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Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017We Are Proud to Have Broken the
Barrier of Article 370: PM Modi

At Vajpayee Memorial Inauguration in Lucknow, PM Highlights NDA's Governance legacy, Inclusive Welfare and India's Rising Defence Strength

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, DEC 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Bharatiya Janata Party is proud that its government got the historic opportunity to dismantle Article 370, describing the move as breaking a long-standing barrier in the nation's journey towards unity and development.

The Prime Minister was addressing a large public gathering after inaugurating the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow on the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said the BJP-led NDA government has carried forward the ideals of Vajpayee and strengthened the foundations of good governance across the country.

Reflecting on India's political history after Independence, Modi said a culture had emerged where achievements were



credited to a single family, which weakened democratic values. He asserted that the present government believes in collective effort and service-driven politics.

Emphasising the Antyodaya vision of Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Prime Minister said ensuring the last person in

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Nepotism Ended, Merit
Prevails: PM Modi

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, DEC 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said irregularities in team selection and sports that often happened before 2014 came to an end a decade ago, and now children from even the poorest families can rise to the top levels purely through hard work and talent.

Addressing the 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav', a sports and fitness festival aimed at promoting a sporting culture and leadership among the youth, PM Modi said the scale of the Mahotsav is as

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The ideals and Vision of Atal Ji
Will Always Inspire The People of
India: LG Manoj Sinha

Tributes Paid to Mahamana Malaviya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Calls them Visionary Architects of Modern India

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 25: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, on Thursday paid rich tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on their birth anniversaries, saying that their ideals and vision for a developed India rooted in social harmony, equality and justice continue to guide the nation.

Addressing a commemorative function at Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Inter College in Ghazipur, the Lieutenant Governor described Mahamana and Atal Ji as the visionary architects of Modern India. This year marks the 164th birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the 101st birth anniversary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Highlighting Mahamana Malaviya's unparalleled contribution to the country,



LG Sinha said he transformed modern education into a powerful driver of national development and progress. He recalled that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was established through public participation

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LG Pays Tribute
to Socialist Leader
Babu Markandeya
Singh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 25: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid tributes to Babu Markandeya Singh, a well-known socialist leader and former President of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Students' Union.

Speaking at his commemoration event in Varanasi, the Lieutenant Governor shed light on the life works of Babu Markandeya Singh.

"Babu Markandeya Singh guided the youth with determination, wisdom and dedication. His life is an inspiration, guiding the young generation to contribute in the nation-building

Babu Markandeya Singh was a symbol of purity in politics and his life demonstrates a unique combination of fostering scientific excellence and exhibiting deep commitment to humanity. His life was guided by the principles of Peace, Social Justice,

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Modi Carrying Forward Legacy of Mookerjee, Upadhyaya and Vajpayee: Rajnath Singh

Says India's Global Stature Has Risen Under Modi as Rashtra Prerna Sthal inaugurated in Lucknow

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, DEC 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fulfilling the vision of India envisioned by BJP ideologues Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhy-

aya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Addressing a massive public gathering at the inauguration of the Rashtra Prerna Sthal on the birth anniversary of Vajpayee, Singh described the unveiling of statues of Mookerjee, Upadhyaya and Vajpayee by Prime Minister

Modi as a moment of national pride. Welcoming the Prime Minister, he also greeted Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The Defence Minister, who represents Lucknow in the Lok Sabha, said that under Modi's leadership India's prestige has grown sig-

nificantly on the global stage. He claimed that today India's voice commands respect internationally and noted that Modi has been honoured with the highest civilian awards by 29 countries, a rare distinction for any world leader.

Sinha also paid tributes to Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya on his

birth anniversary, saying the last decade under Modi has been defined by progress rooted in respect for national icons, pride in India's heritage and commitment to preserving the legacy of great leaders.

Congratulating Chief

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Snowfall Sparks Festive Buzz, Kashmir Gears Up for Tourism Revival

Series of national roadshows, winter festivities and stakeholder-driven promotions aim to boost tourist footfall across seasons

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: With fresh snowfall lending a magical charm to the Valley,

Kashmir's tourism sector is witnessing renewed optimism as the Tourism Department rolls out an ambitious calendar of promotional events to attract visitors from across the country.

Joint Director Tourism Kashmir, Was-eem Raja, said the coming months are packed with a series of well-planned initiatives, including roadshows and collaborative campaigns, aimed at increasing tourist footfall not only during winter but throughout the year. He noted that the recent snowfall has already resulted in a visible uptick in tourist arrivals, with

hotels reporting encouraging occupancy levels.

"Kashmir has always been known for celebrating every festival with warmth and inclusivity. Be it Christmas, Lohri or New Year, locals celebrate alongside tourists, sharing joy and culture. This tradition adds to the unique experience of visiting Kashmir," Raja said, highlighting the festive atmosphere currently prevailing across the Valley.

He added that the winter rush is "picking up nicely" and expressed hope

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Stamp Duty Revision Routine;
Winter Plans Activated: Div Com

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir Anshul Garg on Thursday said that the annual revision of stamp duty rates was a routine administrative exercise and the revised rates would be notified shortly.

Speaking to reporters at Srinagar as per KNS, Garg said the exercise was carried out every year, with new stamp duty rates coming into effect from January 1.

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After Brief Respite, Mercury Drops Below Freezing Point In Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Cold conditions returned to Kashmir after a brief respite, with minimum temperatures dropping several degrees to settle below the freezing point owing to clear night skies, officials said on Thursday.

Earlier this week, the cold conditions eased in Kashmir due to overcast night skies after snowfall and rain.

That changed on Wednesday night, with weather stations

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Sonamarg records
over 4.17 lakh tourists
till Nov this year

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Sonamarg, a major tourist destination in Kashmir, recorded a total of 417,091 tourists from January to November 2025, showing

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JCO Cremated with
Full Honours in Reasi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 25: A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the Army, who was killed in a firing incident in Samba district, was cremated with full military honours at his native village in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Thursday, officials said.

JCO Subedar Surjeet Singh died in a firing incident inside a military camp in Samba late Tuesday night.

A pall of gloom descended

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EOW files chargesheet
in fake jobs, land
allotment scam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in a case related to fake job appointments and land allotment fraud, officials said on Thursday.

The chargesheet in FIR No. 54/2023 has been submitted before the court of the 4th Additional Munsiff Judge, Srinagar, against Fouzia Afzal, a

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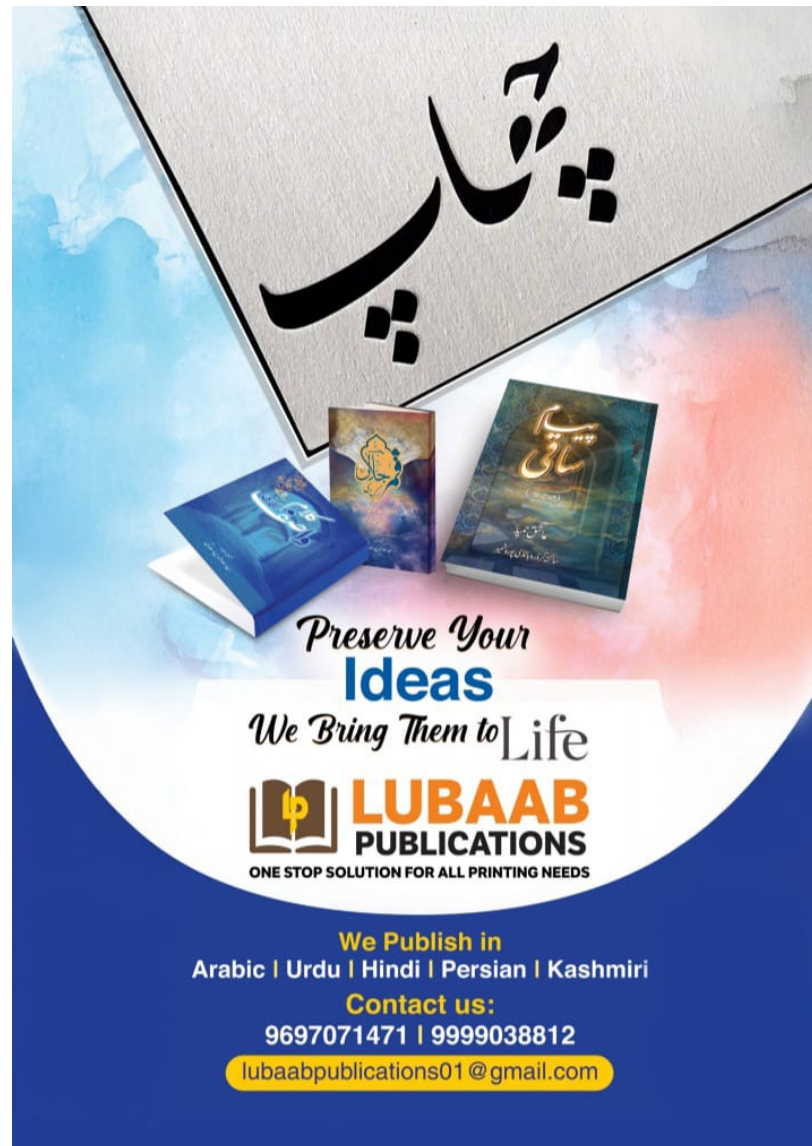
Editor-in-Chief, Daily Headlines Today,
Condoles Demise of Centenarian Mother
of Haji Karamat Qayoom

