



Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor, J&K



"If patriotism and love for Mother India are feelings beyond words, then Vande Mataram is the song that gives a concrete expression to those feelings."

-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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Public health of Indians at risk due to substandard imports of PVC Resin : Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 : Extensive dumping of poor quality PVC resin, containing carcinogenic compounds, in India, poses a significant risk to public health, the Centre for Domestic Economy Policy Research (C-DEP.in), has said.

PVC (Poly-vinyl chloride) is a synthetic resin commonly used in plastic products. It is hazardous throughout its lifecycle, from production, through usage, and as a waste product. Resins are used in varnishes, adhesives, food additives, incenses and perfumes. PVC resins can cause severe health problems, including cancer, endocrine disruption, endometriosis, neurological damage, birth defects, impaired child development and reproductive and immune system damage.

PVC currently contributes nearly 30 percent of India's economy, with widespread use across water, sanitation, irrigation, healthcare, construction and infrastructure.

The C-DEP.in, in a report highlights how high levels of Residual Vinyl Chloride Monomer (RVCM), a Category 1A carcinogen (as per International Agency for Research on Cancer) continue to be present in PVC resin brought into the Indian market, with concentration up to five times higher than globally accepted safety limits.

The report titled "Balancing Growth and Public Health Safety: Criticality of PVC QCO in India" was launched at IIT Delhi



on Thursday.

"The Modi government has been championing the Zero Defect, Zero Effect by adopting Quality Control Order (QCO). Such a policy step by the government is strengthening consumer safety and industrial standards while promoting exports from India that are dependable and of high quality," Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, President of C-DEP.in, said.

The report notes that the proposed Quality Control Order (QCO) on PVC resin was notified by the Department of Chemicals

and Petrochemicals (DCPC) in August 2024, and subsequently deferred thrice. The order is now scheduled to be enforced in December.

"Quality Control Orders (QCOs) should not be limited to finished goods alone. It is equally or more important to cover raw materials as the quality of a final product is only as strong as the materials that go into it. To truly protect public safety and establish fair competition for domestic producers, QCOs must encompass the entire value chain, en-

suring quality and accountability at every stage of production." Anil Sharma, of The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, said at the launch of the report.

Anil Sharma said the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) is committed to achieving a self-reliant India.

"We are focused on prioritizing the protection of domestic industries and actively encouraging the use of indigenous products. Our mission is to influence policy, thereby strengthening national economic independence and ensuring Indian businesses

are successfully positioned in the global market," he added.

C-DEP research indicates that over 39 overseas players have already procured the required BIS certification for exporting to India making BIS-certified capacity at 3.4 times the current domestic demand for PVC. Full enforcement of the standard, therefore, would not disrupt supply, instead, it would strengthen predictability, trust, and quality assurance across the manufacturing chain.

Moreover, the proposed framework aligns with international best practices. The European union and countries like the United States and Thailand regulate Residual Vinyl Chloride Monomer (RVCM) levels in PVC resin within a stringent range of 0.5 ppm to 3 ppm, ensuring safety in water and food-contact applications.

India, however, does not yet have a binding national limit on RVCM which has allowed imports of PVC resin from China with concentrations reported between 5 ppm and 10 ppm.

This difference in quality benchmarking has resulted in continued inflow of lower-grade resin into the domestic market, reinforcing the need for timely implementation of the PVC QCO to ensure Indian standards are at par with global safety benchmarks.

In this context, the report's release contributes to the ongoing dialogue on quality standards, consumer safety and public health in India.UNI

NDA set for landslide victory in Bihar: Today's Chanakya

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 : The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is poised to secure a landslide victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, with a predicted 160 ± 12 seats, according to a projection by Today's Chanakya, a political research organisation. The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan alliance is expected to win 77 ± 12 seats, while other parties are likely to secure 6 ± 3 seats.

The analysis is based on a caste-wise breakdown of voter preferences, which shows the NDA leading among Brahmins, Baniyas, and Rajputs (63 percent), Scheduled Castes (58 percent), and OBCs and EBCs (55 percent). The RJD-led alliance is expected to dominate among Yadavs (67 percent) and Muslims (69 percent). The vote share projections indicate that the NDA is likely to secure 44 percent ± 3 percent of the votes, while the RJD-led alliance is expected to get 38 percent ± 3 percent. The margin of error for the seat projections is ± 12 seats for the NDA and RJD-led alliances, and ± 3 seats for other parties.

Earlier on Tuesday, most exit polls painted a clear picture of a comfortable victory for the NDA, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the Bharatiya Janata Party. According to multiple exit polls, the NDA was projected to win between 130 and 167 seats, with the Mahagathbandhan (MGB), led by Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress, trailing behind with 70-108 seats.

The exit polls, conducted by various agencies including Matriz-IANS, People's Insight, and Peoples Pulse, indicate that the NDA's stronghold in Bihar remains intact, with the alliance securing a significant majority in the 243-member Assembly. Exit Poll Projections: Matriz-IANS: NDA 147-167, MGB 70-90, Others 2-6; People's Insight: NDA 133-148, MGB 87-102, JSP 0-2, Others 3-6; Peoples Pulse: NDA 133-159, MGB 75-101, JSP 0-5, Others 2-8; NDTV: NDA 145-160, MGB 73-91, JSP 0-3, Others 5-7; Times Now: NDA 135-150, MGB 88-103, Others 3-7. The exit polls suggest that the NDA's victory is largely driven by its strong performance in the first phase of voting, where it secured a significant lead in several constituencies. The final results of the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 are slated to be announced on November 14. UNI

India reports 21 pc drop in new TB cases, double the global decline: Govt

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 : India has recorded a significant drop in new TB cases emerging in the country each year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Thursday.

From 237 cases per lakh population in 2015, the country's toll of disease incidence dropped to 187 per lakh population in 2024, registering a decline of 21 per cent. The ministry, citing data from the World Health Organisation's Global TB Report 2025, noted that India's decline is almost double the pace of the drop observed globally at 12 per cent. According to an official document, the country's TB treatment coverage has also expanded in the last decade, from rising from 53 percent in 2015 to 92 percent in 2024. Highlighting the success of India's innovative diagnostic services, the ministry pointed out that out of an estimated incidence of 27 lakh cases, 26.18 lakh TB patients were diagnosed in 2024, bringing down the number of the "missing cases" – those who had TB but were not reported. The "missing cases" numbers in 2024 stood at less than one lakh in contrast to the estimated figures of 15 lakhs in 2015. Health Ministry officials drew attention to India's TB elimination program in improving the treatment success rate, which touched 90 percent, ahead of the global treatment success rate of 88 percent. UNI

Delhi blast case: DNA confirms Dr Umar Un Nabi was behind wheel of car that exploded

BY ATUL KRISHAN

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 : DNA testing has confirmed the identity of Dr Umar Nabi, who was driving the car that exploded near the Red Fort Metro station, killing 12 people and injuring dozens.

According to the Delhi Police, the match was verified using a sample from his mother.

Investigators made the breakthrough after Dr. Nabi's leg was found trapped between a car's steering wheel and accelerator, indicating he was at the wheel when the explosion occurred.

"A total of 21 biological samples were sent to the FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) for examination. A total of 12 people died in the Red Fort blast, including the main suspect. The remaining samples were collected from biological remains found on the other victims and from the damaged vehicles in the vicinity, including cars and

ane-rickshaw affected by the blast," said a police officer.

The FSL collected DNA samples from Dr. Nabi's mother to confirm his identity. He was allegedly driving the car involved in the blast near the Red Fort on the evening of November 10, 2025, which killed 12 people and injured several others.

According to Delhi Police sources, Dr. Nabi was also spotted with the vehicle on the Mumbai Expressway and the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway before heading toward Delhi. Investigating agencies are examining the vehicle's movements in detail.

Meanwhile, a severed hand was also found on the roof of a market gate within 500 meters of the blast site has further intensified the investigation. Delhi Police officials also reported that they were informed by the hospital this morning of another victim who



succumbed to injuries during treatment.

In a related development, authorities have recovered diaries belonging to Dr. Umar Nabi and Dr. Mujammil from their rooms at Al Falah University. "The diaries were found on Tuesday and Wednesday from inside the campus of Al Falah University. One was recovered from Dr. Umar's

room number 4, and another from Dr. Mujammil's room number 13," a police source said.

Additionally, police seized another diary from a room used by Dr. Mujammil, the same location from which 360 kg of explosives had been confiscated earlier. This room is situated approximately 300 meters from Al Falah University.

"The recovered diaries and notebooks contain coded words, with references pointing to dates between November 8 and November 12. They have written the word 'Operation' multiple times in the diaries," police sources said. Today marks the third day since the explosion, with fragments of human remains still scattered near the blast site, underscoring the magnitude of the devastation.

Following the discovery, police have cordoned off the area for investigation. Another injured victim admitted to LNJP Hospital has succumbed to his injuries. The deceased has been identified as Bilal, son of Ghulam Hasan, reportedly a resident from outside Delhi. Delhi Police officials received information from the hospital earlier this morning and promptly reached the location. Bilal's post-mortem examination is scheduled for later today. UNI

Bridging the Himalayas: India, Bhutan, and the China Factor

BY JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

NEW DELHI NOV 13 : When Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Thimphu earlier on Tuesday for talks with Bhutan's monarch King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the agenda went far beyond bilateral friendship.

India's proposal to link the Himalayan kingdom to its rail network through routes in West Bengal and Assam may appear as an infrastructure project, but its strategic implications reach deep into the heart of the eastern Himalayas, where India, Bhutan, and China intersect in a complex and fragile triangle.

India has long seen strengthening connectivity with Bhutan as both a reaffirmation of trust and a subtle counterweight to Beijing's expanding presence along the disputed Bhutan-China border.

Nestled in the high Himalayas, Thimphu, views the initiative as offering economic opportunity and strategic reassurance at a time when it is delicately balancing between two powerful neighbours, India, its long-standing ally to the South, and China, its assertive neighbour to the North.

The latest India-Bhutan engagement comes amid a notable thaw in India-China ties. In August 2025, just weeks before Modi's scheduled visit to Beijing for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, New Delhi hosted the 24th round of Special Representative (SR) talks with China.

Both sides agreed to create an expert group under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) to

explore an "early harvest" solution for border delimitation.

While the discussions primarily focused on stabilising the long and disputed boundary, they also have implications for Bhutan, the only neighbouring state with which China has neither diplomatic relations nor a settled border. As India cautiously reopens channels with Beijing, Bhutan finds itself facing renewed Chinese pressure and a rare opportunity to finally conclude its own protracted boundary dispute.

Bhutan Between Two Giants
Bhutan shares deep civilisational and strategic ties with India, but it has managed to maintain a careful neutrality with China. Since 1984, it has held 25 rounds of border talks with Beijing over three disputed sectors – the North, West, and East. Yet, progress has been agonisingly slow and with no clear results in sight. The most sensitive zone is Bhutan's Western sector, abutting India's Sikkim state and the Chumbi Valley, a dagger-shaped wedge of Tibetan territory, that points menacingly toward India's narrow Siliguri Corridor, the "Chicken's Neck" connecting mainland India to its northeast.

At the core of this contest lies the Doklam Plateau, where India, Bhutan, and China meet. In 2017, India's intervention stopped the Chinese construction of a road toward the Jampheir Ridge, sparking a 73-day military standoff. The plateau's strategic significance is immense: if China were to occupy the ridge, it would gain direct observation and artillery advantage over India's vital corridor.

