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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Paid obeisance to Baba Jitto and Bua Kaudi at Jhiri Mela. Their sacrifices continue to inspire truth, dignity and justice. Baba Jitto's message reminds us that every farmer deserves respect, fair rights and recognition for hard work. Called upon youth to take agriculture as an avenue for innovation. I also called for empowering women farmers and preserving Dogra heritage. The whole society must come together to build a developed Jammu Kashmir.

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Rotten Meat Returns, Public Trust At Stake

JAVED SHAH



SRINAGAR: The resurgence of rotten meat in Kashmir is becoming a disturbing reminder of how casually public health is being compromised by unscrupulous food traders and how ineffective enforcement can become once the initial public outrage fades.

Barely a year and a half after the menace had shaken public confidence, the illegal trade appears to be raising its ugly head again, reportedly with renewed vigour and in alarming quantities. What makes the situation more frightening is the growing perception that food safety checks have failed to provide any lasting deterrence.

The latest action by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, against two Srinagar eateries is welcome, but it also raises uncomfortable questions. The suspension of FSSAI registrations of Zaika Chicken Biryani at Khayam and Royal 99 Café at Shalimar, following violations of food safety and hygiene norms, is a reminder that the problem is not confined to a few isolated establishments. The inspection of 281 food establishments, collection of 51 samples and initiation of nine cases indicate the scale of vigilance required. But enforcement cannot remain an occasional exercise triggered by complaints or public outrage.

There is something deeply disturbing about people who knowingly put human lives at risk merely to maximise profits. Rotten and unsafe meat is not an ordinary business violation; it is a direct assault on public health. Those who purchase stale, decomposed or illegally stored meat and serve it to unsuspecting customers are playing with human lives. Their only concern appears to be money, with little regard for the consequences their actions may have on families, children and vulnerable consumers.

The real concern is that such practices tend to return whenever enforcement loses momentum. A few inspections, some seizures, temporary closures and public statements may create an impression of action, but they do not dismantle an illegal supply chain. The authorities must identify not just the eateries serving unsafe food but also the suppliers, storage facilities, transporters and middlemen operating • P-06

THOSE TRADING IN ROTTEN MEAT MUST UNDERSTAND that they are not merely violating food safety rules; they are gambling with human lives. And the authorities must ensure that this time, the crackdown does not end before the menace does.

Women Giving New Direction To J&K's Rural Economy: LG Sinha

Pays Tributes To Baba Jitto; Terms Jhiri Mela As Living Symbol Of Faith, Cultural Heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said women are playing a significant role in transforming the Union Territory's rural economy, with self-help groups, women farmers and rural entrepreneurs promoting economic self-reliance through local products, handicrafts, food processing and small enterprises.

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 while paying 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.

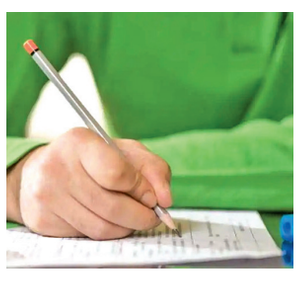
"We must build a society where every person receives respect, where social harmony endures, and where the benefits of development reach the last person in society. To contribute to a developed India, we must build a developed Jammu Kashmir, and three values must always remain at its foundation- truth, 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 • P-06

JKSSB Rules Out FAA Paper Leak

Says PSI Exam To Be Held As Scheduled

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: 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.

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. • P-06

"Magnificent Work"

Kiren Rijiju Praises J&K Waqf Board

Inaugurates Newly Developed Facilities At Baba Reshi Shrine

GMK NEWS NETWORK



TANGMARG: 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 • P-06

Sakina Itoo Warns Hospitals Of Strict Action Over Patient Care Negligence

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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Tuesday warned healthcare institutions of strict action in case of negligence, dereliction of duty or avoidable delays in patient care, asserting that accountability in the healthcare system would be non-negotiable.

The minister made the remarks while reviewing winter preparedness across healthcare institutions at a meeting with key stakeholders, emphasising the need to ensure uninterrupted and people-centric medical services during the winter season.

She directed hospitals to maintain adequate stocks of medicines, oxygen and other essential supplies, ensure sufficient manpower and keep emergency services fully functional, according to a post shared by her on X.

The minister also stressed the need for reliable referral arrangements, particularly for vulnerable patients, and directed officials to conduct regular inspections and deploy designated nodal officers to monitor service delivery.

She said time-bound corrective measures had also been ordered to strengthen healthcare facilities and ensure that • P-06

Gurpurab Celebrated With Fervour In Kashmir

Devotees Throng Gurdwaras; Special Prayers, Langars Mark Parkash Purab

REHAN QAYOOM



SRINAGAR: The 557th Parkash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday with religious fervour and enthusiasm, as devotees in large numbers thronged Gurdwaras to offer prayers and participate in special religious programmes.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other prominent leaders extended greetings to the Sikh community on the sacred occasion.

According to the details collected, celebrations brought together members of the Sikh community and people from different faiths, reflecting Jammu and Kashmir's tradition of communal harmony and peaceful coexistence.

The occasion was marked by special prayers, Gurbani Kirtan, religious discourses and community langars at Gurudwaras across Jammu and Kashmir.

Devotees thronged Gurdwaras, including Chhati Padshahi in Srinagar in Jammu, Poonch, Karnah and other parts of the Union Territory.

They remembered Guru Nanak Dev Ji's universal message of equality, compassion, truth, brotherhood and selfless service.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Gurdwara Sahib, Chand Nagar, Jammu, on the auspicious occasion. He offered prayers for peace, prosperity, happiness and the well-being of all, interacted with devotees and extended greetings.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended greetings to the Sikh community, saying Guru Nanak Dev Ji's timeless teachings of compassion, equality, unity and selfless service continue to inspire humanity and promote harmony among communities.

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah also greeted the Sikh community, recalling Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of humanity, non-violence, brotherhood and communal harmony.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg futher extended warm greetings to the Sikh community on Guru Nanak Jayanti. In his message, he highlighted the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, particularly truth, equality, • P-06

Sheshnag Lake Row

BJP Slams 'Selective Environmental Activism'

AGENCIES

JAMMU- Coming down heavily on attempts to politicise the Amarnath Yatra track widening issue, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday accused critics of practising selective environmental activism and applying double standards, asserting that it would firmly oppose any move to communalise development, undermine the annual pilgrimage or disturb peace in the valley.

A video showing an excavator deployed near the high-altitude Sheshnag Lake, a high-risk glacial lake, in the south Kashmir Anantnag district has sparked widespread outrage, with political parties, religious leaders, and environmentalists demanding an immediate halt to the activity along the Amarnath cave route.

However, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) — the executing agency for the works — said the post-Amarnath Yatra works are being carried out • P-06

Mercury Plummets Further, Kashmir Freezes

Srinagar Records Minus 1.6°C, Pahalgam Minus 4.6°C



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir as night temperatures plummeted further, with Srinagar and the popular tourist destination of Pahalgam recording their lowest minimum temperatures of the ongoing winter season.

A MeT official said that Pahalgam in south Kashmir emerged as the coldest place in the Valley, recording a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, while Shopian followed closely at minus 4.1 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 0.4 degrees Celsius the previous night and 1.3 degrees below the seasonal average. Pahalgam's temperature was 2.5 degrees below normal, the Meteorological Department said.

The cold spell pushed several parts of the Valley below the freezing point. Pulwama recorded minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, Anantnag minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, Konibal Pampore minus 2.5 degrees Celsius and Budgam minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar • P-06

Jhelum Riverbank Gouged, Left Deeply Scarred by Sand Extraction at Sempora



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Large portions of the River Jhelum bank behind the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) at Sempora, Pampore, have been left deeply gouged and scarred by sand extraction, with excavation visibly eating into the riverbank and damaging land claimed by locals as their ancestral property.

The activity has allegedly continued despite objections from the landowners, who say they have already approached the authorities and a police case has also been registered in connection with the matter.

The continued extraction has raised serious concerns among the affected landowners, who allege that their property is being systematically damaged while those involved continue their operations despite the reported police action.

They have sought immediate intervention by the administration and police to stop the extraction, prevent further damage to the Jhelum riverbank and protect their ancestral land. [KNT]

SSP Anantnag reviews crime, security situation; directs speedy investigations

Stresses action against drug networks, strengthening of preventive policing

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: 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)

DC Anantnag visits historic Guru Nanak Dev Gurdwara in Mattan

Takes Stock of Arrangements, Greets Sikh Community on Gurpurab

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday 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.

Gurpurab

ADC Handwara visits Gurudwaras across Sub-Division

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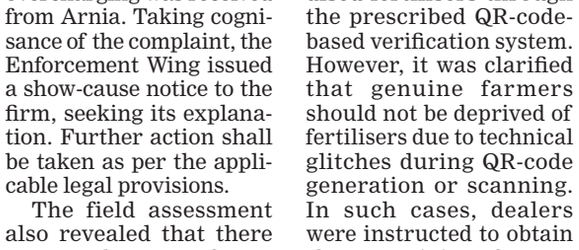

HANDWARA: On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, on Tuesday, visited Gurudwaras across the Handwara Sub-Division to extend greetings to the Sikh community.

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.

Agri Deptt conducts enforcement drive in R.S. Pura

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: The Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department Tuesday 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.

Bandipora Police seize 10 vehicles over illegal mining

SUHAIL RATHER

BANDIPORA: Bandipora Police seized 10 vehicles and machinery within 12 hours during a series of operations against illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of minerals across the north Kashmir district.

Police said the seizures included seven tippers, two tractors and a JCB machine, with enforcement operations carried out by different police units across Bandipora, Ajas, Hajin, Aloosa, Sumbal and Gurez.

Police Post Ajas seized a tipper and a tractor at Sadunara, while Police Station Hajin and Police Post Aloosa seized one tipper each.

In Gurez, Police Post Izmarg seized two tippers and a JCB machine, while Police Station Sumbal seized a tipper and Police Station Bandipora seized a tractor.