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, Jahangir Bukhari, has expressed profound grief and deep sorrow over the passing away of the centenarian mother of senior journalist and Chairman, Baramulla Working Journalists Association (BWJA), Haji Karamat Qayoom.

Describing her demise as an irreparable loss, the Editor-in-Chief said that the departure of a pious, noble and venerable matriarch has left a deep void not only in the bereaved family but also among all those who had the privilege of

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SKUAST-K's KVK Ganderbal awarded ICAR's best Krishi Kendra award

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: In recognition of its service to the farming community, SKUAST-K's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal has been honoured with the 'Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra Award' for its outstanding contributions to agricultural extension and rural empowerment.

The award was presented to Head of KVK Ganderbal, Dr Ajaz Ahmed Malik, during the three-day National Level Zonal Workshop of KVKs (Zone I) held at SKUAST-Jammu. Instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI Zone I, PAU Ludhiana), the award highlights KVK Gander-



bal's exemplary role in bringing innovation-driven outreach to the doorsteps of farmers.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmed, extended his

heartfelt congratulations to the entire KVK Ganderbal team. He described the achievement as a clear testament to the relentless commitment of the scientists and

staff toward farmer-centric innovation. Vice Chancellor expressed his firm belief that with its current trajectory of excellence, KVK Ganderbal is well on its way to

becoming the top-ranked KVK in the entire country.

Prof Raihana Habib, Director Extension at SKUAST-K, also lauded the unit's dedication, noting that the Kendra has consistently demonstrated inclusivity and innovation in its programs.

This award not only elevates the status of KVK Ganderbal but also reinforces SKUAST-Kashmir's position as a premier institution dedicated to self-sustainable agriculture. By bridging the gap between scientific research and field application, the Kendra continues to play a pivotal role in the university's mission to empower rural communities and celebrate the achievements of the farmers who are at the heart of the region's economy.

Cultural Academy Promotes Theatre as a Tool for Youth Engagement

JK Cultural Revolution Presents Stage Play "Ajab Malk"

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SUMBAL, DEC 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in collaboration with JK Cultural Revolution, organised a theatrical performance of the stage play "Ajab Malk" at Government Degree College, Sumbal.

The play, directed by Gul Riyaz and written by Dr. Sohan Lal Koul, received wide appreciation from the audience for its strong social message and artistic excellence. The play highlighted several pressing social issues, with special emphasis on the growing disconnect of the younger generation from traditional values and the importance of women's empowerment in society. Through impactful storytelling and powerful performances, the drama successfully conveyed its core message to the audience.

The cast, including Arif Ahmad Bhat, Eliyas Shalhari, Mehjabeen Inkisari, Mohammad Rafiq Matoo and Tanveer Ahmad Dar, delivered commendable performances, earning applause for their natural acting and strong stage presence.

At the beginning of the programme, Research Assistant of the Cultural Academy, Maqbool Sajid, presented the welcome address, warmly greeting the guests, artists and audience. He stated that theatre festivals organised by the Cultural Academy play a vital role in engaging youth in positive and creative activities. Vice Principal of Government Degree College Sumbal, Prof. Nikhat Nabi, attended the event as the chief guest. In her address, she appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Academy and JK Cultural Revolution, stating that such cultural initiatives help inculcate values, awareness and a sense of social responsibility among the younger generation.

Dr. Shaista Ahmad from the Kashmiri Department of the college also played a significant role in facilitating the successful presentation of the play. On the occasion, Professor Nikhat Nabi and Dr. Shaista Ahmad were felicitated for their contributions.

Concluding the programme, President of JK Cultural Revolution, Gul Riyaz, expressed gratitude to the Cultural Academy, the faculty and students of Government Degree College Sumbal, and all those associated with the event. He expressed hope that such meaningful and thought-provoking theatrical presentations would continue in the future to promote social awareness and constructive dialogue within society.

SANKALP-Hub, KVIB Bandipora organise Awareness Programme for Empowerment of women

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, DEC 25 : Under the Directions of District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora, an awareness programme was organised by SANKALP-Hub in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries



Board (KVIB) with the objective of Empowering women through self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The program aimed to create awareness about schemes and support systems available for income generation and sustainable livelihoods.

Officials from SANKALP-Hub and KVIB provided detailed information on KVIB schemes including PMEGP, Khadi-based activities, Skill development programs and financial assistance.

Emphasis was laid on encouraging women to take up micro-enterprises, home based industries and group based economic activities to promote Financial Assistance.

The participants included women from Self-help groups, aspiring entrepreneurs and local residents.

The program successfully enhanced awareness and motivated women to actively participate in income-generation activities contributing to their overall socio-economic empowerment.

Good Governance Week 2025: MVD Bandipora Organises Road Safety Awareness, Enforcement Drives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, DEC 25: As part of the ongoing Good Governance Week (Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore 2025) campaign, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Bandipora on Wednesday organised a road safety awareness and grievance redressal camp for drivers and transporters at the Sumo Stand, Sumbal.

The camp focused on promoting safe driving practices, addressing grievances of drivers and transporters, and ensuring compliance with traffic regulations.

During the programme, ARTO Bandipora, Mohammad Mukhtar Sofi sensitised participants on road safety norms, passenger safety, and the ill-effects of drug abuse while driving.

On the occasion, 13 drivers were facilitated with fitness certificates for their vehicles on the spot, ensuring prompt service delivery as part of the good governance initiative.

Meanwhile, an enforcement drive was conducted on the Argam-Chapran Road to check overloading and charging of exorbitant fares, if any.

During the drive, the ARTO, along with the enforcement team, inter-

acted with drivers and passengers, counselling them on adherence to prescribed fare structures and responsible driver behaviour.

Another enforcement drive was carried out on the Bandipora-Sumbal route, wherein 73 vehicles were checked. Of these, 25 vehicles were e-challaned, and an amount of Rs 31,000 was realised as penalty.

On the occasion, passengers were also consulted to confirm fare compliance and assess driver behaviour, reinforcing transparency and accountability in public transport services.

Good Governance Week 2025: Week-Long "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" Campaign concludes in Shopian Panchayats, Tehsil and District-Level camps held during Week-Long campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, DEC 25: The week-long nationwide outreach campaign "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign initiated by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, GOI concluded successfully today in District Shopian, witnessing widespread public participation and effective grievance redressal.

The campaign aimed at taking governance to the doorsteps of citizens, enhancing last-mile service delivery and strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms.

In Shopian district, the programme was executed in a sys-

tematic and inclusive manner, covering all 98 Panchayat Halqas, in addition to one outreach camp each at Tehsil Headquarters and two special camps at the District Headquarters were held, ensuring comprehensive geographic and administrative coverage.

