ARWWA (Assam Rifles Women Welfare Association) launched its official website and unveiled the ARWWA Song during the ARWWA Conference 2025 at HQ DGAR, Laitkor, Shillong.

The event was graced by Mrs. Vibha Lakhera, President ARWWA, who inaugurated the digital platform and introduced the anthem celebrating the association's spirit and mission.

The new website aims to strengthen communica-

tion, promote welfare programs, and showcase initiatives supporting women across the Assam Rifles community. The ARWWA Song, composed to reflect unity, dedication, and empowerment, adds a cultural dimension to the association's efforts, inspiring members and their families.

Mrs. Lakhera highlighted that these steps are part of ARWWA's ongoing commitment to community engagement, women empowerment, and holistic development within the Assam Rifles fraternity.

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living!.....Vibha Lakhera!

Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, Shillong is the invisible hand that nurtures the Assam Rifles and is a formal body registered with the Registrar of Societies, Meghalaya, Shillong vide Registration No E.16 (Rs)8/2005/122 dt 25 May 2005.

Welfare of troops is of paramount importance in Assam Rifles. The aim of ARWWA is to support and augment the welfare measures, primarily that of families, children and widows of all ranks, veer naris and families of retired personnel. The focus is also on enhancing outreach towards women staying and working in far and remote locations of our nation. Innumerable projects are undertaken towards skill and vocational development, empowerment and education of women and children of Assam Rifles.

It was April 06, 2025:

An event, aimed at preserving indigenous knowledge, giving voice to under-represented communities, and helping people understand history from a personal perspective, was organised jointly by Project Empathy and the Assam Rifles at Kenguruse Hall, HQ IGAR (N), Kohima, on Monday.

Vibha Lakhera, founder and CEO of Project Empathy, in her speech, traced the roots of the initiative back to her first visit to Nagaland in 2022. Recalling her journey from Dimapur to Kohima, she described how the warmth of the people, the beauty of the land, and the unique cultural spirit sparked the idea of documenting stories of empathy.

Here is a short story on empathy and for sure can find a place in Mrs. Vibha Lakhera's project:

In a remote village in Arunachal Pradesh, a young boy named Tenzin learns empathy from an unlikely source: a stray dog. After a harsh winter, his family's buffalo falls ill, and Tenzin, filled with frustration and worry, blames the dog for stealing food. However, he soon notices the dog's own struggles—thin and shivering, and also starving. He remembers his own hunger and fear, leading him to share his meager portions of rice and water, realizing their shared plight, and Tenzin's heart melts into understanding and compassion.

The story highlights how empathy isn't just feeling sorry for someone, but understanding and sharing their feelings. Tenzin doesn't just see a nuisance; he sees a creature suffering in a way he can now understand and relate to, as he has also experienced the harshness of a long, lean winter.

Initial conflict: Tenzin is angry at the stray dog, viewing it as a rival for food during a difficult time.

Turning point: He sees the dog's own misery—its thin frame, shivering, and the same hunger he has felt.

Act of empathy: Tenzin's frustration gives way to compassion. He shares his food with the dog, recognizing their shared experience of hardship.

Resolution: The simple act of sharing a meal transforms their relationship, showing how empathy can lead to a profound connection and acts of kindness, even between humans and animals. This act not only eases the dog's hunger but also enriches Tenzin's own life with a deeper understanding of compassion and interconnectedness.

And finally we come to the final lines: Always Remember to take your Vitamins: Take your Vitamin A for ACTION, Vitamin B for Belief, Vitamin C for Confidence, Vitamin D for Discipline, Vitamin E for Enthusiasm!.....MD!

THE AVIRAL DHARA MANDATE: MAHAMANA'S PRECEDENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE



BY PROF. DINESH CHANDRA RAI

On November 12, the day marking the passing of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the nation justly remembers the extraordinary Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Yet, concentrating exclusively on BHU risks obscuring a parallel and equally vital contribution: Malaviya's establishment of a foundational precedent for river rights and environmental law in India, centered on the principle of Aviral Dhara. His confrontation with the colonial state over the River Ganga in the early 20th century was not merely a spiritual defence but a pioneering act of ecological and legal assertion.

The Ganga Mahasabha and the Challenge to Colonial Technocracy

The genesis of this confrontation was the British administration's plan to completely block the

Ganga at Bhimgoda, Haridwar, to maximize water diversion into the Upper Ganga Canal system. This scheme, driven by purely utilitarian calculus, threatened the essential hydrology of the river.

Mahamana's response was the creation of the Ganga Mahasabha in 1905. This platform served as a unified, organized resistance that effectively transformed a religious grievance into a powerful, socio-political campaign. His genius lay in translating the spiritual concept of the river's sanctity into a persuasive rationale for its natural, continuous existence. He demonstrated an early, intuitive understanding of what modern ecology terms ecosystem services—that the health of the river is indispensable to the health of the civilization dependent upon it.

The 1916 Agreement: A Proto-E-Flow Standard

The sustained public and political pressure, involving various Indian princes and leaders, forced the colonial government to formalize a settlement. The resulting Agreement of 1916 stands as a landmark document in India's environmental history. Its core provisions were scientifically and legally advanced for the time:

First, it secured a guaranteed Environmental Flow (E-Flow). The agreement stipulated that a minimum rate of 1,000 cusecs (cubic feet per

second) of water must perpetually flow freely across the ghats of Haridwar. This was an essential phase. It established a quantifiable, non-negotiable threshold for the river's flow, acknowledging that a river's integrity is dependent on its dynamic state, not just its static volume. This mandate serves as the earliest recorded prescription for an E-Flow in the country, a concept that continues to dominate contemporary water policy discussions.

Second, the agreement introduced a vital component of shared sovereignty. It restricted the government's power by requiring that no further decisions regarding the alteration of the Ganga's flow be undertaken without the consent of the Hindu community, as represented by the Mahasabha. This clause, secured in a pre-democratic setup, is remarkable for its recognition of the local populace as legitimate and necessary stakeholders in resource management. It fundamentally challenged the colonial authority's exclusive right to manage natural resources unilaterally. Mahaman's vision for an Aviral and Nirmal Ganga remains the foundational inspiration for modern river rejuvenation efforts. This legacy is powerfully demonstrated through the national Namami Gange mission. It is a point of continuity and great coincidence that his grand-

son, Justice (Retd.) Giridhar Malviya, headed a key committee to draft the Ganga Act, providing a legal framework for the river's protection.

The Enduring Relevance in Modern Discourse

Mahamana's achievement provides a vital historical lens through which to examine India's current environmental policies. The principles he articulated—Aviral Dhara (continuous flow) and Nirmal Dhara (clean flow)—are inextricably connected. His premise was that without the former, the latter is impossible; that flow is the primary mechanism for the river's self-purification.

