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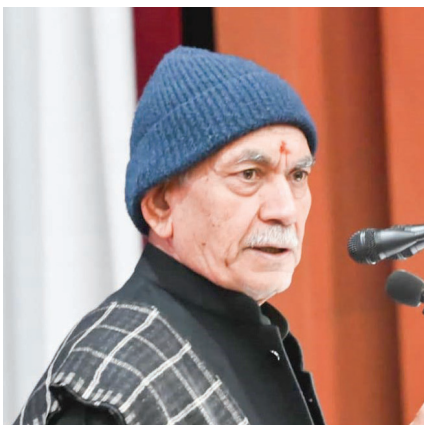
Investing in Sports Is Investing in the Nation's Future: LG Manoj Sinha

National Level Sports Conference 'SRIJAN' inaugurated in Jammu ; Focus on Linking Sports With Education, Life Skills, and Youth Empowerment

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Saturday Inaugurated the two-day National Level Sports Conference – SRIJAN at Jammu, calling sports a powerful force for nation-building and holistic youth development. The conference is being organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that sports must be deeply integrated with education and essential life skills to nurture disci-



plined, confident and socially responsible citizens. He said that for young people, sports function as a real-life school that teaches discipline, values, leadership and teamwork through lived experience.

"Sports shape individuals, unite communities and play a vital role in nation-building. Investing in sports means investing in disciplined citizens and a confident future to shape the destiny of the country," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The conference aims to identify actionable strategies to strengthen the sports ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

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Infiltration a Major Threat to Bengal's Future : PM Modi

Assures Persecuted Refugees, Including Matuas, of Safety; Targets TMC Over Alleged Patronage of illegal Migrants

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MALDA, JAN 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal, alleging that large-scale infiltration posed one of the biggest challenges to the state and had led to demographic changes and recurring incidents of violence in several districts.

Addressing a public rally in Malda, the Prime Minister claimed that illegal infiltration, allegedly thriving under political patronage, had triggered riots in areas such as Malda and Murshidabad. He accused the ruling party of running a "syndicate raj" that facilitated the settlement of infiltrators, thereby disturbing social harmony.



"Infiltration is a very big challenge before Bengal. Even developed and prosperous countries are taking strict steps to identify and deport illegal migrants. It is equally necessary to

● Turn on Page 2

Over 81% of PMDP Projects in J&K Completed or Near Completion

RS 56,946 CRORE RELEASED SO FAR ; OVER 96% OF FUNDS UTILISED AS OF NOVEMBER 2025

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 17: The Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for Jammu and Kashmir has achieved significant milestones, with over 81 per cent of sanctioned projects either completed or substantially completed, according to official documents accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The documents reveal that as of November 2025, 29 projects—nine implemented by the

Government of India and 20 by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir—have been fully completed. In addition, 14 projects, including four under the Government of India and 10 under the J&K administration, are substantially completed. Together, these account for 81.13 per cent of the total projects under the PMDP.

In terms of financial progress, an expenditure of Rs 54,986.17 crore has been incurred so far. Out of the total Rs 56,946.58 crore released

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Tourist Arrivals Picking Up As Conditions Improve After Pahalgam Attack: CS Atal Dulloo

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 17: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday said that the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir, which suffered a major setback following the Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent adverse weather conditions, is gradually showing signs of recovery, with tourist arrivals picking up as conditions improve.

Dulloo said that a major project has been conceptualised to promote sustainable tourism in emerging destinations with the



objective of reducing pressure on traditional hotspots across J&K, and its implementation is being carefully planned.

"If we look at tourism, the impact after the Pahalgam attack and subsequently the rise in incidents of heavy rains and floods caused significant losses in 2025. However, we are now gradually seeing a recovery. As weather conditions improve, tourist arrivals have started increasing again," Dulloo said in a video interview here.

He said that while revival is underway,

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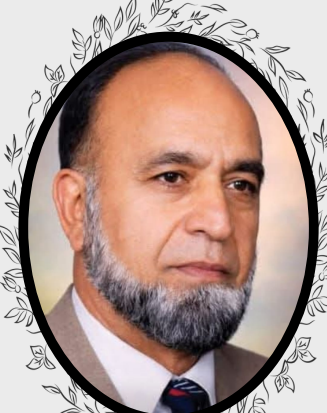
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A Voice That Still Guides Us;



On the 14th death anniversary of Our Dear, Syed Bashir Ahmad Bukhari, I remember a mentor whose influence remains undimmed by time. He viewed journalism not as a profession alone, but as a moral duty to society.

For him, success had meaning only when paired with social responsibility, service, and integrity. He believed journalism must give voice to the voiceless and stand firmly for justice and human dignity. These were not mere ideals for him, but values he practiced throughout his life. As Editor-in-Chief of Headlines Today, I pay tribute to a man whose principles continue to guide my path and inspire our newsroom.

May Allay Shower Thy Soul
in Jannat-ul- Firdous..... Aameen

Jahangir Bukhari
Editor in Chief- Headlines Today



Kulgam’s Veshow Nallah, a key jhelum tributary, runs completely dry

Officials say five water schemes hit, blame prolonged dry spell, low snowfall; water tankers sent to worst-hit villages

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

KULGAM, JAN 17: A prolonged dry spell in Kashmir has pushed several major water bodies to critically low levels, with the Veshow Nallah—a key tributary of the River Jhelum—completely drying up in south Kashmir’s Kulgam district.

Locals told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that not a single drop of water is visible in the nallah, which serves as a vital source of drinking water and irrigation for several villages.

The unprecedented situation has resulted in acute water scarcity in areas heavily dependent on the nallah for daily needs.

Officials attributed the alarming situation to scant rainfall, reduced snowfall this winter, and freezing of pipelines, which have together depleted surface and groundwater sources across the district.

Ghulam Rasool, an elderly resident of Pranhall village, said the complete drying up of Veshow Nallah has never been witnessed

before. “We have faced droughts and cold waves in the past, but this is something entirely new,” he said.

He said the entire agricultural cycle of the area depends on the nallah.

“Veshow Nallah is the lifeline of several villages in Kulgam. Today, even drinking water has become a concern. Its drying up is a serious

warning sign,” he added.

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Division Kulgam), Er Ishfaq Hamid Wani, told KNO that nearly five drinking water schemes have been affected due to the drying up of the Veshow Nallah, with freezing of pipelines further aggravating the situation. He said the department is closely monitoring the situation

and has initiated measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing dry spell.

“Water tankers are being deployed to supply drinking water to the worst-affected villages,” he said, adding that efforts are underway to stabilize the water supply until weather conditions improve—(KNO)

Cold Conditions Intensifies In Kashmir; IMD Forecasts Spells Of Wet Weather In Next Few Days

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 17: Cold conditions tightened its grip in Kashmir with a drop in minimum temperatures as the meteorological department forecast spells of wet weather, especially in the higher reaches of the valley over the next few days.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius on Friday night, down from minus 1.5 degrees Celsius the previous night. Shopian in south Kashmir was the coldest recorded place in the valley, with the mercury settling at a low of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, same as the previous night, while Gulmarg in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district registered a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night’s minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Sonamarg in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district, which received moderate snowfall on Friday, recorded a low of minus 2.9 degrees Celsius, officials of the meteorological department said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, saw the mercury settle at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, they added.

The Kashmir Valley is currently in the midst of ‘Chilla-i-Kalan’, the 40-day harshest winter period, during which night temperatures frequently plunge several degrees below the freezing point, and chances of snowfall are the highest.

‘Chilla-i-Kalan’, which began on December 21 last year, will end on January 30, followed by ‘Chilla Khurd’ and ‘Chillai Bachha’.

The Meteorological Department has said back-to-back western disturbances would impact Kashmir, causing wet spells over the next few days.

Light snow at isolated higher reaches is possible on Saturday and Sunday, while light to moderate rain/snow is likely on January 19 and 20, it said.

The Met office said there is a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches on January 21, following which light to moderate rain or snow is likely till January 25. A few districts of the Chenab valley, Pir-Panjal range and south Kashmir districts might get heavy rain or snow from January 23 to 24. (Agencies)

J&K, Ladakh record ‘900 MWs power swing’ last month

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 17: In the month of December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has recorded a variation of nearly 900 Megawatts (MWs) in power availability against the anticipated power availability during the peak hours.

Besides, the regions has witnessed a variation of minus five percent in power requirement against the anticipated requirement.

According to the official documents showing the anticipated power supply position v/s actual power supply position (Provisional) of Northern Region during the month of December-2025 states that in Jammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh it has anticipated power availability of 2400 MWs.