On the concluding day, grievance redressal and public interaction camps were organised at Nazneenpora (Tehsil Keegam), Kanigam (Imamsahab), TurkWangam (Block Chitragam), Panchayat Halqa Vehil, Berthipora-A&B, Panchayat Halqa Partabpora and HS Pora (Block Herman), where a large number of residents interacted directly with officers of the concerned departments. BDO, Nazir Ahmad presided over some



of the camps in Imam Sahib and Hermain blocks.

Throughout the campaign, the initiative played a pivotal role in

addressing public grievances, resolving service delivery issues and creating awareness about government schemes and entitlements.

Officers from various line departments received, examined and acted upon grievances related to revenue, rural development, social welfare, public utilities, development works and other citizen-centric services, with many cases resolved on the spot and others taken up for time-bound disposal.

During the week long campaign, more than 400 applications were disposed of under service delivery mechanisms, underscoring the effectiveness and reach of the programme.

DCPU Bandipora organizes "Child Marriage Free Bharat" Signature Campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, DEC 25: District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Mission Vatsalya Bandipora today organized a comprehensive "Child Marriage Free Bharat" signature campaign in Bandipora with the objective of raising awareness and strengthening collective commitment to eliminate the social evil of child marriage. The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from a wide cross-section of society, reflecting strong community resolve toward safeguarding child rights and well-being.

Officials from various Government departments, representatives of the District Legal Services Author-



ity (DALSA), lawyers, students, young women achievers, media persons, and NGO actively participated in the event. The diverse participation highlighted the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in addressing child marriage and promoting child rights.

During the campaign, participants signed a pledge banner symbolizing their commitment to prevent child marriage and to spread awareness about its harmful physical, psychological, social, and legal consequences. The event served as a platform to sensitize the public about existing laws, including the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, and the role of institutions in reporting and preventing such practices.

Revenue Department Keller Cracks Down on Illegal Mining in Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, DEC 25: In a significant late-night crack-down against illegal mining activities, the Revenue Department Keller, under the supervision of the Tehsildar Keller and Naib Tehsildar Berthipora, conducted a search operation in the Gujar Basti area of Kralcheck.

During the operation, officials apprehended individuals involved in illegal soil extraction and seized one JCB machine and one tipper being used for unauthorized excavation and transportation of soil.

The seized machinery has been handed over to Police Post Batipora, and an



FIR has been registered in the matter. Further investigation is underway to identify all persons involved in the illegal activity.

The authorities have reiterated their firm commitment to continue strict action against illegal min-

ing and soil extraction. They warned that violators will face stringent legal consequences, emphasizing that such enforcement drives will continue to safeguard natural resources and ensure strict adherence to the law.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir wetlands waiting for winged visitors

As the winter season has already commenced in Kashmir valley one expected that the wetlands located across the length and breadth of the valley are abuzz with the different sounds of migratory birds coming from different parts of the world. However, this time around the arrival of migratory birds has been delayed much to the disappointment of environment loving people. These people are expecting that the birds would start coming towards the wetlands as soon as possible.

Given the fact that climate change has impacted people across the globe the same has also affected the movement of migratory birds. It is due to this reason that there has been less arrival of migratory birds to the wetlands of Kashmir at least for the time being. The bird lovers are hoping that the situation as far as the arrival of migratory birds improves so that they are not deprived of this great environmental activity.

One can hope that the winter season starts showing its true colours and Kashmir valley receives a good bout of snowfall. Once there is snowfall in Kashmir then it is expected that the migratory birds in thousands would grace the wetlands of the valley and they would be of chirp of different kinds of birds. In other words, it can be said that the beauty of wetlands in Kashmir gets enhanced by the presence of migratory birds. With no or less migratory birds there is no life in the wetlands of the valley and everything looks barren.

At the same time the wetlands are facing multiple challenges and some of them are facing the threat of getting vanished from the scene. The greedy nature of the people can be gauged by the fact that human beings have encroached upon some of the wetlands of Kashmir. If negligence from the masses continues like the same then there are chances that some of the wetlands might vanish from the scene and they will be discussed in history books alone.

Over the years the poaching of the migratory birds has come down drastically and very few such incidents come to the fore at present. It is important that there is no let-up in the vigil in this regard so that the poachers do not kill these migratory birds who come from different parts of the globe. This would ensure that there is no threat to the lives of the migratory birds.

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The Pending Hope: Winter Tutorials and the Future of Underprivileged Children



■ KHURSHIED RESHI

As the winter season unfolds, a sense of anticipation fills the air, but for many underprivileged children, it's tinged with uncertainty. For years, winter tutorials have been a lifeline, offering free education and a chance to catch up with their peers. This year, however, the tutorials are yet to commence, leaving these children in a state of limbo.

In the past, these winter tutorials have played a vital role in helping the downtrodden children. They have provided a platform for these children to learn and grow, and have helped bridge the gap between them and their more fortunate peers. Many children have benefited from these tutorials, going on to excel in their studies and secure better futures.

The distribution of free textbooks,



a welcome move, has already taken place, and the children are eager to dive into their studies. However, without the winter tutorials, the textbooks remain untouched, a reminder of unfulfilled potential. The children are waiting, their minds receptive, but their educational journey is stalled.

Parents, already anxious about their children's future, are growing increasingly concerned. Prices have touched the sky, and it's impossible for them to afford sending their children to coaching centers where

they have to pay high dues. In this era of rising costs, where parents struggle to provide two meals a day, sending their children to expensive tuition centers is a luxury they can't afford. The meager income they earn is barely enough to cover their daily expenses, leaving no room for educational expenses. For them, winter tutorials are the last beacon of hope, offering a chance for their children to learn without any barriers.

The situation highlights the challenges faced by underprivileged chil-

dren in accessing quality education. Despite efforts to provide textbooks and other resources, the absence of structured learning opportunities like winter tutorials hampers their progress. It's not just about keeping up with academics; it's about nurturing young minds and fostering growth. It's about giving these children a chance to break the cycle of poverty and create a better future for themselves.

The authorities must recognize the urgency of the situation and take immediate action. Commencing the winter tutorials is not just a matter of routine; it's about shaping the future of these children. Every day counts, and the delay is a lost opportunity for these young learners to grow and thrive. The government and education department must work together to ensure that these tutorials start as soon as possible, providing these children with the education they deserve.

It's time to act now, without further delay, and initiate the winter tutorials. Let's give these children a chance to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. Let's help them build a brighter future, one that is filled with hope and promise.

Greenhouse Winter Stock: A Sustainable Solution for Harsh Valley Winters



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The Kashmir Valley experiences extremely harsh winters, which usually begin in November and extend until mid-March. During this prolonged period of cold weather, life becomes challenging for the common people, especially due to the unavailability and high prices of essential commodities. Among the most affected items are fresh vegetables and fruits. As temperatures fall drastically, traditional storage methods fail, and the chilling cold wave causes rapid spoilage of perishable food items. As a result, consumers face immense hardship, and the prices of vegetables and fruits skyrocket beyond the reach of ordinary households.

Winter food insecurity is not merely an economic issue; it is also a serious public health concern. Vegetables are essential sources of vitamins, carbohydrates, minerals, and dietary fiber, all of which are crucial for maintaining good health and immunity during the cold months. Unfortunately, the shortage of fresh vegetables during winter often leads to nutritional deficiencies, particularly among children, elderly people, and economically weaker sections of society.

■ Importance of Greenhouse Sheds

Recognizing the severity of the problem, the government has taken several initiatives to address the shortage of vegetables and fruits during winter. One of the most effective and sustainable solutions introduced in recent years is the promotion of greenhouse cultivation. Greenhouse sheds allow farmers to grow vegetables even during freezing temperatures, thereby ensuring a continuous supply of fresh produce throughout the winter season.

Vegetables are given priority by the administration before the onset of winter due to their immense health benefits. According to a recent study conducted by the Biodiversity of International Scientists in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), there are approximately 1,100 vegetable species cultivated worldwide, exhibiting a wide range of growth forms and uses. This highlights the importance of vegetables in global food systems and human survival. Vegetables and fruits are indispensable food items for sustaining a healthy life on this blue planet.

