

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Let's come together...

welfare of the deprived sections. Now the time has come for the communities, victim of discrimination for decades, to come forward and become partner in the developmental journey and enjoy the fruits of growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lt Governor also reiterated his commitment towards the empowerment of the community and assured every support from the government.

Chander Prakash Ganga and Dr Rajeev Bhagat - Members of Legislative Assembly; Raqir Chand Bhagat, President, All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha; Vipan Kumar, President, All J&K Reserved Category Employees Association; G R Bhagat, Sr. Vice President and other members of All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha, and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

### Terrorist hideout busted...

Mughalpora Kremhora in the Zachaldara Police Post jurisdiction.

"During the operation, a terrorist hideout was discovered, and a significant cache of explosives and ammunition, including 10 grenades were recovered from the site," he added.

### Individuals among us...

session on the closing day of the three-day 70th National Convention of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) held at the Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University campus.

Commending the efforts of Dipesh Nair, co-founder of NGO Teach and recipient of the Prof. Yashwantrao Kelkar Award, the chief minister shared an incident related to "anti-national" religious conversions involving deaf-and-mute children.

He recounted that in 2019, following the arrest of two men under false identities for plotting the killing of a seer at a temple, a thorough probe revealed their ties to a religious preacher associated with Batla House in Delhi.

Further probe uncovered that their ancestors had converted to Islam three generations ago, he said.

Adityanath said youngsters willing to serve the society and country can use technology to strengthen both.

He cautioned them against becoming a victim of demonic mentality.

Adityanath emphasised that technology becomes a tool for the public and national welfare in the hands of the virtuous. However, he added that in the hands of "negative people", it becomes a weapon to spread terror and unleash destructive forces.

Citing the example of atomic power, he explained that when used properly, it can provide clean, affordable energy, but its misuse can lead to devastating destruction through atomic bombs.

"By prioritising 'rashtradharmna is supreme', we can pave the way for the welfare of humanity," Adityanath said.

Imparting the mantra of national duty to youngsters, the chief minister also outlined the way to overcome obstacles in its path. He emphasised that the challenges facing national duty can only be met through unity.

Adityanath highlighted the power of youth energy through examples from both the mythological and revolutionary eras.

The chief minister said the ABVP is the world's largest youth organisation and a powerful platform that channels youth energy in the right direction.

Citing the provision of 4 per cent reservation for the differently-abled and the recognition of 16 categories of disabilities under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Adityanath highlighted that "Divyangjan" are making remarkable progress in every field today.

He emphasised that talent is not determined by caste, opinion or religion and added that even if god has bestowed a deficiency on someone, he has compensated for it in other ways.

The programme was presided over by ABVP national president Prof. Rajsharan Shahi.

### Organisations like WCC...

a hub of cultural and artisanal excellence has been further elevated.

During the presentations to the participants, several initiatives undertaken by the J&K Government were highlighted including the Wool Processing, Handloom, and Handicrafts Policy-2020, financial assistance programs, skill development schemes like the Karkhandar initiative, and the promotion of Geographical Indication (GI) certification to protect Kashmiri crafts. It was conveyed that there has been a remarkable increase in exports which has risen from Rs 563 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 1,162 crore in 2023-24.

A key highlight of the event was the announcement of the collaboration between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the World Craft Council to establish a World Craft Hub and International Crafts Museum in Srinagar.

This initiative aims to position Kashmir as a global center for artisanal excellence to preserve traditional skills and create sustainable revenue streams for artisans.

During the event, a presentation on the crafts of Jammu & Kashmir and the way forward; a short film celebrating the global legacy of crafts and Srinagar being designated as a World Craft City was shown to the audience.

Besides Chief Minister and delegates from the World Craft Council, the dinner was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Union Additional Secretary in Ministry of Textiles Rohit Kansal, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjeet Singh, Director Handicrafts Kashmir Mehmoed Ahmad Shah.

