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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Neeraj Chopra seals last Diamond League Final berth

BRIEFLY

Unidentified Woman Found Dead After Being Retrieved From Jhelum in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 28: An unidentified woman was retrieved from the River Jhelum near Nawa Kadal area of Srinagar on Friday.

She was subsequently shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

Her identity and the circumstances leading to her death were not immediately known.

The body has been kept for identification and further legal formalities, while proceedings into the incident have been initiated. [KNT]

Srinagar records maximum of 33.5°C; Jammu settles at 34.6°C

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 28 :Weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees above normal.

According to the India Meteorological Department data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the minimum temperature in Srinagar was recorded at 18.3 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal, while no rainfall was recorded in the city during the past

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MBBS interns across J&K to protest from Aug 31, demand Rs 30,000 stipend

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 28: MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir have announced a united protest from August 31, demanding an immediate revision of their monthly internship stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000

According to the interns, those participating in the protest will refrain from joining their duties from August 31 until their demand is addressed by the authorities.

The interns, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the proposed protest is not confined to any particular medical college but represents a collective demand

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Army foil infiltration bid in Rajouri

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, AUG 28 :Army foiled an infiltration attempt from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu's Rajouri sector on Friday.

A source told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that soldiers noticed suspicious movement of an infiltrator along the LoC this morning. The intruder was challenged. "He opened fired which was retaliated to. The infiltrator is believed to be hiding in the area. Massive operations have been launched to spot the intruder and his accomplices," the source added.

"Searches are underway in the Rumlidhara area of Nowshera and senior officers are monitoring the situation," he said—(KNO)

MK Sinha takes charge as new J&K CID chief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 28 :MK Sinha took over the charge as Additional Director General (ADG) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from Nitish Kumar, who has been transferred as ADG Armed Police J&K.

According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he held a meeting with senior officers of CID J&K and reviewed the overall functioning of intelligence wing after assuming the charge.

Sinha is an IPS officer of 1996 batch and was functioning as

>>> MORE ON P 02

Kashmir in Devotion : Nearly One Lakh Gather at Hazratbal for Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

Holy Relic displayed at Dargah Hazratbal as devotees from across Valley join prayers; Milad gatherings held at shrines and mosques across J&K

ABU HASNAIN
HT NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR, AUG 28: A sea of devotees converged at the revered Dargah Hazratbal on Friday as Kashmir marked Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), with profound religious fervour and devotion. Nearly one lakh people are estimated to have gathered at Hazratbal during the day, turning the shrine and its adjoining areas into a massive centre of prayer and spiritual reflection.

The Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), revered by Muslims across the Valley, was displayed for devotees at the historic shrine amid continuous recitations of Durood-o-Azkar. Men, women and children from different parts of Kashmir arrived at Hazratbal to offer prayers and seek blessings on the auspicious occasion.

The main congregation witnessed a massive gathering, particularly during the Friday prayers, with devotees occupying the shrine premises, surrounding lawns and nearby areas. The atmosphere remained deeply spiritual as worshippers joined collective prayers and religious recitations.

National Conference president and former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah also participated in the congregational prayers at Hazratbal, joining thousands of devotees who had gathered to observe the occasion. Across Srinagar, the occasion was marked by special prayers, Milad-un-Nabi gatherings,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Public service is the guiding principle of compassionate governance : Amit Shah

Union Home Minister celebrates Raksha Bandhan with Type-1 diabetes-affected girls in Ahmedabad

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI,28 AUG : Union Home Minister Amit Shah celebrated Raksha Bandhan in Ahmedabad with girls from his parliamentary constituency suffering from Type-1 diabetes, highlighting the Centre's initiative to provide lifelong free insulin to affected children. Shah said the initiative reflects the Modi government's commitment to "service, compassion and security" and stressed that securing the health of daughters is essential for securing the future of families and society. Under the initiative, children aged 0–18 years in the Gandhinagar constituency are being covered through an integrated system of screening, diagnosis, insulin/ treatment, monitoring and follow-up.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah celebrated the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan in Ahmedabad with girls from his parliamentary constituency who are suffering from Type-1 diabetes.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation in his post on 'X' said, Today, in Ahmedabad, I celebrated the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan with the daughters in my parliamentary constituency who are suffering from Type-1 diabetes. Children afflicted with Type-1 diabetes require insulin injections for life, which places a significant financial burden on their families. Under the leadership of Modi ji, our government is providing free insulin for life to all such children. This visionary initiative, which even many developed nations are currently striving to implement,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Ladakh is Very Close to PM Modi's Heart : Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister Says Special Provisions Under Article 371 will be Considered for Ladakh



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI,28 AUG Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said Ladakh is very close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's heart and that special provisions under Article 371 would soon be provided to the Union Territory as an exceptional case. Addressing the Silver Jubilee Founder's Day function of Druk Padma Karpo School at Shey, Rijiju said the Centre was working towards special provisions for Ladakh and highlighted major improvements in connectivity and development over the past decade. He also said a High Court bench would be established in Ladakh in the near future and urged young people to remain connected with their roots and traditions while exercising caution against negative online influences.

The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh is very close to the heart of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will soon get special provisions under Art 371 as an exceptional case. This was stated by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Sh Kiren Rijiju in Leh today.The Minister was speaking at the Silver Jubilee Founder's Day function of

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We should not be consumers always; we need to create : Vice President

C. P. Radhakrishnan launches sovereign AI stack 'Gnani Artha', calls for technological self-reliance

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI,28 AUG Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched 'Gnani Artha', a sovereign AI stack comprising Evon 3.3 and Plexus, developed by GNANI AI, in New Delhi, describing it as part of India's journey towards technological self-reliance. He said Artificial Intelligence would create new avenues of employment, innovation and economic growth and stressed that India must move beyond being merely a consumer of technology to becoming a creator. Highlighting the India AI Mission, AI Centres of Excellence and the growing use of AI in Parliament, he said indigenous technological capability would be a key pillar of the country's journey towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan today launched 'Gnani Artha', a sovereign AI stack comprising Evon 3.3 and Plexus, developed by GNANI AI, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Evon 3.3 is a large language model, while Plexus is a platform that connects AI intelligence with real-world work and institutions.Welcoming the launch of Gnani Artha, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said the combination of

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J&K Sets Target of 10,969.65 MW hydropower capacity by 2035

Time-bound roadmap aims to more than triple present capacity and strengthen energy self-reliance

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR ,28 AUG Jammu and Kashmir has drawn up an ambitious roadmap to increase its operational hydropower generation capacity from the present 3,540.15 MW to 10,969.65 MW by December 2035. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviewed project-wise progress and commissioning milestones, with major additions expected from Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, Ratle, Kirthai and Sawalkote projects. The government said the expansion would strengthen energy security, reduce dependence on external power and provide a stronger foundation for industrial, infrastructure, tourism and other economic growth.

Jammu & Kashmir is set to witness a major transformation in its power landscape, with the Government charting a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to raise its operational hydropower generation capacity to 10,969.65 MW by December 2035, more than three times the present installed capacity of 3,540.15 MW.The ambitious roadmap, aimed at strengthening energy security, reducing dependence on external power and creating the foundation for

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

We hope the Centre will come up with something positive : Altaf Bukhari

Apni Party chief seeks restoration of J&K statehood, criticises UT government's performance

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR ,28 AUG Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed hope that the Centre will take a positive decision on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying his party is directly engaging with the Central Government on the issue. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Bukhari criticised the performance of the present elected government and said the Centre should now focus its attention on Jammu and Kashmir. He also commented on the internal differences within the National Conference, criticised Congress over its historical role in Jammu and Kashmir and maintained that a strong opposition and government are both essential for a functioning democracy.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday expressed hope that the Centre would take a positive decision on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, while accusing the present government in the Union Territory of failing to deliver for the people.

Talking to reporters, Bukhari said his party was directly engaging with the Central Government on the issue of statehood and hoped that its concerns would be heard."We hope that our voice will reach there and God willing, something will come out of it," Bukhari said, adding that the Central

>>> MORE ON P 02

The Zonal Police is Always There For You": IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar

Newly appointed police chief seeks public cooperation for peace and effective policing

HTNEWSDESK/AGENCIES



SRINAGAR ,28 AUG : Newly appointed Inspector General of Police Kashmir Sujit Kumar has assured people across the Valley that the Zonal Police will remain available to them and work for their safety and welfare. Speaking to reporters a day after assuming charge, Kumar sought public cooperation in carrying out policing responsibilities and maintaining peace. "We are for the people," the IGP said, emphasising the importance of partnership between the police and the public for effective policing across Kashmir.Newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir

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Continue from Front Page.....

Srinagar records

24 hours. Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees above normal, while Pahalgam recorded 27.3 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees above normal. Kupwara recorded a high of 33.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Kokernag at 31 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg at 23.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.6 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal. Katra recorded 32.5 degrees, while Banihal and Batote recorded 30.4 and 28.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The IMD forecast mostly fine weather across Jammu and Kashmir on August 29 and 30, though isolated areas, particularly in the Jammu region, may receive thundershowers.

From August 31 to September 2, there is a possibility of thundershowers at some places in Jammu and Kashmir, but the weather is expected to remain dry for most of the period. No major wet spell is expected, the forecast said.

However, high-intensity showers are possible at a few places during August 31-September 2, leading to a possibility of flash floods, it said.

Mostly fine weather is expected on September 3 and 4, with isolated thundershowers possible, particularly during the early morning and late afternoon hours. The forecast for these dates remains uncertain and may undergo changes, the IMD said.

The weather advisory also suggested orchard spraying in parts of Kashmir on August 29 and during morning hours on August 30. Spraying has been advised against from August 31 to September 2 due to the possibility of thundershowers.

The weather office advised people, particularly those in vulnerable areas, to remain alert to the possibility of flash floods during the period of intense showers—(KNO)

MBBS interns

of MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir. They have appealed to their colleagues to remain united and participate in the agitation peacefully.

The interns maintain that their present stipend does not adequately reflect the nature of their work, clinical responsibilities and the increasing cost of living. "During the compulsory internship, we are routinely posted in emergency departments, wards, operation theatres and other hospital services, where we assist senior doctors and remain involved in patient-care activities," they said.

They argue that despite being an important component of the public healthcare system, their remuneration has remained unchanged at a level they consider inadequate.

Health activist Dr Mohammad Momin Khan questioned the delay in revising the internship stipend in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that young doctors should receive fair compensation for the responsibilities they shoulder during their internship.

"If Uttar Pradesh can enhance the internship stipend to Rs 30,000, why is Jammu and Kashmir still delaying a fair revision for its medical interns? Our interns deserve dignity, recognition and fair compensation for their contribution to the healthcare system," Dr Khan said.

The demand has received support from resident doctors at several government medical colleges.

The Resident Doctors Association (RDA), GMC Doda, expressed concern over what it termed the persistent delay by the J&K Government in revising the stipend. The association said medical interns perform demanding duties and the existing remuneration has become inadequate in view of present economic conditions.

RDA GMC Doda urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Health Minister to intervene and direct the authorities to revise the stipend without further delay.

Similarly, the Resident Doctors Association of GMC Rajouri extended its support, describing MBBS interns as an integral part of healthcare delivery. "Fair remuneration is not a privilege but a right," the association said.

The residents at GMC Srinagar also extended their "full and unwavering support" to MBBS interns and their proposed strike. They said interns currently receive Rs 12,300 and are demanding Rs 30,000, noting that interns work in emergency departments, operation theatres and ICUs, often putting in long hours while shouldering significant clinical responsibilities.

"Interns deserve dignity, justice and recognition," the GMC Srinagar residents said, reiterating their solidarity with the intern doctors.

The interns have reiterated that they are seeking a timely decision from the government and a stipend that would fairly acknowledge their contribution during the compulsory internship period—(KNO)

MK Sinha takes

ADG (HQR) PHQ J&K, while Kumar is an IPS officer of 1999 batch and was functioning as ADG CID/Director SIA J&K.

Senior officers of CID J&K welcomed Sinha and assured him full cooperation and commitment in discharging their duties, the statement said.

They also wished a successful tenure for the outgoing ADG Kumar for his new assignment as ADG Armed J&K, it added—(KNO)

Kashmir in Devotion

religious discourses and processions. Major shrines, mosques and religious centres witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the deep religious and cultural significance attached to Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in the Valley.

Similar gatherings were reported from various districts of north and south Kashmir, including Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag, where devotees participated in congregational prayers and Milad programmes.

Religious scholars and preachers used the occasion to highlight the life, teachings and exemplary character of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). They urged people to draw inspiration from his message of peace, compassion, forgiveness, brotherhood and respect for humanity, stressing the need to translate these values into everyday life.

The religious fervour was also visible across the streets of Srinagar, with roads and markets leading towards Hazratbal decorated with colourful buntings and festive illumination. Markets around the shrine witnessed increased activity as devotees continued to arrive throughout the day.

Meanwhile, elaborate security arrangements were put in place to ensure the peaceful observance of the occasion. IGP Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar Singh reviewed the security arrangements, while police and other security personnel were deployed at strategic locations around Hazratbal and along routes used by devotees.

The district administration had also made arrangements for the convenience of worshippers, including medical facilities and assistance points around the shrine. Traffic Police issued a detailed route plan and deployed personnel to regulate the heavy movement of vehicles and pedestrians in and around Hazratbal.

Despite the massive turnout, the observance remained largely peaceful. The day concluded with devotees participating in prayers and religious programmes, reaffirming Kashmir's longstanding tradition of observing Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with faith, devotion and communal harmony.

Public service

is a testament to the Modi government's commitment to the principles of 'Service, Compassion, and Security'.

On this occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah extended his best wishes to all the girls for the festival of Raksha Bandhan and wished them good health and a bright future.

