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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Australia make big call on former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne

"Centre Will Support Waqf Board's Healthcare and Skill Development Initiatives": Kiran Rijiju

Union Minister inaugurates guest house at Baba Rishi; urges Waqf boards nationwide to replicate J&K's asset-management model

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

TANGMARG, NOVEMBER 24: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday assured Central support to the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board for its proposed healthcare and skill development initiatives, while urging Waqf boards across the country to adopt the Union Territory's model of financial management and utilisation of properties for public welfare. Speaking after inaugurating a newly constructed guest house at the shrine of Hazrat Baba Payamuddin Rishi in Baramulla district, Rijiju said the J&K Waqf Board had demonstrated how revenue generated from its assets could be channelled towards education, healthcare and social welfare. He said he would convene a meeting of Waqf boards to encourage them to follow similar practices.

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"Baba Jitto's Message Transcends Caste, Class and Community": Manoj Sinha

LG Calls for farmer empowerment, youth participation in agriculture and preservation of Dogra language, traditions and cultural heritage



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called for a collective commitment to farmer empowerment, social justice and preservation of Dogra heritage while paying homage to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi at the annual Jhiri Mela. Describing Baba Jitto's legacy as a symbol of truth, courage and resistance against injustice, Sinha said his message transcended caste, class and community and represented a shared national heritage. He stressed that farmers must receive dignity and fair opportunities, while urging youth to embrace technology, entrepreneurship and scientific practices to make agriculture more productive and profitable. Highlighting the impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, he said modern infrastructure, crop diversification and market-oriented reforms were creating new opportunities in the rural economy. He also acknowledged the growing contribution of women farmers and self-help groups, describing them as important drivers of economic self-reliance. Calling upon young people to take pride in their language, folk traditions and regional history, Sinha urged them to preserve Dogra heritage through digital platforms and pass it on to future generations.

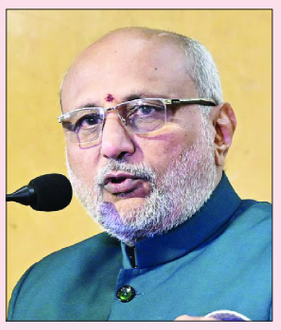
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"Academic Excellence Must Translate into Progress for Society" : Vice-President

C. P. Radhakrishnan welcomes India-UK academic partnership; joint research to focus on AI, sustainability, geopolitics and public policy

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24: Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday called for stronger international academic partnerships to address emerging economic and social challenges, asserting that academic excellence must ultimately translate into tangible benefits for society. Addressing an MoU exchange ceremony between the London School of Economics and Political Science, Delhi School of Economics and the Institute of Economic Growth at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, he described the collaboration as an important step towards strengthening research, academic exchanges and policy-oriented studies. The partnership envisages joint research, student and faculty exchanges, training programmes and a proposed



research seed fund focusing on sustainability, artificial intelligence, public policy, geopolitics and international trade. The Vice-President also welcomed

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Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 557th Parkash Purab Celebrated Across J&K

Gurdwaras witness special prayers, Gurbani Kirtan and community langars; devotees recall message of equality, brotherhood and selfless service

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: The 557th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday with religious fervour and devotion, as devotees gathered at Gurdwaras to offer prayers and participate in special religious programmes. In Srinagar, the main celebrations were held at the historic Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi in Rainawari, besides Gurdwaras in Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla and other areas. Special prayers, Gurbani Kirtan, religious discourses and community langars marked the occasion, bringing together members of the Sikh community in large numbers. Similar celebrations were organised in Pulwama, Baramulla and other parts of the Valley. In Jammu, the main Parkash Purab Samagam was held at Gurdwara Yaadgar Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Chand Nagar, featuring a Hazoori Ragi Jatha from Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, along with other



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"Development Projects Must Be Completed Without Compromising Quality": Chief Secretary

Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav reviews sports, healthcare, university and power infrastructure in Rajouri; directs faster execution and restoration of damaged facilities

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 24: Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Tuesday undertook an extensive tour of Rajouri district to review major developmental projects, inspect public infrastructure and assess the progress of restoration works at important heritage sites. During his visit to the Sports Stadium, he interacted with young sportspersons and stressed the need for better facilities, professional coaching and greater engagement of coaches under the Khelo India initiative. At Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, he reviewed ongoing construction works and called for a ten-year institutional vision, with academic programmes aligned to employability and emerging job opportunities. He also inspected the 180-bedded Teaching District Hospital,



directing officials to expedite the remaining works to make the facility operational at the earliest. Reviewing the construction of a dedicated receiving station at GMC Rajouri, he emphasised adherence to the March 2027 completion deadline. The Chief Secretary also assessed flood damage at Bella Bus Stand and

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"Preserving Kashmir's Communal Harmony Is Our Collective Responsibility": SSP Srinagar

Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy assures action against rotten meat trade; says police committed to peace and security

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy, on Tuesday stressed that preserving Kashmir's longstanding tradition of communal harmony was a collective responsibility, asserting that mutual respect and peaceful coexistence must remain the foundation of society. Speaking to reporters during a visit to Durgeshwari Temple, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, he said Kashmir had historically represented communal harmony and that every effort must be made to preserve this legacy. He reaffirmed that Srinagar Police remained committed to protecting people and maintaining peace and security across the city. Referring to Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Parkash Purab, the SSP highlighted



the teachings of truth, selfless service and brotherhood, saying these values must find expression in everyday life. He also said that he and the Deputy Commissioner would visit a Gurdwara as part of the Gurpurab observances. Responding to a question about the sale and distribution

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"Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Teachings Remain Relevant for Society": Karra

JKPCC chief joins Gurpurab celebrations in Jammu; calls for equality, compassion, brotherhood and communal harmony

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday joined the Gurpurab celebrations at Gurdwara Chand Kaur in Jammu and offered prayers, extending greetings to the Sikh community on the 557th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Accompanied by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and other party leaders, Karra prayed for peace, prosperity and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, he said Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of equality, compassion, honest living and selfless service remained profoundly relevant in contemporary society. He observed that the Sikh spiritual leader stood for the dignity of every human being, rejected discrimination and preached universal brotherhood beyond caste, creed and religion. Referring to the principles of 'Ik Onkar', 'Naam Japo, Kirat Karo and Vand Chhako', Karra said these teachings encouraged people to live honestly, work hard and share with others. He

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Kashmir Records Season's Coldest Night, Srinagar Dips to -1.6°C

Pahalgam freezes at -4.6°C as sub-zero temperatures grip several Valley districts; MeT predicts further fall in mercury

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: Kashmir witnessed a sharp intensification of cold conditions on Tuesday, with Srinagar recording the season's coldest night at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam emerged as the coldest place in the Valley at minus 4.6 degrees. According to Meteorological Department data, Shopian recorded minus 4.1 degrees, Pulwama minus 3.4 degrees, Anantnag minus 2.6 degrees, Konibal minus 2.5 degrees and Budgam minus 2.3 degrees Celsius. Qazigund recorded minus 2 degrees, Kupwara minus 1 degree and Kukernag minus 0.1 degrees, while Gulmarg registered a minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius. Several areas, particularly in south Kashmir, experienced freezing temperatures amid clear skies and



a prolonged dry spell. In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded 9.6 degrees, while Banihal registered 13.7 degrees, Batote and Katra 10.5 degrees each and Bhaderwah 2.8 degrees Celsius. The MeT Department has forecast generally dry weather across J&K till the end of November, with minimum temperatures likely to fall by another one to two degrees. Partly to generally cloudy conditions are expected between December 1 and 3. The continuing fall in night temperatures signals the gradual transition towards harsher winter conditions ahead of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of intense cold beginning December 21.) Kashmir witnessed a further intensification of cold conditions on Tuesday, with Srinagar recording the season's coldest night at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam emerged as the coldest place in the Valley at minus 4.6 degrees, according to the Meteorological Department.

Pahalgam was followed by Shopian, which recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 3.4 degrees, Anantnag minus 2.6 degrees, Konibal minus 2.5 degrees and Budgam minus 2.3 degrees, the MeT data showed accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS).

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara settled at minus 1 degree and Kukernag at minus 0.1 degrees. Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius.

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J&K Approves 320 Kanals for Modern Fruit, Vegetable Markets

New facilities planned in Kulgam, Baramulla and Pulwama to strengthen agricultural marketing, reduce post-harvest losses and improve growers' returns

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the transfer of 320 kanals of land to the Agriculture Production Department for establishing modern fruit and vegetable markets in Kulgam, Baramulla and Pulwama districts, in a move aimed at strengthening agricultural marketing infrastructure and improving farmers' earnings. The proposed facilities are expected to provide growers with better access to organised markets, ensure greater transparency in pricing and minimise post-harvest losses through improved handling and value-addition facilities. The markets are also expected to generate local employment and strengthen the supply chain for perishable agricultural produce. The decision assumes significance given the central role of horticulture, particularly apple cultivation, in J&K's economy and the livelihoods of thousands of farming families. Despite being a major producer of fruits, the sector continues to face challenges relating to inadequate storage, transportation, post-harvest management and organised marketing infrastructure.



The proposed markets are expected to address some of these shortcomings by providing improved platforms for growers and traders, helping farmers secure better returns and

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Continue from Front Page.....

"Centre Will

Referring to the proposed hospital project, the Union Minister assured that the Centre would extend necessary assistance so that the facility could serve the healthcare needs of ordinary people. He also expressed support for the Bibi Haleema Nursing College project and other initiatives aimed at providing skill training to Kashmir's youth. Rijiju acknowledged the infrastructure development undertaken at Hazratbal and other initiatives of the Board under its Chairperson, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi. Earlier, he paid obeisance at the Baba Rishi shrine, inspected the newly developed facilities and interacted with religious delegations.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday assured the Centre's support to the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board for its proposed healthcare and skill development initiatives, while calling upon Waqf boards across the country to replicate J&K's model of financial management and utilisation of assets for public welfare.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating a newly constructed guest house at the shrine of Hazrat Baba Payamuddin Rishi in Baramulla district, Rijiju said the J&K Waqf Board had demonstrated how revenue generated from its properties could be channelised towards education, healthcare and other social sectors.

The Union Minister said he would convene a meeting of Waqf boards and encourage them to adopt similar practices.

"I want all the State Waqf Boards to work as done here. What the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has done is even more than what I had thought," Rijiju said.

Referring to the proposed hospital project of the J&K Waqf Board, the Union Minister assured assistance from the Centre, saying the facility should cater to the healthcare needs of common people.

He also referred to the Bibi Haleema Nursing College project and assured support for initiatives aimed at providing skill training to the youth of Kashmir.

On the Haj quota, Rijiju said he had recently returned from Saudi Arabia, where he held discussions with the country's Minister for Haj and Umrah.

"If India's quota is increased, it will be good. We would like to give opportunity to Waqf people also in future," he said.

Rijiju also acknowledged the infrastructure development undertaken at the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and other initiatives of the Board under the leadership of its Chairperson, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi.

Earlier, the Union Minister paid obeisance at the Baba Rishi shrine, inspected the newly developed facilities and interacted with religious delegations.

Waqf Board members Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem and Syed Mohammad Hussain Haqqani, CEO Dr Bashit Ahmad Bhat, Administrator Jammu Abid Hussain, Tehsildar and Executive Magistrate Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin and Executive Engineer Qazi Mushtaq Ahmad were present on the occasion. (KNS)

"Baba Jitto's

He said building a developed Jammu and Kashmir required honesty, hard work, mutual respect and the collective participation of every section of society.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today paid homage to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi at the Annual Jhiri Mela. The Lieutenant Governor said the annual fair is a living symbol of faith, cultural heritage and collective consciousness. He said the annual visit to Jhiri is a sacred pilgrimage and the deep spiritual bond associated with the place reflects centuries of devotion and reverence towards Baba Jitto.

Highlighting the legacy of Baba Jitto, the Lieutenant Governor said that his life represents an enduring message of truth, courage and justice. He noted that Baba Jitto's struggle was not merely about a crop, but about protecting the dignity, rights and self-respect of every hardworking farmer.

"His sacrifice continues to inspire society to stand against injustice and uphold respect for labour. Baba Jitto's message also transcends caste, class and community, and represents a shared national heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the true tribute to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi would be the creation of a society where no farmer is left alone in the struggle for rights and dignity. He called for a "Whole of Society Approach" to ensure inclusive development and social justice.

"We must build a society where every person receives respect, where social harmony endures, and where the benefits of development reach the last person in society. To contribute to a developed India, we must build a developed Jammu Kashmir, and three values must always remain at its foundation- truth, hard work, and mutual respect.

For this, farmers must continue their hard work. Teachers must educate the new generation in accordance with a changing world. Youth must come forward for innovation. Government officials must serve the public with complete dedication and every family must instil good values in young children. From ordinary citizens to government officials, everyone must remain honest in their actions, discharge their responsibilities with sincerity, and work together in difficult circumstances," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined the contributions of farmers in sustaining the nation and enriching its traditions. He highlighted the transformative impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in UT, noting progress in agriculture, horticulture and dairy sectors through modern infrastructure, diversification and market-oriented reforms. He urged farmers, particularly small and marginal cultivators, to adopt modern technology and align production with emerging market demands.

The Lieutenant Governor also encouraged greater adoption of millet cultivation. He said the millet crops are climate-resilient and income-enhancing option in the face of irregular rainfall, rising temperatures and declining groundwater levels.

Calling upon youth to transform agriculture through technology, entrepreneurship and scientific practices, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to view farming and allied sectors as dynamic engines of growth.

"Jammu Kashmir's agricultural landscape offers immense opportunities for innovation and employment, and youth must play a leading role in making farming more productive, profitable and future-ready," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also commended the growing participation of women in the rural economy. The Lieutenant Governor said that women farmers, self-help groups and rural entrepreneurs are playing a pivotal role in driving economic self-reliance across Jammu Kashmir. He called for expanded opportunities in education, skill development and entrepreneurship for women in rural areas.

"Many self-help groups are now working alongside women farmers to give a new direction to the rural economy. The women in villages are setting new examples of economic self-reliance through local products, handicrafts, food processing, and small enterprises. In the agriculture and allied sectors, our daughters are setting new benchmarks of innovation and entrepreneurship," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting the rich legacy of Dogra culture, the Lieutenant Governor urged the youth to take pride in their language, folk traditions and regional history. He encouraged the use of digital technologies to preserve and promote cultural heritage globally.

"Sit with your elders. Learn old songs from them, listen to folk tales, and learn the history of your region. Preserve such heritage through digital means, so that future generations can also become familiar with it.

I believe that technology today places in our hands a power through which we can take our culture to every corner of the country and the world. We must use this technology to introduce the world to the identity of Dogra culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the administration is making continuous efforts to ensure the smooth and efficient organization of the Jhiri Mela. The infrastructure here has seen significant improvement, and efforts will continue to expand it further as needed, he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor visited the exhibition stalls set up by government departments, agri-entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups and farmers. The event also featured a short play on Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi, and captivating performances by artists showcasing the region's rich art and cultural heritage.

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Shri Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Member of Legislative Assembly from Suchetgarh; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Shri Vikas Kundal, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Shri Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Ms. Aayushi Sudan, Municipal Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, prominent citizens, progressive farmers and people from all walks of life were present.

"Academic Excellence

cooperation between IEG and LSE for strengthening the training of Indian Economic Service officers. Emphasising the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, he said economic growth must be accompanied by inclusive development, equitable opportunities and improved quality of life. He expressed confidence that the initiative would encourage original research, nurture young scholars and generate practical policy recommendations, adding that universities must equip India's youth with knowledge and skills to address contemporary challenges.

The Vice-President of India and Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today graced the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exchange ceremony between the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, and the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President described the collaboration as an important milestone in the journey of the three distinguished institutions. He said that the partnership brings together academic excellence, research capabilities and policy experience to address some of the most pressing economic and social challenges of our times. Recalling the discussions held earlier this year with Shri N. K. Singh on fostering cooperation among these institutions, he expressed satisfaction that the idea had culminated in concrete institutional partnerships.

Emphasising the importance of research and academic excellence, the Vice-President said that universities must strive to strengthen their research capabilities and improve their global standing to provide the best opportunities to India's youth. He urged students to make full use of the opportunities available to them today and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development. He observed that the proposed collaboration would facilitate academic exchanges, joint research, training programmes and student-faculty exchanges, opening new avenues for mutual learning and knowledge creation.

The Vice-President particularly welcomed the proposal for a joint research seed fund involving the three institutions. He noted that the identified areas of collaboration, including sustainability, artificial intelligence, public policy, geopolitics and international trade, were highly relevant to contemporary challenges. He expressed hope that the initiative would nurture young researchers, encourage original scholarship and generate practical policy recommendations. He also highlighted the proposed collaboration between IEG and LSE to enhance the training of Indian Economic Service officers, observing that international exposure to research and policy practices would further strengthen their professional capabilities.

Highlighting India's development journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Vice-President referred to achievements in poverty alleviation, housing, rural electrification and tap water connectivity. He said that the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 calls for inclusive development across all sectors, regions and sections of society. Emphasising the importance of wealth creation alongside equitable distribution, he observed that economic progress must ultimately translate into an improved quality of life for people. He also underscored that global and domestic priorities must remain centred on human development, good governance and the welfare of citizens.

Referring to India's growing role in the Global South, the Vice-President said that India's democratic institutions, diversity and developmental experience have much to offer the international academic community. He noted that the experiences of developing countries must inform global academic and policy frameworks and that such partnerships can enrich international research and policy discourse.

The Vice-President expressed confidence that the collaboration would transcend institutional boundaries and foster meaningful intellectual exchange. He said that, as Chancellor of the University of Delhi, he would personally monitor the progress and outcomes of this initiative and extend all necessary support. He also encouraged other universities to draw inspiration from this partnership and pursue similar collaborations. He called upon the institutions to translate academic excellence and shared knowledge into tangible progress for society.

The ceremony was attended by Shri N. K. Singh, President, Institute of Economic Growth; Prof. Larry Kramer, President and Vice-Chancellor, London School of Economics and Political Science; Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Chairman, Institute of Economic Growth; and Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, among other dignitaries, faculty members and students.

Guru Nanak

prominent Ragi Jathas and Parcharaks. Several other Gurdwaras across Jammu also organised special religious programmes. The celebrations highlighted the timeless relevance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of equality, honest living, compassion, universal brotherhood and selfless service, with devotees renewing their commitment to the values that transcend religious and social boundaries.

The 557th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated across Kashmir and Jammu on Tuesday, with Gurdwaras witnessing religious gatherings as devotees, including men, women and children, assembled to pay obeisance and participate in prayers marking the birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism.

