

Good Morning

Kashmir

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GMK

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Article 370 Abrogation Completed Unfinished Task: Rajnath Singh

‘Move Ended Separate Laws In J&K, Ensured Equal Constitutional Rights’



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the abrogation of Article 370 completed an unfinished task linked to national integration, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the move fulfilled a long-cherished vision of Bharatiya Jana Sangh ideologue Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Addressing a gathering after the inauguration of the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lucknow, Singh, said, “The decision to remove the special constitutional provisions for Jammu and Kashmir was rooted in the ideological foundations laid decades ago.”

He said, “Upadhyaya had envisioned complete constitutional integration of

Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country and had made sacrifices for that cause.”

Singh said the abrogation of Article 370 marked a decisive step towards ensuring unity and equal constitutional rights for citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the move ended the system of separate laws and symbols, strengthening the idea of one nation governed by one Constitution.

Referring to other leaders associated with Jammu and Kashmir, the Defence Minister said Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee had also played a key role in advocating full integration of the erstwhile state with India and had laid down his life for the cause.

He said PM Modi carried forward that

India Becoming World’s Fastest-Growing Economy Under PM’s Leadership: LG Sinha

Pays Tribute To Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee On Their Birth Anniversary

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dreams of Mahamana and Atal Ji are now being realized, adding that India’s emergence as the world’s fastest-growing economy, is the testament to this transformation.

“For the first time in history, we see a strong and decisive government fulfilling the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. With the revival of ancient culture, upliftment of the poorest of the poor and transformation of villages into centers of dynamism, the Hon’ble Prime Minister is bringing the ideals of these great men to life,” the Lieutenant Governor said while paying tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of their birth anniversary.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ideals and vision of Mahamana and Atal Ji for Developed India and their message of social harmony,



equality and justice will always inspire the people. They are the visionary architects of Modern India, he said.

He was speaking at a commemorative event at Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Inter College in Ghazipur. This year marks the 164th birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted Mahamana Malaviya’s unparalleled contribution to India’s educational, cultural and industrial advancement.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Mahamana transformed modern education into a powerful driver of development.

“Mahamana ●P-06

“FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, WE SEE A STRONG AND DECISIVE government fulfilling the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. With the revival of ancient culture, upliftment of the poorest of the poor and transformation of villages into centers of dynamism, the Hon’ble Prime Minister is bringing the ideals of these great men to life,”

EOW Books Govt Employee In Fake Jobs, Land Allotment Scam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against suspended government employee for duping poor and unemployed persons through fake job appointments and forged land allotment orders in Srinagar.

According to a statement issued, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has submitted a chargesheet in FIR No. 54/2023 under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC before the Hon’ble Court of the 4th Additional Munsiff Judge, Srinagar, against accused Fouzia Afzal D/o Mohd Afzal Magray R/o Rehmatullah Colony, Sector-B, Fruit Mandi, Parimpora, Srinagar.

The statement reads, the case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused, a Class-IV employee posted in the office of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, ●P-06

Kmr Records 44% Rainfall Deficit, Jmu Near Normal From Oct To Dec 25

IMD Forecasts Snow In Higher Reaches, Rain In Plains Around New Year



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Seasonal precipitation in Jammu and Kashmir from October 1 to December 25 remained 44 per cent below normal in Kashmir division, indicating a significant deficit, while Jammu division recorded a near-normal rainfall with a 9 per cent shortfall, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Between October 1 and December 25, 2025, the valley

recorded an average seasonal rainfall of 57.9 mm, which is 43.9 per cent below the normal 103.2 mm, the IMD data accessed reveals.

In comparison, Jammu division received 93.3 mm, nearly 9.4 per cent below the normal 102.97 mm.

Weekly rainfall from December 19 to 25 showed wide variation across the regions.

In Kashmir, Bandipora recorded 47.7 mm, a sharp 488 per cent ●P-06

HM Shah To Inaugurate 2-Day ‘Anti-Terror Conference’ In Delhi Today

Event To Focus On Developing Synergies Among Various Stakeholders To Counter Terrorism

IAS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will lead experts from operational forces and technical, legal and forensic agencies in chalking out strategies to counter terrorism at a two-day ‘Anti-Terror Conference’ starting here on Friday, an official said.

The experts will also discuss issues impacting national security and threats emerging out of terrorism at the conference being organised by the premier anti-terror agency, the National Investigation Agency, said a statement

HM Shah’s key focus at the conference is likely to include developing synergies among various stakeholders by establishing formal and informal channels for coordinated action against the menace of terrorism



in the spirit of the ‘Whole of the Government approach’ and to present substantive inputs for future policy formulation.

The deliberations and discussions during the two-day conference aim to share experiences and good practices across law enforcement agencies in addressing counter-terrorism (CT) issues and lessons from terror investigations, said the statement.

Shaped under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of zero tolerance for terror, the annual conference has become a platform for brainstorming India’s next-generation strategies to counter emerging threats.

The conference is a meeting point for operational forces; technical, legal, and forensic experts; and agencies engaged in counter terrorism for deliberations on ●P-06

‘Jingle Bells In Srinagar’ Christmas Celebrated With Prayers, Hope, Harmony At Holy Family Church



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Christmas was celebrated with devotion and quiet joy at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Srinagar on Thursday amid the chill of December.

The church, situated in the heart of the city, Lal Chowk Srinagar, became a symbol of peace and attraction as members of the Christian community gathered to mark

the birth of Jesus Christ.

With hymns filling the air and the tune of “Jingle Bells” faintly echoing in the background, the faithful attended special Mass prayers that focused on compassion, harmony and goodwill.

The church premises were adorned with lights, stars and a Christmas tree reflecting both simplicity and spirit.

“We prayed for ●P-06

Article 370 Revocation Matter Of Pride For Country, BJP: PM Modi

Says Aug 5, 2019 Decision Ended Two Flags, Strengthened National Unity

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Terming revocation of Article 370 in 2019 as matter of pride for BJP and the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the move strengthened national unity and fulfilled a long-pending ideological commitment.

Addressing the inaugural function of Rashtriya Prerna Sthal in Lucknow on the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, PM Modi, said, “The Rashtriya Prerna Sthal symbolises a vision that guided India towards self-respect and service.” Referring to the towering statues at the complex, he said, “These statues are very tall, but the inspiration they give to the nation is even greater.”

The Prime Minister said the BJP-led government was proud



to have removed Article 370, describing it as a decisive step towards completing the process of national integration.

He said the ideological foundation for the move had been laid decades ago by Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee.

“We are proud that our gov-

ernment got the opportunity to remove the wall of Article 370,” Modi said, adding that the country could not function with “two flags and two constitutions.”

He said India was now firmly bound together by a single constitutional framework and a shared sense of unity.

Modi said the ●P-06

Govt Launches 5 Digital Reforms To Boost Citizen-Centric Administration

IAS

NEW DELHI: The Union government on Thursday launched five digital reforms to boost transparent and citizen-centric administration in the country.

The reforms -- Ex-Servicemen Reservation Compendum, AI Recruitment Tool, e-HRMS 2.0 App, iGOT AI Platforms, and Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab 2.0 -- were unveiled by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), at the National Workshop on Good Governance Practices 2025 in the national capital.

“Good governance is not an abstract ideal, but a daily administrative responsibility rooted in transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric delivery,” said Singh, addressing the event for Good Governance Day, observed annually on December 25.

The Minister noted that Good Governance Day holds special significance as the nation commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who institutionalised ●P-06

Sonamarg Records Over 4.17 Lakh Tourists Till November This Year

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Sonamarg, a major tourist destination in Kashmir, recorded a total of 417,091 tourists from January to November 2025, showing steady growth and consistent interest across seasons, official data reveals.

According to figures from the Tourist Police Post Sonamarg, the resort experienced a continuous influx of domestic, foreign, and local tourists throughout the year.

In January, around 55,934 tourists visited, including 53,676 domestic visitors, 1,114 foreigners, and 1,144 locals. February saw a slight increase with a total of 57,186 tourists—55,114 domestic, 2,019 foreigners, and 1,565 local visitors. March’s footfall reached nearly 63,000 with 59,084 domestic tourists, 1,120 foreigners, and 2,749 locals.



April experienced the highest footfall of the year, with over 72,722 visitors—67,229 domestic, 1,434 foreigners, and 4,059 locals. May, however, saw a decline, with just over 21,573 tourists—17,083 domestic, 486 foreigners, and 4,004 locals.