Under the leadership and guidance of Shri Amit Shah, children aged 0 to 18 years suffering from Type-1 juvenile diabetes in the Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency have been ensured the benefits of the Modi government's visionary initiative. In this direction, an integrated system comprising "screening – diagnosis – insulin/ treatment – monitoring – follow-up" has been established to provide lifelong essential insulin to children suffering from Type-1 diabetes in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Amit Shah said, "For the Modi government, public service is not merely a responsibility but the guiding principle of compassionate governance." Only when the health of daughters is secure will the future of the family and society be secure. This initiative to provide free insulin to daughters on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan also symbolizes our commitment to the protection and health of daughters.

We should

Evon 3.3 and Plexus reflects the growing strength of India's technology ecosystem and demonstrates that Indian engineers can not only use frontier technologies but also build them.

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said technology has transformed dramatically, from the era of typewriters and limited use of personal computers to today's age of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models. Recalling concerns over computers replacing jobs, he noted that the IT sector instead created numerous employment opportunities in India and abroad. He expressed confidence that AI too will open new avenues of employment and growth, taking India's economic progress to the next stage.

The Vice President highlighted India's rapid progress in Artificial Intelligence, noting that initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission and Centres of Excellence for AI are driving the country's transformation. He said much of the momentum behind India's technological transformation has come from the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, whose political will and commitment to an 'India First' approach are strengthening India's capabilities in emerging technologies.

Highlighting the use of AI in Parliament, he said the Digital Sansad portal enables parliamentary debates and papers to be accessed in multiple Indian languages. He added that simultaneous AI-based interpretation in eight languages was introduced in the recently concluded Session and would soon be extended to all Scheduled Languages.

Emphasising the need for technological self-reliance, he said India should not remain merely a consumer of technology. "We should not be consumers always; we need to create, so that others can consume," he said, underlining the importance of building indigenous technological capabilities.

The Vice President also stressed the importance of developing sovereign AI capabilities to strengthen India's technological and strategic autonomy. Referring to semiconductor manufacturing, he said India could have begun manufacturing chips much earlier and possibly emerged as a global leader by now, noting that the sector has gained renewed momentum under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Vice President said technological capability will be an important pillar of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047, and described Gnani Artha as part of the larger national journey towards technological self-reliance, innovation and global leadership.

He congratulated GNANI AI CEO Shri Ganesh Gopalan and Co-Founder and CTO Shri Ananth Nagaraj on the launch and expressed the hope that the initiative would contribute to building a stronger, self-reliant and technologically empowered India.

Ladakh is Very

the Druk Padma Karpo School at Shey in Leh district where he was the Chief Guest.

Sh Rijiju said during his address that Prime Minister Modi always believed that regions like Ladakh need special attention and he has been working towards this ever since he first assumed charge as Prime Minister. He said that it is because of his vision that the development landscape of Ladakh is witnessing change like never before, both on the economic and the social front.

The Minister said that under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Home Affairs is working towards providing special provisions for the UT of Ladakh. He said that it is only because PM Modi's affinity for the region that such provisions are being considered for the region.

Expressing hope that these provisions will materialize soon and the people of Ladakh will be able to take benefit from them, the Minister said that the PM has been wanting for a long time to visit the region and share his thoughts with the people and this desire may also see the light of day soon.

Sh Rijiju said that there is a sea change in the way people used to look at Ladakh and the scenario now is entirely different from what it was 25 years ago. He said that a lot of development has taken place in the region, especially in the last 10 years. He made special mention of improvements in road connectivity and said that journeys from one part of the UT to the other which would earlier take days can now be completed in a matter of hours.

The Minister said that recent developments like the creation of new districts in Ladakh will greatly benefit the population and people will realize that such changes have been brought in only for their benefit. He said that UT status had also been a long pending demand of the people of Ladakh and that demand has also now been fulfilled. He added that a bench of the High Court will also be established in Ladakh in the near future and this will greatly benefit the local population.

Sh Rijiju mentioned that he is the first Buddhist ever to hold a position in the Union Cabinet of Ministers and it is only because of PM Modi's care and concern for the minorities that such a thing has become possible. He added that all minorities have equal opportunities in the country and that the government is committed to the development of all minorities and a lot of work is being done towards making that possible.

Addressing the students present at the gathering, the Minister said that the youth should hold on to their roots and traditions and not be swayed by outside influences, especially through the internet. He said that blind following of online trends can sometimes have negative consequences which may result in violence and law and order situations.

Senior dignitaries from the UT administration and eminent members of religious and civil society forums were also present on the occasion.

J&K Sets Target

long-term economic growth, was reviewed in detail during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today.

The meeting besides ACS Power was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Revenue; MD, JKPCL; concerned Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Power Projects and Representatives from NHPC along with senior officers from the Power Development Department.

The meeting focused on the physical and financial progress of major hydropower projects under execution, their construction and commissioning schedules, as well as the milestones required to ensure timely addition of generation capacity over the coming decade.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained inter-departmental coordination, rigorous project monitoring and timely resolution of bottlenecks to maintain the pace of execution and unlock J&K's considerable hydropower potential.

The ACS, PDD, Ashwani Kumar took this occasion to remark that Jammu & Kashmir has an identified hydropower potential of 14,635 MW, of which around 24.21 per cent has so far been harnessed across the UT, Central Sector and Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects.

He added that Chenab Basin constitutes the largest share of the identified potential with 11,283 MW (77.1%), followed by the Jhelum Basin with 3,084 MW (21.1%) and theRavi Basin with 500 MW (3.4%). Emphasising that the Departmenthas now put in place a phased capacity-addition strategy to systematically tap this vast potential and move J&K towards a position of greater energy self-reliance and eventual power surplus.

Giving out the details the Managing Director (MD), Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (JKPCL), Rahul Yadav revealed that under the roadmap, the first major capacity additions are targeted by the end of 2026, when 1,636 MW is slated to be added through the commissioning of 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP, 624 MW Kiru HEP and 12 MW Karnah HEP, taking the cumulative installed capacity to 5,176.15 MW by December 2027, commissioning of the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP is scheduled to take the cumulative capacity to 5,213.65 MW, he added.

The MD further elucidated that the year 2028 will mark another significant jump, with 1,390 MW targeted through the 540 MW Kwar HEP and 850 MW Ratle HEP, raising the cumulative capacity to 6,630.65 MW.

By December 2029, a further 500 MW is expected from Central Sector projects, including 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II and 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II, taking the total generation capacity to 7,103.65 MW, Rahul explained.

Moreover it was highlighted that the subsequent phase, covering 2031–2035, will see progressive commissioning of major projects in the pipeline, including 820 MW Kirthai-II, 390 MW Kirthai-I and the 1,856 MW Sawalkote HEP. With these additions, J&K is envisaged to reach an installed hydropower capacity of 10,969.65 MW by December 2035.

Reviewing the progress of projects presently under construction, the Chief Secretary called for close monitoring of construction milestones and coordinated resolution of issues affecting project execution so that the targeted commissioning schedules are adhered to.

He took detailed stock of each undergoing HEP from its Project Head. It was divulged that the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP has achieved 85 per cent physical progress and 77.54 per cent financial progress. Filling of the Concrete Face Rock-Fill Dam (CFRD) has reached 89 per cent, while testing and commissioning of Units 3 and 4 is scheduled for March 2027, followed by Units 1 and 2 in May/June 2027.

The 624 MW Kiru HEP has recorded 88.75 per cent physical progress and 73.21 per cent financial expenditure. Dam concreting up to the deck slab has reached 98.99 per cent, with final testing and commissioning targeted for March 2027.

The 540 MW Kwar HEP has achieved 37.82 per cent physical and 42.11 per cent financial progress. Excavation of the power house cavern is 99.6 per cent complete, placing the project on course for commissioning by March 2028.

The 850 MW Ratle HEP, meanwhile, has registered 31.53 per cent physical progress, with excavation of its underground power house cavern completed. The revised contractual milestones envisage full commissioning of the project by November 2028.

Among UT-sector projects, the 12 MW Karnah HEP has reached 93 per cent completion and is on track for wet commissioning, while the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP has achieved 72.5 per cent physical progress, with 98 per cent excavation of its Head Race Tunnel (HRT) completed.

The planned expansion is expected to have far-reaching implications for Jammu & Kashmir's development trajectory, providing a stronger and more reliable energy base for industry, infrastructure, tourism, services and emerging economic activities.

The decade-long roadmap thus represents a significant step towards transforming Jammu & Kashmir from a power-constrained economy into a more energy-secure and self-reliant region, with hydropower emerging as a key driver of its future economic growth.

The Zonal

Sujit Kumar on Friday assured people that the Zonal Police would remain available to them and work for their safety and welfare.

Talking to reporters, Kumar said the people should also extend cooperation to the police in carrying out their responsibilities.

"I want to assure the people that the Zonal Police is always there for you. People should also cooperate with us. We are for the people," the newly appointed IGP Kashmir said.

Kumar's remarks came a day after taking charge as IGP Kashmir, with the officer stressing the importance of public cooperation in maintaining peace and ensuring effective policing across the Kashmir Valley. [KNT]

We hope

Government had been occupied with elections over the past several months.

He said the Centre would now have to pay attention to Jammu and Kashmir, particularly as, according to him, the elected government had not been able to do much for the people.

Bukhari said the Central Government had perhaps expected elections to address the emotional issues of the people, but claimed that this approach had not produced the desired outcome.

"We hope that Government of India will think about this issue carefully and come up with something positive," he said.

On National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's differences with his party leadership, Bukhari described the matter as an internal issue of the National Conference.

"As long as Aga Syed Rahullah is in that party, this is a family issue," he said, adding that he did not want to comment on the internal affairs of another party.

Taking aim at the Congress party's role in Jammu and Kashmir politics, Bukhari alleged that Congress had depended on other political forces in the region since Independence.

"Congress has been running on the backs of us since 1947," he said.

Bukhari further alleged that Congress was responsible for weakening Article 370, saying, "If someone made 370 hollow, it was done by Congress."

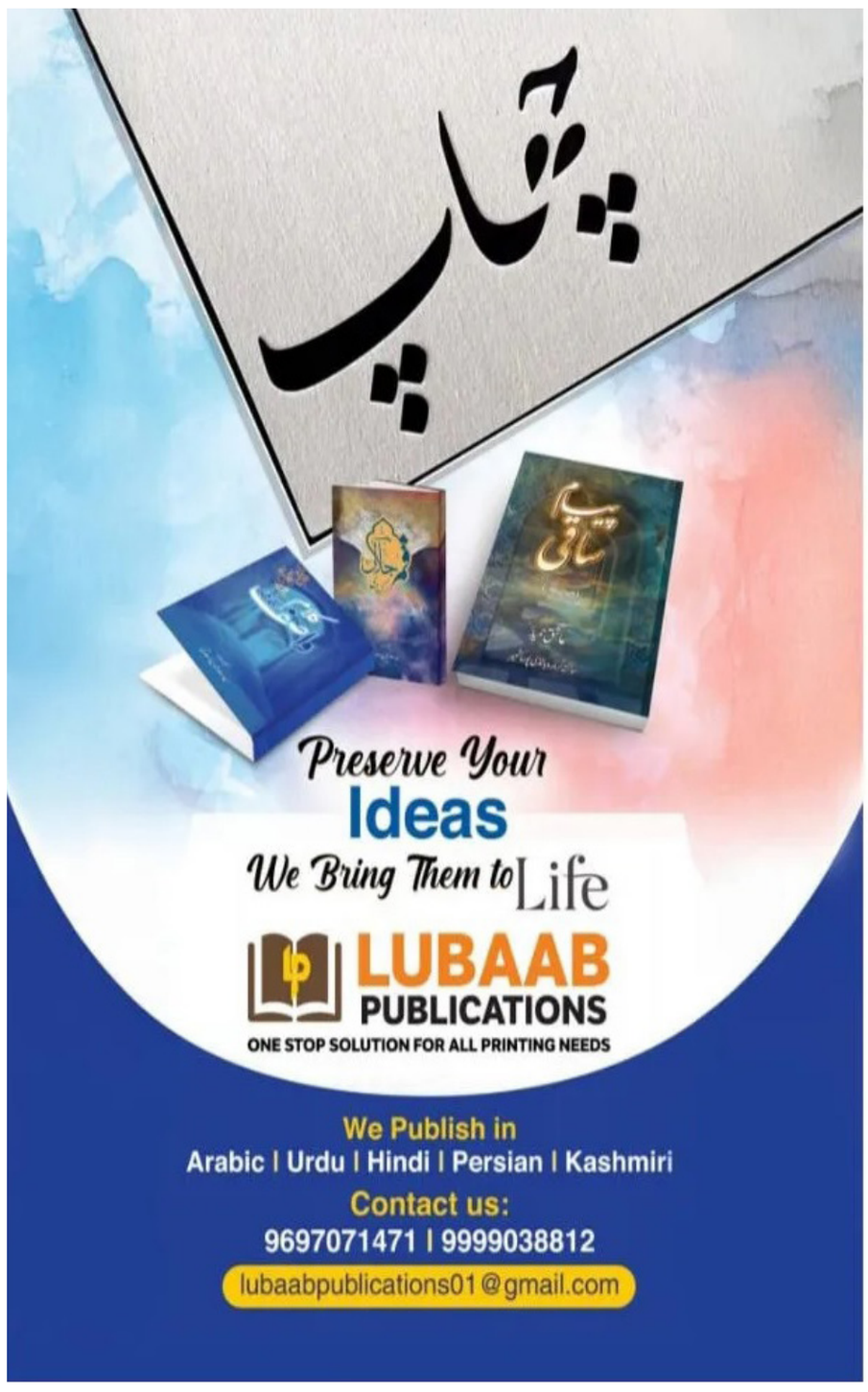
On the functioning of the opposition and government, Bukhari said both were essential components of a democratic system and should work within the same framework.

"In democracy, the opposition and the government are part of the same system. They work in tandem with each other. And that is how democracy flourishes," he said.