In Srinagar, the main religious observances were centred at the historic Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi in Rainawari, where devotees gathered to offer prayers and listen to Gurbani Kirtan. Religious celebrations were also held at Gurdwaras in Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla and other parts of the Valley.

The occasion brought together members of the Sikh community in traditional and colourful attire, with families visiting Gurdwaras to seek blessings. Special prayers, devotional singing and religious discourses formed part of the celebrations, while community langars reflected Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of equality, sharing and selfless service.

Similar celebrations were held in Pulwama, Baramulla and other parts of Kashmir, where local Gurdwaras marked the occasion with religious programmes and gatherings of the Sangat.

In Jammu, the main Parkash Purab Samagam was organised at Gurdwara Yaadgar Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Chand Nagar. The programme featured a Hazoori Ragi Jatha from Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, along with prominent Ragi Jathas and Parcharaks, who presented Gurbani Kirtan and delivered religious discourses.

"Development Projects

reviewed pending work on Androlla Bridge, calling for early restoration of public facilities and connectivity. At historic Chingus Sarai, he stressed that restoration must preserve the site's original architectural character. He also paid floral tributes to martyr Dr Raj Kumar Thapa, recalling his sacrifice during Operation Sindoor. Throughout the visit, Yadav stressed timely execution, accountability, quality construction and effective utilisation of public funds.

Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, today undertook an extensive tour of Rajouri district to review the progress of key developmental projects, assess sports and educational infrastructure, inspect healthcare and power facilities, and take stock of restoration works at important historical sites.

During his morning visit to the Sports Stadium, Rajouri, the Chief Secretary interacted with young sportspersons participating in various disciplines, including volleyball and badminton, and sought their feedback regarding the availability of sports facilities and coaching arrangements. Appreciating the sporting talent of the district, he emphasised the need to provide aspiring players with better infrastructure, professional coaching and adequate opportunities to excel at higher levels.

He stressed the need for engaging more coaches in the district under the Khelo India initiative to nurture local talent and enable promising sportspersons to compete at national and international levels.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the ongoing construction works at the Sports Stadium, Kheora, and directed the concerned authorities to ensure their expeditious execution while maintaining the prescribed quality standards for optimal utilisation of the facilities.

Reviews Developmental Works at BGSBU

At Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, the Chief Secretary inspected the ongoing construction of the university auditorium, Girls Hostel for Nursing Students and the new main gate.

He was apprised that the girls' hostel, being constructed at an allotted cost of Rs. 354.23 lakh, has achieved completion of masonry work on its ground and first floors, with plastering presently underway. Similarly, the superstructure of the new university main gate, being executed at an allotted cost of Rs. 59.11 lakh, has been completed, while the remaining works are in progress.

Directing the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of construction, he underscored that quality should not be compromised at any stage. He also emphasised the installation of rooftop solar power plants in new university buildings to promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency and reduce dependence on conventional power sources.

Later, at the university's IT Hall, the Chief Secretary interacted with students, faculty members and university functionaries. The interaction was attended by Vice Chancellor, BGSBU, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Dr. Devansh Yadav; DIG Sandeep Wazir; ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq; Registrar, ADC Ravi Sihag; SSP Naresh Singh; Dean Academics and other senior officers.

At the outset, the Registrar presented an overview of the university, highlighting student enrolment, academic programmes, courses offered and its overall functioning.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav appreciated the university's contribution to higher education and called upon its administration, faculty and students to work collectively towards taking the institution to greater heights of academic excellence. He stressed the need for formulating a clear ten-year vision for the university, supported by well-defined goals, measurable objectives and a comprehensive action plan involving all stakeholders.

He further emphasised that academic programmes and degrees must remain aligned with employability, skill development and emerging opportunities in the job market. Encouraging students to pursue continuous learning, he called upon them to acquire knowledge and skills beyond the prescribed academic curriculum to emerge as capable, confident and responsible individuals.

Reviews Healthcare and Power Infrastructure

The Chief Secretary also inspected the 180-bedded Teaching District Hospital building at Rajouri, completed under the original project component, and reviewed the progress of additional civil, electrical and mechanical works being undertaken at an additional approved cost of Rs. 5 crore.

He was informed that the civil works have been completed, electrical works are nearing completion, installation of lifts has been completed, while firefighting works are presently in progress. He directed the concerned authorities to expedite the remaining works and ensure early operational readiness of the hospital facility so that the people of the district could benefit from enhanced healthcare infrastructure.

He also visited the 6.3 MVA Dedicated Receiving Station being constructed at Government Medical College (GMC), Rajouri with the work having been awarded at Rs. 2.89 crore. The project, being executed by STD Division-IV, Kalakote, is targeted for completion by March 2027.

During the inspection, he was informed that approximately 90 per cent of the ground-floor building work had been completed, while the SBA quarter had achieved 35 per cent progress. The foundations for the power transformer and associated equipment have also been laid, and material inspection has been completed.

The Chief Secretary observed that commissioning of the dedicated receiving station would substantially strengthen the power infrastructure of GMC Rajouri and ensure improved reliability and quality of electricity supply, which is critical for uninterrupted healthcare services. He stressed the importance of adhering to the stipulated timeline for its completion.

Inspects Flood-Damaged Infrastructure, Reviews Connectivity Projects

"Preserving Kashmir's

of rotten meat, Chakravarthy indicated that a major initiative would soon be undertaken to address the issue, signalling a stronger intervention against the illegal trade and potential public health risks associated with it.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy, on Tuesday said Kashmir has historically stood as an example of communal harmony and that preserving this tradition remains a collective responsibility.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to the Durgeshwari Temple in Srinagar, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, the SSP emphasised the importance of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and strengthening relations among different communities.

"Kashmir has always been an example of communal harmony. It is our responsibility to keep this beautiful tradition alive," Dr Chakravarthy said.

"Guru Nanak

called for strengthening communal harmony and mutual respect, describing them as essential pillars of India's composite culture. Raman Bhalla also extended greetings and expressed hope that the occasion would further strengthen unity and brotherhood among communities.

): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday joined Gurpurab celebrations at Gurdwara Chand Kaur in Jammu, where he offered prayers and extended greetings to the Sikh community on the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Accompanied by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and other party leaders, Karra prayed for peace, prosperity and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Karra said the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on equality, compassion, peace and selfless service remain relevant in contemporary society.

He said Guru Nanak Dev Ji advocated the dignity of every human being, rejected discrimination and preached universal brotherhood irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

Referring to the principles of 'Ik Onkar', 'Naam Japo, Kirat Karo and Vand Chhako', Karra said these teachings encourage people to lead a life of honesty, hard work and sharing with others.

He called for strengthening communal harmony, mutual respect and unity, describing them as the foundations of India's composite culture.

Karra expressed hope that the occasion would inspire people to follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and work towards a society based on equality and compassion.

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla also extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Sikh community, and expressed hope that the occasion would further strengthen communal harmony and brotherhood.

J&K Approves

strengthening the region's agricultural economy. The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the transfer of 320 kanals of land to the Agriculture Production Department for setting up modern fruit and vegetable markets in Kulgam, Baramulla and Pulwama districts.

The initiative aims to strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure, provide farmers better access to markets, ensure transparent pricing and reduce post-harvest losses, officials said.

The proposed markets are also expected to facilitate value addition, improve handling of perishable produce and generate employment opportunities at the local level.

The decision assumes significance as horticulture, particularly apple cultivation, is a major contributor to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, supporting the livelihoods of thousands of farming families.

Despite being a major producer of apples and other fruits, the Union Territory's horticulture sector faces challenges related to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, storage, transportation and organised marketing facilities.

The establishment of modern markets is expected to provide improved marketing platforms for growers and traders while strengthening the supply chain and helping farmers secure better returns for their produce.

The government said the initiative would provide a significant boost to the agriculture and horticulture sectors of Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS)

Kashmir Records

Several places across the Valley experienced sub-zero temperatures, with the cold intensifying particularly in south Kashmir and higher-altitude areas.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius, while Banihal registered 13.7 degrees, Batote and Katra 10.5 degrees each, and Bhaderwah 2.8 degrees.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till the end of November, with minimum temperatures likely to fall by another one to two degrees Celsius towards the end of the month.

Partly to generally cloudy conditions are expected between December 1 and 3, according to the forecast.

The sharp fall in nighttime temperatures comes amid largely clear skies and a prolonged dry spell, conditions that allow heat to escape from the surface more rapidly during the night, resulting in colder mornings and increased frost in several areas.

Kashmir is entering the colder phase of autumn, with temperatures increasingly dipping below the freezing point at several places, signalling the gradual onset of harsher winter conditions ahead of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of intense winter cold that begins on December 21. (KNS)

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Srinagar's historic religious sites being restored under heritage preservation scheme: DC

Renovation of major shrines, temples, imambaras underway; Durgeshwari Temple restored at Fateh Kadal

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 24 (KNS): Deputy Commissioner Srinagar on Tuesday said the administration has undertaken the restoration and renovation of several historic religious sites across the city under the heritage preservation scheme, with a focus on conserving their architectural and religious significance while improving facilities for devotees.

Speaking to reporters at the Durgeshwari Temple in Fateh Kadal, the Deputy Commissioner said Srinagar's shrines, temples, gurdwaras and churches constitute an important part of the city's historical and cultural heritage, besides holding deep religious significance for different communities.

"Srinagar has a considerable number of shrines, temples, gurdwaras and churches. Every site has its own historical value, and people's faith is deeply associated with these places," he said.

The DC said renovation and upgradation work at the revered Makhdoom Sahib shrine had commenced, adding that he had inspected the ongoing works on



Monday.

He further disclosed that restoration projects for two prominent imambaras in downtown Srinagar had been approved under the heritage preservation scheme.

Similarly, restoration works at the Sharika Devi Temple and Jyeshta Devi Temple have also commenced under the scheme, he said.

"The government's endeavour is to restore historically significant religious sites, with which people's faith is associated, to their pristine glory through renovation and upgradation," the Deputy Commissioner said.

He said the initiative was not confined to preserving religious structures but also aimed at improving the overall experience of devotees visiting these places.

"When pilgrims visit these sites, our effort is to ensure that they have a pleasant experience," he added.

Referring to the restoration of the Durgeshwari Temple at Fateh Kadal, the DC acknowledged the collective efforts of the concerned departments, district police, civil administration and local residents in completing the renovation.

He said the participation of different stakeholders in the restoration of the temple reflected a collective commitment towards preserving Srinagar's religious and cultural heritage.

The Deputy Commissioner maintained that the administration would continue its efforts to conserve historically significant places of worship across the city, irrespective of their religious affiliation, while ensuring better facilities for devotees. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP accompanied by members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee paid their obeisance at the Historic Gurudwara.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted contributions and universal teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He said that the teachings of the Sikh Guru promoted noble social institutions such as Langar, Sangat, and Kirtan teaching the spirit of equality and selfless service.

SSP Srinagar also underscored the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and extended his warm greetings to all.

During the visit, the DC also took stock of the arrangements and facilities being extended to the devotees.

Meanwhile, District Administration Srinagar had made all essential arrangements through several line Departments in advance at Chattipadshahi Gurudwara to facilitate devotees on the Prakash Diwas.

IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SP North, Tehsildar Khanyar and other Officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

Gurpurab: ADC Handwara visits Gurudwaras across Sub-Division

■ HT News Network



HANDWARA, NOVEMBER 24: On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, on tuesday visited Gurudwaras across the Handwara Sub-Division to extend greetings to the Sikh community.

During the visit, the ADC interacted with members of the Sikh community and conveyed his warm wishes on the sacred occasion. He highlighted the universal teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, including peace, equality, brotherhood, compassion and selfless service to humanity.

The ADC emphasised the importance of preserving the rich tradition of communal harmony and mutual respect that has long been a hallmark of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji continue to inspire people to work towards a society based on unity, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

The visit reflected the administration's commitment to promoting communal harmony, strengthening bonds among communities and upholding the region's cherished traditions of brotherhood and mutual respect.

225 Students Enrolled in Government Schools During Mega Drive at Narbal

■ HT News Network

Budgam, Nov 24, KNT: Around 225 students were enrolled in government schools during a mega enrolment drive organised by the Zonal Education Office Narbal at Government Middle School (GMS), Kawoosa Khalisa, in Budgam district on Tuesday.

Minister for Education Shameema Firdous and Beerwah MLA Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani attended the programme, organised to encourage parents to enrol their children in government schools for the 2026–27 academic session.

Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani, Chief Education Officer Budgam Bashir Ahmad and Zonal Education Officer Narbal were also present, along with education officials, teachers, local representatives and members of the public.

The dignitaries stressed the need to strengthen government educational institutions, improve public confidence in the government school system and ensure access to quality education for every child. They also called for greater parental awareness and community participation to improve enrolment.

The campaign highlighted the academic opportunities and facilities available in government schools, urging parents to actively participate in efforts to strengthen the public education system. The dignitaries stressed the need to strengthen government educational institutions, improve public confidence in the government school system and ensure access to quality education for every child. They also called for greater parental awareness and community participation to improve enrolment.

The campaign highlighted the academic opportunities and facilities available in government schools, urging parents to actively participate in efforts to strengthen the public education system.

DC Anantnag visits historic Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara at Mattan

Takes Stock of Arrangements, Greets Sikh Community on Gurpurab

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today visited the historic Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara at Mattan to extend warm greetings to the Sikh community on the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab, commemorating the birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Addressing on the occasion, the DC said that the teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, based on the principles of equality, compassion, selfless service and brotherhood, continue to inspire generations and provide a strong foundation for a peaceful and harmonious society.

He also took stock of arrangements made for smooth celebrations of the Guru Purab.

During the visit, members



of the Sikh community apprised the Deputy Commissioner of various community-related demands and sought his intervention for their early redressal.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful celebration of Gurpurab at the Gurdwara.

He directed the concerned officers to remain available at the venue throughout the celebrations and ensure that all necessary arrangements are maintained for the convenience of devotees and participants.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Tehsildar Mattan, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Mattan and other concerned officers.

SSP Anantnag reviews crime, security situation; directs speedy investigations

Stresses action against drug networks, strengthening of preventive policing

■ HT News Network



Anantnag, Nov 24 (KNS): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag Amod Ashok Nagpure on Tuesday chaired a crime and security review meeting, directing officers to expedite pending investigations, strengthen preventive policing and improve conviction rates across the district. The meeting was attended by SP North camp Aishmuqam, CPO DPO Anantnag, SDPOs, DySPs, SHOs and other officers of the district police. During the meeting, a detailed review of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, besides cases of murder, crimes against women, theft, burglary and other offences, was undertaken. The SSP directed officers to ensure timely completion of investigations, adopt scientific methods of evidence collection and address shortcomings affecting prosecution and conviction rates through close supervision. He also called for intensified action against drug trafficking networks, identification of their financial linkages and attachment of properties acquired through proceeds of crime in accordance with the law. Reviewing the security situation, Nagpure directed officers to strengthen area domination, intensify day and night patrolling, conduct surprise naka checking and maintain heightened vigil in vulnerable and sensitive areas.

He stressed coordinated action against anti-national elements and overground worker (OGW) networks, besides maintaining close coordination with other security agencies. The SSP further directed officers to strengthen preventive policing, ensure effective implementation of the new criminal laws, monitor the redressal of public grievances and maintain close supervision of police station functioning. (KNS)

JKSA Protests Over Alleged FAA Exam Malpractice, Demands CBI Probe and Postponement of Upcoming Recruitment Exams

■ HT News Network

Srinagar:_ The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Tuesday staged a protest at the District Headquarters in Ramban under the leadership of its National Joint Secretary, Adv. Mubashir Ahmed, demanding an independent CBI investigation into the alleged Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination cheating racket and recurring irregularities in JKSSB recruitment processes.

The protesters urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to personally intervene and ensure a fair, impartial and time-bound investigation to identify the masterminds, expose the alleged network and fix accountability for institutional lapses. The Association also demanded an immediate postponement of the upcoming JKPSI and Police Constable examinations until the alleged malpractice is thoroughly investigated and the concerns of aspirants are adequately addressed.

Addressing the protest, Adv. Mubashir said repeated examination scams, paper-leak allegations and recruitment controversies have severely eroded public confidence in the selection process. He maintained that merely announcing



inquiries or constituting investigative teams would not suffice unless those responsible are brought to justice and systemic loopholes are effectively addressed.

The Association stressed that thousands of young aspirants, particularly those from economically weaker families and remote areas, invest years of hard work, substantial financial resources and personal sacrifices in preparing for government examinations. Their careers and future cannot be jeopardised by organised malpractice, corruption or institutional failures.

Warning of the wider social consequences, Adv. Mubashir said the continued inability to ensure fair and credible examinations could deepen frustration, anxiety, depression and alienation among the younger generation, particularly those who have spent years preparing for government jobs amid limited employment opportunities. He cautioned that repeated uncertainty and perceived injustice risk eroding young people's faith in public institutions and the promise of merit-based opportunities.

The Association urged the government to treat the allegations with utmost seriousness rather than allow uncertainty and apprehension to persist among job aspirants. It called for the immediate preservation of CCTV footage, examination records, recovered electronic devices, call detail records and other digital evidence to ensure that no crucial material is tampered with or destroyed.

JKSA reiterated that recruitment examinations must be conducted in a transparent, credible and merit-based manner, backed by stringent safeguards against impersonation, electronic cheating and paper leaks. It called upon the government to move beyond assurances, ensure accountability at every level, undertake meaningful institutional reforms and restore the confidence of Jammu and Kashmir's youth in the public recruitment system.

The Association maintained that the aspirations and future of an entire generation cannot be sacrificed to recurring recruitment controversies and that every deserving candidate must be guaranteed a fair and equal opportunity.

Tourism Department Makes Registration Mandatory for All Tourism Operators in Restricted Areas of North Kashmir

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 24, KNT: The Tourism Department has directed all tourism service providers, tour operators and other stakeholders operating in restricted areas of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts to obtain valid registration under the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Trade Act, 1978, before undertaking any tourism-related activity.

In a circular, the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, acting as the prescribed authority, made registration with the Tourism Department and requisite permission from the competent authority mandatory wherever applicable.

The directive covers tourism-related services and business operations, including activities undertaken by individuals and other stakeholders within the restricted areas of the three districts.

The circular warns that anyone found conducting tourism-related activities without valid registration or in violation of the Tourist Trade Act and applicable regulations will face strict legal action under the relevant provisions of the law. All concerned stakeholders have been directed to ensure compliance with the instructions in letter and spirit before commencing or continuing their operations.