Police said legal proceedings under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act have been initiated against those involved.

Meanwhile, Bandipora Police organised 'Know Your Beat Officer' programmes at Dawar in Gurez and Ganastan in Nowgam, Sumbal, to establish direct communication between residents and police personnel responsible for their respective areas.

The programme at Dawar was attended by SDPO Gurez and six beat officers of Police Station Gurez, while four beat officers of Police Post Nowgam participated in the interaction at Ganastan.

Residents were briefed about the responsibilities of beat officers and mechanisms available for grievance redressal. Officers also shared their contact numbers with residents to facilitate direct reporting of criminal activities, drug abuse and other unlawful practices. Separately, Bandipora Police, 13 Rashtriya Rifles and 45 Battalion CRPF conducted a joint Counter Insurgency Response System (CIRS) mock drill at Charwan in Ajas.

Police said the exercise was conducted to assess operational preparedness, response mechanisms and coordination among security agencies in dealing with potential security incidents.

Police maintained that enforcement against illegal mining and unauthorised transportation of minerals would continue across the district. (KNS)

DC Kathua joins Gurpurab congregation at Gurudwara Singh Sabha



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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Tuesday 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.

DC Srinagar, SSP visit Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi

Extend Greetings on the occasion of Prakash Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Prakash Diwas, marking the 557th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr GV Sandeep Chakraborty Tuesday paid visit to Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi in Rainawari area of the District to extend warm greetings on the occasion.

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.

FDA seizes 850 Kg Paneer worth ₹1.70 Lakh in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: 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.

557th Prakash Purab celebrated with religious fervour in Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: 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.

Govt Approves 320 Kanals for Modern Fruit, Vegetable Markets in 3 Districts

GMK NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: In a major step towards strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's horticulture and agriculture sectors, the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved the transfer of 320 kanals and 4 marlas of land to the Agriculture Production Department for establishing modern Fruit and Vegetable Markets in three districts of the Kashmir Valley.

Approved by the Council of Ministers in the public interest, the land will be transferred free of cost at identified locations in Baramulla, Pulwama and Kulgam districts. The proposed sites include 50 kanals at village Palhallan in Tehsil Pattan of Baramulla district, 20 kanals and 4 marlas at village Nowdal in Tehsil Tral of Pulwama district, and 250 kanals at village Kulgam in Tehsil and district Kulgam.

The proposed markets will provide farmers, including small and marginal growers and women farmers, improved access to organised marketing facilities and better opportunities to secure remunerative prices for their produce. Equipped with modern infrastructure and facilities, these markets will promote transparent price discovery, standardised electronic weighing, digital payments and efficient handling of agricultural produce.

The facilities will also incorporate improved arrangements for grading, sorting, storage and transportation, helping reduce post-harvest losses, minimise marketing costs and ensure the availability of fresh produce to consumers.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening agricultural supply chains, improving market linkages and promoting value addition within the region. It is also expected to generate employment opportunities in trading, transportation, logistics and other allied activities, while contributing to higher farm incomes and sustainable rural development.

The initiative underscores the Government's focus under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on strengthening the agricultural and horticultural economy, improving market infrastructure and ensuring that farmers receive better returns for their hard work.

CS reviews Dev Projects, Sports, Heritage Infrastructure in Rajouri

Interacts with youth; Pushes for faster project execution, better public infrastructure

GMK NEWS NETWORK



RAJOURI: Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, Tuesday 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 morningvisit 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.

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.

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.

'Page Se Pitch Tak'

Prasar Bharati Announces Winners of First-Ever Script Pitching Lab at IFFI 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: Prasar Bharati Tuesday announced the winners of its inaugural Script Pitching Lab, 'Page Se Pitch Tak', at Kala Academy, Panaji, as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Conceived by Prasar Bharati Chairman Prasoon Joshi, the initiative aims to establish an annual national platform for emerging writers to showcase original stories in ten Indian languages across the categories of feature films, documentaries and short films.

The initiative received an overwhelming response, with nearly 1,000 scripts submitted within just ten days of the announcement, reflecting the immense storytelling talent and creative aspirations of young writers across the country.

Avishesh Jha emerged as the first-prize winner for his script 'Mirchi Cake', receiving a cash award of ₹5 lakh. Satya Vyas secured the second prize for 'sanhar', winning ₹3 lakh, while Jitesh Thakur won the third prize for 'Sharad Poornima', receiving ₹2 lakh.

The awards were presented at a ceremony attended by Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Shri Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

Addressing the gathering, Prithul Kumar emphasised the importance of identifying and nurturing emerging storytelling talent. He said that it was essential to tap into the creative potential of young India and discover the stories that the country's youth aspire to tell. Highlighting the significance of scripting in filmmaking, he observed that putting a script together was the first step in the filmmaking process, with planning being fundamental to making a film. Describing the script as synonymous with planning, he stressed that a compelling script and a strong story formed the foundation of successful filmmaking,

Rina Sonowal Kouli, Director General, Doordarshan, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the significance of the initiative in bringing India's linguistic and creative diversity to the forefront. She underscored the importance of creating opportunities for emerging writers to showcase their original ideas on a national platform.

The pitching sessions featured ten shortlisted participants presenting their original scripts before an eminent jury comprising Shri Manoj Joshi, actor and National Film Award winner for Best Supporting Actor; Shri Sandeep Balakrishna; author, editor and independent researcher in Indian history, culture and literature; Shri Shree Narayan Singh, filmmaker and editor known for films such as 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' and 'Batti Gul Meter Chalu'; and Shri Anant Vijay, National Film Award-winning journalist, author and film critic, and Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.

LG pays obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar, Jammu. He prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness, and well-being of one and all.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings on the sacred occasion. He urged the people to walk the righteous path shown by Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and strive for the welfare of all, while upholding the core values of social justice, compassion, and universal brotherhood.

"May Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's blessings continue to guide humanity toward peace and virtuous living," the Lieutenant Governor said.

IFFI Masterclass

Saurabh Sachdeva Urges Aspiring Actors to Overcome Fear, Embrace Risk



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GOA: A masterclass titled 'What Stops You from Being an Actor', conducted by actor and acting coach Saurabh Sachdeva, was held Tuesday at Kala Academy, Goa, as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The session witnessed the participation of numerous young acting enthusiasts and explored the psychological, practical and personal barriers that often prevent aspiring actors from pursuing their ambitions.

Through interactive discussions and practical examples, Shri Sachdeva encouraged participants to look beyond the desire to become actors and examine the fears, habits and attitudes that may be holding them back.

Addressing the uncertainty surrounding auditions and rejection, he explained that actors may not always know why they are selected or rejected, as casting decisions often involve several people. Advising participants not to become emotionally attached to individual auditions, he said, "You will never know. The only thing you can do is you can ask them how it felt, that's all." He further emphasised the importance of accepting the outcome, continuing to audition and moving forward rather than waiting indefinitely for a response.

A central theme of the masterclass was the distinction between liking something and genuinely caring about it. Challenging participants to reflect on their commitment, Sachdeva asked, "Do you like to be an actor or do you care to be an actor?" He explained that while liking something may remain at the level of interest, caring requires responsibility, attention and consistent effort. "Most of us like our work, we don't care about our work," he observed, urging aspiring actors to assess whether their actions demonstrate the commitment needed to pursue their dreams.

Addressing the fear of social judgement, he identified social risk as another significant barrier. "The major problem is social risk," he observed, explaining that acting requires individuals to expose themselves to scrutiny, approach people and communicate without being overly concerned about how others perceive them. He emphasised that performers must develop the confidence to express themselves and engage with people.

Rotten Meat Scandal

FDA Suspends Licences of Multiple Food Establishments Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: From the massive rotten-meat controversy of 2025 to a fresh series of food-safety enforcement drives in November 2026, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has suspended the licences or registrations of numerous food establishments across the Valley and Jammu, while seizing unsafe meat, frozen chicken, expired food products and other commodities.

The enforcement record reveals two distinct categories of violations: establishments named during the 2025 crackdown on rotten and unsafe food, and businesses proceeded against in 2026 for hygiene, sanitation, storage and temperature-control deficiencies.

During the 2025 crackdown, the FDA suspended the FSSAI licences of Al-Taqwa Foods, Lasjan; Aarif Enterprises, Bulbul Bagh, Tengpora; Sunshine Foods, Industrial Estate, Zakura; Anmol Foods, Parimpora Ghat, Qamarwari; Jubilant Food Works Ltd. (Domino's Pizza), KP Road, Anantnag; Shanu Shahi Biryani, KP Road, Anantnag; Shan Fish Fry, Achabal Adda, Anantnag; Bismillah Sweets, Industrial Estate, Anantnag; and Khanday Poultry, Kadipora, Anantnag.

The suspensions came amid widespread public outrage over the recovery of rotten and unlabelled meat, synthetic cheese and expired food products. During the crackdown, the FDA reported seizures of over 12,000 kilograms of meat, 2,100 kilograms of synthetic cheese and approximately 44,000 kilograms of expired rasgulla. However, the published suspension list does not establish that rotten meat was recovered from each of the nine establishments individually.

In a separate disclosure, the FDA identified five Srinagar meat operators from whom 4,040 kilograms of frozen meat and meat products had been seized during 2025. These included Sunshine Industries, Zakura, from where 1,200 kilograms were seized; Al-Taqwa, Lasjan, 500 kilograms; M.M. Foods, Haji Bagh, HMT, 1,400 kilograms; Niyaz Ahmad Kawa, Aali Kadal, 420 kilograms; and Al-Azeem Enterprises, Manderbagh, 520 kilograms. Following adjudication, penalties ranging from Rs 17,500 to Rs 5 lakh were imposed. The seizure figures relate to frozen meat and meat products and do not establish that the entire quantity was rotten.