From World Craft Council the notable dignitaries present were the President of the WCC Saad Al Qaddumi, Vice President WCC Dr Kevin Murray, Aziz Mutazaev (Uzbekistan), Nadia Meer (South Africa) Prof Aftab Gharda (UK) and delegates from member countries of the World Craft Council, including representatives from Australia, Kuwait, France, the UK, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Ireland, Malaysia, and Turkey, attended the event. Other key officials from the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and J&K Government and representatives of Craft Industry from J&K.

The celebrations hold immense significance for Jammu & Kashmir, offering global recognition to its artisanal heritage and creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for artisans. By integrating crafts into tourism and connecting local artisans to global markets, the event is expected to have a lasting impact on the region's cultural and economic landscape.

A notable feature of the second leg of the event in Srinagar would be the participation of artisans from Iran and Central Asia, whose visit would help be significant for historical and cultural ties between Central Asian and Kashmiri crafts.

The interaction with WCC is expected to foster cross-cultural learning, celebrate shared heritage and to open up avenues for reviving lost techniques.

This momentous event is seen as a milestone in Jammu & Kashmir's journey to reclaim its position in the world of crafts.

With its artisans at the heart of this revival, and collaboration with the World Craft Council is expected to help J&K to revive and sustain its rich cultural heritage for generations to come. The event now moves to J&K with the delegates from World Craft Council set to celebrate the 60th anniversary of WCC in Srinagar, starting with their arrival and Craft tour on 25th November and two-day long event at the SKICC on 26th and 27th of November.

### Season's first snowfall...

residents of Bhaderwah woke up to a layer of snow blanketing the surrounding hills.

The Guldanda meadow located on the Bhadarwah-Pathankot highway, the most visited snow destination in the district last year, remained devoid of visitors owing to the nearly two-month delay in snowfall, officials said.

Many tourists who reached the destination were seen enjoying the white flakes falling from the sky on Sunday.

Reports of snowfall were also received from the high-altitude areas of Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

The overnight snowfall briefly blocked the Mughal road connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with Shopian district in south Kashmir, officials said, adding that traffic was also suspended on the Sinthan Top road linking Kishtwar with Anantnag district.

Meanwhile, the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the tourist resort town of Gulmarg, received fresh snowfall, raising hope of precipitation in the Valley plains.

Gulmarg received moderate snowfall from Saturday evening that continued till early on Sunday, officials said.

Macuil and Karnah in Kupwara district and Tulail in Bandipora district also received moderate snowfall, they said.

There was trace precipitation in the plains of Kashmir, including parts of Srinagar and Budgam districts, during the night, the officials said and added

that the day temperature dropped due to the snowfall in the higher reaches.

The minimum temperature, which had fallen below freezing point last week, also rose significantly.

Srinagar city recorded a low of 4.8 degrees Celsius, around normal for this time of the year.

While Pahalgam and Gulmarg recorded sub-zero temperatures, the minimum temperatures at both places were slightly above normal.

According to a Met forecast, the weather is expected to remain dry over the next week.

"It is going to be generally dry and cold weather till December 5. A spell of light rain or light snow in the higher reaches is likely from November 23 late afternoon to November 24 forenoon and another light spell from November 30 night to December 1 forenoon," the Met said.

### 'Viksit Bharat Young...

in it. Two thousand such youths selected from villages, blocks, districts and states will gather at Bharat Mandapam for the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue," Modi said.

"You might remember that from the ramparts of the Red Fort, I urged such youths to join politics, none of whose family members or even the entire family have had a political background. To connect one lakh such youths, new youths, to politics, many special campaigns will be run in the country. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is one such effort," he said.

Noting that experts from the country and abroad would be present for it, Modi said many national and international personalities would also be there and he would be present for as much time as possible.

"The youth will get an opportunity to present their ideas directly before us. How can the country take these ideas forward? How can a solid roadmap be made? A blueprint will be prepared for this. So you, too, get ready; this is a great opportunity for those who are going to build the future of India, who are the future generation of the country," the prime minister said.

"Come, let us build the country together, make the country developed," he added.

### Need to reintroduce...

things from foreign countries but it should have its own soul and structures.