The documents however, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states that the actual availability was recorded with 3301 MWs during the peak hours.

The official figures further reveal that during the peak, NRPC has anticipated that there will be a peak power requirement of 3473 MW’s. However, the commission has recorded a power requirement of only 3301 MWs.

Pertinently, in November-2025 KNO reported that in view of ‘nonavailability of real-time telemetry data’, authorities have said that the power control rooms in Jammu and Kashmir are unable

to monitor and see as to what is happening at their own power stations and substations.

The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) while taking up the issues of telemetry in J&K has said, “Reliability and accuracy of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) data and its associated communication system is essential for monitoring and coordinating operations of a large electricity grid.”

“It helps in visualization and management of the critical grid element failure, grid incident in real time and minimizes the possibility of any untoward incidents or disturbances,” NRPC said.

The official documents of the committee further said, “Real-Time data availability from

Jammu and Kashmir is very poor. There is zero visibility of data in J&K stations at J&K and NRLDC. With poor monitoring of data, it is very difficult to monitor the grid in an efficient manner.”

The committee also said that the matter has been discussed in various Technical Co-Ordination Committee (TCC) and Technical Sub-Committee for Testing and Commissioning (TeST) meetings. “But there is no improvement of the same.”

“Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) were tested locally and commissioned without data availability at the Control Centre. Due to non-availability of data, JK PDD is not able to monitor its drawal from grid and its genera-

tion,” it reads.

NRPC further mentioned that J&K is dependent on central sector data for monitoring of drawal.

Earlier, in the first week of September KNO reported that in Jammu and Kashmir, real-time telemetry data continues to remain unavailable at both JK-SLDC and Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC), raising concerns about increased risks of data breaches and other cyber threats.

According to official documents, the NRLDC representative had highlighted that till that time “real-time telemetry data from Jammu and Kashmir remains unavailable at both JK-SLDC and NRLDC”—(KNO)

Shab-e-Miraj Observed Across Kashmir with Religious Fervor

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 17: The holy occasion of Shab-e-Miraj was observed across the Kashmir Valley on Friday night with deep devotion and solemnity, as night-long prayers resonated in mosques and shrines despite the winter chill.

According to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), Devotees gathered in large numbers at places of worship to offer special prayers, seeking peace, prosperity for humanity, and forgiveness.

The main congregation was held at the Hazratbal Shrine on the banks of Dal Lake, which houses a revered relic of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Thousands of worshippers from across the region, clad in warm clothing, attended the prayers. Religious scholars emphasized the significance of Shab-e-Miraj, which commemorates the Prophet’s ascension to heaven.



As per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), Emotional scenes were witnessed at Hazratbal, with devotees raising their hands in supplication. Similar prayers and sermons on the importance of the night were held at nearly all major shrines and local mosques throughout Kashmir.

Authorities ensured necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the night-long prayers. Earlier on Friday, the traffic department had also implemented measures to facilitate the orderly movement of vehicles around key religious sites. (KNS)

First Flight from Iran Brings Stranded Indians Home to Delhi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, JAN 17: The first flight carrying Indian nationals from Iran landed safely at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday night.

The Mahan Air flight, arriving from Tehran, carried a number of Indian students and pilgrims. Its arrival marks the first direct air link between Iran and India since recent hostilities led to the closure of regional airspace.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) Nasir Khuehmi, Convener of the Jammu Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), said “This was a regular commercial flight, not a dedicated evacuation flight,” he said. “Families gathered at the terminal to welcome their relatives, including many pilgrims who had been unable to depart due to the unrest.”

He said most students from Kashmir were part of this flight.

The repatriation follows a recent advi-



sory from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which urged Indian citizens in Iran to consider returning in light of the volatile security situation. The government has emphasized its commitment to the welfare of Indians abroad.

“The Ministry of External Affairs is closely monitoring the situation and remains focused on ensuring the safety and security of Indian nationals,” the MEA stated in a fresh advisory issued last Friday. (KNS)

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Investing in.....

prepare a roadmap for effective implementation of the National Sports Policy 2025 and the J&K Sports Policy 2022, and outline measures for building a resilient and future-ready generation.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to keep sports free from political interference, observing that talent can only flourish in a peaceful and transparent environment. He underlined the importance of fair and credible selection systems so that deserving sportspersons are not deprived of opportunities.

Reiterating the administration’s commitment, Shri Manoj Sinha said the government will continue to extend full support to sportspersons and develop state-of-the-art sports infrastructure at the grassroots level. He also called for special focus on increasing the participation of women and youth by removing barriers that limit their access to sports.

“To build a true sports culture, sports must become part of daily community life and be closely connected with education and life skills,” he added, urging policymakers and industry leaders to create new avenues of opportunity through sports.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Department of Youth Services and Sports for its initiative in advancing the national sports agenda through the exchange of best practices in governance, participation, athlete development and performance excellence. He urged sports councils, federations and administrators to prepare strategic development plans aimed at improving performance in international

competitions.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Commissioner/Secretary Youth Services and Sports Ms Yasha Mudgal; Padma Shri awardee and Olympian Dr Karnam Malleswari, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Sports University; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shri Ramesh Kumar; Director General Youth Services and Sports Ms Anuradha Gupta; senior officials, representatives of the Sports Authority of India, eminent sports personalities, experts and a large number of youth.

Infiltration a....

remove infiltrators from West Bengal,” Modi said.

Seeking to allay concerns among refugee communities, the Prime Minister reassured the Matua community and others who had migrated to India after facing religious persecution. “I want to assure refugees like the Matuas who took shelter in India due to religious persecution: you need not worry,” he said, amid the ongoing debate over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The Prime Minister also took aim at the TMC’s political culture, alleging that “hooliganism and politics of threats” had become rampant in the state. He asserted that such practices would soon come to an end.

Highlighting governance models in neighbouring states, Modi said West Bengal was surrounded by BJP-ruled states that had delivered good governance and development. “Bengal is surrounded on all

sides by BJP governments that stand for good governance. Now it is time for good governance in Bengal too,” he added.

Over 81% of....

for 53 projects, nearly 96.56 per cent of the funds have already been utilised, the documents state.

The Prime Minister’s Development Package was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 7, 2015, with an overall financial commitment of Rs 80,068 crore. The package aimed at addressing humanitarian relief, crisis management, social and economic infrastructure, and long-term development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Initially, the PMDP included 63 projects for the erstwhile state of J&K. However, following the reorganisation of the state, 53 projects remained applicable to the Union Territory. While the total PMDP allocation for J&K stood at Rs 58,484 crore, the overall sanctioned cost of these projects has reached Rs 68,905 crore.

Officials noted that the sanctioned cost of certain projects—particularly those under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) executed on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis—has exceeded the original allocations approved under the PMDP in 2015.

Tourist Arrivals.....

the government is reassessing its tourism strategy to prepare for rising visitor numbers and sustainable growth. “As tourism grows, we must also focus on how prepared we are to manage the

increasing footfall. This calls for a reassessment of our tourism strategy and capacity,” he added.

The chief secretary stressed the need to develop new tourist destinations to reduce pressure on traditional hotspots that often exceed their carrying capacity during peak seasons. “By developing new destinations, tourist footfall will be distributed more evenly. This will generate employment for local communities, lead to infrastructure development, attract investment and help mitigate seasonal tourism peaks,” he said.

The tourism sector in Kashmir was severely impacted after last year’s April 22 Pahalgam attack, in which 26 civilians, including 25 tourists, were killed by terrorists.

Following the attack, around 50 tourist spots and resorts were closed for security reasons. Several destinations have recently been reopened, and more will be thrown open to tourists after the completion of security audits.

He said a major project has been conceptualised in this direction and its implementation is being carefully planned, including transportation and other infrastructure arrangements. “Our focus will remain on developing new tourist destinations to ensure sustainable growth of the tourism sector,” Dulloo said.

Referring to the SPREAD initiative, the chief secretary said it seeks to decongest overburdened tourist spots by developing eco-sensitive, year-round alternatives while balancing economy, ecology and equity.

He said that with support from the

Department of Economic Affairs and implementation through the Economic Reconstruction Agency, the SPREAD project will focus on infrastructure development, waste management, ecological conservation and livelihood generation. “Community engagement and private sector participation are central to this initiative, which envisions holistic development across both Jammu and Kashmir regions in line with global best practices,” he added.

Dulloo also underlined the need for a targeted strategy to convert the rising pilgrim footfall in Jammu into longer tourist stays. “A focused approach is required to promote the region’s wider leisure, heritage, adventure and spiritual attractions beyond the main pilgrimage routes,” he said.