He, however, accused political opponents of resorting to character assassination against those who, according to him, attempted to make people understand the ground realities.

Bukhari also claimed that no government in Jammu and Kashmir had functioned without the support or influence of the Central Government since 1947.

"In J&K, no government has been running without the support of the Central Government since 1947. This is the truth. Everything has been run by the Central Government," he said. [KNT]



DDC Kupwara directs stringent Enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws; sets target of 100 Tobacco-Free Villages

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, AUGUST 28: A comprehensive review meeting of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 was held here at the District Administrative Complex, Kupwara.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse wherein the district's overall performance under the programme was reviewed threadbare and a roadmap for stringent enforcement and mass awareness was laid down.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara made a detailed presentation before the chair, apprising the meeting about the achievements made so far, challenges being faced, and enforcement statistics under COTPA-2003 across all blocks of the district.

The DDC directed all enforcement officers and concerned departments to intensify anti-tobacco drives and improve the rate of COTPA challans within their respective jurisdictions.

He further directed all participating officers to submit regular monthly progress reports on COTPA challans and other enforcement measures to the CMO Office, Kupwara, without fail.

The DDC also directed for installation of prominent Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, containing provisions and health warnings under NTCP and COTPA, at all high-footfall public places across the district.

The meeting set a target of declaring 100 villages of the district as complete Tobacco-Free Villages by the end of the current year. The DDC further directed that all educational institutions, including schools and colleges, shall be made 100 percent Tobacco-Free Campuses by the end of December 2026.

The meeting was attended among others by SDM Lolab, Dr Mudasir Ahmad , CMO kupwara, DYSP Hqr Kupwara, all Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Food Safety Officer , besides other concerned officers and officials. The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse wherein the district's overall performance under the programme was reviewed threadbare and a roadmap for stringent enforcement and mass awareness was laid down.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara made a detailed presentation before the chair, apprising the meeting about the achievements made so far, challenges being faced, and enforcement statistics under COTPA-2003 across all blocks of the district.

The DDC directed all enforcement officers and concerned departments to intensify anti-tobacco drives and improve the rate of COTPA challans within their respective jurisdictions.

He further directed all participating officers to submit regular monthly progress reports on COTPA challans and other enforcement measures to the CMO Office, Kupwara, without fail.

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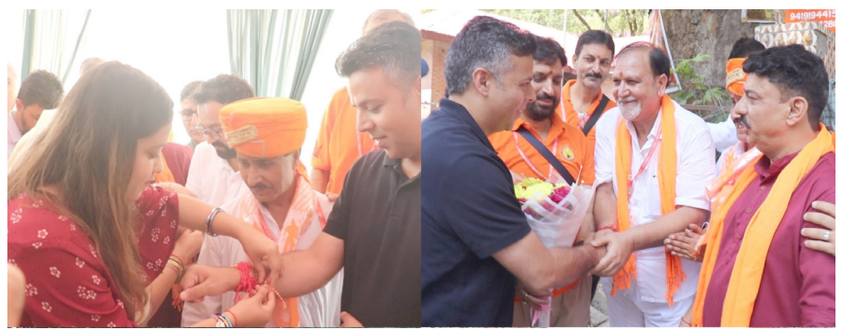
Raksha Bandhan: Women tie Rakhis to DC Anantnag, Officers at Prachin Shiv Temple Thajiwara Bijbehara

DC extends warm wishes, emphasizes devotees' convenience



■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 28: On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan (Shravan Purnima), Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited the ancient Prachin Shiv Temple at Thajiwara, Bijbehara, joining a large congregation of devotees during the celebrations.

The DC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tehsildar and SDPO, Bijbehara, officers from line departments, and representatives of the temple management.

A large number of devotees visited the revered temple with enthusiasm and traditional fervor to pay their obeisance, offer prayers, and perform sacred rituals including tying of Rakhis, marking the culmination of the month of Shravan.

During the visit, the DC participated in the ceremonial observances alongside the devotees and expressed hope that the festival would bring prosperity, harmony, and happiness to people's lives. He observed that traditional festivals like Raksha Bandhan present an ideal opportunity to strengthen bonds of love among siblings as well as between different communities. As a gesture of mutual love and respect, women present at the venue tied Rakhis to the Deputy Commissioner and other officers.

Interacting with the gathering, the DC extended his warm greetings, stating that the historic temple has long stood as a symbol of brotherhood that defines the region's rich heritage. He appreciated the enduring spirit of unity among the people and urged everyone to continue preserving the area's cultural and religious traditions.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the overall arrangements and directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic facilities including uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, traffic management, and medical care remain available to the devotees. He instructed officials to keep all services fully operational throughout the festivities so that the celebrations proceed smoothly and hassle-free.

Reiterating the district administration's commitment to the seamless conduct of such vibrant events, Dr. Bilal directed all departments to maintain close coordination with temple representatives, address emerging issues promptly, and extend full support to the devotees. Furthermore, he directed officials from the executing agency to expedite ongoing repair and renovation works at the temple.

The devotees and other participants expressed their gratitude to the district administration for its proactive support and the elaborate arrangements provided during the festival.

KGP Srinagar achieves Landmark Global Placement Success, 10 Students selected by UAE Conglomerate

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28: In a significant achievement for technical education in Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (KGP), Srinagar, has recorded a landmark success with 10 of its students being selected during a prestigious campus placement drive while still pursuing their studies.

The selected students are set to join the renowned Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group (ESAG) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, marking a major milestone in the college's efforts to bridge academic learning with global industry opportunities.

The campus recruitment drive was organised by the Training and Placement Cell of KGP Srinagar in collaboration with ESAG, providing fifth-semester students from multiple engineering branches an opportunity to secure positions with a leading UAE-based conglomerate having a legacy of over six decades across retail, real estate, technology and industrial sectors.

The recruitment process involved a rigorous selection procedure comprising company presentations, online registration, Computer-Based Tests (CBT) and interviews. Following the selection process, the candidates were offered positions as Assistant Supervisors in the Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and Electronics streams.

The selected students expressed their gratitude to Principal, Dr. Shafquat Ara, along with the Heads of Departments and In-charges, for their guidance, encouragement and continuous support throughout their academic journey at KGP Srinagar.

The successful placement of the students stands as a testimony to the college's commitment to academic excellence, industry-oriented education and preparing students for high-impact global careers.

The achievement is expected to further strengthen the profile of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Srinagar, while inspiring future batches of students to pursue excellence and explore opportunities on the international stage. The achievement is expected to further strengthen the profile of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Srinagar, while inspiring future batches of students to pursue excellence and explore opportunities on the international stage.

Chota Amarnath Yatra Flagged Off from Kaloosa Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, AUGUST 28: The annual Chota Amarnath Yatra was flagged off today from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, Bandipora, marking the beginning of the revered pilgrimage to the Chota Amarnath Holy Cave.

The Yatra was flagged off from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, in the presence of devotees, volunteers and local residents.

The Yatra holds deep spiritual significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and reflects the district's rich tradition of communal harmony and peaceful coexistence. Pilgrims embarked on the sacred journey with devotion and faith, seeking blessings at the holy cave.

Members of the Muslim community from the area were also present on the occasion and warmly welcomed the Yatris, extending their heartfelt greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, safe and blessed Yatra.

The District Administration, in coordination with the Police and other concerned departments, had put in place necessary arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. The arrangements included track development, sanitation facilities, langar services, medical support, security deployment and provision of safe drinking water along the route.

The 15-kilometre Yatra proceeds from Arin-Dardpora through Shampthan and culminates at the Chota Amarnath Cave. Adequate security personnel, medical teams and volunteers were deployed at key locations to facilitate the pilgrims and ensure a safe and hassle-free journey.

Police Hold Thana Diwas & PCPG Meetings at 30 Locations In Baramulla; Strengthen Police-Public Engagement

■ HT News Network

Baramulla August 28: As part of its continued efforts to strengthen police-public relations and ensure responsive, community-oriented policing, Police in Baramulla conducted Thana Diwas and Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings at 30 locations across the district.

The meetings were held at Bulbulabad, Darpora, Cheredari, Kalayban, Khushalpora, DPS Colony, Ganie Hamam, Hamray, Gudwani, Yall, Gund Ibrahim, Nillah, Goom Ahmadpora, Tangpora, Kawahar Bala, Wanigam Bala, Nowgam, Tangwari Bala, Soipora, Gundalwash, Kuthipora, Alapora, Butapathri, Babareshi, Salamabad, Bujhthalan, Gowhallan, Mayan, Dhakra and Chappper.

Joint Operation Against Illegal Brick Kilns Conducted in Khansahib

■ HT News Network



Budgam, August 28: A joint enforcement operation was carried out today by the Police and Sub-Divisional Administration Khansahib against illegal brick kilns operating without the requisite permissions and clearances in various areas of the sub-division. The joint team, led by SDM Khansahib Shri Jahangir Ahmad Giri, along with SDPO Khansahib Sakib Gani, Tehsildar Khansahib Moin Azhar Kakroo, concerned SHOs and other officials, inspected brick kilns found operating in violation of prescribed rules.

During the inspection, the operators were directed to immediately stop all operations and were warned against continuing any unauthorized activity. The operators were also instructed to clear the pending dues of labourers, disengage them from the sites and completely cease operations within one day. The administration warned that failure to comply would invite strict legal and administrative action, including demolition or removal of illegal structures and assets established in violation of the law. The Sub-Divisional Administration reiterated that the enforcement drive aims to ensure compliance with government regulations, protect public resources and maintain environmental and administrative discipline.

The administration further warned that no unauthorized brick kiln activity will be permitted and strict action will be taken against violators under the applicable rules.

Action Against Illegal Mining;Police Seizes 12 Vehicles In Baramulla, Anantnag & Sopore

■ HT News Network

Anantnag August 28: Continuing its strict enforcement against illegal mining and transportation of minerals, Police seized/challaned 12 vehicles for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Baramulla, Anantnag and Sopore. In Baramulla, Police intensified enforcement operations across the district, resulting in action against four tippers found involved in transportation of sand without valid documentation and royalty papers.

Ministry of MSME holds first-ever Capacity Building Programmes at Tangdar, Keran

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28: In a significant initiative aimed at extending the reach of entrepreneurship development and MSME schemes to the remotest areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, organized entrepreneurship awareness and capacity-building programmes at Tangdar and Keran, two border areas of Kupwara district.

The programmes, organized with the active support and coordination of the District Administration, Kupwara, mark the first-ever such capacity-building and entrepreneurship awareness initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of MSME in these remote border areas. The initiative was conceived with the objective of taking information about Government schemes and programmes directly to the people residing in areas where access to formal entrepreneurship-support mechanisms and institutional guidance remains limited.

The programmes focused on creating awareness regarding various schemes and initiatives of the Ministry of MSME and other Government departments aimed at promoting self-employment, entrepreneurship, skill development and enterprise creation. Particular emphasis was laid on schemes such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), PM Vishwakarma, and other entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented initiatives of the Union Government and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The sessions provided participants with information regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures, financial assistance, credit-linked support, skill development opportunities and other benefits available under various schemes. Officials also interacted directly with participants and addressed their queries regarding starting and expanding small enterprises.

The response from both locations was encouraging. At Keran, a large number of students participated enthusiastically and showed keen interest in understanding various avenues available for entrepreneurship, self-employment and enterprise development. The interaction highlighted the aspirations of the younger generation in remote border areas and their willingness to explore opportunities beyond traditional employment avenues.



At Tangdar, the programme witnessed particularly encouraging participation from women, who expressed considerable interest in entrepreneurial activities and in understanding Government support available for starting small businesses and income-generating activities. The interaction underlined the considerable potential for promoting women-led enterprises and strengthening household livelihoods through entrepreneurship in remote areas.

The programmes were graced by A.K. Tamaria, Joint Director and Head of Office, MSME DFO Jammu, who interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem that reaches every section of society, irrespective of geographical location. He further motivated participants to avail benefits of the scheme implemented by the Centre and UT government.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, Branch MSME DFO Srinagar, Saheel Alaqband, emphasized the importance of taking Government schemes to the last mile.

"The objective of such programmes is not merely to conduct awareness activities, but to ensure that information about Government schemes reaches those who need it the most. People living in remote and border areas often have limited opportunities and limited access to institutional guidance. It may be challenging to organize programmes in such locations, but that is precisely why such initiatives are important. If opportunities cannot reach these communities through conventional means, we must take the opportunities to their doorstep," he said.

The initiative reflects the Ministry of MSME's continued commitment towards inclusive enterprise development and last-mile delivery of Government schemes.

Officials from various departments and institutions also participated in the programmes, including representatives from Agriculture, Lead Bank and other concerned Government agencies. Their participation provided the beneficiaries with an opportunity to understand the convergence of various schemes and the support available from different institutions for establishing and sustaining enterprises.

HT EDITORIAL

MEELAAD UN NABI : When Faith, Tradition and Kashmir's Spiritual Soul Converge

The sight of nearly one lakh devotees gathering at Dargah Hazratbal on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was far more than a display of religious devotion. It was a powerful reflection of Kashmir's deep spiritual traditions and the enduring place of faith in the social and cultural life of its people.

As the Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was displayed at the revered shrine, thousands of devotees offered prayers, recited Durood-o-Azkar and participated in congregational prayers. Men, women and children travelled from different parts of the Valley to be part of an occasion that carries profound emotional and spiritual significance for Kashmir's Muslim community.

Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) is not merely an occasion for celebration. At its heart lies the remembrance of the life, character and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). His message of compassion, justice, forgiveness, brotherhood and respect for humanity remains deeply relevant in an age marked by intolerance, social divisions and growing materialism.

The enormous gathering at Hazratbal should therefore also serve as an opportunity for collective reflection. Faith acquires its true meaning when it influences conduct, strengthens compassion and encourages people to stand with the weak and vulnerable. The spirit of Milad should extend beyond gatherings and ceremonies and find expression in our homes, communities and public life.