"We will have to think on giving a contemporary form of our eternal dharma and culture," he said.

"What we have to do is, we have to introduce the forgotten pride of India again," Bhagvat said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, citing examples from scriptures, said there was no discrimination against 'Vanvasis' (forest dwellers).

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy were among those who also spoke.

### Winter session of...

is compliant with all laws. Congress leader Pramod Tiwari also said the government should set aside other businesses to take up a discussion on the issue on priority.

It is a grave issue involving the country's economic and security interests as over Rs 2,300 crore were allegedly paid by the company to politicians and bureaucrats to get favourable deals for its solar energy projects, the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Raising the Manipur violence, Gogoi said the ruling dispensation jailed the Jharkhand chief minister (Hemant Soren) and made changes in Jammu and Kashmir for a variety of reasons, but kept its faith in Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh despite his alleged involvement in violence.

The matter must be debated in the Parliament, he said.

The Winter Session is scheduled to be held from November 25 to December 20.

At the meeting, two BJP allies from Adhlnra Pradesh -- Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena Party -- raised the issue of pending implementation of the promises made during the division of the state in 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, saying the Parliament should know their present status.

"We want the government to put the status on record," TDP leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu told PTI, noting that while some promises have been fulfilled and some are being taken up, a few still remain unfulfilled.

Jana Sena leader Balashovry Vallabhaneni spoke on similar lines.

The Polavaram irrigation project has come to a standstill, Devarayalu said, adding that the Parliament must also discuss disaster management as so many southern cities are getting affected due to heavy downpour triggered by climate change.

Asked about his party's stand on the Adani issue, Devarayalu said more details need to come out but added that his party does not want the state's brand image to be harmed.

The meeting was attended by BJP President J P Nadda, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal and LJP (Ram Vilas) MP Arun Bharti, among others.

### Protest over Sambhal...

petition that claimed that a Harihar temple stood at the site.

"Three people, identified as Naeem, Bilal and Nauman, have been killed," Singh said, adding that preparations were underway for their post-mortem examination.

Ten people, including two women, have been detained and a probe has been launched, an official said, adding some people even set afire some motorcycles parked on the roadside.

"We are investigating where the shots were fired from, particularly in the Deepa Sarai area," the official said.

He added that the accused in the violence would be booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA).

The trouble started on Sunday morning when a large group of people gathered near the mosque and started shouting slogans as the survey team began their work in the Shahi Jama Masjid.

District officials said the survey was planned in the morning to avoid interference with the mosque prayers that are usually held in the afternoon.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav lashed out at the BJP, saying the ruling party, government and the administration orchestrated the violence "to divert attention from electoral malpractice".

According to the local administration, a second survey by an "Advocate Commissioner" as part of a court-ordered examination into the disputed site started around 7 am and a crowd began gathering there.

"The survey was proceeding peacefully until a group of people gathered near the mosque and began raising slogans. When the police attempted to clear the area, a group of miscreants in the crowd started pelting stones at the police," said the Moradabad Divisional Commissioner.

He said the people involved in the violence were likely incited by individuals with vested interests aiming to disrupt peace in the area.

Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said, "The police used minor force and tear gas to bring the situation under control."

He said those who engaged in stone-pelting and those who incited them will be identified and action taken against them.

"We are in the process of registering an FIR," the police officer added.

District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia said, "Some miscreants resorted to stone pelting but the situation is peaceful now. Around 10 people have been detained in connection with the stone-pelting incident. They are being interrogated."

Uttar Pradesh police chief Prashant Kumar told PTI that the situation was under control in Sambhal.

"We are monitoring everything. All police and civil administration officials are handling the situation on the spot. They are patrolling those areas. Anti-social elements will be identified very soon and strict action will be taken against them," the director general of police (DGP) said.

Additional police units have been deployed near the mosque to ensure law and order and officials are closely monitoring the situation.

On Saturday, the Sambhal district administration bound down 34 people on a bond of up to Rs 10 lakh on apprehension of a breach of peace.