The enforcement drive intensified again in November 2026. Among the establishments named in the November 21 suspension action were Jan Sweets, Hazoori Bagh, Srinagar; the bakery manufacturing unit of Mughal Darbar, Residency Road; Cottage Inn Restaurant, Baghat; Madina Sunrise Poultry, Baghat; Madina Zaika Biryani, Baghat; Orbit Restaurant, New Pulwama; and NFS Poultry, Mandli, Billawar. Reports also named Delhi Ki Mashoor Biryani and Restaurant NAZ at Vijaypur, Samba, although published accounts differed over the total number of establishments covered.

Preserving Kashmir's communal harmony our collective responsibility: SSP Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: 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.

He maintained that Srinagar Police remained committed to serving and protecting people, with maintaining peace and security across the city being its foremost responsibility.

"Srinagar Police is always there to serve and protect people. It is our responsibility to maintain peace and security in the city," he said.

The SSP said he and the Deputy Commissioner would also visit a Gurdwara on the occasion of Gurpurab, marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Extending his message on the occasion, Dr Chakravarthy highlighted the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, particularly the principles of truth, selfless service and communal harmony.

"Waheguru Ji's message is always about service, selfless service, truth and communal harmony. On this auspicious day, we must carry forward that message," he said.

He stressed that the values of service and communal harmony must be reflected in everyday life and that preserving Kashmir's tradition of coexistence was a responsibility shared by all.

Meanwhile, responding to a question regarding the sale and distribution of rotten meat, the SSP said a major initiative would be undertaken to address the issue.

"I have already said that there will be a major initiative on rotten meat," Dr Chakravarthy said.(KNS)

Her Lens, Her Legacy, Her Liberty

Women Filmmakers on Redefining Narratives in World Cinema at 57th IFFI

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: Women filmmakers from diverse cultural backgrounds shared their experiences and perspectives on identity, cultural heritage and creative freedom at a panel discussion titled 'Her Lens, Her Legacy, Her Liberty: Women Shaping World Cinema', held on the sidelines of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

The session featured Kyrgyz writer-director Narghiza Dotieva, Romanian-Roma actress and filmmaker Alina Șerban, and Mexican-American writer-director Suzanne Andrews Correa. Indian filmmaker Abhishek Jain moderated the discussion.

Opening the discussion, Jain invited the panellists to reflect on their personal journeys and the cultural influences that shaped their cinematic voices. Narghiza Dotieva, who was born in Kyrgyzstan and grew up in a small lakeside fishing town, recalled how her grandfather's recitations of traditional Kyrgyz oral poetry inspired her love for storytelling. After a career in advertising, she self-funded her early filmmaking projects, drawing inspiration from Kyrgyzstan's literary and cultural heritage, including the epic Manas. Her feature debut, Skylark, explores borderland histories and universal human emotions.

Born into a Roma family in Bucharest, Romania, Alina Șerban, described her participation at IFFI as an emotional return to her ancestral homeland. She noted the historical links between the Roma community and Rajasthan, including the presence of words of Indian origin in the Roma language. Having experienced prejudice and social marginalisation while growing up in Bucharest, Șerban turned to theatre and cinema to challenge stereotypes. Through her work, including her feature directorial venture I Matter, she seeks to reclaim agency over Roma narratives and foreground stories of resilience and dignity.

Mexican-American filmmaker Suzanne Andrews Correa spoke about the decade-long journey behind her feature directorial debut, La Cazadora (The Huntress), set in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Inspired by real-life incidents of feminicide and violence against women, the film evolved from an expression of anger and urgency into an empathetic exploration of desperation, survival and female agency.

The panellists also discussed the structural challenges facing independent filmmakers, including funding constraints, gender bias and stereotyping. Correa observed that producers often hesitate to support complex and uncomfortable subjects in favour of commercially safer narratives, while women directors frequently have to prove their credentials to be taken seriously. Șerban recounted facing repeated funding rejections because her scripts did not conform to stereotypical portrayals of the Roma community. Both emphasised the importance of being recognised for artistic merit rather than token representation. Dotieva added that audiences and film festivals have an important role in supporting diverse, culturally rooted stories from underrepresented regions.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Jhelum Bank Under Attack

The continued extraction of sand along the River Jhelum behind the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) at Sempora, Pampore, is a disturbing example of how natural resources and private property can be plundered in broad daylight despite objections and alleged legal intervention. Large stretches of the riverbank have reportedly been gouged and scarred by excavation, leaving behind a landscape that reflects little regard for environmental protection or the rights of local landowners.

What makes the situation particularly alarming is the allegation that the activity has continued despite repeated objections from affected families, their approach to the authorities and even the registration of a police case. If these claims are correct, an obvious question arises: who is allowing the extraction to continue, and why have the authorities failed to stop it?

Sand extraction from riverbeds and banks is not a harmless commercial activity. Unregulated excavation can disturb the natural course of a river, weaken its banks, accelerate erosion and increase the vulnerability of adjoining land. The Jhelum is already under tremendous environmental pressure from encroachments, pollution, siltation and other human interventions. Allowing its banks to be systematically damaged would only add to an already mounting ecological crisis.

Equally important is the question of private property. Landowners cannot be expected to watch helplessly as land they claim to have inherited from their ancestors is excavated and damaged. Their grievances deserve a fair hearing, and the administration has a responsibility to establish whether the extraction is authorised, whether the land falls within permissible mining limits and who is accountable for the damage.

The registration of a police case, if confirmed, should not become another piece of paperwork while the alleged activity continues on the ground. Police and civil administration must act in coordination, verify the complaints and ensure that no extraction takes place in violation of the law. If illegal mining is established, machinery should be seized and those responsible brought to justice. The damage already caused must also be assessed. There is a larger public interest involved here. Rivers are not private commercial assets to be exploited at will. The Jhelum belongs to the people of Kashmir, and its protection is a responsibility that cannot be compromised for the benefit of a few.

The administration must intervene before more land is lost and the riverbank suffers irreversible damage. Silence or delayed action will only embolden those who believe that money and influence can override the law.

The Jhelum has suffered enough at human hands. It cannot be allowed to bleed further while those responsible continue digging into its banks.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)

Truthfulness, Character, And Spiritual Legacy

SHOIAB MOHMMAD BHAT



Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani RA, widely remembered as Ghaus-e-Azam, was one of the most influential scholars and spiritual figures of the Islamic world. Born in 470 AH (1077–78 CE) in al-Jil, in the region of Gilan, he later travelled to Baghdad in pursuit of knowledge. His life came to represent a combination of Islamic scholarship, spiritual discipline, truthfulness, humility and service.

According to traditional biographical accounts, his mother, Ummul-Khayr Fatima bint Shaykh Abdullah Sumi, was from the family of Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him, through his grandson Husayn RA. His father had died while he was young, leaving his mother to raise him. At the age of eighteen, Abdul Qadir Jilani RA expressed his desire to leave for Baghdad to seek knowledge and accompany scholars and righteous people. His mother initially asked him about the reason for this sudden decision. After hearing him, she agreed to let him go.

The family had inherited eighty pieces of gold. His mother kept forty pieces for his brother and concealed the remaining forty by sewing them into the armpit of his coat. Before sending her son away, however, she gave him advice that would become central to the traditional account of his journey. She made him promise that he would always speak the truth, whatever circumstances he encountered. She then sent him towards Baghdad, telling him that she was entrusting what was most precious to her to Allah and that she might not see him again in this world.

According to the traditional narrative, Abdul Qadir Jilani RA joined a small caravan travelling towards Baghdad. After leaving Hamadan, the caravan was attacked by a group of approximately sixty highwaymen. The attackers took the possessions of the travellers. One of them approached the young Abdul Qadir and asked whether he had anything of value. He replied that he had forty pieces of gold. The robber, apparently amused by the answer, asked where the money was kept. Abdul Qadir Jilani RA told him that it was sewn beneath his arm. The robber laughed and moved away, apparently assuming that the young traveller was joking. Another robber subsequently asked him the same question. Again, Abdul Qadir Jilani RA gave the same truthful answer.

The matter eventually reached the leader of the group, who summoned the young traveller and questioned him himself. Abdul Qadir again explained that forty pieces of gold were sewn into his coat beneath his arm. When the leader opened the coat and discovered that the money was actually there, he was astonished. He asked why Abdul Qadir had revealed the location of his wealth when he could easily have concealed it. The young Abdul Qadir replied that he had promised his mother that he would never abandon the truth, regardless of the circumstances. The story says that these words deeply affected the leader.

He reportedly began to weep and reflected upon his own broken relationship with Allah. He questioned how he could continue living through theft and wrongdoing when a young man was prepared to honour a promise to his mother even when doing so could cost him his possessions. According to the traditional account, the other members of the group then followed their leader. The sixty highwaymen repented and abandoned their previous way of life. Whether every detail of this story can be historically verified is difficult to establish. It belongs to the devotional literature surrounding Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani RA. Its enduring significance, however, comes from the moral lesson it conveys: truthfulness can become a form of spiritual courage, even when honesty appears personally costly.

The episode also reflects a broader theme associated with Abdul Qadir Jilani RA, the idea that spiritual reform begins with the individual. Knowledge, worship and religious learning were expected to produce changes in character and conduct. His later life in Baghdad was devoted to scholarship, preaching and spiritual instruction. Traditional accounts describe his long period of ascetic discipline before he emerged as a prominent teacher. His sermons attracted large audiences, and his teachings emphasised repentance, sincerity, humility, reliance upon Allah and purification of the heart while remaining firmly connected with Islamic law.

He became associated with the Qadiriyya tradition, which subsequently spread across many regions of the Muslim world. His works, particularly Futuh al-Ghayb and Al-Ghunya li-Talibi Tariq al-Haqq, remain important texts in the literature associated with his teachings.

For his followers, Abdul Qadir Jilani RA represented a life in which knowledge was accompanied by action, worship by character, and spiritual discipline by concern for others. He died in Baghdad in 561 AH (1166 CE), where his tomb became an important centre of remembrance and visitation. Centuries later, his name continues to occupy an important place in Islamic devotional culture. He is remembered as a scholar and spiritual teacher whose message centred on truthfulness, repentance, humility, faith and the purification of the human heart.