The department said the measure was aimed at regulating tourism activities, ensuring public safety and accountability, and bringing orderly management to tourism operations in the three districts. The department said the measure was aimed at regulating tourism activities, ensuring public safety and accountability, and bringing orderly management to tourism operations in the three districts. [KNT]

Police-Public Relations Get Major Boost as SSP Handwara Chairs Public Darbar at Yansoo

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



Handwara, Nov 24: In a major public outreach initiative aimed at strengthening police-public relations, SSP Handwara, Sajad Khaliq Bhat-JKPS, today chaired a massive Public Darbar at Yansoo area of Handwara, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from Hundreds of people representing different sections of society. The programme was attended by representatives of civil society groups, traders, transporters, senior citizens and other prominent citizens, who raised various public issues and grievances before the police administration.During the interaction, SSP Handwara gave a patient hearing to the participants and assured them that their genuine grievances would be addressed on priority. Emphasising accountability in police services, he reiterated that police verification should ordinarily be completed within the stipulated 15-day period.He urged people to approach his office directly if their police verification remained pending beyond 15 days, even by a single day, assuring strict action against any official found deliberately delaying the process or showing negligence.Addressing concerns regarding checking and frisking at various police naka points, the SSP said that harassment of ordinary citizens during security-related checking would not be tolerated. He stressed that police personnel must maintain a professional and public-friendly approach while performing their duties."Police and the public are one. We are always standing shoulder to shoulder with the people and remain committed to their welfare and safety," he assured the gathering.The SSP also expressed gratitude to the people of Yansoo for their warm welcome and hospitality, particularly those who had been waiting since morning to participate in the programme.The gathering accorded him a warm reception, presenting bouquets and floral garlands as a gesture of appreciation and goodwill.Speaking on the occasion, several local residents and senior citizens appreciated the role of Handwara Police in extending assistance to people during emergencies, including natural disasters, fire incidents and other difficult situations. They said that police personnel have repeatedly stood alongside local communities whenever their assistance was needed.Among the prominent participants was former BDC Chairman Langate, Showkat Hussain Pandit, along with other senior citizens and representatives of different sections of society, whose participation contributed to making the programme meaningful. ASP Handwara, SHO Handwara, DO Chogal and DO Langate were also present during the Public Darbar.The programme provided an important platform for direct interaction between the police administration and the public, with senior citizens and community representatives playing an active role in strengthening mutual trust and cooperation. The SSP further assured the participants that issues relating to basic civic amenities and other essential public services would be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara for appropriate intervention and early resolution.He added that matters falling within the jurisdiction of the police department would be addressed through direct public interaction and coordinated efforts, encouraging people to approach police offices without hesitation.The Public Darbar concluded with a renewed commitment from both the police and the public to strengthen cooperation, maintain mutual trust and work collectively for peace, security and public welfare in the Handwara area.

BJP OBC Morcha Holds Review Meeting at Jammu Headquarters Ahead of November 28 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' Yatra.

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 24/11/26: Ahead of the November 28 programme "Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao", BJP OBC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir-UT organised review meeting with its State office bearers and District Presidents at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to chalk out an effective strategy for the successful conduct of the programme.

The meeting was chaired by Sanjeeta Dogra, BJP State General Secretary and organised under the leadership of Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir-UT, and . Both leaders were prominently present during the deliberations.

Prominent among those present were Suresh Salgotra, State Vice President, OBC Morcha; Sham Mehra, State General Secretary; Manohar Babbar, State Executive Member; Ashok Salgotra, State Secretary; Shamsher Prajapati and Ashok Verma, District Presidents; Ashok Kumar and Rakesh Thakur, District Vice Presidents; Anil Salgotra, District General Secretary; and Jyoti Verma, State Media In-charge, OBC Morcha, besides other office bearers .

The meeting focused on reviewing the organisational preparations, assessing the responsibilities assigned to different office bearers and District Presidents, and discussing the necessary arrangements to ensure the programme's effective and successful execution across the region. The participants also discussed strategies to strengthen coordination at the district and organisational levels and ensure the active involvement of party workers.

Addressing the meeting, Sanjeeta Dogra, BJP State General Secretary, emphasised the importance of collective efforts, organisational discipline and grassroots participation in making the November 28 programme a success. She called upon all office bearers and District Presidents to work with dedication, maintain close coordination and ensure maximum participation. She said that protecting democratic institutions, upholding constitutional values and strengthening the rule of law are collective responsibilities, and every party worker must contribute actively towards these objectives.

Braham Jyot Satti said that the November 28 programme carries an important message of safeguarding democratic principles, constitutional institutions and the rule of law. He appealed to all Morcha office bearers, District Presidents and dedicated party workers to work with full commitment and ensure the programme's success.Taking a strong dig at the Congress party, He said that Congress has repeatedly opposed initiatives undertaken in the larger interest of the nation, instead of extending constructive support to measures aimed at national development and public welfare. He said that the people of the country understand the difference between politics driven by national interest and politics based on opposition for the sake of opposition. He added that BJP OBC Morcha remains committed to strengthening democratic values, maintaining constitutional order and raising awareness against disorder and activities that undermine the democratic system.

The leaders stressed that the message of "Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy" is aimed at protecting the constitutional framework, ensuring the supremacy of law, preserving democratic values and standing firmly against disorder, unrest and activities that go against established rules and constitutional principles.The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to work in close coordination, strengthen obc organisations preparedness and ensure the successful conduct of the November 28 programme.

JKSSB rules out FAA paper leak, says PSI exam to be held as scheduled

■ HT News Network



Jammu, Nov 24 (KNS) The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has ruled out a question paper leak in the Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination, saying police foiled a high-tech cheating attempt and no evidence of mass malpractice has emerged so far.

Around 1.62 lakh candidates appeared for the November 15 examination for nearly 600 posts at 493 centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service, (KNS) JKSSB Chairman Shrikant Balasaheb Suse (IAS) said the alleged cheating attempt involved modified wireless devices and miniature magnetic earpieces, adding that the incident is being examined and examination security protocols are being reviewed.

He said a re-examination could be considered in cases of mass malpractice, but no such evidence had emerged so far. Any decision on cancellation would depend on the findings of the investigation and applicable legal principles, he added.

The chairman said the Board has initiated a review of examination standard operating procedures (SOPs), while candidates found guilty of malpractice could face cancellation of candidature and debarment.

Dismissing rumours of postponement, Suse said the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) examination would be held as scheduled, with additional security coordination planned with police and district administrations. (KNS)

Successful women entrepreneurs must become torch bearers of self-reliance: Sanjita Dogra

■ HT News Network



Jammu:-BJP State General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge Sanjita Dogra said that successful women entrepreneurs must become torch bearers of self-reliance by inspiring, guiding and encouraging other women to start their own small business ventures and achieve financial independence.Sanjita Dogra expressd these views while interacting with women entrepreneurs and representatives of various societies during her weekly Tuesday sitting at Pt. Premnath Dogra Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu. DDC Ramban Renuka Katoch and Jyoti Bhat were also present with her on the occasion.The entrepreneurs Rajni associated with Kanishka Paintings and Soft Toys, Neelofar Creation Society associated with Kashmiri Embroidery and Shawls, Society for Basket, coats, Deepak Sharma of Pashmina and Wool Weavers Cooperative Society, Manisha Gupta of Knitting craft, Anu Sony of AA Multicraft, Suman of Weaker Section Socity embroidery for Ari Work, Chain Stich and individual business units holders shared their experiences and discussed their business activities with Sanjita Dogra.These entrepreneurs are engaged in painting, soft toy making, crochet, Kashmiri embroidery, shawl making, pillow covers, chain stitching, Aari work, handloom products, metal embossed wall hangings, knitting and other traditional trades.The women entrepreneurs appreciated the efforts of Sanjita Dogra to encourage women to become self-reliant. Describing her initiative as a noble cause, they extended their wholehearted support and assured that they would visit different areas whenever required to guide, motivate and share their practical experiences with other women.Sanjita Dogra said that her objective is to reach out to as many women as possible, particularly housewives and those belonging to economically weaker sections, and encourage them to earn their livelihood through small.

J&K Govt approves transfer of 32 kanals of land for grid station at Hajin, Bandipora

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the transfer of 32 kanals and 05 marlas of land in Naidkhai and Poshwari villages of Tehsil Hajin, Bandipora district, to the Power Development Department for construction of a grid station at Hajin.

The land, comprising 10 kanals and 05 marlas in Naidkhai and 22 kanals in Poshwari, will be transferred free of cost on account of the public purpose involved.

The proposed grid station is expected to significantly strengthen the power transmission and distribution network in Hajin and adjoining areas, improve voltage stability, reduce power outages and fluctuations, and enhance the reliability and quality of electricity supply.

The project will also help meet the growing electricity demand in the area and improve the overall power infrastructure, benefiting local residents.

BJP Condemns Attempts to Communalise Amarnath Yatra Track Widening; Exposes Selective Environmental Activism and Political Double Standards

■ HT News Network

The Bharatiya Janata Party strongly condemns the latest mischievous attempt by discredited political parties and opportunistic politicians to revive the Amarnath land controversy and whip up communal passions in Kashmir. What is being projected as an environmental issue increasingly appears to be an attempt to manufacture controversy, disturb the peaceful atmosphere and exploit religious sentiments for narrow political gains.In a strongly worded statement Girdhari Lal Raina former MLC and spokesperson of the party pointed out that the timing of this controversy is particularly revealing. Following the elimination of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Lateef Bhat in Kulgam on November 18, 2026, and the Home Minister's declaration regarding the elimination of the last known Kashmiri terrorist commander, certain political elements lost no time in attempting to mobilise public sentiment against security operations. Their allegations centred on frisking, restrictions and inconvenience to civilians during the eight-day Cordon and Search Operation, he recounted. Having failed to generate the street mobilisation they apparently hoped for, these elements seem to have found a new pretext in the Amarnath Yatra track-widening issue, added Raina.Recalling that an undated video showing excavation along the shoreline of Sheshnag Lake, which went viral on November 23, has been seized upon to manufacture another Amarnath controversy. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has clarified that the work concerns widening and stabilisation of vulnerable stretches of the existing Chandanwari–Amarnath track to ease congestion and improve pilgrim safety, while maintaining that environmental safeguards are being followed.

GL Raina further added that every project needs an approval & strict watch of NGT (National Green Tribunal). Projects , as has been clarified by the BRO , unlike in under previous regimes, have been undertaken in accordance with prescribed safety norms and environmental safeguards.Ecological concerns cannot become an excuse for communal mobilisation or political intimidation.The BJP, he emphasized, wants to ask these self-appointed guardians of Kashmir's environment one simple question: Where does their environmental conscience disappear when other major infrastructure projects are undertaken in the region?

GL Raina questioned Why is/was there no comparable outrage over the environmental consequences associated with the Mughal Road? Its construction has fragmented important wildlife habitats in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the endangered markhor (Capra falconeri). Published reports .

Since Budgam Railway Station Meat Seizure, FDA Conducts 364 Inspections; Questions Mount Over Enforcement Before Public Outcry

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 24, KNT: Since the seizure of 1,600 kilograms of frozen buffalo meat at Budgam Railway Station, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has conducted 364 inspections across the Union Territory, suspended nine food business licences or registrations, issued 21 improvement notices and recommended 31 cases for adjudication. The sudden intensification of enforcement has once again raised questions about the department's monitoring before major food-safety violations come to light and trigger public outrage.

The Budgam seizure on November 14 exposed serious lapses in the transportation of perishable food products. The consignment, originating from Delhi and intended for delivery in Srinagar, had allegedly been booked through railway parcel services as general goods, without adequate temperature-control arrangements, proper disclosure or mandatory labelling. The FDA subsequently confirmed that the entire 1,600-kg consignment had been destroyed and legal proceedings initiated against the concerned persons and entities.

The department's response gathered pace after the incident. On November 15, it conducted 85 inspections of meat storage and processing units, issued 16 improvement notices, recommended 11 cases for proceedings under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act and compounded four cases with a total fine of Rs 4,000. A subsequent enforcement drive covered 108 establishments, during which three FSSAI licences were suspended, five samples were lifted, five cases were recommended under Section 56 and one case was initiated under Section 58 over expired food articles. Expired products worth approximately Rs 77,500 were also destroyed.

The FDA later disclosed the cumulative post-Budgam figures of 364 inspections, nine licence



or registration suspensions, 21 improvement notices, 31 recommendations for adjudication and more than 19 cases compounded under Section 69. These figures indicate a wider enforcement response, although the department has not provided a consolidated quantity of additional rotten meat or adulterated food seized during these inspections.

The pattern is not new. In August 2025, Kashmir witnessed widespread public outrage after authorities uncovered large quantities of rotten, decomposed and unlabelled meat. More than 12,000 kilograms of such meat was reported seized during raids across the Valley, while the FDA separately disclosed that over 3,500 kilograms had been seized and destroyed during an intensified enforcement operation in the initial days of the controversy.

One of the major recoveries was made on July 31, 2025, when 1,200 kilograms of foul-smelling meat were seized and destroyed at a facility in Zakura. Police registered FIR No. 48/2025 at Police Station Zakoora, while subsequent raids and investigations brought several meat storage and supply points under scrutiny. The controversy also severely affected the restaurant and hospitality sector, with businesses reporting a sharp decline in customer confidence.

The FDA subsequently disclosed that during 2025 it had seized another 4,040 kilograms of frozen meat and meat products from five establishments in Srinagar for violations of prescribed requirements. These included 1,200 kilograms from Sunshine Industries, Zakura; 500 kilograms from Al-Taqwa, Lasjan; 1,400 kilograms from M.M. Foods, HMT; 420 kilograms from Niyaz Ahmad Kawa, Aali Kadal; and 520 kilograms from Al-Azeem Enterprises, Manderbagh. Following adjudication, penalties ranging from Rs 17,500 to Rs 5 lakh were imposed on the respective operators. The department also said two samples were examined by the ICAR-National Meat Research Institute, Hyderabad, and identified as buffalo meat.

Despite the 2025 controversy, the Budgam incident has again exposed vulnerabilities in the supply and transportation chain. The FDA has pointed to an October 2025 prohibitory order restricting the transportation, storage and sale of frozen food products without prescribed temperature-control arrangements and mandatory labelling.

History Created with Raga Darbari on Santoor by Pt. Abhay Sopori

A landmark musical innovation at the 22nd SaMaPa Sangeet Sammelan

■ HT News Network

Srinagar:-In a landmark development in the history of Indian classical music, internationally acclaimed young legend of music, Santoor maestro and composer Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori has opened a new chapter in the evolution of the Santoor with his remarkable innovations enabling the rendition of one of the most formidable ragas of Indian classical music, the Raga Darbari Kanada, popularly regarded as the 'King of Ragas'.His historic recital at the 22nd edition of SaMaPa Sangeet Sammelan, Delhi's premier classical music festival, held at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, marked a significant milestone in the technical and expressive evolution of the Santoor, further expanding its musical possibilities and overcoming what was traditionally considered one of the limitations of the instrument.Raga Darbari



Kanada occupies a position of immense prestige in the repertoire of Hindustani classical music. With its roots in the ancient Kanada tradition, the raga is traditionally associated with the legendary musician Miyan Tansen in the royal court of Emperor Akbar in the 16th century. A profound late-night raga, Darbari is celebrated for its regal character, majestic temperament, depth, grandeur and immense emotional and meditative appeal. Considered one of the most challenging ragas to render, it demands extraordinary command over the notes, their microtonal subtleties and characteristic melodic movements. The very essence of Raga Darbari lies in the deep, slow and controlled oscillations (Andolan) of Komal Gandhar (Ga) and Komal Dhaivat (Dha). Achieving these intricate oscillations on the Santoor had been considered almost impossible. But through his research, experimentation and technical innovations, Pt. Abhay Sopori has further evolved the distinctive 'Sopori Baaj' of Santoor, developing the technique of executing intricate oscillations across all octaves, thereby enabling the rendition of Raga Darbari while retaining its essential classical character, depth and grandeur.Pt. Abhay Sopori expressed his deep gratitude to his father and Guru, the Great Sanit Music Legend, Pandit Bhajan Sopori ji, revered as the 'Saint of Santoor' and the 'King of Strings', for elevating the instrument to a level where such musical explorations and innovations became possible. The creation of the revolutionary Sopori Baaj by Pt. Bhajan Sopori ji, incorporating the intricate stylistic nuances of both Gayaki Ang (vocal style) and Tantrakari Ang like Chhandkari, Layakari, Dhrupad and Khayal Gayaki and Tantrakari Angs such as 'Meend', 'Gamak', 'Glides', 'Taan', 'Bol', Krintan, Zamzama, Gaseet, etc. which are absolutely essential for the correct rendering of Raga-Sangeet in the true Indian Classical tradition, laid the foundation for these further advancements.

BJP Leaders Highlight Constitutional Values and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Legacy Ahead of Samvidhan Gaurav Divas

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 24 November 2026: Advocate Rajesh Kumar Thapa and Advocate Amit Manas briefed the media about the Samvidhan Gaurav Divas programme, which will be held on 26 November at the BJP headquarters, Jammu. They shared the key themes to be discussed at the event.

The leaders said the main focus of the programme will be the Constitution of India and the invaluable contribution (yogdan) of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in shaping it. They said the Constitution is the foundation of the country's democracy, and its ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity should guide every citizen and institution.

They alleged that the Congress followed a double standard towards Babasaheb. They said the party opposed him in the elections and defeated him, and that the Bharat Ratna was conferred on him only in 1990, 34 years after his passing.

They recalled that in 2015 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi decided that 26 November would be observed every year as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas), so that the public, especially the youth, would know the Constitution and the contribution of its makers.

The leaders reaffirmed the commitment of the BJP and Prime Minister Modi to the Constitution. They said that where amendments were needed, the party and its government made them for the welfare of the state and its people.

• Abrogation of Article 370: They said the abrogation of Article 370 benefited the common public of Jammu and Kashmir. Refugees, the Dogra community and the Valmiki community received long-denied rights, and women gained rights they had been denied earlier.

Government Polytechnic College Kulgam organises "Yoga for a Balanced Life" programme under YEP

■ HT News Network



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 24: Government Polytechnic College Kulgam today organised a programme titled "Yoga for a Balanced Life" under the Youth Empowerment and Engagement Programme (YEP), with the objective of promoting physical fitness, mental well-being and a healthy lifestyle among students.