June’s figures rose again to nearly 48,139, with 33,692 domestic, 281 foreigners, and 14,166 locals. July recorded close to 39,605 visitors—25,281 domestic, 159 foreigners, and 14,165 locals. August saw a decrease to roughly

32,139, including 12,124 domestic, 304 foreigners, and 19,711 locals.

September’s numbers fell further to approximately 25,264, with nearly 6,945 domestic, 422 foreigners, and 17,897 locals. October recorded around 14,536 visitors—8,389 domestic, 391 foreigners, and 5,756 locals. November’s footfall was just over 18,070, including 13,527 domestic, 459 foreigners, and 4,084 locals.

Officials told KNO that April marked the peak of tourist visits, ●P-06

Surge in Fire Incidents

25 Blazes Reported Across Kashmir Valley in Four Days

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: As many as 25 fire incidents were reported across the Kashmir Valley over the last four days, from Sunday till Thursday morning, with firefighting teams successfully controlling all blazes and preventing loss of life, according to official data.

Officials said that at least 20 fire incidents were recorded across various districts of the Valley between Sunday and Wednesday, involving residential houses, cowsheds, temporary sheds and other structures. These incidents were reported from Srinagar, Sopore, Kupwara, Bandipora, Pulwama, Budgam, Kulgam and Ganderbal districts. Fire and Emergency Services teams responded promptly to all calls and managed to contain the fires efficiently, limiting damage to property.

During the past 24 hours alone, five additional fire incidents were attended to by the Fire and Emergency Services across the Kashmir Division.

In Kalashpora area of Srinagar, a fire broke out



in a four storied commercial building, affecting a cable operating unit on the second floor and a wood carving unit on the third floor. Firefighters brought the blaze under control in time, preventing its spread to other floors and adjoining structures.

In Muqam Shah Wali area of Drugmulla in Kupwara district, one hamam room of a single storied residential house was damaged in a fire incident. Officials said swift action by fire personnel minimized losses.

Another incident was reported from Natipora area of Sangam in Anantnag district, where a single storied cowshed along with an attached store shed made of GCI sheets was affected by fire. The blaze was controlled before it could spread further.

In Dahama village of Vilgam area in Kupwara, a double storied cowshed and a single storied store room were involved in a fire incident. Firefighting teams successfully contained the fire, preventing extensive damage.

Meanwhile, in Gadd Henz Mohalla of Mokdaryari area in Hajin, Bandipora district, the rooftop of a residential house caught fire. Due to poor road connectivity, firefighters reached the spot on foot and managed to douse the flames, saving the rest of the structure.

Fire and Emergency Services have urged people to exercise caution while using heating devices and electricity-operated appliances during the winter season to prevent fire incidents. [KNT]

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The week-long nationwide initiative Good Governance Week “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore”, observed from December 19 to December 25, concluded successfully in Budgam, marking a significant decisive step by the District Administration towards strengthening transparent, accountable and citizen-centric governance at the grassroots level.

Throughout the week, the District Administration Budgam undertook an intensive schedule of public outreach programmes, grievance redressal camps, inspections, workshops and awareness drives across all 17 blocks and 296 panchayats of Budgam to take governance to the doorsteps of the people. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic public participation, reflecting growing trust and engagement between citizens and the administration.

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

A large number of grievances, both fresh and long pending were received through online and offline platforms, many of which were resolved on the spot, while others were taken up for time bound disposal. Special emphasis was laid on



ensuring sensitivity, responsiveness and accountability while addressing public concerns.

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

A major highlight of the week was the daylong District Level Public Darbar cum Workshop on Good

Governance at Town Hall, Khansahib, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, under the banner of Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore. During the Public Darbar, the DC patiently heard public grievances related to development works, healthcare, education, revenue and welfare schemes, and issued on-the-spot directions for their redressal. Sanction letters were also distributed among beneficiaries under various government welfare schemes, reinforcing the administration's commitment to inclusive and timely service delivery.

The workshop component focused on the core pillars of good governance, including the Public Ser-

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

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

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

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

Good Governance Week

Week-Long “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” Campaign concludes in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

In Shopian district, the programme was executed in a systematic and inclusive manner, covering all 98 Panchayat Halqas, in addition to one outreach camp each at Tehsil Headquarters and two special camps at the District Headquarters were held, ensuring comprehensive geographic and administrative coverage.

On the concluding day, grievance redressal and public interaction camps were organised at Nazneen-



pora (Tehsil Keegam), Kanigam (Imamsahab), TurkWangam (Block Chitragam), Panchayat Halqa Vehil, Berthipora-A& B, Panchayat Halqa Partabpora and HS Pora (Block Herman), where a large number of residents interacted directly with officers of the concerned departments. BDO, Nazir Ahmad presided over some of the camps in Imam Sahib and Herman blocks.

Throughout the campaign, the initiative played a pivotal role in addressing public grievances, resolving service delivery issues and creating awareness

about government schemes and entitlements.

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

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

Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore

Good Governance Week-2025 Concludes in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: The week-long Good Governance Week, Sushasan Saptah-2025 organised under the Campaign “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” concluded in Anantnag Thursday.

On the last day, public outreach programmes featuring awareness of government schemes and grievance redressal were held at Dooru, Shahabad, Larnoo, Qazigund, Larkipora and other areas of the district.

During these programmes, officers from line departments provided detailed information about ongoing government schemes and good governance practices being adopted to enhance the delivery of public services.

The public provided valuable feedback on key government services and also put forth their grievances.

Notably, the Good Governance Week, which commenced on 19th December, witnessed extensive field outreach by the district administration wherein



senior officers including ADDC, ACR, SDMs, ACD and others visited villages and far off places and interacted with citizens and civil society members regarding issues of development and public welfare schemes.

Additionally, sanction letters were handed over to the beneficiaries under different schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture,

Social Welfare, ICDS, Rural Development, Health, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and other Departments.

The week-long initiative saw enthusiastic participation from the general public who lauded the move as a significant step towards strengthening public service delivery and people-centric governance.

MVD B'pora Organises Road Safety Awareness, Enforcement Drives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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



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

On the occasion, 13 drivers were facilitated with fitness certificates for their vehicles on the spot,

ensuring prompt service delivery as part of the good governance initiative.

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

During the drive, the ARTO, along with the enforcement team, interacted with drivers and passengers, counselling them on adherence to prescribed fare structures and responsible driver behaviour.

Another enforcement drive was carried out on the Bandipora-Sumbal route, wherein 73 vehicles

were checked. Of these, 25 vehicles were e-challaned, and an amount of Rs 31,000 was realised as penalty.

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

DLC Budgam approves 79 cases under PMAY-Urban 2.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Level Committee (DLC) meeting, held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday, accorded approval to 79 eligible cases under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 in District Budgam, providing a major boost to the implementation of the flagship housing scheme.

During the meeting, fresh eligible cases under PMAY-Urban 2.0 were placed before the committee after due verification, scrutiny, and validation by the concerned Municipal Committees, strictly in accordance

with the prescribed guidelines of the scheme.

Out of total approved cases, 18 pertain to Municipal Committee Budgam, 32 cases to Municipal Committee Beerwah, 17 to Municipal Committee Chadoora and 12 cases to Municipal Committee Charar-i-Sharif.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that all approved cases fulfilled the eligibility criteria and documentation requirements laid down under PMAY-Urban 2.0.

The DC reiterated that the approval process under the scheme is being carried out in a transparent, fair, and time-bound manner, ensuring that benefits reach deserving urban households with-

out delay. He stressed on the immediate grounding of all newly approved houses.

The DC directed that Urban Local Bodies must ensure timely issuance of permissions and provide handholding support to beneficiaries so that work begins without delay.

He said that the District administration is committed to the effective implementation of PMAY-Urban 2.0 and to ensuring timely delivery of housing assistance to eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the district.

Besides, ACR Budgam, CEO MC Budgam, LDM Budgam, EOs of all municipalities were present in the meeting.

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

The award was presented to Head of KVK Ganderbal, Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, during the three-day National Level Zonal Workshop of KVKs (Zone I) held at SKUAST-Jammu.

Instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the Agricultural Technology Application Research

Institute (ATARI Zone I, PAU Ludhiana), the award highlights KVK Ganderbal's exemplary role in bringing innovation-driven outreach to the doorsteps of farmers.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmed, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire KVK Ganderbal team. He described the achievement as a clear testament to the relentless commitment of the scientists and staff toward farmer-centric innovation. He expressed his firm belief that with its current trajectory of excellence, KVK Ganderbal is well on its way to becoming the top-ranked KVK in the entire country.