The story of the young traveller and the sixty highwaymen therefore remains particularly powerful. Its central lesson does not depend upon wealth, status or worldly power. A young man carried only forty pieces of gold, a promise from his mother and a commitment to truth. According to the traditional account, that commitment became the means through which an entire group reconsidered its life. For generations of Muslims, this is the enduring legacy associated with Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani RA: the transformation of society begins with the transformation of the individual.

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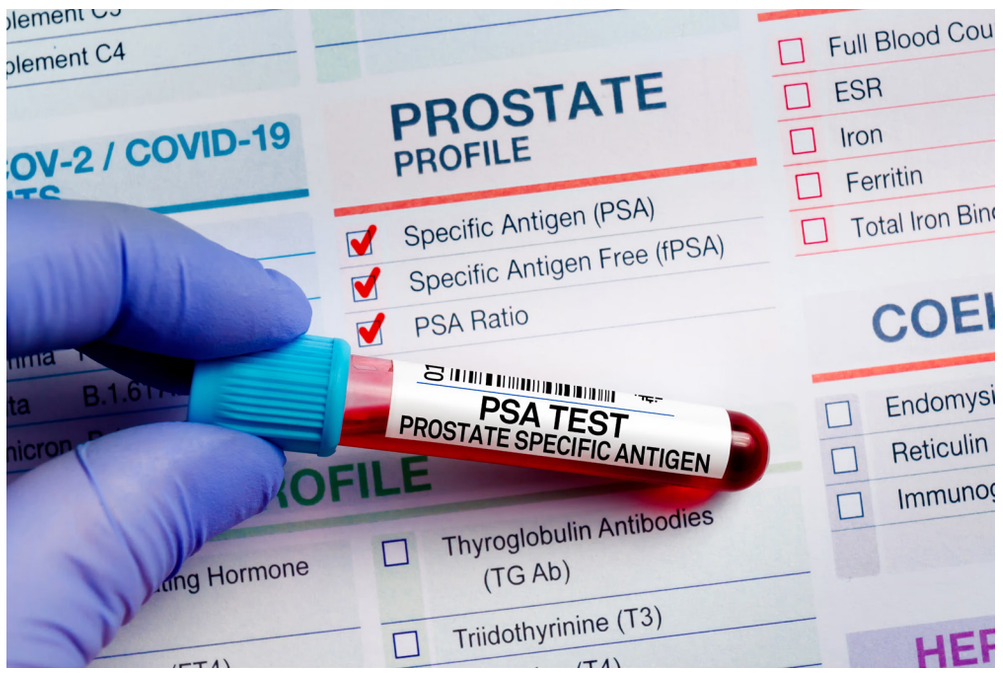
Don't Wait For Symptoms

Why Delayed Screening Jeopardises Early Prostate Cancer Detection



DR. SHAFIQ AHMED



Most prostate cancers develop silently along the outer region of the prostate gland without affecting urinary flow in the early stages. This makes routine screening particularly important, as waiting for symptoms to appear can delay diagnosis and treatment.

Across emerging urban centres and smaller cities, healthcare remains largely reactive. For men over 50, a persistent reluctance to discuss prostate health often adds to this delay. There is a widespread misconception that if urinary function is normal, the prostate must be healthy. However, the absence of symptoms does not necessarily rule out prostate cancer.

This misconception is one of the key reasons why many patients seek medical attention only after the disease has progressed to an advanced stage.

The Silent Nature of Early-Stage Prostate Cancer

Many men believe that prostate cancer immediately causes urinary blockage, burning or discomfort. However, the location of the tumor plays an important role in determining whether symptoms develop. The urethra passes through the centre of the prostate gland, while a significant proportion of prostate cancers originate in its outer region, known as the peripheral zone. Tumors developing in this area can grow for years without putting pressure on the urinary channel. As a result, men may continue to experience normal urinary function even as the disease progresses.

Lower urinary tract symptoms commonly associated with ageing, such as frequent urination at night, difficulty initiating urination or a weak urinary stream, are more often caused by Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). This is a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate that usually develops in the central transition zone.

Consequently, men may mistakenly associate urinary difficulties with prostate cancer while overlooking the possibility of cancer in the absence of such symptoms. In cases where prostate cancer eventually causes significant urinary obstruction, blood in the urine or pelvic pain, it may indicate locally advanced or more extensive disease, potentially limiting treatment options.

The PSA Blood Test: An Accessible Screening Tool

Detecting prostate cancer at a localised and potentially curable stage does not require waiting for symptoms or undergoing complex procedures. Early evaluation begins with accessible screening tests and timely consultation with a urologist.

Men aged 50 and above should consider a baseline urological assessment, including a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test. Men with a family history of prostate, breast or ovarian cancer may need to begin screening earlier, around the age of 45, depending on their individual risk factors and medical advice.

The PSA test measures the level of prostate-specific antigen, a protein produced by the prostate gland. Changes in PSA levels can indicate prostate enlargement, inflammation or possible cancer. Although an elevated PSA level does not necessarily mean that a person has cancer, it helps doctors identify individuals who may require further evaluation.

Advancements in Precision Treatment

When detected at an early, localised stage, prostate cancer generally has very favourable treatment outcomes. Advances in surgical techniques and cancer management have also significantly improved treatment precision and recovery.

Robotic-assisted and minimally invasive radical prostatectomy are among the modern surgical approaches used to treat eligible patients with prostate cancer. These techniques allow surgeons to operate with greater precision while helping minimise blood loss and damage to surrounding structures. Particular attention is given to preserving the neurovascular bundles, which play an important role in urinary continence and sexual function. Minimally invasive approaches can also help reduce hospital stays and support a quicker return to routine activities, depending on the patient's condition and recovery.

Essential Screening Practices for Long-Term Prostate Health

A shift from symptom-led consultations to proactive screening is essential for improving early detection of prostate cancer. Men should not assume that normal and painless urination rules out prostate-related concerns. Those aged 50 and above, as well as younger men with relevant family history or other risk factors, should discuss an appropriate PSA screening schedule with their urologist.

Regular health assessments, awareness of family history and timely medical consultation can help identify potential abnormalities before they begin affecting daily life. Persistent pelvic discomfort, unexplained lower back pain, blood in the urine or an elevated PSA level should not be ignored and warrant appropriate medical evaluation.

Proactive healthcare is ultimately about identifying and addressing potential health concerns before they significantly affect an individual's quality of life. A simple blood test, followed by timely medical evaluation wherever necessary, can play an important role in detecting prostate cancer early and improving the chances of successful treatment.

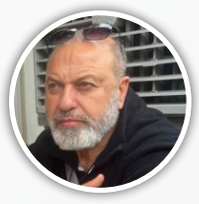
Author is Senior Director Urology, Andrology & Renal Transplant at BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Healthcare In The Valley

The Imperative For A Robust Accountability Framework

A Six-Decade Self-Appraisal Of Medical Progress, Institutional Leadership And Public Accountability



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

Good of Moh, Madam Sakina ji, while chairing a meeting with key stakeholders to review winter preparedness across healthcare institutions, Itoo directed all hospitals to ensure uninterrupted, people-centric healthcare services during the winter month. This piece' s central argument is on a common man's lament: Kashmir has expanded its healthcare infrastructure, medical colleges and tertiary-care institutions, but has it built a dependable, patient-orientated healthcare system?

I have shaped this piece into a carefully worded public-interest article, retaining my personal journey, institutional references, critical questions and the possibility of a public scorecard. I have also made the tone firm but measured so that it invites accountability rather than appearing to prejudge individuals with emphasis on past Non-visionary healthcare leadership and managers, the administrative shortcomings, constraints and impact of clipping institutional autonomy, or one puts strategic or operational healthcare planning lapses in the geopolitical situation? Where does the buck stop?

I joined the Medical School in 1971 and completed my medical education in 1977. I left Kashmir in 1992 and returned in 2019. Having witnessed medicine in different places and institutions with very high standards of care for workers as directors of Quality and the patient safety department, got my hospital JCi gild seal and re-accreditation across different decades, I returned with the NABH training at AHA academy of hospital administration Noida with hope that Kashmir's healthcare system would have made substantial progress, and I can add on with my qualifications and experience, but there are not many takers.

Nearly seven years after my return, I find myself asking a disturbing question: Why have we failed to establish a healthcare system in Kashmir that consistently meets accepted standards of modern medicine? Mind that my benchmark is not John Hopkins but one at Karan nagar or Soura; the benchmark remains the same, similar hospitals with the same infrastructure in neighbouring states or similar. Neither; I am talking about achieving Joint Commission International (JCI) or NABJ accreditation overnight. Can we not, at the very least, aspire to deliver healthcare that meets established NQA national quality assurance (Indian) standards of quality, patient safety and clinical governance?

Our tertiary-care hospitals are overcrowded, often operating without visibly consistent patient-orientated protocols or strict referral policies. Casualty departments sometimes resemble railway stations, with patients and attendants moving through congested spaces, struggling to find direction, timely attention and coordinated care. Meanwhile, almost every district now has a Government Medical College (GMC). Institutional achievements are regularly publicised through self-promotional videos and announcements. But a much more important question remains unanswered: Have these institutions developed the clinical capacity, protocols, manpower and infrastructure to treat patients locally, or are we simply expanding buildings and institutional identities while continuing to refer patients to Srinagar?

Infrastructure versus outcomes: The real gap

Healthcare development cannot be measured merely by the number of medical colleges established,



buildings inaugurated, departments announced or appointmentsmade. .The real test is whether a common man, particularly someone from a low- or middle-income family, can receive appropriate diagnosis and treatment at the right time, without being compelled to travel outside Kashmir., or to SSH or SKIMs/Lal ded etc.

I have shaped this piece into a carefully worded public-interest article, retaining my personal journey, institutional references, critical questions and the possibility of a public scorecard.