He stressed proactive use of digital platforms and social media, including collaboration with influencers, to expand outreach and attract national and international tourists. “We need a comprehensive strategy to convert the massive influx of pilgrims into multi-day tourists by encouraging them to explore experiences beyond traditional pilgrimage circuits,” Dulloo said.

Highlighting J&K’s potential as a year-round tourism destination, he said that the introduction of adventure activities such as rafting, paragliding, bungee jumping, and water sports would transform the region into a tourism hub while creating significant employment opportunities for local youth. (Agencies)



HT EDITORIAL

Keep sports away from politics

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday aptly pointed out that sports should be kept aloof from politics and there should not be any interference in the selection of players for the various tournaments. The LG made these remarks while inaugurating the two-day national level sports conference organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at Jammu. The Conference will identify the actionable strategies to further strengthen sports systems in Jammu & Kashmir.

The conference envisages to prepare a roadmap for effective implementation of National Sports Policy 2025 and J&K Sports Policy 2022 and highlight measures for shaping a resilient and future-ready generation. The LG was right in his address when he said that politics should be kept away from sports and merit should be the only criteria in this regard. The LG's opinion came at a time when fingers were pointed out over the selection of the union territory team in disciplines like football and cricket.

It is important that talent does not become a casualty as and when a team of the union territory is selected to represent in any game or sport at the national level. A sportsperson should be selected on the basis of his or her performance and not on the basis of his or her affiliation with any political party or personality. Once politics creeps into the selection of a team it is quite natural that the team would lose out and perform disastrously.

In his address the LG called for linking sports with education and essential life skills. He said that with integration in education curriculum, sports can become a powerful tool for the complete and holistic development of youth. It has been observed that sports bring about discipline among the youth. This forms the base for the youth to become respectable citizens in the society with the country getting benefited at the end of the day. Sports serve as a real-life school which teaches discipline, values and leadership through lived experience.

The LG was also right in his observation that sporting talent can only be nurtured in a peaceful environment. He said that in order to make India a true sporting powerhouse, we must keep sports and politics strictly separate. The talented youth should not be deprived of the opportunities they deserve. There is a need to create a system where there is no room for doubt on the selection process.

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A season of Rest—My Winter Vacation



■ QYSAR UL ISLAM SHAH

Winter break provides an opportunity to all school going children to try new things and get into some meaningful activities and cultivate varied skills. However amidst the rigors of academic pursuits vacations provide a welcome respite. They offer us a chance to relax, learn new things, be creative and explore the unexplored. Taking everything into account an ideal leisure reduces mental fatigue and refreshes cognitive dimension of a child. As and when the vacations commenced children's show their optimistic gestures of being less fatigued over what they show lackadaisical attitude short before an announcement. They love vacations, love to go out, play and spend time in playfields, rejuvenate and refresh their mental horizon. This opens the door to all kinds of learning experiences that aren't possible due to time constraints while being at school.

During winter break children must be given enough time to do what they want, offering them chance to sleep in, relax and eat their favourite foods. Incorporate structural activities to keep your child both physically and emotionally entertained. It is very common for the kids to spend their winter break cuddled indoors watching tvs and playing games. However we must not forget the importance of socialization during this time. Being productive during winter break doesn't imply that one should not have fun, it only means that one should be spending time in a manner that can make you feel refreshed, inspired and prepared to face the new year.



Children's mostly enjoy their days in snowflakes and play each other with snow balls which at present looks dry and sunny. Vacations brought a set of compassion among siblings when children of relatives visit at same place. They began to share their school tales, achievements, refresh their memories by sitting together. Being a teacher my elder kid Aleena told me that Baba why don't we get such a long break after winter—which clearly depicts vacations brought a spell of refreshment and rejoice. During vacation days, children at home need not be burdened with school assignments and readings only but given an opportunity to play indoor games which can develop their cognitive power.

The doing urge trait of children must be dealt with painstaking. Their mind is just a clear slate which needed to be inscribed with good manners, inspiring stories and scientific temper. As a parents while engaging in

any pleasant activity you can taught them the lessons of life, the challenges you have to face, suggest the ways to overcome. Vacations solely doesn't mean to come up with school assignment, it means to give them freedom—the freedom to express, freedom to debate and freedom to choose.

Notably, school going kids are winter loving and are found of its beauty. They love to spend chilly winter mornings in the warmth of sunlight and it's frigid long nights under the soft and warm quilts. Now the contemporary winter resembles quite different from past—where we used to sit indoors during the short days and long nights with huge accumulation of snow outside. It was breathtaking scenery, with snow covered trees and serene landscapes stretching as far as the eye could see. Each morning we woke up to the sparkling sight of fresh snowfall, creating a winter wonderland right outside our win-

dows. Contrary to this winters look dry and desert. Kids usually play throughout the day because they don't get tired due to warm like atmosphere.

My winter vacations commenced from first of December, no matter how we spend our vacations whether at home or relatives, we always get to learn new things from it. By blending purposeful tasks with moments of relaxation vacations can become a fulfilling and rejuvenating time for personal growth and well being. During winter vacation let the cold be a reminder to warm your spirits with moments of joy, self-discovery, and rejuvenation. Embrace the hibernation season not just as a break but an opportunity to recharge, refocus, and emerge with renewed energy for the challenges that await in the coming year.

The author is a teacher by profession hails from Sonnar Lolab

Startup India @ 10: Engineering the Unicorn Founders of Tomorrow through NEP 2020



■ DR. NAVIN KUMAR

The purpose of starting Startup India on January 16, 2016 was to encourage more individuals to create businesses, generate innovative ideas, and generate employment opportunities, a decade ago. And guess what? It actually worked! A decade later, the third-largest startup hub globally is India, with more than 200,000 established startups and over 2.1 million jobs created. Four years after its introduction, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 functioned as a strong partner in adapting education to meet entrepreneurial requirements.

Startup India can rely on NEP 2020 as its catalyst. The education system in India is being revolutionized by NEP 2020, which aims to promote diverse and adaptable subjects, increase diversity, and equip individuals with practical knowledge to succeed in the workforce. It partners with Startup India to cultivate the interest of young people in starting their own businesses.

The inclusion of job training and entrepreneurship in schools and colleges is one of the most exciting aspects. Why? Skills such as tech and management can be learned early on in children. This is a significant advancement for areas like education and technology transfer, where credit recognition systems are aiding individuals in selecting the skills that match their abilities. The increase in ed-tech establishments and the focus on overall development has led to more individuals starting their own businesses rather than simply seeking employment.

Through the establishment of institutional innovation councils (IICs) in colleges, NEP 2020 seek to encourage innovative ideas. In 28 states, there are more than 16,000 councils as of 2025. The councils are occupied with tasks like mentoring, hackathons, and communication with Vietnam. Bringing all learning areas under one roof through the Indian Higher Education Commission (HECI) makes studying different subjects easier, especially with technology study.

India is being given an extra push by the Atal



Innovation Mission (AIM), which involves engaging students in business activities and promoting analytical thinking. The objective of NEP 2020 is to have a significant number of young people enroll in higher education by 2035. This approach is being used to cultivate a more entrepreneurial mindset in smaller cities.

The introduction of innovative ideas in NEP 2020 has helped India become a nation that generates employment. From a small idea to influencing global innovation, Things India has made significant strides. Up to 2026, the number of recognized individuals has exceeded 209,000, with an annual growth rate of 12-15%. The alterations have resulted in the establishment of more than 2.1 million jobs in sectors such as technology, agriculture, renewable energy, and healthcare.

The tech farming venture that started at IIT Delhi, named Dehaat, is a prime example. Loans, supply chains, and buyer guidance are all available to farmers. Instead of relying solely on web-based technology, Dehaat offers collaboration opportunities for collection deliveries and supporting local businesses. Understanding the farming community has enabled Dehaat to address long-standing supply routes and delivery issues.

We are indeed making progress, but there is still work to be done. Only India can make significant improvements, and there are only a few adjustments required. At first, executions require teams that are

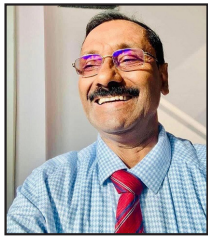
formed to ensure uniformity and minimize delays. The registration process should be straightforward, removing perplexing regulations that discourage potential investments as early as the start of new ventures. A greater amount of resources and support from a mentor with specific expertise is required to provide assistance to farm-based businesses. The eco-based system's supporters need to work on improving their partnerships with authorities and private corporations, which are already proving successful through programs like AIM 2.0.