Prof. Raihana Habib,

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

This award not only elevates the status of KVK Ganderbal but also reinforces SKUAST-Kashmir's position as a premier institution dedicated to self-sustainable agriculture.

By bridging the gap between scientific research and field application, the Kendra continues to play a pivotal role in the university's mission to empower rural communities and celebrate the achievements of the farmers who are at the heart of the region's economy.

Tourism festival kicks off in Pahalgam, to continue till year-end

Promoting Pahalgam as all-weather destination: PDA

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PAHALGAM: The Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA), in collaboration with other stakeholders, has organised a tourism festival in the picturesque tourist town to "further boost tourism and project the place as a vibrant, all-season destination".

The festival, which began amid much enthusiasm, will continue till the end of this month.

Chief Executive Officer of PDA, Hilal Ahmad, said the initiative is part of a broader strategy to diversify tourism activities and attract visitors throughout the year. "Our focus is to develop Pahalgam as an all-weather tourist destination. Through such festivals, we want to showcase the natural beauty, culture, adventure potential and hospitality of the region," he said.

Highlighting the symbolic inauguration of the festival, the CEO said it was formally inaugurated by a six-year-old girl from Mumbai. "We deliberately chose a young child to inaugurate the event to send a strong message —



tourists belong to us, and we belong to them. Pahalgam welcomes everyone with open arms," he said.

Ahmad lauded the role of residents, hoteliers, ponywalas, guides and other stakeholders for their continued efforts in promoting tourism. "The people of Pahalgam deserve immense appreciation. They have been working tirelessly to promote tourism in the area and have always extended warm hospitality to visitors," he said, adding that

community participation is key to sustainable tourism development.

The CEO further said that the department is actively working on introducing snow sports in Betaab Valley to enhance winter tourism. "We are exploring the potential of snow-based activities so that tourists have more options during the winter months as well," he said.

Describing Pahalgam as a complete tourist package, Ahmad said the destination offers something

for everyone. "Pahalgam has everything — breathtaking natural beauty, adventure, peace, culture and entertainment. It is a full package, and everyone must visit at least once to experience it," he added.

The ongoing Tourism Festival features a range of activities aimed at engaging visitors, promoting local culture and showcasing the tourism potential of the region, reinforcing Pahalgam's position as one of Kashmir's premier tourist destinations—(KNO)

Dulhasti Stage-II gets environmental clearance

Study mandated on Chenab basin for environmental flows, biodiversity, community concerns

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended environmental clearance for Dulhasti hydroelectric project stage-II.

The EAC, recommended environmental clearance for 260 MW Dulhasti stage-II hydroelectric project during its meeting held on December 19, 2025. The proposed project is the extension of 390 MW operational Dulhasti Stage-I hydroelectric project, which was commissioned in 2007 and has been operating successfully since then.

The National Hydroelectric Power Corpora-



tion entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on January 03, 2021, for execution of Dulhasti Stage-II hydroelectric project on Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis for a period of 40 years on Chenab river in Kishtwar district.

The estimated project cost is Rs 3277.45 crore. Of this, Rs 4564.57 lakh has been kept for the Environment Management Plan

(EMP) and pollution control measures.

While recommending environmental clearance, the EAC directed that a study should be undertaken five years after commissioning of the project to assess its impact on the environment. "After 5 years of the commissioning of the project, a study shall be undertaken regarding the impact of the project on the environment. The study shall be undertaken by an independent agency,"

I&FC land donors call on Jal Shakti Minister

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A delegation of land donors associated with the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department, Jammu, Thursday met with Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana and submitted a memorandum seeking resolution of their demands. The delegation apprised the Minister that they have



been working with the Irrigation & Flood Control Department Jammu in lieu of land donated by them for

creation of vital irrigation and flood control infrastructure. Highlighting their long-standing asso-

ciation and contribution, the land donors requested for a considered resolution of their pending issues.

The Minister assured the delegation that all their concerns are being examined carefully. He stated that the issues would be addressed in a phased manner by the current dispensation, in accordance with the existing rules.

'Policing beyond enforcement' J&K Police held 1,100+ outreach events, heard 2.3 lakh voices in north Kashmir in 2025

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Jammu & Kashmir Police closed the year 2025 with an unprecedented push on community policing, using public darbars, Thana Diwas and PCPG (Police Community Partnership Group) meetings to reach thousands of residents across north Kashmir districts.

The DIG's media cell shared the year-end figures. The North Kashmir Range rolled out over 1,100 outreach programmes in 2025, hearing nearly 2.3 lakh voices through interactions that focused on grievance redressal, awareness on new criminal laws and a united fight against drugs, according to the figures.

The year's thrust was on "policing beyond enforcement", a police spokesperson said.

He said regular public darbars by senior officers, including IGP Kashmir,

DIG North Kashmir Range and district SSPs, provided walk-in platforms where citizens flagged complaints about investigations, drug menace, neighbourhood disputes and everyday policing services.

The spokesperson described the 2025 effort as a turning point in rebuilding trust in a border and conflict-affected belt, saying that sustained face-to-face engagement has narrowed communication gaps and encouraged residents to share actionable inputs against drug peddlers, fraudsters and other offenders.

"Community cooperation is essential for tackling crime, drug abuse and other social evils," the spokesperson said. "Proactive engagement helps in early identification of problems and prevents youth from drifting towards violence and radicalisation."—(KNO)

Ahead of New Year, Jammu, Punjab frontier areas on high alert

YOGESH

JAMMU: Security forces have ramped up vigilance along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and in frontier districts of neighbouring Punjab following intelligence inputs about potential terrorist infiltrations from Pakistan.

An official said that the alert comes amid dense fog conditions expected to persist for at least a month, providing cover for such attempts, especially as New Year's Eve approaches.

"After heightened security measures in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts, the Border Security Force (BSF) has extended the high alert to Punjab's border regions," the official added.

According to the inputs terrorists camping on the Pakistani side may shift their infiltration routes to Punjab, exploiting the thicker fog in areas like Pathankot and Gurdaspur, which border Kathua in Jammu.



"Additional deployments have been made along the IB in Punjab, particularly in Gurdaspur and Pathankot, to counter any attempts by terrorists to cross over," sources said.

"Searches are being conducted in various border zones. This move echoes past incidents, including an infiltration attempt a couple of years ago where terrorists crossed into Pathankot and used rural belts along the Kathua-Pathankot border to advance into mountainous areas," they added.

"Recent inputs indicate a group of three to four terrorists positioned close to the IB are waiting for an opportunity to cross over amidst inter fog," sources said, adding, "Behind the front-

line BSF personnel, Border Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), and Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are on heightened surveillance, particularly at night when infiltration risks are higher. Damaged fencing and border posts from August's monsoon floods in Jammu-Kathua and Punjab sectors have been fully repaired and reconstructed."

Senior BSF officers from Jammu and Punjab Frontiers are coordinating closely, with Western Command officials conducting regular inspections to ensure zero infiltration.

An official said, "Advanced gadgetry is in place to detect intrusions even in low visibility. The region has seen escalated threats this year."—(KNO)

Director Estates conducts inspection of office, residential accommodations in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

At the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, the Director took comprehensive tour of various blocks, reviewing ongoing renovation, upgradation, cleaning, fumigation and sanitation works. He impressed upon

the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure their time-bound completion so that officers and officials do not face any inconvenience regarding office accommodation and related facilities.

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

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

During the visit, the

Director also held a comprehensive meeting with accompanying officers and took stock of all office and residential accommodations being provided by the Department. He also reviewed issues and requirements projected by different sections.

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

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

Army revises social media guidelines

Emphasizes need for heightened operational security, responsible online conduct

YOGESH

JAMMU: The Indian Army has issued an internal directive revising its policy on the use of social media applications by personnel, underscoring the need for heightened operational security and responsible online conduct in an era of evolving cyber threats.

The guidelines, disseminated through the Directorate General of Military Intelligence (DGMI), have come into immediate effect and existing rules stand updated.

This move reflects a balanced approach, allowing limited digital access while maintaining strict safeguards against potential breaches, misinformation, or exploitation.