In the Kashmir Valley, winter conditions are particularly severe, making agricultural activity extremely difficult. One of the major reasons behind

the recurring vegetable shortage is that many farmers are not adequately equipped or trained by the concerned authorities to adopt modern techniques that could minimize winter scarcity. As a consequence, the prices of essential commodities rise sharply, causing distress among consumers. The situation becomes even more alarming when people are forced to rely on pulses and dried vegetables, which, although commonly consumed in winter, do not provide the same nutritional value as fresh produce. Studies suggest that excessive consumption of dried vegetables may even increase the risk of infections and digestive disorders.

■ Role of the Horticulture Department

In this context, the role of the Horticulture Department becomes extremely significant. The department has been working to improve the distribution and installation of greenhouse sheds and to provide vegetable saplings to growers across the valley. Through awareness programmes and seasonal training sessions, the department encourages farmers to adopt greenhouse cultivation and modern horticultural practices.

It is important to acknowledge that while many farmers in Kashmir may not be highly educated in formal terms, they possess vast traditional knowledge and years of hands-on experience. Their relentless day-and-night efforts not only feed the population but also contribute significantly to the economy of the region and the country as a whole. The farming community truly deserves appreciation and recognition. They should be brought under more beneficial government schemes and provided with advanced equipment, efficient carriages, modern sprayers, and high-quality fertilizers to enhance productivity and improve yields.

Several years ago, the Horticulture Department introduced a scheme inviting applications from interested farmers for the installation of miniature greenhouse sheds. Under this scheme, a subsidy of ₹10,000 is provided to the beneficiary. The application process is relatively simple and requires farmers to submit a written application on A4-size paper. Once approved by the concerned authorities, the beneficiary is required to deposit ₹21,000 into the department's account. After the successful installation of the greenhouse shed, the subsidy amount of ₹10,000 is credited back to the beneficiary's account.

While this scheme has benefited many farmers, there are still certain gaps that need to be addressed to make it more farmer-friendly. The initial financial burden can be discouraging for marginal and small farmers, and the procedural delays often reduce their enthusiasm.

■ Need for Technical Guidance and Training

One of the major challenges faced by beneficiaries is the lack of proper technical guidance. The department should ensure the availability of trained

and expert staff who can guide farmers at every stage—from preparing saplings to harvesting crops. Many farmers are unfamiliar with greenhouse-specific practices, such as seedling preparation, temperature regulation, ventilation, and pest management. Without adequate counselling, farmers may fail to produce optimal quantities of seasonal vegetables.

Globally, greenhouses are widely used for raising vegetable saplings, floriculture, and commercial gardening. In large flower gardens and advanced agricultural systems, greenhouse sheds have proven to be highly efficient and profitable. With proper training and support, the same success can be replicated in Kashmir on a larger scale.

■ Scientific Basis of Greenhouse Technology

The concept of the greenhouse effect was first introduced by scientist Joseph Fourier in 1824. Scientifically, the greenhouse effect refers to the process by which certain gases trap heat within an enclosed space. A greenhouse is typically a structure made of glass or transparent material, with walls and a roof that allow sunlight to enter. During winter, the trapped heat keeps the interior warm, creating a favorable environment for plant growth.

Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide play a role in retaining heat by preventing it from escaping. This controlled microclimate enables the cultivation of vegetables like tomatoes, coriander, radish, spinach, and various flowers even during extreme cold conditions.

■ Suggestions and Way Forward

Despite the availability of greenhouse schemes, a large number of farmers remain unaware of these initiatives and have not benefited from them. The Horticulture Department should organize more awareness and counselling programmes at the grassroots level. Local village bodies, panchayats, and community leaders should be actively involved in disseminating information about these schemes.

Additionally, seasonal seeds, quality fertilizers, and organic inputs should be provided to farmers at subsidized rates and in sufficient quantities. Timely distribution of resources, simplification of procedures, and continuous technical support can significantly enhance winter vegetable production in the valley.

In conclusion, greenhouse cultivation is not merely an agricultural innovation; it is a necessity for ensuring food security, nutritional health, and economic stability during harsh winters in Kashmir. With coordinated efforts from the government, horticulture experts, and the farming community, the valley can overcome winter shortages and move towards a more sustainable and self-reliant agricultural system.

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Destiny is Written by God, but Paradise is Crafted by the Husband



■ **TANVIR MOHIDHIN**

This is a truth that encompasses the entire philosophy of existence. While Almighty Allah has woven love, sacrifice, and motherhood into a woman's destiny, He has placed the peace and happiness of her worldly journey in the hands of the

man who becomes her life partner.

■ **Divine Decree and Human Conduct**

When a woman leaves her parents' home, she doesn't just leave a house; she leaves behind her entire life, her identity, and the cherished memories of her childhood. God wrote "migration" into her destiny, but whether she lives like a queen in that new land or remains a weary traveler is a decision He entrusted to the husband.

Destiny brings her into the bond of Nikkah (marriage), but transforming that bond into a "Paradise" depends entirely on the husband's conduct, the sweetness

of his tone, and the respect he accords her.

■ **The Husband: A Shelter and a Protector**

A woman does not crave immense wealth, jewelry, or palaces. She simply seeks a shield that can protect her from the scorching heat of the world's hardships. When a husband looks at his wife's tired face and offers a smile, when he begins to feel her smallest pains, and when he makes her realize, "You are the most precious treasure of my life," that house ceases to be a mere structure of bricks—it becomes a small piece of Paradise on earth.

God wrote it in her fate that she would become a wife, but the glow on her face, the sparkle in her eyes, and the tranquility of her heart are all reflections of her husband's attention.

■ **The Power of Love and the Poison of Neglect**

A single harsh tone from a husband can turn a woman's destined happiness into ashes in an instant. Conversely, a single compassionate sentence from him can give her the courage to fight the greatest battles of life. God made man the "Qawwam" (protector/provider)—the pillar upon which the roof of the entire home rests. If this pillar

is made of love and kindness, the woman nurtures that home with her very soul, filling it with the flowers of Paradise.

■ **Conclusion:**

Destiny is in the hands of God, but making that destiny a "blessed" one lies within the power of the husband. For a woman, her universe often centers around her husband. If he grants her respect, values her emotions, and truly treats her as his life partner, she will forget her sorrows and lay all the joys of the world at his feet.

The Author from Baramullah

Names Etched in Valour



■ **BY M S NAZKI**

The biggest sacrifice ever:

The Seven Social Sins are: Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Worship without sacrifice. Politics without principle. Hope the modern day politicians are reading the words said above!

Dreams do come true, if only we wish hard enough. You can have anything in life if you will sacrifice everything else for it.!

There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes bravery involves laying down your life for something bigger than yourself, or for someone else. Sometimes it involves giving up everything you have ever known, or everyone you have ever loved, for the sake of something greater.!

The last few lines speak hell of a lot about Jammu and Kashmir Police!

They are warriors of peace but if action is wanted they are brutal!

About Nalin Prabhat:

He has set up a J & K Police grievance cell!!

Grievance redressal in Jammu & Kashmir Police is managed through unified platforms like JK SAMADHAN (samadhan.jk.gov.in) and the dedicated Police Sunwayi Portal (police.sunwayi.jk.gov.in), allowing citizens to file complaints online, via mobile app, or by calling helplines (like 1905) for issues involving police misconduct or service delivery, ensuring transparency with unique IDs for tracking until resolution, with specific systems also for women's issues.

Primary Grievance Redressal Portals: JK SAMADHAN: A unified platform for all J&K government services, including police.

Website: samadhan.jk.gov.in.

Mobile App: "JK Samadhan" (Android & iOS).

Helpline: Toll-free number 1905.

Police Sunwayi Portal: A dedicated platform by J&K Police for public grievances.

Website: policesunwayi.jk.gov.in (features "Submit Complaint/Grievance" and "Track Application").

How to File a Grievance:

Online: Use the portals above to register your complaint, providing details like name, mobile, district, and the nature of the issue (misconduct, harassment, etc.).

Mobile App: Download the "JK Samadhan" app to file complaints.

Helpline: Dial 1905 (or specific Jammu/Kashmir toll-free numbers) to register.

In-Person/Post: You can also submit complaints by post or in person at civil secretariat offices.