Bhutan and India both recognise Batang La as the trijunction point, while China insists it begins at Gimpochi, several kilometers south, a seemingly minor difference with enormous geopolitical consequences.

Bhutan's vulnerability to Chinese pressure is rooted in history. For centuries, the kingdom shared a symbiotic, if uneasy, relationship with Tibet, which extracted tributes and enjoyed influence based on the spiritual leadership of the Dalai Lama over the Himalayan Buddhist world. However, when China formally annexed Tibet in 1951, it inherited its ambiguous frontier with Bhutan and began asserting historical claims based on old Tibetan grazing routes and monastic records. During the 1950s and 1960s, Beijing oscillated between threats and inducements. It issued maps showing swathes of Bhutanese land as Chinese territory even as it offered trade concessions and friendship.

The annexation of Tibet also deepened India's strategic anxieties. New Delhi, which guided Bhutan's foreign policy at the time, moved swiftly to strengthen ties with Thimphu, an alignment that has endured ever since. For Beijing, however, Bhutan remains an unfinished business, the only neighbour, apart from India, with which it has no demarcated boundary with it. To make matters worse, it is the only neighbour that has not yet allowed China to send a permanent minister. In Chinese eyes, settling the Bhutan border is essential to consolidating control over Tibet, reducing Indian influence in the Himalayas, and expanding its strategic reach

toward the Siliguri corridor.

Over the decades, China has perfected a slow-motion strategy of encroachment, which analysts term "gray zone warfare", in Bhutan. Through the 1980s and 1990s, Chinese herders and patrols gradually pushed southward, setting up camps, outposts, and eventually roads. Recently, satellite imagery has revealed entire Chinese-built villages inside territory internationally recognised as Bhutanese, some in the Menchuma Valley in the north, others near Doklam in the west. A 2024 report counted 19 such settlements housing around 7,000 residents, an unmistakable effort to establish "facts on the ground." In 2020, Beijing even expanded its claims to include Sakteng, in eastern Bhutan, a move that caught Thimphu by surprise and underscored the scale of Chinese ambitions.

India's Stakes
For New Delhi, the stakes in Bhutan's border dispute with China are far greater than a few square miles of snow-covered wilderness. Control over Bhutan's southwestern sector, particularly the Doklam Plateau, could determine whether India retains secure access to its northeastern states or lives with a permanent vulnerability at its narrowest strategic hinge, the Siliguri Corridor.

India cannot prevent this by military posturing alone. It needs a layered, patient strategy that combines deterrence, development, and diplomacy to ensure that Bhutan's sovereignty and India's security are not eroded ridge by ridge or, for that matter, valley by valley. The most effective

defence against coercion is interdependence. By accelerating rail and road links from West Bengal and Assam to Bhutan, particularly the Kokrajhar-Gelephu and Banarhat-Samtse corridors, New Delhi can both anchor Bhutan's economy more firmly in the Indian market and extend logistical reach across the eastern Himalayas. Fast-tracking these projects under special funding windows would signal commitment at a time when China's own infrastructure is increasing by leaps and bounds southward through Tibet.

Similarly, expanding hydropower cooperation, concessional financing, and cross-border electricity trade can bind Bhutan's long-term growth to India's grid, offering Thimphu prosperity without dependency on Beijing's inducements. Economic connectivity, in this context, becomes strategic connectivity.

India's defence relationship with Bhutan is rooted in quiet trust, not an overt alliance. To preserve that balance, New Delhi's focus should be on capacity-building, enabling Bhutan to monitor and manage its own frontier effectively. This includes expanding training for the Royal Bhutan Army, facilitating logistics and mountain mobility, and deepening cooperation on border roads and all-weather access routes. Equally vital is the transfer of surveillance technology. The goal is not militarisation but awareness, ensuring that every new Chinese road, herder's camp, or "model village" is visible, recorded, and diplomatically actionable. UNI



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Those Behind Delhi Blast Will Face the Strictest Punishment: Amit Shah

DNA Test Confirms Pulwama Doctor Drove Explosive-Laden Car in Red Fort Blast; Probe Widens to Dubai

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR / NEW DELHI, NOV 13: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday vowed "the strictest punishment" for the perpetrators of the Delhi blast, asserting that such "cowardly attacks" would not go unpunished as investigators confirmed the involvement of a Pulwama-based doctor in the deadly Red Fort explosion.

A forensic breakthrough on Thursday established that Dr Umar Mohammad, a senior doctor at Al Falah University, Faridabad, was driving the Hyundai i20 car packed with explosives that blew up near the historic Red Fort on Monday, killing nine people and injuring 20. "The government is determined to bring every culprit to justice."

Prime Minister Modi is committed to ensuring that those behind this barbaric



act face the strictest punishment. India will not tolerate terror in any form," Amit Shah, addressing an event in Gujarat. DNA Confirms Pulwama Doctor's Involvement. According to investigators,

DNA samples taken from Dr Umar's mother and brother in Pulwama matched multiple human remains recovered from the wrecked car. Officials said the forensic confirmation has provided a crucial breakthrough in the ongoing multi-agency probe. Sources told Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Dr Umar, fearing arrest after the seizure of 2,900 kg of explosives from two houses in Faridabad earlier that day, drove the car through Delhi for several hours before the blast. CCTV footage from more than 50 locations across the Capital traced his movements through Connaught Place, Mayur Vihar, the Delhi Mumbai Expressway and multiple central and south Delhi districts. At least two clips show him stopping at a roadside dhaba for food and later offering prayers at a mosque in Firozpur Jhirka, Mewat.

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Society Must Rise Against Terror Sympathisers, or Face Existential Threat: LG Manoj Sinha

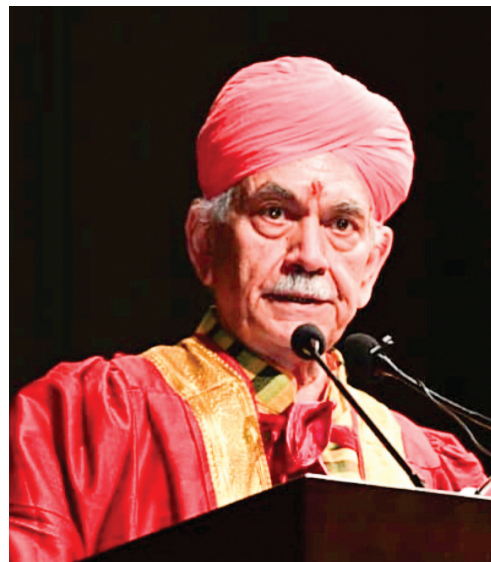
■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon the people to stand up firmly against terror sympathisers, warning that silence and inaction could turn terrorism into an existential threat to society.

Addressing the 19th (Second Special) Convocation Ceremony of the University of Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor said that while the security forces were determined to dismantle the terror ecosystem, society too must shoulder its responsibility in this fight. "Society must actively counter terrorism because it is a multifaceted challenge. People play a critical role in recognizing and reporting suspicious activities and countering radicalization efforts," LG Sinha said.

He urged the "enlightened citizens" to expose those who provide shelter to terrorists or propagate extremist narratives. "If people don't stand up strongly against terrorists, it will become an existential threat for society and destroy its stability, peace and progress," he warned.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had endured the pain of terrorism for over three decades but said the youth were now dreaming and working



towards goals similar to their counterparts across India, driven by a desire for peace, progress and a better life.

Turning to the convocation theme, the LG urged students and faculty to embrace

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Crackdown intensified on terror networks across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 13: Jammu & Kashmir Police have intensified crackdown on terror networks across multiple districts of the Union Territory as part of coordinated preventive operations aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem and strengthening internal security in the region, officials said on Thursday.

In Baramulla, police carried out a series of preventive actions targeting individuals and networks suspected of involvement in subversive activities, a police official said. He said six individuals linked with such networks were detained and bound under the law, while 22 properties associated with terrorist aides were searched.

"As part of the same operation, 20 terror associates were bound down, and two were sent to jail under preventive detention laws," he said. "Two individuals booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), who are currently on bail, were examined, and one was bound down under preventive law."

Police identified eight other UAPA-accused for bail cancellation, with two cases already submitted to the competent court.

The security forces also conducted 16 Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) at different locations and checked 292 vehicles across multiple checkpoints in the district.

Also, five individuals linked to the banned E&IMCO organisation and two Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) affiliates were questioned to ensure compliance with the law, the official said, adding that two absconding UAPA accused have been traced and

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Focus on Financial Prudence, Sustainable Growth in Urban Planning : CM Omar

Calls for Timely Execution of Urban Projects, As Abdullah Chairs JDA Board Meet



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday

chaired the 90th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) at the Civil Secretariat and directed

officials to ensure prudent financial management and timely execution of development

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CM stresses role of universities in empowering youth

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday said that his government has undertaken a series of transformative reforms to enhance access, quality and relevance in higher education across Jammu and Kashmir—reforms that directly benefit institutions such as the University of Jammu and, most importantly, its students.

He was speaking at the 19th (Second Special) Convocation of

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Mercury Continues Free Fall In Kashmir; Srinagar Coldest At Minus 2.1 Degrees

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 13: Temperature across Kashmir Valley continued to drop further on Thursday as Srinagar city recorded its coldest night at minus 2.1 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam hill station recorded minus 3.8 degrees, and Gulmarg had 0.5 minimum temperature.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department officials said that the minimum temperature is expected to drop further in the coming days in the Valley.

"As expected, the minimum temperature dropped to minus 2.1 degrees Celsius in Srinagar today, which is the lowest this season so far. The night temperature is likely to drop further in the coming days," the MeT officials said.

The weather department has forecast generally dry weather from November 13 to November 15, generally cloudy weather towards the afternoon on November 16 and then dry weather between November 17 to November 19. Jammu city recorded 10.2, Katra town 9.5, Batote 2.9 and Bhaderwah one degree as the minimum temperature.

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Counting of votes in Budgam, Nagrota today

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, NOV 13: As political parties and voters await the outcome with bated breath, counting of votes for the Budgam and Nagrota Assembly constituencies will take place on Thursday.

The Election Commission of India has made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the counting process for the Budgam and Nagrota Assembly seats, where voting was held on November 11.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the process of counting will begin at 8 a.m. with postal ballots, while the counting of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will start at 8:30 a.m.

Speaking to KNO, Returning Officer for the Budgam Assembly segment, Afroza Bano, said that 15 rounds of counting will be conducted for the seat. However, Returning Officer for the Nagrota constituency, Rajesh Kumar, declined to share details about the counting process, stating that he was busy.

A total of 27 candidates are in the fray for these two constituencies, which were

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Red Fort Blast: Srinagar-Delhi Air Ticket Found at Doctor's Home

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SAHARANPUR, NOV 13: A flight ticket showing that Dr. Adil Ahmad, a Jammu and Kashmir native arrested from Saharanpur last week, had travelled from Srinagar to Delhi on October 31, just days before the November 10 car explosion near Red Fort that killed 13 people and injured over 20.

According to officials, the air ticket bearing Adil's name and travel date was recovered from a garbage pile outside his rented house in Aman Vihar Colony, Manakmau, along Ambala Road in Saharanpur on Wednesday.