The peaceful participation of devotees across Srinagar and various districts of Kashmir also underlined the Valley's enduring culture of religious observance. From Hazratbal to local mosques and shrines, the occasion brought communities together in an atmosphere of prayer and devotion.

Equally noteworthy was the coordinated effort by the administration, police, Traffic Police and health authorities to facilitate the massive congregation. Large religious gatherings require careful planning, and the arrangements around Hazratbal demonstrated the importance of ensuring both public safety and the convenience of devotees.

The real message of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), however, must not end when the crowds disperse. It lies in carrying forward the values associated with the life of the Prophet (SAW)—peace over conflict, compassion over hatred, forgiveness over revenge and brotherhood over division.

Hazratbal's vast congregation was a reminder that Kashmir's spiritual identity remains deeply rooted in faith and tradition. The challenge before society is to transform that collective devotion into collective goodness, making compassion, harmony and respect for fellow human beings a lasting part of everyday life.

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Heaps of garbage, cities of disease



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

We're aware of the importance of keeping our homes clean, but as soon as we step outside, our sense of responsibility vanishes. Many people have developed the habit of throwing household items on the roadside, in drains, in vacant lots, or in public places. Plastic bags, polythene, vegetable peels, fruit scraps, and leftover food are routinely thrown out in the open. But this seemingly simple act of carelessness is gradually becoming a serious threat to people's health and the environment.

Throwing garbage in the open causes it to rot and smell. The problem isn't just an "inconvenience." Accumulation of garbage creates filth and attracts flies, mosquitoes, stray animals, and other pests. Plastic and other waste can clog drains, leading to waterlogging during the rainy season. Lack of drainage creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes and increases the risk of disease. Negligence can lead to health problems for the entire neighborhood.

The worst part is that people in society have come to take this for granted. We see piles of garbage on the roadside, cover our noses for a moment, and move on. Very few people think about where this garbage comes from. In reality, behind every waste is someone's convenience and negligence. If someone never throws away garbage in their home, why doesn't they throw it in the dustbin outside? Why do the streets become garbage dumps when we're away from home? This is more than just cleanliness—it's a matter of civic duty and social conduct.

The use of plastic and polythene has further exacerbated the situation. Plastic does not degrade easily and persists in the environment for a long time. If discarded, it can clog drains and block water flow. Organic waste stored in plastic bags continues to rot and emit foul odors, creating unsanitary conditions. Stray animals may also ingest plastic, posing a health risk. Therefore, indiscriminate and careless disposal of plastic pollutes society, animals, and the environment.

There's no misconception about the link between waste and disease. Open trash bins breed flies and other parasites, spreading diseases. Stagnant and stagnant water can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Households within walking distance of unattended garbage can be at increased risk of infections and other health problems. This monsoon season,



the situation could worsen, as rainy weather can spread garbage and contaminants to surrounding areas.

But it's unfair to say that the problem lies solely with municipalities. Local governments play a vital role in providing the following services to the community: garbage collection, waste disposal, sewer maintenance, and public spaces cleanliness. Citizens also play an equally important role in this process. They should be responsible when disposing of waste, avoid littering, limit unnecessary plastic use, and separate wet and dry waste. However, deploying more sanitation workers won't solve the problem if residents continue to litter in public spaces.

The need now is to move beyond treating cleanliness as a government campaign. The effectiveness of cleanliness campaigns is clearly linked to incorporating cleanliness into daily life. Children should receive lectures on cleanliness in schools, and they should also adopt practical measures to maintain cleanliness, including waste segregation, proper disposal, and minimizing the use of single-use plastic. Local monitoring systems can also be developed in communities, and residents can be made aware of the importance of collective responsibility towards their environment. While rules and punishments may be necessary, behavior change will not occur unless they recognize the importance of responsible behavior.

The politics of waste is also reflected in the political discourse on sanitation in the public sphere. Sanitation, garbage collection, drainage, and civic infrastructure are major political issues during elections. However, once the elections are over, these concerns are easily forgotten. Garbage piles up again, drains become clogged, and foul smells become commonplace again. "This cycle continues because administrative accountability is often inconsistent and public participation is low."

It's important to understand that garbage isn't just a municipal problem. It's a reflection of our daily routines, priorities, and sense of collective responsibility. Only when we start treating public streets as our responsibility as our own backyards will we begin to make a difference.

Clean streets not only look beautiful, but also symbolize a healthier and more responsible society. People need hospitals and medicines when they get sick, but it's better to prevent harmful situations in the first place. The problem with garbage is that we need to understand that it's not your problem. The secret to cleanliness lies not in grand announcements or government campaigns, but in a small, personal decision: Don't litter on the street—put it in the dustbin.

By changing this small habit, we can improve these neighborhoods, our cities, and public health. Sanitation isn't the responsibility of any one person; it's not the responsibility of any one department, any one government, or any group of employees. It's the responsibility of all of us, and it must start with each one of us.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

A flagship programme for young creative minds

A flagship programme for students who want to become scientists



Sahil Manzoor

Most of us are so curious to know how day and night cause How seasons are caused and how rain falls in such a way that it comes on the earth's surface without causing destruction. How the stars twinkle, how the moon lights the earth during the night, and many more natural phenomena. Scientists took decades to learn about a single natural phenomenon. It also happens when they discover equipment for their research work. Before heading to any goal, we need a number of things to prove that, like research, equipment, and hypothetical theories of great minds who have worked on them.

This universe is so vast and is expanding without limits. We have discovered very few things in the universe. We have different disciplines, like science, which is curious to know more facts about this universe, facts about the stars, suns, and moon (the moon is the natural satellite of the earth and reflects the light of the sun), science, which is curious to know more facts about the layers of the earth, and facts about aquatic life. We know very little about aquatic life. There is still a gallery of facts that we have not yet known. One thing that is very great about science is that it never stops working on any particular thing, like discoveries or natural phenomena. Every day we are getting more interesting facts about related astronomy fields, getting updated by modifying their functions, and every day we get modifications about all the fields of science. For me, the definition of science is " science is the field where our things stop and science begins from there. Sometimes it looks like science is utterly out of the human mind, but it is true that all the inventions are man-made and every advancement in science is only because of human minds.

Why is everyone among us a scientist?

One who solves his own problems and solves the problems of society by doing strange makeshifts is a scientist. We discover new things, and we modify



machines, keeping in mind that this should give respite to all of humanity.

Today we are surrounded by machines, like mobile phones, laptops, photostat machines, and machines at home like rice cookers, washing machines, mixer grinders, televisions, radios, and a number of other things we are using and troubleshooting our problems with.

Today in this article, I am going to share my opinion about one of the great and dignified flagship programs that inspire awards, MANAK. This flagship program is a well-known program of the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. Any country first strengthens its science sector, then begins dreaming about development. Our country is one of them. India has a great record in the world when we talk about science and technology. Our nation has produced well-known scientists like the great scientist of India, such as

C.V. Raman (discovery of the Raman effect), Homi Jahangir Bhabha (quantum theory and nuclear physics), A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (space launches and defense missiles), Vikram Sarabhai (space satellites and rockets), Jagdish Chandra Bose (Crescograph), Raj Reddy (AI and technology), Shrinivas Ramanujan, (discovery of various methods and series in mathematics), Salim Ali (systematic bird surveys), Satyendra Nath Bose (contribution to quantum mechanics), and SS Abhyankar (contribution to algebraic geometry).

et us start by learning about the Inspire Awards MANAK and how educational institutes can apply and submit the ideas of their students. Nominations for the session 2024–2025 have started with the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi.

What is Inspire Award?

Inspire award in well-known flagship programmes conceptualized and developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. This flagship programme gives you a chance to become a scientist. If your idea or innovation has the potential to troubleshoot the problems of the world, like a needle is an idea or a chair is an idea, keep in mind that your idea must have economic, educational, and social importance.

Who is eligible for this prestigious flagship programme?

Middle schools can nominate five students for these inspiring awards. First, an idea competition was held in the school to select the best five students whose ideas are new and have the potential to make the problems of the world easier. How can one develop an idea? You have to think about existing problems in your surroundings and in the world and put forward your idea of how you can troubleshoot them. Every innovation and every idea is important.

How to apply.

1). Select 5 students from middle school and 2 students from secondary school and record their ideas with proper research. If either the idea is new or already existing, then it has no importance.

2) Collect the bank details of the students and mention the name on the bank pass on the portal.

3) Mention the synopsis, material required, social, economic, and educational importance in word format; also mention the workings of the model or idea you are going forward with.

4) Search on Google "inspire wards", then click the first link and click on login as school. If your school has not registered, then you have to contact the district nodal officer to inspire awards or visit the concerned DIET (district institute of training and education), who will prove your credentials for login and password. You have to keep all the credentials of Inspiration within your reach, like the recovery email ID and contact number. A school should select a computer teacher who can guide and has the ability to forward ideas to the district authority for further submission.

If your idea is selected by the national authority, your account will be credited with Rs 10000 (ten thousand only). You have to spend this money to upgrade your model.

In case you have any problems while forwarding the ideas of your students, you can mail me at sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com. or sahilmanzoorbhati786@gmail.com

The Vulnerability Dilemma

Am I Too Good or Just Gullible



By Abida Maqbool

This is a question that is echoing inside every human being nowadays. Every person who is soft-hearted is worried. Anyone who possesses empathy is deeply troubled by this thought: Should I Remain good, or should I change myself?"

I am a girl from a small village who is very happy, living a simple life. Inside me, there is neither greed nor jealousy. Yet, despite this, I have never felt a sense of belonging among people. I did good to everyone, but whenever I looked back, I only felt that the world is full of deceit and betrayal. "To this day, I have not been able to understand why, no matter how good you are to people, they still end up misunderstanding you."

"These questions keep troubling me over and over again: why did Allah make me soft hearted? why do I forget people's mistake so quickly? etc. etc." One night when I went to sleep, that night did not feel like a single night, but rather like an entire Century. This was because that night, I accounted for every single Sin and mistake of mine. I questioned myself about where I went wrong and what Sins I had committed that caused every Relationship to slip away from me, leaving me standing all alone today."

After some reflection and weighing all the facts, the thought that struck me left me completely devastated. When I accounted for my actions in my mind, I realized that everything I did for others was only for their pleasure. I never considered if Allah would accept it. I only cared about making them happy, making them feel good, or earning their appreciation. This isn't Niyah (pure intention) or a true good deed; this was entirely for the people.

Then I finally understood that I was expecting people to reward my goodness, help me, understand my sorrow, and look after my heart. But only my Lord can do those things. That day I promised myself that whatever I do from now on, I will do it only for the Sake of Allah. Believe me, since that day my heart has been at great peace. Since that day, I have no complaints or grievances against anyone, because I know that whatever I do will be recorded in my Deed Sheet [Nama-amal] and whatever they do will be in theirs In Sha Allah.

So whenever you get this whisper (waswasa) from satan that you are a fool for doing good to people despite knowing their true Spiritual Reality, then remember these 2 verses of Allah.

surah Ar rahman ayat 60

"Is the reward for goodness anything but goodness?"

The Meaning of Ihsan: Ihsan means excellence, doing good, and worshipping Allah as if you can see Him. practicing Ihsan means maintaining your good character and kind behavior even when people do not deserve it, purely because you know Allah is watching.

Surah al baqarah ayat 195

And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good."

Tanhai-e-shab mein hai hazeen kya
Anjum nahin tere ham-nasheen kya?

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The Right Direction

(This story highlights the importance of giving children the right direction in the proper use of modern technology and the internet.)



By YOUSUF MIR

Hanan and Manan lived in a small town called Aamir Abad. They were neighbours. They had very good relations and were close friends, classmates and well-wishers. They had married in the same year, Hanan in April and Manan in November. Hanan worked as an employee in a Government office, while Manan was engaged in business.

Both were well educated and wanted their children to receive a good education and build a better future. As their children grew up, a new concern began to occupy their minds regarding the excessive use of modern technology and the internet.

The world in which their children were growing up was very different from the one they had known. Their own childhood had been spent with books, teachers, playgrounds and friends. Their children, on the other hand, were growing up in a world of smartphones, computers, the internet and digital learning.

Hanan was often worried.

"Our children spend too much time with these things. In our time, we studied from books, went outside to play and spent time with our friends. We were physically active and remained connected with people."

Manan did not agree with him.

"That was our time, Hanan. Today, children have opportunities that we never had. They have computers and access to the internet. Through it, they can reach the unfathomable depths of knowledge and benefit from learning resources available throughout the world."

"But can they use all these things properly?" Hanan asked.

"That is the real question," Manan replied.

Their conversations often ended without a conclusion. Both wanted their children to have a bright future.

One Sunday, the two friends were sitting together in an open field outside the town. People were walking around and children were playing nearby. Hanan was talking about the harmful effects of excessive mobile-phone use when Manan said,

"Perhaps we are looking at the problem from the wrong angle. Perhaps the gadget itself is not the problem."

"Then what is the problem?" Hanan asked.

"Perhaps the way it is used," Manan replied.

Just then, they noticed Sahil approaching them. Sahil was their old classmate and a good friend. He lived in a nearby village and had come to the town that Sunday for some work. As he passed by, he saw them sitting together. Hanan and Manan stood up to welcome him.

Sahil smiled and asked, "Is there some serious discussion going on?"

"Yes," Manan replied. "We were discussing our children's use of modern technology and the internet, and how it may affect their future."

They invited him to sit with them. Hanan and Manan briefly explained their concern. Sahil listened quietly.

When they had finished, he smiled.

"I think both of you are right, but you are looking at only one side of the matter."

"How?" Hanan asked.

Sahil looked at them.

"A computer is a tool. The internet is a facility. Both can be extremely useful for a child, but the important thing is how the child uses them and, above all, whether he has the right direction."

Manan looked at Sahil carefully.