Key Features:

Tracking: Each complaint gets a Unique ID for status tracking.

Multilingual: Complaints can be filed in English, Hindi, and Urdu.

Monitoring: Grievances against police personnel are monitored by designated officers for action within about 15 days.

Specialized Support:

Special Women Cell: Provides emotional, psychological support, and referral services for survivors of violence, working with men for the welfare of survivors.

Nalin Prabhat (born 14 March 1968 is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1992 batch of Andhra Pradesh cadre. He served as the director general of the National Security Guard from 1 May 2024 to 15 August 2024.

Thereafter, he was transferred to AGMUT cadre to be appointed as director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police and took the charge on 1 October 2024.

Early life and education: Nalin Prabhat was born in 1968 in the Thungri Village of Manali. He completed his B.A. (Honours) and M.A. from St. Stephen's College

Awards: Prabhat has been awarded for his special contributions to the Indian government in his career. Police Medal for Gallantry with 2nd bar (ie three times) Parakram Padak (Wound Medal) | Police Medal for Distinguished Service, Police Medal for Meritorious Service, Antrik Suraksha Padak (AP), Antrik Suraksha Padak (J&K), Police (Spl Duty) Medal with Bar (J&K) and Sainya Seva Medal with bar (i.e. two times)

Nalini Prabhat: A Decorated Career

At 55, Prabhat is a highly respected officer, having won the police gallantry medal three times. He has a distinguished record, including heading the 'Greyhounds,' a specialized anti-Naxal police force in Andhra Pradesh. His extensive experience in handling sensitive operations is evident from his past roles in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), where he served as the Inspector General (IG) of operations and Additional Director General (ADG) overseeing deployments in Kashmir.

In a related development, the government has curtailed Prabhat's tenure as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG). An order from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the Ministry of Home Affairs' proposal to reduce his term as NSG chief. Additionally, the ACC sanctioned Prabhat's inter-cadre deputation from Andhra Pradesh to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre for an initial period of three years, or until further orders, whichever comes first. This decision was made in relaxation of the inter-cadre deputation guidelines.

Sometimes it is nothing more than gritting your teeth through pain, and the work of every day, the slow walk toward a better life! DGP Jammu and Kashmir Police!

I guess that's just part of loving people: You have to give things up. Sometimes you even have to give them up.!

She taught me all about real sacrifice. That it should be done from love... That it should be done from necessity, not without exhausting all other options. That it should be done for people who need your strength because they don't have enough of their own. There are memories that time does not erase... Forever does not make loss forgettable, only bearable. Sometimes the prize is not worth the costs. The means by which we achieve victory are as important as the victory itself!!

The story of J&K Police is not just one of policing—it is one of unmatched heroism, professional excellence, and national service under fire. Thousands of J&K Police personnel—from constables to senior officers—have laid down their lives in the line of duty. Unlike conventional law enforcement agencies elsewhere, the J&K Police have fought an asymmetric war marked



by ambushes, suicide bombings, kidnappings, and targeted assassinations. In the dark years of the 1990s, when militancy was at its peak and fear gripped every street, these men and women held the thin blue line between order and anarchy. Many were tortured, lynched, or killed in front of their families. Yet, the uniform did not waver.

It is due to their relentless and sustained effort that the scourge of terrorism has been curtailed to a large extent. The J&K Police's success in leading counter-insurgency operations, in coordination with the Army and other security forces, has transformed the security landscape of the Union Territory. Their deep local intelligence network, built painstakingly over the years, has been a game-changer. Counter-terrorism is not just about firepower—it is about information, language, trust, and human intelligence. No outsider, however skilled, can decode the intricate social and linguistic fabric of the Valley as effectively as the local police. This ground-level intelligence has ensured that almost every major operation in the last decade was swift, precise, and minimally disruptive to civilians.

The success of the Cordon and Search Operations conducted jointly but spearheaded by the J&K Police virtually broke the backbone of terrorism in the region. The coordinated approach, powered by actionable intelligence, led to the elimination of numerous top commanders and the dismantling of local terror networks.

It is due to their relentless and sustained effort that the scourge of terrorism has been curtailed to a large extent. The J&K Police's success in leading counter-insurgency operations, in coordination with the Army and other security forces, has transformed the security landscape of the Union Territory. Their deep local intelligence network, built painstakingly over the years, has been a game-changer. Counter-terrorism is not just about firepower—it is about information, language, trust, and human intelligence. No outsider, however skilled, can decode the intricate social and linguistic fabric of the Valley as effectively as the local police. This ground-level intelligence has ensured that almost every major operation in the last decade was swift, precise, and minimally disruptive to civilians.

Yet, the debt owed to these martyrs is beyond repayment. Their supreme sacrifices cannot be quantified in medals or memorials. Each name etched on the Police Martyrs' Memorial is a story of valour, patriotism, and duty beyond measure. These fallen heroes continue to inspire new generations of officers, setting a high bar for courage and integrity

Last few lines: You braved the cold, the fear and the night, Ran into the danger when others took flight, Gun on your belt, badge on your chest, No other job needs a bullet proof vest. Jai Hind J&K Police!

Good Governance Week 2025:

“Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” culminates in Budgam with Strong Citizen Outreach, Service Delivery

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, DEC 25: The week-long nationwide initiative Good Governance Week “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore”, observed from December 19 to December 25, concluded successfully in Budgam, marking a significant decisive step by the District Administration towards strengthening transparent, accountable and citizen-centric governance at the grassroots level. Throughout the week, the District Administration Budgam undertook an intensive schedule of public outreach programmes, grievance redressal camps, inspections, workshops and awareness drives across all 17 blocks and 296 panchayats of Budgam to take governance to the doorsteps of the people. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic public participation, reflecting growing trust and engagement between citizens and the administration.

During the week, public facilitation and grievance redressal camps were organised on a daily basis, enabling citizens to directly interact with district and field level officers.

A large number of grievances, both fresh and long pending were received through online and offline platforms,

many of which were resolved on the spot, while others were taken up for time bound disposal. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring sensitivity, responsiveness and accountability while addressing public concerns.

The administration also focused on achieving saturation of key welfare and social security schemes, extending onspot assistance to eligible beneficiaries for enrolment and benefit delivery. Awareness sessions were held on flagship initiatives such as Mission YUVA, PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, social welfare schemes, employment and livelihood programmes, besides promoting the use of online public service delivery platforms for faster and transparent access to services.

A major highlight of the week was the daylong District Level Public Darbar cum Workshop on Good Governance at Town Hall, Khansahib, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, under the banner of Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore. During the Public Darbar, the DC patiently heard public grievances related to development works, healthcare, education, revenue and welfare schemes, and issued on-the-spot directions for their redressal.



Sanction letters were also distributed among beneficiaries under various government welfare schemes, reinforcing the administration's commitment to inclusive and timely service delivery.

The workshop component focused on the core pillars of good governance, including the Public Services Guarantee Act, effective grievance redressal mechanisms,

transparency in service delivery and zero tolerance towards corruption. Officers were sensitised to adopt a proactive, humane and solution oriented approach, with an emphasis on continuous public engagement through outreach programmes and field visits.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that good governance must translate into visible outcomes on the ground, stating that Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore is about ensuring prompt grievance redressal, efficient service delivery and sustained public trust in institutions.

The Good Governance Week activities were carried out with active involvement of senior district officers, sub divisional and tehsil and BDO level functionaries, and heads of line departments, ensuring coordinated and effective implementation across the district.

The District Administration Budgam reaffirmed its resolve to carry forward the spirit of Good Governance Week beyond the observance period, and continue working towards a responsive, transparent and people centric administration, where governance remains accessible, accountable and firmly rooted in the needs of the citizens.

District Admin Kathua felicitates retiring CEO

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, DEC 25: District Administration Kathua today organized a farewell programme in view of the superannuation of Chief Education Officer Kathua Rajiv Abrol, who is scheduled to retire from government service on December 31, 2025.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, while extending warm wishes to the retiring officer, lauded his services during his brief stint as Chief Education Officer.