For Instagram and Similar Platforms (including YouTube, X — formerly Twitter — and Quora), army personnel may

access these apps solely for viewing and monitoring content. Passive participation is permitted to stay informed or gather general knowledge. No comments, likes, posts, views, or any form of interaction are allowed.

Use of messaging Apps like Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal are limited for exchange of unclassified information of a general nature, but strictly limited to known contacts. Users bear full responsibility for verifying the recipient's identity to prevent unintended leaks.

While use of LinkedIn is permitted only for professional purposes, such as uploading resumes or researching potential employers/employees.

The Army has reiterated warnings against using VPNs, torrent sites, cracked software, or anonymous proxies, citing associated security risks.

This policy builds on prior restrictions imposed in 2020, when personnel were directed to delete accounts on platforms like Facebook and Instagram amid concerns over honey-trapping and data leaks linked to foreign intelligence agencies.

The updated rules aim to enable soldiers to remain digitally aware without compromising sensitive information.

Defence sources emphasized that the directive prioritizes vigilance, stating that the responsibility for secure and correct usage ultimately rests with individual users.

The Indian Army's official public information handle @adgpi has not yet posted about the update, but it aligns with ongoing efforts to counter misinformation and adapt to modern digital realities while safeguarding national security—(KNO)

Soura Access Road Dispute

Court directs SMC, Police to ensure compliance of 2023 restraint order

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A local court has directed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and the Police to ensure compliance of an earlier court order restraining authorities from obstructing the access road leading to the residence of a Soura resident.

The order was passed by the Court of Ist Civil Subordinate Judge/Municipal Magistrate Srinagar while hearing an application filed by Farooq Ahmad Lone, of Soura, seeking implementation of an order dated June 9, 2023.

The applicant had approached the court, alleging that despite clear judicial directions, officials of SKIMS and other concerned authorities had wilfully violated the restraint order by dumping construction material and blocking the gate and approach road leading to his house.

According to the plaintiff, the court had earlier restrained the concerned SKIMS authorities from closing the gate lead-

ing to the applicant's house except by adopting due process of law. However, it was alleged that despite having full knowledge of the order, the non-applicants blocked the access road on multiple occasions in November and December 2025, causing serious hardship and affecting the applicant's right of ingress and egress.

After hearing the counsel for the applicant and perusing the record, the court observed that preservation of the suit property was necessary, failing which the applicant's suit would become infructuous.

The court directed the Ward Officer concerned of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and the Station House Officer of the concerned police station to visit the spot, verify whether there has been any violation of the court's order dated June 9, 2023, and if found correct, implement the order in its true letter and spirit. The authorities have also been directed to file a compliance report before the court—(KNO)

'Substandard Baardana packaging could cripple Mandi operations'

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: Fruit industry leaders Thursday issued a grave warning that the widespread use of sub-standard cardboard packaging—locally known as 'Baardana' will paralyze operations at fruit Mandis.

In a crucial all-valley meeting, President of Asia's second-largest Mandi in Sopore, Fayaz Ahmad Malik Aka 'Kaka Ji', said that the low-quality Baardana fruit packing not only harms the presentation but also risks disrupting mandi operations, potentially leading to market shutdowns and economic downturns.

On the occasion, the growers, cardboard distributors, manufacturers and band saw owners were urged to enforce a ban on low-quality Silkaid products to avert the risks of losses.

Winter festivities, roadshows planned to boost footfall post snowfall surge: JD Tourism

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: As winter settles in following a fresh snowfall, the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department announced a series of upcoming promotional events and roadshows to boost tourist arrivals across the Valley.

Joint Director of Tourism, Kashmir, Wasim Raja, said that in collaboration with various stakeholders, the department will organise multiple activities and campaigns to sustain the current tourism momentum.

"Since the recent snowfall, we've observed a slight rise in tourist footfall, with hotels experiencing good occupancy. The response has been very encouraging," Raja told reporters in Srinagar during the Christmas Khewa Fest, a joint celebration hosted by the Tourism Department,

JKHARA, and KHBOA.

Raja, further said, "Our upcoming months are packed with promotional events and roadshows across the country to maintain this flow and broaden our outreach."

The Joint Director highlighted the importance of festivals such as Christmas, Lohri, and New Year in fostering cultural unity. "This year, both locals and visitors celebrated Christmas together, reflecting our warmth and shared joy," he said.

Expressing his commitment, Raja said, "We are determined to keep the festive spirit alive and will work closely with all partners to ensure a steady influx of tourists through winter, spring, and summer. The media also plays a crucial role in promoting this vibrant spirit."—(KNO)

Atal Bihari Vajpayee: A Statesman Shaped By India's Soul

LALIT GARG

In the modern history of India, there are a few towering personalities who shape the nation not merely through power or position, but through ideas, character, and conduct. Atal Bihari Vajpayee stands among those rare luminaries. A great statesman of Indian politics, a stalwart of the Bharatiya Janata Party, a Bharat Ratna awardee, an eloquent orator, journalist, and a sensitive poet, Vajpayee was a leader who appeared larger than politics even while remaining deeply rooted in it. His 101st birth anniversary is not only an occasion of remembrance, but a moment of introspection and resolve—about the kind of India we envision and our role in realizing that vision.

Every year on 25 December, the Government of India observes his birth anniversary as Good Governance Day, reflecting the values he embodied throughout his public life. Atalji was a rare peak personality in Indian politics, in whom firmness of thought, elegance of behavior, and fearlessness of decision-making coexisted harmoniously. He remained humble at the pinnacle of power and dignified even while sitting in the opposition. This is why he was not regarded as the leader of a single party, but as a leader of the entire nation. He earned the epithet “Ajatshatru” (one without enemies) not because he lacked opponents, but because even amidst intense disagreement, he preserved respect, dialogue, and democratic grace.

For Atal Bihari Vajpayee, politics was never merely a means to acquire power; it was a form of national service and disciplined sadhana for nation-building. At a time when politics was increasingly plagued by opportunism, bitterness, and distrust, he anchored it in values, decorum, and constitutional faith. Whether in power or in opposition, his commitment to democracy remained unwavering. As a statesman, thinker, social reformer, and



nation-builder, he won not only the hearts of millions of citizens but also the admiration of his fiercest critics. The name “Atal” has become a golden page in Indian history, evoking the fragrance of a people's leader, a visionary statesman, an idealist thinker, a builder of modern India, a skilled administrator, and a philosopher-statesman. His personality had countless dimensions: he was both man and icon, thinker and doer, orator and leader, ruler and guardian of democracy.

Serving as Prime Minister three times was not merely a personal achievement, but a testament to the trust the nation placed in his integrity and vision. From leading a minority government in 1996 to heading a stable coalition after 1999, his journey demonstrated that in a democracy, moral authority and leadership credibility matter more than mere numbers. His historic statement in Parliament—“Governments will come and go, but the nation and democracy must endure”—remains a guiding principle for Indian politics even today.

One of Atalji's most decisive contributions was in instilling strategic self-confidence in India. The 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests were not just scientific or military

milestones; they were a declaration of India's self-respect and sovereign resolve. He made it clear that while India is committed to peace, it would never compromise on its security or sovereignty.

When international pressure and economic sanctions followed, Vajpayee's leadership shine even brighter. He neither resorted to aggression nor succumbed to submission; instead, he guided the nation through patience, dialogue, and self-reliance, strengthening India economically and diplomatically. This rare balance defines his statesmanship.

Yet, to see Atal Bihari Vajpayee only as a leader of tough decisions would be an incomplete assessment. He was equally a messenger of peace. His historic bus journey to Lahore symbolized his far-sighted belief that courage, compassion, and communication must walk together. Even during the Kargil conflict, he upheld international norms while resolutely defending India's territorial integrity, presenting the world with the image of India as a responsible and mature power. He believed war should always be the last resort, but when national dignity was challenged, decisive action was unavoidable. This synthesis of idealism and realism made him a true statesman.

Vajpayee's humility and absence of arrogance were legendary. Leaders across party lines, including from the Congress, acknowledged his political acumen and moral stature. Former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru himself was deeply impressed by Vajpayee's parliamentary eloquence and once remarked that Atalji would one day become the Prime Minister of India. The strong organizational and ideological foundation of today's Bharatiya Janata Party owes much to his vision and perseverance. As India's External Affairs Minister in 1977, he made history by delivering a speech in Hindi at the United Nations General Assembly—an experience he described as one of the most fulfilling moments of his life. His parliamentary speeches, marked by clarity, wit, and depth, remain invaluable treasures of India's democratic heritage.