The programme aimed to sensitise students about the importance of yoga in maintaining a balance between physical health, emotional stability and mental peace.

On the occasion, Er. Altaf Gohar, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Kulgam, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of yoga in promoting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. He emphasised that regular yoga practice plays a significant role in improving physical fitness, reducing stress and maintaining mental harmony.

During the programme, students were made aware of the benefits of yoga, meditation and breathing exercises in managing stress, improving concentration and enhancing overall well-being. Various yoga practices and exercises were also demonstrated to encourage students to incorporate yoga into their daily routines.

The programme highlighted that yoga is not merely a physical exercise but a holistic approach towards achieving a disciplined,

Child Protection Services Bandipora conducts Awareness programmes at various areas

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 24: Continuing its efforts to reach every corner of the community, Mission Vatsalya organised awareness programmes at Sumlar, Cuntimulla and Kaloosa in District Bandipora to sensitise the public about various child protection laws, legal safeguards and welfare schemes.

The programme aimed to create awareness among community members about the provisions of the POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Adoption Regulations, Child Marriage Prohibition Act and COTPA, along with various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission Vatsalya.During the programme, speakers highlighted the importance of protecting children from abuse, exploitation, neglect and child marriage. They elaborated on the legal provisions and mechanisms available for safeguarding children's rights and ensuring their safety, care and rehabilitation.Special emphasis was laid on the Child Helpline 1098, with participants being informed about its role as an important support mechanism for children in distress and those in need of care and protection. The importance of timely reporting of child abuse, exploitation and other forms of violations was also stressed.To further strengthen community awareness, posters highlighting Child Helpline 1098.

Speaker extends Gurpurab greetings; lauds Guru Nanak's message of selfless service

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab (Guru Nanak Jayanti), which celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism.In his felicitation message, Rather highlighted the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, particularly his message of peace, brotherhood, equality, compassion and selfless service to humanity. He said that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji hold universal relevance and inspire people to promote communal harmony, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. His teachings inspire us to Choose humility over pride and service over self, he asserted.The Speaker wished the people happiness, prosperity and well-being, expressing hope that the sacred occasion would further strengthen the bonds of unity and brotherhood and would prove harbinger of peace and prosperity

NIT Srinagar to compile alumni directory covering batches up to 2026

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 24: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has initiated the process of compiling a comprehensive alumni directory covering graduates up to the 2026 batch, with an aim to strengthen its engagement with former students across the country and abroad.

The initiative, being undertaken by the Office of the Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, is aimed at creating an updated database of alumni and providing a platform for sustained interaction between the institute and its former students.

Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, said the initiative would help strengthen the relationship between the institute and its alumni and create new avenues for collaboration.

"An updated and comprehensive alumni directory is an important step towards keeping our alumni connected with their alma mater. Their experience, expertise and suggestions can play a valuable role in strengthening the institute, mentoring students and creating opportunities for academic, research and professional collaboration," Prof. Shah said.

According to the institute, the directory will facilitate professional networking, mentorship, academic and research collaborations, career support and greater alumni participation in institutional development.

The Institute has urged all alumni of NIT Srinagar and erstwhile Regional Engineering College (REC) Srinagar to submit their details through a Google Form being facilitated by the concerned office.It has also invited suggestions, feedback and ideas from alumni to strengthen engagement activities and develop initiatives benefiting students, the institute and the wider alumni community.

Alumni can update their details through the online form: https://forms.gle/DXjct4dikH41GMBM7

IIM Jammu Expands Its Global Academic Footprint through Strategic Partnership with South Asian University

■ HT News Network



Jammu, Nov 24: In a significant step towards expanding its international academic footprint, the Indian Institute of Management Jammu has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi. The MoU was signed by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President, South Asian University, in New Delhi.The partnership marks an important milestone in IIM Jammu's journey towards the internationalization of management education. Bringing together the complementary academic and research strengths of the two institutions, the collaboration seeks to create a dynamic ecosystem of learning, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership development across South Asia.One of the most distinctive features of the MoU is the provision for developing jointly conferred degree programmes, subject to institutional and regulatory approvals. It also envisages student mobility, academic credit transfer, joint doctoral supervision, faculty exchange and multidisciplinary learning, in consonance with the aspirations of the National Education Policy 2020.A significant dimension of the partnership is the expansion of executive education beyond national boundaries. The two institutions will collaborate in designing and delivering Management Development Programmes, Faculty Development Programmes, capacity-building initiatives and student immersion programmes, with the possibility of serving as joint delivery centres within and outside India.

The MoU also opens new avenues for interdisciplinary research, international research funding, collaborative publications and the establishment of joint research chairs and centres in areas of strategic relevance. Equally significant is its emphasis on nurturing entrepreneurship through a coordinated incubation framework, shared expertise, mentoring and institutional resources. For IIM Jammu, the collaboration represents much more than an expansion of its institutional network. It reflects the Institute's growing international aspirations and its commitment to creating an academic environment where knowledge transcends geographical boundaries, disciplines converge, and innovation responds to the emerging challenges of society. Under the leadership of Prof. B. S. Sahay, IIM Jammu has consistently pursued academic excellence, meaningful institutional partnerships and greater international engagement. This collaboration adds yet another promising chapter to the Institute's remarkable journey, reinforcing its commitment to nurturing globally oriented leaders and making higher education a catalyst for regional cooperation and socio-economic transformation.

United Union to Organise National-Level Boxing Championship; Entry Free, Prize Money for Winners

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, November 24 (KNB): United Union will organise a national-level boxing championship aimed at providing young boxers from across the country an opportunity to compete and showcase their talent, with a particular focus on encouraging participation from Jammu and Kashmir.

The championship will feature Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories, besides an open-weight category. It is expected to bring together aspiring boxers from different parts of the country.

Participation in the championship will be free, allowing youngsters to compete without having to worry about entry fees. Winners will also receive prize money, the organisers said. Baba, Kashmir Convenor of RSS (Muslim Wing), said the initiative was aimed at encouraging young people to take up sports and providing them with opportunities to develop their abilities. "Our youth have talent and energy, but they need proper guidance and opportunities. Sports can play an important role in keeping youngsters engaged in positive activities, building discipline and giving them a sense of direction. Such initiatives should reach young people across the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir," Baba said. He said greater opportunities in sports could help young people build confidence, develop their skills and compete at higher levels. Parvinder Singh, Director of United Union, said the championship would provide a platform for emerging boxers to compete at the national level and gain exposure. "We are organising a national-level boxing championship which will benefit youth across



the country, particularly Jammu and Kashmir. Our objective is to give talented youngsters an opportunity to showcase their abilities, compete at the national level and gain valuable exposure," Singh said.The organisers said the inclusion of junior categories would encourage younger participants to take up boxing, while the seniors and open-weight category would provide an additional opportunity for boxers to compete beyond the regular junior divisions, subject to the competition's eligibility guidelines.

Keeping participation free, they said, was intended to ensure that financial constraints did not prevent talented youngsters from taking part.The venue for the championship is yet to be finalised and will be announced by the organisers, Singh said. Details regarding the dates, registration process, eligibility criteria and other arrangements will be shared ahead of the event.

The organisers said the initiative was part of their efforts to promote boxing at the grassroots level and encourage sportsmanship and discipline among young people. (KNB)

HT EDITORIAL

Food Safety Cannot Be Left to Chance : Authorities and Business Houses Must Be Held Accountable

The repeated suspension of licences of food establishments across Jammu and Kashmir, coupled with seizures of unsafe meat, frozen chicken and expired food products, raises serious questions about the state of food safety in the Union Territory. From the shocking rotten-meat scandal of 2025 to the latest enforcement drives in November 2026, the recurrence of violations suggests that occasional raids and suspension orders have failed to address a deeper problem. Food safety is not merely a regulatory issue; it is a matter of public health and collective responsibility.

The figures emerging from the enforcement actions are alarming. During the 2025 crackdown, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) reported seizures of over 12,000 kilograms of meat, 2,100 kilograms of synthetic cheese and approximately 44,000 kilograms of expired rasgulla. Several establishments faced licence suspensions, while separate proceedings resulted in the seizure of 4,040 kilograms of frozen meat and meat products from five Srinagar operators. Now, another round of inspections in November 2026 has exposed hygiene, sanitation, storage and temperature-control violations across several districts. The seizure of around 1,600 kilograms of frozen buffalo meat at Budgam Railway Station has further highlighted weaknesses in the food supply chain.

The obvious question is: what happened to the lessons of 2025? If such large-scale violations were detected then, why are similar deficiencies continuing to surface? The FDA deserves credit for taking action, but enforcement cannot be reduced to a cycle of inspections, seizures and press statements. Its primary responsibility is to prevent unsafe food from reaching consumers, not merely to act after violations have occurred.

Regular and surprise inspections, laboratory testing, monitoring of cold-storage facilities and strict checks on transportation and distribution must become routine. Equally, the department must examine the effectiveness of its own surveillance mechanism. If establishments repeatedly fail basic hygiene standards, it is legitimate to ask whether inspections were inadequate, irregular or ineffective. Accountability must not stop at the business counter; it must also extend to officials wherever negligence is established.

However, the authorities are not the only ones who need to introspect. Business establishments dealing in food have an even more direct moral responsibility towards their customers. Some self-interested operators appear more concerned about commercial returns than the safety of the products they sell. There is little justification for businesses spending generously on branding, attractive interiors and publicity while compromising on basic hygiene, refrigeration, storage and food-handling standards.

Running a restaurant, bakery, poultry outlet or food-processing unit is not simply a commercial venture. It involves handling products that directly affect human health. Every customer has the right to expect safe food, and no business can claim the privilege of earning profits while disregarding that fundamental obligation. Commercial interests cannot be allowed to take precedence over human lives.

At the same time, the entire food industry should not be viewed through the conduct of a few violators. Responsible establishments that maintain prescribed standards deserve recognition, while offenders must face action based on verified evidence. The distinction between rotten food, improperly stored frozen products and other regulatory violations must also be clearly established. Transparency is essential to ensure that enforcement is fair, credible and effective.

Food safety, nevertheless, is a shared responsibility. The government must regulate and enforce, business operators must maintain standards, suppliers and transporters must ensure proper handling, and consumers must remain vigilant. Public awareness and timely reporting of violations can strengthen the system, but consumer vigilance cannot substitute for the duties of regulatory authorities or excuse commercial negligence.

The FDA must publish establishment-wise details of violations, seizures, laboratory findings, penalties and the status of suspended licences. Consumers also deserve to know whether establishments allowed to resume operations have corrected the deficiencies identified during inspections. Repeat offenders must face stringent action, including cancellation of licences and prosecution wherever warranted.

The rotten-meat scandal of 2025 should have been a wake-up call. The recurrence of violations in 2026 suggests that the required transformation has yet to take place. Raids may generate headlines, but lasting improvement requires sustained vigilance, institutional accountability and a genuine commitment to public health.

Safe food is not a privilege that businesses offer or a favour that authorities extend. It is a basic right of every consumer. Those entrusted with protecting it must discharge their responsibilities, because when food safety is compromised, the price is ultimately paid by ordinary people with their health and lives.

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Kashmir's Traditional Kangri:

A Winter Companion with Benefits and Health Risks

The Kangri may be an age-old symbol of Kashmiri warmth, but protecting health and safety must always remain a priority.





Mr. Showkat Dar

With the arrival of winter in the Kashmir Valley, the traditional Kangri once again finds its place in the daily lives of Kashmiris. As temperatures drop and chilly winds sweep across the region, this centuries-old heating device continues to provide warmth and comfort, particularly during the harsh winter months. However, alongside its cultural significance and practical benefits, prolonged and improper use of the Kangri also raises serious health and safety concerns.

An inseparable part of Kashmiri culture, the Kangri is a portable earthen fire pot enclosed in a beautifully woven wicker basket. Traditionally filled with burning charcoal, it is carried beneath the traditional Kashmiri Pheran to keep the body warm. For generations, it has remained a trusted winter companion, especially in rural areas and among people who prefer traditional heating methods.

Kangri: A Symbol of Kashmiri Heritage and Comfort!The Kangri is not merely a source of warmth but also an important symbol of Kashmir's cultural identity and traditional craftsmanship. Its portability, affordability and independence from electricity make it a convenient heating option, particularly in areas experiencing frequent power interruptions.

Apart from providing immediate warmth, the Kangri supports the livelihoods of local artisans involved in making earthen fire pots and weaving wicker baskets. Thus, its importance extends beyond household use, representing a traditional craft and an enduring connection with Kashmiri heritage.The Hidden Health Risks of Prolonged Kangri Use!Despite its advantages, medical experts caution against the prolonged and excessive use of Kangri, particularly when it is kept in direct contact with the body beneath a Pheran.

One of the most concerning skin conditions associated with repeated exposure to Kangri heat is Erythema Ab Igne, a condition characterised by reddish, brownish or net-like discolouration of the skin. In Kashmir, it is commonly associated with the term Kangri cancer. Although the condition is not cancer itself, long-standing heat-induced skin damage may, in rare cases, lead to skin cancer.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is another significant concern. Burning charcoal releases carbon monoxide, a colourless and odourless gas that can become dangerous when a Kangri is used in poorly ventilated or enclosed spaces. Exposure may cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, weakness and confusion, and severe poisoning can be life-threatening.

Other potential risks include accidental burns, fire incidents and respiratory irritation caused by smoke and combustion-related pollutants.

Balancing Tradition with Health Awareness!

With winter-related health concerns increasing, awareness about the safe use of Kangri has become increasingly important. People should avoid keeping the Kangri in prolonged direct contact with their skin, maintain adequate ventilation and never use burning charcoal devices in enclosed rooms. They should also avoid sleeping with a burning Kangri and ensure that the charcoal is completely extinguished after use.

Persistent skin discolouration, unusual marks or non-healing wounds in areas exposed to repeated heat should not be ignored and must be examined by a qualified dermatologist. Similarly, anyone experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure should immediately move to fresh air and seek emergency medical assistance.

Preserving Tradition Through Responsible Use!

As Kashmir continues to embrace its traditional winter lifestyle, the Kangri remains a cherished symbol of warmth, resilience and cultural heritage. However, preserving this tradition also requires greater awareness of its potential health hazards.

The need of the hour is to encourage responsible usage, promote public awareness and educate people about the risks associated with prolonged heat exposure and charcoal combustion.

Mr. Showkat Dar Journalist, can be reached at Email: showkatedu@gmail.com

Prefer education over wazwan and other Extravagant customs





Sahil Manzoor

What if we become vigilant, alert, smart, literate, responsible, sympathetic and all those things that bring transformation to our society? We know that we are far behind developed countries. We also know that we have opportunities to create our own business units, but we lack exposure to the outside world, and there are not enough private-sector opportunities that can unlock our potential and provide us with employment opportunities in our surroundings.

Today, the whole globe has become a global village. This concept never allows us to complain that we lack awareness or are not familiar with this or that. The concept of a global village truly teaches us while we remain at home, making us vigilant and smart regarding various developmental projects. There are still people who complain that they have great potential to do miracles for the whole world but face hurdles such as financial problems and a lack of basic facilities. For such people, I have a good suggestion: if you are capable of performing miracles, then hurdles are merely imaginary boundaries, not realities. Open your mind, widen your vision and show the world who you are.

What Is Encouragement?

I am a lame person, and I am trying to convey my suggestions through my articles. I am thankful to every newspaper that publishes my ideas and encourages me to write more articles. For me, encouragement is the strongest push that one can receive from any source or person. It helps us recognise our own potential and motivates us to bring developmental transformations to society and humanity as a whole. Encouragement should always be directed towards positive goals. By positive, I mean goals that are accepted by society and contribute to the upliftment of everyone.

Today, there are social media anchors who make decisions at their own level and highlight each and every issue happening in our surroundings. Before highlighting every issue, we must take cognisance of whether it will merely generate views or create a huge negative impact on society. Such issues in our society should be dealt with through stringent actions as per the law. We should highlight only those issues that are beneficial to society and do not encourage crimes, domestic violence, etc.

Literally, what comes to my mind is why I started writing this article. Yes, it is Kashmiri Wazwan that inspired me to write something about Kashmiri weddings, Wazwan and how we, the natives of Kashmir, are still discussing that this is useless, that is extravagant, and that we are merely becoming customers, getting financially ruined and draining our wealth for nothing. Every custom should have a solid foundation and should not become destructive for society. Every activity in our surroundings should be beneficial for one another. No one should be hurt emotionally, and everyone's sentiments should be respected.

For decades, we have indulged in extravagant activities such as Wazwan, where there are no limits. Even poor people are performing such ceremonies as if they were rich in every aspect. After the completion of these ceremonies, most people take years to clear their wedding debts. We also prepare Wazwan for small occasions, such as hosting small parties, where there is no need for such extravagance. This extravagant culture should be approached in a smarter way, and such wealth should be spent on educational purposes for our young people who have potential but cannot achieve their goals because of financial difficulties.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti hails from Raiyar-Ich, Budgam and he can be reached at sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com

The Silent Poison Beneath Our Feet

A Cry to Save Our Soil, Agriculture and Future





Bin Aziz

Yesterday, while working in the fields, I came across heaps of discarded polythene scattered across agricultural land. What should have been a simple farming activity turned into a difficult struggle. Every piece of polythene I encountered reminded me of a much bigger problem that we have been ignoring for years. At that moment, I realised that polythene is not merely waste; it is a silent poison that we are leaving behind for our future generations. It contaminates our soil, threatens agricultural productivity, harms animals, blocks drainage systems and gradually destroys the natural beauty of our surroundings. Our fields are not dumping grounds. They are the source of our food, livelihood and survival. If we continue poisoning our soil with non-biodegradable waste, what kind of land will we leave for our children? I sincerely appeal to the administration, from the local Panchayat and Municipal authorities to the district, UT and Central Governments, to take this issue seriously. We need more than occasional awareness campaigns. We need strict enforcement, effective monitoring, affordable alternatives and, above all, a complete ban on polythene bags and other avoidable single-use plastic products. The responsibility does not rest with the administration alone. Every citizen, shopkeeper, farmer and consumer must recognise their role in protecting the environment. Let us not sacrifice fertile fields for the convenience of a few minutes. Let us not leave a poisonous legacy for generations to come.

A clean environment is not a luxury; it is our responsibility.

Save the Soil. Protect Agriculture. Preserve Nature. Secure the Future.