Through the integration of education and business with corporations and schools, businesses can be successful in business by connecting these initiatives like NEP. Creating financial sustainability is crucial in supporting startups and improving social welfare.

India's support for major players has made it a crucial factor in the success of entrepreneurs. Over 200,000 start-ups are contributing to the economy's impact through flexible planning, action, teamwork, and innovative ideas, which will enhance all fair gains in the coming years.

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Haruki Murakami Articulating the Unspoken Anxieties of Modern Life



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Haruki Murakami did not win the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2025; the winner was announced in October 2025 though he won other prestigious awards like the Sheikh Zayed Book Award in April 2025 for his contributions to Arab culture and translation. He consistently appears as a strong candidate, but the Nobel committee hasn't awarded him the prize yet, leading to frequent discussions about why he's often overlooked despite his massive global readership and unique surrealist style. Haruki Murakami has emerged as one of the most sensitive literary voices of our time precisely because he speaks about what modern individuals often feel but rarely articulate. His fiction gives shape to silent anxieties—those vague disturbances that accompany urban life, emotional isolation, and the loss of stable meaning in a rapidly changing world. Murakami does not address anxiety through loud social protest or ideological arguments; instead, he approaches it obliquely, through solitude, surreal imagery, music, memory, and quiet introspection. In doing so, he captures the psychological atmosphere of contemporary life with rare subtlety. At the heart of Murakami's work lies the modern condition of loneliness. His protagonists are often ordinary urban individuals—office workers, translators, students—who live seemingly functional lives but feel an inexplicable emptiness within. They are not dramatic rebels or tragic heroes; they are people who drift. This drifting reflects a deeper anxiety: the sense that modern existence lacks a clear centre. In cities filled with people, Murakami's characters remain profoundly alone, suggesting that physical proximity no longer guarantees emotional connection. This quiet isolation resonates strongly in a world shaped by urbanisation, digital communication, and emotional fragmentation. Murakami's characters rarely express their anxieties directly. Instead, their unease surfaces through routines and silences. They cook simple meals, listen to jazz or classical music, and engage in repetitive habits. These routines function as emotional anchors in an otherwise unstable world. Beneath this calm surface, however, lies a fear of disintegration—the anxiety that life may suddenly lose coherence. When surreal events intrude—a disappearing cat, a mysterious woman, a parallel world—they externalise inner disturbances that cannot be spoken in rational language. Murakami thus transforms psychological anxiety into narrative experience. The blurred boundary between reality and the unreal is central to Murakami's articulation of modern anxiety. In contemporary life, individuals often feel disconnected

from stable truths, unsure whether their experiences hold objective meaning. Murakami mirrors this condition by creating worlds where logic is fluid and certainty is elusive. In *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, *Kafka on the Shore*, and *1Q84*, characters move between parallel realities, symbolic spaces, and dream-like states. These narrative shifts reflect the modern mind's struggle to reconcile inner life with external demands, history with memory, and freedom with fate. Another crucial aspect of Murakami's engagement with anxiety is his treatment of love and human relationships. Love in his fiction is intense but fragile, often interrupted by disappearance, mental breakdown, or death. Characters long for emotional connection but fear its vulnerability. This tension reflects a modern anxiety about intimacy—the desire for closeness combined with a fear of emotional exposure and loss. Murakami's women characters often appear as enigmatic figures, not because they are unreal, but because they embody the unknowability that defines modern relationships. Historical and collective anxieties also surface subtly in Murakami's work. While his early fiction seemed detached from social realities, his later writing increasingly confronts historical violence and trauma. In *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, Japan's wartime atrocities intrude upon a seemingly private narrative, suggesting that personal anxiety cannot be separated from collective memory. Similarly, in *Underground*, Murakami gives voice to victims of the Tokyo subway sarin attack, revealing his deep concern for how modern systems can erase individual suffering. These works show that beneath private loneliness lies a shared, often suppressed, historical unease. Music plays a symbolic role in Murakami's response to anxiety. Jazz, classical music, and Western pop songs function as emotional languages that transcend words. Music offers moments of coherence and beauty in an otherwise fragmented world. It becomes a refuge from anxiety, a way to connect memory, emotion, and identity. In invoking global musical traditions, Murakami also reflects the cultural hybridity of modern life, where identities are no longer fixed but continuously reshaped. Murakami's major works—such as *Norwegian Wood*, *Kafka on the Shore*, and *1Q84*—explore themes of identity, memory, loneliness, and alternate realities through surreal yet emotionally resonant narratives. His fusion of Japanese minimalism with Western pop culture and post-modern techniques creates a literary universe that is both intimate and metaphysical. In these works, Murakami's literary style is often described as dream-like, blending the mundane with the fantastical. His characters are typically solitary, introspective individuals navigating emotional loss, existential questions, and mysterious events. Music, especially jazz and classical, recurs throughout his novels, serving as both mood and metaphor. His prose is deceptively simple, yet layered with philosophical depth and symbolic ambiguity. In *Norwegian Wood* (1987),

Murakami departs from his usual surrealism to deliver a poignant coming-of-age story. Set in 1960s Tokyo, it follows Toru Watanabe as he grapples with love, death, and emotional isolation. The novel's melancholic tone and exploration of mental health struck a chord with Japanese youth, making it a cultural phenomenon. It also marked Murakami's shift from cult writer to mainstream literary figure. *Kafka on the Shore* (2002) returns to his signature surrealism. The novel intertwines the stories of Kafka Tamura, a runaway teenager, and Nakata, an elderly man who can talk to cats. Themes of fate, metaphysical duality, and subconscious trauma dominate the narrative. Critics praise its philosophical ambition and mythic structure, though its ambiguity invites multiple interpretations. It exemplifies Murakami's ability to create alternate realities that mirror inner psychological landscapes. The novel follows two protagonists whose lives gradually intersect in strange, symbolic ways. Kafka Tamura, a 15-year-old runaway, flees his father's home in Tokyo to escape an ominous prophecy and search for his long-lost mother and sister. His journey leads him to a private library in Takamatsu, where he encounters enigmatic figures like Oshima, a transgender librarian, and Miss Saeki, a woman haunted by her past. Kafka's narrative is steeped in questions of destiny, sexuality, and the blurred boundaries between reality and dream. Running parallel is the story of Nakata, an elderly man who lost much of his intelligence after a childhood accident but gained the ability to communicate with cats. His seemingly simple life takes a fantastical turn when he becomes entangled in a murder mystery and encounters supernatural beings, including the mysterious "Johnnie Walker." Nakata's journey is both whimsical and profound, embodying Murakami's fascination with alternate realities and hidden dimensions. The two narratives, though distinct, mirror and echo each other, creating a layered tapestry of meaning. Murakami uses motifs such as cats, fish raining from the sky, and portals between worlds to symbolize the permeability of reality. The novel's title itself references Franz Kafka, whose existential themes resonate throughout the book, while "the shore" suggests a liminal space between consciousness and unconsciousness, life and death. Stylistically, *Kafka on the Shore* exemplifies Murakami's blend of minimalistic prose and surreal imagery. Critics have praised the novel for its ambition and emotional depth, though some find its surrealism challenging. It has been compared to works by Borges and García Márquez for its magical realism, while also reflecting Japanese cultural sensibilities. The English translation by Philip Gabriel captures Murakami's hypnotic rhythm and accessibility, contributing to its global success. At its core, *Kafka on the Shore* is about the search for identity and meaning in a fragmented world. *1Q84* (2009–2010), a sprawling three-volume work, is Murakami's most ambitious novel. Set in a parallel Tokyo in the year 1984, it follows Aomame and Tengo