During Vajpayee's tenure, India took a transformative leap in infrastructure and technology. The Golden Quadrilateral highway project, expansion of rural roads, the telecom revolution, and encouragement of private sector participation laid the foundation of a modern, connected India. For him, development was not confined to economic statistics; it was inseparable from the everyday life of the common citizen. His iconic slogan—“Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan”—encapsulated his integrated vision of national progress, where security, agriculture, and knowledge reinforce one another. Even today, this slogan can serve as a guiding mantra for India's development journey.

For over five decades in public life, Atal Bihari Vajpayee held numerous positions—from parliamentarian to External Affairs Minister and Prime Minister—yet he remained distinct, untainted, and principled. In an era of declining political values, he stood firm, fearless in thought, immaculate in conduct, and dignified amidst chaos. He was among those rare leaders who formed governments and

shaped a new political culture on the strength of their credibility, character, and vision, reinforcing transparency, good governance, and democratic accountability. On the global stage, he emerged as a leader committed to liberal democratic ideals and a balanced, humane worldview.

Perhaps Vajpayee's most endearing quality was his sensitivity even while wielding power. The poet within him never faded. His poems are not mere literary creations; they are expressions of the nation's struggles, hopes, and inner strength. His famous lines—“I shall not accept defeat, I shall not resign to conflict”—are not just verses, but a philosophy of life that inspires both individuals and nations. His nationalism was never narrow or exclusionary; it was inclusive, cultural, and deeply human. He took pride in India's ancient civilization while embracing modernity with confidence. He acted as a bridge between tradition and change. His understanding of Hindutva was not aggressive, but rooted in cultural self-assurance and coexistence.

Today, when politics is increasingly marked by polarization, mistrust, and hostility, Atal Bihari Vajpayee appears more relevant than ever. His life teaches us how to balance strength with civility, conviction with humility, and nationalism with humanism. His 101st birth anniversary invites us not merely to remember his name, but to internalize his values—integrity, dialogue, tolerance, and devotion to the nation. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is not a closed chapter of history; he is a living voice within India's conscience, reminding us that nation-building is not the responsibility of governments alone, but of citizens as well. If we draw inspiration from his ideals and commit ourselves to building a vigilant, compassionate, and strong India, that alone will be his true birth anniversary—and our most sincere tribute to him.

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Shining Legacy

Where Mountains Bow And Bells Ring For All



AMANJEET SINGH

In Kashmir, christmas is a promise that comes during the darkest and coldest point of winter, when the snow has come and covered the upper reaches of valley in a blanket of white and cloaked it in silence and peace; this is when Christmas gently comes into the valley of Kashmir, the snow-capped mountains are ringing out Christmas carols, almost as if the snow on the trees muffled them. The ringing of the church bells is a reminder to all people, not just to one community, but to all people, everywhere, that peace, love and hope can be found by everyone, everywhere. The mountains are bowing down and offering their peace through the snow to the people below. The candles that are lit in homes and old churches, shine brightly against the cold and are a reflection of the holy spirit of Christmas that has always been present, and always will be present. This holy spirit transcends the story of the nativity of Christ and reverberates with all people at the deepest level of their being. Thus, Christmas is a cultural symbol of cooperation, resilience, and the ultimate victory of light over darkness.

A fascinating paradox lies within this transformation. As winter reaches its most frigid and least bright moment, this festival rises to the occasion as an everlasting reminder that there is light even in the dead of night; comfort through struggle, and connection through isolation. This promise holds no illusions nor abstracts within the context of a history rife with conflict. It lives on through the exchange of greetings and gifts between neighbours of differing backgrounds. In addition, this interaction exists as a testament to the fact that the Christmas spirit of giving and sacrifice has become permanently engraved in the tra-

dition of human service. An illustration of this is evidenced by St. Joseph's Society, which has taken the form of hope, through their continued commitment to providing education, healing, and compassion over many decades.

It was the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) who began the legacy of this institution. Their initial steps began with a single act of faith and were based on a humble desire to help those in need by planting a small seed in the foundation of need's "rocky soil." Over the years, this seed has developed into a large tree with its roots anchored in acts of sacrifice and supporting thousands of people with dignity for generations. With the establishment of three different services, St. Joseph's School, St. Joseph's Hospital, and St. Joseph's School of Nursing, the Sisters of FMM created an entire ecosystem of hope through these services. In these environments, the only document needed to enter is a human being and the only belief system that is universally practiced is that of caring for others.

St Joseph's School has not only been known for its academic excellence but also as a school that provides students with the necessary teaching and learning to prepare them to be citizens of their communities. Throughout the years, St Joseph's School has nurtured thousands of children from many different cultural, social, and religious backgrounds as well as continued to create a culture of shared values and social harmony within a community. Additionally, in its capacity as an institution, St Joseph's School continues to serve as a factory that produces future builders of Kashmir who will continue to develop and create an understanding within themselves that responsibility for others ultimately comes before all else.

St. Joseph's Hospital Serves Baramulla and its surrounding area as an emotional anchor as well as a physical one. In today's world where most healthcare is treated as a business, this facility remains a source of comfort. Regardless of one's social status, every patient receives care through compassion, this could be their initial form of healing and 'touch,' particularly for many of the



less fortunate. St. Joseph's Hospital seeks to eliminate the fear associated with visiting a healthcare facility, by treating patients through compassion instead of bureaucracy. By exemplifying Christian teachings, St. Joseph's represents the present-day version of Christ's teachings on healing.

The sacrifice of Sister Treclilina demonstrates the incredible depth and sanctity that are included in the legacy of St. Joseph's. Arguably, it provides the most profound chapter of this history. It was written with the blood of Sister Treclilina. In the violent chaos of October 1947, as invading tribes attacked the Valley, Sister Treclilina and her sister religious faced the terrible dilemma of either fleeing for their safety or staying with the people they had dedicated their lives to serve. In choosing to remain behind, Sister Treclilina became a martyr, slain by gunfire while serving humanity at one of its most desperate times. The violent end of her life was not an unfortunate chance happening, but rather represents the supreme testimony to a love without limits and a faith unshaken in the abyss of despair. Sister Treclilina's martyrdom raises the St. Joseph institution from the level of admiration to the level of "holy." The death of Sister Treclilina has inscribed in bold golden letters a profound truth in the annals of Kashmir's history: The greatest love is to give one's life for the benefit of another, regardless of who that "other" may be. Sister Treclilina did not die for

Christians; she died for Kashmiris. In the distinction between these two identities lie the significant difference and extensive meaning.

This legacy of sacrifice creates a new legacy of empowerment for future generations through the School of Nursing at St. Joseph's; as it provides young women, who often come from very humble beginnings, with a great deal more than clinical skills. They are also given a sense of professionalism, service, and compassion. Each nurse is an embodiment of light and compassion, which is the same quality that established St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1846. In addition to working locally, these graduates serve as healthcare providers throughout Jammu and Kashmir and many parts of India, thus serving as multipliers of St. Joseph's mission to serve the poor and disadvantaged in society. Each of these graduates exemplifies the mission of St. Joseph's through their service in the community, ensuring that the seed of compassion sown by the founding Sisters nearly 200 years ago will continue to keep growing, stretching out its many branches, offering shade and shelter to the many children and families of today and tomorrow.

Baramulla offers the world an ongoing, vibrant experience of Christmas by exchanging gifts and eating together; however, the snowfall that has blanketed Gulmarg has also provided with a profound, nearly-contradictory view about what the true meaning of Christ-

mas is, particularly for Christians. Christmas represents the celebration of Geographical oneness and a collection of different types of faiths that all people can share; however, the most important aspect of celebrating faith of any religion is that it transcends mere dogma and ceremony. The fact that North Kashmir is home to a tiny yet active Christian population serves to illustrate the point that service is the highest form of worship. Furthermore, it demonstrates that true sacramentality lies in the connection between individuals during the moments of exchange and receipt of assistance.

The candles that were lit on this Christmas in Kashmir are lit with 2 flames: one flame signifies the birth of Christ in a lowly manger over 2000 years ago; the second flame, which represents the legacy that still exists for all humanity through Baramulla, illuminates the Divine Quality of and for all mankind. This dual flame also shines a light on the Sisters of St. Joseph's, who continue the mission of hope. When we look at the Sisters of St. Joseph's, we are reminded that "Hope" is a verb and it is created from the bottom up: building brick by brick from the schools, stitch by stitch from the hospitals, and lesson by lesson from the nursing colleges.