This philosophy holds particular importance today as legal disputes over large-scale hydroelectric projects and inter-linking schemes frequently reach the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal. These bodies often find themselves revisiting the spirit and technical scope of the 1916 agreement, demonstrating its ongoing constitutional and policy relevance. The ambiguity surrounding the minimum flow requirements for various Ganga tributaries stems, in part, from the difficulty in applying that century-old agreement—focused on the main stem at Haridwar—to the complex hydrology of the entire basin.

A Call for Integrated Ecology

Mahamana's legacy compels us to adopt a framework of Integrated Ecology, where education, infrastructure, and environmental preservation are not compartmentalized but viewed as interdependent pillars of nation-building. The Mahamana Malaviya Research Centre for Ganga, River Development & Water Resource Management at BHU seeks to modernize this vision by using science and technology to find enduring solutions to maintain the Aviral and Nirmal state of the river.

As we mark the death anniversary of this colossal figure, the true tribute is not merely in celebrating his achievements but in actively defending the principles he established. The challenge for today's policymakers, scientists, and citizens is to translate the 1916 mandate—a magnificent historical document of environmental rights—into a comprehensive, scientifically robust, and enforceable framework for the entire Ganga River system. Mahamana's fight was not for a piece of land or a political office; it was for the lifeblood of a civilisation. That struggle, sadly, continues.

The author is a Vice-Chancellor, B.B.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. E-mail: drcrai@bhu.ac.in

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THE NOCEBO EFFECT



Surinderpal Singh

The human health is influenced not only by biological and environmental factors but also by thoughts, expectations and beliefs. The nocebo effect refers to the phenomenon in which negative expectations lead to the development or worsening of symptoms, even when there is no direct biological cause. This effect has gained increased relevance in the modern world, where information spreads rapidly and often without verification. Understanding the nocebo effect is important for both public health and individual well-being because it demonstrates how the mind can amplify disease, suffering and disability.

UNDERSTANDING THE NOCEBO EFFECT

The nocebo effect is the counterpart to the placebo effect. While the placebo effect improves symptoms due to positive expectations, the nocebo effect worsens symptoms due to negative expectations. When a person believes strongly that something is harmful, stressful or dangerous, the body responds in line with these thoughts. This occurs through physiological pathways involving stress hormones, neural circuits of fear and heightened pain sensitivity.

Researches across the globe has showed that when patients are told that a medication has severe side effects, they are more likely to experience those side effects even if they are given a harmless substance. Similarly, if someone is convinced that a common bodily sensation is a sign of serious illness, anxiety increases and the symptom becomes more noticeable and severe.

HOW DISEASES CAN ESCALATE UNDER THE NOCEBO INFLUENCE

The progression of disease under the



nocebo effect is linked to the stress response system. Fear and worry activate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, leading to increased cortisol levels. Chronic elevation of cortisol weakens the immune system, increases inflammation and disturbs sleep patterns. These physiological changes can worsen existing illnesses, slow recovery and even trigger new symptoms.

People experiencing unexplained pain, fatigue, or digestive discomfort often turn to unverified sources of information and may convince themselves that they are suffering from serious conditions. This self-diagnosis increases panic, which intensifies the symptoms creating a harmful cycle. In some cases individuals begin to avoid social interaction, work or physical activity, which further damages health and quality of life.

ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET

The nocebo effect has become stronger

in the digital age. Social media platforms, internet forums and uncontrolled health videos often provide alarming or exaggerated information. Many individuals trust these sources more readily than scientific or medical advice.

Common patterns include:

Sensationalized accounts of diseases
Trend-based self-diagnosis (for example, believing to suffer from conditions seen in short videos).

Misinterpretation of normal bodily functions as illness.

Fear-based marketing of supplements and treatments.

Once exposed to such information repeatedly, the brain begins to anticipate danger. This anticipation alone can produce real physical symptoms. The digital environment, therefore, acts as a psychological amplifier of anxiety.

OPTIMISM AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR

Optimism does not mean denying illness or reality. It refers to a mindset that focuses on coping, support and the possibility of improvement. Positive expectations activate brain circuits associated with resilience, pain control and immune balance. Optimism lowers cortisol levels, reduces muscle tension and enhances the effectiveness of medical treatments.

For patients dealing with chronic disease, maintaining hope and confidence can significantly support recovery. Clinicians who communicate in reassuring and realistic ways help reduce nocebo effects and build trust.

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE NOCEBO EFFECT

Promote scientifically accurate health education

Health organizations and professionals must communicate clearly in simple language to avoid confusion.

Encourage critical evaluation of online information

Schools and communities should teach how to identify credible sources.

Strengthen doctor-patient communication

Doctors must explain conditions and treatments without unnecessary alarm.

Support mental health care

Training in stress management, relaxation techniques and counseling can reduce fear and symptom sensitivity.

Encourage balanced media habits

Limiting exposure to constant health-related content reduces psychological overload.

IMPACT OF MODERN ELECTRICAL GADGETS ON ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

Modern digital gadgets are not harmful in themselves, but excessive or uncontrolled use contributes to rising rates of anxiety and depression. Constant notifications keep the brain in a state of alertness. Social comparison on social media reduces self-esteem. Late-night screen exposure disturbs sleep patterns and hormonal balance. Reduced outdoor activity and interpersonal contact further contribute to low mood and emotional stress.

Healthy usage habits such as screen-free time before sleep, engaging in real-world hobbies, regular physical exercise and meaningful social interaction can significantly reduce these effects.

The nocebo effect shows the powerful relationship between mind and body. In today's information-saturated world, negative beliefs can spread quickly and influence health outcomes. Responsible communication, awareness of psychological influence and cultivation of optimism are necessary to protect individuals and communities. Modern lifestyle pressures and digital environments require conscious balance, emotional resilience and informed decision-making. With these approaches, the nocebo effect can be reduced and overall well-being can be strengthened.

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

History of Kidney Stones Linked to Worse Urothelial Carcinoma Outcomes

MUMBAI: A new multicentre study from Taiwan has revealed that patients with upper tract urothelial carcinoma (UTUC) who have a history of urinary tract stones face significantly poorer cancer outcomes than those without a history. The findings, published in 2025 as part of the Taiwan UTUC Registry Study, highlight a potentially high-risk subgroup of UTUC patients who may benefit from closer follow-up and individualised postoperative treatment strategies.

UTUC, a relatively uncommon but aggressive form of urinary cancer affecting the lining of the kidney and ureter, is typically treated with radical nephroureterectomy (RNU): surgical removal of the kidney, ureter, and surrounding tissue. However, factors influencing survival after surgery remain incompletely understood. The study analysed data from 3,414 patients who underwent RNU between 1988 and 2023 across 21 Taiwanese hospitals. Of these, 169 patients (4.9%) had a documented history of urinary tract stones. Researchers used overlap weighting, a statistical method that adjusts for baseline differences between patient groups, to reduce confounding.

Results showed that patients with a stone history had higher rates of metastasis (14.8% vs. 7.2%) and cancer-specific death (27.8% vs. 18.5%) compared with those without stones. After adjustment, stone history was independently associated with worse cancer-specific survival (hazard ratio [HR], 1.83) and disease-free survival (HR, 1.69), both highly significant. Interestingly, there were no significant differences in overall survival or bladder recurrence-free survival between the two groups.