Why should parents and families continue to roam the corridors of hospitals in Delhi, Chandigarh and Mumbai, carrying medical files, investigation reports and referral notes?Whenever I enter hospitals in Delhi or Mumbai as a care recipient, I find myself asking: Why must a Kashmiri travel so far for treatment that ought to be available closer to home?

For many families, treatment outside Jammu and Kashmir costs four to five times more when travel, accommodation, investigations and repeated consultations are included. What happens to those who simply cannot afford to leave?This is not merely an inconvenience. It is an issue of healthcare equity, affordability and social justice.

A self-appraisal of institutional leadership

Perhaps the time has come for an honest institutional review covering the following pillars of our healthcare delivery system:

Government Medical College, Srinagar: Founded in 1963–64, GMC Srinagar has completed more than six decades of service. Approximately 25 principals, by my recollection, have led this historic institution, many of them distinguished medical professionals. Would worth reviditin have been their collective contribution towards institutional transformation? But that is not the aim or objective of my sincere self-appraisal review. How can we do better, not how could we have?

For FAQs, I try to find answers and/or solutions. Have we developed a robust system of clinical governance, quality assurance, research, patient safety and accountability? Have we established measurable benchmarks for patient outcomes and service delivery? Individual achievements deserve recognition, but institutional progress must be judged by sustainable outcomes rather than individual reputations.

Directorate of SKIMS: SKIMS, established in 1983, was envisioned as a major centre of advanced medical education, research and tertiary healthcare. Its leadership, including successive directors, has carried an



enormous institutional responsibility and hard work with their best, probably that was their best. None came forward to say, 'I had a vision and goal XYZ, but I could not do it.' SCOT assessants and subsequent headmasters would benefit from that feedback advisory. Beyond individual achievements, we must examine how SKIMS has consistently fulfilled its wider responsibility towards the healthcare needs of Kashmir (abh Delhi janney ki zaroorat nahi) and developed a model of excellence that other institutions can emulate.

JVC Hospital: An institution with untapped potential: Established in 1988–89, from its inception as a team till we got its MCi recognition, I remained part of the team. Currently JVC has considerable potential to emerge as another strong tertiary-care institution, as its location and infrastructure, with little support from State policy makers, can emerge as a very good service provider. These are some misperceptions that deserve an objective administrative examination rather than acceptance as established facts. During my recent visit, however, the physical structure and landscape made me believe with visionary leadership / management without being wedded to excuses of institutional autonomy Jvc needs adequate government support, specialist manpower and a clearly defined development plan; assuredly, JVC could emerge as a major healthcare destination. Why should its potential remain underutilised?

Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir: One of the Valley's oldest and most extensive healthcare service networks, the Directorate of Health Services has historically served the population at the primary and secondary levels... even at the remotest places where people have to walk or face so many hardships, but they dare; where eagles dare. Successive directors have inherited enormous responsibilities, and everyone had a fair contention with resource allocation.

My Q with GMc at district level: have forthcoming AIIMs sufficiently strengthened district hospitals and community health centres and primary healthcare facilities to reduce unnecessary referrals to tertiary-care hospitals? Have we developed effective referral pathways, emergency transport systems, specialist outreach programmes and measurable standards of service delivery?

The Directorate's performance deserves praise and a comprehensive review based on public health outcomes rather than administrative activity alone.

The missing link: A functional healthcare ecosystem

A properly developed healthcare system requires much more than infrastructure.

It needs:

- Adequate specialist doctors, trained nurses and technical personnel.
- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) across clinical departments.
- Patient-orientated emergency and casualty services.
- Reliable diagnostic, critical-care and surgical facilities.
- Infection prevention, patient safety and quality assurance.
- Clinical audits and transparent outcome reporting.
- Functional referral systems between district and tertiary hospitals.
- Grievance redressal and accountability mechanisms.
- Financial transparency and effective utilisation of allocated funds.

Every district GMC should have a realistic self-sufficiency plan, identifying the conditions it can manage independently and those requiring referral. Referrals should be medically justified, coordinated and supported by appropriate transport and communication systems.

Can geopolitics explain everything?

It is convenient to place every institutional failure in the basket of Kashmir's geopolitical situation. Undoubtedly, the region has experienced exceptional political, administrative and security-related challenges. These cannot be dismissed. However, can they explain every deficiency in hospital administration, clinical protocols, patient management and institutional accountability?

Central funding has never stopped, always supported healthcare development in Jammu and Kashmir. Some resources may have remained unutilised, while others have undoubtedly been put to productive use by committed professionals. But have we consistently translated available resources into sustainable improvements?

A government grant is not an institutional achievement merely because it has been sanctioned or spent. Its real value lies in the improvement it brings to the life of an ordinary patient.

My moot Q... The buck stops where? why patients are not satisfied and going to state-run institutions is scary. Media, morality and medicine are three wheels which need a policy or change in perception. I am not suggesting that every principal, director or administrator hasnot well enough. Nor should individual doctors and healthcare workers, many of whom work under considerable pressure, become convenient scapegoats for systemic deficiencies.My question is directed at institutional leadership, policymakers, administrators and successive governments., a framework a time bound strateguc and operational action plan with continuity with PDCA on projects abd plans.Can each institution undertake an independent, transparent self-appraisal?Can we assess what was inherited, what was achieved, what remained incomplete and what should have been done differently?Perhaps one day, I may place a public scorecard before our people, not to humiliate individuals, but to encourage evidence-based institutional accountability.

Such a scorecard must examine measurable indicators: waiting times, referral rates, patient outcomes, bed occupancy, staff availability, infection rates, emergency response, equipment functionality and patient satisfaction. I would particularly like to hear from those who have genuinely attempted to improve healthcare access for ordinary, low- and middle-income families.

A question to our leadership

I would like to appreciate the prompt attention of the Hon'ble Health Minister, Ms Sakina Itoo, the administrative leadership of the Health and Medical Education Department, the Directorate of Health Services, SKIMS, and the principals and directors of our medical institutions for hard jobs. This is not an exercise in naming and shaming. It is an invitation to introspection. After six decades of GMC Srinagar, more than four decades of SKIMS, and decades of expansion in medical education and district-level institutions, what is our collective report card?

Healthcare is a fundamental public responsibility.Can we promise a Kashmiri patient that quality treatment will be available at home, whenever medically feasible, without the financial and emotional burden of travelling outside the Valley?The question is no longer whether we have built enough institutions. The question is whether we have built a healthcare system worthy of the people it serves. The buck must stop somewhere. But more importantly, the transformation must begin somewhere.

Author is an exoert on heakthcare standards improvement and global policy analyst

DISCLAIMER: IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

J&K Govt approves transfer of 32 kanals of land for grid station in Hajin

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: 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.

The Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL), has already conveyed the feasibility of the site for the project. Administrative approval for construction of the grid station along with a 132 KV D/C transmission line had earlier been accorded by the Government.

PG, Senior Resident doctors' agitation intensifies across J&K

AIMSA seeks 7th CPC Level 10, Rs 67,700 basic pay for senior residents

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The ongoing agitation by Postgraduate (PG) and Senior Resident doctors demanding enhancement of stipends and pay parity with premier medical institutions has intensified across Jammu and Kashmir, with resident doctors from several Government Medical Colleges and district hospitals joining the protest.

The agitation entered its fifth consecutive day at Government Medical College Srinagar and sixth day at GMC Jammu on Tuesday, as protesting doctors continued to press for revision of their existing pay structure, removal of disparities and a uniform policy across medical institutions in the Union Territory.

The Association of Indian Medical Students and Resident Doctors, along with Resident Doctors' Associations, reiterated that the demands are aimed at securing financial parity for PG and Senior Resident doctors with their counterparts at SKIMS Srinagar, AIIMS Jammu and other premier central medical institutions.

At GMC Jammu, AIMSA Chief Advisors Dr Sanah and Dr Abhishek Mittal, said the immediate enhancement of stipends remains the central demand of the agitation. RDA Vice President Dr Abhimanyu Manhas also extended support. As part of the peaceful agitation, resident doctors in Jammu announced a silent protest on Tuesday, wearing white aprons, black bands and face masks to symbolise solidarity and express disappointment over the delay in addressing their demands.

Resident doctors at Sub-District Hospital Sopore also staged a protest, seeking equal pay and recognition.

AIMSA placed a series of demands before the government, including abolition of the existing 6th Pay Commission-based structure and implementation of 7th CPC Level 10 for PG residents, along with Dearness Allowance and House Rent Allowance; enhancement of the basic pay of Senior Residents to 67,700, bringing it at par with Senior Residents at SKIMS Srinagar and other central medical institutions; grant of 20 per cent Non-Practising Allowance to PG residents and Senior Residents; regular revision of Dearness Allowance; and a uniform pay structure across all Government Medical Colleges and SKIMS in Jammu and Kashmir.

AIMSA President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said the association was hopeful of a positive response from the government and urged the authorities to resolve the issue without further delay. He welcomed Health Minister Sakina Itoo's interaction with the protesting doctors and expressed hope that the government would take concrete steps, as it had previously done in the case of MBBS and BDS interns.

The agitation has also received support from several district-level healthcare institutions. Dr Yaser Fayaz from District Hospital Kulgam said resident doctors there had joined the indefinite strike commencing November 23 over the disparity in stipends, adding that elective services would remain suspended while emergency services would continue as usual. —(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

Rotten Meat

behind them. Unless the entire chain is exposed, the same menace will continue to resurface under different names and at different locations.

The FDA's direction to restaurants to clearly disclose whether the meat being served is mutton, beef or chicken, and whether it is fresh or frozen, is a positive step. Disclosure of ingredients on menus and Food Safety Display Boards can help consumers make informed choices. However, transparency on paper cannot substitute for physical inspections, proper storage facilities, regular laboratory testing and strict verification of meat supplies.

The department must also ensure that frozen meat is not passed off as fresh and that no establishment is allowed to conceal the source, quality or condition of the meat it serves. Surprise inspections should become routine rather than ceremonial. Repeat offenders must face stringent legal action, including prosecution and cancellation of licences wherever warranted. Equally important is the need to make inspection and sampling outcomes public so that consumers know whether the food they are paying for is safe.