Subdivisional Magistrate Vandana Mishra told PTI on Saturday that among the people bound down is Mamlukur Rahman Barq, the father of the Samajwadi Party's Sambhal MP Zia ur Rahman Barq.

Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is a petitioner in the case, had said the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) ordered the constitution of an "Advocate Commission" to survey the mosque.

The court has said that a report should be filed after conducting a videography and photography survey through the commission, he had said.

The Central and Uttar Pradesh governments, the mosque committee and the district magistrate of Sambhal have been made parties in the petition concerning the mosque, Jain said last Tuesday.

## Dr Kunal decorated with ISA National Young Tatent Award

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 71st Annual National Anaesthesiology Conference (ISACON 2024) of the Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists (ISA) was held at the Samrat Ashok Convention Centre in Patna from November 20 to 24, 2024.

During this prestigious event, Dr. Kunal Sharma, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care at Jammu Government Medical College, was honored with the National Young Talent Award 2024 by the Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists.

This award recognizes his invaluable contributions and services to the field of anaesthesiology and critical care.

This recognition is significant as Dr. Kunal Sharma is the first doctor from Jammu and Kashmir to receive such an honor from the ISA.



The award was presented by Dr. Jigeeesh Vasishtha Divatia, the President of ISA, and Dr. Sukhminder Jit Singh Bajwa, the Hon. Secretary of ISA, during the conference.

Dr. Kunal Sharma, who completed his MBBS in 2011 and MD in 2016 from medical colleges in Jammu, has made remarkable strides in his field. The Young Talent Award is given to anaesthesiologists under the age of 40 who have made out-

standing contributions to the society. Out of the over 40,000 ISA members, around 10,000 are in this age group, and only a few are selected for this prestigious recognition each year.

Dr. Sharma's achievement highlights the growing recognition of medical professionals from Jammu and Kashmir on national platforms and serves as an inspiration for younger doctors in the region to contribute to the advancement of healthcare.

## 14 FIRs registered in Sub Division East in Jammu South Zone for keeping tenants without police verification

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police taking strict action against the violators and registered fourteen case FIRs against house/land owners in sub-division East of South Zone, Jammu for violating DM Order under Section 163 Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sahinta who failed to provide the information/details of tenants/out-siders residing across the district to District Police Jammu.

On the directions of SSP Jammu, an exercise has been started by SP South headed by SDPO east for the verification process of all the outsiders staying as tenants and domestic helps without the knowledge and verification of concerned PS. During the drive, nine cases were registered at Police Station Bahu Fort, and five cases at Police Station Channi Himmat under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

It is pertinent to mention that District Magistrate Jammu has already issued the orders for the owners to get the police verification of the tenants done in the Jurisdiction of District Jammu under section 163 BNSS.

Jammu Police, keeping in view the prevailing security Scenario appeals to its citizens to come forward and provide the complete details of their tenants/domestic helpers to their nearest Police Station and get the Police verification done timely.

General public has widely appreciated the action of Jammu police in the larger interest of upholding the rule of law in securing a responsible and safe society.

Jammu and Kashmir police is requesting respectable citizens of Jammu to please get the verifications of tenants/helpers done at respective police station as per the Prevalent Laws.

## IPL mega auction: Pant, Iyer fetch record bids; Salam of J&K bought by RCB for Rs 6 crore

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JEDDAH: Resurrected generational talent Rishabh Pant pipped Shreyas Iyer to become the costliest buy in IPL's history with a Rs 27 crore winning bid from Lucknow Super Giants, while Venkatesh Iyer was the surprise show-stopper as teams expectedly broke the bank for marquee Indian players at the mega auction here on Sunday.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have signed up Rasikh Salam for Rs 6 crore at the IPL 2025 mega auction. The Bengaluru-based outfit made the opening bid before Sunrisers Hyderabad joined the race.

Sunrisers Hyderabad opted against bidding when Royal Challengers Bengaluru raised the price to 2 crore. Delhi Capitals then exercised the RTM option. Royal Challengers Bengaluru then raised the bid to Rs 6 crore and Delhi decided against matching the bid.