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From high-altitude frontiers to plains



By M S Nazki

In him Shakespeare reveals, with clarity of nightmare, the unrestrained intellect, instead of being opposite of force, and an antidote for it, as much of the modern world thinks, is force functioning on a nother plane. It is the immoral equivalent of war, and as certain to clead to it in due seasons as Iago's machinations were to lead to death. "All other knowledge is hurtful," says Montaigne, "to him who has not the science of honesty and goodness."!

-The Prussian monarchy is not a country which has an army, but an army which has a country in which – as it were – it is just stationed."

-The delibarate placing of the highest intellectual gifs and achievement at the service of the lowest human instincts is a phenomenon with which the twentieth century is acquainted on a scale never previously attained. And whether the instinct be fear (the main defensive one) or revenge possessed (the main offensive ones) makes little difference in the end, so readily do they pass into one another.

-It is no recent discovery that brain as well as brawn is esential to the efficient figher. The Trojan Horse is the perennial symbol of that truth, and it is appropriate that Shakespeare put on the lips of Ulysses an encomium on the "still and mental parts" of war. But it remained for war in our time to effect the total mobilization of those still and mental parts. The ideological warfare that precedes and precipitates the physical conflict (cold war as it has significantly come to be called); the propaganda that prepares and unifies public opinion; the conscription, in a dozen spheres, of the nation's brains; the organization of what is revealingly known as the intelligence service; but most of all the practical absorption of science into the military effort; these things, apart from the knowledge and skill required for actual fighting, permit us to define modern war, once it is begun, as an unreserved dedication of the human intellect to death and destruction."

-The story which we got to write this story with something like this:

-Combat preparedness driven by VIFAY General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, visited forward areas of Trishaki Corps and reviewed operational preparedness and capability enhancement initiatives of the formation. During the visit, the COAS was briefed on all aspects being undertaken by the formation to enhance operational effectiveness and combat capabilities focussing on innovation and technology absorption aligning with the vision of JAIse VIJAY. Commending all ranks for their professionalism and unwavering commitment, the COAS exhorted them to remain vigilant, agile, mission-focused and continue striving for excellence while maintaining the highest standards of operational preparedness.

-The "VIJAY" Code in India's Defence Context

In India's current defence discourse, "VIJAY" refers to the Chief of the Army Staff's five-pillar roadmap for transforming the Indian Army into a technology-driven, multi-domain, and self-reliant force!

-Unveiled on 2 July 2026 by General Dhiraj Seth, the VIJAY vision is the Indian Army's strategic and operational doctrine for modernisation, aligned with the Defence Ministry's Decade of Transformation (2023–2032)!

. The acronym stands for:

V – Vigilance and Readiness: Continuous border surveillance, high operational preparedness, and rapid response using advanced sensors and night-vision systems

I – Innovation and Transformation: Integrating drones, satellites, AI-enabled systems, and doctrinal reforms to adapt to



evolving battlefields!

J – Jointness and Integration: Seamless coordination among Army, Navy, Air Force, and civilian agencies through integrated theatre commands

A– Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance): Prioritising indigenous defence technology and procurement to reduce foreign dependence!

Y – Yodha First (Soldier First): Enhancing training, welfare, healthcare, career growth, and veteran support

The roadmap shifts the Army from legacy, single-domain warfare to a digitised, combined-arms, multi-domain combat framework capable of operating in conventional, hybrid, space, cyber, and electronic environments

-The Trishakti Corps (officially the XXXIII Corps of the Indian Army) is a mountain holding corps headquartered at Sukna, near Siliguri in West Bengal.

-Key Details

•Role & Area of Responsibility: It operates under the Eastern Command and is tasked with guarding the Sikkim border and the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck).

•History: Originally raised in 1942 during World War II as part of the British Indian Army, it was re-raised in 1960 at Shillong and later moved to its current location in Sukna.

• Strength & Structure: It commands roughly 45,000 to 60,000 troops, led by a General Officer Commanding (GOC) holding the rank of Lieutenant General (Three-Star General).

• Operations & Exercises: The corps regularly conducts high-altitude exercises and regional drills—such as Exercise Teesta Prahar and Exercise Devil Strike—to maintain combat readiness in the rugged Himalayan terrain of Sikkim.

Would you like to know more about:

•The history and origins of the Trishakti Corps?

•Recent operational exercises or modern technology integrations in the Eastern Command?

-The Trishakti Corps (formally the XXXIII Corps) of the Indian Army is a frontline mountain holding corps headquartered in Sukna, West Bengal, operating under the Eastern Command.

-History & Raising

-Origins: The corps traces its lineage partly to the British Indian XXXIII Corps (formed in 1942 and disbanded in 1945). It was re-raised in the Indian Army on May 10, 1960, at Shillong under Lieutenant General Umrao Singh, and later relocated to Sukna in June 1966.

-Motto: "Aadi Anant Ajeya" (Beginning, Endless, Unconquerable).

-1961: Participated in the liberation of Goa.

-1967: Fought and won critical engagements during the Nathu La and Cho La skirmishes against Chinese forces.

-1971: Played a vital role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

-1975: Contributed to the peaceful political merger of Sikkim with the Union of India.

Area of Responsibility & Subordinate Units

-Sector: Defends the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim, the strategic "Chicken's Neck" (Siliguri Corridor) in north Bengal, and the western half of Bhutan.

-Divisions: Includes major formations such as the Gangtok-headquartered 17th Mountain Division, the Kalimpong-headquartered 27th Infantry Division, and the Binnaguri-headquartered 20th Mountain Division.

-The XXXIII Corps, or the Trishakti Corps, is a corps of the Indian Army. It draws some of its heritage from the British Indian XXXIII Corps, which was formed in 1942 but disbanded in 1945. It was re-raised in 1960 at Shillong.

-The corps is headquartered in Sukna in Siliguri, North Bengal and is commanded by a Three Star officer of the rank of Lieutenant General titled General Officer Commanding (GOC). His chief of staff is a Two Star officer of the rank of Major General. The total troop strength of the XXXIII corps is estimated to be between 45,000 and 60,000 soldiers.

History

The XXXIII Corps Operating Signal Regiment was a part of XIV Army during World War II. The regiment moved to its present location along with the Corps HQ in 1962. It participated in the Indo-China war of 1962 and captured some Chinese communication equipment. This equipment is kept in the Corps of Signals Museum at Jabalpur to enable future generations of soldiers to know about the bravery and dedication shown by their predecessors.

-Re-Raising

The corps was re-raised by Lieutenant General Umrao Singh on 1 November 1960, to reduce IV Corps' area of responsibility. The Corps is headquartered in Sukna in North Bengal, near the city of Siliguri. Its area of responsibility includes North Bengal, Sikkim, and if needed, Bhutan. It comprises three mountain divisions, 17th (Gangtok), 20th (Binnaguri), and 27th (Kalimpong)

The coat of arms consists of a white horizontal band between two red bands (the standard formation sign background for corps in the Indian Army) with a black trident and a black spear with black wings in the foreground. The Corps HQ has an Indian Air Force air control unit attached to it, 3 TAC, commanded by a Group Captain. The corps also has an organic Army Aviation Helicopter Squadron based at Sevoke flying the HAL Chetak. It is commanded by a Colonel. The Indian Air Force bases at Bagdogra (Siliguri) and Hashimara are the air units co-tasked to the XXXIII Corps Area of Responsibility.

-ORBAT

-It currently consists of:

-17th Mountain Division (Blackcat Division) headquartered at Gangtok.

-It was raised in 1959 and converted to a mountain division in 1963. It is assigned to the Sikkim sector.

-20th Mountain Division (Kirpan Division) headquartered at Binnaguri.

-It was raised in 1963 and assigned to the Sikkim sector!

-Composed of the 66th, 165th, and 202nd Mountain Brigades in 1971.

-27th Mountain Division (Striking Lion Division headquartered at Kalimpong.

-0lv was converted to a mountain division in 1963.

-Division Artillery Brigade

-MR-SAM (Abhra) Regiment (raised in February 2023)[7].

Governance dependent on artificial intelligence? The machine's fault, the citizenry's the one to suffer!



- Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Governments today are claiming to leverage technology for faster, transparent, and effective governance. Artificial intelligence is being touted as a new tool for administrative reform, public service, and corruption control. From answering citizen queries in government offices to identifying beneficiaries of schemes, analyzing complaints, and making decision-making processes, AI is rapidly gaining ground. But amidst the dazzling hype surrounding technology, a fundamental question is being obscured: if a machine makes a wrong decision, which door will citizens turn to for justice? The use of AI in governance is certainly a matter of convenience, but it cannot be turned into a laboratory free of accountability.

The most dangerous tendency of generative AI is that it can confidently present false information. It can cite rules, facts, figures, or eligibility criteria that do not exist. The average citizen may mistake the machine's answer for government authorization. If an elderly person is misinformed about pension eligibility, a student is misled about a scholarship, or a farmer receives incorrect information about a government scheme, the harm is not merely a technical error; it becomes an attack on the citizen's rights. For the government, an AI error may be a statistic, but for the citizen, it can lead to hunger, economic distress, loss of opportunity, and despair.

The irony is that if the existing human negligence, unclear rules, and red tape in government systems are handed over to AI without reform, the problem will not be resolved, but will instead become a digital extension. A flawed system cannot become a perfect system simply by being run by a machine. If old data is discriminatory, AI can perpetuate that discrimination in a new form. If administrative thinking is not sensitive to citizens, technology cannot create sensitivity. Machines may have speed, but they cannot replace a sense of justice, social experience, and human discretion.

Algorithmic bias poses a serious threat to governance. In a diverse society like India, inequalities related to caste, class, gender, region, language, and economic status already exist. If AI begins to make decisions based on data influenced by these inequalities, discrimination against disadvantaged citizens could become even more invisible. Injustice, which used to be visible, can now be hidden behind calculations and technical processes. Excluding someone from a scheme simply because the system did not deem them eligible would not be modern governance, but a new form of digital tyranny.

Governments should also introspect on privacy. Citizens already provide their identity, bank account, health, education, and other details to numerous government systems. Will this information now be used unchecked in the name of AI training and analysis? Is the government's control over citizens' information unlimited? Data security is not just a question of technology, but a question of citizen dignity and freedom. If sensitive information is leaked, responsibility cannot be absolved by simply placing it on a server or software.

The most worrying aspect is the blurring of accountability. A government official may claim the decision was made based on the system's suggestions, the technology company may claim it merely provided the equipment, and the department may claim the process was automated. Ultimately, who should citizens hold accountable? There can be no vacuum of accountability



in a democracy. Officials who make decisions by hiding behind machines cannot be allowed to evade administrative responsibility. If AI is used in a government decision, it must also be clear who made the final decision and who is responsible for its consequences.

Transparency in the use of AI in governance should not be a favor but a citizen's right. Citizens should be informed whether AI plays a role in their application, complaint, eligibility, or any other process. What is the basis for the decision, where did the relevant information come from, and what is the avenue for challenging the decision if it is incorrect—answers to these questions must be available. Technical complexity cannot be used as an excuse to evade accountability.

Independent testing and auditing should be mandatory for this purpose. Government AI systems should be regularly evaluated not just for their speed and cost savings, but also for their accuracy, fairness, safety, and social impact. Systems that impact pensions, rations, education, health, employment, and civil rights should have strict oversight and mandatory human approval. In the event of a wrong decision, citizens should have the right to a simple complaint system, reconsideration, and a human hearing.

It is also essential to ensure the security of citizens' personal information in accordance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 in India. Data should be used for limited purposes, unnecessary collection should be avoided, and accountability should be established for security breaches. Government employees should also be trained on the limitations of AI, its false positives, biases, and cyber threats. Digital governance is not merely about purchasing technology; its prudent governance is what truly drives reform.

Another threat is the digital divide. If the government gradually shifts all services to AI-based means, rural citizens, the elderly, the disabled, those with low digital literacy, and linguistically disadvantaged communities could be left behind. Citizens should not be forced to interact with machines to access government services. Technology should facilitate, but not close the door to human assistance.

The government should neither show blind enthusiasm for AI nor reject it outright out of fear. What is needed is a balanced, controlled, and citizen-centric use. High-risk decisions should be mandated with human oversight, independent audits, clear accountability, data security, and effective grievance redressal.

The government's goal should be to solve citizens' problems through technology, not to control them with machines. AI is welcome if it saves citizens from the hassle of running around government offices; but if it leaves them with wrong answers, opaque decisions, and an unaccountable system, it's not an improvement, it's a crisis. No matter how intelligent a machine, democracy demands an even more intelligent system—one where citizens, not convenience, are at the center of decision-making; justice, not calculation; and accountability, not technological excuses.

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

The Day Nobody Asked Why



BY-MOOL RAJ

A question is not a declaration of war.

A question is not a taunt.

Question and reply are not enemies; they are two steps of one journey.

Somewhere tonight a child will look up from a plate of rice and ask why. And somewhere a grown-up, tired or frightened or merely accustomed, will answer, "Don't ask so many questions." Nothing will mark the moment. No bell will toll. Yet this is how societies die. No society has ever announced its own death. There is no funeral procession, no elegy, no black-bordered notice. The markets stay open, the pulpits stay full, the screens glow, and the trade in noise runs at full speed. A society dies on the day its children stop asking "why" and its elders rename silence as good manners.

A question is not a declaration of war. It is the threshold of knowledge, and whoever refuses to put a hand on that threshold wanders the courtyard for life without ever entering the house. Yet our collective temper has erased the line between inquiry and insolence. The great Urdu poet Ghalib lodged the complaint long ago: to every remark of mine, you retort, "And who are you?" Where a question is met with an audit of the questioner's standing, the debate quits the field of argument and is dragged into the dock of personality. The question goes unanswered; the questioner is called to account.

This sickness is as old as power itself. In 399 BC Athens, which called itself the cradle of democracy, handed Socrates a cup of hemlock for corrupting the young and disbelieving the city's gods. In Plato's account, he told his judges that he was a gadfly, sent to sting a large, sluggish horse into wakefulness. The city swatted the fly. The horse did not wake; its slumber merely received a judicial seal. The man who was the city's greatest benefactor was sentenced as its greatest criminal, and the stain has never washed out of Athens' robe.

Seventeenth-century Rome staged the same play in new costume. In 1633 the Inquisition forced Galileo, nearly seventy years old, to recant what his own telescope had shown him, and kept him under house arrest for the rest of his life. Authority won the case, but the earth never received the verdict; it went on turning. Three and a half centuries later, in 1992, the Vatican conceded that the error had been its own. History's court of appeal sits late, but it sits, almost always, on the side of the petitioner.

It would be comforting to believe that the killer of questions has always lived in someone else's cathedral. That is half the truth. Our own inheritance honours the question at its very summit. The Quran records Abraham's plea: Lord, show me how You give life to the dead. No rebuke followed.

He was asked only whether he did not believe, and he answered that he did, but that his heart might be at rest. Here the question is not the enemy of faith but the staircase to certainty. The same Book tells the claimant, "Bring your proof." A heritage founded on the demand for evidence cannot blame its tradition when its heirs tremble at being asked for theirs. The weakness belongs to the heirs.

And when the heirs weakened, we did what Athens and Rome had done. In the closing years of the twelfth century, under the Almohads, the books of Ibn Rushd were burned in Cordoba and the philosopher was banished to Lucena. Yet as Averroes he crossed into the Latin world, and his commentaries were studied in the lecture halls of Europe. The questions we burned, others gathered from the ashes and lit as lamps for their own dawn. The ninth century offers a harsher lesson still. In the Mihna launched under Caliph Ma'mun, it was a rationalist creed that the state enforced, and Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal who was made to suffer for refusing it. The killer of questions, then, is not one religion or one school. It is any certainty that seizes the sword of the state. Even reason, once it puts on the garb of coercion, becomes as narrow as any bigotry.

Today, however, no hemlock is required. Neil Postman, setting Orwell beside Huxley, observed that Orwell feared truth would be concealed from us, while Huxley feared it would be drowned in a sea of trivia. Ours is Huxley's age. Questions are no longer banned; they are out-shouted. In the talk show everyone has an answer and no one has a question. A trend is born at breakfast and buried by supper, and nobody remembers what was asked. In our classrooms the most dangerous verdict of all is a single sentence: "This will not come in the exam." It declares that whatever cannot be converted into marks is unworthy of thought. It is widely argued that after student unions were banned in 1984, our universities slowly lost the arena where the young once learned to disagree and to be disagreed with. We have raised a generation that can memorise answers but cannot compose a question. The wound is deepest where it should be shallowest: when teachers themselves fall silent, the lecture hall becomes a place of the deaf, the dumb and the blind.

We pay for this silence every day; only the receipt never reaches us. In a town where nobody asks who built the bridge, with what material and with whose money, the bridge collapses and no one is responsible. In an office where nobody dares write "why" on a file, error hardens into tradition. In a classroom where a question is counted as mischief, imitation is produced instead of research. Every great calamity of our society is, in the end, the grave of a question that was never asked.

In 1784 Kant defined enlightenment as humanity's emergence from its self-imposed immaturity: the courage to use one's own reason without another's guidance.

The cause of that immaturity, he said, is not a deficit of intellect but of nerve. That is our predicament exactly. We are not short of intelligence. We are short of courage.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer Who Writes Up On Various Issues

557th Prakash Purab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrated with religious fervour, devotion in Poonch

Grand congregation held at Gurudwara Singh Sabha; DC, SSP extend greetings to Devotees

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 24: The 557th Prakash Purab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated with great religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm across all Gurudwaras of District Poonch.

The main congregation was organised by the District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, where a large number of devotees gathered to pay obeisance and seek blessings.

As part of the celebrations, Shri Akhand Path Sahib commenced on November 22, which culminated today with the Bhog sacrament, followed by a special Shabad Kirtan Diwan.



The religious congregation witnessed soulful Gurbani Kirtan by the Ragi Jatha comprising Bhai Satinderpal Singh, Hazuri Ragi from Takhat Shri Keshgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib along with Bhai Harcharan Singh, Bhai Sartaj Singh, Bhai Rasmeet Singh, Bhai Bhupinder Singh, Bhai Person Jot Singh and Bhai Jagjeet Singh.

Prominent preacher Giani Biant Singh Ji from Mohali-Punjab delivered a religious discourse highlighting the life, philosophy and timeless teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He urged the devotees to follow the principles of Sikhism, uphold Sikh Rehat Maryada and adopt the Guru Ji's teachings of truth, equality, humility, selfless service and humanity in their daily lives.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by General Secretary, DGPC Harcharan Singh.

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma; SSP Vaibhav Meena; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid, along with other officers from the civil and police Administration visited Gurudwara Singh Sabha, paid obeisance and participated in the religious celebrations.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Poonch extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and all devotees on the auspicious occasion of the 557th Prakash Purab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He encouraged everyone to follow the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and promote the values of peace, harmony, equality and brotherhood in society.