Courtesy EMJ

GMC Baramulla Hospital Earns National Quality Certification After Five Years

■ **UMAR RASHID**

BARAMULLA, NOV 10: In a proud moment for north Kashmir, District Hospital Baramulla has achieved the National Quality Certification under the prestigious LaQshya (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative) after a gap of five years. This remarkable feat has been accomplished under the dedicated leadership and tireless efforts of Principal Prof Majid Jahangir and Medical Superintendent Dr. Pervaiz Masoodi, whose commitment to healthcare excellence has brought the institution this national recognition.

According to an official communication issued by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Ministry of Health and Family Wel-



fare, Government of India, on October 14, 2025, the hospital successfully met all certification criteria during a comprehensive

external assessment. The Maternity OT scored 92.83%,

while the Labour Room achieved 89.50%, thereby earning the "Quality Certified" status.

The certification acknowledges the hospital's exceptional progress in improving maternal and neonatal care, hygiene standards, and patient safety. It reflects the collective dedication of the medical staff, nursing teams, and administration towards ensuring quality healthcare delivery for the people of Baramulla and adjoining areas.

Hospital authorities expressed gratitude to Dr. Pervaiz Masoodi for his visionary leadership in guiding the institution toward achieving this milestone. They also reiterated their commitment to maintaining these standards through continuous monitoring and quality improvement initiatives.

Cardiologist Warns: Ignored Fatigue Can Be Silent Heart Threat

NEW DELHI: Cardiologist, Dr Dmitry Yaranov has warned that heart failure often begins with subtle symptoms people mistake for fatigue or indigestion. Sharing insights on Instagram as @heart_transplant_doc, he said two-thirds of his patients admitted to ignoring early signs like deep tiredness, bloating, and unexplained weight gain. Unlike dramatic heart attacks, heart failure can start quietly, especially in younger people. His advice: "Trust the quiet signs. Get checked."

A few skipped meals, stubborn fatigue, or a sudden feeling of tightness around the stomach may not seem alarming to most people, especially those young and otherwise active. But according to U.S.-based heart transplant surgeon Dr Dmitry Yaranov, these quiet signals could be

the body's earliest cries for help — signs of developing heart failure that too often go unnoticed until it's too late.

In a post shared on Instagram, where he is known as @heart_transplant_doc, Dr Yaranov revealed that "two out of three patients" he treats admit to having ignored their first symptoms. His words carry an urgent reminder: "The symptom you ignored must have been the first sign."

Dr Yaranov, who serves as the Medical Director for Advanced Heart Failure, Heart Transplant, and Mechanical Circulatory Support, highlighted how easily subtle symptoms are brushed aside. Fatigue that lingers despite rest or caffeine, persistent bloating, or a feeling of fullness after small meals are often dismissed as digestive issues or stress-related



fatigue.

Yet, these may actually signal that the heart is struggling to pump effectively. "I was just tired all the time," "I thought it was something I ate," and "I didn't think heart failure could feel like this" are among the most common refrains he hears from patients who later learn their condition had already begun progressing silently.

Unlike the dramatic chest pains that people often associate with heart attacks, heart failure in its early stages can appear deceptively calm. Dr Yaranov lists symptoms such as: "No chest pain. No dramatic collapse. Just a body quietly struggling — until it can't anymore," he wrote in his post, underscoring the quiet progression of the disease.

Heart failure has long been perceived as a condition of older adults,

but Dr Yaranov warns that younger and active individuals are not immune. The early phase of heart dysfunction can begin with vague symptoms that blend into the routines of busy lifestyles — exhaustion, irregular eating habits, and mild swelling.

"Heart failure can start quietly — especially in younger or active people," he explained. "Don't write it off. Don't wait until it's obvious."

As heart disease continues to be a leading cause of mortality globally, Yaranov's insights serve as a wake-up call. Recognizing the body's "quiet struggle" can make all the difference between early intervention and irreversible damage. His final piece of advice is simple but powerful: "Trust the quiet signs. Get checked."

Courtesy ET



5,400 households receive zero electricity bills under PM Surya Ghar Scheme

CS directs for intensified outreach and timely RTS installations



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting deliberated on the district-wise performance, challenges, and strategies to accelerate the implementation of this flagship rooftop solar (RTS) initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and affordable household energy solutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Science & Technology (S&T); Director General, Budget; Managing Directors of JPDCL, KPDC, and JAKE-DA, besides other senior officers. All Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, it was informed that 5,413 consumers out of the total 13,579 rooftop solar installations under the scheme have already received zero electricity bills, reflecting tangible progress on the ground.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of the scheme in transforming the energy landscape of J&K, noting that as an energy-deficit region, the Union Territory stands to benefit immensely from the adoption of clean and reliable solar power. He called upon the Divisional and District Administrations to ensure smooth and time-bound implementation of the scheme in every district.

Emphasizing on public outreach,

Sh. Dulloo directed both power distribution companies (DISCOMs) to intensify awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the multiple benefits of the scheme, assist consumers in vendor selection, and facilitate speedy installations. He further stressed on robust monitoring and regular evaluation of district-level progress to achieve the set targets.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also took a detailed district-wise appraisal from the Deputy Commissioners, seeking insights on implementation challenges and local innovations. He urged the banks to enhance the rate of loan disbursement under the scheme, enabling better and faster uptake by eligible households.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS PDD, Shailendra Kumar, highlighted the need for enhanced coordination between banks, vendors, and district administrations, urging financial institutions to actively publicize the lowest interest rates and subsidies available under the scheme. He stressed on maintaining transparency in vendor selection and prompt signing of consumer agreements.

He also called for stringent monitoring of call centre performance and consumer feedback mechanisms, besides taking corrective action against underperforming vendors. He directed that the ongoing IEC campaign be further intensified across districts to generate awareness about the scheme's economic and environmental benefits.

The MD JPDCL, Gurpal Singh further informed that J&K has set a target of covering 83,500 households under the scheme. He added that as of date, 76,000 applications have been

received, of which 37,500 consumers have selected vendors and 17,151 have signed agreements. Additionally, 13,615 rooftop solar systems have been installed, and Central Financial Assistance (CFA) amounting to Rs96.68 Cr has been released in favour of 11,297 beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary later reviewed the progress made under the solarization of government buildings being undertaken by the Energy Development Agency of the Science & Technology Department and the Model Solar Village initiative. He directed the concerned departments to expedite implementation to ensure timely completion across all 20 districts.

About its implementation the Secretary, Science & Technology, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, apprised the meeting that J&K has made notable strides in the solarization of government infrastructure, with 6,716 buildings already solarized out of the 22,494 proposed, achieving a total installed capacity of 64.67 MW.