as they navigate a world of cults, mysterious beings called Little People, and shifting timelines. The novel critiques authoritarianism, explores the nature of reality, and examines the power of love across dimensions. Its postmodern structure and metafictional elements reflect Murakami's engagement with Orwellian themes and literary experimentation. The title itself is a play on George Orwell's 1984, with "Q" standing for "question"—a world where reality itself is uncertain. Set in Tokyo in the year 1984, the novel follows two protagonists, Aomame and Tengo, whose lives gradually converge in a parallel universe marked by strange phenomena, authoritarian cults, and supernatural beings known as the "Little People." Aomame, a fitness instructor and secret assassin, discovers subtle shifts in her world after descending a hidden stairway from a highway. Street signs, police uniforms, and historical events no longer align with her memory. She realizes she has entered an alternate reality—"1Q84." Tengo, a young writer and math teacher, becomes entangled in rewriting a mysterious novel called *Air Chrysalis*, authored by a teenage girl with supernatural insight. This act pulls him into the same alternate world, where fiction and reality blur. The novel's central tension lies in the convergence of Aomame and Tengo's narratives. As children, they shared a fleeting but profound connection, and in 1Q84, their destinies intertwine across dimensions. Their love story becomes the emotional core of the novel, set against a backdrop of cults, violence, and metaphysical puzzles. Murakami uses motifs such as twin moons, wells, and enigmatic characters to symbolize the instability of reality. The "Little People," mysterious beings who emerge from the mouth of a dead goat, embody the novel's surreal menace. They manipulate events, suggesting unseen forces that shape human lives. Stylistically, 1Q84 is quintessential Murakami—minimalist prose, surreal imagery, and a blend of Western and Japanese cultural references. The narrative is expansive, weaving together philosophical musings, thriller-like suspense, and intimate emotional moments. Jazz, classical music, and literary allusions permeate the text, grounding its fantastical elements in familiar cultural touchstones. Critically, 1Q84 received mixed but passionate responses. Admirers praised its ambition, scope, and emotional depth, while detractors found its length and repetition challenging. Yet it remains a landmark in Murakami's oeuvre, reflecting his fascination with parallel worlds, the fragility of identity, and the power of love as a force that transcends time and space. At its heart, 1Q84 is a meditation on reality and human connection. It asks whether love can anchor us in a world where truth is unstable and whether storytelling itself can reshape existence. Murakami's vision is both unsettling and hopeful, offering readers a labyrinth of mystery where the only certainty is the bond between two souls. Other notable works include *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* (1994), which blends domestic drama with historical trauma,

particularly Japan's wartime atrocities in Manchuria. Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* (1994–1995) is a masterwork of postmodern fiction that blends surrealism, historical trauma, and psychological introspection into a haunting meditation on identity, memory, and the unseen forces that shape human lives. The novel follows Toru Okada, a quiet, unemployed Tokyo man whose search for his missing cat—and later, his missing wife—leads him into a labyrinthine world of psychic encounters, wartime memories, and metaphysical revelations. What begins as a domestic mystery soon unfolds into a sprawling narrative that traverses time, space, and consciousness. The titular "wind-up bird" is a recurring motif—a mysterious creature whose mechanical cry signals shifts in reality. It represents the unseen mechanisms of fate, echoing Murakami's fascination with parallel worlds and hidden truths. Characters like May Kasahara, a teenage girl with a morbid curiosity, and Nutmeg and Cinnamon Akasaka, spiritual healers with tragic pasts, populate Toru's journey, each offering fragments of insight and emotional resonance. Stylistically, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is quintessential Murakami: jazz references, Western literature, dream logic, and a detached yet intimate narrative voice. The novel's tone oscillates between melancholy and absurdity, realism and fantasy. Murakami's prose, translated into English by Jay Rubin, retains its hypnotic rhythm and philosophical depth. Critically, the novel is celebrated for its ambition and complexity. It's often compared to the works of Kafka, Pynchon, and Dostoevsky, yet remains distinctly Japanese in its cultural and emotional textures. It challenges readers to embrace ambiguity, to find meaning in the unresolved, and to confront the shadows of history and self. South of the Border, West of the Sun (1992) is a quieter meditation on desire and regret. His short story collections, like *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*, showcase his versatility and ability to distill complex emotions into brief, haunting narratives. Murakami's literary universe is populated by wells, cats, jazz bars, and mysterious women—symbols that recur across his works. His fiction often resists closure, inviting readers to dwell in uncertainty. This openness is part of his appeal, especially to global audiences who find in his writing a bridge between East and West, realism and fantasy, solitude and connection. Ultimately, Murakami articulates modern anxiety not by diagnosing it, but by inhabiting it. His novels do not offer solutions or moral clarity. Instead, they provide recognition. By articulating what modern life often suppresses, Murakami has become not just a storyteller, but a subtle chronicler of the contemporary soul.

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Why Current Generation

■ MOOL RAJ

The current generation is facing many challenges that contribute to a deep sense of unhappiness. Unlike previous generations, today's generation deal with complex emotional, financial, and social pressures. Toxic parenting plays a big role in their struggles. Parents who impose their own dreams or try to control their children can cause lasting harm. This leads to feelings of inadequacy and resentment, making it hard for the current generation to feel good about themselves. Financial issues are another major factor in the unhappiness of current generation. The pressure to keep up with friends and social media influencers can push them into financial distress. Many feel they need to fit in with peers who showcase their wealth, leading to feelings of hopelessness. Unpaid internships have become common, trapping young professionals in what feels like "corporate slavery." They work long hours for little or no pay, leading to frustration and financial strain. The expectation to perform well while being underpaid creates additional stress. Career indecision adds to their unhappiness as well. With so many options, choosing a career can feel overwhelming. The current generation often feel pressured to find a job that is both fulfilling and pays well. Education,

instead of being a path to growth, has become a source of stress. The pressure to excel academically creates burnout, making students see their studies as a burden rather than an opportunity. Expectations from parents and society increase this stress, leading to a cycle of dissatisfaction. Social media amplifies feelings of unhappiness. Platforms like Instagram and Snapchat expose people to the perfect lives of others, fostering a culture of comparison. Scrolling through friends' posts can lead to jealousy. For instance, seeing a friend celebrate a birthday or another flaunting a new relationship can create envy. This constant cycle of comparison keeps them feeling left out. Our current generation waste hours on social media, scrolling through reels and posts instead of focusing on their studies or personal goals. The temporary pleasure from these platforms leaves them feeling empty and regretful about lost time. With constant exposure to the lives of influencers and peers, many feel they must improve themselves to keep up. This need for perfection can lead to burnout, as they believe they fall short compared to others. Excessive screen time also contributes to their emotional struggles. Spending too much time online distracts them from important tasks and increases feelings of loneliness and anxiety. The another main reason behind is

that our current generation find themselves in "situationships," which are unclear relationships that create confusion and anxiety. This lack of clarity often leads to attachment issues, making them feel drained and insecure. To help current generation deal with their challenges, we need a variety of solutions. They are facing pressures from social media, uncertain job markets, and school expectations, so it's important to provide strong support. One key solution is to improve access to mental health resources in educational institutions. Counselling services and stress management workshops can give them tools to handle anxiety and emotional difficulties. Digital literacy programs are also essential. These programs should teach them how to use social media responsibly, focusing on building self-esteem and critical thinking. By helping them understand the impact of online content on their self-image, we can reduce negative comparisons that lead to feelings of inadequacy. Career guidance and skills training are important as well. Educational institutions should offer career counseling, internships, and mentorship opportunities to prepare them for the job market. This proactive approach can ease concerns about future employment and financial security. Family support is crucial for the current's generation

well-being too. Workshops for parents can teach positive parenting skills, helping them communicate better and provide emotional support. Understanding the challenges their children face can strengthen family relationships. It's also important to have a balanced education that includes emotional intelligence and life skills along with academic subjects. Encouraging participation in extracurricular activities is beneficial too. Engaging in sports, arts, or clubs helps young people build confidence, social skills, and a sense of belonging. By putting these solutions into action, we can create a supportive environment that empowers our current generation to face their challenges and build a better future. Together, these strategies can help young people navigate the complexities of modern life, fostering resilience and hope for what lies ahead. Larger societal changes are also needed. Addressing issues like toxic parenting, corporate exploitation, and academic pressures requires reform. Until these changes happen, the cycle of dissatisfaction is likely to continue, impacting the mental health and well-being of this generation.

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Dy CM inaugurates mega health camp at Seri

Surinder Choudhary, Satish Sharma inaugurate border sports festival 2026 at Nowshera

HT NEWS NETWORK

NOWSHERA, JANUARY 17: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today inaugurated a mega health camp organised by the 80th Infantry Brigade in collaboration with the health department and Shafa multi-speciality clinic Nowshera at Senior Secondary School, Seri, Nowshera, providing medical services to a large number of people from border and far-flung areas.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister along with Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, inaugurated the Border Sports Festival-2026 at the Sports Stadium, Nowshera.

On the occasion, the dignitaries also laid foundation stone for construction of a volleyball court, practice pitch and other allied works at the stadium.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, who highlighted the government's initiatives to strengthen sports infrastructure



and promote sporting culture in border areas.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that projects worth 2 crore have been sanctioned for improving sports infrastructure in Nowshera. He announced that the stadium will be equipped with proper lighting facilities and released 20 lakh from his Constituency Development

Fund (CDF) for further development works.