The house, now sealed and under police guard, was searched after multiple intelligence and anti-terror teams reached the city earlier this week, they

said.

Police sources said the ticket has been seized and sent for forensic examination. The finding has raised further questions about Adil's movements and possible links to the Delhi blast, as investigators try to determine how long he stayed in the capital and whom he met during that period.

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High Court Upholds Rejection of Roshni Act Ownership Claims

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 13: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has dismissed three separate appeals filed under the scrapped Roshni Act by Ghulam Rasool Mushtari and others who had sought ownership rights over portions of State land in Srinagar. The Division Bench of Justice Shehzad Azeem and Justice Sindhu Sharma upheld the earlier

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Rasmi Chaharum of Noted Social Worker Syed Hilal Bukhari, Scheduled on November 15

■ ASHIQ HUSSAIN

MURADABAD KREERI, NOV 12: As already reported that Kreeri's well-known social worker and sports personality, Syed Hilal Bukhari, passed away on November 12.

The deceased was the Cousin brother of Professor Mir Syed Rafiuddin Bukhari

and the uncle of Syed Basharat Bukhari and late Syed Shujaat Bukhari.

A special congregational prayer (Majlis-e-Dua) for the eternal peace of the departed soul will be held on November 15 at his ancestral graveyard and followed by Quraan khawani at residence of the deceased at Muradabad Kreeri., Insha'Allah.



CS reviews issues concerning PM Package Employees

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review and resolve various issues pertaining to Prime Minister's Package Employees serving in the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R);



Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secre-

tary, General Administration Department; Secretary, School Education; Relief Commis-

sioner (Migrants); Chief Engineers of R&B; Representatives

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DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner reviews traffic decongestion measures in the city

Focus on Traffic Regulation, Public Transport & Road Connectivity in City

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting at Conference Hall of the DC Office to deliberate on key matters related to decongestion of traffic in the city.

SSP Traffic, Aijaz Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B South, Tatheer Manzoor; Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir

Ahmad; ARTO Srinagar Mouzam Ali, Officers from SSCL and other concerned were present in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed discussion took place on finalization of different agenda points including, Notifying of dedicated Bus Stops in Srinagar City, delineation on Contract Carriage Permits, Replication of One-Way Traffic on select routes to reduce congestion, identification of black spots, and streamlined regulation of e-rickshaws within the City, exploring additional and alternate Road Connectivity Projects to ease the existing routes, alternate road projects, creation of additional Parking Facilities besides other agenda points.

After a comprehensive review,



decisions were taken with respect to several key bottlenecks and

proposals aimed at improving transport reliability and ensuring

better mobility for the public.

Stress was laid on ensuring robust and reliable Transport services to the public in the City. They also emphasized on taking effective measures to overcome traffic jams for smooth regulation of traffic movement in the City.

They further underscored the need for establishing a structured and sustainable framework for e-rickshaw operations, ensuring both road safety and public convenience while maintaining overall traffic discipline on the roads.

During the meeting framework with regard to establishment of District Excellence Centre Srinagar in Regional Transport Office was also discussed.

Jan Sunwai Sessions held across Bandipora under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 11: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (JJGV) campaign, a series of Jan Sunwai (Public Hearing) sessions were held across Bandipora district to ensure effective public outreach, grievance redressal, and awareness regarding government welfare schemes.

On the occasion, the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Bandipora conducted multiple Jan Sunwai camps at Badaab, Tulail, Buglinder, Gund Gul Sheikh, Husangam, and Malangam, where local residents raised various issues related to basic amenities, service delivery, and welfare programmes. Several grievances were resolved on the spot, while others were recorded for follow-up with the concerned departments.

Similarly, a grievance redressal session was held at Chandaji Adi Sewa Kendra, attended by Nodal Officer (Tehsildar Bandipora), during which citizens interacted with officers and shared concerns related to developmental works and social welfare schemes.

At Panchayat Chittibandey, a Jan Sunwai session was led by District Level Master Trainer (DLMT) assisted by the BLMT, VNO, and field teams. Residents actively participated and raised issues concerning essential services and government entitlements. The team also conducted an awareness session on various flagship initiatives and welfare programmes.

A special Gram Sabha was held at Adi Sewa Kendra, Panchayat C.A. Khan, Block Arin, under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, who also serves as the Nodal Officer for public hearings under the JJGV campaign.

The event provided a platform for community members to discuss developmental priorities and highlight key local issues.

At Aragam Gojarpati Sewa Kendra, the event began Jan Sunwai session and awareness activities. Similar grievance redressal programmes were also organised at Chittibandey B and Chountimulla Panchayats, witnessing enthusiastic participation from residents.

Similar Jan Sunwai sessions and Special Gram Sabhas were also held at other Adi Sewa Kendras across the district, where officers and field teams interacted with residents, listened to their grievances, and raised awareness about various government schemes.

These sessions witnessed enthusiastic participation from local communities and ensured on-the-spot redressal of issues, reflecting the administration's commitment to responsive governance and community-driven development under the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh campaign.

DSEK conducts surprise inspection of Examination Centres in several districts

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 13 Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani today conducted surprise inspections of several examination centres across Srinagar, Bandipora, and Ganderbal districts for maintaining discipline, smooth arrangements and fairness of the ongoing examinations.

He was accompanied by Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and Deputy Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Rumaisa Sangeen

During the visit, Director School Education Kashmir, inspected various centres including Girls Higher Secondary School Nawakadal, Boys Higher Secondary School Muigund, Higher Secondary School Shadipora Bandipora, Higher Secondary School Wakura Ganderbal and Higher Secondary School Kurhama Ganderbal, where he reviewed the arrangements related to invigilation, seating, facilities for students, and transparency in the conduct of exams.

The Director appreciated the efforts of the supervisory and invigilation staff for maintaining discipline and



smooth functioning during the exams. He emphasized that the Directorate is committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, and stress-free examination process across Kashmir Division.

The Director instructed the concerned officers to maintain strict vigilance against any malpractice or

unfair means, stressing that any deviation from established norms will invite strict action.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements, he reiterated that the Department's top priority is to uphold integrity and fairness in the entire examination process.

Intellectual Property awareness Program under National IP outreach Mission held at IIIM Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 13: Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), in collaboration with the Atal Incubation Centre, CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Sanatnagar, organized an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Awareness Program under the National IP Outreach Mission at IIIM Srinagar.

The program aimed to enhance awareness among entrepreneurs, start-ups, and MSMEs

on the significance of Intellectual Property (IP) in driving innovation, improving competitiveness, and fostering business growth.

On the occasion, CEO, Atal Incubation Centre IIIM, Dr. Shahid Jibran, highlighted the pivotal role incubation centres play in nurturing innovation and supporting emerging entrepreneurs.

Assistant Director, Branch MSME DFO, provided an overview of the program and underlined the importance of IPR by sharing practical examples from the textile sector.

CEO, CIED, IUST Foundation also addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of IP awareness in promoting entrepreneurship and research-led innovation in the region. He also urged participants to actively explore opportunities in the field of entrepreneurship.

Managing Director, L-Crystal, delivered an engaging talk on "The Value of IP for a Successful Entrepreneur", explaining how intellectual property serves as a strategic asset for startups and established enterprises alike. He elaborated on the various dimensions of IP that contribute to

enterprise growth and its positive impact on society.

Further, Assistant Director, Branch MSME DFO, elaborated on the Ministry's efforts to strengthen IP facilitation and protection mechanisms for MSMEs and startups.

He also introduced participants to two key financial support initiatives of the Ministry viz. Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and SRI Funds, highlighting the government's commitment to promoting innovation-driven enterprises.

During the Technical Session,

Attorney, Intellectual Property, IP Facilitation Centre (IPFC), presented a comprehensive session on "How to Register IP and IPR Benefits to MSMEs through IPFC."

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where participants engaged in meaningful discussions on IP filing, protection, and commercialization.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 70 attendees, including scientists, researchers, representatives from Innovation Clubs/ATL Labs, and entrepreneurs.

DC Budgam Flags-Off Cycle, Bike, Marathon Rallies to Celebrate 150 Years of "Vande Mataram"

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 13: As part of the ongoing celebrations marking 150 years of the iconic patriotic song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Budgam today organized a series of vibrant and spirited Cycle Rallies, Bike Rallies, and a Marathon Run, spreading the message of unity, patriotism, and national pride across the district.

The rallies were flagged off by the Deputy Commis-



sioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, from the Sports Stadium Budgam.

Besides ADC Mehraj -ud-din shah, CPO Budgam, DIO Budgam and other senior officers were present.

The rallies culminated at the Railway Station Budgam, symbolizing the onward journey of India's progress, inspired by the timeless spirit of "Vande Mataram."

The atmosphere was charged with patriotic enthusiasm as loud chants of "Vande Mataram" reverberated through the air.

Patriotic music and slogans celebrating India's unity in diversity inspired participants and onlookers alike, creating a wave of collective energy and devotion to the motherland.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Budgam highlighted the historical and emotional significance of "Vande Mataram", composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

He said that the song inspired generations of freedom fighters and continues to ignite the spirit of devotion towards the nation.

The DC Budgam emphasised that the initiative was aimed at connecting youth and citizens with India's rich patriotic and cultural legacy, while also promoting values of fitness, discipline, and community participation.

He appreciated the enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers, and citizens across Budgam who joined the celebration with great zeal.

The event witnessed mass participation from school and college students, members of youth clubs, NSS volunteers, and officials from police and civil administration, turning the entire stretch from Sports Stadium to Railway Station Budgam into a moving celebration of tricolour and song.

The rallies organised by District Administration is a step in the year-long series of activities planned by the District Administration Budgam to commemorate the 150th year of "Vande Mataram", reaffirming the district administration's commitment to the ideals of unity, patriotism, and national harmony.

DC Budgam presides over 150 Years of "Vande Mataram" prog Felicitates Winning Students of Various Competitions

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 13: Continuing the series of activities commemorating 150 years of the iconic patriotic song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Budgam today organized a special seminar and felicitation programme at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Budgam. The event was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

Besides ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, senior officers of district administration, faculty members of all colleges of Bud-

gam, students from various colleges, students and representatives from educational institutions of District Budgam were present. As part of the programme, a documentary film on the history and significance of "Vande Mataram" was screened, depicting the origin of the song, its deep patriotic essence, and its role in India's freedom movement.

The audience also viewed a video presentation showcasing the series of events and activities organized across District Budgam under the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram." Speaking on the oc-



casion, DC Budgam highlighted the timeless relevance of "Vande

Mataram" as a song that not only inspired the freedom struggle

but continues to bind citizens in unity, harmony, and national

pride. He said that such programmes are aimed at instilling a sense of belonging and patriotism among youth, while also encouraging them to understand and celebrate India's cultural and historical legacy.

On this occasion, DC Budgam felicitated the winning students of various colleges who secured first, second, and third positions in painting, essay writing, singing, and debate competitions organized as part of the celebration series.

The DC appreciated the creativity and enthusiasm of students and lauded the efforts of teachers and coordinators who guid-

ed and encouraged them to participate.

The DC said that the District Administration Budgam will continue organizing such educational and cultural events throughout the year, ensuring that the message of "Vande Mataram" unity, devotion, and love for the motherland resonates across all sections of society.

The seminar showcases the collective spirit of respect and gratitude toward India's rich patriotic heritage with a renewed pledge by all participants to uphold the values of national integrity.