He further informed that under the 70 MW Rooftop Solar (RTS) Project, work orders for 47.45 MW capacity covering 4,338 buildings have been issued. Material delivery has been completed at 2,806 sites (35.88 MW), while 1,987 sites (25.50 MW) have been fully installed. An additional 5 MW capacity is currently in transit and expected to be delivered by November 30.

Concluding the meeting, the Chief Secretary reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to advancing the goals of clean energy transition and self-reliant power generation in Jammu and Kashmir through the effective implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Public Notice

I have lost my 8Th class Living certificate now I am applying for it's duplicate in this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same to government High school Lachampora Zachaldara within 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

**BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O AB REHMAN SHEIKH R/O SARMARG TEHSIL
ZACHALDARA DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHD SHAREEF KATARI S/O GH MOHD KATARI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of self ,IQBAL HUSSAIN , AJAZ AHMAD , IRSHAD AHMAD S/O MOHD SHAREEF KATARI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 156000 in wards (One lack Fifty Six Thousand)the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1.... MOHAMMAD SHAREEF KATARI SELF 58 years labour
- 2.... RANI BEGUM wife 57 house wife
- 3....AJAZ AHMAD son 26 years student
- 4..IRSHAD AHMAD Son 25 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) 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 TEHSILDAR KREERI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD DEADER S/O GH MOHD DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of MOHAMMAD NADEEM DEADAR , MOHAMMAD HASHIM DEADER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the DEADER caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 154000 in wards (One lack Fifty Four Thousand)the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... SHABIR AHMAD DEADAR SELF 44 imamati
- 2.... SHAMEEMA BEGUM wife 40 house wife
- 3....MOHD NADEEM son 16 years student
- 4..MOHD SALEM Son 14 years //
- 5...MOHD HASHIM SON 09 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) 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 TEHSILDAR KREERI

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 aadhar 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

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**

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

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, Zeenia, daughter of Tariq Ahmad Bhat, resident of House No. 303, Wazir Bagh, Near Lala Ded Hospital, Srinagar, Kashmir – 190008, have changed my name from Zeenia to Zeenia Bhat with immediate effect. Henceforth, I shall be known as Zeenia Bhat for all purposes.

If any body have any objection He/She Can Contact in the office of Concerned Department Within a period of 7 days, After that no objection will be entertained.

Zeenia

D/o: Tariq Ahmad Bhat

R/o: House No. 303, Wazir Bagh, Near Lala Ded Hospital, Srinagar

Public Notice

My particulars mention in 10th Class certificate is as Imran Hussain Guchoo S/o Ab Rashid Guchoo and in other Adhaar Card as Imran Hussain S/O Ab Rashid Guchoo a is one and same and the certificate is in need for this is "one and same person certificate " as the particulars of documents vary with each other.

If any body have any objection He/She Can Contact in the office of Concerned Department Within a period of 7 days, After that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Imran Hussain Guchoo

S/o Ab Rashid Guchoo

R/O:Gucchi Mohallah Tainwari Guripora Srinagar

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



7006083461

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL& HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospsgr@jk.gov.in

GIST of e-tender

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/93/e-tendering,

Dated: 08-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: --

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1. Servicing of 200 Kva (Cummins make) and 30 Kva(Kirlosker make)DG sets at Govt Psychiatric Hospital srinagar	49,590/-	50	10 days	04 MCS of 2025, Dated:- 08-05-2025	M&HSD-1/ TS/14, Dated:- 10/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department
2. Servicing of 320 Kva DG set (Kirlosker Make) installed at Govt. Psychiatric Hospital srinagar	68,132/-	50	10 days	04 MCS of 2025, Dated:- 08-05-2025	M&HDS/ TS/73, Dated:- 11/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

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 given below:-

1.	Publish date	08-11-2025 (17:00 hrs)
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	08-11-2025 (17:00 hrs)
3.	Bid submission start date	08-11-2025 (18:00 hrs)
4.	Bid submission end date	17-11-2025 (13:00 hrs)
5.	Date and time of opening of bids	17-11-2025 (15:00 hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/5846-51

Dated: 08-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

DIPK: 7934/25

Dated: 10-11-2025



DIPR Organizes “Vande Mataram” Events Across Bandipora to Mark 150 Years of National Song

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: As part of the ongoing “Vande Mataram” campaign commemorating 150 years of the National Song, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora, in collaboration with the Health Department, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and the District Sheep Husbandry Office (DSHO), today organized a series of special morning assemblies and patriotic programmes across various institutions and departments in Bandipora district.

The initiative aimed to foster a spirit of patriotism, unity, and national pride among students, staff,

and citizens, while encouraging active public participation in the district-wide celebrations.

At District Hospital Bandipora, doctors, paramedical staff, and citizens participated enthusiastically in the collective singing of “Vande Mataram,” creating an atmosphere filled with patriotic fervour.

Similarly, at the Sheep Husbandry Department, the District Sheep Husbandry Officer along with departmental staff joined the rendition of the National Song, reaffirming their commitment to national service and unity.

A special morning assembly was also held at the Anganwadi Centre Nussao, where District Programme



Officer, Yaar Ali Khan participated in person and interacted with the students and staff. Students, Anganwadi workers, and local citizens waved the National Flag and sang “Vande Mataram” with great enthusiasm, symbolizing their collective devotion to the motherland.

Similar programmes were conducted in schools, colleges, and Anganwadi centres across the district, where students and staff took part in essay writing, debates, quizzes, painting, and slogan-writing competitions based on the themes of patriotism and national unity.

The DIPR Bandipora played a pivotal role in coordinating and facilitating the smooth execution of the events in collaboration with the

concerned departments. The joint efforts ensured wide participation and effective dissemination of the campaign's message, amplifying the patriotic spirit across all corners of the district.

The participants appreciated the district administration for organizing such inspiring events that not only celebrated the National Song but also rekindled patriotic spirit and cultural pride among all sections of society.

The “Vande Mataram” celebrations continue to witness active participation across Bandipora, with a series of programmes planned throughout the week to celebrate the ideals of unity, harmony, and devotion to the nation.

DC Ganderbal hands over Sanction letters to beneficiaries under BLC component of PMAY-U 2.0

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 10: In a significant step aimed to pave way for setting up of dwelling units for the economically weaker sections of society, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore in presence of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal handed over sanction letters to seven beneficiaries under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, here.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized that the primary objective of the scheme is to ensure that economically disadvantaged individuals are provided with a roof over their heads. He noted that the district administration has been actively working towards achieving the goals of the initiative, and the distribution of sanction letters represents part of a broader commitment to uplift underprivileged sections of society.

These seven beneficiaries were proposed by the District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) and subsequently approved by the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring



Committee (CS&MC). As per the scheme's guidelines, each beneficiary is given a sanction for the construction of a dwelling unit with a maximum area of 45 square meters. The construction is to be completed in three phases viz. Plinth level, Lintel level, and Roof/Completion, and must be finalized within one year from the receipt of the sanction letter.

The scheme provides financial support to beneficiaries in three installments based on the progress of construction. The total amount sanctioned for each beneficiary is Rs. 2.5 lakh, which is disbursed progressively as the construction advances through each phase.