The DC appreciated Rajiv Abrol's sincere efforts towards strengthening academic standards, improving administrative efficiency and ensuring effective implementation of various educational schemes



and initiatives.

On behalf of the District Administration Kathua, he wished him good health, happiness and a fulfilling post-retirement life, expressing hope that he would now be able to devote ample time to his family and personal pursuits.

General Manager DIC, Mushtaq Chaudhary; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vishavjeet Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Vishav Partap Singh; CPO, Ranjit Thakur and other district officers, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted his professionalism, dedication to duty and cordial working style and conveyed their best wishes for a peaceful and contented post-retirement life.

Chief Education Officer Rajiv Abrol, in his address expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration Kathua for the constant support, guidance and cooperation extended to him during his tenure. He thanked his colleagues and staff for their teamwork and acknowledged the positive work environment that facilitated smooth functioning of the education department in the district.

SWD Poonch distributes aids, appliances to Divyangjans

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, DEC 25: The Department of Social Welfare, Poonch, in collaboration with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), organised a programme for the distribution of aids and appliances among specially abled persons of District Poonch, with the objective of promoting inclusion, mobility and independent living.

The programme was graced by MLA Haveli, Mr. Ajaz Ahmed Jan, as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the initiative of the Social Welfare Department and highlighted the importance of empowering persons with disabilities through timely welfare interventions. He reaffirmed the government's commitment in supporting programmes aimed at the welfare and dignity of specially abled persons. Representatives from the Association of Persons



with Disabilities, Muhammad Fareed Malik and Abdul Rasheed Shahpuri were also present on the occasion and expressed gratitude to the department for addressing the needs of the specially abled community.

District Social Welfare Officer, Poonch, Khalil A. Bandy presented detailed information regarding various social welfare schemes being implemented in the district, including pensions, sponsorship for orphan and vulnerable children, marriage assistance, and support for persons with disabilities. He emphasized department's commitment towards ensuring transparent and inclusive delivery of welfare services.

The programme concluded with the distribution of aids and appliances to eligible beneficiaries, marking another significant step towards building an inclusive and empowered society in District Poonch.

Sansad Khel Spardha culmination ceremony organised at DC Office Kathua

DC Rajesh Sharma distributes prizes among winners of multi-disciplinary sports events

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, DEC 25: The culmination ceremony of Sansad Khel Spardha was organised today at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Kathua, marking the successful conclusion of a series of sports activities aimed at promoting sports culture and encouraging active participation of youth across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up of various multi-disciplinary sports events including Tug of War, Chess, Kabaddi, Athletics, Wrestling, Volleyball and Badminton.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiasm, discipline and sporting spirit displayed by the participants and underlined the importance of sports in overall personality development of youth.

On the occasion, live streaming of Sansad Khel Mahotsav 2025 was also arranged, during which the Prime Minister interacted with young athletes from across the country.

The athletes present on the occasion also took inspiration from the success stories of accomplished sportspersons, who shared their jour-



ney of perseverance, dedication and achievements while interacting with the Prime Minister.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vishavjeet Singh; Chief Planning Offi-

cer, Ranjit Thakur; General Manager DIC, Programme Officer ICDS, ACR, ADC, DYSSO, district officers and a large number of young athletes were present on the occasion.

DC Doda attends closing ceremony of Sansad Khel Spardha at Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, DEC 25: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh attended the closing ceremony of Sansad Khel Spardha, organised under the theme “Yuva for Viksit Bharat” at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, Doda.

The event was organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports Department.

The three-month-long sports extravaganza, which commenced on 21 September 2025, culminated on 25 December 2025 with an impressive and well-organised ceremony aimed at promoting sports culture and youth empowerment in the district.

The event was attended by PO ICDS Doda, Akhtar Hussain Qazi; Joint Director Education Doda, Asfaq Khanzi; CPO Doda, Manesh Kumar Manhas; officers and officials of the Youth Services and Sports Department along with a



large number of students and sportspersons.

A live telecast of the national closing ceremony was screened during which the Prime Minister of India delivered a motivational address, inspiring young sportspersons to pursue excellence in sports as well as in life.

Various issues hampering sports activities in the district

were also discussed in detail. Sportspersons from disciplines such as volleyball, cricket, kho-kho, kabaddi, taekwondo, shooting, basketball and wrestling highlighted their genuine concerns and demands before the Deputy Commissioner. DC Doda assured timely redressal of the issues and directed the concerned officers to take concrete steps to

improve sports infrastructure, coaching facilities, and overall performance at the zonal, district, state and national levels.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the identification and appointment of suitable male and female coaches, with special emphasis on appointing a dedicated volleyball coach at the district headquarters. He also

instructed the preparation of two cricket pitches, one at Government Degree College Doda and another at the Sports Stadium Doda and directed the CPO Doda to procure a bowling machine.

The identification of a kho-kho ground at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Doda and the development of infrastructure for wrestling and kabaddi at the newly constructed hall in the New DC Office Complex were also discussed.

The Deputy Commissioner urged sportspersons to continue participating in competitive examinations alongside sports and felicitated outstanding performers with trophies.

It was informed that the Sansad Khel Mahotsav witnessed participation from a large number of players across different age groups over the three-month period, with several participants also interacting virtually with the Prime Minister and sharing their experiences.

DSEJ condoles tragic demise of student Aqib Khan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 25: The Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of Aqib Khan, son of Riyasat Khan, a student of Class 10 of Higher Secondary School Kakora, Zone Manjshakot, District Rajouri.

Aqib Khan succumbed to his injuries today in hospital after meeting with a tragic road accident while pillion riding a motorcycle with his brother Sahib Khan, who escaped with minor injuries.

In his condolence message, the Director described the loss as irreparable, stating that the passing away of a student is not merely a family tragedy but a collective bereavement for society and the education system alike. He conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Director has also directed the Chief Education Officer, Rajouri, to extend all possible help and support to the grieving family during this time of distress, ensuring that institutional compassion stands firmly beside them.



Christmas Celebrated With Decked-Up Churches In Kashmir; People Pray For Peace, Prosperity

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Churches across Kashmir were decked up as Christians in the valley celebrated Christmas on Thursday with religious fervour, and held special prayers for peace and prosperity for the people.

The biggest mass gathered at the Holy Family Catholic Church at Maulana Azad Road here, where the members of the Christian community held special prayers and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.

The priest of the Church, Father John Paul, said the devotees prayed for peace and calm in Kashmir and the country.

"We prayed for peace and calm in Kashmir, in the entire country. We prayed for the people to be able to help and support each

other. We also prayed for the generation of employment opportunities for the people in Kashmir who get fewer opportunities," he told reporters here.

Lamenting the absence of snowfall here on Christmas, Father Paul said the devotees miss the snowfall, but the weather was still good.

"We were hoping for snowfall in the city and plains. But it did not happen. We still thank God for the lovely weather," he said.

He called upon the people to awaken their feelings of humanity, brotherhood and love.

"Today, we see the advent of Artificial Intelligence, and we are also sort of becoming artificial as we are gradually losing our humanity, brotherhood and the feeling of love," Father Paul said.

"We hope we awaken our feel-



ings and these good things on the occasion of Christmas," he said.

On the incidents of harassment

against the community in a few parts of the country, he said the situation will improve, and the

good times will be back.

"There have been some incidents when it comes to religion in the country in the last few years, but there will be changes gradually and we pray for that better change," he said.

On several members of the majority Muslim community participating in Christmas celebrations, he said, people from different communities have to work together for the betterment of humanity.

"We are like brothers and sisters. Our beliefs may be different, but our aim is the same, that of the betterment of the people and humanity and we all have to pursue that together," he added.

Christmas celebrations were also held in other churches of the valley, including in Gulmarg and Baramulla. (Agencies)

Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri Mourns Demise of Centenarian Mother of Haji Karamat Qayoom

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: President, Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri, has expressed deep anguish and profound sorrow over the passing away of the centenarian mother of senior journalist and BWJA Chairman, Haji Karamat Qayoom. Terming her demise as an irreparable loss, he said the passing of a pious and venerable elder has left a deep void in the family and among all those who knew her.