Kashmir's food culture has always enjoyed the trust of its people and visitors. That trust cannot be allowed to become a casualty of greed. People should not have to worry whether the meat served at a restaurant is fresh or whether the food they are taking home could put their family's health at risk.

The FDA deserves appreciation for the latest enforcement action, but the public will judge it by sustained results, not the number of inspections announced. The fight against rotten meat cannot be reduced to a periodic crackdown followed by silence. It must be continuous, uncompromising and visible.

Those trading in rotten meat must understand that they are not merely violating food safety rules; they are gambling with human lives. And the authorities must ensure that this time, the crackdown does not end before the menace does.

Women Giving

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.

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.

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

JKSSB Rules Out

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)

Kiren Rijiju

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)

Sakina Itoo Warns

patients do not face inconvenience during the winter months.

Stressing that responsibility would be fixed at every level, Itoo said any lapse affecting patient care would be dealt with firmly.

"Patient safety comes first. No compromise on care, no tolerance for negligence," she said.

Gurpurab Celebrated

compassion, humility and selfless service to humanity, and prayed for peace, prosperity and harmony in the region.

In Srinagar, the main religious observances were centred at the historic Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi in Rainawari, where devotees gathered in large numbers to pay obeisance and participate in prayers and Gurbani Kirtan.

Celebrations were also held at Gurdwaras in Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla and other parts of the Valley, with families visiting the shrines to seek blessings. Community langars and religious gatherings formed an important part of the celebrations.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, DIG Central Kashmir Rajiv Omprakash Pandey and SSP Srinagar Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy also visited Gurdwara Chhati Padshahi, paid obeisance and extended greetings to the Sikh community.

In Poonch, the 557th Parkash Purab was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at Gurdwara Singh Sabha, with Sikh devotees, officials and members of other communities participating in the religious observances.

A Nagar Kirtan was also taken out ahead of the occasion, led by the Panj Pyare and carrying the decorated Palki Sahib of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The procession passed through prominent areas of Poonch town, while Gatka performances by young members of the Sikh community added to the celebrations.

In Karnah, the occasion was celebrated with religious fervour, with Army, BSF and police personnel joining the Sikh community in the festivities.

The celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir reaffirmed the enduring relevance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of equality, brotherhood, compassion and service to humanity, bringing people together beyond religious and social boundaries—(KNO)

BJP Slams 'Selective

in compliance with all applicable safety norms and environmental safeguards.

"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," JK BJP spokesperson and former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina said in a statement.

Without naming any party or individual, Raina said attempts are being made by political parties and opportunistic leaders to revive the Amarnath land controversy and communalise the issue.

He said the controversy followed the elimination of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Lateef Bhat in Kulgam on November 18, and the Home Minister's declaration about the elimination of the last known Kashmiri terrorist commander.

"After failing to mobilise public sentiment against security operations over frisking and restrictions during the eight-day cordon and search operation, these political elements had found a new pretext in the Amarnath Yatra track-widening issue," he claimed.

The BJP leader said the 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.

"Every project needs approval and strict watch of the NGT (National Green Tribunal). Projects, as has been clarified by the BRO, unlike under previous regimes, have been undertaken in accordance with prescribed safety norms and environmental safeguards," he said.

He said ecological concerns cannot become an excuse for communal mobilisation or political intimidation.

"The BJP would like to ask these self-appointed guardians of Kashmir's environment one simple question: Where does their environmental concern disappear when other major infrastructure projects are undertaken in the region? Why is there no comparable outrage over the environmental impact of the Mughal Road, whose construction has fragmented vital wildlife habitats in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the endangered markhor (Capra falconeri)?" he asked.

Raina also questioned the silence over tree felling for power transmission infrastructure and works along the flood channel, asking why these projects did not attract similar environmental scrutiny and political rhetoric.

He cited reports of a sharp decline in the markhor population, from 45–55 in 2004 to just three in 2022–23, alongside ecological concerns linked to road construction, landslides and tourism waste.

The BJP leader said the Mughal Road, connecting Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with Shopian in south Kashmir, which passes through high-altitude Pir Ki Gali, and its proposed tunnel had consistently been projected as key development and connectivity projects, stressing that environmental safeguards must apply equally to all infrastructure works.

He maintained that environmental protection should not be used as a political tool against the Amarnath Yatra, asserting that improving the safety and accessibility of the sacred pilgrimage route cannot be portrayed as an assault on Kashmir's ecology or identity.

"The Amarnath Yatra is a sacred national pilgrimage, not a communal provocation. Improving the safety and accessibility of an established pilgrimage route cannot automatically be portrayed as an assault on Kashmir's ecology or identity," he said.

Calling for environmental concerns to be assessed through scientific evidence and expert opinion, he cautioned against attempts to communalise development and disturb peace in Kashmir, adding that the BJP would oppose any such move.

"Kashmir has suffered enough from the politics of separatism, fear and manufactured grievances. Its people deserve development, peace and responsible politics—not another round of divisive agitation.

"Let environmental concerns be decided by scientific evidence, expert assessment and established laws—not by political convenience," he said.

Mercury Plummets

Airport and Awantipora recorded minus 2.2 degrees Celsius each, while Qazigund settled at minus 2.0 degrees Celsius. Kupwara recorded minus 1.0 degrees Celsius, Bandipora minus 1.1 degrees Celsius, Ganderbal minus 0.3 degrees Celsius and Kukernag minus 0.1 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, improving from minus 2 degrees Celsius on the previous night. Kulgam also registered 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Baramulla recorded 0.1 degrees Celsius. Sonamarg, meanwhile, recorded 3.2 degrees Celsius.

The cold was more severe in Ladakh, where Leh recorded minus 7.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Kargil at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius and Nubra Valley at minus 5.9 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, temperatures remained relatively higher in the plains. Jammu city recorded 9.6 degrees Celsius, while Jammu Airport registered 7 degrees Celsius. Udhampur recorded 6.5 degrees Celsius, Poonch 6.2 degrees Celsius and Rajouri 3 degrees Celsius. Bhadarwah recorded 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Katra and Batote registered 10.5 degrees Celsius each.

The Meteorological Department has forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the next six days, from November 25 to November 30, with sunny to partly cloudy conditions expected.

Higher reaches and tourist destinations, including Gulmarg and Pahalgam, are likely to continue experiencing colder nights—(KNO)





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NIT Srinagar to compile alumni directory covering batches up to 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: 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

Hourly Parking Charges in Srinagar Hit Motorists Hard

Extended Stays Can Cost Over Rs 500

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Exorbitant time-based parking charges along major roads in Srinagar are adding to the financial burden on motorists, with people parking their vehicles for several hours in commercial areas such as Lal Chowk, Residency Road, MA Road and Rajbagh facing particularly high costs.

The concern is that even when motorists find a roadside parking space, the hourly tariff can make an ordinary visit to the city expensive. For people attending offices, conducting business, shopping or visiting hospitals and other institutions, parking for few hours can translate into a substantial daily expense.

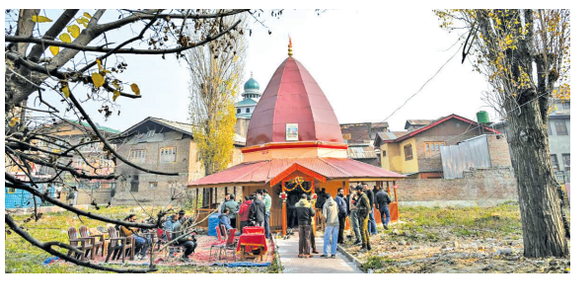
Public resentment over the charges has been reported earlier, with commuters alleging that roadside parking rates under Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) reach as high as Rs 70 per hour. A seven-to-eight-hour stay was reported to cost Rs 500 or more, placing a disproportionate burden on people who have no option but to keep their vehicles parked for extended periods.

Traders have also raised concerns that steep parking charges discourage customers from visiting city-centre markets. The issue of promised short-duration free parking and the need for better monitoring of parking operations have also figured in public complaints.

An SSCL official defended the higher roadside rates, stating that such spaces were intended for short-duration parking and were priced differently from designated parking facilities. However, commuters question whether a system designed to discourage prolonged roadside parking should impose such a heavy financial burden on people who depend on the city centre for their daily work.

People have demanded a review of the tariff, reasonable rates for longer stays, clearly displayed parking charges and transparent time-based billing. They have also sought greater accountability in the collection of fees, saying parking management should facilitate movement in the city rather than become an additional burden on ordinary motorists. [KNT]

Srinagar Temple Reopens After Over Three Decades, Prayers Held



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR- After remaining closed for over three decades due to the outbreak of militancy, a temple here was reopened on Tuesday, and prayers were held, officials said.

The Durgeshwari Temple in the Fatehkadal locality of the city here was reopened, and a pooja was held after 37 years, the officials said.

They said the temple was reopened after cleaning and minor renovation work. Srinagar deputy commissioner Akshay Labroo and senior superintendent of police, Srinagar, G V Sundeep Chakravarthy, also attended the pooja.

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

GMK 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).

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



GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: 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.

SP unveils first five candidates for UP polls; Akhilesh Yadav pitches joint 'PDA' nominees with Congress

IANS



LUCKNOW / NEW DELHI: Calling for extensive discussions with the Congress to build a strong electoral alliance in Uttar Pradesh and other states, the Samajwadi Party (SP) has released its first list of five candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

The party has fielded sitting MLA Nahid Hasan from the Kairana constituency. Other candidates announced include Umar Ali Khan from Behat (Saharanpur), Ashu Malik from Saharanpur, Mehboob Ali from Amroha, and Jyoti Lodhi from Lalitpur.

Stressing that the focus must remain on securing victories rather than merely dividing seats. The party chief Akhilesh Yadav, in a detailed post on his X handle, described the present moment as a "historic opportunity" for the two secular forces to join hands, overcome the "communal BJP and its narrow-minded allies," and prevent the nation from "falling into the wrong hands."