"You sound as if you have already gone through such an experience yourself."

"Yes," Sahil replied. He paused for a moment. "My own son, Zaffer, was also attracted to the mobile phone like other children. At first, I was very worried. I thought perhaps I should keep him completely away from this technology. But then I realised that I could not protect my child from the new world by closing its door."

"So what did you do?" Hanan asked.

"I changed my approach. I did not want to keep my child away from the modern age. I wanted to teach him how to live in this world."

The two friends listened to him attentively.

Sahil said, "First of all, I created in him an interest in reading. I wanted him to develop a genuine desire for knowledge. I talked to him about his future. I told him that education could open the doors of the whole world before him. He could become a doctor, an engineer, a soldier, a scientist, a teacher or anything he wished to become. But all these possibilities required proper education and continuous learning."

He smiled.

"I did not simply tell him, 'Study because I say so.' I tried to make him understand why he should study."

"And did it have an effect?" Hanan asked.

"Fortunately, it did. Once the desire to learn developed in him, his attitude also began to change."

Sahil then explained that he introduced his child to technology himself.

"I did not simply hand him a mobile phone and leave him alone with it. I showed him different useful things. I introduced him to educational material, learning resources and positive content. I wanted his relationship with technology to become a means of learning rather than useless entertainment."



Gradually, the child's ability to understand and learn developed. Technology was no longer merely a means of passing time. It became a means of learning.

"Then came the stage of hard work," Sahil said. "Once he developed a desire to learn and understood the value of knowledge, he began to work harder on his own. He started completing his work on time and became more serious about his studies."

Hanan nodded.

"But children nowadays lose their focus very quickly."

"That is another important point," Sahil replied. "A child must learn to keep his attention focused."

He looked towards the road leading to the town.

"Imagine a child who has to travel one kilometre to reach school. He leaves home at nine o'clock and has to reach school by half past nine. He has only twenty-five minutes."

Sahil smiled.

"He is riding his bicycle. After a few minutes, he sees a street performer showing some tricks. He stops to watch. A little further ahead, he sees a wedding procession with music and dancing. He stops again. Then he sees another crowd, perhaps a protest or some other event, and out of curiosity, he stops there too."

Hanan smiled.

"By then, the school bell must have rung."

"Exactly," Sahil said. "What he saw was not necessarily bad. The street performance was not bad. The wedding was not bad. The protest was not necessarily bad. But none of them was his purpose at that moment."

He looked at his friends.

"His purpose was to reach school. If he keeps stopping for everything he sees along the way, he may enjoy the journey, but he will miss his destination."

The two friends remained quiet.

Sahil continued, "A child faces a similar situation in the digital world. A mobile phone can provide him with messages, videos, games, entertainment and information within seconds. The internet can take him anywhere. But if he cannot decide what deserves his attention, he may spend hours and still fail to reach the place he wanted to reach."

"So the child needs to learn to keep his attention focused," Manan said.

"Exactly. Attention and concentration."

Sahil thought for a moment.

"Think of a radio. If it is not tuned to the correct frequency, you hear noise instead of a clear voice. You turn the dial until the unwanted noise disappears and the real sound becomes clear."

He looked at them.

"A child's mind can be like that. If his attention keeps moving from one thing to another, the important voice of learning becomes mixed with noise. He must learn to focus his mind towards his goal."

Hanan nodded.

"And what about the teachers?" he asked.

"That is also an essential part," Sahil replied. "I arranged good teachers for my child and tried to place him under the guidance of teachers who were experts in their subjects. I wanted him not only to learn the subjects but also to learn how to learn. A good teacher can correct mistakes, build confidence and show the right path."

He paused.

"I also wanted my child to receive moral education. Knowledge without character is incomplete. A child should learn how to respect others, behave responsibly and understand the difference between right and wrong."

Manan agreed.

"That is something we often forget."

"Yes," Sahil said. "Sometimes we become so concerned about marks that we forget about the person behind those marks."

He became thoughtful for a moment.

"There is one more thing I taught my child."

"What?"

"Time."

Hanan smiled.

"You have mentioned time before, but what exactly do you mean?"

Sahil looked around the field.

"Let me give you a simple example. Take the eggs under a hen. They do not hatch simply because we want them to. The hen has to sit on them continuously for the required period. If it leaves them too early, the process is disturbed. Valuable things need continuous care."

He looked at his friends.

"Education is also like that. You cannot give your child attention for a few days and expect a complete and perfect result. You cannot study for a short while, leave everything for several weeks and then expect success. Anything truly worth achieving requires time."

For a while, the three friends remained silent.

Then Hanan asked, "So, from your experience, what did you finally learn?"

Sahil smiled.

"I learned that there is no war between the old system and the new system. Books are useful. Computers are useful. The internet is useful. Teachers are necessary. Outdoor games are necessary. Family life is necessary. Friends are also necessary. The problem begins when one thing takes the place of everything else."

Manan looked at him.

"So you did not completely stop your child from using the mobile phone?"

"No. I controlled its use, gave it a purpose and made sure that technology remained a servant, not a master."

He added, "I wanted my child to understand that a gadget is not his destination. It is only a means of reaching the destination."

Hanan looked towards the children playing nearby.

"I think we have been asking the wrong question. We have been arguing about whether the old system is better or the new system."

Sahil nodded.

"The better question is: What direction are we giving our children?"

There was a brief silence.

Then Hanan suddenly asked, "And where is your son today?"

Sahil's face lit up with pride.

"He is working as a space engineer. He is part of a team working on advanced satellite technology."

Manan looked at him in surprise.

"A space engineer?"

"Yes," Sahil replied. "The same child who, like other children, was once attracted to the mobile phone."

Yousuf Mir can be reached at yousufmir555@gmail.com

Sapta Shakti Command remains committed to safeguarding the Nation with courage, combat readiness and operational excellence. Forever Victorious.



By M S Nazki

To be heroic is to be courageous enough to die for something; to be inspirational is to be crazy enough to live a little. I know what I'm capable of; I am a soldier now, a warrior. I am someone to fear, not hunt!.....I

-Even in times of trauma, we try to maintain a sense of normality until we no longer can. That, my friends, is called surviving. Not healing. We never become whole again ... we are survivors. If you are here today... you are a survivor. But those of us who have made it through hell and are still standing? We bare a different name: warriors……

-It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier … [with] discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self confidence born of demonstrated ability…….. George S. Patton Jr.

But this Short story from World War II is a bit different!

-The rain in the Ardennes did not care about the war, and neither, it seemed, did Private Julian Vance.

-While the rest of the Third Battalion shivered in mud-slicked trenches, checking rifle bolts with trembling fingers, Julian sat on an overturned ammunition crate, whistling a jazz tune and attempting to fry a stolen egg over a pocket stoke.

-"Vance!" Sergeant Miller barked, his face red from frostbite and fury. "Put that out! You're drawing smoke, you're out of uniform, and your helmet is backward!

-"Julian blinked up, his green eyes wide with innocent amusement. He tapped the steel rim above his brow. Balances better this way, Sarge. Gives the rain a nice little spout to run off. Want half an egg?

-It's mostly cooked. "Miller groaned, rubbing his temples. Julian was a liability. He lost his canteen twice a week. He forgot to salute officers. He slept through morning roll calls under a pile of canvas.

He was utterly carefree, living as if the battlefield were a slightly inconvenient picnic.

- But Miller didn't court-martial him, because everyone knew what happened when the whistles blew.

-The next morning, the fog rolled in thick, smelling of sulfur and wet pine. Then came the mortar scream.

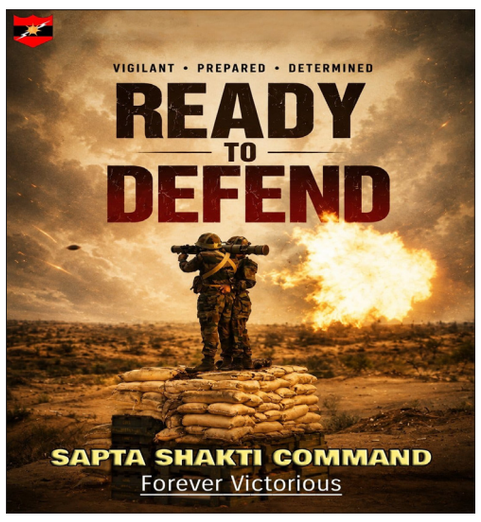
-The German vanguard hit their flank with terrifying speed, pinning the company down in a crossfire of heavy machine-gun fire.

-Earth erupted in fountains of black dirt. Shrapnel shredded the trees. Men froze, paralyzed by the sudden wall of lead.

- Miller shouted orders, but his voice was swallowed by the din. They were stuck, waiting to be picked off.

-In the middle of the chaos, Julian changed. The lazy slouch vanished. His eyes, usually clouded with daydreams, turned sharp and cold as flint. He didn't wait for an order. He didn't ask for permission. He picked up his M1 Garand, checked the clip with a practiced, lightning-fast flick of his thumb, and leaped over the sandbags into the open.

-"Vance, get down!" Miller screamed. But Julian was already moving. He didn't run like a man who feared death; he moved like an acrobat who owned the stage. He used the terrain with instinctive brilliance—sliding into a shell crater here, vaulting a fallen log there. When a German sniper opened fire from a ruined farmhouse, Julian didn't flinch. He dropped to one knee, took a half-breath, and



fired three rounds in perfect rhythm.

-The sniper's rifle went silent. The enemy machine-gun nest on the ridge was chewing their position to pieces. Julian unhooked two grenades from his belt. He crawled through a freezing, muddy ditch, entirely indifferent to the filth that usually drove him to complain.

-With a sudden burst of speed, he uncoiled and sprinted the last twenty yards. Bullets kicked up dirt at his heels, but he didn't weave or panic. He reached the bunker's blind spot, pulled the pins with his teeth—a dramatic habit he knew infuriated Miller—and cooked them for two seconds before dropping them through the bunker's viewing slit

-.A muffled boom shook the ridge. The machine gun stopped spitting death. Julian didn't celebrate. He instantly picked up a dropped enemy submachine gun, turned it on the retreating vanguard, and provided a wall of suppressing fire that allowed the rest of his company to advance and secure the ridge.

-An hour later, the battle was won. The line had held. Sergeant Miller found Julian sitting on the edge of the captured ridge, his uniform torn, his face covered in black soot. The fierce, brilliant warrior of the battlefield was gone. In his place sat the careless boy again. He had already found a discarded harmonica and was trying to clean the mud out of it.

-Miller walked up, his anger entirely replaced by awe. "You're a madman, Vance. You know you should be dead, right? You broke every protocol in the manual. "Julian looked up, offering a lopsided, carefree grin.

- "Protocol is for peacetime, Sarge. Out here, you just have to know what's worth dying for. And I like this country too much to let them have it." He went back to tapping the harmonica against his palm. "Hey, you don't happen to have any dry socks, do you? I think I lost mine in the ditch."

-The story we got was as usual a one liner and it went something like this:

-Ready to Defend. Prepared to Respond. Determined to Prevail. Every challenge is met with unwavering resolve, every mission with unmatched

professionalism. Standing vigilant across every frontier, Sapta Shakti Command remains committed to safeguarding the Nation with courage, combat readiness and operational excellence. Forever Victorious.

-In short it needed treatment and this is how we went about it!

-The Sapta Shakti Command is the official designation for the South Western Command (India) of the Indian Army. Established on April 15, 2005, and headquartered in Jaipur, Rajastha. It is the youngest of the seven operational commands in the Indian Army, tasked with safeguarding western and southwestern national borders.

- Headquartered at Jaipur Military Station, Rajasthan. Jurisdiction: Covers strategic defensive zones across Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

-Motto: "Sarvada Vijayee Bhava" (Forever Victorious). Focus: Designed to enhance operational agility, technology-driven warfare, and defensive coordination along the western frontier.

-The Sapta Shakti Command, officially known as the South Western Command (India). Its primary mandate is to protect a highly sensitive international border against mechanized or armored threats and maintain rapid strike readiness.

-Core Roles and Responsibilities Border Defence: Secures over 1.5 lakh square kilometers of critical territory, including the arid landscapes of the Thar Desert.

-Strike Capability: Houses two major formations, Strike 1 and the Chetak Corps, to execute heavy counter-offensive operations.assignment to the absolute highest possible standard.It is commonly used as a motto or core value in military units, security agencies, and corporate businesses.

-Here is the breakdown of what the phrase means in practice:

-Key Components Every Mission: Applies to all tasks, whether they are small daily chores or critical, high-stakes operations.

-Unmatched: Better than anyone else. Superior quality that cannot be equalled by competitors or rivals.

-Professionalism: Exhibiting expert skill, sound judgment, polite behavior, reliable consistency, and strong ethics.

-Workplace Behaviors It Represents No Shortcuts: Completing works thoroughly, even when no one is watching.

-Emotional Control: Remaining calm, focused, and respectful under high stress.

How Failures Lead to Success



Mohammad Hanief

"If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means 'First Attempt In Learning.'" — Dr. A.P.J. Abdul KalamFailure remains one of life's most misunderstood experiences. It is routinely linked with disappointment, weakness and defeat, while success is treated as the sole measure of ability. In reality the two are tightly connected. Almost every meaningful achievement is built on setbacks, mistakes, rejection and uncertainty. Successful people simply refuse to treat failure as a final destination.

This lesson matters more than ever. Students compete for limited seats, graduates face an unpredictable job market, professionals must constantly update skills, and entrepreneurs watch ideas rise or collapse in months. Social media amplifies the pressure by showcasing polished images of wealth, careers and awards. What it rarely shows is the long trail of failures that preceded those successes.

Failure is simply the gap between expectation and outcome. Success is the achievement of a goal. Neither has a fixed definition. What looks like failure at one stage of life often proves to be a turning point later. For some, success means a high-paying career; for others it means knowledge, family security, service or personal peace.