In his condolence message, the President extended heartfelt sympathies to Haji Karamat Qayoom and the entire bereaved family, praying that Almighty Allah grant them courage, patience and fortitude to bear this moment of immense grief. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul, seeking the highest place for her in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

The President said that the Forum stands in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of sorrow and shares their pain and loss.

Anant University Announces ADEPT 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

AHMEDABAD, DEC 25: Anant National University announces that ADEPT (Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test) will be conducted online on 4 January 2026. ADEPT serves as the gateway for aspiring designers to begin their academic journey at Anant, a university committed to preparing the next generation of design leaders.

At the heart of Anant's mission is the commitment to offering world-class design education that equips students with the creativity, adaptability and problem-solving skills needed to navigate and shape an ever-evolving world. As design becomes increasingly central to innovation, Anant stands at the forefront of nurturing designers who can respond to complex challenges with clarity, empathy and imagination.

As India marches toward the vision of Viksit Bharat, design has become integral to how societies function, industries adapt, and nations engage with the world. It is how India transitions from 'Make in India' as an aspiration to 'Design for India' as a philosophy, one rooted in creativity, craftsmanship and care. Anant prepares students to make a meaningful contribution to advancing India's growth story while having a significant impact on the global stage.

ADEPT is the first step in a transformative educational journey at Anant, where students learn to design solutions that are locally rooted yet globally relevant. This philosophy reflects India's aspirations and the university's commitment to shaping responsible, future-ready designers. To ensure that every aspiring designer has an equal opportunity to begin this design journey, ADEPT is conducted in 10 languages, including Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Punjabi, alongside English. This inclusive approach found resonance across India, as reflected in the applications received from students in 304 cities last year. Anant has also emerged as a preferred destination for programmes in design, architecture, climate change and sustainability, drawing aspiring learners from across India.

For 2026 admissions, ADEPT has been further streamlined to make the process more accessible and efficient for aspirants. The earlier two-step model has now been integrated into a single, unified sitting, allowing students to demonstrate their full creative potential in one seamless experience.

Meeting Held on Rajab-Shaban at Anjuman-e-Shari Shian HQ Meet Discusses Drug Menace, Youth Protection

HT NEWS NETWORK

In view of the arrival of the blessed month of Rajab al-Murajjab and Shaban al-Murazam, a special and significant meeting was held today at the headquarters of Anjuman-e-Shari Shian Jammu & Kashmir, Shariat Abad, Yousuf Budgam. The meeting took place on 4th Rajab al-Murajjab 1447 Hijri, corresponding to December 25, 2025, and was presided over by the President of the

Anjuman, Hujjat-ul-Islam wal Muslimeen Agha Syed Mohammad Hadi Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi.

The meeting was attended by the General Secretary of the Anjuman, district presidents from various regions, prominent religious scholars associated with the Anjuman, eminent zakireen, and other office bearers in large numbers. During the session, participants shared valuable and constructive suggestions regarding the organisation of religious,

reformatory, and awareness programmes to be held during the sacred month of Rajab and Shaban.

Serious concern was expressed over the alarming and unfortunate social situation of the present times, particularly the growing trend of drug abuse and substance addiction among the youth. Detailed discussions were held on adopting a comprehensive strategy to effectively address this menace, ensure timely inter-

vention, and safeguard society from this serious threat.

The participants emphasised that through various religious gatherings, majalis, sermons, and public programmes organised under the banner of the Anjuman, people—especially the younger generation—should be made aware of the harmful effects of drugs, moral degradation, and their adverse social consequences.

Concluding the meeting, Anju-

man President Agha Syed Mohammad Hadi Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi issued important directions, stressing that programmes during Rajab al-Murajjab should be organised in a well-planned, purposeful, and dignified manner. He stated that such efforts would help ensure that the spiritual blessings of these sacred months reach the masses and contribute to social reform, awareness, and the promotion of moral consciousness.

Director Estates conducts extensive inspection of office, residential accommodations at Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Director Estates, Kashmir, Ashwani Khajuria conducted an extensive inspection and review of office and residential accommodations and allied facilities at multiple locations in Srinagar, including Civil Secretariat, Assembly Complex, Old Secretariat Complex and Tulsibagh and Jawahar Nagar residential quarters. During the inspection, the Director was accompanied by senior officers of department including FA/CAO, Deputy Director Estates, Deputy Director (P) and Assistant Director Estates, along with other officers.

At the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, the Director took comprehensive tour of various blocks, reviewing ongoing renovation, upgradation, cleaning, fumigation and sanitation works. He impressed upon the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure their time-

bound completion so that officers and officials do not face any inconvenience regarding office accommodation and related facilities.

He inspected different offices, enquired about the pace and quality of works and stressed that all amenities for Civil Secretariat employees must be kept in a functional, clean and employee-friendly condition.

The Director also enquired about the proposed additional block being constructed within the Secretariat premises and instructed the executing agency to submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed building at the earliest so that work on the new block can be started as soon as possible to augment office accommodation.

During the visit, the Director also held a comprehensive meeting with accompanying officers and took stock of all office and residential accommodations being provided by the Department. He also reviewed issues and

requirements projected by different sections.

The Director also visited the Assembly Complex and Old Secretariat Complex, where he took stock of all office accommodations and issued instructions for their proper upkeep, timely repairs and optimal utilization in the interest of government functioning.

In the meanwhile, the Director also undertook a detailed inspection of residential accommodations at Tulsibagh, Jawahar Nagar, where he reviewed the ongoing repair and renovation works and physically checked various quarters to assess the condition of facilities and the progress on maintenance activities.

He directed the field functionaries to closely monitor all renovation and sanitation works across these locations and promptly address bottlenecks. He also asked them to ensure clean, safe and conducive environment for officers, officials and their families.

SKUAST-K unveils 16 climate resilient, high yield crop varieties

Early maturing Mushkbudji, high-density Ambri among top releases

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 25: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir has released 16 new high-yielding, nutrient-dense, and climate-resilient crop varieties. The announcement was made during the 10th meeting of the State Seed Sub Committee held at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar.

The meeting, attended by Prof Haroon Naik, Director Research SKUAST-K, Prof SK Gupta, Director Research SKUAST-J, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Anil Gupta, Director Agriculture Jammu, Divisional Seed certification Officers, members of SSSC, and all the principal breeders of the varieties, showcased a diverse portfolio of crops designed to address food secu-

urity and the evolving challenges of climate change. The release includes six varieties of maize, two specialized Ambri apple varieties, four types of pulses, and one variety each of rice, wheat, oats, and oilseed.

The newly released lineup features a comprehensive array of specialized crops, led by two high-density Ambri apple varieties, Shalimar Ambri-01 and Shalimar Ambri-02, prized for their superior aroma and shelf life. In the grains category, the university introduced Shalimar Rice-10, a blast-resistant and early-maturing version of the traditional Mushkbudji rice developed via marker-assisted selection, alongside the extra-early maturing Shalimar Wheat-4. The maize portfolio saw the most significant expansion with six distinct releases: the nutritionally enhanced Pusa Shalimar QPMH-1, the region's first carotenoid-rich Shalimar Maize Composite-10, the water-



logging resistant Shalimar Maize Hybrid-7, a high-altitude specific Shalimar Maize Hybrid-6, as well as a new baby corn hybrid and a high-yielding general hybrid. The pulses and oilseeds sectors were equally strengthened with the release of Shalimar Rajmash-6 and Shalimar Rajmash-7, the drought-tolerant Shalimar Urdbean-1, Shalimar Cowpea-4, the bold-seeded Shalimar Sarson-4,

and the high-green fodder Shalimar Oats-8.

Dr Parvaze A Sofi, Head, Division of Genetics & Plant Breeding, SKUAST-K, informed the committee that the university utilized cutting-edge technologies, including genomics and high-throughput phenotyping, to identify and develop these traits. He assured the house that adequate quantities of seeds and planting materials are already available

for dissemination following formal notification.

Shailendra Kumar lauded SKUAST-K's efforts in identifying new niches and crop options through modern science. However, he urged the institution to move beyond laboratory success by developing a holistic roadmap for seed production. He suggested that SKUAST-K should lead the establishment of a Union Territory-level seed company to scale up availability and improve the seed replacement rate across the region.