He urged both sides to carefully weigh public expectations and ground realities so that the alliance emerges victorious in a majority of constituencies.

The SP chief said that 26 seats have already been discussed based on priorities identified by the Congress side.

He has now asked the Congress to identify and share additional potential seats so that both parties can jointly evaluate winnable constituencies and suitable candidates.

The Samajwadi Party chief indicated he is prepared to suggest seats that the Congress may not have earlier considered, based on its own assessments and calculations. A key proposal is that candidates should be projected as representatives of the INDIA alliance, or ideally as "PDA (Pichhde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) candidates," rather than being labelled specifically as Congress or Samajwadi Party nominees.

Akhilesh Yadav recalled the full cooperation extended by the Congress organisation during the Lok Sabha elections, which he said contributed to a crushing defeat of the BJP, and expressed confidence that similar coordination can again deliver results in Uttar Pradesh and subsequently at the national level.

Ground-level surveys, according to the communication, show that the message of PDA has reached every city, neighbourhood, street and village. The oppressed, distressed and marginalised sections across communities are said to have rallied against the BJP with the conviction that "PDA will defeat the NDA."

The SP chief preferred the term "seat adjustment" over "division" and rejected any framing of the exercise as "us versus you."

For seats with complex equations, he suggested jointly deliberating on at least two potential candidates, selecting the stronger contender through consensus, and working collectively to ensure victory so that votes transfer effectively.

He cautioned against imposing candidates and emphasised mutual agreement. The primary shared objective, Akhilesh Yadav underlined, is formation of the government.

Tech leader Nikesh Arora meets PM Modi, praises his 'grasp of technology'

IANS

NEW DELHI: Nikesh Arora, Chairman and CEO of US-based cybersecurity company Palo Alto Networks, on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he is amazed by PM Modi's grasp of technology and his clarity of vision on how he sees the optimistic side of it.

In a post on social media platform X, Arora said he "had the pleasure of having a conversation with the Honorable PM Narendra Modi". "I am consistently amazed by his grasp of technology and his clarity of vision on how he sees the optimistic side of it. The boundless possibilities of AI and how it is likely to benefit the masses. Be it education, healthcare or ensuring that friction can be removed for doing business in India," the Indian-origin tech leader mentioned.

Arora further stated that PM Modi "was, of course, keen to understand how it can be diffused safely and securely and what dangers it poses in the hands of bad actors. Both Palo Alto Networks and I look forward to contributing positively to his vision". Arora, Chairman and chief executive of Palo Alto Networks since 2018, is a former senior vice president and chief business officer of Google, and a former president and chief operating officer of SoftBank Group.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that in my Aadhaar Card bearing Registration No. 880432814785, my name has been mistakenly mentioned as "Owais Ahmad Dar", whereas my actual and correct name as per my Domicile Certificate is Owais Ayoub, S/o Mohd Ayoub Dar, R/o Samboora, Pampore. Further, my Date of Birth has been mistakenly recorded as 07-04-2000, whereas my correct Date of Birth is 07-04-2002. I intend to apply for correction of the above-mentioned particulars in my Aadhaar Card. Any person having any objection in this regard may file his/her objection in the office of the Concerned Authorities of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be accepted.

Owais Ayoub S/o Mohd Ayoub Dar
R/o Samboora, Pampore

President Droupadi Murmu urges youth to draw inspiration from Odisha's maritime heritage

IANS



BHUBANESWAR: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the younger generation of the country has much to learn from the courage and skills of ancient maritime traders, urging people to draw inspiration from the past to shape the present and build a brighter future.

The president, who graced the Bali Jatra Festival 2026 at Kataka in Odisha on Tuesday, said that this festival is a unique festival which celebrates the glorious history of Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, she stated, "The history of maritime trade has evolved into a tradition, and the tradition has become a festival. This reflects both the creativity and the historical perspective of the people of Odisha."

Murmu said that the merchants from Odisha used to travel to distant lands to engage in trade and commerce. She added that through trade, they accomplished many significant things for the country. They discovered new maritime routes and strengthened international relations. They were also a medium of cultural exchange.

The President noted that the historic connection between Odisha and Bali could be transformed into modern commercial and cultural cooperation. She also expressed happiness that cultural troupes from Indonesia were participating in this year's Bali Jatra and that the Odisha Festival is being celebrated in Bali over two days, featuring Odisha's dance and music, handlooms, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine.

The President expressed confidence that such cultural exchanges will strengthen the historic ties between India and Indonesia.

Murmu said that while it was good to take pride in the glories of the past and celebrate festivals, people should draw inspiration from history to shape the present and build a brighter future.

"Building Viksit Bharat is our national goal. India's stature on the international stage has grown. While there is unrest in many parts of the world and instability in the global economy, India's economy continues to remain strong. This is a promising indicator of our journey toward becoming Viksit Bharat," she outlined.

The President was happy to note that Odisha is emerging as an industrial hub and is attracting an increasing number of investors. Entrepreneurs, artisans, weavers and the younger generation in Odisha are strengthening the state's economy through their skills and spirit of enterprise. Their growing contributions are an encouraging sign of progress towards realising the vision of Viksit Odisha.

Bisleri says FSSAI finding relates to one 2025 batch of water from Goa plant

IANS

NEW DELHI: Packaged drinking water maker Bisleri International on Tuesday, which is under fire because of an adverse Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) report on its product, said the scrutiny is related to just one batch manufactured at its Goa plant in September 2025.

The company said that the batch is no longer in circulation and subsequent testing found bromate levels in the sample within permissible limits.

The company said all its 143 manufacturing plants remain operational and compliant with FSSAI regulations, with the Goa facility also continuing operations without any suspension order from the regulator.

"Bisleri produces more than 50,000 batches annually. FSSAI's sale prohibition applies only to one Batch GO 270, manufactured in Goa on September 27, 2025. There are no stocks of this batch in the market currently," it added.

On Sunday, the FSSAI had said it had sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri International, whose one sample of packaged drinking water failed in lab tests following the detection of bromate beyond permissible limits. On subsequent testing by a referral lab, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which pose a health risk, were also found in a sample.

On Monday, FSSAI clarified that, as per the law, the report of the referral lab should be final in case of appeal by food business operators (FBOs).

"The order for prohibition of sale was issued to Bisleri International for the Batch No. Go 270. Only one batch was found to be non-compliant. FBO (Bisleri) has been conveyed to conduct root cause analysis."

Bisleri said while one out of six samples in a subsequent re-test had reported PAHs, another sample from the same batch cleared all parameters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Mohsin Kachroo, S/o Late Ghulam Mohiuddin Kachroo, R/o H. No. 197, Main Sector, Mehboob Colony, Natipora, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public and concerned authorities that I intend to transfer the ownership of the electricity connection installed at the above-mentioned residential premises in my name. Any person having an objection to the proposed change of ownership may intimate the concerned department within seven days of this publication.

Mohammad Mohsin Kachroo
S/o Late Ghulam Mohiuddin Kachroo
R/o H. No. 197, Main Sector, Mehboob Colony, Natipora, Srinagar

SMAT 2026: Himachal thrash Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Karnataka, J&K register wins

IANS



NEW DELHI: Himachal Pradesh registered a dominant nine-wicket victory over Madhya Pradesh in the Elite Group C encounter of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) Elite 2026, while Vidarbha defeated Uttarakhand by 15 runs to move to the top of Group D.

Elsewhere, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir secured four-wicket victories over Rajasthan and Railways, respectively, in their group-stage matches on Tuesday.

In a Group D encounter at the Jadavpur University Campus 2nd Ground in Kolkata, Vidarbha posted 208/8 in their allotted 20 overs after being put in to bat. Ravikumar Samarth top-scored with 59 off 35 balls, while Nachiket Bhute provided the late impetus with a quickfire 45 off just 20 deliveries. Yash Kadam (31) and Varun Bisht (27) also made valuable contributions to take the team past the 200-run mark. Janmejay Joshi, Jagadeesha Suchith and Avneesh Sudha claimed two wickets each for Uttarakhand.

In reply, Uttarakhand were 67/3 in 7.3 overs before Aarav Mahajan led the chase with a fighting 69. However, he received little support from the other batters as Uttarakhand finished at 193/7, falling 15 runs short of the target. Saurabh Dubey claimed three wickets for Vidarbha, while Yash Kadam picked up two. With this victory, Vidarbha moved to the top of the Group D points table with 22 points from six matches.

At the Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali, Himachal Pradesh bowled out Madhya Pradesh for just 126 in 15.5 overs in their Elite Group C clash. Madhya Pradesh, led by Rajat Patidar, struggled to build partnerships and lost wickets at regular intervals. Shivang Kumar was the standout batter with a quickfire 41 off 16 balls, but the lack of support from the other end restricted the side to a modest total. Mridul Surroch, Harshit Sandal and Aryaman Singh Dhaliwal took two wickets each.

Himachal Pradesh made light work of the chase, with openers Ayush Jamwal and Vaibhav Sharma scoring 58 runs each. The duo shared a 107-run opening partnership as Himachal reached 127/1 in just 9.2 overs to register their third win of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Karnataka secured a four-wicket victory over Rajasthan in a low-scoring encounter at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy BKC in Mumbai.

Batting first, Rajasthan made a positive start, scoring 62 runs in the powerplay while losing just one wicket. However, the innings soon suffered a collapse as the team was bowled out for 113 in 15.3 overs. Himanshu Nehra top-scored with 53, while Abhijeet Tomar contributed 25. Shikhar Shetty led Karnataka's bowling attack with four wickets, while Shreesha Achar claimed two.

In response, Karnataka lost opener Rohan Patil in the fourth over but recovered through Krishnan Shrijith (33) and captain Smaran Ravichandran, who remained unbeaten on 25. Despite losing wickets at the other end, Karnataka reached 114/6 in 16 overs to complete the chase. Manav Suthar and Rahul Chahar picked up two wickets each for Rajasthan.