In today's results-driven culture, a single setback can feel crushing. A student who fails an exam fears the future has closed. A job-seeker collecting rejection letters begins to doubt their worth. An employee passed over for promotion questions years of effort. An entrepreneur whose venture folds faces both financial loss and a crisis of confidence. Yet one unsuccessful outcome does not define ability or destiny.Failure becomes valuable only when it teaches what success cannot. A failed examination exposes weak preparation. A rejected application reveals skill or communication gaps. A collapsed business teaches more about customers, markets and cash flow than any textbook. In this sense failure is feedback: it signals that something must change.That signal is especially critical in an age of rapid technological disruption. Skills once sufficient no longer guarantee security. Professionals must learn, unlearn and relearn. Those who treat a technology-driven setback as a threat stagnate; those who treat it as a prompt to acquire new capabilities move forward. The ability to adapt after failure is becoming more valuable than the ability to succeed once under familiar conditions.

The same principle drives innovation. New ideas rarely arrive fully formed. Scientists discard experiments, engineers redesign systems, entrepreneurs pivot business models, writers revise drafts. Progress depends on the willingness to learn from what did not work.

Failure can also redirect. A rejected application may open a better profession. An unsuccessful venture may spark a stronger idea. A disappointing exam result may lead a student toward a field that better matches their strengths. What first appears as a closed door often reveals a more suitable path.

Resilience is another quiet dividend. People who have recovered from disappointment develop a stronger capacity to face the next challenge. Resilience does not mean the pain disappears; it means the pain does not permanently dictate the next step.

Modern society, however, often cultivates an unhealthy fear of failure. Parents fixate on examination scores. Young people avoid unconventional careers for fear of criticism. Employees hesitate to take initiative. Entrepreneurs refuse to experiment. That fear can prove more damaging than failure itself. A person who never risks disappointment also never risks growth. Innovation requires experimentation, and experimentation inevitably includes the possibility of failure.

Social media intensifies the distortion. Carefully curated images of achievement create the false impression that success is swift and painless. The years of uncertainty, rejected ideas and private struggles remain invisible. Many people therefore compare their unfinished journey with someone else's finished presentation—and despair.

There is a crucial distinction between failing and giving up. Failing means an attempt did not produce the expected result. Giving up means deciding the effort should end. A person can fail repeatedly and still succeed, provided each failure produces learning and adjustment. Simply repeating the same mistake is not perseverance. True perseverance demands reflection, adaptation and patience.

After a setback it is natural—and necessary—to pause. Disappointment should be acknowledged. But reflection must eventually lead to action. Instead of remaining trapped in "Why did this happen?", the more useful question is "What can be done differently next time?" Taking responsibility for what was controllable is a mark of maturity; blaming others rarely produces improvement.

In professional life, the response to a mistake often matters more than the mistake itself. An employee who owns an error, diagnoses its cause and prevents recurrence demonstrates professionalism.

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CMYK

NITI Aayog Member Dr. M. Srinivas Visits CSIR-IIIM Srinagar, Reviews Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, August 28: Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. M. Srinivas, visited the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Srinagar, and reviewed the institute's ongoing work in scientific research, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal outreach initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.Dr. Srinivas was accompanied by Shri Subhash Chandra Meena, Economic Adviser, NITI Aayog; Dr. Muniraju S.B., Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog; and Ms. Sumaya Yousuf, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission. The delegation interacted with scientists, scholars, startups and officials and reviewed a range of science-led initiatives being undertaken by CSIR-IIIM and its innovation ecosystem. As part of the visit, Dr. Srinivas toured the AIC-IIIM Bioinnovation Foundation, the Atal Incubation Centre housed at the institute, and reviewed its incubation and entrepreneurship activities. He was briefed on the support being extended to innovators and startups through mentorship, institutional guidance, technology development and enterprise creation.Interacting with scientists and researchers, Dr. Srinivas appreciated the breadth of research being carried out at CSIR-IIIM, including work in phytochemicals, medicinal and aromatic plants, floriculture and healthcare-related research. He highlighted the importance of translating scientific discoveries into technologies, products and solutions that can generate wider societal benefits and improve quality of life. Emphasising the need for stronger linkages between research, innovation and entrepreneurship, he encouraged young researchers and startup founders to focus on the real-world impact of their work and pursue collaborations that facilitate technology development and commercialisation. He also stressed the importance of partnerships among scientists, clinicians, industry and policymakers to accelerate the translation of research into practical applications.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and Director, CSIR-NBRI Lucknow, highlighted the institute's efforts in research, technology development, incubation and societal outreach. He outlined the role of the institute's innovation ecosystem, including the Technology Business Incubator (TBI-IIIM), AIC-IIIM and Industrial Biotechnology Parks, in supporting the journey of scientific ideas from laboratories to the marketplace.During the interaction, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed also highlighted certain challenges related to research and development in phytopharmaceuticals and other plant-based interventions, including the need for timely research permissions and specialised facilities to support clinical translation and commercialisation. Responding to the issues raised.

CSB Organises Mera Resham Mera Abhiman at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network



Ganderbal, August 28, 2026Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, organised an awareness programme on prevention and control of Grasserie disease at Arhama, Ganderbal. The programme was themed under "Mera Resham Mera Abhiman" and conducted by Joint Director Dr Rajesh Kumar, in which more than 30 silkworm rearers, field staff and technical personnel participated. It aimed to create technical awareness among mulberry silkworm rearers about "identification, hygiene, prevention and management" of viral disease outbreaks especially Bombyx mori nucleopolyhedrovirus – BmNPV.

"The programme enhanced the farmers' knowledge regarding early diagnosis, prevention and management of BmNPV infection," Dr Rajesh Kumar said. Participants were given practical guidance on early detection of Grasserie disease, the key focus was given on how to find early symptoms such as loss of appetite, sluggishness, swelling, milky appearance of larvae and rupture of the larval body, he added.

Demonstrations were conducted on rearing-house hygiene, disinfection, proper handling of silkworms, removal and safe disposal of diseased or dead larvae. Besides the other briefing about the importance of maintening suitable temperature, humidity, overcrowding, and regular monitoring of the silkworm crop. The awareness programme further allowed silkworm rearers the opportunity to learn about how to take preventive and prophylactic measures, use of healthy silkworm seed and good-quality mulberry leaves.

"Farmers gained practical awareness about maintaining hygienic rearing conditions, timely removal of infected larvae and adoption of preventive measures, and the interaction helped identify field-level constraints faced by farmers along with appropriate technical guidance," Rajesh further said. The programme is expected to contribute towards reduction in disease incidence, larval mortality and enhancement of cocoon production and quality.

CUKashmir's DMS observes World Lake Day 2026

■ HT News Network



Bandipora, Aug 28: Department of Management Studies (Rachrav Club), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with the Soroptimist International, Srinagar, with the active support of the district administration, Bandipora and the Wular Development Authority observed the World Lake Day at Wular Lake on Thursday.

As part of the observance, approximately 600 meters of the lake area were cleaned through the participation of students from MBA 1st and 3rd Semesters and BBAH 3rd and 5th Semesters.

The initiative was undertaken with the objective of promoting environmental awareness, civic responsibility, and community engagement among students, while sensitizing them towards the importance of preserving and protecting our natural water bodies. A key aim of the activity was to instill a sense of responsibility among students and nurture them as environmentally conscious and responsible citizens who actively contribute to society and the well-being of their communities. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Mir Insha Farooq, whose efforts facilitated the successful conduct of the initiative.

DC Poonch reviews progress on Ownership Rights to eligible beneficiaries under Govt Order No. 105-JK(Rev) of 2024

■ HT News Network



POONCH, AUGUST 28: The Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting to review the progress of cases pertaining to the conferment of ownership rights under Government Order No. 105-JK(Rev) of 2024 dated 16.8.2024.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, SDM, Farooq Khan, SDM, Imran Kataria, besides Tehsildars along with patwaris attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of cases and assessed the progress made by the concerned Tehsildars. He emphasized the need for timely processing and disposal of all eligible cases in accordance with the prescribed rules, guidelines and provisions of the Government Order.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildars to submit the pending cases, along with all requisite documents and completed formalities, in a time-bound manner, so that further necessary action is taken expeditiously. He stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure proper scrutiny and verification of the cases and adhere strictly to the prescribed procedure and timelines.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner also directed the ACR/SDMs to process the cases for approval of competent authority in a time bound manner.

The meeting concluded with directions for expeditious processing and time-bound submission of all cases pertaining to conferment of ownership rights under Government Order No. 105-JK(Rev) of 2024 dated 16.8.2024. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of cases and assessed the progress made by the concerned Tehsildars. He emphasized the need for timely processing and disposal of all eligible cases in accordance with the prescribed rules, guidelines and provisions of the Government Order.The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildars to submit the pending cases, along with all requisite documents and completed formalities, in a time-bound manner, so that further necessary action is taken expeditiously.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure proper scrutiny and verification of the cases and adhere strictly to the prescribed procedure and timelines.

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DSW, KU Holds Special Social Service Camp on Eve of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi(S.A.W)

"Education Must Go Beyond the Classroom and Inspire Students to Serve Society": Prof. Nilofer Khan.

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, August 28:The Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir, on Friday organised a special social service camp at Sir Syed Gate on the eve of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.)The camp was organised as part of the University's annual tradition of serving devotees visiting Hazratbal Shrine from different parts of the Valley for Friday Prayers following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi prayers.Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, along with senior University officers, served namkeen tea, snacks, fresh drinking water and juice to the devotees at the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that education should not remain limited to classrooms and should also teach students to care for and serve society."Education must go beyond the classroom and inspire our students to serve society with compassion and empathy. It is our privilege to welcome and serve the devotees visiting Hazratbal shrine on this sacred occasion," she said.

The Vice-Chancellor also said that the University had made parking facilities available on the campus and extended support for the smooth movement of traffic on the routes passing through the University. Recalling the long association of the University with the initiative, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, "Even during my tenure as Dean Students' Welfare, such initiatives were organised to serve the devotees. I am happy to see our students volunteering today. Such experiences teach students empathy, discipline and leadership and give them an opportunity to serve society."She encouraged more students to take part in such activities and make volunteering a part of their university life.

Dean Students' Welfare, Prof. Seema Singh, said the camp provided an opportunity for students and University officials to come together and serve the devotees."Such initiatives help students understand that education is not only about acquiring knowledge. It is also about developing a sense of responsibility towards society," she said.Cultural Officer, University of Kashmir, Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, said the social service camp has become an important annual activity of the DSW."Our student volunteers consider it a privilege to serve the devotees on this auspicious occasion. Such activities give students an opportunity to interact with society and develop a spirit of service and volunteerism," Dr. Khan said.Several University officers also participated in the camp and served refreshments to the devotees. Chief Proctor Prof. Imtiyaz Ahmed Khan was among the officers present on the occasion.Student volunteers from Mehboob-ul-Aalam Boys' Hostel and the DSW Youth Club also took part in the service activity.A special medical camp was also organised by University Health Centre alongside the social service camp to provide basic medical assistance and first-aid support to devotees.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Asaf Ali Shah Syed Geelani, S/o Ali Haider Shah, R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara, Jammu Kashmir, hereby solemnly declare that the caste entry recorded in my Service Book as "Syed-Geelani"was corrected using a correction pen at the time of my initial appointment. I now seek proper authentication and regularization of the said correction by the competent departmental authority.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid entry/ correction may submit his/her objection, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the District Police Office, Kupwara, within 07(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any objection the to said entry/correction. Accordingly, the competent authority may authenticate and regularize the correction in the Service Book, and no objection in this regard shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Asaf Ali Shah Syed Geelani
S/o Ali Haider Shah
R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah
District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby declare that I have lost my Driving Licence (JK0120240001699) somewhere while traveling from Zainakote towards Parimpora Srinagar. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard can contact the concerned RTO within seven days of this publication. After that no objection shall be entertained.

LICENCE NUMBER: JK01202400016 99 NAME: UMER HABIB PARENTAGE: HABIBULLAH WAGAY ADDRESS: HMT ZAINAKOTE SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hameed Chaku, S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Chaku, R/o Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that the General Power of Attorney executed in favour of Khaja Ghulam Ahmed Chaku, S/o Late Abdul Rehman Chaku, R/o Panditpora, Rainawari, Srinagar, on 5th September, 1979, has been cancelled/revoked by the undersigned.
Accordingly, the general public, banks, financial institutions, Government/Semi-Government institutions, registration authorities and all other concerned are hereby cautioned and informed not to undertake or entertain any transaction whatsoever in respect of the person, property or affairs of the undersigned on the basis of the said Power of Attorney, as the same stands expressly cancelled/revoked by the undersigned.
Any transaction, document, representation or action undertaken on the basis of the aforesaid Power of Attorney after its cancellation/revocation shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the person(s) relying upon the same, and the undersigned shall not be responsible or liable for any such transaction or action.