SSP Vaibhav Meena also extended his heartfelt greetings to the devotees and wished everyone peace, prosperity and happiness on the sacred occasion.

At the conclusion of the programme, President DGPC, Narinder Singh, expressed gratitude to all the devotees, religious personalities and guests for their participation and support.

DC Kathua joins Gurpurab congregation at Gurud-wara Singh Sabha Dashmesh Nagar

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Gurudwara Singh Sabha-Dashmesh Nagar and paid obeisance on the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and other revered Sikh Gurus inspire humanity to follow the path of truth, selfless service, equality and compassion. He emphasised that these teachings hold enduring relevance in promoting unity, brotherhood and communal harmony in society.

On the occasion, the Gurudwara Management Committee honoured the Deputy Commissioner with a Siropa. The committee members also felicitated newly appointed District Information Officer Gurpreet Singh, with a Siropa.

Member District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) Sourav Singh and President Daljeet Singh, Secretary Manmohan Singh, Member Harmohinder Singh, Damanjeet Singh along with other committee members were present on the occasion.

Save Water Cup Super League Cricket: DC XI Kathua beats PHE (Mech)

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) XI delivered a commanding performance to register a massive 183-run victory over PHE (Mech) in the Save Water Cup (Super League) cricket tournament played here at sports ground GDC.

After winning the toss, DC XI elected to bat first and posted an imposing total of 218 runs for the loss of four wickets in 20 overs.

Amir Khan was the star performer with the bat, smashing an outstanding 107 runs off just 60 balls, including 14 boundaries and five sixes. Gotam also made a valuable contribution of 30 runs off 33 balls, while Jimmy remained unbeaten on 15 runs to help DC XI post a formidable total.

In reply, PHE (Mech) struggled against the disciplined bowling attack of DC XI and were bundled out for just 35 runs in 11.2 overs, handing DC XI a convincing victory by 183 runs.

For PHE (Mech), Manish Gupta scored seven runs, while Narender contributed five runs. The DC XI bowlers maintained consistent pressure throughout the innings and restricted the opposition to a modest total. DC Kathua Rajesh Sharma and Jimmy Shared 3 wickets each while CPO Kathua Ranjeet Thakur clipped 2 wickets.

The match witnessed an impressive all-round performance by DC XI, with Amir Khan's brilliant century emerging as the highlight of the contest.

The match was played under the Save Water Cup – Super League, with Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma leading DC XI and XEN PHE (Mech) Narender captaining PHE (Mech).

Agriculture department conducts enforce-ment drive in R.S. Pura Sub-Division

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department today conducted an extensive enforcement drive across Tehsil R.S. Pura, Bishnah, Chak Hasel and Arnia to check compliance with the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), 1985 by the agricultural input sale outlets.

A team led by Assistant Director Law Enforcement Kuldeep Singh along with Enforcement Inspector Nazir Altaf, thoroughly scrutinised the stock registers and other relevant records of the agricultural input dealers operating in these areas.Random telephone calls were also made to farmers to verify whether subsidised fertilisers were being supplied to them at government-prescribed rates. While no instances of overcharging were detected among the inspected dealers, a complaint of alleged overcharging was received from Arnia. Taking cognisance of the complaint, the Enforcement Wing issued a show-cause notice to the firm, seeking its explanation. Further action shall be taken as per the applicable legal provisions.The field assessment also revealed that there was no shortage of government-subsidised fertilisers, particularly DAP, in the inspected areas and the overall availability of fertilisers was found to be satisfactory.The dealers were further directed to ensure distribution of subsidised fertilisers through the prescribed QR-code-based verification system. However, it was clarified that genuine farmers should not be deprived of fertilisers due to technical glitches during QR-code generation or scanning. In such cases, dealers were instructed to obtain the requisite farmer details and provide fertilisers after proper verification, ensuring that no genuine farmer is turned away without receiving the required fertiliser.The Enforcement Wing also issued a stern warning to dealers against overcharging or forcibly tagging additional products with government-subsidised fertilisers. It was categorically conveyed that any such violation would invite stringent legal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other applicable statutory provisions.

FDA seizes 850 Kg Paneer worth 1.70 Lakh during late night inspection at Jammu Bus Stand

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The FDA Team, Jammu, under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, conducted a late-night enforcement inspection at Jammu Bus Stand and seized 850 kg of paneer, valued at around 1.70 lakh, which was purportedly being transported from Punjab, as revealed by the documents recovered by the enforcement team.

During the inspection, the consignment was found to be transported without adequate temperature-control arrangements and in violation of the prescribed labelling requirements applicable to perishable food commodities under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under. Taking cognizance of the observed violations, the Food Safety Team seized the consignment.

Necessary investigation into the matter has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the transportation of the consignment and to identify the persons responsible for the violations.

Further legal action shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under.

The FDA J&K has reiterated that all perishable food commodities, including paneer, mutton and fish, shall be transported, stored and handled under prescribed temperature-controlled conditions and in compliance with the labeling requirements mandated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Any violation of the prescribed norms shall invite mandatory legal action under the relevant provisions of the Act.

The FDA, J&K, shall continue to undertake stringent enforcement measures against Food Business Operators found violating these requirements, with particular focus on the safe transportation, storage, handling and labelling of perishable food commodities, to ensure regulatory compliance and protect public health.

Consumers are also urged to remain vigilant and report any instance of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the official email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

SMVDU hosts Research Conclave on Advanced Materials and Emerging Technologies under ANRF-Funded PAIR Scheme

■ HT News Network



Jammu:-The School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU),

organised a Research Conclave on "Advanced Materials and Emerging Technologies" under the ANRF-funded PAIR Project (RP-157), titled Dynamic Research Ecosystem for Advanced

Materials, in collaboration with IIT Ropar. The conclave aimed to provide a platform forresearchers, academicians and students to exchange ideas, share recent research developments and explore emerging opportunities in advanced materials and related technologies. The inaugural session was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs; Dr. K. R. Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Dr. A. K. Das, Dean Research and Development; Mr. Dinesh Shukla, Professor of Practice; Dr. R. K. Mishra, Dean of Students; Prof. Eswaramoorthy; and Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, Technology Business Incubation Centre (TBIC). The dignitaries highlighted the importance of advanced materials research and collaborative academic initiatives in addressing emerging technological challenges. The conclave was supported by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) under its Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Scheme.The conclave was

coordinated by Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Head, SoEM and Dr. Yathesth Anand, Head, SoME with Dr. Ankush Raina and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq serving as Co-Organising Secretaries. Their collective efforts contributed to the successful organisation of the event.The invited speakers included Dr. Varun Sharma (IIT Roorkee), Dr. Ravi Partap Singh (NIT Kurukshetra), Dr. Hari Prasad Gopalan (IIT Ropar), and Dr. Kapil Angshuman (IIT Jammu).The sessions provided valuable insights into contemporary developments, research challenges and emerging opportunities in advanced materials and related technologies. Researchers, faculty members and students from various universities and Institutes of National Importance.

Movement Kalki Organises Signature Campaign at Baba Bhoto Dev Sthan, Manasa, Demands National Mother Cow Status for Gau Mata

■ HT News Network



Manasa, Jammu & Kashmir: With the objective of securing the status of Rashtra Mata (National Mother Cow) for Gau Mata, Movement Kalki organised a signature campaign today at Baba Bhoto Dev Sthan, Manasa. The campaign was conducted under the leadership of Anil Arora and Manav Sharma, with enthusiastic participation from local residents who came forward to support the initiative by signing the campaign.

Movement Kalki Founder Deepak Singh was also present on the occasion. Along with team members, he appealed to the public to actively participate in the campaign and strengthen the movement for the honour and protection of Gau Mata.

Addressing the gathering, Deepak Singh said that Movement Kalki has been consistently raising its voice for granting Gau Mata the status of Rashtra Mata. He stated that the organisation was among the first to raise this demand in Jammu and Kashmir and has continuously worked towards creating awareness about cow protection and preventing cruelty against cows.

He further said that the Gau Samman Ahvaan Abhiyan is now gaining momentum across the country, bringing people together for this important cause. Movement Kalki is actively participating in this nationwide campaign by organising signature drives and mobilising public support to convey people's sentiments to the government.

Movement Kalki appealed to people from all sections of society to join the campaign and contribute towards securing the honour and protection of Gau Mata.

The organisation reiterated its commitment to continue the movement through public awareness programmes and signature campaigns until the demand for granting Gau Mata the status of Rashtra Mata is fulfilled.

Bhisham Panchak Vrat Udapan concludes with Hawan and Bhandara at Panch Mandir

Devotees participate in five-day religious observances; Hanuman Chalisa, Hawan, Purnahuti and Bhandara mark conclusion

■ HT News Network

Jammu: The five-day Bhisham Panchak Vrat Udapan concluded with great religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm at Panch Mandir, Sector 5, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, today. A large number of devotees participated in the concluding ceremonies, including special puja, religious katha, Hanuman Chalisa chanting, Hawan, Purnahuti and Bhandara, creating an atmosphere of spirituality and collective devotion.

The religious programme commenced on November 20 and continued for five days, witnessing enthusiastic participation by devotees who observed the sacred vrat with faith and dedication. This was the third consecutive occasion on which the Bhisham Panchak Vrat Udapan was organised at Panch Mandir, with an encouraging response and a significant gathering of devotees throughout the programme.

On the concluding day, special religious rituals were performed, followed by a grand Hawan and Purnahuti. Devotees offered ahutis while praying for peace, prosperity, good health and the well-being of humanity. Head Pandit Pankaj Sharma Ji, Vijay Ji Sethi Ji and Mohinder Ji performed the religious ceremonies and Hawan with the chanting of sacred Vedic mantras. Hanuman Chalisa was also recited, adding to the spiritual atmosphere of the occasion.



Following the completion of the religious rituals, a Bhandara was organised for devotees, where prasad was served with devotion and traditional hospitality. During all five days, devotees observing the vrat were also provided with Falhari meals comprising various delicacies prepared with religious purity and devotion.Prominent devotees, including Utama Goswami, Shallu Sharma, Nishu Dubey, Pratima Seth Chander Gupta, Nidhi Seth, Rama Gupta, Mrs. Vijay Gupta, Rita Sharma, Adarsh Bala, Sarita, Mrs. Preeti Sehgal, Chinna Shakti Ji, Sharista Sharma, Prabha, Bandana Sharma and several others, participated in the religious ceremonies and sought divine blessings.

The entire programme was organised by Vijay Vaid and Rajni Kohli, whose efforts ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the five-day religious observance. Proper arrangements were made for puja, seating, Falhari meals, prasad distribution, Hawan and Bhandara, enabling devotees to participate comfortably in all the ceremonies.

Bhisham Panchak, observed during the concluding five days of the auspicious Kartik month, holds special significance in Hindu religious tradition. Devotees observe fasting, prayers, charity and other spiritual activities during this period, seeking divine blessings and purification of the mind and soul. The observance is traditionally associated with devotion to Lord Vishnu and the sacred teachings connected with Bhishma Pitamah.

Such religious occasions hold considerable importance beyond individual spiritual observance, as they strengthen community bonds, promote the values of compassion.

Priya Sethi Slams NC Govt over pension delays, closure of social welfare centres

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, Nov 24: BJP Jammu and Kashmir Vice President and former Minister Priya Sethi on Tuesday criticised the National Conference (NC) government over alleged mismanagement of the Social Welfare Department, accusing it of neglecting vulnerable sections of society by delaying pension payments and shutting down several welfare centres.

Priya Sethi was addressing public grievances at the BJP headquarters, where people apprised her of difficulties arising from the non-release of pensions and the closure of various vocational and welfare centres.

Expressing concern over the plight of pensioners, Sethi said that several beneficiaries had not received their pensions for the past seven to eight months, despite the Central Government led by Narendra Modi having released its share of funds.

She alleged that the NC government had failed to release its corresponding contribution, leaving elderly people and other beneficiaries struggling to meet their basic needs.

"This is unfortunate and reflects the insensitivity of the NC government towards the poor, elderly and economically weaker sections of society. Pension is not a favour but a financial support that beneficiaries depend upon for their daily survival," she said.

Priya Sethi also raised concerns over the closure of tailoring and other skill-development centres operating under the Social Welfare Department. She alleged that the Omar Abdullah-led NC government had not only discontinued several existing centres but had also refused to establish new tailoring and vocational training facilities, depriving women and needy individuals of opportunities for skill development and financial independence.

She urged the NC government to immediately reopen the closed centres, release pending pension payments and ensure that beneficiaries receive their dues regularly. She further called for the continuation of welfare and development initiatives launched with Central Government support.

Priya Sethi said that social welfare schemes must be implemented without political considerations, as they directly affect the lives and dignity of disadvantaged sections of society. She demanded that the NC government take immediate corrective measures to restore public confidence and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of essential financial assistance and welfare facilities.

PM Modi, German Chancellor Merz vow to deepen strategic partnership, explore new trade opportunities

■ HT News Network/UNI



New Delhi, Nov 24 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, during which the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, with particular emphasis on defence, advanced technologies, trade and investment.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the two leaders reviewed the progress of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the sustained momentum in engagements between the two countries. The conversation assumes added significance as India and Germany are marking 75 years of diplomatic relations this year, an occasion both sides see as an opportunity to deepen their longstanding ties and explore new areas of cooperation.

During the discussion, Modi and Merz reiterated their resolve to expand collaboration across key sectors, particularly defence and advanced technologies. They also discussed the opportunities that the proposed India-European union Free Trade Agreement could offer for boosting bilateral trade and investment, facilitating greater business engagement and opening up new avenues for economic cooperation.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest and agreed to work closely towards promoting global peace, stability and a rules-based international order. They underscored the importance of continued coordination at multilateral forums in addressing emerging international challenges.

India and Germany have steadily broadened their strategic engagement over the years, with cooperation extending across trade, investment, manufacturing, renewable energy, science and technology, education and security. Germany remains one of India's key economic partners in Europe, while India has acquired growing strategic importance for Berlin, particularly in the context of the Indo-Pacific and the changing global geopolitical landscape.

The 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations comes at a time when both countries are seeking to diversify economic partnerships, strengthen resilient supply chains and expand strategic cooperation amid shifting global trade and security dynamics. Their engagement has also gained importance against the backdrop of efforts by European countries to deepen economic and strategic ties with India.

The proposed India-EU free trade agreement is expected to provide a significant opportunity to expand market access, encourage investment flows and strengthen commercial ties between India and Germany, one of the European Union's largest economies.

Tuesday's conversation reflects the importance both governments attach to sustained high-level political engagement and their shared determination to give fresh momentum to a partnership that has acquired increasing economic and geopolitical significance.

Climate change shared challenge for India, Nepal: President Murmu

■ HT News Network/UNI



NEW DELHI, Nov 24 : President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said that climate change is a shared challenge for India and Nepal, and both the nations must work together to strengthen early warning systems and disaster management.

In a meeting with Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah, who called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she said that the unique and multi-faceted bilateral relations between the two countries are based on their shared civilisational heritage and the deep cherished bonds between the people.Track Exec Orders

The president expressed her condolences for the loss of life caused by the Bhotekoshi floods.

She said that as always, in this difficult time, India has stood by Nepal, providing prompt humanitarian assistance and technical support, and will continue to do so as a close partner in the recovery and reconstruction efforts.

The devastating Bhotekoshi floods that struck the Himalayan nation in August, killing at least 1,500 people and leaving over 5,000 missing, are estimated to have cost the country USD 4.7 billion in relief and reconstruction.

Welcoming Prime Minister Shah, President Murmu congratulated him on the strong mandate for his government in the March 2026 elections, and wished him success in his efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people. The president underlined that climate change is a shared challenge for both nations, and the two must work together to strengthen early warning systems and disaster management, according to a statement issued by her office.

She said that the Joint Vision document announced during this visit reflects the aspirations of the people of both nations, especially the youth.

President Murmu expressed confidence that it will provide a clear direction for our future cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure, development partnership, connectivity, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, as well as in new and emerging sectors such as start-ups, digital services, space and innovation.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an economic package worth 24,000 crore Nepalese rupees for Nepal and flagged off a cross-border passenger train alongside his Nepalese counterpart Shah, as both sides finalised a vision document and signed eight pacts to deepen bilateral cooperation, signalling a major reset in ties after a spell of strain over their lingering boundary row.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hereby notify the general public that my name and date of birth have been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card No.853285365617 as AHSAN AHMAD MIR and 01-02-2015, respectively, whereas my correct name and date of birth are AHSAN NISSAR and 08-06-2015, respectively.
Therefore, I intend tot rectify the aforesaid discrepancies in my Aadhaar records.
If anybody has any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority. AHSAN NISSAR R/O,BANGDARA RESHIPORA BARAMULLA, PH.7005213128

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asif Mohd Badoo, resident of Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as ASIF MOHD BUDOO, whereas my correct name is ASIF MOHD BADOO.
That my Aadhaar Number is 4686 6861 9860.
Now, I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records from ASIF MOHD BUDOO to ASIF MOHD BADOO.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD SALEEM AHANGER S /O ABDUL AHMAD AHANGER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..5676 7462 4546 while my correct name is MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER S/O ABDUL AHAD AHANGER 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 publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER
S/O....ABDUL AHAD AHANGER
R/O..KREERI BARAMULLA
BLOCK... WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shafat Ahmad Khan R/o Dawood Colony, Soura, Srinagar, hereby notify the general public that my son's name, presently recorded as Hifzul Amaan, studying in Class 7th at R.P. School, Alamdaar Colony, Lal Bazar, has been changed to Muhammad Amaan Khan.
I further declare that my wife's name, presently recorded as Rehana in school records has been changed to Rehana Parveen.
Henceforth, my son shall be known as Muhammad Amaan Khan and my wife as Rehana Parveen in all school records.