HT EDITORIAL

Put in place heating arrangements for candidates appearing in board exams

The Board of School Education receives huge amounts from the students who have to appear in the annual board examinations and in return it is expected that the students would get all the facilities while writing their papers. The board examinations for this year have already commenced and more than one lakh students are appearing in the examinations for 10th and 12th classes.

As the winter season has already set in and chill has intensified over the past few days it is imperative that necessary heating arrangements are made for the candidates appearing in these examinations. There are reports that most of the examination centres spread across the length and breadth of Kashmir valley and winter zone of Jammu division are not having the requisite heating arrangements. As a result of this most of the candidates appearing in the board examinations are shivering in the cold.

Due to the bone chilling cold the affected students are not able to write their answer papers and many among them miss some of the questions in the question paper. This would seriously impact the final results of these candidates and they might score low in the overall merit list. The failure of the board authorities to put in place proper heating arrangements at the examination centres is not a new thing. It has been going on in the past and one cannot rule out the same in future as well.

It is an established fact that the annual board examinations in the Kashmir valley are usually held in the month of November. Given this fact it is quite natural to expect that necessary heating arrangements are put in place for the board examinations. Even though the Board of School Education has been holding examinations for ages, the people at the helm at the board are somewhat irresponsible when it comes to making the necessary arrangements for the students with the main being lack of heating arrangements.

It is time that the board authorities learn a lesson or two and improve their performance in holding examinations. Without wasting any further time these people should put in place the heating arrangements at the centres where examinations are going on at present. Once such a step is taken then it can be expected that in future all the necessary arrangements including heating arrangements would be made for the candidates appearing in the board examinations.

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RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

HT - EDIT

Children's Day: A Celebration of Childhood

Children's Day is celebrated every year on November 14th in India to honor the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. He was very fond of children and believed that they are the future of the nation. On this day, schools and communities organize fun activities, games, cultural programs, and other events to make children feel special.

It is also a reminder for all to love, care, and protect the rights of children so they can grow up happy and healthy. Children's Day is a celebration of innocence, joy, and the importance of nurturing young and fresh minds for a brighter tomorrow.

As a child, Children's Day is an emotion for every single kid. It's a day to enjoy, have fun, and feel loved. For me, it's a day to look forward to, full of excitement and happiness.

In conclusion, Children's Day reminds us that every child



deserves love, care, and the freedom to dream big. Let's celebrate their innocence today and work together to build a brighter future for them tomorrow. We should strive to create a world where every child has access to quality education, healthcare, and a safe environment

to grow and thrive. Let's make every day a Children's Day by spreading love, kindness, and happiness to all the children around us.

The writer is reading in class 11th.

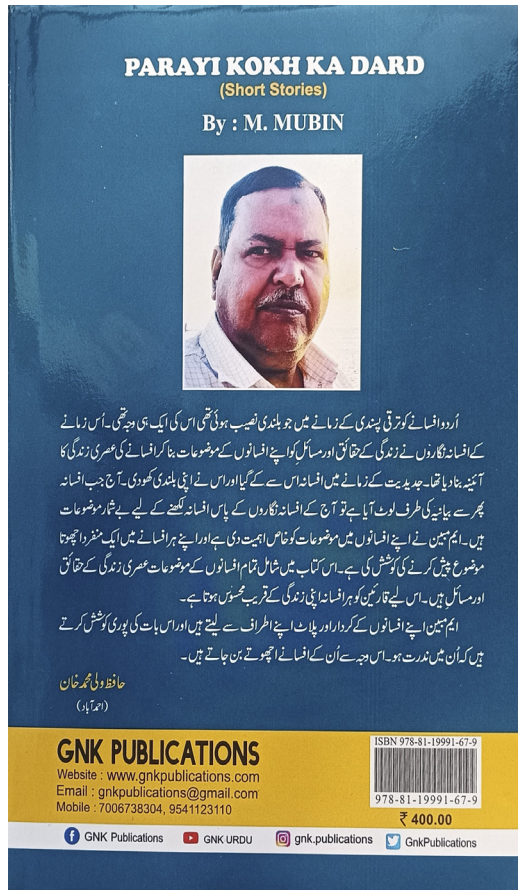
BOOK REVIEW

Parayi Kokh Ka Dard A Short Story Collection by M. Mubeen

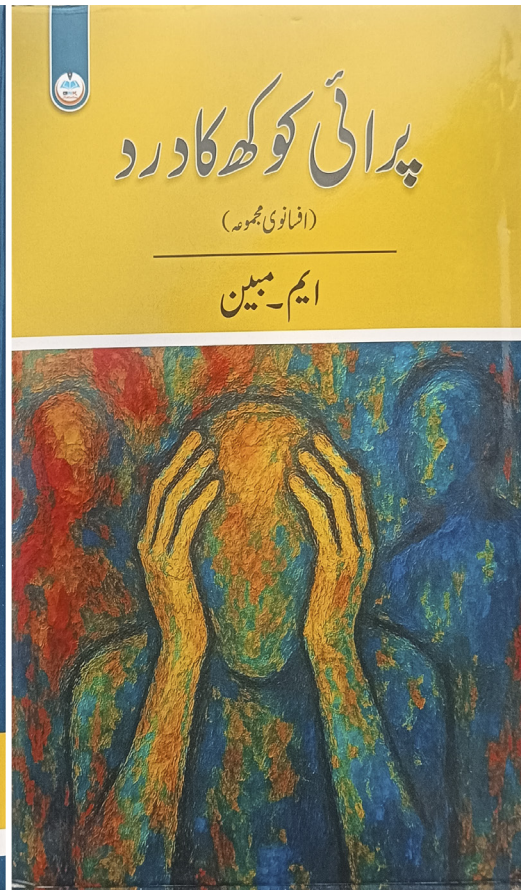


RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Mohd Mubeen, widely recognized by his pen name M. Mubeen, is a noted and acclaimed litterateur of India. He writes extensively in both Hindi and Urdu languages, with drama, science fiction, and fiction being his preferred literary genres. A prolific writer, Mubeen has authored 44 books in Urdu and 33 in Hindi, earning multiple literary accolades over the years. His latest Urdu short story collection, Parayi Kokh Ka Dard, is his sixth anthology of short stories. Spanning 216 pages, the book has been published by the reputed GNK Publications. The collection's aesthetically designed cover page adds to its appeal, and the author has dedicated this work to Hafiz Wali Mohd Khan of Ahmedabad. About this collection, Hafiz Wali Mohd Khan remarks: "The author has accorded special importance to the titles of the stories. The locally rooted characters and day-to-day happenings lend a distinct charm to this collection, allowing readers to relate to them as reflections of their own lives." In his preface, M Mubeen expresses: "While placing this collection in the hands of readers, I experience the same pleasure I felt while handing them my earlier works." He also reflects on a contemporary concern, observing that literature across the world's major languages faces numerous challenges today—the most pressing among them being the growing influence of artificial intelligence. He notes how novice and unskilled writers can now create literary content within minutes—work that once took seasoned writers months to complete. Parayi Kokh Ka Dard thus stands as yet another testament to M Mubeen's creative brilliance and his deep concern for the evolving landscape of world literature. This anthology comprises twenty meticulously written short stories, each composed with deep reflection on the social and moral degradation of contemporary times. Gonga Boul Raha Hai, the opening story of the collection, is eloquently crafted by the author. It portrays the challenges faced by speech-impaired individuals in expressing themselves, and how society often fails to comprehend their silent language. Beyond this, the story underscores a deeper social issue—a local sarpanch, after violating the chastity of a young girl, abandons her in an open field. A mute man witnesses the heinous act and desperately tries to alert the villagers, but instead of confronting or condemning the crime, they quietly return to their homes, turning a blind eye to the injustice. "Dakhma ke Gadh" is another short story that reveals the centuries-old traditional practice of the Parsi Zoroas-



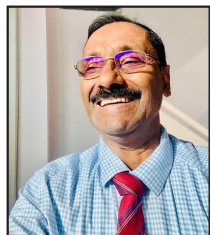
trian community, in which the dead bodies of their relatives are left to be consumed by predatory birds—especially vultures—instead of being buried or cremated, as they consider the earth and fire sacred. The story vividly depicts how, in the absence of human corpses for a long time, vultures begin to attack living people. "Parayi Kokh Ka Dard", the title story of this collection, is a wonderfully composed narrative that unveils the grave issue of women's oppression at the hands of a drunkard husband. He rents out his wife's womb and, in return, earns a hefty sum, which he squanders on drinking and other indulgences. The woman carries a child in her womb for nine long months, but after merely catching a glimpse of the newborn boy, she is forbidden from seeing or searching for him again. Yet, after years of longing and emotional torment, she finally manages to find him—seeing him both in the morning and evening hours—symbolizing the true essence of "Parayi Kokh Ka Dard" (the pain of a borrowed womb). I deeply loved this story by the author; it is indeed both inspiring and thought-provoking. Abdul Puncture Wala—This story captures the grim ordeal of the COVID-19 pandemic, when people were confined indoors and the world was engulfed in fear, hopelessness, and deprivation. Humanity seemed to have retreated as everyone cared only for their own safety. Amid these testing times, a man who had already lost his son and mother to the deadly virus—rose above personal grief. Risking his own life and health, he selflessly helped others by trans-



porting oxygen cylinders to those in desperate need. "Sone ke Daant" is a reflection of human selfishness and greed. It portrays how people often lose their sense of right and wrong in their pursuit of wealth—especially when it comes without effort. The story revolves around a man with three golden teeth who dies, and after his cremation, ten people desperately search for those golden teeth. However, all their efforts ultimately go in vain, highlighting the futility of greed and unearned desires. Doulat is a satire on the human instinct of greed for wealth and materialism. We often neglect true prosperity and peace of mind, preferring instead to accumulate more wealth—only to lose our inner peace in the process. The same happens to Doulat Chowdry, who agrees to keep forty lakh rupees in his custody to help a friend who doubts his own ability to keep it safe. However, instead of sleeping peacefully that night, Doulat Chowdry spends the entire night staring at the ceiling, unable to rest, consumed by the burden of wealth that isn't even his own. "Waris" highlights the increasing tendency of begging, the disloyalty of sons towards their parents, and the disregard for the hard work and sacrifices parents make while raising their children. These themes are beautifully woven together through the author's magical use of words. All the stories in this collection are praiseworthy and commendable, deserving the attention of every enthusiastic reader.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Vandana Kumari Jena's Swansong : Serenity in Emotional Resonance