The Christmas story from Kashmir does not exist in a vacuum; the Christmas story from Kashmir, as well as all Christmas stories, is like a "Universal Manifesto". It reminds us that it is in our fragility and vulnerability as members of the human family that we will find the strongest unity amid the times of trauma and hurt. This is the legacy of St. Joseph's; it was created through sacrifice, and it is manifested in endless acts of service; therefore, the legacy of St. Joseph's offers a silent yet authoritative message to a tired and drained world: the most precious of the treasures of our humanness is the sacredness of all of humanity, and the most beautiful way to celebrate that treasure is by serving that treasure with love. By serving with love, the Sisters of St Joseph's are sharing with the world the strongest message of truth imaginable.

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DLSA Kishtwar Observes National Consumer Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kishtwar successfully organised an awareness programme on the occasion of National Consumer Day at the District Court Complex, Kishtwar.

The programme was organ-

ised under the able guidance of Sudhir Khajuria, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority-cum-Principal Sessions Judge, Kishtwar and under the supervision of Meera Bangotra, Secretary, DLSA Kishtwar.

The event was graced by the presence of learned JMJC Kishtwar, Karan Bijyal along with members of the legal fra-

ternity, advocates, court staff, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and members of the general public.

On the occasion, an awareness session was conducted to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities. Naveed Khurshid, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Kishtwar, who also acted as

the Resource Person, sensitised the participants on consumer protection laws, available grievance redressal mechanisms, and the importance of being an informed and vigilant consumer.

The programme witnessed active participation from Assistant LADCs Sanveer Singh, Sandeep Kumar, Iram Sabha,

Farhat Nabi and Afshan Malik besides other advocates, staff members and PLVs.

As part of the awareness initiative, DLSA Kishtwar also organised a “Nukad Natak” (street play) which effectively conveyed a strong social message on consumer awareness and ethical trade practices. The play prominently highlighted

the theme “Jago Grahak Jago”, educating the public on safeguarding themselves against unfair trade practices and encouraging informed consumer behaviour.

In addition to the main programme, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Kishtwar conducted consumer awareness programmes in their respective

areas, disseminating information on consumer rights, responsibilities and the availability of legal aid services.

The programme concluded with a message urging citizens to remain vigilant, stay informed about their consumer rights and approach legal aid institutions for timely redressal of grievances.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Article 370 Abrogation

legacy by taking the final step in August 2019.

Singh said that since the abrogation of Article 370, J&K has witnessed greater political stability, improved governance and enhanced focus on development.

He said the Centre's policies were aimed at ensuring inclusive growth, infrastructure development and social justice for the people of the region.

The Defence Minister recalled an anecdote about former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, saying that when a Pakistani woman once expressed her wish to marry Vajpayee and asked for Kashmir as a gift, Vajpayee responded that he would agree only if she gave him the whole of Pakistan as dowry.

Singh said the NDA government was committed to the welfare of the poor and marginalised, a philosophy inspired by Upadhyaya's concept of “Antyodaya”.

He said welfare schemes were now reaching the grassroots in Jammu and Kashmir, helping improve access to housing, healthcare, employment and basic services.

Highlighting broader national developments, Singh said India's global standing had improved significantly under the PM Modi led government.

He said India was now being heard with seriousness on the international stage and had emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies.

The Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, built over 65 acres at a cost of around Rs 230 crore, is dedicated to leaders including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Deendayal Upadhyaya. Singh said preserving the legacy and ideas of such leaders was essential for guiding future generations.

He said the ideals of national unity, social harmony and development espoused by these leaders continued to shape policy decisions, including those related to Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

India Becoming World's

established Banaras Hindu University (BHU) through public mobilization donations. Following his ideals, we have utilized Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to develop infrastructure, and in Jammu and Kashmir, we have laid the foundation for over 1,800 houses for families affected due to Pakistani Shelling during Operation Sindoor and recent natural disasters," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lieutenant Governor said Atal Ji awakened India's inner strength and instilled a sense of self-esteem among fellow Indians on the global stage.

“Atal Ji prioritised good governance and economic development. His impact was universal. His administrative reforms and focus on transparency, accountability, and efficient, citizen-centric service delivery ensured inclusive and rapid development,” he said.

LG Pays Tribute To

demonstrates a unique combination of fostering scientific excellence and exhibiting deep commitment to humanity. His life was guided by the principles of Peace, Social Justice, Human Service, Human Dignity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Babu Markandeya Singh Ji was a true disciple of the revered Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji.

Mahamana always emphasized skill development, better education, and independent thinking, which he considered essential for socio-economic development and the establishment of a welfare state. Babu Markandeya Singh Ji was a living embodiment of these ideals, and he dedicated his entire life to the progress of society and nation-building, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India is moving confidently towards historic growth with clear objectives of sustainable development, capacity building and skill development, equal opportunity for all, to achieve the new frontiers of Knowledge for Innovations and creativity to build intellectual capital.

EOW Books Govt

indulged in gross criminal misconduct by issuing fake allotment orders of shops and plots. During investigation, it was revealed that these forged orders bore fabricated signatures of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and carried a forged seal of the District Magistrate, Srinagar.

It reads, Upon receipt of the complaint, a detailed probe was initiated by EOW Kashmir. The investigation revealed that the accused had duped lakhs of sums from many

innocent poor persons and unemployed youth on the false pretext of providing shops at Jehangir Chowk, 5-marla plots at Bemina, and appointment orders for Junior Assistant posts in various government departments. Fake allotment orders and documents bearing forged signatures were supplied to victims to make the fraud appear genuine.

“Further investigation revealed that the accused acted in her private capacity after office hours, impersonating high-ranking government officials of various departments including the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, and Divisional Commissioner's Office, Kashmir,” the statement reads further.

“The investigation also established that Fouzia Afzal is a habitual offender, involved in multiple FIRs registered at different police stations of Srinagar district, with several other complaints under probe at EOW Crime Branch Kashmir. She has already been placed under suspension, and a departmental inquiry has recommended her premature retirement under Article 226(2) of J&K Service Conduct Rules vide inquiry report dated 14.10.2023.”

“The investigation in the instant case stands concluded as “PROVED,” and the chargesheet has been submitted for judicial adjudication,” it reads.

Kmr Records 44%

above normal, while Kulgam and Shopian recorded lower rainfall than usual at 7 mm and 5.3 mm respectively.

Poonch in Jammu division witnessed a heavy 46 mm, exceeding the normal 5.6 mm by 721 per cent, whereas Kathua and Samba recorded no rainfall during the week.

The department also said that most stations across Jammu division have experienced negative departures in weekly rainfall ranging from 30 to 100 per cent, whereas in Kashmir, the departure varied widely from deficits of 1 per cent in Anantnag to surpluses exceeding 250 per cent in Kupwara.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures remained below normal across UT.

In the Kashmir region, Sonamarg recorded the coldest at minus 7.3°C, followed by Gulmarg minus 5.4°C, Pahalgam minus 4.4°C, Shopian minus 4.0°C, Pulwama minus 3.8°C, Zethan Rafiabad minus 3.2°C, Srinagar Airport minus 3.4°C, and Pampore minus 2.5°C.

Budgam minus 2.3°C, Srinagar minus 2.2°C, Kupwara minus 2.0°C, Qazigund minus 1.8°C, Bandipora minus 1.4°C, Ganderbal minus 1.5°C, Anantnag minus 2.7°C, Kokernag minus 0.7°C, Kulgam minus 0.5°C, and Baramulla minus 0.9°C.

In the Jammu region, Katra recorded 8.4°C, Jammu 8.1°C, Kathua 8.0°C, Jammu Airport 7.3°C, Reasi 7.0°C, Kishtwar 5.2°C, Banihal 4.8°C, Batote 4.7°C, Udhampur 4.6°C, Ramban 4.2°C, Samba 2.9°C, and Rajouri 2.6°C, with Bhaderwah at 0.3°C.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 10.2°C, Kargil minus 9.8°C, and Nubra Valley minus 8.3°C, according to Kashmir Weather.

"No significant precipitation was reported in the past 24 hours, and mainly dry weather is expected over the next 24 hours across Jammu and Kashmir," the Srinagar MeT office said.

"Isolated snowfall is forecast for higher reaches of Kashmir and scattered rain in some areas of the Jammu plains between December 31 and January 1, with improvement thereafter," it added.