The Dy CM warmly welcomed international players participating in the Border Sports Festival and emphasized that sports play a vital role in steering youth away from drugs. He said the government is actively considering the regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel and appealed the parents to

encourage their children to actively participate in sports.

Highlighting the patriotic spirit of the region, he said the people of Nowshera have always stood firmly with the nation and defence forces, citing their courage and resilience during Operation Sindoor. He reaffirmed that the government is committed towards safeguarding the rights of players,

farmers and residents of far-flung border areas.

Satish Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said the government is fully committed to promote border sports, developing employment hubs and strengthening indoor sports facilities. He remarked that "today's sweat becomes tomorrow's success" and reiterated the government's resolve to combat drug menace and narco-terrorism.

The Minister announced that playfields will be developed in every Panchayat and a cricket academy will be established next year. He also appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for actively promoting sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the Border Sports Festival, a vibrant Dargal (traditional wrestling) competition, Kabaddi competition and tug of war were also organised, drawing enthusiastic participation and large public turnout.

The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the players, organisers and contributors were honoured for their outstanding efforts. UNI

MSME organizes District Level Program on PM Vishwakarma at Anantnag

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 17: Branch MSME DFO Srinagar under Ministry of MSME in collaboration with District Industries Centre Anantnag, organised a PM Vishwakarma Capacity Building Programme on Business Development, Financial Literacy and E-Commerce in collaboration with the District Administration Anantnag.



The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation, with more than 220 artisans attending.

A.K. Tamaria (IEDS), Joint Director & Head of Office, MSME J&K, graced the occasion and provided detailed insights into the performance and progress of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir.

ADC Anantnag, Sundeep Singh Bali, also attended the programme as Guest of honour and motivated artisans to avail maximum benefits under the scheme.

Aftab Shala, Senior Corporate Official, J&K Bank, joined the programme virtually and elaborated on the credit facilities available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Faculty members from IUST gave a detailed presentation highlighting e-commerce platforms as an effective tool for Vishwakarmas to expand market reach and enhance business sustainability.

Indian Army organises Veterans Meet at Ramban

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JANUARY 17: As part of the ongoing Veterans Day celebrations, the Delta Force of the Indian Army today organised a Veterans Meet at Maitra- Ramban, with a focus on the welfare and well-being of veterans, Veer Naris and Veeranganas of the district.

The event witnessed the participation of over 150 veterans, Veer Naris and Veeranganas, many of whom attended along with their families. The large turnout reaffirmed the strong bond between the veteran community and serving soldiers, while also highlighting the collaborative efforts of the civil administration in addressing veterans' welfare concerns.

Major General APS Bal, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Delta Force, interacted with the veterans

and their families. Addressing the gathering, the GOC underscored the vital role of veterans as a bridge between the Army and civil society. He emphasized that a soldier's dharma extends beyond active service and that veterans play a crucial role in positive nation-building initiatives.

A number of welfare and service stalls were set up during the event, providing a platform for veterans to reconnect, share experiences, and seek information on various welfare initiatives. Medical services included consultations by Army doctors and representatives from the District Hospital, along with blood tests and eye check-ups. Financial guidance was provided by officials from SBI, ICICI Bank and J&K Bank.

Officials from the District Administration Ramban, Social Welfare Department and NRLM/ UMEED assisted veterans in

understanding government welfare schemes, employment opportunities and community-based programmes. The presence of district administration officers facilitated prompt redressal of grievances raised by veterans and their families. Additionally, the Army's grievance redressal mechanisms, including ECHS, SPARSH and other welfare cells, were made accessible to ensure efficient resolution of issues.

Special attention was accorded to Veer Naris in recognition of their sacrifice, courage and resilience. The Veterans Meet reinforced the Indian Army's message that its responsibility towards soldiers continues even after retirement. Through welfare outreach, grievance redressal and community engagement, the Army continues to strengthen trust, goodwill and the enduring spirit of WeCare.

2-day Winter Carnival-2026 commences at Baderwah with variety of cultural, recreational activities

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 17: The 2-day Winter Carnival-2026 being organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) through the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Doda and the Baderwah Development Authority (BDA) commenced today at Guldanda, Baderwah with great enthusiasm. Featuring a variety

of cultural and recreational activities, the event attracted a large number of tourists and locals alike.

The event was graced by DDC Chairman Doda, Dhyanter Singh Kotwal, who attended the function as the Chief Guest. MLA Baderwah, Dalip Singh Parihar, Deputy Director Tourism, Pankaj Sassan and Deputy Director Publicity, Savita Chouhan, were present as the Guests of Honour. Several senior officers including SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta,



Additional Deputy Commissioner

Baderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Chief Executive Officer Baderwah Development Authority, Sanjeev Sharma, SP Baderwah, Vinod Sharma, ARTO Doda, Kapil Deol along with other district and Sub-district senior officials from different departments were also present.

The Winter Carnival aims to promote winter tourism in Baderwah, highlight its scenic beauty and provide a platform to showcase local culture and talent.

The celebrations will continue with a musical event at the New Bus Stand, Kotli Baderwah on January 18, 2026, expected to draw large participation from locals and tourists.

The event is being organized under the aegis of the District Administration Doda and BDA, reflecting the collective efforts of all stakeholders to strengthen Baderwah's position as a major winter tourism destination in the region.

JKAACL releases Punjabi short story collection "Kadma De Nishan" at Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 17: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Jammu, today organised a book release function at K. L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, for the release of "Kadma De Nishan", a Punjabi short story collection authored by Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu, an emerging Punjabi writer.

The function was graced by Harbans Kaur Bali as the Chief Guest, while eminent Punjabi writer and novelist Surinder Kaur Neer presided over the event.

Welcoming the guests, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote literature, art and culture

by providing meaningful platforms to emerging writers and artists under the able guidance of JKAACL Secretary. He informed that JKAACL is organising a series of programmes aimed at promoting and preserving the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on literature, art, painting and languages, thereby enabling artists, scholar and cultural practitioners to showcase their talent and contribute to the preservation of timeless traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Harbans Kaur Bali congratulated the author on the publication of her book and emphasized the urgent need to



write, read and preserve Punjabi language and literature. She appreciated JKAACL for organising meaningful literary events that encourage writers and strengthen the cultural and literary fabric of society.

In her presidential address, Surinder Kaur Neer lauded the

Academy for its significant initiatives to support budding writers and young scholars. She observed that such literary gatherings play a vital role in enriching and sustaining Punjabi literature in the contemporary era.

Speaking about the book

"Kadma De Nishan", the speakers noted that the collection presents rich contemporary Punjabi short stories reflecting social realities, human emotions and creative sensibilities. They reiterated that encouraging new writers and bringing fresh Punjabi literature to the forefront remains one of

the core objectives of the Academy.

Assistant Professor (Punjabi), Parwinder Kaur presented a detailed scholarly paper on the book, offering critical insights which were well appreciated by the audience.

Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, Popinder Singh Paras discussed the book and the author's literary journey in detail, observing that despite being a new entrant, the author's short stories reflect maturity, freshness, and deep social sensitivity. He also underlined the importance of reading and promoting contemporary Punjabi short stories in today's changing social landscape.

On the occasion, the author

Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu read out one of her short stories, which left a deep impact on the audience. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Academy and the dignitaries for their constant encouragement and support.

A large gathering of writers, scholars, critics, Punjabi literature lovers and family members of the author were present, including Dr. Baljit Singh Raina, Jang S. Vederman, Rattan Singh Kanwal, Kanwal Nain Singh, Balwinder Singh, Trilok Singh, Ajit Singh Mastana, Gurmej Singh Sandhu, Sangeet Kaur, Amardeep Singh and Sandeep Kaur, among others.

The programme was conducted by Senior Editor Popinder Singh Paras, who also presented the vote of thanks.



CAQM invokes GRAP- IV measures as Delhi's AQI reaches severe zone

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 17: As Delhi's average air quality index witnessed a sharp increase on Saturday recording 428, at 8 pm, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the Delhi and NCR invoked stage- IV measures of its anti- pollution Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to further prevent the rise in pollution.

The air quality exhibited deterioration, likely due to the highly unfavorable weather and meteorological conditions, and the lack of dispersal of the pollutants, experts said.

In the evening, at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's daily AQI bulletin, the index value had reached 400.

Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality and relevant factors and in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP unanimously decided to invoke all actions as envisaged under Stage-IV of extant GRAP, that is under 'Severe' air quality (DELHI AQI > 450), with immediate effect, in the entire NCR, as a proactive measure.

This is in addition to the actions



under Stages I, II and III of GRAP already in-force in the NCR region.