JKEDI Holds Two-Day Entrepreneurship Orientation Program for Kashmir University Students

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organized a two-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Program (EOP) for students and faculty of the Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Kashmir.

The event was organized by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Research (CEER), a program vertical of JKEDI, under the overall supervision of the Director, JKEDI.

The program aimed to familiarize participants with various aspects of entrepreneurship, project report formulation, and the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27, while promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice and strengthening the startup ecosystem in the Union Territory.

During the visit, students interacted with JKEDI faculty and experts who briefed them on the evolving startup landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sessions covered key topics such as



business plan modeling, Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation, capacity building, business simulations, financial and market linkages, as well as mentorship support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Participants were also introduced to various verticals and functions of JKEDI, gaining insights into the Institute's initiatives aimed at nurturing innovation and enterprise development.

The EOP-cum-interaction session forms part of JKEDI's continued efforts to engage young students and encourage them to view entrepreneurship as a dynamic and rewarding career path, contributing to the region's growing startup culture.

JMC intensifies measures to control air pollution levels

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has intensified its efforts to combat air pollution and ensure cleaner, safer air for the city's residents. The Corporation has put in place several on-ground and regulatory measures under the directions of JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav to control dust and particulate emissions, particularly from vehicular movement and construction activities.

The initiatives have been taken in view of the rise in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in Jammu.

The AQI is a scientific index that indicates how clean or polluted the air is, along with the potential health risks associated with exposure to polluted air. The AQI level in Jammu has touched 179, which falls in the unhealthy category, making it a matter of serious concern.

Taking note of the situation, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav has issued strict directions to all concerned wings of JMC to implement comprehensive anti-pollution measures. These include night-time sweeping of main roads with modern mechanical sweeping machines to minimize dust dispersion and daytime water sprinkling across key traffic corridors, market areas and construction zones. The Corporation is also using vehicles equipped with anti-smog guns to spray water mist, which helps to settle airborne dust particles. In an attempt to further reduce dust from construction and demolition activities, Dr. Yadav has ordered that all construction sites must be properly enclosed using green sheets, jute fabric or plastic covers at least three meters high to prevent dust from escaping into the open air. Construction materials such as sand, cement and debris must be stored within the premises and covered with tarpaulin or plastic sheets to prevent them from being carried away by wind. Storage of such material on public roads, footpaths or open spaces has been strictly prohibited.

Vehicles transporting construction materials are required to be completely covered to prevent spillage or dust pollution during transit. Regular water sprinkling and cleaning should be undertaken during loading and unloading of construction materials. JMC field officers have been directed to conduct surprise inspections at construction and demolition sites to ensure compliance, and violators will face strict penalties. The Corporation has imposed fines ranging from 4,000 to 50,000 on individuals, contractors and agencies found responsible for contributing to mismanaged construction and demolition waste.



In addition to construction regulation, JMC has intensified its solid waste management and cleanliness operations. Teams have been deployed in all zones for door-to-door garbage collection and proper disposal to avoid burning of waste in the open, which is one of the major causes of rising particulate matter in the air. The Health and Sanitation Wing has been instructed to ensure zero tolerance towards open burning of garbage, dry leaves or plastic waste.

The Commissioner has also appealed to citizens, contractors, and developers to cooperate with the Municipal Corporation in its pollution control efforts. He emphasized that public participation is essential for achieving cleaner air and a sustainable environment. Residents are encouraged to avoid open burning, plant more trees and report any incidents of dust pollution or waste burning to the Corporation for prompt action.

These measures form part of JMC's broader commitment to improving air quality and promoting environmental well-being across Jammu. Under the ongoing “Clean Jammu, Green Jammu” initiative, the Corporation is adopting scientific and community-driven methods to address pollution, manage waste and promote eco-friendly practices. Dr. Devansh Yadav reaffirmed JMC's determination to maintain vigilance until air quality levels return to safe and healthy standards. He stated that sustained and collective efforts from both the administration and citizens are crucial to ensure a cleaner, greener and healthier Jammu.

Cultural Unit of DIPR Organizes Awareness Play under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Cultural Unit Srinagar, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), today organized a short play at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, under the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

The event aimed to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote the values of a healthy, disciplined, and drug-free lifestyle through the medium of performing arts.

The Head of the Institution appreciated the initiative and commended the efforts of the Cultural Unit Srinagar for conducting such meaningful awareness programmes in educational institutions.

The Cultural Officer Srinagar addressed the gathering, highlighting the collective responsibility of society in eradicating the drug menace.

The programme concluded with a pledge ceremony, where students and staff took an oath to uphold the vision of a Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir.

Horticulture Department Bandipora Organises Kisan Goshti at Sumbal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: The Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, in collaboration with Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Shejaar, Sumbal, today organized a one-day Kisan Goshti that witnessed enthusiastic participation from FPO members and farmers, including women.

The event aimed to promote value addition and post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables to enhance farmers' income and livelihood opportunities, especially for women in rural areas.

On the occasion, a team from Gen Gas Pvt. Ltd., Noida, interacted with the FPO members and farmers, providing insights on the drying and preservation of fruits and vegetables during harsh winters. The participants were also briefed about innovative methods for veg-



etable value addition and ways to improve product quality, shelf life, and marketability to ensure better returns for farmers.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, the com-

pany presented a Solar Dehydration Unit to the FPO Shejaar. The unit aims to empower local women by generating self-employment opportunities through small-scale value addition activities.

The participants expressed gratitude to the District Administration and the Horticulture Department for organizing such an informative and empowering event, aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable horticultural practices across the district.

The function witnessed participation of SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad; Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Bandipora, Pawan Kumar Thakur; CHO Baramulla, Farooq Ahmad Tantray, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Bandipora, Javid Samoon; HDO Sumbal, MD Shejaar Vegetable Produce Company, and officers and officials from agriculture and allied departments.

DC flags off Padyatra promoting unity and peace in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 10: In a vibrant show of unity, enthusiasm and national spirit, the District Administration Udhampur today organised a grand Sardar@150 Padyatra, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.

The event witnessed massive participation from youth, government officers, educational institutions and civil society, reflecting a collective resolve to uphold the values of national integration, unity and resilience.

While briefing the media, the DC emphasised the visionary leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his unmatched contribution in unifying the nation.

She stated that such initiatives play a crucial role in spreading awareness about national icons and fostering responsibility among the youth. She further announced that similar Sardar@150 padyatras and related activities will be organised in every subdivision and tehsil of the district in the coming days to ensure maximum participation and outreach.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the youth to continue engaging enthusiastically in such constructive programmes, which help build discipline, leadership and civic consciousness.

The programme began with great solemnity at Subhash Stadium Udhampur wherein Deputy Commissioner Udhampur,

Saloni Rai, formally inaugurated the event by lighting the traditional lamp. She was accompanied by Deputy Director, MY Bharat Udhampur, Khushal Gupta, I/C DYSSO Udhampur, Jaswandi Singh, APA Souravdeep Singh, officers and officials from various departments and a large number of MY Bharat volunteers who had assembled from across the district to participate in the padyatra.