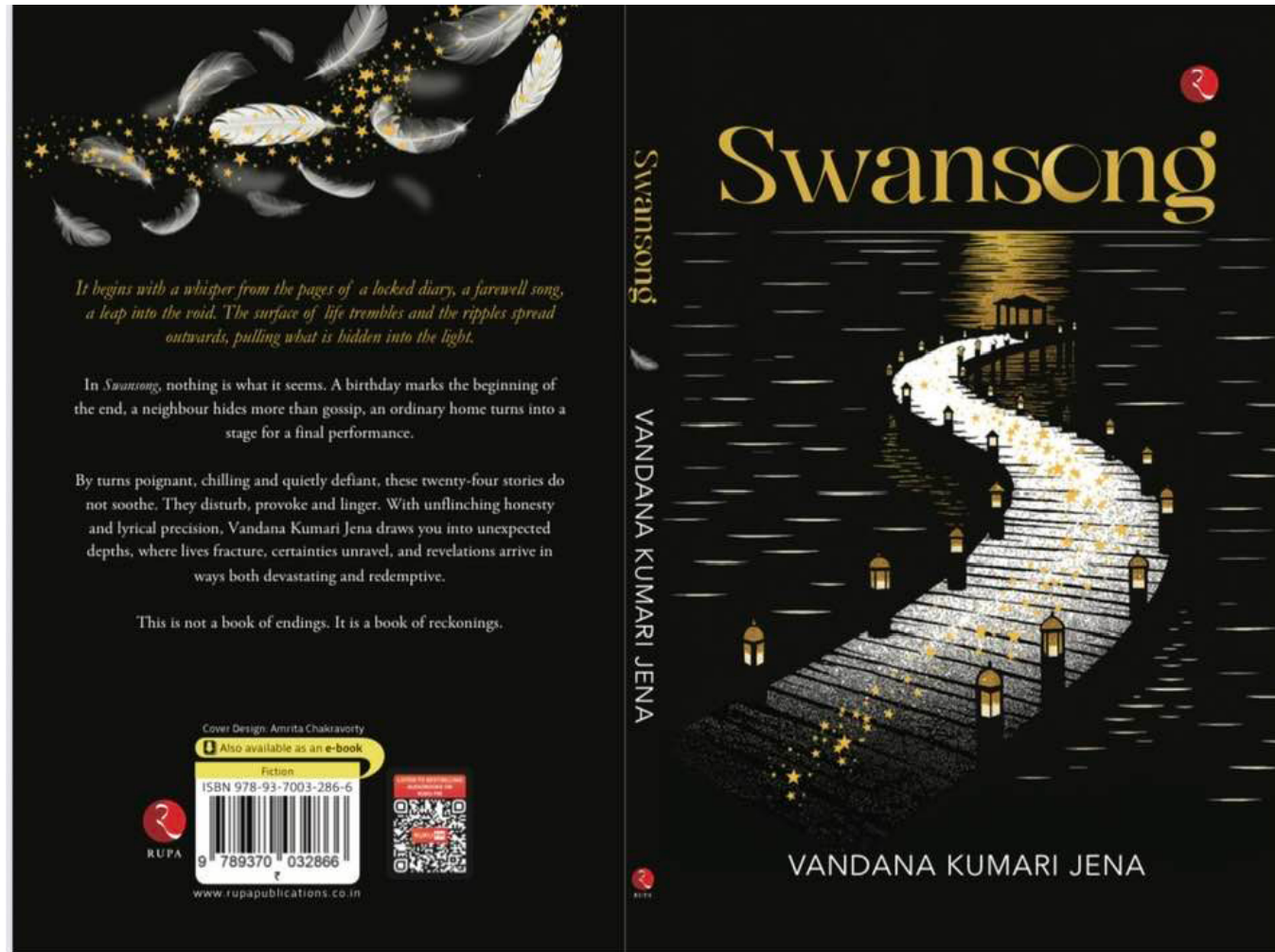
DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Vandana Jena's Swansong, (2025) is not her last work (in a literal meaning) but certainly the latest collection of fiction from Rupa Publishing Co., a prestigious publishing house of Kolkata. In this book too Vandana Kumari Jena the eminent fiction writer cum Retd. IAS officer (1979 Batch) continues her literary journey, offering readers a meditation on endings, identity, and the quiet power of resilience. In this collection, Mrs. Vandana combines the discipline of her bureaucratic background with the emotional depth of a seasoned storyteller. The result is a narrative that feels both precise and profoundly humane — a tapestry woven with the threads of memory, regret, and grace. Swansong opens with a quiet scene that belies the emotional intensity that follows. There is a haunting melancholy and a thread of mystery running through all the 24 stories. Jena, who has seen human ambition and despair from the vantage point of governance, writes about ordinary people with extraordinary insight. Her protagonists could be anyone — a teacher, an official, a mother, a lover — yet through her, Jena paints a portrait of an entire generation struggling to balance self-realization with social expectation.

Readers familiar with Jena's earlier works, such as One Rotten Apple and Other Stories or Over the Edge, will recognize her characteristic themes — the intersection of the personal and the institutional, the endurance of women in patriarchal systems, and the moral ambiguities of modern life. What distinguishes Swansong is its tone of acceptance. While her previous stories often examined struggle and survival, Swansong is about surrender — not defeat, but understanding. It asks whether peace can come not from triumph, but from reconciliation with imperfection. Jena's prose is remarkably clear, almost meditative in rhythm. She writes without ornamentation, relying instead on precision and observation. Her language carries the restraint of experience — there is no need to prove, only to reveal. Her ability to combine simplicity with substance gives the stories in Swansong its emotional resonance. Every scene feels lived, every line believable. She does not chase dramatic effect; instead, she allows empathy to do the work of art.

The relationships in Swansong — with family, colleagues, and lost loves — are drawn with delicate precision. Jena has an uncanny ability to portray intimacy without sentimentality. Her characters rarely say what they feel, but their silences speak volumes. A letter never sent, a phone call unanswered, a glance across a crowded room — these become the emotional anchors of the stories. Jena's years in the Indian Administrative Service lend authenticity to her depiction of bureaucratic life. The professional life, she suggests, is only one strand of identity; the private self, often neglected, is where the real reckoning happens. What makes the stories in the book stand out is the refusal to hurry. In an age of fiction dominated by pace and spectacle, Jena trusts her readers to linger, to observe, to reflect. The stories move like life itself — measured, uneven, unpredictable. The pace allows for introspection, not only by the characters but by the reader. There is a certain courage in that — to write slowly in a fast world, to trust that truth unfolds best in quietness.

The titular story 'Swansong' is the story of Mala whose mother Palash jumps from Tiger Point in Lonavala and commits suicide the moment a man calls her "Chhavi." Mala accuses him of abetment to suicide. He, in turn alleges that Mala is not Palash's daughter.



ter. Questions hang loosely in the plot : Who was the man? And even more important, who was her mother? 'The Dark Night' is the tale of a father and son who get lost in the desert in Jaisalmer while in search for someone, and are provided shelter for the night by a kind hearted man, who turns out to be the man they were looking for. 'Garima' is the story of a police officer in a Naxal afflicted district who finds his world crumbling down when he receives a parcel on his birthday and it turns out to be a parcel bomb. He escapes unhurt but his wife Garima, who opened the parcel, loses her sight in the blast. 'Father and Son' is the story of a man afflicted by kidney disease, whose adulterous wife committed suicide years ago, leaving behind a young son who, he suspects, is not his child. 'The Amish Quilt' takes us to the quaint Amish country in the US, which Jay visits along with his friend Rita, to buy an Amish quilt for his sister Renee for her birthday. When he enters an Amish store, he is shocked to find that the girl at the counter, Lucy, is his sister's doppelganger. Their subsequent conversation leads to some startling revelations and the truth about Renee is revealed. 'Redemption' is the tale of a guilt-ridden son who takes a flight from the US to India to see his mother who is hospitalised, only to find that she has passed away the day before, waiting till the last moment, for a glimpse of him. He is overcome with grief as well as guilt. After completing his mother's last rites in Haridwar, he is shocked to see another woman, who looks like his mother. They start talking, and he learns of the hardships she faces in order to survive. He discovers that she is working for a mere pittance, in the dharamshala where he is staying. He decides he has found the ideal way to earn redemption for his neglect of his mother. 'Maya' is the story of Milind, a young doctor, who is shocked when he receives a letter from a young man Joy from the US, claiming that his DNA test from the agency 23&Me shows that he has a 50% match with Milind, therefore they are brothers. Milind denies it immediately, claiming that he is an only child, and that his parents had separated when he was merely a child. 'Climb Every Mountain' is a love story wavering between hope and despair. It is the story of a young man who falls in love with Neha, who has but one passion, to climb mountains. They meet in Sikkim, and the place works its magic on them. Then like other star-crossed lovers, they are separated. Fate unites them once again, and they get married, only to let the mountains cast them asunder.

'Revathi' is the story of man who drowns himself in sadness and lapses into silence when his young daughter Revathi falls from the balcony of his

The relationships in Swansong — with family, colleagues, and lost loves — are drawn with delicate precision. Jena has an uncanny ability to portray intimacy without sentimentality. Her characters rarely say what they feel, but their silences speak volumes.

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eight floor flat and dies. A few months later, his wife Sunidhi informs him of her affair with a colleague and leaves the house, finally shaking him up from his stupor. 'A Fantasy World' is the tale of a young maid who pretends to be the lady of the house, when her mistress goes on a three-day work trip, leaving her in charge of the house. She invites her boyfriend over for a tryst. Suddenly everything goes wrong. Her mistress returns unexpectedly as her flight is cancelled, and is shocked to see her house in disarray when she returns home. 'Childhood Monsters' is the tale of a young mother who while talking to her brother, is informed by her nephew that her son is missing from the playground. Sherushes to the playground, sees his bicycle and the blood nearby, and recalling a horrific incident in her childhood where two young boys had abducted and killed a toddler in England, galvanizes into action to find her missing son. 'Dreams Die Last' is the story of a doctor visiting Italy for her second honeymoon, reminiscing about the first honeymoon when she had witnessed something horrifying during their flight to Rome, the trauma of which she is unable to overcome even after a decade. 'The Boy Next Door' is the story of Vanita who is unable to forgive her friend Gaurav when she meets with an accident and loses her leg, while he walks away without a scratch. 'The Sound of Silence' is the story of a non-verbal, autistic boy, locked up in his mute world, who accidentally discovers that he has a flair for drawing and writing, and writes a graphic novel. 'The Wait' is a tale of widowed mother who prays for her son as he leaves home to appear for the Medical Entrance Examination, only to learn that the car he was travelling in, had met with a serious accident and he is now in coma. 'Coming Home' is the tale of an estranged daughter, returning home to her mother after her husband, who she had married against her parent's wishes, had beaten her badly. 'Dying Embers' is the story of a Public Relations Officer of a bank who visits the hospital to see the wife of a bank employee who had suffered 90% burns, when an unknown assailant had doused her in petrol and burned her. She meets her grief-stricken husband and commiserates with him. The truth about the woman's death is revealed months later. 'Cardiac Arrest' is the tale of a college lecturer who goes to the airport, along with her son and her younger sister, to receive her husband when he returns from Canada after a year. She sees him happily clicking photographs, when suddenly she sees him drop dead after a cardiac arrest and she is left wondering why. 'Memories of Happier Times' is the story of a woman who is nostalgic about Chandni Chowk, her childhood home and visits it to submit her life certificate in the bank where her pension is credited. While returning, she meets a young boy at the bus stop.