The state pollution control boards in the NCR and the agencies concerned have been asked to escalate the preventive measures to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region, the sub-committee said.

The strict measures under stage- IV include stopping entry of truck traffic into Delhi (except for trucks carrying essential

commodities/providing essential services. However, all LNG/ CNG /Electric/BS-VI Diesel trucks shall be permitted to enter the national capital).

The Sub-committee has also directed enforcement of a strict ban on plying of Delhi registered diesel operated BS-IV and below Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in the city, except those carrying essential commodities, or those involved in providing essential

services.

There will be a ban on Construction and Demolition activities, as in the GRAP Stage-III, also for linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, telecommunication etc.

Under stage- IV measures, the state government in the NCR and the GNCTD are asked to mandatorily conduct classes in schools for children even for higher classes,

from class VI to IX and XI in a "Hybrid" mode, both in physical and online mode (wherever online mode is feasible) in the territorial jurisdiction of Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

With the stage-III actions already in place, there are going to be several restrictions on construction and demolition activities and also on plying of vehicles, with departments concerned asked to impose strict restrictions on plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel LMVs (4 wheelers) in Delhi and Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

However, persons with disabilities will be permitted to ply BS-III Petrol/ BS-IV diesel LMVs, provided that these are specifically adapted for them and are run only for their personal use.

During the severe plus air quality scenario, children, elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases have been advised to avoid outdoor activities and stay indoors, as much as possible.

If required to move outdoors, people have been advised to wear a mask. UNI

DGCA imposes Rs 22.20 cr penalty on IndiGo, orders removal of a senior official

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 17: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed penalties to the tune of Rs 22.20 crore on the carrier IndiGo, following a probe into the large-scale flight delays and cancellations during December last year, that had affected more than three lakh passengers across the country. The enforcement action follows an inquiry into the disruptions of flight operations between December 3 and 5, 2025, when the airline ended up cancelling 2,507 flights and delayed 1,852 others.

Taking action on directions from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the DGCA had constituted a four-member panel to examine the causes behind the breakdown in the operations.

During the inquiry, it was found that the primary reasons for the disruptions were "over-optimisation of operations," inadequate regulatory preparedness, deficiencies in system software, and shortcomings in management structure and operational control at the airlines.

The committee noted that the airline failed to maintain sufficient operational buffers, and also did not effectively implement revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, which resulted in the widespread cancellations and flight delays.

As per the findings, IndiGo's planning approach prioritised maximum utilisation of aircraft and crew, sharply reducing roster buffer margins.

The schedules for the crew were designed to push duty limits, depending heavily on dead-heading, tail swaps, and extended duty patterns with minimal recovery time provided to them.

This, the report said, compromised roster integrity and weakened operational resilience.

After deliberations, the DGCA issued individual enforcement actions against senior IndiGo officials.

The CEO of the air carrier was cautioned for inadequate oversight of flight operations and crisis management, while the Accountable Manager and Chief Operating Officer received a warning for failing to assess the impact of the Winter Schedule 2025 and revised FDTL rules.

The Senior Vice President of the Operations Control Centre was warned and directed to be relieved of current operational responsibilities, with instructions to not be at any accountable position.

Patra Slams TMC for Undermining Democracy

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 17: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra on Saturday hit out at West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress government, alleging that they are undermining democracy and the Constitution in the state. The BJP leader said that at times, their actions make one wonder whether West Bengal is

truly a part of India or not, alleging that Banerjee's intention is to push Bengal towards "Banga-Bhang." He claimed that Bangladeshi infiltration is continuing through 72 sensitive points in the state, and despite repeated letters and meetings with the Border Security Force, the CM refuses to provide land for fencing.

Patra, addressing a press conference here, accused Mamata of protecting the illegal Rohingyas and, attempting

to win elections on the basis of the number of Bangladeshi infiltrators.

Patra asserted that Bengal is the land from where the chant of Vande Mataram once resonated, it has been a land of spirituality, penance, austerity, and Yagya, and alleged that Banerjee has turned it into a situation resembling 'Banga-Bhang,' saying that if one remembers the incident of 1905, when the British attempted to divide Bengal.

Atishi remarks row: let them get the matter probed by CBI: Punjab CM

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 17: In response to the statement by Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said on Saturday that the BJP government in Delhi is free to demand a CBI probe into the issue of the forensic report over the alleged remarks by AAP leader Atishi in the Delhi Assembly.

Mann pointed out that forensic investigation has already established that Delhi Assembly Leader of Opposition (LoP) Atishi did not say any such thing which insults the Sikh gurus. He accused the BJP of adding subtitles to the video, which, he said, was the real insult. Addressing the media, Mann said "The forensic report has come, and the court has also made its position clear. But if the BJP believes that the CBI is above even the forensic laboratory, then it should go ahead and order a CBI probe as well." Meanwhile, Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj has said that Minister Kapil Mishra is now caught in his own doing, as the Delhi government's forensic report, and an earlier Punjab Police investigation have established that the word "guru" was never used in the video. He added that Mishra allegedly circulated a fake video to accuse the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, Atishi, and ended up committing an act of sacrilege against the gurus himself.

Bharadwaj demanded Mishra's dismissal and challenged the BJP to place the forensic report before a court.

AAP leader Sanjeev Jha, who is the party's chief whip in the Delhi Assembly, has said the party had earlier stated, and the Punjab forensic laboratory has now confirmed, that Atishi's video was presented in a fabricated manner.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Ishfaq Ahmad Hajam, Basit Ahmad Hajam and Danish Ahmad Hajam, S/o Ghulam Nabi Hajam, R/o Kawari Gam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag for issuance of RBA / OBC Certificate.

Whereas the above named applicants have applied in this office for issuance of RBA/OBC Certificate in their favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been sought, which reveals that the applicants are residents of village Kawari Gam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag and belong to Hajam community.

The annual income of the family as per records is within the prescribed limits and the family details stand verified.

Now, therefore, any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of the said certificate in favour of the applicants may present his/her objection along with documentary proof in this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

By Order Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Public Notice

My name wrongly mentioned in my driving licence under licence number JK05 200400, 14625 as Gh Mohammad Lone instead of Ghulam Mohammad Lone. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GHULAM MOHAMMAD LONE S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN LONE R/O NOWPORA JAGIR BARAMULLA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora/) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of YARBASH AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL MAJEED KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 15/03/1992 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

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

Subject: Application of FAROOQ AHMAD BOKARA S/O GH MOHD BOKARA for the issuance of R/O..BANDIBALA (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of MUDASIR FAROOQ ,FARHAT FAROOQ & SAHIL FAROOQ

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 BOKRA community, having annual income is 1110408 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...FAROOQ AH BOKRA self 51 years Govt Employee
- 2.... NASEEMA BEGUM wife 49 years H/W
- 3....MUDASIR FAROOQ son 24 years student
- 4....FARHAT FAROOQ daughter 22 years student
- 5...SAHIL FAROOQ son 16 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self.

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name GH MOHI UD DIN SHAH S/O AB SAMAD SHAH R/O...CHANDKUT. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005220 wants to be registered on my GH MOHAMMAD SHAH S/O GH MOHI UD DIN SHAH R/O CHANDKUT .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...GH MOHAMMAD SHAH

S/O ... GH MOHI DIN SHAH

R/O ...CHANDKUT District: Kupwara

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora/) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth/ Death of FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O AB RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth /death as 04/06/1993 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I have lost my provisional cum character certificate at somewhere bearing registration No N17441720060 . Now i am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of JKBOSE srinagar / Govt Higher Secondary School KREERI. within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....ARBEENA TARIQ

D/O ...TARIQ AHMAD MIR

Session....Annual Regular 2020

R/O ...SALOOSA

District.... Baramulla

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Late BASHIR AHMAD MIR S/O AB AHAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011000 wants to be registered on my JAVID AHMAD MIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....JAVID AHMAD MIR

S/O ... BASHIR AHMAD MIR

R/O ...DOLIPORA

Noted physician, Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo launches free telehealth consultation on Sundays

Noted physician, Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo on Saturday launched free telehealth consultation.

In a statement issued today, Dr Tasaduk said that the emerging trends of lifestyle diseases are concerning that needs effective redressal at primary care level by imparting proper guidance, awareness and health education among public.

The doctor shall be available to take calls only on Sundays and will focus on to listen queries from patients and guide and educate them to ensure proper prevention and treatment of their conditions.