The gathering collectively chanted the National Anthem, creating an atmosphere of patriotism and unity. This was followed by the administration of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat pledge, reaffirming the commitment of all participants towards self-reliance and nation-building.

Students from multiple educational institutions of the district then delivered an impressive array of cultural performances, highlighting themes of unity, empowerment and India's rich cultural heritage.

Later, DC flagged off the Padyatra, which moved through important landmarks of the town including Domail Chowk, Slathia Chowk, Ramnagar Chowk and Gole Market. The padyatra attracted the attention of local residents, who joined in and appreciated the efforts of the administration and MY Bharat volunteers. Participants carried banners and placards highlighting messages of unity, national integrity and drug-free living.

The padyatra culminated at

Mini Stadium Udhampur, where the second phase of cultural presentations took place. Students again showcased well-coordinated performances, highlighting themes of patriotism and social responsibility. At this venue, the Nasha Mukht Bharat pledge was also administered, strengthening the collective resolve of youth and citizens to fight against drug abuse and promote a healthier society.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Deputy Director, MY Bharat Udhampur, Khushal Gupta, who acknowledged the support of the district administration, participating institutions, volunteers and all stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event.

SC seeks reports from NHAI, Transport Ministry on roadside dhabas, highway safety

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : The Supreme Court on Monday directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to submit detailed reports on the presence of roadside dhabas and the condition of highways, after taking suo motu cognisance of recent fatal road accidents in Rajasthan and Telangana.

A Bench comprising Justice J K Maheshwari and Justice Vijay Bishnoi directed that a survey be conducted within two weeks to identify the number of dhabas operating along national highways on land not earmarked for such establishments.

The Court observed that the unauthorised dhabas lead to vehicles being parked dangerously on



the roadside, creating blind spots and collision risks.

"Dhabas have been opened by the general public on areas which are not available for them. Vehicles stop and park there. Other vehicles are unable to detect these stationary vehicles in time, leading to ac-



cidents," the Bench noted.

The Court also sought a status report on the maintenance of road stretches, including whether contractors are adhering to prescribed safety norms and standards.

Further, the Ministry of Home

Affairs and the Chief Secretaries of States concerned have been impleaded to assist in devising corrective measures.

During the hearing, Justice Maheshwari said that the issue required regulatory intervention, "People stop their trucks and go to the dhabas. The vehicles coming at speed collide with them. We have to examine how this can be controlled and regulated."

As per preliminary details referred to by the Court, the Phalodi accident in Rajasthan on November 2 resulted in at least 15 deaths after a tempo traveller carrying pilgrims collided with a stationary truck parked near an eatery on the Bharatmala highway. In a similar tragic incident in Telangana, 19 lives were lost.

The matter will next be taken up after the reports are filed.UNI

SC acknowledges morphed images as it takes up PIL on GenAI framework for courts

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Chief Justice of India BR Gavai today observed that the judiciary is well aware of the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Generative AI (GenAI), and the potential risks posed by manipulated digital content.

The remarks came while the Supreme Court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the union government to frame a comprehensive policy or guidelines for regulating the use of GenAI in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies across the country.

"Yes, yes, we have seen our morphed pictures too," the CJI said during the hearing. Addressing counsel for the petitioner, the CJI further asked, "You want it to be dismissed now or should we see it after two weeks?"

The bench then adjourned the matter for hearing after two weeks.

The petition, filed by advocate Kartikeya Rawal, has sought the enactment of a uniform legislative or policy framework to ensure the regulated adoption of GenAI in court processes. The plea has argued that while conventional AI functions within set parameters, Generative AI has the ability to create new content, including non-existent case law, which may mislead courts.

According to the petitioner, the "black box" nature of GenAI and its reliance on unsupervised neural networks could result in "hallucinations", leading to fabricated legal references, biased outputs, or unpredictable interpretations that may undermine



the principles of justice under Article 14 of the Constitution.

The plea states, "The skill of GenAI to leverage advanced neural networks and unsupervised learning to generate new data, uncover hidden patterns, and automate complex processes can lead to hallucinations, resulting in fake case laws, AI bias, and lengthy observations. Such arbitrariness may not be based on precedent but on a law that might not even exist."

It further warns that GenAI systems may replicate or aggravate societal biases, especially where training data reflects discriminatory social patterns, thereby posing ethical and legal challenges.

The petition contends that if AI tools are to be integrated into judicial functions, transparency in data sources and accountability in data ownership must be ensured to avoid prejudice against marginalised communities.

The matter will now be taken up for further consideration in two weeks.UNI

Abhishek Banerjee remembers Nandigram, slams BJP's 'oppression'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Monday marked the anniversary of the 2007 Nandigram incident, condemning the Left Front government's actions and drawing parallels with the current BJP regime. "The face of the oppressor has only changed, the oppression remains the same," Banerjee wrote on his WhatsApp channel.

Banerjee accused the BJP of resorting to "silent, invisible rigging" and politics of exclusion. "The har- mads of yesterday have returned as the jallads of today," he said, referencing the Left Front's past tactics. He claimed the Left Front relied on "covert, scientific rigging," while the BJP uses more subtle methods.

Banerjee vowed to resist the BJP's alleged oppression, echoing the people's resistance in Nandigram. "Bengal taught the Left Front a lesson it will never forget, today we send the same message to the zamindars of Delhi. Bengal will resist, relentlessly and resolutely," he said.

The Nandigram incident was a pivotal moment in West Bengal politics, marking a turning point against the Left Front government. Banerjee's statement reflects the TMC's continued opposition to the BJP and its efforts to mobilize support ahead of elections.UNI

Derek raises alarm over 'Silent Invisible Rigging' deaths in Bengal

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien on Monday alleged that 17 deaths have occurred in West Bengal over the past 14 days linked to the con-

troversial practice of "Silent Invisible Rigging" (SIR), casting serious doubts on the credibility of the electoral process in the state. Speaking on his WhatsApp channel, O'Brien highlighted the gravity of the issue, stating, "17 deaths in 14 days.

Grand Alliance vows to end 'two decades of helpless governance' in Bihar

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Jairam Ramesh have jointly asserted that the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) is set to bring a revolutionary change in Bihar, putting an end to what they describe as "two decades of helpless governance."

Both leaders emphasized the alliance's unwavering commitment to social justice, economic upliftment, and empowerment of marginalized communities ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

Taking to social media platform X, Kharge conveyed a message of hope and transformation: "The Grand Alliance government will free Bihar from 20 years of helpless governance.

Now, migration will stop, the darkness over the future of the youth will lift, every home will brighten their tomorrow with jobs!"

He highlighted the alliance's focus on inclusive growth, promising to uplift women, farmers, youth, and disadvantaged sections, including Dalits, Mahadalits, tribals, backward classes, and minorities.