Abdul Hameed Chaku
S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Chaku
R/o Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH MOHI UD DIN RATHERS/O...AB KAHLIK RATHER Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003446 wants to be registered on my name IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER 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 ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name ...IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER
S/O...GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER
R/O ... WARIPIRA BALLA
BLOCK ....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name has been wrongly written as INAAM IQBAL S/O PEER MOHD IQBAL on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8541 0158 8399 while his correct name is PEERZADA INNAM S/O PEERZADA MOHAMMAD IQBAL R/O THINDIMA which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...PEERZADA MOHAMMAD IQBAL
F/O...PEERZADA INNAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 28/05/2014 on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8186 7984 0254 while his correct Date of 25/04/2011 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...HALIL AHMAD GANIE
F/O UZAIR AHMAD GANIE
R/O...BURZAWACHAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Asaf Ali Shah Syed Geelani, S/o Ali Haider Shah, R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara, Jammu Kashmir, hereby solemnly declare that the caste entry recorded in my Service Book as "Syed-Geelani"was corrected using a correction pen at the time of my initial appointment. I now seek proper authentication and regularization of the said correction by the competent departmental authority.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid entry/correction may submit his/her objection, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the District Police Office, Kupwara, within 07(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any objection the to said entry/correction. Accordingly, the competent authority may authenticate and regularize the correction in the Service Book, and no objection in this regard shall be entertained thereafter.
Sd/-
Asaf Ali Shah Syed Geelani
S/o Ali Haider Shah
R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah
District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 28/05/2014 on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8186 7984 0254 while his correct Date of Birth is 25/04/2011 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...HALIL AHMAD GANIE
F/O UZAIR AHMAD GANIE
R/O...BURZAWACHAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public and the concerned department (KPDCL) that I, SHOKI ALIAS HAJIRA D/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Hamdaniya Colony, Sec-1, Lane-2, Syed Mohalla, Srinagar is the old consumer holder of electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0203010028154.I have transferred all rights of my residential property to YASIR FAYAZ KHANDAY S/o Fayaz Ahmad Khanday R/o Qammarwari, Srinagar through an Irrevocable General Power of Attorney.Now I want to change the name of the said electricity connection from OLD NAME: SHOKI ALAIS HAJIRA to NEW NAME: YASIR FAYAZ KHANDAY.If anybody has any objection regarding the change of name of the said electricity connection, he/she may contact / file objection before the concerned AEE, Electric Sub Division, KPDCL within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the name change will be processed.
Old Consumer Name: Shoki Alais Hajira D/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Hamdaniya Colony, Sec-1 Lane-2 Syed Mohalla
New Consumer Name: Yasir Fayaz Khanday S/o Fayaz Ahmad Khanday R/o Qammarwari
Consumer ID No.: 0203010028154

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I, Bakhti Bagum W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie R/o Hajbagh have applied for change of name of the electricity connection from the name of my late husband.The electricity connection is presently registered in the name of Ab. Gani Ganie bearing Service Connection No./ Consumer ID No.0206050003832, under Domestic Category with Contracted Load of 1 KW, installed at Hajbagh.Now I intend to get the said electricity connection transferred / changed in my own name i.e. BAKHTI BAGUM W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie.If any person has any objection / claim regarding the change of name of the said electric connection, he/she may file his/her objection before the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Electric Sub Division concerned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of 7 days, no objection will be entertained and the department shall be at liberty to change the name.Details:

Old Registered Consumer Name: Ab. Gani Ganie
New Applicant Name: Bakhti Bagum W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie
Consumer ID / Service Connection No.: 0206050003832
Address: Hajbagh
Category: DomesticSd/-
Applicant: Bakhti Bagum
W/o Late Ab. Gani Ganie

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving Licence bearing No:20250019790 That my said Driving Licence has been broken & damaged and is no longer to utilize as is not visible .Now I am applying for Duplicate. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Concerned Department /RTO within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Suhaib Javeed Qadri
S/o: Javeed Ah Qadri
R/o: Nalband Pora Chattabal
Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name GH HASSAN TELI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000601 wants to be registered on my name MOHD SHABAN MIR 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 ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name .MOHD SHABAN MIR
R/O ... DOLIPORA
BLOCK ....WAGOORA

School Children Tie Rakhi On PM, High-Five Him On Raksha Bandhan

■ United News Of India



New Delhi, Aug 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted people on Raksha Bandhan and expressed hope that the auspicious festival brings happiness, prosperity and success to everyone's lives.

Continuing the annual tradition, schoolgirls visited the prime minister's official residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, where they tied 'rakhis' on his wrist.

The prime minister shared photos and a video on Instagram showing the children tying rakhis. In the video, he was seen warmly interacting with the young visitors, shaking hands and high-fiving with them.

"Happy Raksha Bandhan. May this auspicious festival bring happiness, prosperity, and success to all your lives," Modi wrote in an X post in Hindi.

He also wished that the bond of affection, togetherness and mutual trust remains eternal.

"Some memorable moments from Raksha Bandhan celebrations at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. May this festival deepen the bonds of affection and harmony. May it bring happiness and prosperity to everyone," he wrote in the post. On his interaction with children, he wrote, "High-fives, smiles and more during today's Raksha Bandhan celebrations at 7, LKM".

One of the children asked the prime minister what his childhood dream was. Modi replied, "Aap logo ko milna" (To meet you all).

Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. On the occasion, sisters tie vibrant threads, or rakhis, on their brothers' wrists as a symbol of their heartfelt prayers and well wishes, and brothers reciprocate with thoughtful gifts and a promise to protect them under all circumstances."Happy Raksha Bandhan. May this auspicious festival bring happiness, prosperity, and success to all your lives," Modi wrote in an X post in Hindi.

He also wished that the bond of affection, togetherness and mutual trust remains eternal.

"Some memorable moments from Raksha Bandhan celebrations at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. May this festival deepen the bonds of affection and harmony. May it bring happiness.

Rescued from Nepal floods, 21 Tamil Nadu pilgrims reach Delhi; Jaishankar meets them

■ United News Of India



New Delhi, Aug 28 Twenty-one pilgrims from Tamil Nadu, rescued after being stranded in Nepal's Rasuwa district following the devastating Bhote Koshi River flash floods near the Nepal-Tibet border, reached New Delhi on Friday, where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met the group and thanked the Nepal Army and the Nepal government for their rescue efforts.

The flash floods caused extensive destruction in the Himalayan region, leaving several people dead and many others missing. Jaishankar said he received the pilgrims and was moved to hear their experiences first-hand.

"Received a group of 21 pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who were rescued from the floods in Nepal. Was moved to hear their experience firsthand. Thank the @NepalArmyHQ and Government for this rescue effort. Appreciate @IndiaInNepal's facilitation of their smooth return to India," he wrote in a post on X.

The 21 Indian nationals had reached Kathmandu on Thursday after being rescued from the area affected by the floods.

They arrived in Delhi on an IndiGo flight on Friday. India's Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava had met the group in Kathmandu on Thursday and enquired about their well-being before arrangements were made for their onward journey.

India has simultaneously stepped up humanitarian assistance to Nepal following the devastating floods and landslides.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has so far dispatched 47.5 tonnes of relief material through two Indian Air Force flights.

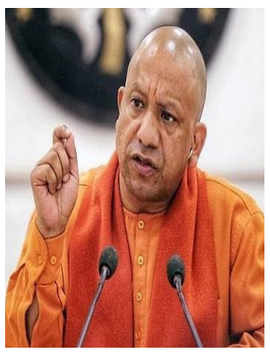
The first aircraft reached Kathmandu on the evening of August 26 carrying 10 tonnes of supplies, including blankets, solar lamps, medicines, hygiene kits and tents.

A second IAF C-17 aircraft departed India on Thursday with another 27.5 tonnes of relief material, comprising tents, blankets, solar lamps, pumps and kitchen sets, besides eight tonnes of medicines and two tonnes of food.

Jaiswal said a third consignment of around 12-13 tonnes of relief material was scheduled to be dispatched from India on Friday evening. A second IAF C-17 aircraft departed India on Thursday with another 27.5 tonnes of relief material, comprising tents, blankets, solar lamps, pumps and kitchen sets, besides eight tonnes of medicines and two tonnes of food.Jaiswal said a third consignment of around 12-13 tonnes of relief material was scheduled to be dispatched from India on Friday evening.

Centre reviews UP's progress on deregulation 2.0, pushes to cut compliance burdens and speed up approvals

■ United News Of India



Lucknow, Aug 28 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh has stepped up work on Deregulation 2.0 following a high-level Central Government review at Invest UP, with officials identifying priority reforms to cut compliance burdens, simplify regulations and speed up approvals for businesses and citizens.

The meeting held on Thursday evening, chaired by K.K. Pathak, Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, and Rahul Sharma, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, brought together senior officials from the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh Government.

They reviewed progress on FSSAI licensing for food businesses, labour law reforms, GST processes, fire licensing and safety norms aligned with the National Building Code Standards 2026, building approvals under the UPBBL, MSME support, and UPPCL power connection processes.

The review builds on Uttar Pradesh's performance in the first phase of Compliance Reduction and Deregulation, in which the state ranked first among all states for reforms aimed at removing approval bottlenecks and simplifying regulatory procedures.

K.K. Pathak said regulations must fulfil their intended purpose without creating unnecessary hurdles. On fire safety, he stressed that the primary objective should be to protect lives rather than treat compliance as a process limited to obtaining a No Objection Certificate.

He also suggested examining simpler town-planning and housing norms, including greater flexibility in FAR, and reviewing regulations to facilitate the establishment of new schools. Relaxation and simplification of certain revenue-related procedures were also discussed.

Among those present were Invest UP CEO Vijay Kiran Anand; Kinjal Singh, Secretary, Secondary Education Department; Divya Mittal, Secretary, Revenue Department; Prerna Sharma, Additional CEO, Invest UP; and senior officials from other concerned departments.

Pressure from Delhi forced Fadnavis to grant 1-year extension to drivers to learn Marathi: Raut

■ United News Of India



Mumbai, Aug 28: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis granted a one-year extension to autorickshaw and taxi drivers to learn the Marathi language due to "pressure from Delhi", which he described as a stern message to BJP's ally Shiv Sena.

In a dig at the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, he said the announcement was to remind Mahayuti allies and send a message that they have to listen to the person "who succeeds the (incumbent) CM".History

Raut also dared ministers of Shiv Sena to rebel over the decision announced by Fadnavis.

"The (Marathi proficiency) initiative was not for the Marathi language but for the non-Marathi people (drivers). Delhi pressured to roll back the initiative. We had been keeping an eye on this move. We had anticipated pressure from Delhi for the rollback, which happened yesterday," Raut claimed.

A day earlier, Fadnavis said autorickshaw and taxi drivers would be given one year to learn functional Marathi, in response to demands from representatives of migrant non-native drivers.

"The state government has accepted their demand and is giving them one year. No action will be taken during this period," Fadnavis said.

Political observers feel the announcement was made ahead of next year's crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the state from which a sizeable number of migrant drivers settled in Mumbai belong.Elections may have dictated the decision, but the issue was of Marathi language, Raut added.

Meanwhile, autorickshaw and taxi unions on Friday welcomed the Maharashtra government's decision to grant them a year to acquire working knowledge of Marathi, saying the extension removes the immediate threat to their livelihoods.

Notably, only a week ago the Transport Department headed by Shiv Sena minister Pratap Sarnaik issued notices to drivers who failed Marathi "working knowledge" tests conducted by RTO officials on roads.

The BJP-led Maharashtra government announced in April this year that drivers of commercial vehicles must have functional knowledge.

Sanskrit Foundational Basis Of India's Knowledge Tradition, Culture, Consciousness: Amit Shah

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 28: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday extended greetings on the occasion of "World Sanskrit Day", terming the language the foundational basis of India's knowledge tradition, culture and consciousness.The home minister also greeted the citizens on Raksha Bandhan.In a post on X, Shah said Sanskrit is the foundational basis of India's knowledge tradition, culture and consciousness, and the language is as scientific as it is ancient."The Vedas, Upanishads, and Shastras written in Sanskrit have been guiding humanity along the path of knowledge for centuries," he said.Shah paid his respects to all the scholars and teachers who have made unforgettable contributions to preserving the Sanskrit language and passing it on to new generations.

Centre Appoints Two Directors, Joint Director To National Testing Agency

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 28: The Centre has appointed two directors and a joint director to the National Testing Agency (NTA), which has been facing flak for issues related to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak, among other concerns.Epaper Subscription Service

Ravi Kumar Singh (Indian Police Service officer) and Prasanna Venkatesh V, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, have been appointed as directors in the NTA, according to separate orders dated August 27, issued by the personnel ministry.Amit Samdariya, a 2016 batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes) officer, has been selected for appointment as joint director in the NTA, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.

All three orders referenced a circular from the personnel ministry stating that the appointed officers must assume their new positions within three weeks of the orders' issuance, "failing which the process of debarment from the Central Staffing Scheme shall be initiated."

Recently, the government announced a comprehensive overhaul of the examination system at the NTA, including implementing a four-tier paper checking process, removing 600 experts, and onboarding domain specialists, among other changes. Amit Samdariya, a 2016 batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes) officer, has been selected for appointment as joint director in the NTA, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.

BJP leaders flay suspension of govt teachers for participating in RSS route march

■ United News Of India



Hubballi, Aug 28: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday accused the Karnataka government of acting with "hatred" in suspending two government school teachers for participating in RSS route marches, and demanded that the action be withdrawn.

Joshi also questioned the government's priorities, asking whether it should focus on tracing missing IAS officer Jnanendra Kumar Gangwar, who is wanted in alleged large scale irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission, instead of suspending the teachers.

"Today, IAS officer Jnanendra Kumar Gangwar is missing. Is the government's job to catch him, or is it to suspend two teachers for participating in the activities of the RSS," Joshi told reporters here.

The Education Department had suspended two teachers from Yadgi district--Gururaj Joshi and Anna Saheb Deshmukh for attending the RSS route march pending departmental inquiry.

The department held that their participation in RSS Patha Sanchalana prima facie violated provisions of the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021.

Joshi said courts had previously struck down attempts to restrict government employees from participating in RSS activities.

"Not just in the last 10 or 12 years, but whenever action has been taken against government employees for participating in Sangh activities since the 1970s and 1980s, or whenever attempts have been made to prevent or restrict the activities of the Sangh in one way or another, the courts have struck them down," he said.

India, Kuwait hold inaugural Joint Defence Committee meeting in New Delhi; agree to deepen military cooperation

■ United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 28 (UNI) India and Kuwait on Friday agreed to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation across a wide range of areas, including military training, exercises, military medicine, staff talks, defence industry and research and development, as the two countries held the inaugural meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) in New Delhi.

The first meeting of the JDC marked an important step towards operationalising the objectives outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait in December 2024.