Pertinently, Dr Itoo is a distinguished



medical professional from Kashmir, who holds the title of Fellow of the

Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK), Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), Member of the Academy of Medical Educators (MACadMED, UK), Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB, UK) and International Practitioner of the UK Faculty of Public Health (IPF-PH, UK). He is further a member with prestigious global medical organizations including, the American College of Physicians (USA), American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM, USA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP, USA) and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).





Nayar Faces Tough Test Coaching UP Warriorz Women

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Abhishek Nayar, who took over as head coach at UP Warriorz (UPW) ahead of the ongoing season of the WPL, has admitted that his first few days on the job have "not been easy", adding that women's cricket has required him to be more "hands-on" than he had anticipated.

UPW endured a rough start to their campaign, losing three games in a row before winning against Mumbai Indians (MI) on Thursday. For Nayar, who has previously coached high-profile men's teams, holding positions with the senior India side and Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, this is the first full-time role with a women's team, though he had been part of a few training camps with UPW over the last few years.

"I'm wrapping my head around it," Nayar said. "I think a lot of coaches that I spoke to before taking up this job told me, 'listen, be direct'. In men's cricket sometimes, because you've worked with them for a long time, there is that trust. So you say a certain thing, if you say 'listen, go over covers', they will know which ball to do it to, how to do it. In women's cricket, I think the attention to detail is a little more, so sometimes you need to sort of break it down in a lot of ways, and it's not as obvious as you think it is. So I feel it's a more hands-on job."

Nayar said coaching women needed more communication than when

it comes to coaching men, pointing to the recent Harleen Deol retired-out situation as an example of one of the challenges he faced.

"I'm also teaching myself every day that, 'listen Abhishek, open your mouth, talk', and you sometimes have to do it," he said. "They [players] are so receptive to it, it's amazing, in men's cricket you have to be wary about 'what to talk, what not to'. I think in women's cricket, they are very receptive, so you can actually talk to them, you can get into those details. But I think trust takes time, and I'm working around that. I mean, Harleen and these things happen, and things come out [and] it becomes harder for me. It's different, it's fun, it's challenging, it's testing me in every which way, and sort of preparing me for the IPL also, in a different way. But I would say it's not been easy."

Nayar spoke about UPW's new captain Meg Lanning's role in helping the team navigate the early losses, praising her work ethic and approach.

"Coaches always play that role of creating an environment and a system, but if you don't have a good leader, it's hard to win after three losses. Meg Lanning is hands-on," Nayar said. "As she's getting a grip of the team, she's having more conversations, she's talking to people, she's involved, she's talking about plans. As games go on, I'm getting to see the real Meg Lanning."

"One of the things in the auction was to have a strong leader in this

season. She runs this team, and like I always say, she's the boss of the team. She can have fun with the girls, but she's very meticulous with the planning, sitting with the bowlers, sitting with the batters, testing our coaches, testing us with lots of questions of stats, match-ups, areas, and she's learning. She's learning how to work with these girls, their strengths and weaknesses, because it's new to her as well. With time, she'll go strength to strength; she is meticulous."

He also backed opener Kiran Navgire, who entered the WPL on the back of a strong domestic season but has struggled for runs, making scores of 1, 5, 0 and 10 so far.

"I think it's been hard for her so far in this tournament, because she came in with a lot of expectations after her domestic season," Nayar said. "These conditions have not necessarily suited her yet, but I think what we've tried to do with her is make sure that she can still go and give herself the best chance by being aggressive, I think that is who she is."

"Today we tried a bit, I don't know if you've noticed, by changing the strike [Lanning facing the first ball]. At times like that I just feel, in this format, it's cruel. It's so fast-paced that it's not easy on a player, so you want to make sure you give them the freedom, and you give them the support so they can keep going, and you don't win it becomes hard, but when you win it becomes slightly easier."

Smith on Denying Babar a Single

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Tension emerged between Steven Smith and Babar Azam during their century partnership for Sydney Sixers against Sydney Thunder at the SCG on Friday night when Smith stopped Babar from running a single so that he could face the first over of the power surge.

After playing three dot balls against Chris Green in the 11th over, Babar pushed the final delivery to long-on, but Smith told him to stay put and indicated he wanted to take the surge - the two overs of powerplay restrictions which can be used after the tenth over in the BBL. With Smith denying the single, Babar was 47 off 38 balls after 11 overs, and Smith on 58 off 28.

Babar appeared far from impressed by Smith's decision when the pair briefly met mid-pitch between overs. In the 12th over, Smith then took 32 runs, including four consecutive sixes, off the first over of the surge against Ryan Hadley - the most expensive over in BBL history.

Smith was then reluctant to run a second on the final ball of the 12th over, but eventually did. That meant Babar had the strike against Nathan McAndrew for the start of the 13th over. But Babar edged an attempted heave across the line onto his stumps first ball, and was clearly angered as he walked off, striking the boundary marker with his bat. Smith, whose century came off 41 balls - he was dismissed for 100 next delivery - declined to speak to the press after the match, but briefly addressed the tactics behind his move in the post-match presentation. "We spoke at the ten-over mark, and they [the captain and coach] said take the surge straightaway," Smith told Channel 7. "I was like, 'Nah, give it one over. I want to hit to the short boundary. I don't want to screw up the first over. I'll try to get 30 off that over'. [I] think we got 32, so it was a good result. Not sure Babar was too happy with me knocking back that single." On Fox Cricket, Mark Waugh said Babar's reaction after his dismissal was poor: "Not a good look, that. Whatever you're feeling, don't show that."

Babar was not seen on the outfield after the match as the players mingled, although it could not immediately be confirmed if he did eventually make an appearance. Mitchell Starc, who played his first BBL game in 11 years, was unaware of the discussions that took place, but said match-ups that batters preferred were commonplace in T20 cricket.

"I didn't actually see it," he said. "I kind of heard something from someone else just before, but I haven't seen it. So [I] might have to go and have a look, and make an opinion from there. I mean it's part of T20 cricket if you see a match-up you like [that]. Clearly he [Smith] did, and took it for 34 [32] or something like that. "That's what we want in the surge. We've kind of seen it with teams retiring batters as well - you see a match-up that might be better or whatever it may be. So, yes, Smithy must have liked that match-up, and took him on."

From Hawke's Bay to Rajkot, Lennox puts his name up in the lights

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

RAJKOT: On ODI debut, Jayden Lennox showed remarkable control and composure, combining well with his captain Michael Bracewell to outbow India's spinners in Rajkot. He barely overpitched the ball and cramped the likes of Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma for room, coming away with figures of 10-0-42-1.

International success was sweet for the 31-year-old after he had toiled away in Hawke's Bay and Central Districts in domestic cricket for years.

"Cricket is one of those games that you sacrifice so much time to be successful in the first place," Lennox said after the Rajkot game. "I think obviously my family, my wife, we've been together for

ten years, so she's been there through the whole - the start of my professional career and we've sacrificed a lot to sort of be where I'm today.

"But it's certainly not a journey that you do by yourself. And then also my club at Hawke's Bay, Napier Tech and then Hawke's Bay themselves have always been big supporters and kind of given me opportunities since I was a young fella. So to be here today, yeah it's just one of those things that it's not a journey of one person, it's a journey of a whole community. So to be able to represent those people is really special."

In his first international game, Lennox, who replaced legspinner Adi Ashok, displayed traits that have made him a reliable bowler



in domestic cricket on the small grounds in New Zealand. He bowled across phases, including in the powerplay and the

death, and gave up just two fours in all. He was rewarded with the wicket of Harshit Rana in the 48th over, which cost New Zealand just three runs. Lennox's right-hand was heavily strapped and he was up against India's superstars in front of a partisan crowd, but nothing fazed him. He just played like he did in the streets while growing up.

"Probably the big thing in my head was just remember it's just another game of cricket," Lennox said. "I grew up in a cul-de-sac playing cricket when I was a kid, it's kind of just a hyped-up version of that. So playing the same game that I've played for the last 20-odd years, obviously on a bigger stage. But I think the nerves weren't really as much as what I expected, to be honest."

The early success in India caps a remarkable 12 months for Lennox. In February 2025, he was a key part of the Central Stags side that won the Super Smash and went on to impress in the Global Super League (GSL) in Guyana later that year. He also stepped out of Ajaz Patel's shadows at Central Districts and even captained them. Will Young, who has had a front-row seat to Lennox's rise in domestic cricket, isn't surprised by Lennox's performance on international debut.

"It's obviously such an exciting time for Lennox to make his debut," Young said after New Zealand arrived in Indore for the third ODI. "We were under pressure after nine overs [in Rajkot] and the skip gave him the ball for the last over of the powerplay."

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