After they board the bus she offers him aparatha, while he gives her a pack of Frooti. But suddenly things go terribly wrong. 'Up in Smoke' is the tale of a chain smoker who refuses to heed the warnings of his wife about the dangers of smoking, until he has a severe bout of coughing and is admitted to the hospital. Is it his heart, he wonders, or his lungs? But the truth is something else. And ultimately, he pays a heavy price for it. 'Roosevelt Island' is the story of a young widow who comes to New York for six months to babysit her niece and nephew while her sister-in-law attends a course in journalism. In Roosevelt Island, she meets a painter who is also from India. She is drawn to him, but is surprised when his sister reveals the truth about him. 'Angels of Mercy' is the story of an old man who dies but suspicions are raised by his grandson that he did not die due to natural causes but due to an overdose of insulin. 'Murder I solved' is the story of a teenaged boy with a fractured leg, trapped in a multi-storied apartment during Covid 19 outbreak, whose uneventful life turns exciting when his next-door neighbour is murdered and the police inspector seeks his help while solving the case. 'Why Did I Forget' is the story of a nurse who is bone weary while on a 12-hour shift in a hospital, all the while assailed by a nagging thought that there was something urgent that she was forgetting, when she sees her daughter arrive in the hospital with a broken arm and finally realizes what she was forgetting. Some readers may find Swansong demanding for precisely this reason. It is not a book of events but of emotions; not a collection of plot-driven tales but a character-driven meditation. The power of the stories lies in suggestion rather than revelation. The occasional restraint that gives the prose elegance can also make it feel distant to those seeking overt drama or confrontation. Yet for readers who value subtlety and psychological insight, the stories offer a rare satisfaction. Its quietness is not emptiness; it is the silence of meaning.

The title, Swansong, is both literal and metaphorical. In literature and myth, the swan's final song before death is said to be its most beautiful — a gesture of transcendence in the face of ending. Jena's stories do not romanticize aging or failure; instead, they present the narratives as integral to wisdom. In doing so, Jena gives voice to a demographic often ignored in modern fiction — we all in the later stages of life, still capable of change, reflection, and grace. The sociocultural texture of the novel adds another layer of richness. Jena's Mumbai is not the glamorous city of postcards but the lived city of transitions — its rains, its bureaucracy, its rhythms of solitude amid crowds. The author uses the city as metaphor: like the protagonist, it is always in motion, always balancing decay and renewal.

There is also a quiet feminist undercurrent running through the work — not in slogans, but in choices. The protagonist's journey in nearly each story toward self-acceptance, even in late life, is itself an act of defiance against invisibility. Jena's feminism is not radical in tone but radical in tenderness. Stylistically, Jena's writing has the lucidity of clear water. She avoids excess, yet her images linger. Her dialogue, sparse and natural, mirrors the rhythms of real conversation. She writes as someone who has listened more than she has spoken, and her restraint becomes her signature strength. There is something deeply humane about her art — it listens, observes, and forgives. If there is a limitation to Swansong, it lies in its predictability. Jena's moral universe is consistent, perhaps too consistent at times. The reader can anticipate redemption even before it arrives. The emotional arc — from disillusionment to acceptance — feels inevitable. Yet one could argue that inevitability is part of its charm. Rupa has honestly done a wonderful work as publisher.

About the writer : International Tagore Awardee writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee, President Kolkata Indian American Society, is a Former Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University & multilingual International Poet cum Columnist. Email prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

CURD AND IT'S HEALTHY BENEFITS



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Stress levels among all age groups are increasing with each passing day in our country. India is the second-largest country in the world in terms of its population, which is more than 140 crore. One thing is very clear: the country is heading towards development in all fields, like science and technology, women's empowerment, and providing employment to educated youth. At the same time, it is very unfortunate that we are decreasing agricultural land. With the hike in population, the demands are increasing, like vegetable demand, fruit demand, and other essential items like cereals, pulses, spices, rice, and wheat. Concerned authorities have to take the issue very seriously and provide some alternative ways for the public to fulfil their demands in the country.

Today I am going to let you learn about the health benefits of curd. Curd is one of our favourite foodstuffs and is used worldwide due to its great health benefits. Curd is prepared from the milk after adding some sour milk to it and then taking it in a warm place for 6 to 8 hours or more. Curd is sour, tasty, and has great health benefits.

Benefits of curd:

Curd contains vitamin C, which boosts our immune system and is beneficial for our gum health. Minerals present in cur like zinc, potassium, fat, carbohydrate, sodium, protein, vitamin A, etc.

Good for heart health: Curd reduces blood pressure and reduces strokes. It is known to increase good cholesterol and reduce blood pressure. Cholesterol and blood pressure are increasing heart-related issues. Good cholesterol allows the arteries to flow blood smoothly, which keeps the heart healthy.

Curd boosts immune system: Due to the presence of multi-nutrients in curd like minerals, vitamins, and probiotics, it boosts our

immune system. Probiotics also help reduce inflammation, which causes various other chronic conditions.

Helps in weight loss: curd helps us to reduce our weight. It is better for those who are overweight to try.

Good digestion: Curd is one of the best foods, and it causes irritability of the stomach and indigestion. It contains lactobacillus and bifidobacteria, which are beneficial for the digestive system and reduce bloating and bowel irritation. Dysentery, constipation, and keeping us hydrated.

During the summer, most people used to drink curd with meals; some had it with bread or parathas. Curd keeps us hydrated and has immense health benefits.

Today, we are noticing that young people have stomach issues; intestinal infections are one of the concerning problems we are having among our youth. All such problems are occurring due to unhygienic, nutrient-poor junk food items. IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) is one of the most concerning problems among all age groups. This problem arises due to our bad food habits, like skipping mid-day meals, drinking cold drinks on an empty stomach, smoking, etc.

Those who are suffering from IBS. Should they never avoid mid-day meals if they have some issues or are not having lunch with them at their jobs, it is best to have a few glasses of curd with ample water content with common Kashmiri bread.

Suggestion: Take balanced, hygienic, and properly cooked food. Junk food is never a good option because health is wealth. Junk can increase our weight and trigger some other diseases, like IBS. Take plenty of liquid, keep hydrated, and eat fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables.

sahilmanzoorbhatti786@gmail.com



The Common Man's Battle Against Cancer



MUNISH BHATIA

In India, cancer impacts not only the physical and mental well-being of individuals but also has deep social and economic consequences. According to the World Health Organization, cancer cases in India are rising rapidly, making it a serious health challenge for the country. In 2022, over 1.4 million new cancer cases were recorded, and more than 900,000 deaths occurred due to this disease. Among women, breast cancer is the most common, accounting for approximately 27% of cases, while among men, lip and oral cavity cancer constitute 15.6%, and lung cancer accounts for 8.5%. Colon cancer cases are also rising sharply, especially in urban areas, where irregular eating habits and excessive consumption of junk food are the primary causes. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, around 1.3 million new cancer cases are reported annually, and this number is expected to increase in the coming years. Tobacco, alcohol, pollution, and an unhealthy lifestyle are the leading causes of the growing cancer cases. Due to the high cost of cancer treatment and a lack of awareness, poor and middle-class families face severe difficulties.

Cancer treatment is extremely expensive, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery, and medications, which can cost millions of rupees. For men, who are often the primary earners of their families, a cancer diagnosis threatens job loss or a halt in income, putting the entire family in financial distress. The expensive treatment of cancer puts men in a paradoxical situation where they must fight the disease while also fulfilling their financial

responsibilities. In Indian society, where men are traditionally seen as the family's primary breadwinners, a serious illness like cancer forces them into a dilemma—whether to continue earning to ensure their family's financial stability or to undergo treatment, which is extremely costly and prolonged. If they choose treatment, the expenses of costly hospitals, chemotherapy, surgery, and medicines can push the entire family into debt and financial crisis. On the other hand, if they delay treatment and continue working, the disease progresses, ultimately affecting both their health and their family. This situation is particularly severe for lower and middle-class men, whose monthly income is essential for running the household. The irony is that the person who has supported the family all his life finds himself helpless when struck by illness.

On the other hand, women often receive lower priority in healthcare within society, leading to delayed treatment, which worsens the disease and increases medical expenses. The poor and rural populations cannot afford the costly treatment and are often forced to take loans or sell assets. Limited insurance coverage and restricted access to government schemes further worsen the financial crisis for cancer patients.

This situation highlights the need not only to make healthcare facilities more accessible and affordable but also to change societal perceptions that only the earning member is the backbone of the family—his health is equally important. Today, cancer treatment is feasible for the wealthy, but for the common person, it remains an unattainable dream. Getting treatment in government hospitals is no less than a battle, and even if treatment is available, long waiting lists, a shortage of doctors, and a lack of essential medicines make the situation even more dire. The biggest challenge is that in most cases, cancer is detected in the third or fourth stage, when treatment becomes extremely expensive and complex. If the disease is diagnosed in its early stages, treatment outcomes improve

significantly, but due to a lack of awareness and regular health checkups, most patients reach doctors only in the final stage. The government should ensure that chemotherapy and immunotherapy drugs are made more affordable so that economically weaker sections can also benefit. Private hospitals should be regulated to prevent arbitrary fees, and more people should be included under health insurance schemes to ensure the treatment of critical illnesses without financial burdens.

There is a significant difference in the social and economic attitude towards cancer between rural and urban areas in India. In villages, cancer is still often perceived as fate, divine punishment, or an incurable disease, leading patients to opt for unqualified doctors or traditional remedies instead of medical treatment. In contrast, people in urban areas are more aware and seek medical advice early, but due to expensive treatment, many patients fail to start treatment on time. In rural areas, limited healthcare facilities and a lack of awareness about government schemes make it difficult for people to afford cancer treatment, forcing them to either abandon treatment midway or fall into debt. Misleading advice related to cancer puts patients in a serious dilemma about whether to choose modern medical treatment or rely on home remedies and traditional medicine. Some people believe that chemotherapy and surgery worsen cancer, which is entirely false. Others prefer faith healing or herbal treatments over scientifically proven medical procedures, delaying proper treatment. Social media and unverified information circulating in society further confuse cancer patients, sometimes leading them to make wrong decisions, worsening their condition. Patients should rely only on qualified doctors and scientifically validated medical treatments and avoid advice that lacks scientific proof. This will enable them to receive timely and appropriate treatment and move towards a healthier life.

munishbhatia122@gmail.com

Understanding Diabetes



SURINDERPAL SINGH

Diabetes mellitus has emerged as one of the major global health challenges of the 21st century. It is a chronic metabolic disorder marked by high blood glucose levels caused by insufficient insulin production, reduced insulin sensitivity, or both. Despite advances in medical science, diabetes continues to rise steadily across both urban and rural communities, affecting millions and contributing to serious health complications such as blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, and limb amputation.

The Science Behind Diabetes

Insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, regulates blood glucose by enabling its absorption into cells for energy or storage. When insulin is lacking or ineffective, glucose builds up in the bloodstream, resulting in hyperglycemia. There are three main types of diabetes. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system destroys insulin-producing cells, requiring lifelong insulin therapy. Type 2 diabetes, the most common form, arises from insulin resistance often linked to obesity, physical inactivity, and poor diet. Gestational diabetes develops during pregnancy and raises the risk of Type 2 diabetes later in life.

Risk Factors and Complications

Genetic predisposition, unhealthy diet, lack of exercise, obesity, aging, and high stress

levels increase the risk of developing diabetes. The disease can damage blood vessels and nerves, leading to severe complications. Microvascular complications include eye disease (retinopathy), kidney damage (nephropathy), and nerve damage (neuropathy). Macrovascular complications include heart attack, stroke, and poor circulation in limbs, which can result in amputation. Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death among diabetics.

Prevention and Management

While Type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented, Type 2 diabetes can often be delayed or avoided through healthy living. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, combined with at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week, can reduce risk significantly. Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking, and managing stress are equally important. Regular screening for blood glucose and cholesterol helps with early detection and management.