With this latest release, SKUAST-K reaches a historic milestone of 140 total varieties developed across food, vegetable, fruit, and spice crops. Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai and Director Research Prof Haroon R Naik complimented the principal breeders for their tireless work in creating varieties that promise to transform the adaptive capacity of Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural sector.

Public Notice

I want to change the Name of electricity connection Having consumer Id No:-0203050002206 From Ghulam Qadir Bhat S/O Abdul Ahad Bhat R/O Malroo Shalteng Srinagar to ABDUL MAJEED WANI S/O GHULAM NABI WANI R/O KAMAL MOHALLAH MALOORA.

If any body has any objection regarding this . They will contact office of AEE sub-division Zanakote Srinagar within the period of seven days . After completion of said , No objection will be accepted.

**Name:- ABDUL MAJEED WANI
S/O GHULAM NABI WANI
R/O KAMAL MOHALLAH MALOORA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received in this office from the following persons for issuance of RBA (Resident of Backward Area) Certificate:

**Peer Abid Hussain, S/O Peer Qammer Din
R/O Kawarigam
Asif Ahmad, S/O Qumer Ud Din
R/O Kawarigam
Mohd Idrees, S/O Qumer Ud Din
R/O Kawarigam**

If anyone having any objection with regard to the issuance of the said RBA Certificate, he/she may submit his/her objection along with documentary proof in the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

**Naib Tehsildar
Achabal**

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that Mr. Gul Mohammad Khanday, father of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Khanday, resident of Mamal, Pahalgam, expired on 28-03-2025.

If anyone has any objection/claim in this regard, the same may be submitted in writing to Municipal Committee Pahalgam (MC Pahalgam) within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no claim shall be entertained later on.

**Notifier:
Manzoor Ahmad Khanday
R/o: Mamal, Pahalgam**

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Kohli breaks a Tendulkar record, Rohit catches up with Warner



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU: Virat Kohli has gone past Sachin Tendulkar to become the fastest to 16,000 runs in men's List A cricket, getting to the milestone in his 330th innings in Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Andhra in Bengaluru. Rohit Sharma, turning out for Mumbai, scored a century for against Sikkim in Jaipur to match David Warner's record of most 150-plus scores in the format: nine.

Tendulkar had achieved the landmark of 16,000 in 391 innings, finishing with 21,999 runs from 538 innings in 551 List A games, of which 18,426 came from 452 ODI innings. Kohli has 14,557 runs from 296 ODI innings. Kohli now has the record for being the fastest man to each block of 1000 List A runs from 10,000 onwards.

Tendulkar and Kohli are the only Indians in the top five on the list of fastest to 16,000 runs in List A cricket. The others, below them, are Gordon Greenidge (422 innings), Ricky Ponting (430 innings) and Graham Gooch and Viv Richards (435 innings).

Like Kohli, Rohit is also making a comeback to the Vijay Hazare Trophy, India's premier domestic 50-over competition. Kohli last participated in the tournament in 2009-2010, while Rohit did so in 2017-18.

When Rohit got to his century on the day, it made him the second oldest, at 38 years and 238 days, to get to triple figures in a Vijay Hazare Trophy match. Bengal's Anusup Majumdar scored two centuries in the 2023-24 season when he was past 39. Rohit finished with 155 off 94 balls after having reached his century in 62 balls. He hit 18 fours and nine sixes in his innings as Mumbai won by eight wickets.

Kohli's decision to play in the Vijay Hazare Trophy came after weeks of speculation, but his return also coincided with a rich vein of form. He was the Player of the Series in the ODIs against South Africa late last month, hitting two hundreds and an unbeaten half-century. Rohit, too, gave strong evidence that he was far from a spent force with a superb hundred in Australia, followed by two half-centuries in three innings against South Africa.

Both of them, retired from Tests and T20Is, are in the fray for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Archer out of Ashes tour, Bethell replaces Pope for Boxing Day Test

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MELBOURNE: Jofra Archer has been ruled out of England's final two Tests in Australia with a side strain as their desperate Ashes tour goes from bad to worse. Archer, who took six wickets in Australia's 82-run win in Adelaide, will be replaced by Gus Atkinson for the Boxing Day Test at the MCG, with Jacob Bethell coming in for Ollie Pope at No. 3 in England's other change.

Archer made his Test comeback in July after more than four years away from the format due to elbow and back injuries. He has been arguably England's player of the series in Australia, taking nine wickets and scoring useful lower-order runs, and was praised by his captain Ben Stokes on Tuesday for his "exceptional" efforts with the ball.

He was sent for a scan in Melbourne on Tuesday after a limited workload in the second innings of the Adelaide Test, and will return to the UK next week to be assessed. At this stage, England are confident that Archer will be available for the T20 World Cup in February, and do not plan to call up a replacement for the final Test with Matthew



Potts and Matthew Fisher both available.

England hoped that at least one of Archer and Mark Wood would be available to play in all five Ashes Tests but they will not be able to call on either in the final two Tests. They played together in the first Test in Perth, but Wood was ruled out of the rest of the series with a knee injury after bowling 11 wicketless overs.

Atkinson returns to the side and is set to share the new ball with Brydon Carse, while Shoaib Bashir has been overlooked for the fourth consecutive Test despite Stokes's insistence that he remains England's No. 1 spinner. Will Jacks keeps his place at No. 8 as a spin-bowling allrounder, while Josh Tongue is also retained after taking five wickets in Adelaide.

'Dal Baati Choorma...':

Fans cheer as Rohit Sharma slams ton in Vijay Hazare Trophy

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

JAIPUR: Rohit Sharma was doing Rohit Sharma things on a balmy December afternoon. He played the swivel pull, the effortlessly lofted six down the ground, and swept the pacers from Sikkim for a good measure, as 'Hitman' lovers in the Pink City got the best present on Christmas Eve.

On a weekday, around 20,000-plus people from the city decided that the best thing to do was to watch the maestro in action--and that too for free.

His 37th List A hundred, a 155 off 93 balls, wasn't just about the quality.

It was also about the entertain-

ment quotient.

It resembled a concert where fans had come to watch their favourite singer belt out one chart-buster after another.

It wasn't about the BCCI diktat, or proving anything to the national selectors, or a head coach who wants to "abolish star culture". The day was all about a hero and his fans, and by the time they left the stadium, 18 fours and nine sixes from the former India skipper had more than satiated their appetite.

By 9 am, all roads led to the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

On the morning of a working day, if 80 per cent of a stadium is full, you can understand why stars

are so intrinsic to Indian cricket.

People skipped jobs, students bunked college, and Rajasthan Sports Council employees, who had the best view from the balconies of their building, didn't want to be left out either.

The now-familiar chants of "Mumbai chaa Rajaa Rohit Sharma" (Mumbai's King Rohit Sharma) reverberated across the stands as fans caught a glimpse of the star.

Once the crowd came to know that Mumbai were fielding, a few thousand left with a prayer on their lips that Sikkim would show enough batting firepower to allow them to watch their hero bat to their heart's content.

Then there were the aggressive Rohit loyalists who started shouting, "Gambhir kidhar hai, dekh raha hai na?" (Gautam Gambhir, where are you, are you watching, right?).

It could also well have been directed at national selector R.P. Singh, who was sitting near the boundary line.

Used to adulation for the longest time, the former India captain merely raised his hand to acknowledge his fans.

Once news spread that Sikkim had scored a decent 236 for seven, the atmosphere changed.

There were no empty seats across three stands, save the one above the dressing room, which

was closed for security reasons.

There were also enough people willing to put their bones and joints at risk, sitting precariously on the edge of the terrace atop the Sports Council building.

They didn't care if Angkrish Raghuvanshi existed every dot ball he played was met with boos.

But once Rohit hit his first pick-up swivel pull behind square off Kranthi Kumar, the decibel levels rose. Truth be told, Sikkim's bowlers Kranthi, Palzor and left-arm spinner Gurinder were overawed and lacked quality.

There were too many half-trackers. In fact, Rohit went down on one knee and swept seamer Palzor behind square.

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