The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad and Brigadier General Raed Alsakran, who led the five-member Kuwaiti delegation. The Indian delegation included representatives from the three Services, the Department of Defence Production, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Armed Forces Medical Services, and the Ministry of External Affairs.

The discussions covered ways to expand and institutionalise defence engagement between the two countries, with particular emphasis on enhancing cooperation in training and military exercises, medical support, staff-level interactions, defence industrial collaboration and R&D.



Ahead of the JDC meeting, Brigadier General Raed Alsakran laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi and paid homage to India's fallen heroes.

The Kuwaiti delegation also visited DPSU Bhawan on the first day of its visit, where it held discussions with representatives of the Indian defence industry on potential areas of mutual cooperation. An industry interaction with the Kuwaiti delegation is scheduled for the second day of the visit.

The establishment of the JDC comes against the backdrop of steadily expanding India-Kuwait ties. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1962 and have since developed into a broad-based partnership encompassing political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties.

The relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Kuwait in December 2024, providing further impetus to bilateral cooperation, including in the defence and security domains.

India captain Shubman Gill underlines big positives for India from Sri Lanka series

United News Of India



COLOMBO, AUG 28 :India captain Shubman Gill had words of praise for top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal and left-arm spinner

Manav Suthar, hailing the mindset and skill level they displayed during India's 1-0 series success in Sri Lanka.

The two-time ICC World Test Championship runners-up won the first Test against the hosts in Galle before a determined batting display from Sri Lanka led by Sonal Dinusha saw Sri Lanka survive a follow-on and draw the second and final Test in Colombo.

This was their third-successive series win for India in the country.

While the Indian skipper expressed disappointment at not driving home the advantage in the second Test, he found plenty of positives to take from his team's endeavours in Sri Lanka.

"I think it's been a great series," Gill told BCCI.tv in an interview after the game.

"For us, a lot of positives in the series. All the youngsters doing well. So, that's very pleasing to see."

"We speak about once a batter is set, he should make the most of it. And Devdutt (Padikkal) showed that. The way he batted in the series was a treat to watch. (It) truly tells the mindset of a player," he added.

Padikkal was in sublime touch with the bat scoring 328 runs in the two-match series at an average of 109.33 that saw him fire two hundreds in the process. He led the charge for the visitors with the bat as they secured another series victory in Sri Lanka.Another one of the leading performers for Manav Suthar who bagged 16 wickets in the series that included a ten-wicket haul in India's win in Galle.

Gill made note of his progress in recent times.

"He's (Manav Suthar) been magnificent for us and I think he is going to be someone who is going to be leading the spin attack for India for a very long time," Gill said.

"The way he bowled in this match and even in the first match was a treat to watch. Everytime, he comes onto to bowl, it feels like he's going to create those chances and going to get us wickets and hopefully he keeps doing that," the captain added.

India were in a position of strength in Colombo at the end of day two and also enforced a follow-on on the hosts but Sri Lanka displayed great application and thwarted India's attempts to force a result.

Gill gave credit to their opponents for their display and felt it was an important lesson for his team.

"A lot of learnings in this series. I think we played decently well," he said.

"Obviously, not the result that we wanted in this match. After day two, we hoped that it's going to be a win for us and then Sri Lanka batting that the way that they did for these three days, sometimes you've got to learn from the opposition as well and credit to them for the way that they played," he signed off.

India have work to do to make the final of the ICC World Test Championship and their next Test assignment is in New Zealand in November. With just seven Tests to play in this cycle and a lot of ground to make up, India's margin for error is very little.

IAME Series India set to make history, Final round under lights at MIKA tomorrow, marking a first in India

United News Of India

CHENNAI, AUG 28 :Marking a spectacular first for Indian Karting, the IAME Series India 2026 season finale will be held under flood lights at at the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) at Irungattukottai in Sriperumbudur, about 40 km here, tomorrow, promising a dramatic and high octane fine round with the winners of each of the four classes will represent the country in the Asia Finals at Macau in December.

The fifth and final round of the series will be conducted under lights which will provide a fitting and unique setting and in a landmark initiative, the season finale will see competitors take to the track after sunset, bringing a completely new dimension to competitive karting in India.

This unique night racing format will be the first of its kind in India.

The IAME Series India was promoted by RA Motorsports and organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club under its Vice-President Vicky Chandhok's guidance. MIKA is embracing the challenge of hosting a night racing event and is working towards ensuring the highest standards of safety and race operations for all competitors, teams and officials.

With the season coming down to its final showdown, all eyes will be on the title contenders across the four categories.

The Championship leaders in their respective classes are:Mini Under-10: Aaruthan Prabhu (Kumaraburam, Kartkrew Motorsports)

Mini: Shiv Neel (Coimbatore, NKRA by KKM)

Junior X30: Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai, Momentum Motorsports)

Senior X30: Kairav Roberson (Chennai, MSPORT.

Ahead of National Sports Day, India's athletes look back at where it all began

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, AUG 28 :India's sporting story has evolved over generations from the legendary achievements of Major Dhyan Chand to a new era where Indian athletes are competing and winning across cricket, athletics, combat sports and several other disciplines.

Behind every medal and milestone, however, is a journey that begins much earlier. This often starts with a young athlete simply learning and eventually falling in love with their sport long before the medals, the sponsorships, or the recognition arrive.

This National Sports Day, Jemimah Rodrigues, Axar Patel, Praveen Chithravel and Yamini Mourya look back at the beginning of their journeys and answer a simple question: "If you could go back to Day One of your sporting journey, what would you tell yourself?"

For many young athletes, the early years are about wanting to prove themselves. The pressure to perform can sometimes arrive before an athlete has even had the chance to understand what sport means to them. For Jemimah Rodrigues, a JSW-backed athlete, one of the biggest lessons has been learning to stay present instead of getting caught up in how each innings looks from the outside.

"Honestly, I would just tell myself to enjoy it more. When you are young, you want to prove that you belong here. Somewhere in that you forget why you even picked up the sport in the first place. I don't want to think too far ahead or be too stuck in the past. I've learnt that one innings doesn't decide who you are as a cricketer. Some days it clicks, some days it doesn't, and that's fine. As long as you're giving your best for the team, that matters more than any score."

That instinct to stay grounded rather than chase every result is something success-hungry sport rarely rewards early on. Careers, however, are rarely built in a straight line. For Axar Patel,

nother JSW-backed athlete, the journey to the highest level has reinforced the value of patience, consistency and simply being ready when an opportunity arrives."There's no need to rush things, that's what I'd tell myself. When you're starting out, you want to jump levels quickly. You want to perform in every single game. It doesn't work like that.

Neeraj Chopra seals last Diamond League Final berth



United News Of India

BRUSSELS, AUG 28: Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra qualified the Diamond League Final 2026 after securing the last spot for the season-ending athletics meet, to be held here in Belgium on September 4 and 5.

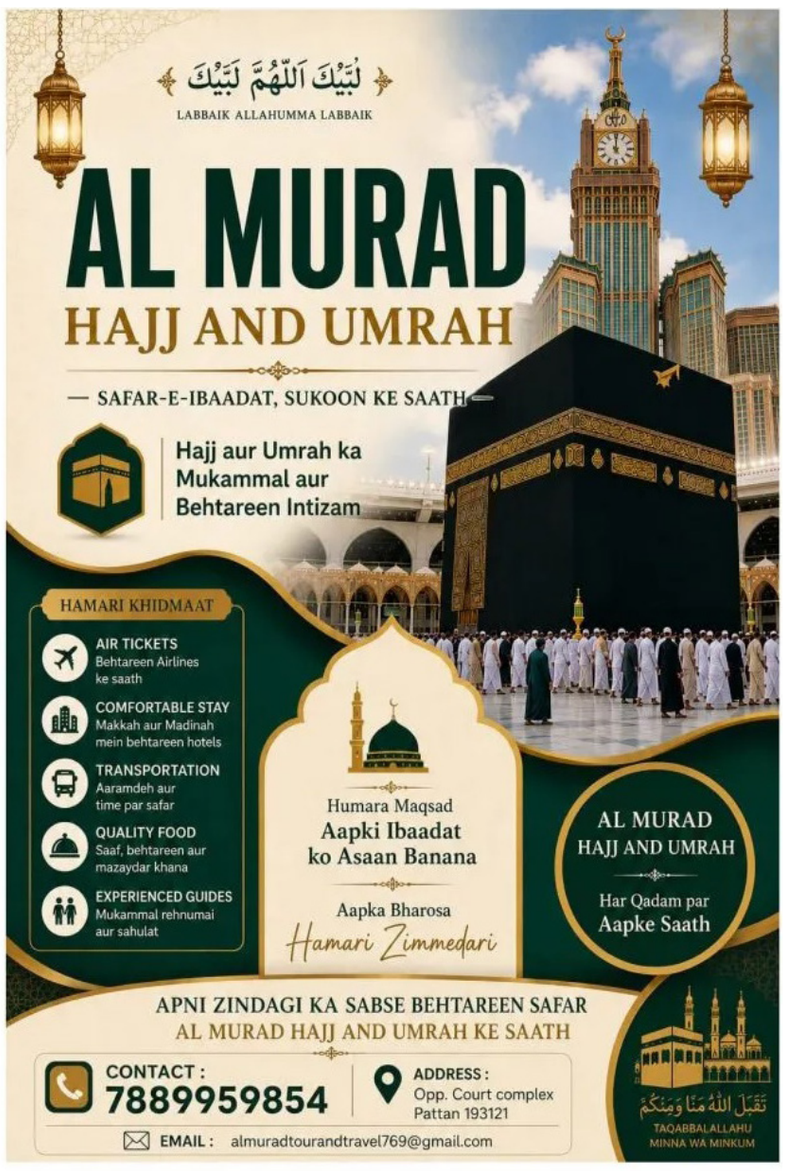
Earning 12 points over the season, Neeraj Chopra secured his berth in the Diamond League Final after claiming the last spot in the six-man field, according to olympics.com.

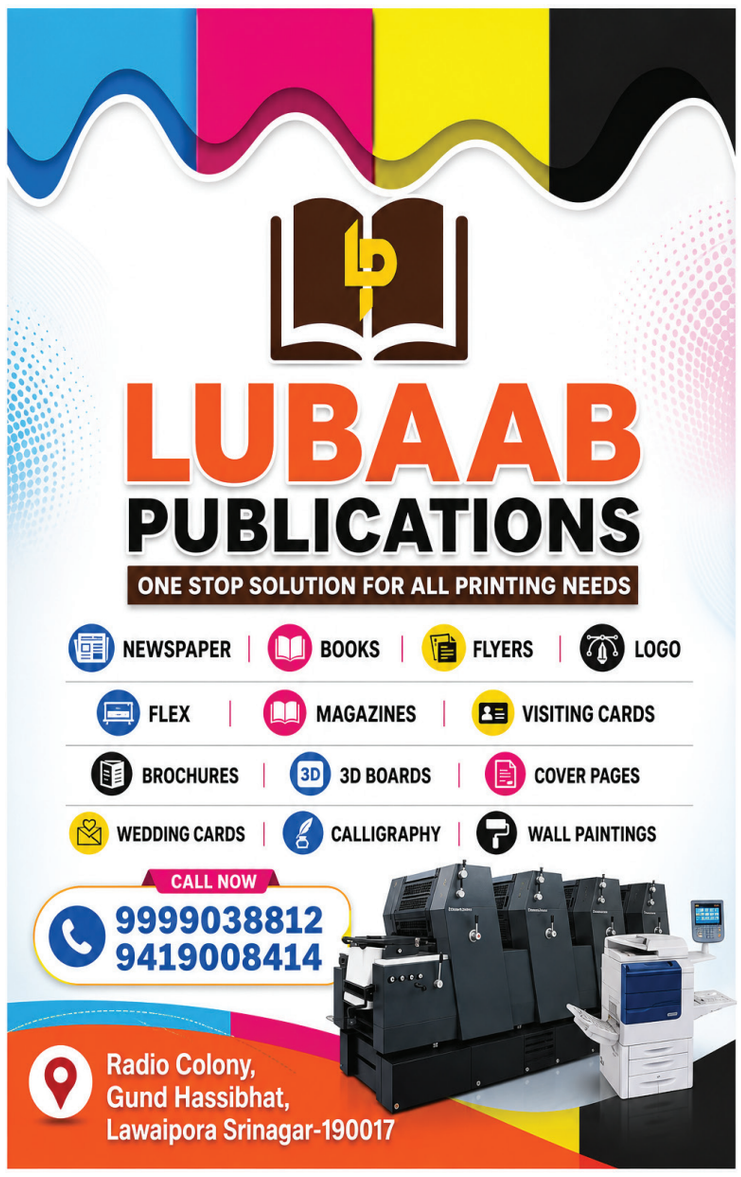
Dawid Wegner of Poland and Rio 2016 Olympic champion Thomas Röhler of Germany each ended with 10 points in the Diamond League javelin throw standings.

Wegner collected six points by finishing third at the Zurich Diamond League on Thursday, while Röhler added one point after placing eighth, leaving both two points short of Neeraj.The Indian athlete participated in only two of the five Diamond League meets that featured the men's javelin throw event this season. He finished fourth in Doha with 85.69m in June before improving to a season-best 88.05m for second place in Lausanne last week. Those two performances earned him five and seven points, respectively, and ultimately proved enough to book his place in Brussels.

At each Diamond League meeting, the top eight in javelin earn points, with the winner getting eight and the eighth-placed finisher one.

The top six on points at the end of the series qualify for the season-ending final, with ties decided by the best legal mark of the season. Neeraj Chopra has now qualified for five consecutive Diamond League Final events.He won the title in 2022 and finished runner-up from 2023 to 2025.Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga topped the standings with 39 points after winning the Zurich Diamond League with a massive 92.07m effort. Neeraj Chopra, who skipped the Zurich meet,







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