Reflecting similar sentiments, Jairam Ramesh outlined the Mahagathbandhan's comprehensive 20-point guarantee aimed at addressing Bihar's pressing socio-economic challenges. "This time, a Mahagathbandhan government is certain in Bihar," he stated, underscoring the coalition's bold vision for the state.

Key promises include one gov-



ernment job per family, Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance for women, free electricity up to 200 units, subsidized gas cylinders at Rs 500, free bus services for women, Rs 30,000 monthly salary for Jivika Didis (community health workers), pension schemes for

senior citizens and persons with disabilities, free treatment facilities up to Rs 25 lakh, and enhanced reservations for EBC/EWS, SC, and ST communities.

Ramesh emphasized, "The Mahagathbandhan government will free Bihar from 20 years of

helpless governance," reiterating the alliance's promise to bring justice and prosperity to every corner of the state.

As Bihar prepares for the second phase of Assembly elections on November 11, the Mahagathbandhan's ambitious manifesto seeks to resonate with voters weary of economic stagnation, unemployment, and mass migration. The coalition's promise of inclusive development and social justice aims to paint a new narrative of hope and empowerment for Bihar's diverse population.

Bihar is witnessing a two-phase polling process, with the first phase held on November 6, the second phase scheduled for November 11, and the results set to be announced on November 14.UNI

SC seeks Centre's reply on Women's quota plea

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Central government on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking the implementation of the women's reservation law, which mandates one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

A Bench comprising Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan, while issuing notice, clarified that the judiciary has a limited scope to intervene in policy implementation but is seeking the Central government's response before proceeding further.

"The Preamble speaks of political and social equality. Who is the largest minority in this country? It is women, almost 48 per cent. This is about the political equality of women," Justice Nagarathna said.

The PIL has been filed by Congress leader Dr. Jaya Thakur, who has urged the Court to direct the immediate enforcement of the Women's Reservation Act, without waiting for a fresh

delimitation exercise, which is currently a precondition built into the law.

Representing the petitioner, Senior Advocate Shobha Gupta submitted that even after 75 years of independence, women continue to struggle for proportional representation in law-making bodies.

"It is unfortunate that we have to approach the court for representation. They only need to reserve one-third of the seats. They have already agreed to the principle of reservation based on data," Gupta argued.

The Bench clarified that the judiciary has a limited scope to intervene in policy implementation. "Enforcement of law is for the executive. We cannot issue a mandamus at this stage. Issue notice to the respondents. Let the union be served," the Court said.

The Women's Reservation Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023, and by the Rajya Sabha on September 21, 2023, before receiving Presidential assent on September 28, 2023.

The law inserted Article 334A into the Constitution, providing for one-third reservation for women. However, Article 334A stipulates that the reservation will come into force only after a delimitation process is carried out. This delimitation is to be based on the first census conducted after the constitutional amendment, meaning that implementation may be delayed by several years.

Dr. Thakur's petition challenges this stipulation and seeks to strike down the words requiring reservation to take effect only "after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken..." as void ab initio. The petitioner argues that such a delay defeats the very objective of ensuring women's adequate political participation.

The plea was initially filed in 2023 seeking implementation before the 2024 general elections, but it has since been re-filed in 2025. Today marked its first open-court hearing before the present Bench.

The matter will now proceed after the Central government files its response.UNI

Two class 11 students detained for shooting at classmate in Gurugram

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Two class 11 students were detained by Haryana Police for allegedly opening fire at their classmate using a licensed pistol owned by the father of one of the accused at an upscale housing society in Gurugram, an official said today.

According to the police, the victim, a 17-year-old student, is undergoing medical treatment at a private hospital, while both the accused have been detained by the police.

The incident took place on Saturday night at Central Park Resorts in Sector 48, where one of the accused had invited the victim to an apartment rented by his father.

Preliminary investigations into this matter disclosed that the shooting stemmed from an earlier dispute between the students. All three teenagers attend a school situated close to the housing complex.

In her complaint to Sadar Police



Station, the victim's mother stated that the main accused—whose father's licensed pistol was used in the incident—had repeatedly called her son, urging him to meet.

"Though the victim initially declined, he eventually agreed after

persistent requests. The accused later came to the victim's residence to pick him up," the victim's mother mentioned.

Upon reaching the rented apartment, the victim reportedly saw another friend of the accused already present there. Moments later, the main accused allegedly fired at him with his father's licensed pistol, leaving the teenager injured.

After receiving information about the incident, a police team reached the spot and learned that the injured youth had already been shifted to Medanta Hospital for treatment.

During the search, police seized a pistol, a magazine, five live cartridges, an empty shell, and another magazine loaded with 65 live rounds from a box inside the apartment.

A forensic team was also called to the spot for further examination.

A case has been registered in connection with the shooting, and a detailed investigation is currently underway. UNI

Attorney General calls for national mediation movement, says India must lead in collaborative justice

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : Attorney General for India R. Venkataramani today (Sunday) called for the launch of a "National Mediation Movement," asserting that mediation must move to the center of India's justice delivery framework.

He was speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the Mission Mediation Conclave 2025 and the closing session of the 3rd Edition of Mediation Championship India (MCI 2025) held at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

Emphasizing that mediation is not an optional supplement but a transformational justice tool, the Attorney General said, "Mediation is not merely a process; it is a powerful instrument of national development and social harmony. We must institutionalise mediation, recognise mediators, and create a culture where dialogue is preferred over adversarial conflict."

He further expressed the vision of India emerging as a global leader in mediation. "I see India becoming the headquarters of an international mediation association. We have the cul-

tural ethos for reconciliation. With sustained effort, empathy, and institutional recognition, mediation can reshape our justice system," he remarked.

Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Kurian Joseph, in his keynote address, said mediation requires sincerity and emotional intelligence rather than procedural rigidity. "A mediator is a navigator who restores trust. Mediation must grow as a discipline in its own right, and not remain bracketed under ADR," he said.

Delhi High Court Judge Justice Tejas Karia highlighted the im-

portance of mediation in commercial disputes. "Mediation allows businesses to preserve relationships. The outcome is based on consensus, not imposition. When parties willingly agree to settle, it strengthens trust and future cooperation," he noted.

Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal said mediation has consistently proven to be the most humane and constructive dispute resolution mechanism. "I have always recommended mediation as the first and most effective tool. However, we must now think of integrating mediation

more formally into arbitration itself," she said, suggesting a hybrid approach for commercial and civil disputes.

Former Delhi High Court Judge Justice M. L. Mehta reflected on the early challenges faced while introducing mediation in India. "When mediation was brought into the Indian legal landscape in 2005, there was considerable resistance not only among lawyers but even among judges. Over time, with experience and acceptance, mediation has evolved into the most effective, trust-building method of delivering justice," he said.

Jonathan Rodrigues, Mediator and Founder of The PACT, emphasized that MCI is aimed at nurturing the next generation of mediation leaders. "MCI 2025 is more than a competition it is a mission to allow mediation to develop its own professional identity," he said.