Shreyas, who captained the Kolkata Knight Riders to the title earlier this year, and Delhi Capitals' icon Pant, reaped the benefits of making themselves available at the auction following differences with their respective teams.

Venkatesh was also a part of Shreyas' triumphant KKR outfit and the franchise had to pay a whopping Rs 23.75 crore to bring him back via the Right to Match card after not retaining him.

The big-hitting all-rounder, who has become an integral part of the KKR setup over the years, gained from an intense bidding battle between the Kolkata side and Royal Challengers Bengaluru to end with a massive sum.

Shreyas, on the other hand, was the first one to surpass Mitchell Starc as the IPL's most expensive buy with cash-heavy Punjab Kings shelling out Rs 26.75 crore for their potential captain before Pant overtook the fellow Indian by attracting Rs 25

lakh more from LSG.

Former DC teammates Shreyas and Pant have had to deal with adversity in the past couple of years but have shown remarkable resilience and courage to bounce back.

Pant beat all odds to make a successful comeback to international cricket after a life-threatening car accident in 2022 while Shreyas put behind his exclusion from the BCCI central contracts list to lead KKR to their third IPL trophy earlier this year.

Delhi Capitals used the Right To Match to buy back Pant at Rs 20.75 crore but LSG raised the bid to Rs 27 crore and the former decided against matching that amount.

PBKS, who went into the auction with the maximum purse -- Rs 110.5 crore, -- had the resources to go after the players they wanted including Shreyas, Yuzvendra Chahal (Rs 18 crore), Arshdeep Singh (Rs 18 crore) and Marcus Stonis (Rs 11 crore).

Rajasthan Royals, having retained six players, had the least amount to spend - Rs 41 crore -- and they were spectators for a majority of day one. Their only buys were injury-prone pacer Jofra Archer (Rs 12.5 crore) and Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana (Rs 4.40 crore).

Among the second set of players, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal drew an impressive winning bid of Rs 18 crore from Punjab Kings while former LSG captain KL Rahul turned out to be a bargain buy for Delhi Capitals at Rs 14 crore.

India pacer Mohammed Shami, who recently made a comeback from injury, was bought by SunRisers Hyderabad for Rs 10 crore.

Among others, Punjab Kings bought back left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh for Rs 18 crore via RTM while South African speedster Kagiso Rabada, who was released by Punjab Kings, was bought for Rs 10.75

crore by Gujarat Titans.

Australian veteran Starc got a much lower price than last year's Rs 24.75 crore and was sold to Delhi Capitals for Rs 11.75 crore this time. England's Jos Buttler went to Gujarat Titans for Rs 15.75 crore.

"Starc is a match-winner, he is a wicket-taker and we couldn't be happier. And with KL Rahul, again somebody who we believe is a bankable player, will give you runs each season," said DC head coach Hemang Badani.

After the lunch break, it was Venkatesh's hefty price tag that attracted the most attention.

Another significant development was India veteran R Ashwin going back to the franchise of his home city - Chennai Super Kings.

CSK paid Rs 9.75 crore to secure Ashwin, who broke into the India squad following his exploits at the franchise under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra were two good buy backs for CSK in the session, going for Rs 6.25 crore and Rs four crore respectively.

Destructive Australian batter Jake Fraser McGurk went back to Delhi Capitals for Rs nine crore after the franchise exercised its RTM. However, IPL stalwart David Warner had no takers on the opening day of the auction as he went unsold at a base price of Rs two crore. Similar was the case of Indian batter Devdutt Padikkal. They might come back in the accelerated auction on Monday.

Towards the end of the day, it was time for fast bowlers to land fat pay-checks. Among them were Josh Hazlewood (Rs 12.5 crore, RCB), Prasidh Krishna (Rs 9.5 crore, Gujarat Titans), Avesh Khan (Rs 9.75 crore, LSG), Trent Boult (Rs 12.5 crore, Mumbai Indians) and Archer.

This is the second time an IPL auction is being held outside the country after last year's event in Dubai.