Shafat Ahmad Khan
(Father)
R/o Dawood Colony, Soura, Srinagar
Contact: 9419030224

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of SUMAIRA HASSAN ,SAIMA HASSAN D/O GH HASSAN MOCHI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village KALANTARA PAYEEN and belongs to the ST caste and MUCHI community, having annual income is 48000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..GH HASSAN MOCHI Father 52 years Labour
2.... RAJA BEGUM Mother 48 years H/W
3....SAIMA BANO applicant 24 years student
4....SUMAIRA HASSAN applicant 20 years student
5....MUZAMIL HASSAN Brother 13 years student
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that I am applying for DEE Class Contractor Card at OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT Commissioner Development Baramulla (ACD if anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ACD Baramullla within the period of 7days from the date of publication of this notice . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name....AASIF RASHID WANI
S/O...ABDUL RASHID WANI
R/O .....KACHWA MUQAM BLOCK WAGOORA
CONTACT NO....6006631611

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely ABdul Rahim Sheikh S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kawoosa Khalisa NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of birth certificate of his own son and daughters namely Sheikh Aadil Rahim , Minhat Rahim , Kulsuma Rahim , son and daughters of Abdul Rahim Sheikh
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his son as per school record is ; 28_02_2002 and
Daughter namely ; minhat Rahim , 05_03/1998
Daughter namely; Kulsuma Rahim, 05_03_1993
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

24/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that Syed Anwara W/o Syed Nassir _ ud_ Din Shah R/o Syed Mohallah Narbal Tehsil Narbal District Budgam has applied for the transfer of power agreement under ID No ; 02060500000636 which was functional in the name of Syed Nassir _ ud _ Din Shah S/o Late Syed Rasool Shah R/o Narbal
The applicant intends to register the power agreement in the name of her own
If anybody has any objection in that regard. He/She may contact concerned PDD authorities Narbal within the period of seven days. After completion of said period. No objection will be entertained

24/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that incorrect name mentioned in addhar card is FURKAN AHMAD BHAT S/O IMTIYAZ AHMAD BHAT actually the correct name is FURKAN IMTIYAZ S/o. Imtiyaz ahmad bhat R/O. PETHPORA NARBAL distt. Budgam. under addhar no. 5463 6295 1440 if anybody has objection in that regard. He/She convince concerned authority, After publication of said notification, No objection will be entertained.

Furkan imtiyaz
S/o. Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat
R/o. Peth pora Narbal addhar no. 5463 6295 1440

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mudasir Qadir Wani S/o Gh. Qadir Wani R/o Kawoosa Khalisa, Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam, declare that my correct name as per school records is Mudasir Qadir Wani, but in my Aadhaar Card it is wrongly mentioned as Mudasir Ahmad Wani.Both names belong to one and the same person i.e. me. I have applied for correction of my name in Aadhaar Card.Any objection may be filed within 7 days.

Applicant:
Mudasir Qadir Wani
S/o Gh. Qadir Wani
R/o Kawoosa Khalisa, Tehsil Narbal, District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Loss of motorcycle number plate bearing Registered No. JK05F2230 in between kalntra payeen to wagoora on dated 08-11-2026 Namely Shakeel Ahmad Najar son of Fayaz Ahmad Najar R/o kalantra bala ,Now I want apply for duplicate number plate if anybody has any objection they contact ARTO Sopore with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hilal Ahmad Lone S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone R/o Lawaypora, do hereby declare that the Electricity Connection / Consumer ID 0206050013735 is presently recorded in the name of:Abdul Rashid Rather
S/o Nazir Ahmad Rather
R/o Lawayporal have applied for change / transfer of the said Electricity Bill / Connection in my name, as per record:
Hilal Ahmad Lone
S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone
R/o LawayporaHenceforth, the Electricity Bill of the above mentioned Consumer ID should be issued in my name - Iftilal Ahmad Lone.If any person has any objection regarding this change / transfer, he/she may file objection in the office of the concerned Executive Engineer, KPDCL / PDD within 7 days from publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.Applicant:

Hilal Ahmad Lone
S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone
R/o Lawaypora

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD SALEEM AHANGER S /O ABDUL AHMAD AHANGER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..5676 7462 4546 while my correct name is MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER S/O ABDUL AHAD AHANGER 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 publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Umerah D/o Farooq Ahmad Dar, whereas my correct and actual name is Umara Farooq D/o Farooq Ahmad Dar .I intend to apply for correction of the said error in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 325004305757.
Any person having any objection or concern regarding the proposed correction is hereby requested to raise the same within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Name: Umara Farooq
D/o: Farooq Ahmad Dar
R/o: Zainakote, HMT, Sringar, J&K, 190012

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Shafi Bhat, S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat, R/o Ganishbal, Pahalgam, District Anantnag, hereby state that my Date of Birth is 04/10/2026
I intend to obtain a Date of Birth Certificate from the Municipal Committee, Pahalgam. Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the said Date of Birth Certificate may submit the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.
After expiry of the prescribed period, no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Mohd Shafi Bhat
S/o: Ghulam Rasool Bhat
R/o: Ganishbal, Pahalgam Date of Birth: 04/10/2026

Union Govt aproves Rs.10,600 cr PLI scheme to strengthen Technical Textiles sector: Giriraj Singh

■ HT News Network/UNI



Chennai, Nov 24 (UNI) union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh on Tuesday announced that the Government has approved a Rs.10,600 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to provide a major impetus to technical textiles.

Talking to reporters after conducting an official inspection of the SRF Limited manufacturing facility situated at the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Gummidipoondi in neighbouring Tiruvallur district, he underscored the pivotal role played by SRF Limited in the domestic production of Nylon-6 and Nylon-66 for strategic sectors such as tyres and defence. The facility is engaged in the manufacture of Nylon-6 and Nylon-66, which constitute vital inputs for key industries, including automobile tyres and the defence sector.

He said "the Government of India remains steadfastly committed to advancing the growth of the technical textiles sector. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has approved a Rs.10,600 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to provide a major impetus to technical textiles".

Reaffirming the Centre's continued support for the industry, Shri Giriraj Singh assured that the Government will continue to extend all necessary assistance to leading manufacturing establishments to propel India's technical textiles sector to the next stage of growth.

Visiting the various production units of the establishment, the union Minister reviewed the manufacturing processes and enquired about the range of technical textile products being produced at the plant.

Tiruvallur District Collector Ms. Kavitha Member of the Legislative Assembly (Gummidipoondi) Vijayakumar, and senior government officials accompanied the union Minister during the inspection. Talking to reporters after conducting an official inspection of the SRF Limited manufacturing facility situated at the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Gummidipoondi in neighbouring Tiruvallur district, he underscored the pivotal role played by SRF Limited in the domestic production of Nylon-6 and Nylon-66 for strategic sectors such as tyres and defence. The facility is engaged in the manufacture of Nylon-6 and Nylon-66, which constitute vital inputs for key industries, including automobile tyres and the defence sector.He said "the Government of India remains steadfastly committed to advancing the growth of the technical textiles sector. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has approved a Rs.10,600 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to provide a major impetus to technical textiles".

RBI approves SBI Mutual Fund to acquire up to 9.99 pc stake in South Indian Bank

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



has approved an SBI Mutual Fund's proposal to acquire up to a 9.99 per cent stake in private sector lender South Indian Bank, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

The approval was communicated to the bank on November 23 and is subject to compliance with applicable regulatory conditions.

"The RBI has accorded its approval to SBI Mutual Fund for acquiring aggregate holding of up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in the Bank subject to the conditions specified therein," South Indian Bank said in the filing.

The approval is subject to compliance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Directions on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Commercial Banks, 2025, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and other applicable laws and regulatory guidelines.

The lender reported a 21 per cent year-on-year rise in its net profit to Rs 426 crore for the second quarter of the financial year 2026-27, aided by improved margins and better asset quality.

BRICS Women Leaders Summit concludes at Banasthali Vidyapith

■ HT News Network/UNI

JAMMU, Nov 24: The five-day long BRICS Women Leaders Summit, hosted at Banasthali Vidyapith, took place on its campus was concluded here today.The Summit was organized by Banasthali Vidyapith in partnership with Eurasian Women's Forum, Federation Council, Senezh Management Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Russian Federation and BRICS Youth Alliance.Divided into various sessions, the summit focused on promoting women leadership, cultural harmony, and mutual cooperation and innovative research across BRICS nations.



Notably, the chief guest of the Summit, Lok Sabha Speaker lauded the legacy of Banasthali Vidyapith, and paid tribute to its founders, Pandit Hiralal Shastri and Padma Bhushan Ratan Shastri.

He expressed confidence that the Summit would provide a meaningful platform for women leaders from BRICS countries to exchange experiences, share best practices, and forge lasting partnerships. The First Vice-Rector of the co-organizing Senezh Management Workshop, Sergey Bacharov, remarked that BRICS countries have much to learn from India, particularly from Banasthali Vidyapith's model of women's leadership.He praised the foresight of Banasthali's founders and expressed hope that this event at Banasthali Vidyapith will give a new dimension to women leadership.Another visiting organizer from Russia, Vasilii Bokov, praised the foresight of Banasthali's founders and expressed hope that this event at Banasthali Vidyapith will give a new dimension to women leadership.In the Summit, participants from BRICS nations engaged in linguistic and cultural exchanges.Present on the dais at the closing session were president of Banasthali Vidyapith Prof. Siddharth Shastri; Vice-Chancellor Prof., Ina Aditya Shastri; vice-president, Prof. Jyoti Pareek; Treasurer, Prof. Sudha Shastri.

FICCI FLO JKL signs MoU with GDC Reasi to empower young women

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, Nov 24: In a significant step towards empowering young women through education, skill development and entrepreneurship, FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi, to establish a Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) at the institution.



The collaboration aims to create meaningful opportunities for young women students through digital literacy, financial empowerment, entrepreneurship development, mentorship and industry exposure.

Under the MoU, FICCI FLO JKL will facilitate specialised workshops, training programmes and expert interactions to equip students with relevant skills for emerging career opportunities. The initiative will focus on financial literacy programmes, digital learning modules, entrepreneurial corners and capacity-building sessions to encourage innovation, independent thinking and entrepreneurial aspirations among students.

A key highlight of the partnership will be the formation of the FICCI FLO Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) at the college, providing a dedicated platform for students to engage in peer learning, mentorship, leadership development and regular knowledge-sharing activities.

The MoU was signed by Varsha Bansal, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, and Prof Mamta Gupta, Principal, Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi. The occasion was attended by Rupika Sahai, Senior Vice Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL; Tanisha Palan, Joint Treasurer, FICCI FLO JKL; and Prof Irfan Ali from GDC Reasi.

Speaking on the occasion, Varsha Bansal said: "Through this association, we hope to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical exposure by providing students with access to mentorship, skills, industry interactions and entrepreneurial guidance. We want to encourage young women to believe in their potential, explore opportunities and become financially independent and confident individuals."

Adani Airport Holdings Ltd to raise Rs 2,790 Crore to expand presence

■ HT News Network/UNI

Mumbai, Nov 24 (UNI) Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) has officially announced that it plans to raise USD 300 million (approximately Rs 2,790 crore) from 360 ONE Asset, taking its total planned primary equity fundraising to about USD 1.35 billion as it seeks to expand capacity and deepen its presence in India's fast-growing aviation market.Commenting on the development, Adani Airport Holdings Limited's Non-Executive Director Jeet Adani said, "This partnership is yet another milestone in building out the Adani Airports platform. Having such marquee, long-term investors on board is a testament to their confidence in India's aviation growth story".

"We are committed to developing a complete ecosystem around our airports by transforming them from simple transit hubs into vibrant airport cities that merge aviation, commerce, leisure, and regional logistics to drive sustained national growth," Adani Airport Holdings Limited's (AAHL) Non-Executive Director Jeet Adani said

The transaction builds on an earlier round of Rs 9,825 crores (USD 1 billion) of primary equity capital from a consortium of leading domestic and global investors including Alpha Wave Global, Premji Invest, Temasek and BlackRock managed funds. This represented one of the largest primary equity investments from financial institutions in India's airport infrastructure sector.

Tata Sons Board meeting postponed to Nov 30

■ HT News Network/UNI

Mumbai, Nov 23 (UNI) Tata Sons has officially announced that it has postponed its board meeting from November 26 to November 30, Monday.

According to sources, the development came after Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata raised concerns about Tata Sons giving a very short notice before convening its board meeting.

Tata Trusts has a 66 per cent shareholding in the holding company, Tata Sons.

Earlier, Tata Trusts Chairman sent a letter to Tata Sons on Sunday, objecting to the agenda being circulated only four days before the originally scheduled meeting.In his letter to Tata Sons, Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata cited the seven-day notice requirement under the Companies Act.

Accordingly, the Tata Sons board meeting will now be held on November 30 and there is no change in the agenda, sources said.

India, Canada 'very close' to conclude trade pact negotiations: Official

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: Negotiators from India and Canada are holding daily discussions on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and are "very close" to concluding the negotiations, an official said.

The engagements are important as both sides aim to conclude the talks by the end of this year.

"Both teams are talking every day. We are very close," the official said.

Last week (November 11-20), the two countries concluded the sixth round of negotiations for the agreement, aimed at unlocking new opportunities in trade and investment, and diversifying supply chains.The negotiations covered key areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, trade remedies, intellectual property and investment promotion.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal also held a meeting with Glenn Purves, Vice Minister of International Trade of Canada, and his delegation to review the progress of these negotiations.

The ongoing negotiations mark the resumption of talks, as the two countries had earlier engaged in a similar exercise, but Canada paused it in 2023.

Now, they have decided to resume talks this year because much has changed on the global trade front during those two years.

The India-Canada CEPA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in March.Track Exec Orders



The negotiations are important as the two sides have set a target to increase the bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. It declined by 8.23 per cent to USD 7.95 billion (USD 4.67 billion exports and USD 3.28 billion imports) in 2025-26 from USD 8.66 billion in 2024-25. The trade gap was in favour of India at USD 1.38 billion.

Canada represents a market of 41.65 million people (2025) and a GDP of USD 2.34 trillion at purchasing power parity. The country is also home to over 425,000 Indian students and a strong Indian community.

Major items of India's exports to Canada include pharmaceutical products, machinery parts and mechanical appliances, iron and steel articles, electronic goods, organic chemicals, jewellery, gems and precious stones, clothing and textile articles, seafood, engineering goods and auto parts.

Imports included pulses, fertilizers (potash), mineral fuels, wood pulp, gems and precious stones (diamonds), aircraft parts, machinery parts, paper and paperboard and iron and aluminium scrap.

India's main services sector exports include telecommunications, computer and information services, and other business services.

India is also negotiating a separate bilateral investment protection agreement with Canada. India has received USD 4.8 billion in foreign direct investment from Canada during April 2000 and June 2026. Canada is India's 16th largest investor.

In 2025, India's bilateral services trade with Canada stood at about USD 14 billion, with India's exports worth USD 3.2 billion and India's imports worth about USD 11 billion.

More than 600 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and more than 1,000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market.

India's ties with Russia an 'added value', can help push for end to Ukraine war: Dutch FM

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 : The Netherlands views India's continued engagement with Russia as an "added value", as New Delhi can use its ties with Moscow to persuade it to end the war in Ukraine, Dutch Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen has said.

Berendsen is on an official visit to India from November 22 to 23. He co-chaired the inaugural Foreign Ministers' Meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi on Sunday and reviewed the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership.

"We understand that India has its own history, its own role in the world and its own relations," Berendsen told PTI on Sunday, responding to a question on India's strategic autonomy and its continued engagement with Moscow.

"We actually see it as an added value of our relationship with India that it has a relationship with Russia and can also use that relationship to show Russia that it needs to put an end to this war and accept a ceasefire," he said.

The Russia-Ukraine war, in its fifth year, continues with intensified attacks from both sides. Russia has stepped up strikes on Ukrainian cities and energy infrastructure, while US-brokered peace talks have made little progress beyond a prisoner swap.

Berendsen said India and the Netherlands, as trading countries, shared concerns over maritime security and freedom of navigation, and needed to work together to address challenges in an increasingly uncertain world. "I think we're dealing with the same challenges: how to decrease dependencies, how to be more strategically autonomous on critical raw materials, technology and energy," he said.

"If you want to do that, you need to diversify, which means new partnerships. I think the Netherlands, the EU and India are doing exactly that," he added.



"I think specifically in the sectors of energy, security, technology, semiconductors, water and agriculture, we're really taking steps together," Berendsen said.

On trade, he described the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement, expected to be signed in December, as a crucial step that could open opportunities beyond merchandise trade.

The FTA "will benefit many, not only in terms of products but also in areas such as the energy transition and the export of green hydrogen from India to the Netherlands and Europe", he told reporters during a press conference.

The Netherlands is India's 11th largest trading partner in the world. It is also India's 3rd largest export destination globally and the largest in Europe. The total bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries stood at USD 27.7 billion in 2024-2025, according to official data.

Berendsen also welcomed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Tata Electronics and Dutch semiconductor major ASML, saying cooperation in the semiconductor ecosystem offered significant possibilities for both countries.

The MoU was signed in May during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands to support India's first commercial 300 mm (12-inch) semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat.Track Exec Orders

"ASML is, of course, a very important, strategic and big company that has a very strong position in the supply chain for semiconductors, but India has great initiatives as well and a lot of potential in the semiconductor sector as well," Berendsen told.

"So I think it's only logical that the Netherlands and India cooperate and keep up in this area," he added.

Berendsen said his meeting with Jaishankar was their sixth this year, reflecting the growing engagement between the two countries. He said cooperation was being strengthened in sectors such as energy, security, technology, water management and agriculture.

Jaishankar and his Dutch counterpart on Sunday discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the situation in the Black Sea, with Berendsen appreciating India's efforts towards facilitating a possible arrangement for safe passage of grain shipments through the region.

Why I don't always tell potential employers I'm dyslexic

Nineteen-year-old Ayana Bailey doesn't always disclose her dyslexia in job applications, in case it counts against her.

"It's not like there's going to be a target on my back, but I'm just like, 'maybe they won't select me'," says Bailey, a part-time florist.

A British Dyslexia Association (BDA) survey of more than 1,200 working dyslexic adults found Bailey isn't alone - with 46% hiding their dyslexia at work.

Some 81% believe the condition adds to their work-related stress.

Bailey was diagnosed aged 11 and says she received good support at school, including mentoring, which helped her to understand her strengths and manage low self-esteem.

But the world of work has proved more challenging.

For Bailey, the application process is "daunting". She says she relies on her mum to go through it with her.

In interviews, Bailey says: "I just shut down. I completely forget who I am."

One way of coping, she says, is to have a little script, but she admits it doesn't always work.

Bailey, who studied film and wants to go into the creative arts, says that while dyslexia has sometimes made her feel anxious, it's also given her opportunities.

"I would definitely say my creativity and thinking outside the box [is my biggest strength]."

She says her dyslexia makes her a visual learner - able to imagine characters before seeing any written descriptions and helping her dream of becoming a casting director.

'It was majorly affecting me'

For nurse Lisa Daniels, her dyslexia meant leaving work more than an hour late most days just to finish the paperwork.