Officials advised residents and authorities to remain vigilant about weather developments, especially in higher altitude regions prone to snowfall.

With winter conditions prevailing, the IMD cautioned that temperatures in the upper reaches are expected to fall further, while the plains are likely to remain dry, with only isolated instances of rain or fog affecting visibility—(KNO)

HM Shah To Inaugurate

issues impacting national security and threats emerging out of terrorism, said the statement.

The conference includes sessions on collecting evidence from foreign jurisdictions, digital forensics and data analysis in CT investigations, effective trial management, addressing radicalisation, espionage, and emerging hybrid threats to national security, among other topics related to terrorism, said the official statement.

Additionally, sessions on disrupting terror financing networks—tools, techniques, and case learnings—as well as creating future-ready CT strategies and building institutional capacities to address emerging national security issues have been incorporated.

The conference will be attended by senior police officers from States/UTs, officers from Central agencies/Departments dealing with issues related to Counter Terrorism and experts from related fields such as law, forensics and technology.

Christmas Celebrated

peace and prosperity for everyone in Jammu and Kashmir,” a member of the Church said. "The festival is not just a celebration, but a reminder of faith and love in testing times.”

Officials ensured elaborate security arrangements and smooth traffic movement around the church, allowing worshippers to attend the services without hindrance. “Everything remained peaceful, people came with warmth in their hearts,” an officer posted outside the venue said.

Church authorities expressed gratitude to the administration for its cooperation and to the local community for maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship.

Meanwhile, political leaders extended greetings to the people, wishing peace, joy and harmony for all communities on the blessed occasion of Christmas, as they too were present at Church—(KNO)

Article 370 Revocation

Rashtriya Prerna Sthal was dedicated to leaders whose ideas had shaped India's political and social journey, including Vajpayee, Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

He said preserving their legacy was essential for inspiring future generations and guiding the country's development path.

The Prime Minister said the land on which the memorial has been built had remained neglected for decades and had turned into a massive garbage dump over the years.

He congratulated all those associated with the project for transforming the site into a modern national landmark. “I congratulate the people of Uttar Pradesh and the entire country for this inspirational place,” he said.

The Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, spread across 65 acres and developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 230 crore, features 65-foot-high bronze statues of Vajpayee, Mukherjee and Upadhyaya. It also houses a state-of-the-art, lotus-shaped museum showcasing their lives, ideas and contributions to nation-building.

PM Modi was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior leaders.

After the inauguration, the Prime Minister toured the museum and viewed exhibits highlighting key milestones in the lives of the leaders commemorated at the site.

He said initiatives like the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal reflected the government's commitment to national unity, respect for historical figures and the transformation of neglected spaces into enduring symbols of collective inspiration—(KNO)

Govt Launches 5

the concept of probity in public life and laid the foundations of people-first governance.

He said that while the idea of good governance was articulated earlier, it was after 2014 that it began to be implemented in letter and spirit under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, guided by the mantra of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”.

The five initiatives are aimed at strengthening core governance processes, supporting key stakeholder groups, and equipping civil servants for the challenges of a fast-evolving administrative landscape.

The Compendium of Guidelines on Reservation for Ex-Servicemen in Central Government consolidates all existing instructions into a single, updated, and user-friendly reference.

“This step reflects the Government's commitment to honouring the service of Ex-Servicemen by ensuring clarity, uniformity and timely delivery of reservation-related benefits, while also reducing ambiguity and errors in implementation across Ministries and Departments,” Singh said.

The AI-powered Recruitment Rules Generator Tool is integrated with the Recruitment Rules Formulation, Amendment, and Monitoring System (RRFAMS) portal.

“The Recruitment Rules are the backbone of fair recruitment and career progression, and the new AI-enabled tool will significantly reduce delays and inconsistencies by guiding users through simple questions, suggesting appropriate recruitment methods, and automatically generating draft rules in the prescribed format, fully aligned with DoPT guidelines,” the Minister explained.

The mobile application for e-HRMS 2.0, available on Android and iOS, places key human resource services directly in the hands of government employees.

Developed as a core pillar of Mission Karmayogi, e-HRMS 2.0 integrates service records and HR processes such as promotions, transfers, deputations, training, and superannuation, along with

linkages to platforms like SPARROW, PFMS, and Bhavishya. Singh noted that the mobile app will reduce paperwork, speed up approvals, and enhance transparency in personnel management.

The new AI-enabled features on the iGOT Karmayogi platform include iGOT AI Sarthi for intelligent discovery of relevant learning resources, iGOT AI Tutor for personalised in-course support, the iGOT Specialisation Programme offering structured learning pathways in critical domains, and an AI-based Capacity Building Plan Tool to help Ministries and States systematically map roles, competencies, and training needs.

The Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab 2.0 is a next-generation facility designed to produce high-quality digital learning content using modern technologies such as AR/VR, gamification, and interactive simulations.

“The upgraded lab will enable faster and wider dissemination of best practices, reforms, and critical skills across the civil services, strengthening implementation capacity on the ground,” the Minister said.

“Taken together, these initiatives reflect a coherent, future-oriented approach to governance reform, one that leverages technology, strengthens institutions, and places citizens and civil servants at the centre of change,” Singh said.

Sonamarg Records

coinciding with the spring tourism rush, while summer months remained busy due to local and domestic travelers. Despite the seasonal slowdown in autumn, tourist arrivals remained steady into November.

Speaking to KNO, President of the Beopar Mandal Association Sonamarg, Furkan Ahmad, said, "Tourism plays a vital role in Sonamarg's economy. The rising number of visitors has positively impacted hotels, transporters, and local traders, strengthening the overall market."

The recent snowfall has led to a noticeable increase in tourist arrivals. To promote winter tourism, the Department of Tourism has organised comprehensive arrangements, including adventure activities such as skiing and ice skating.

"Special programmes and winter sports events are scheduled for December 31 to provide visitors with a memorable experience," Basharat Hussain, a tourist officer, said—(KNO)

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India target series win against under-pressure Sri Lanka

AGENCIES

Two matches, two big wins. India have stamped their authority on the series, outclassing Sri Lanka across departments. On both occasions, the top order has taken control of modest chases set up by a ruthless bowling unit picking up wickets in clusters. After a few lapses in the field in the opening T20I, India tightened up in the second, leaving little room for error.

Sri Lanka, clearly, have found the going tough. While a handful of batters managed to get starts in both games, there was a visible lack of intent resulting in sub-130 totals. Their bowlers, too, struggled to extract help from the surface with dew not helping matters. With several changes made to the squad and several youngsters drafted in, this series marks a phase of transition for Sri Lanka. The onus is now on the new faces to seize their opportunities and push their case ahead of next year's T20 World Cup starting June 12.

For India, one of the newer faces, Vaishnavi Sharma, has already made an impression, picking up 2 for 32 in her four overs in the second T20I. The hosts could also look to hand G Kamalini, the other newcomer in the squad, her India cap later in the series.

The action now shifts to the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram. India are yet to play any format of cricket at this venue but with momentum firmly on their side, they will be



eyeing another win to seal the five-match series.

Jemimah Rodrigues appears to have found another gear in her T20 batting. In the first T20I, she unfurled an array of strokes, including late cuts, scoops and her signature sweeps to make 69 off 44 balls and pace a chase of 122 to perfection. She followed it up with a brisk cameo - 26 off 15 - in the second T20I, walking in after an early wicket and maintaining the tempo alongside Shafali Verma.

For Sri Lanka, Hasini Perera's struggles have continued. One of the more experienced batters in the side, she is yet to register a T20I fifty, with 46 not out her highest score after 78 trips to the crease. Her maiden ODI half-century

came recently too - an 85 against Bangladesh at the ODI World Cup in October. She has found it difficult to push on in this series, falling to spin in both matches in the 20s. With younger players waiting in the wings, Sri Lanka will be hoping their senior batters, Perera included, can lend better support to Chamari Athapaththu.

Senior allrounder Deepti Sharma, who missed the second T20I with mild fever, is fit and available for the match, coach Amol Muzumdar said. Jemimah Rodrigues, however, missed the training session on Thursday. "Jemi had a little bit of issue. She is fine, but resting today. Physios are monitoring her," Muzumdar said.