In a high-scoring encounter at the Daly College Ground in Indore, Jammu and Kashmir chased down a target of 195 against Railways to register a four-wicket win.

Railways, batting first, posted 194/3 in 20 overs, powered by Ravi Singh's blistering century. The batter smashed 112 off just 56 deliveries, including seven fours and nine sixes. Mohammad Saif (25) and Upendra Yadav (32) also made useful contributions to take Railways to a competitive total.

Jammu and Kashmir suffered an early setback as opener Qamran Iqbal was dismissed for 18. However, Shubham Khajuria (63) and Kawalpreet Singh (58) steadied the innings with a 91-run partnership to keep the chase on track. Following their dismissals, Rydham Sharma struck a quickfire 21 off eight balls to guide Jammu and Kashmir to 195/6 in 19.4 overs. Shivam Chaudhary claimed four wickets for Railways, but his effort could not prevent the defeat.

'Teenager by age, tornado with bat': Sooryavanshi receives praises after shattering List A records

IANS



NEW DELHI: Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi received praise from all corners as he tore up the List A record book with a scintillating 53-ball 204 for India A against the UAE in the ACC Rising Stars Asia Cup 2026 in Doha on Tuesday.

Sooryavanshi reached his hundred off 28 balls, in just 6.3 overs, edging out the 29-ball mark set by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk in 2023 for the quickest century in List A cricket.

The teenager, however, was only getting started as he raced to 150 off 40 deliveries, slashing 19 balls off his own previous record of 59, set while representing Bihar against Arunachal Pradesh last year.

The double-century came up in just 52 balls, almost halving the previous best of 103 balls, which was set by New Zealand batter Chad Bowes while batting for Canterbury against Otago in the Ford Trophy.

During his knock, Sooryavanshi hit seven fours and a whopping 28 sixes - the most by any batter in a List A innings, surpassing D'Arcy Short's previous record of 23 from 2018.

He eventually fell for 204, but not before rewriting the record books.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta posted on X, "Absolute box-office cricket! Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, take a bow! 204 runs off 53 balls. 28 sixes. Smashing four world records in a single innings. And he's just 15!

"Fielders became spectators. Spectators became fielders. A teenager by age, a tornado with the bat! May this young champion continue to scale new heights and make Bharat proud!"

Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari said, "At just, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has turned the cricketing world upside down! A breathtaking off just balls, smashing records and redefining fearless batting. A remarkable display of talent, courage and extraordinary promise. The future of Indian cricket is shining brighter than ever. Keep soaring, champion! The nation celebrates you! "

BJP National president Nitin Nabin added, "What a knock! Had to zoom in on the scorecard because the sixes count looked unreal. Congratulations to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on smashing the fastest double century in List A cricket history! An unbelievable 204 off just 53 balls, with 28 sixes. Best wishes for many more such innings ahead!"

Former cricketer Suresh Raina also lavish praise on the teenager. "A phenomenal talent! A double century at such a young age speaks volumes about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's fearless mindset and extraordinary ability. Keep dreaming big, keep shining, young champion!" he wrote on X.

Mohd. Kaif said, "204 of just 53 balls, 28 sixes. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is not waiting for records to be broken, he is rewriting cricket history. A superstar in the making!"

S. Badrinath said, "Running out of adjectives to describe what Vaibhav Suryavanshi has been doing lately. Keep going and make the country proud!"

ISL 2026/27: NorthEast United hold SC Delhi to 1-1 draw in home match

IANS



IMPHAL: NorthEast United FC were held to a 1-1 draw by Sporting Club Delhi in a 2026-27 Indian Super League (ISL) 2026/27 fixture at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Manipur on Tuesday. The first-ever ISL match in Imphal, Manipur was a dramatic affair that saw two high-quality strikes and also a goal ruled out for each side in the second half.

Mohammed Aimen (6') put SC Delhi in the lead early on with a sumptuous goal, while the Highlanders' equaliser was netted by Antonio Moyano (28') after a slick bit of play in attack.

The home team started on the front foot, forcing two corner kicks within the first two minutes of the match, but it was SC Delhi that struck the first blow. Aimen scored a sensational opening goal, receiving the ball down the left flank, cutting inside into the penalty box and unleashing a beautifully curled effort into the top corner past Gurmeet.

NorthEast United hit back close to the half-hour mark as Moyano displayed exquisite ball control, trapping dead a deft lobbed pass from Nikhil Barla. Escaping the Delhi backline, the Spaniard cut back inside to fire a low shot past Nora Fernandes at the near post.

With the scores level at half-time, there was drama in the 55th minute as Lalrinliana Hnamte's goal was ruled out. Rodriguinho's mazy run ended with him hitting the deck after being blocked by Eneko Satrustegui, but Hnamte was alert to the loose ball and slotted home. However, the decision went against Delhi as Hnamte was deemed to be offside.

In the 77th minute, Alaaeddine Ajaraie thought he had scored a screamer from distance to put NorthEast in front, only for the officials to rule it out for a foul in the build-up involving Macarton Louis Nickson.

The home crowd was in full voice towards the end as NorthEast piled on the pressure, with Ajaraie involved in creating more chances, but SC Delhi managed to hold fort at the back. The result kept NorthEast in third place on 12 points from seven matches, while SC Delhi stayed fourth on 9 points.

World Chess Championship: Gukesh throws out Berlin challenge to hold Sindarov in first game



IANS

GENEVA: Defending champion Dommaraju Gukesh was off to a fine start in the Classical World Chess Championship Final Match against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov, holding out for a draw with black pieces in Game 1 of the 14-game clash being played at the Fondation Martin Bodmer in Cologny, near Geneva in Switzerland on Tuesday.

Going into this match, the 20-year-old Indian, the youngest-ever World Champion in classical chess, has been under pressure because of recent unimpressive results, which led to a slump in his rating. But on Tuesday, he came out with a plan, used his opening resources well, and though there was a slight time pressure for both players, Gukesh confidently secured the draw in 38 moves in a tactical battle in a complicated system.

The draw was agreed after threefold repetition. Both players got half a point each from the opener and will be back at the board on Wednesday for the second game, with Gukesh having white pieces.

Taking head-on Sindarov's Ruy Lopez opening, Gukesh opted for the Open Berlin Defence and came up with precise moves to not allow his Uzbek opponent any chances.

Experts consider the Berlin Defence a very good system to draw a game, and it was apparent that Gukesh was going for that result in the opening game of the match.

The game remained equal throughout as both players played the correct moves. However, it was quite a complicated game and had millions of chess fans around the world following it anxiously and keenly. Both players had to be at their best to avoid making mistakes and conceding an advantage.

Gukesh took more than 30 minutes to decide on one move, which had the fans on the edge of their seats. But the Indian player did not concede much advantage and actually came out with a psychological advantage from this game.

'Sooryavanshi is a generational player': Coach Manish Ojha hails teenager after record double-ton

IANS

PATNA: Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a generational player whose record-breaking exploits at just 15-16 years of age have put him in the company of some of the game's greats, his coach Manish Ojha said after the teenager smashed a historic double century in the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026.

Reacting to Sooryavanshi's sensational 204 off just 53 balls against the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ojha said the youngster's achievement was remarkable given his age, adding that his record-breaking numbers were extraordinary in themselves.

"It is a record in itself that he has scored this double century at such a young age, that is, at just 15-16 years of age. Therefore, whatever statistics you are looking at, they are all records in themselves. Vaibhav is a generational player. Players like Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Sunil Gavaskar and MS Dhoni are generational players who change the course of the game," Ojha told IANS.

He also described the innings as historic and highlighted the speed at which Sooryavanshi reached the major milestones.

"Absolutely, it was a historic and highly aggressive innings. Vaibhav created a record today. He completed his century in just 28 balls; subsequently, he also completed his double century in 52 balls," he added.

The 15-year-old's extraordinary knock powered India A to a seven-wicket victory against the UAE and secured their place in the semifinals of the tournament in Doha on Tuesday.

Sooryavanshi smashed 204 off just 53 deliveries, striking 28 sixes and seven fours, as India A chased down a target of 250 in only 14.2 overs, finishing at 254/3. His innings featured the fastest century and double century in List A cricket.

He reached his hundred in 28 balls, bettering the previous List A record of a 29-ball century held by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk, before completing his maiden double century in any format in just 52 deliveries.

IWL 2026/27: Gokulam Kerala FC and BBFS Garhwal United FC play out entertaining 1-1 draw

IANS



KOLKATA: Three-time champions Gokulam Kerala FC played out a 1-1 draw against BBFS Garhwal United FC in their Indian Women's League (IWL) 2026/27 encounter at the Kalyani Stadium on Tuesday.

Priyadharshini (35') put Gokulam ahead before Lhingdeikim Kipgen (75') restored parity for Garhwal United.

Gokulam started on the front foot, with Kenyan defender Phoeby Okech Owiti rattling the upright with a spectacular long-range effort in the 10th minute. Garhwal gradually grew into the contest, with Elizabeth Danso finding the back of the net in the 23rd minute, only for her effort to be ruled out for a marginal offside.

Gokulam's sustained pressure paid off in the 35th minute when Priyadharshini headed home an excellent cross from Remi Thokchom following an intricate team move.

The three-time champions continued to dictate proceedings early in the second half. However, Garhwal began to find their rhythm, with Deepika Pal forcing an excellent save from Shreya Hooda in the 63rd minute.

Garhwal found the equaliser in the 75th minute when the in form Kipgen got ahead of her marker to neatly finish a delightful left-footed cross from Fragrancy Riwan. Four minutes later, Ribansi Jamu produced a crucial save to deny Gokulam the opportunity to regain their lead.

Garhwal looked the more threatening side in the closing stages, with Deepika coming close to finding the winner on two occasions. However, neither side could find the decisive goal.

The result saw Gokulam register their first point of the campaign, while Garhwal United took their tally to four points.

The IWL 2026/27 action continues on Thursday, November 26, with HOPS FC vs Sethu Madurai at the Kalyani Stadium.