Treatment Advances and Future Outlook

Modern treatment emphasizes lifestyle management, oral medications like metformin, and in some cases, insulin therapy. New technologies such as continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps have improved care and convenience. Stem cell research offers hope for restoring insulin-producing cells, though it remains experimental. No permanent cure exists yet, and claims of reversal should be approached with caution.

Diabetes remains both a medical and social challenge, but awareness, prevention, and innovation hold the key. By adopting healthier habits and supporting scientific progress, society can move closer to reducing the burden of this global epidemic.

The author is a Faculty Member in the Science Department at Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab.



PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all that Ms. Shareefa Begum (W/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh), resident of Ganastan, Sumbal, Sonawari, District Bandipora, is in the process of correcting her Date of Birth in her passport, which was previously recorded incorrectly.

Any person having an objection to this correction is requested to lodge the same with the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice. No complaints will be entertained after this period.

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Gul Mohmad Lone S/o Mohmad Akbar Lone, R/o Batkoot, Pahalgam, have applied for the registration of my house under the name "De Hillanza Home Stay" with the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir.

Any person having any objection in this regard may file their written objection in the office of the Tourism Department, Pahalgam, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Gul Mohmad Lone
S/o Mohmad Akbar Lone
R/o Batkoot, Pahalgam

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 & 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

Public Notice

I FURQAAN UL HAMID S/o Ab. Hamid Wani R/o Machil have lost my original 10th class certificate issued by J&K Board Srinagar with Roll No. 127070239 year of passing 2021 and Registration No. 2027004000850028.Now, I am applying for the duplicate certificate. If anybody have any objection may file the same to the J&K BOSE New Campus Bemina Srinagar within 7days from the date of publication of this notice.After that no. objection will be entertained.



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Public Notice

I want to change the name of my electricity Bill having Consumer ID:0203030014361 Installations ID:22 from Ghulam Qadir Fafoo S/O: Late Abdul Satar Fafoo R/O:Palpora 120KVA to Showkat Ahmad Khanday S/O:Late Abdul Khaliq Khanday R/O:New Colony Rampora Chattabal Srinagar.

if any body having any objection in this regard he /she can approach His/Her Objection with the officials of Sub Division Watal Kadal within the period of 7 days after that no no objection will be considered

Name : Showkat Ahmad Khanday
S/O Late: Abdul Khaliq Khanday
R/O New Colony Rampora Chattabal.

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 & 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 imamata
 - 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 within 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 my Name was incorrectly mentioned on my birth certificate as Habiba Zainab,D/o. Ashiq Hussain Dar,DoB.14,10,2014,R/o.Mira Gund Pattan Barmulla. while my correct Name is Rahela Zainab. D/o. Ashiq Hussain Dar, DoB.14,10,2014, R/o.Mira Gund Pattan Barmulla.Now I have applied for the correction in school and other records.If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority/ Srinagar Municipal corporation within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name,Rahela Zainab
D/o.Ashiq Hussain Dar,
DoB.14,10,2014,
R/o.Mira Gund Pattan Barmulla.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son's Name DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 854115548788 as Mubashir Ahmad Chachi DOB 06/12/2012 instead of Mubashir Hussain DOB 02/12/2011 as for School regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of aadhar seva/ concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

MUBASHIR HUSSAIN DOB 02/12/2011 , S/O SAIF UD DIN CHACHI
R/O SHILTHRA TEHSIL QALAMABAD DISTRICT KUPWARA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Machinery Division Srinagar, M&HE Department, Kashmir.

Name of work: - Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Imported 2 Seater Golf Carts for Liddar Valley Golf Course Pahalgam Kashmir.

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/59 Date: 07.11.2025
(Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_294478_1)

In view of the representation made by the intending bidder, the following amendment is made:

S.No	Description as per NIT	Amended to
01.	Guarantee/Warranty (Defect Liability Period):- Clause 2 of General Terms and condition The bidder shall guarantee the machine for a period of at least twenty four (24) calendar months from the date of supplies except for battery, controller and motor for which warranty as per OEM shall be applicable.	The bidder shall guarantee the machine for a period of at least twenty four (24) calendar months from the date of supplies except for battery, controller and motor for which warranty as per OEM shall be applicable.
02.	Technical Specification Serial No. 3 (Battery) and Serial No. 5 (Charger) in Lithium Ion Battery 51.2V; 105-125Ah. Intelligent Onboard Charger 48V 25A/ As per OEM.	Battery and charger to be quoted, specification as per OEM.

Also the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	15-11-2025 upto 09:00AM	19-11-2025 upto 06:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	15-11-2025 at 02:00 PM	20-11-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/3772-75 Date: 13.11.2025.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2025-26/52/3104-09
Date:	12-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item Percentage basis from Registered / reputed / experienced firms Registered with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the below mentioned repair works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	General Overhauling of Hot Water Generators at SDH Sopore for the year 2025-26.	0.95	200.00	1900/-	20 days

Note:- Project Authority:- Directorate of Hospitality and protocol, J&K.

AAA:Administrative Approval accorded by Directorate Health Services Kashmir vide No. 100/DHSK of 2025 Dated:- 11-11-2025

Technical Sanction:- Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/34 of 11/2025Dated:- 12-11-2025.

Executing Agency:- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	12-11-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 12-11-2025 to 19-11-2025
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 12-11-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19-11-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	20-11-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in *two (02)* covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla . EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of equivalent to / in the range of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee of the value of the Contractfrom (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional Office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
02. The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
03. The complete bidding process will be online.
04. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
05. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
06. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
07. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
08. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar /blacklist such firm(s).
09. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
10. **Unbalanced Bid:** In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
11. Bidders / Firms shall mandatorily disclose GST-linked Bank Account Number as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025; Dated: - 08.07.2025
12. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: M&HDB/TS/e-tender-2025-26/52/3104-09 | Dated: 12-11-2025

DIPK: 8070/25 | Dated: 13-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla



Sakeena Itoo addresses Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial GDC Anantnag

Also inaugurates newly constructed Science Block, Badminton Hall, other infrastructure

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 13: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Education Minister today addressed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Shaheed Himayun Muzamil Memorial Government Degree College (GDC), Anantnag, marking seventy-five years of academic excellence and dedicated service to higher education across South Kashmir.

MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami; MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi; MLAShangus-Anantnag East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA Bijbehara-Srigufwara, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Shah Veeri; MLA Kokernag, Zafar Ali Khatana; Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Shantmanu; Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz; Principal of the college, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik; noted Alumni of college, faculty members, senior officers of district administration and large

number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a large gathering of students, faculty members, alumni, and dignitaries, the Minister commended the college for its remarkable journey from a modest institution to one of the leading centers of learning in the region. She emphasized that the college has played a vital role in nurturing talent, promoting critical thinking, and contributing to the socio-economic development of the area.

"The Platinum Jubilee of this historic institution is not just a celebration of its glorious past but also a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to building a progressive and knowledge-driven society," Minister Sakeena said.

She highlighted that from last one year, the government led by Omar Abdullah has brought accountability in the higher education sector across Jammu and Kashmir. She underlined that the Government is given prime



importance to Education sector with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas, adding that since formation of this public government, more than 140 Assistant Professors have been posted in peripheral colleges to address the educational needs

of youth of these areas.

Minister Sakeena also highlighted that a 12 percent increase in enrolment has been witnessed across Government Colleges form last one year, which reflects the commitment of Government towards improving educational

standards in government run colleges.

The Minister further said that several new hostel accommodations have been built and dedicated for the use of students. She added that this step has been taken to facilitate the students

living in far flung areas as well as from lower income families so that they can receive higher education.

In her address, the Minister also highlighted the role of this college in producing various personalities who have contributed tremendously towards the society in their respective fields.

On the occasion, several MLAs also spoke and highlighted the role of college development of education sector, especially in South Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education and Principal of college also spoke on the and highlighted various academic and infrastructural achievements of the college.

Earlier, the Minister also inaugurated Science Block and Badminton Hall along with canteen on the occasion. She highlighted that the Science Block, equipped with modern laboratories and smart classrooms, is expected to provide enhanced learning opportunities and foster

research among students. She also said that the Badminton Court and other infra are part of the government's efforts to improve sports and student welfare facilities, ensuring a holistic educational environment.

The Minister also interacted with students and faculty members, encouraging them to adopt innovative teaching methods, pursue research, and uphold the values of discipline and excellence. She lauded the college administration for maintaining academic vibrancy and introducing career-oriented programs in the institution.

On the occasion, the Minister also presented awards to meritorious students, sports achievers and other students for excelling in their respective fields. She also released various books penned by faculty members of the college.

Earlier, a documentary was also showcased depicting the 75 years of academic journey of the college.

Conservation work commences on Upper Barnai Jal Talab

MLA Jammu North lays foundation stone

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 13: Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma today laid the foundation stone for the conservation, reconstruction and rejuvenation of Jal Talab located in Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Ward 65 and falling in the Upper Barnai area. Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav was also present on the occasion.

The rejuvenation of Jal Talab is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.70 lakh. The project includes the cleaning and desilting of the pond, construction of a walking track around it for residents, plantation of trees and ornamental plants to enhance greenery and installation of high-quality benches for the comfort of visitors. The initiative aims not only to restore the pond's ecological balance but also to transform it into a clean, green and attractive recreational spot for the local community.

After inaugurating the proj-



ect, Sham Lal Sharma addressed the gathering and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He appealed to the residents to maintain cleanliness around water bodies and avoid dumping garbage in them. "Just as we keep our homes clean and beautiful, we must also take equal responsibility for the cleanliness of our surroundings. Protecting ponds, streams and natural water sources is everyone's duty," he said. The MLA urged the local community to extend full cooperation

to JMC in maintaining Jal Talab and other similar assets in the area.

He added that the rejuvenation of such traditional water bodies not only contributes to environmental conservation but also enhances the beauty and identity of the locality. "With collective efforts, we can revive our heritage and pass it on to future generations," he remarked.

On this occasion, as many as 300 streetlights were provided for installation in the ward. The Commissioner emphasized

that the Municipal Corporation is working proactively to improve urban infrastructure and civic amenities across all wards. He further informed that the installation of streetlights across the city is being expedited to illuminate dark streets, enhance public safety and improve the overall urban environment. "Our goal is to ensure that every ward in Jammu has adequate lighting facilities. With community co-operation, we will make Jammu a cleaner, brighter and greener city," Dr. Yadav said.

Dr. Yadav highlighted that the Jammu Municipal Corporation has launched a comprehensive plan to restore and rejuvenate all water bodies within its jurisdiction. He noted that ponds, wells and streams which once served as vital sources of water and community spaces are gradually disappearing due to urbanization and neglect.

"The Municipal Corporation is fully committed for conserving these natural assets, as they are essential for maintaining eco-

logical balance, groundwater recharge and cultural heritage," he added.

The Commissioner announced that JMC will soon initiate a 'Cleanliness Champions' program in every ward. Under this initiative, senior citizens and active residents will be nominated as cleanliness champions who will provide feedback and monitor the cleanliness status in their respective areas. This participatory approach aims to ensure that citizens become active partners in maintaining hygiene and improving sanitation standards.