The three-day conclave, organized by The PACT in collaboration with Manav Rachna University, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, and the Prem Tara Foundation, brought together judges, senior advocates, academic leaders, law firms, and young dispute resolution practitioners.

The gathering included Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal, Justice (Retd.) M. L. Mehta, Justice Tejas Karia, and senior partners and mediators from Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Khaitan & Co., Trilegal, Dua Associates, SAMV D Partners, and DSK Legal.

Concluding his address, the Attorney General said, "The involvement of students and young professionals is essential. India must not only adopt mediation, it must lead the world in demonstrating that mediation is a way of life rooted in empathy, collaboration, and shared responsibility."UNI



Satish Sharma lays foundation for upgradation of playfield at Radpora, other playfields in Downtown Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 10: In a major push towards strengthening sports infrastructure in the heart of Srinagar, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma today laid the foundation stone for upgradation of playfield at Radpora and other adjoining playfields by way of seating tiers at an estimated project cost of ₹100.00 lakh.

The foundation stone was laid by the Minister in presence of MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Haz-

ratbal Salman Ali Sagar, other senior officers from the Youth Services & Sports department and local representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the government is committed towards nurturing sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that every aspiring athlete, especially from urban and downtown areas, has access to modern sporting infrastructure and facilities.

He highlighted that the upgradation works, like construction of seating tiers, levelling, and allied amenities, will provide better avenues for local youth to engage in sports activities and develop their talent in a structured



environment.

The Minister further assured that the department of Youth Services & Sports will continue to extend full support to the region's sports aspirants through upgraded infrastructure, coaching programs, and tournaments aimed at encouraging participation at both grassroots and professional levels.

Local residents, Sports persons and youth from Radpora and adjoining areas hailed the efforts of the Minister and the government for the much-needed developmental initiative, terming it a major step toward transforming downtown Srinagar into a vibrant hub of sports activity.

Leander Paes Takes Charge As Bengal Tennis Association President

PTI

KOLKATA: Indian tennis legend Leander Paes on Saturday formally took charge as president of the Bengal Tennis Association, succeeding Hironmoy Chatterjee after the body's Annual General Meeting.

With Paes now at the helm, Kolkata boasts two icons from different sports heading state associations -- former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly having returned as president of the Cricket Association of Bengal after six years last month.

The 18-time Grand Slam champion in men's and mixed doubles was unanimously proposed as BTA chief last month. Paes, who had been serving as the Association's honorary vice-president, has promised to take Bengal tennis to "greater heights".

An emotional Paes said his journey began at the



same association where he grew up playing as a junior.

"Today is a very humbling day for me. I miss my father a lot. I have grown up playing junior tennis, under-10s, under-12s, under-14s at BTA, including the Limca Masters that used to come through South Club and BTA," said Paes, who lost his father Dr Vece Paes in August this year.

He also fondly remembered his early mentors and long-time associates Chatterjee and Sujoy Ghosh.

"Leander Paes would not be who he is without Hironmoy Chatterjee and Papu Da (COO Sujoy Ghosh). Some of the great matches that I've won were right with them and their guidance. For me, to succeed Shona Da, I've got some very big shoes to fill."

Paes also paid tributes to the duo for contribution to Indian Davis Cup success. "To put it in a nutshell, every single Davis Cup court that was prepared in India was under their guidance. Some of the most pivotal Davis Cup matches -- Switzerland, Sweden, Croatia, Pakistan -- they got me to come out of retirement and play against Pakistan in 2006.

"The Davis Cup world record that we have sits with us, thanks to these gentlemen," said Paes, who holds the record of 45 doubles wins in the competition. Looking ahead to his new administrative role, Paes said he would approach it with the same discipline he showed on court.

Rajasthan Royals set to trade Samson to CSK for Jadeja and Curran

NAGRAJ GOLLAPUDI

CHENNAI: In one of the most high-profile player trades in IPL history, Rajasthan Royals are set to trade wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in exchange of allrounders Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran. It is understood that both franchises have spoken to all three players involved but neither franchise confirmed the development when ESPNcricinfo reached out to them.

Both RR and CSK have to send an expression of interest naming the three players involved in the trade to the IPL governing council. As per the trading rules, once the players' written consent comes in, the franchises can have further discussions for a final agreement, which will also be ratified by the governing council.

Samson and Jadeja have been with their respective franchises for a long time. Samson has represented RR for 11 seasons, while Jadeja has played for CSK since 2012, barring the two seasons in 2016 and 2017 when the franchises were suspended. Samson had indicated after IPL 2025 that he was looking for a change and wanted to be released by RR.

Jadeja was retained by CSK ahead of the 2025 mega auction for INR 18 crore as the second player after captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. Along with MS Dhoni, Jadeja has been a constant part of their core. He has been part of three of CSK's five title wins.

Jadeja played a crucial role in CSK's win in the 2023 final, with his batting heroics in the last over against Gujarat Titans. It was also his best season with the ball as he finished with 20 wickets. He followed the feat with the bat in 2025, scoring 301 runs in the season, including two fifties.

Jadeja has played 254 IPL matches, the fifth-most in the tournament behind Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Dinesh Karthik. With 143 wickets, he is the highest wicket-taker for CSK with best bowling figures of 5 for 16. He has the most Player-of-the-Match awards (16) along with Dhoni too. In 2022, Jadeja was appointed CSK captain, but handed the captaincy back to Dhoni midway after a poor start to the season.

RR was the first team Jadeja represented in the IPL as a 19-year-old, and also the first team he won the title with in 2008. Jadeja played for RR for the first two seasons but was suspended in 2010 by the IPL for trying to negotiate a contract with Mumbai Indians directly. After the ban, Jadeja featured for Kochi Tuskers in 2011 before being bought by CSK for USD 2 million in 2012.

After an impressive maiden IPL in 2013, when RR finished third as well as runner-up in the Champions League T20, Samson was the youngest player retained at 19 ahead of the 2014 season. That first stint lasted until RR's two-year suspension in 2016-17 and Samson rejoined the franchise in 2018. He was appointed captain in 2021 and, in 2022, working with Kumar Sangakkara, RR's team director, led the franchise to the IPL final for the first time since 2008. Samson has led RR in 33 wins and 33 defeats in 67 matches. In 2024, when RR made the playoffs again, he had a 500-run IPL season for the first time, scoring 531 at an average of 48.27 and strike rate of 153.47. He was one of six players retained by RR ahead of last year's mega auction at INR 18 crore and he also remained captain.

ESPNcricinfo

Director Information felicitates Gagan Jamwal on clinching Gold medal

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 10: Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora today felicitated Gagan Jamwal an employee of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) for clinching gold medal in District, J&K UT Roller Skates and 2nd J&K Master Games-2025 Championships recently held at MA Stadium

Jammu.

Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina was also present on the occasion.

The Director termed the victory of Gagan and his team as phenomenal and applauded them for clinching Gold medal. He appreciated the talent of Gagan and expressed optimism about his success in upcoming Roller Hockey Championship.



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