India (probable): 1

Smriti Mandhana, 2 Shafali Verma, 3 Jemimah Rodrigues, 4 Harmanpreet Kaur (capt), 5 Richa Ghosh (wk), 6 Sneha Rana/Deepti Sharma, 7 Amanjot Kaur, 8 Arundhati Reddy, 9 Kranti Gaud, 10 Vaishnavi Sharma, 11 N Shree Charani

Sri Lanka went in unchanged in the second T20I. They are unlikely to tinker with the squad unless there are injury concerns.

Sri Lanka (probable): 1 Chamari Athapaththu (capt), 2 Vishmi Gunaratne, 3 Hasini Perera, 4 Harshitha Samarawickrama, 5 Nilakshika Silva, 6 Kaushini Nuthyangana (wk), 7 Kavisha Dilhari, 8 Malki Madara, 9 Inoka Ranaweera, 10 Kawya Kavindi, 11 Shashini Gimhani

There was more pressure last year than this year, says Rashid ahead of SA20 opener

IANIS

CAPE TOWN: MI Cape Town captain Rashid Khan said his side face less pressure in the upcoming SA20 season starting on Friday after claiming the trophy in the previous edition of the competition.

The defending champions return to Newlands on Friday with an aim to get their title defence up and running against a revamped Durban's Super Giants (DSG). Apart from Rashid, the side boasts of Proteas stars Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch alongside Trent Boult and new recruit Nicholas Pooran.

"There was more pressure last year than this year, you know we came at the bottom twice in a row and to come up from that and win the trophy was a big thing for us as a team. I think what we did right was we played collectively as a team and we took the responsibility at certain

points of the game.

"Every player is well experienced, and they will adjust themselves with the condition and the position of the team quite quickly. Everyone is so professional, they have played so much cricket around the world, and I think it won't be that difficult for them to acclimatise," said Rashid in a SA20 release ahead of the opening game.

He also expects Pooran to hit the ground running for his new team. "He (Pooran) is going to bring lots of energy to the game. We know how dangerous and how good a cricketer he is. He is a kind of a person who comes in smashing lots of sixes you will see. He's a guy full of energy and entertainment and I am sure he is going to love his time here."

DSG, meanwhile, have a new captain in Aiden



Heinrich Klaasen.

West Indies off-spin all-rounder Sunil Narine is unfortunately not available as yet, but DSG have recruited Proteas Test hero Simon Harmer to further bolster a spinning contingent that already has Afghanistan mystery bowler Noor Ahmad.

"There is a really nice balance in the setup, and we have a nice group of guys. We have some really good all-rounders, mixed with 2-3 world class players with the likes of Buttler, Klaasen and co."

"I think a lot of it comes down to finding our strength as a team and our identity and what gives us the best chance to play good cricket and win games of cricket, so it's obviously a new and exciting challenge for us in a competition with a lot of new faces," said Markram.

Markram, who has won the competition twice previously with Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC), and brings a wealth of experience and winning mentality to Lance Klusener-coached team.

DSG have a star-studded squad via the presence of England's 2022 T20 World Cup-winning captain Jos Buttler, New Zealand batter Williamson and former Proteas white-ball big-hitter

WPL 2026: Ticket sales for Navi Mumbai and Vadodara games to begin on December 26

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Tickets for the 2026 Women's Premier League (WPL) matches in Navi Mumbai and Vadodara will go on sale from December 26 at 6 pm IST, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement on Thursday.

The WPL 2026 will be played across two venues - DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai and BCA Stadium in Vadodara.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has named District as the official ticketing agency for the fourth edition of the exciting TATA WPL. Tickets can be purchased from the official WPL website,

WPL app on Android and iOS, and also on the District website," further said the BCCI.

The tournament begins on January 9 when defending champions Mumbai Indians, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, host 2024 winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru, captained by Smriti Mandhana. Navi Mumbai will stage 11 matches till January 17 before the action shifts to Vadodara for the remaining 11 fixtures, including the play-offs.

Gujarat Giants will open the Vadodara leg with a clash against RCB, followed by a rematch



of the 2025 final between Delhi Capitals, to be led by Jemimah Rodrigues, and Mumbai Indians. Once the league stage concludes on February 1, the Eliminator, contested by the second- and third-placed sides, will be held on February 3. The table topper advances directly to the final, to be played on February 5.

Set to be staged for the first time in the January-February window, the WPL avoids clashes with major women's international cricket fixtures after three seasons were held in the February-March slot.

Two-time winners Mumbai Indians enter as defending champions, while Royal Challengers Bengaluru are the only other side to have lifted the WPL trophy. Delhi Capitals have finished runners-up thrice, with Gujarat Giants and UP Warriorz yet to reach a final.

Sansad Khel Mahautsav Concludes in Doda

AZHAR HAJINI

DODA: The three-month-long Sansad Khel Mahautsav, organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports Department under the theme "Yuva for Viksit Bharat", concluded today at the DC Office Complex.

Held from September 21 to December 25, the sports festival aimed at promoting sports culture and youth empowerment across the district. Director General, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta highlighted the role of sports in building character, discipline and leadership among youth.

Deputy Commissioner Doda interacted



with sportspersons from various disciplines who raised issues related to sports infrastructure and coaching. Assuring timely redressal, the DC directed measures to strengthen sports facilities, including appointment of coaches, development of cricket pitches, procurement of a bowling machine, identification of a kho-kho

ground, and creation of infrastructure for wrestling and kabaddi.

A live telecast of the national closing ceremony, addressed by the Prime Minister, was also shown. Outstanding sportspersons were felicitated, with emphasis laid on balancing sports with academics to nurture disciplined and empowered youth.

Brazil's tennis star Fonseca sets sights on world top 15

IANIS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca has set a target of breaking into the world's top 15 men's tennis players next year as he looks to build on his recent progress. The 19-year-old won two titles in 2025, his first full season on the ATP Tour, but said he sees that as a starting point.

"I intend to break into the world's top 15. It's bold, but I'm thinking big," Rio de Janeiro-born Fonseca told magazine Veja. "I will also be aiming for consistent results, without ups and downs."

Fonseca began this year ranked 113th but has jumped to No. 24 following wins in Buenos Aires (ATP 250) and Basel (ATP 500).



His other 2025 highlights included reaching the third round at the French Open and Wimbledon.

He also spoke of some other New Year's resolutions beyond tennis. "In my free time, I want to learn Italian, take a poker course, and manage my money," Fonseca said.

Brazil's only men's Grand Slam singles champion is Gustavo Kuerten,

who won the French Open in 1997, 2000, and 2001.

Fonseca has so far reached at least the second round in all four Grand Slam tournaments in 2025, managing to reach the third round in the French Open and Wimbledon. He has also represented Brazil in the Davis Cup with a 4-2 win-loss record in the prestigious men's team competition, reports Xinhua.

He reached the top 175 at world No. 166 in August 2024, climbing close to 50 positions up, after lifting his maiden Challenger title at the 2024 Lexington Challenger. Fonseca won the title without losing a single set in the tournament, thus at 17 years becoming the youngest Challenger champion of the 2024 season.



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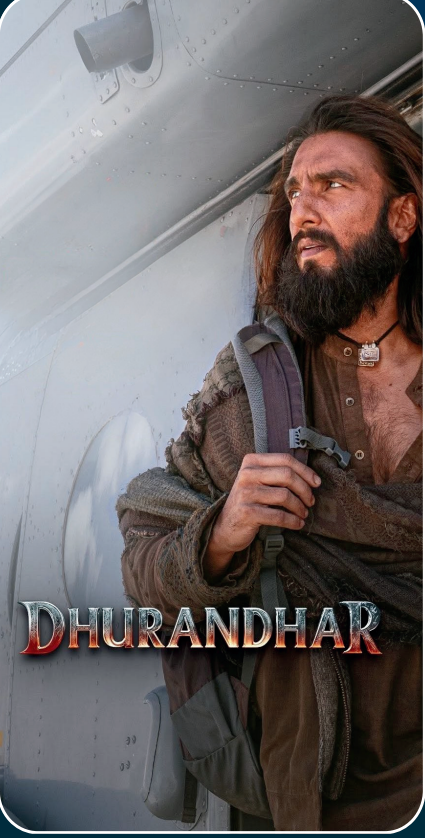
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MOVIES SCHEDULE



Friday, 26th December





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HINDI - 02:00 PM, 03:00 PM, 06:30 PM



TU MERI MAIN TERA MAIN TERA TU MERI
(U/A 16+) HINDI - 10:45 AM, 12:05 PM, 07:00 PM



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