The event was attended by Joint Commissioner (Works) Firdous Ahmed Qazi; Executive Engineer Division-III, Akhil Dutt; Executive Engineer (Electrical), Simran Pal Singh and other officers and officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation. The locals, senior citizens and community representatives of Ward also participated in large numbers and expressed gratitude for the developmental initiatives launched in their area.

Gandoh celebrates 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 13: As part of the ongoing nationwide celebrations marking 150 glorious years of the National Song "Vande Mataram," a grand commemorative event was organized at the Sub-Divisional Headquarters, Gandoh. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, officials and members of the local community, all united in their patriotic spirit to honour the timeless song that symbolizes India's unity, strength and devotion to the motherland.



Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Arun Kumar Badyal led the recitation of "Vande Mataram" along with students and officials. The recitation filled the atmosphere with patriotic fervour and reverence.

In his address, the SDM highlighted the profound historical significance of "Vande Mataram," recalling how the song became a powerful source of inspiration for India's freedom fighters.

The event also featured patriotic songs, speeches and cultural performances by students from different educational institutions, showcasing their talent and deep affection for the country. The celebration concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to preserve national unity, promote peace and protect the environment, truly reflecting the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."

The commemoration at Gandoh stood as a glowing reminder of India's cultural richness and patriotic heritage, perfectly aligning with the ongoing district-wide celebrations of 150 glorious years of "Vande Mataram."

"Vande Mataram" celebration event held at Mangal Devi Fort- Seri

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 13: To commemorate 150 years of "Vande Mataram," a special event was organized at the historic Mangal Devi Fort, an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monument in Block Seri.

The celebration was held in collaboration with PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Seri and under the guidance of Block Development Officer Hemant Vaid. The program aimed to honor the legacy of India's national song, which continues to inspire unity, patriotism and pride among citizens.



The event featured patriotic renditions, cultural presentations, and addresses highlighting the historical significance of "Vande Mataram" and the contribution of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay to India's national consciousness. The venue — the ancient Mangal Devi Fort — added cultural and historical depth to the commemoration.

Speaking on the occasion, Hemant Vaid emphasized the importance of preserving both India's cultural heritage and patriotic spirit, noting that events like these connect the younger generation with the nation's glorious past.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and local residents, reaffirming the enduring message of "Vande Mataram" — unity and devotion to the motherland.

DHSJ reviews functioning of health centres in Reasi District

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 13: Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar reviewed the functioning of health institutions, including Primary Health Centre (PHC) Pouni and NTPHC Ransoo during his tour to the district today. Dr. Zargar interacted with the medical and paramedical staff and took a detailed review of patient care services, availability of essential medicines and functioning of laboratory and diagnostic fa-

cilities. He emphasized on maintaining punctuality, sanitation and adherence to prescribed treatment protocols to ensure quality healthcare delivery to the public. The DHSJ appreciated the health staff for providing services to people in hilly and remote areas and urged them to continue their work with commitment and compassion. He also directed the concerned officers to ensure regular monitoring of infrastructure development works and to strengthen implementation of national health programmes at the grass-

roots level. Later, Dr. Zargar held a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer and Block Medical Officers of the district and discussed issues related to manpower, infrastructure and service delivery. He assured full support from the Directorate in addressing local challenges and improving healthcare facilities in the region. The visit aimed at ensuring that quality healthcare services reach every corner of the district and to motivate the staff towards achieving the goals of equitable health delivery.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of development Projects

Stresses on adherence to quality specifications, timeline completion

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 13: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) and those undertaken under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the district. Detailed discussions were held on the status of works under the District Sector, UT Capex, NABARD, PMGSY and SASCI schemes across Rajouri, Thanamandi, Kalakote, Kotranka, Nowshera and Sunderbani divisions.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to expedite ten-

dering and execution processes to ensure timely utilization of available funds. He directed officers to accord priority to roads of strategic and security importance and ensure strict adherence to quality standards in all ongoing works.

Reviewing the construction of school buildings, the DC stressed on maintaining architectural aesthetics and ensuring that playgrounds are preserved during construction activities to promote a holistic learning environment for students. He further directed for strict quality control in the execution of works related to educational and health infrastructure across all divisions.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of health



building projects and the status of bridge works under UT Capex,

District Capex, NABARD, SASCI, DAJGUA and other schemes. He urged officers to focus on removing bottlenecks and to complete all projects within the stipulated time frame. Among those present in the meeting were ADDC Rajouri, Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq, ADC Kalakote, Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka, Dilmir Chowdhary, ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma, SDM, Abid Hussain, SE, Tilak Raj, CPO, Maqsood Ahmed, ACD, Auqil Naveed, Executive Engineer Rajouri, Aftab Anwar, Executive Engineer Thanamandi, Executive Engineer Nowshera, Sarwar Mehmood, Executive Engineer PMGSY, Executive Engineer Kalakote and other district and sectoral officers.



Lionel Messi's Return to Barcelona Unrealistic: Laporta

■ AFP

BARCELONA: Barcelona all-time great Lionel Messi returning to the Catalan giants is "unrealistic", the club's president Joan Laporta said Wednesday.

The 38-year-old Argentine superstar made a surprise appearance at Barca's Camp Nou stadium on Sunday night and said he hoped "one day I can return, and not just to say goodbye as a player, as I never got to do".

Eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi, Barca's record goalscorer and appearance maker, left for Paris Saint-Germain in 2021 after two decades

there because their precarious financial position meant they could not afford to keep him.

"Out of the utmost respect for Messi, the professionals at the club, Barca, and the Barca club members, I believe that now, for me to make speculation that is unrealistic, nor do I think is fair, well, I believe that is not appropriate," Laporta told Catalunya Radio.

The president, who was in charge at the time of Messi's departure, said he did not regret what happened because "Barca is above everything".

Laporta confirmed he would love to hold a match in homage to Messi's career at the rebuilt Camp Nou, once

it is fully open.

"Things didn't end the way we would have liked... if, in some way, this tribute can make up for what wasn't done, I think it would be a good thing," explained Laporta.

"It would be right that he has the best tribute (match) in the world, and it would be wonderful to have it here, in front of 105,000 fans," he continued.

The president said Inter Miami forward Messi's surprise visit to the stadium on Sunday was a "spontaneous" display of his love of the club.

Messi is currently in Spain with the Argentina national team, where they are training before a friendly against Angola.

England hint Pope will retain No.3 berth for Perth Ashes opener

■ ESPNCRIFICINO

LONDON: England have hinted that they will pick Ollie Pope at No. 3 in their warm-up game against the Lions on Thursday, indicating that he is likely to beat Jacob Bethell for selection for the first Test against Australia in Perth next week.

Harry Brook said that players were told they will be "going hard" against the Lions in their three-day practice match by Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes at the start of their Tuesday training session. Some England players may also feature for the Lions, who have brought an 18-man squad to Australia. "That was partly what Baz and Stokesy said," Brook told England's social channels. "We're going hard. We're going to go 100%. We're going to try and beat them. I think we're going to be selecting an XI and playing against another XI, so it's not going to be just a mess-around... It's good preparation playing against some of the best players in England ahead of the Ashes."

Pope's position at No. 3 has been under pressure ever since Bethell's maiden Test series in New Zealand last year, when he made three half-centuries in the role. England's decision to transfer the vice-captaincy from Pope to Brook last month only fuelled speculation that Bethell would start the Ashes in the role.

But Marcus Trescothick, one of McCullum's



assistant coaches, gave a strong hint that Pope will retain his spot for the warm-up match. "I'm presuming the same sort of No. 3 we've had for a period of time," he told BBC Sport, when asked who would bat there. He added: "I can only say we are a very consistent team in what we're trying to do." Trescothick also said that performances in the warm-up match were unlikely to affect selection for the first Test.

"It's definitely not going to change dramatically before the start of an Ashes series because someone puts their hand up by taking five wickets or gets 150," he said. "The team has been what it has been for a period of time for a reason, so that when you come to big series, you are more settled and confident going into it."

England have trained at Lilac Hill, the venue for the warm-up match and the home ground of grade team Midland-Guildford CC, since they arrived in Perth and Brook said that conditions will be "completely different" when they arrive at Optus Stadium for the first Test.

"It's completely different here, if I'm being brutally honest," he said. [The pitches] are slow and low here. It's going to be slightly different to the Optus, but we've got three or four days before that first Test where we can utilise [those] pitches... It's a perfect opportunity in this game to try and get some time out in the middle and use it wisely."

Skipper Ben Stokes defends England's preparation for the Ashes cricket series in Australia

■ ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERTH: Skipper Ben Stokes has defended England's lack of warm-up matches ahead of the first Ashes cricket test against Australia in Perth beginning Nov. 21. England is aiming to break a 14-year winless run in Australia. Stokes and fellow veteran Joe Root have never won a test match in Australia, and there's no survivors in this squad from England's 2010-11 series win.

Australia has won 5-0, 4-0, and 4-0 the last three times England has traveled Down Under for the most anticipated series in world cricket.

England's only preparation in Australia for this series is a three-day match against the England Lions, essentially an England A team, starting on Thursday at Lilac Hill. That decision has drawn criticism from Ashes greats on both sides such as Ian Healy, Ian Botham and Geoffrey Boycott. But Stokes believes England's preparation will be more than sufficient.



"There's obviously state (domestic first-class) cricket going on at the moment," Stokes said Wednesday. "Time has got to be taken into consideration as well. Some of our squad members were playing the (white-ball) series in New Zealand." England was swept 3-0 by New Zealand in a series of one-day internationals.

Most of Australia's Ashes test players are tuning up in those first-class matches this week, but

it come at a cost for the host nation. Fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Sean Abbott had to leave New South Wales' game against Victoria on Wednesday for medical scans. Hazlewood was cleared and will join the test squad in Perth. Abbott was ruled out with a left hamstring strain.

Stokes also said cricket's "jammed" schedule makes it more difficult to prepare for a five-match test series than "10, 15,

20, 30 years ago." "We put a lot of time and effort into how we prepare for every series, and that hasn't changed with this one," Stokes added. "Come the 21st of this month, we know that we would have done everything possible that we could have done."

Root, who is the No. 1-ranked batter in test cricket and is the second-highest scorer in the format all-time, has not scored a century in 14 tests in Australia. "He's the greatest English batter that the nation's seen," Stokes said. "He's been in phenomenal form over the last two, three years. He's not come out here to score a 100 in Australia, he's come out here to contribute to the team." Stokes said his team should not be overwhelmed playing in Australia.

"Coming to Australia for the Ashes is a lot different than anything else when you're playing," he said. "There's a lot more that goes on away from the cricket itself." Australia skipper Pat Cummins, a paceman who has already

been ruled out of the first test while he recovers from a back injury, sounded optimistic about long-time pace partner Hazlewood's fitness when he fronted the media in Sydney.

"They both got scans," he said of Hazlewood and Abbott, according to the Nine Network. "I haven't 100% got across all the details but I think Joshy was pretty chipper."

"Obviously we're a week away from the test series and you always kind of err on the side of caution and they wanted to find out what was happening before pushing it."

Cricket Australia later confirmed 34-year-old Hazlewood had reported tightness in his right hamstring but was cleared of injury following the precautionary scans, and will practice as planned leading into the first test. The Nov. 21-25 Perth match will be followed by a day-night test at the Gabba in Brisbane starting Dec. 4, then the series moves to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

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