"I suppressed it. I was like 'Oh no, everything is fine. It's not affecting me.'" In reality, she says "it was majorly affecting me".

Daniels, 37, says a previous manager was dismissive of her request for adjustments.



"When I first started, they said, 'Oh they are babying some of these nurses' and I didn't have the confidence to challenge it."

She says her suggestions of having more accessible fonts and colours on documents were not listened to.

Five years into her career, Daniels' colleague told her about a staff network on neurodiversity and her confidence grew, along with adjustments such as noise-cancelling headphones.

"I have that resilience that, despite the sometimes lack of support, I'm still gonna show up. I'm still gonna try."

Daniels says she's now recovered from her imposter syndrome.

Over half of people surveyed by the BDA say dyslexia makes them feel bad about themselves, while 39% have experienced bad mental health related to it.

The BDA is calling for workplaces to make reasonable adjustments for employees who need them, even without a diagnosis, and wants managers to be trained to understand and support dyslexic employees.

Its report finds dyslexic employees often have to put extra effort into work, finding their own ways to cope if systems, processes and communication are not accessible.

There are 3.3 million dyslexic adults currently in employment, estimates the BDA. Some told the report:

"I have to cope with little comments that are seen as banter about my spelling."

"My line manager is actually dyslexic and we happily talk about it. We share best practice and war stories."

"It would be nice to be seen as intellectual. Just because I cannot always write as well as others, doesn't mean I don't have the knowledge."

"I revealed my dyslexia quite early on in my employment… I do believe it was used as a stick to beat me with."

"I feel like I have got to do more, be more, show more... because I've got this deficit of being dyslexic".

Employment law solicitor Jenna Ide helped a client win a high-profile dyslexia discrimination case against Starbucks in 2016.

"Many dyslexic employees start a new job already struggling with low self-esteem," she says.

"That's especially true of dyslexics who are late-diagnosed and who may have spent years at school and in earlier jobs believing they just weren't clever enough.

"When an employer doesn't understand dyslexia, relies on inaccessible ways of working and doesn't offer support, it reinforces those feelings and can make people more reluctant to ask for help."

Kate Griggs, founder of UK charity Made By Dyslexia, agrees recruitment can still be a barrier, particularly when it is skewed toward written applications and timed tests.

"My advice to young dyslexics is simple: know your strengths, own them and talk about them with confidence. Ask for the support you need and different ways to show what you can do. Find the roles where those strengths are valued."

Ellen Broomé, head of the British Dyslexia Association, said: "Dyslexic people should not have to work harder simply to have the same opportunities as their colleagues.

"Our research reveals the hidden cost many pay, spending additional time and energy compensating for workplaces that fail to understand or support them.

"This is not a question of ability, ambition or talent. It is about the barriers people face and the opportunities lost when workplaces fail to recognise and support different ways of thinking and working."

(BBC NEWS)

Your brain is exhausted from too many unfinished tasks. Five simple steps can help

Finding it hard to switch off at the end of the working day? You may be suffering from the 'Zeigarnik effect'. These tips can help you let go.

At any given moment I have dozens of browser tabs open on my computer, usually featuring research I use for this very column. Today I counted 61 on one window alone.

As I finish a project it feels cathartic to close the related pages. That's because each tab represents an unfinished task, which research shows can tax our brains and undermine our focus.

But often with work, as soon as one project ends, the next begins. Or, in my case, projects overlap.

I spoke to experts about how we can reduce mental exhaustion when tasks are not yet complete. I learnt that there's a huge mental benefit from being able to switch off, we just need to take conscious steps to do so.

'We want to finish things'

The idea that unfinished tasks take on a special status in our memory is almost 100 years old.

In 1927, Russian psychologist Bluma Zeigarnik published a paper showing people were more likely to remember tasks they'd been interrupted while doing, than those they'd been allowed to complete.

The story goes that the inspiration for Zeigarnik's experiments occurred when her supervisor, Kurt Lewin, observed waiters in a busy restaurant. He noticed that they remembered large orders until they were paid for, at which point the order was promptly forgotten.

It reminds me of watching TV, where an unresolved plot encourages me to watch-on and keeps the characters' journey fresh in our minds.

Psychologists still refer to this today as the "Zeigarnik effect". And while the memory boost relating to unfinished tasks has been difficult to replicate consistently, the effect has inspired numerous studies showing that unfinished tasks continue to occupy our minds.

"We have this cognitive need for closure and we want to finish things," says Christine Syrek, a psychology professor at the University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg in Germany.

When tasks aren't finished, keeping the information vivid is useful. "It's functional because it helps us when we get started again: we have everything cognitively present," says Syrek.

But this mental continuity can come at a cost. Syrek and colleagues have found that incomplete tasks at the end of the week were linked to stress and disrupted sleep, as well as "work-related rumination."

With that in mind, here are three ways to help your mind switch off.

1. Set time-based goals

Ongoing work can leave people feeling less competent. In one study, employees found it harder to switch off when tasks were left unfinished, leading to negative rumination. Alternatively, if they felt they had made progress, their sense of competence and control improved and their stress reduced.

This does not mean we have to finish all tasks, says Syrek. Instead, it could involve creating a clear plan for how to finish your to-do list.

When individuals proactively plan, set goals and anticipate obstacles, they find it easier to let go. "We need to relax our mind by saying 'I won't forget it. I know I've written it down'," says Syrek.

Planning at the start of the workday can help too. When individuals prioritised tasks in the morning, one study found it helped them with the transition into their working day.

In my case, I find it useful look at my diary each morning to carve out uninterrupted research and writing time – leaving me feeling reassured this column will get finished.

2. Switch off notifications

Apps on our phones can make it tempting to be available at all hours.

Even in our free time, our brains can be focused on problem solving, says Joan Ongchoco, assistant professor in cognitive science at the University of British Columbia. "[For] my lecture last week, I was teaching in my dreams," she says.

Checking emails can also lead to higher levels of work-family conflict, as this habit allows work to spill into the home, according to a review.

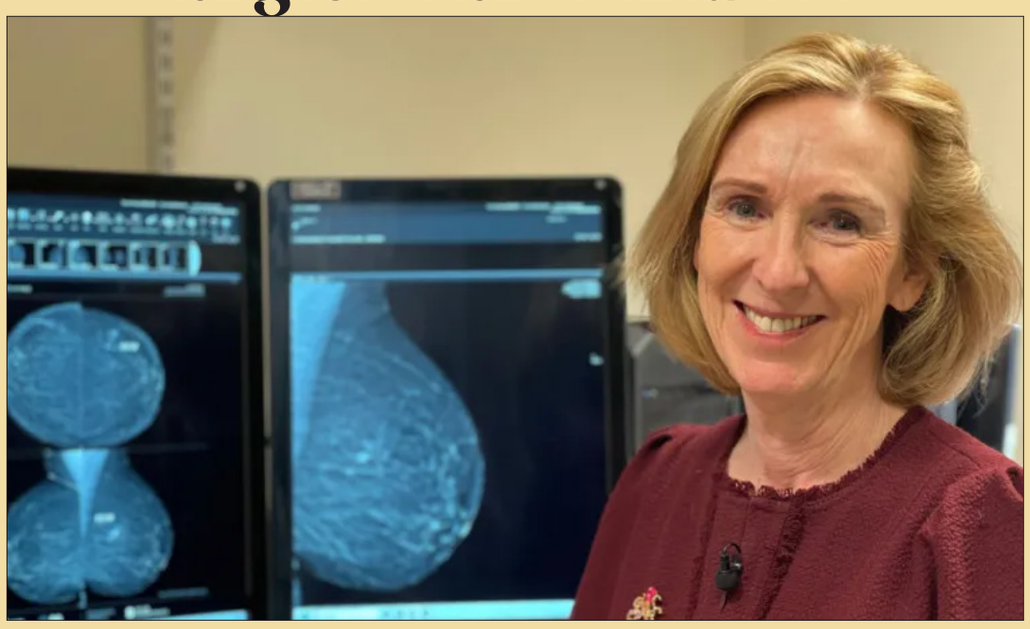
A simple way to reduce stress therefore invovles checking your email less. You could wait until you start work, or set specific times to check. The same goes for any instant messaging apps used for work.

Detaching ourselves from work on holiday can also extend how much we enjoy our time off.

(BBC NEWS)



Can AI spot breast cancer earlier? NHS launches world's largest trial to find out



Nearly 700,000 women across the UK are to be invited to join the world's largest trial of how artificial intelligence can help in breast cancer screening.

AI will be used to review mammograms to see if it can improve early cancer detection and ease the workload of clinical staff, while not over-diagnosing women unnecessarily.

Recruitment to the EDITH trial has already begun at Cambridge University Hospitals, the first of 30 sites across the UK.

Women aged 50 to 71 are invited for routine breast screening every three years in the UK, and more than two million attend annually.

At present two NHS experts look at each breast X-ray, known as a mammogram, but in the trial, one of the human readers will be replaced by AI.

Several smaller studies have already shown that AI can improve breast cancer detection rates, but researchers running this trial say they need to be sure it won't cause harm by leading to women being recalled unnecessarily for further tests.

Sian Taylor-Phillips, professor of population health at the University of Warwick, and co-chief investigator said: "AI-assisted technology could help improve early cancer detection but we want to avoid the overdiagnosis of milder disease that would never have caused symptoms."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the UK, with around 59,000 cases diagnosed each year.

About a third of these are picked up by routine mammograms, usually at an early stage when they can be more easily treated.It's estimated the screening programme helps prevent around 1,300 deaths a year.

Prof Fiona Gilbert, department of radiology, University of Cambridge, honorary consultant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and co-chief investigator said: "Millions of women have a mammogram each year and only a small number, less than 1%, will have cancer.

"Technology can make reviewing these images more efficient, freeing up specialist breast radiologists to spend more time caring for patients with cancer, supporting faster diagnosis and earlier treatment."

Gilbert told the BBC there was a "huge shortfall" in radiologists and that the number of imaging examinations was increasing by 8% a year.

Screening 'saved my life'

Shirley Essex, 70, from Cambridgeshire, was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer a year ago after a routine screening appointment.

She had surgery and radiotherapy, but did not require chemotherapy.

She told the BBC that her mammogram had saved her life: "I was astonished to be told I had cancer because I did not have any symptoms."

Shirley is not part of the study but is passionate about the importance of screening.

"I feel so lucky my cancer was detected early. It was my last routine mammogram, so if I had not attended, my cancer would have kept growing," she said.

How will the trial work?

Women will be informed about the study when they receive a routine screening invitation, but will not be obliged to take part.

The trial will not change what happens during a breast screening appointment.Instead, it will test whether AI-assisted tools could replace one of the two human specialists reviewing mammograms.Researchers say machine-learning software can be trained on millions of previous images in order to detect patterns, and so potentially find subtle changes in breast tissue that might be missed by the human eye.

(BBC NEWS)

New Zealand lose fast bowler Blair Tickner to injury for second India Test



United News Of India

CHRISTCHURCH, NOV 24: New Zealand's fast bowling stocks have taken a hit with news that pacer Blair Tickner will miss the second ICC World Test Championship contest against India due to a hamstring injury.

Tickner hurt his right hamstring while training in Wellington this week and will be sidelined for the second Test with India that commences at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday.

His place in the squad will be taken by fellow quick Matt Fisher, who is parachuted into the 14-player group on the back of

some impressive performances during the recent ODI series against India.

Fisher claimed six wickets across that series and could come into contention for the Christchurch contest should the Black

Caps decide to alter their bowling line-up that struggled for consistency during the first Test in Wellington that finished in a draw, according to ICC.

New Zealand are already without the services of key all-rounder Mitch

Santner due to injury and the loss of Tickner robs them of another bowling option that could tackle India's strong batting order.

The draw in Wellington saw New Zealand relinquish second place on

the World Test Championship standings and the side will be looking for a positive result in Christchurch to move back in front of their trans-Tasman rival.

New Zealand squad: Tom Latham (c), Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Dean Foxcroft, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips,

Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Will Young.

Zimbabwe coach Mark Coles fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

United News Of India

DUBAI, NOV 24 : Zimbabwe women's team head coach Mark Coles has been fined 65 per cent of his match fee after being found guilty of two Level 1 breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct following Sunday's ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy match against Ireland in Ajman.

Coles was found to have breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "use of an audible obscenity during an International Match,"and Article 2.20, which relates to "displaying conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game".

In addition to this, three demerit points have been added to the disciplinary record of Coles, whodid not have a previous offence in a 24-month period.

The breach of Article 2.3 resulted in a fine of 40 per cent of his match fee and two demerit points, while the breach of Article 2.20 resulted in a 25 per cent fine and one demerit point.

After the end of the match on Sunday, Coles



directed aggressive and abusive language towards Ireland captain Gaby Lewis as she celebrated her team's victory,

resulting in the first breach. Subsequently, when Ireland head coach Lloyd Tennant attempted to intervene and de-escalate the situation, Coles confronted him aggressively.

Pressure is normal, I settle after four balls: Sooryavanshi

United News Of India

DOHA, NOV 24 :For teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, pressure is an inevitable part of batting, but it rarely takes more than a handful of deliveries for him to overcome the nerves and get into his rhythm.

"In the last two matches, I got set but



The 15-year-old, who stunned the cricketing world with a record-breaking 53-ball 204 against the UAE in the Rising Stars Asia Cup, admitted that he does feel pressure at the crease but has learnt to settle down quickly and trust his natural game.

"Absolutely, sir. Always. You do feel a little pressure. It's normal, it's human nature to feel a bit nervous. But after two or four balls, I settle down and get back to normal," Sooryavanshi said.

His remarkable ability to overcome initial nervousness and quickly find his rhythm was on full display against the UAE, where he unleashed an extraordinary assault, smashing a record 28 sixes in his double-century blitz.

Interestingly, Sooryavanshi said he had entered the match with a plan to spend time at the crease, having failed to convert his starts in the previous two outings.

couldn't convert those starts. So the plan was to go out there and take my time initially.

But after facing a ball or two, I felt the bowlers weren't getting much help from the surface, so I backed my strengths," he said.

He said the good batting surface, which allowed the ball to come nicely onto the bat, encouraged him to take control and play according to his strengths.

The youngster credited his coaches for reinforcing a simple batting principle - watching the ball closely rather than getting carried away by the occasion.

First-ever BIMSTEC U-23 athletics meet begins on Nov 25

United News Of India

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 24 : More than 200 athletes from seven countries will compete in the inaugural BIMSTEC Under-23 Athletics Championships, which begin at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

The three-day event, running from November 25 to 27, will feature competitors from hosts India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Organised by the Athletics Federation of India under the aegis of the union Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Odisha government, the championship is aimed at providing young athletes with international exposure while strengthening sporting ties among BIMSTEC nations.

"Sports brings people together and is a great medium for people-to-people connect. With this competition our athletes will get international exposure, so it's a win-win situation for us. Four athletes from Odisha are participating in this meet across events. So, we are thankful to the MEA & MYAS for giving us this opportunity to host the BIMSTEC Meet.

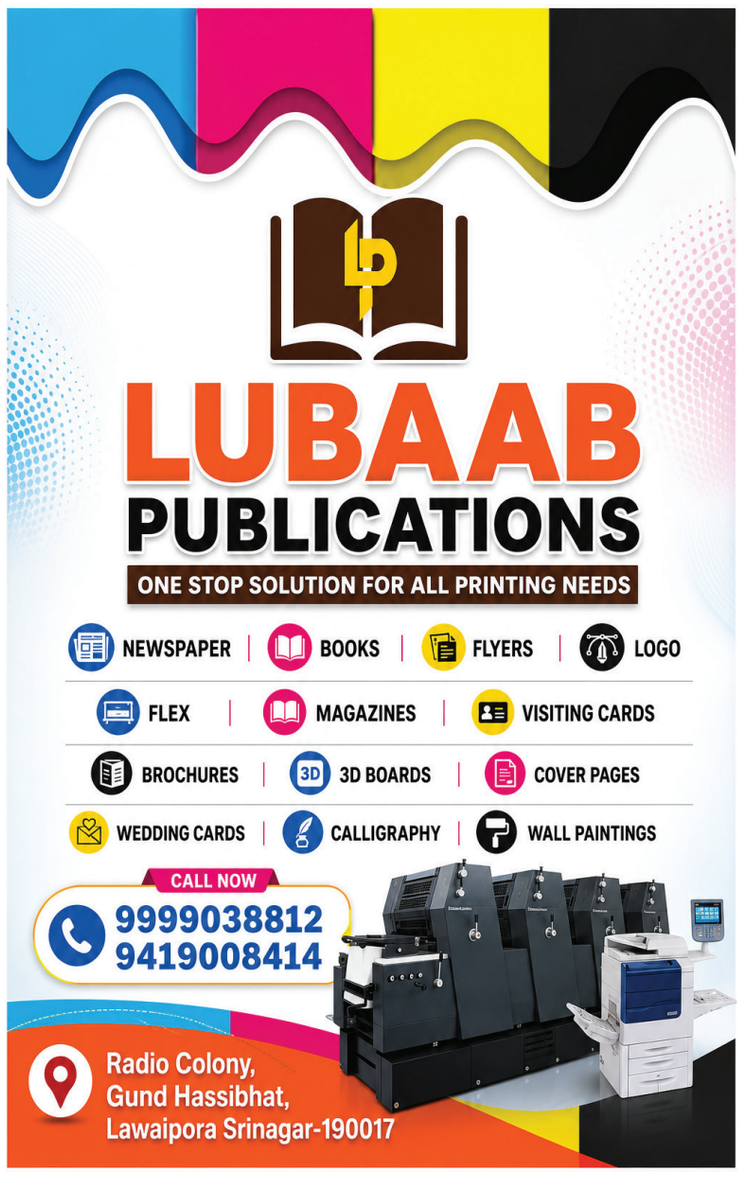
District Baramullla Table Tennis Championship 2026 will Start from 3 Dec



Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLA,23 NOV(HT) District Table Tennis Championship Baramulla 2026 organized by District Table Tennis Association Baramulla under the aegis of J&K Table Tennis Association and Sponsored by J&K Sports Council is Scheduled to be held on 2nd to 3rd December at indoor stadium Baramulla .The championship will be conducted for boys and girls in all age groups, providing an opportunity to young and aspiring players to showcase their talent, sporting skills and competitive spirit. All the interested players are requested to register and confirm their participation with the president District Table Tennis Association Baramulla well in advance. The Association Appeals to schools, institutions clubs and sports enthusiasts to encourage maximum participation and make the championship a grand success.







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