

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! We are building...

Utterbani into a world-class spiritual destination for sustainable and culturally rich religious tourism.

"Purmandal-Utterbani Teerth Kshetra is a confluence of faith, cultural unity, and diversity in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a sacred pilgrimage for self-purification and self-realization, showering blessings and fostering love, respect, and brotherhood. Purmandal embodies the soul of our eternal culture. The sacred Umapati Mahadev Temple, nestled on the banks of Gupt Ganga Devika, is one of the most important spiritual pilgrimage sites in J&K.

For centuries, Purmandal has served as a beacon for social harmony, community service, and environmental protection, providing renewed purpose and direction to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Responding to the demands projected by Purmandal-Utterbani Teerth Seva Trust, the Lieutenant Governor assured that the administration and stakeholder departments will work with a whole-of-government approach to preserve the religious and cultural heritage of Purmandal-Utterbani.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the District Administration Samba to identify government land for a new Ved Vidyalaya. He said the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) will fund its establishment, following its support for several ved vidyalayas, sanskrit pathshalas and gaushalas.

The Lieutenant Governor assured financial assistance from SMVDSB for establishment of Gurukul, Sanskrit Pathshala, or Ved Pathshala in the region.

He also said the issue of connecting Purmandal with a 4-lane road will be taken up with the Government of India.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the remarkable transformation of Jammu Kashmir is both tangible and intangible, focusing on physical infrastructure as well as revival of cultural and spiritual heritage. Numerous ancient religious and historical sites have been reconstructed. Nearly 62 such important sites have been restored in past 4 years. Restoring and reviving our rich spiritual heritage, and spiritual tourism in the UT has remained our prime objective, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Purmandal-Utterbani Teerth Seva Nyas, Vishva Hindu Parishad and other organisations for their significant contribution for preserving and promoting J&K's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. He also urged the social organisations and all sections of society to join the efforts in protecting the natural heritage.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairperson Samba; Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgarh; Suresh Gupta, President, Purmandal-Utterbani Teerth Seva Nyas; Rajesh Gupta, President Vishva Hindu Parishad (J&K and Ladakh), heads of various religious organisations, prominent citizens and devotees in large number were present on the occasion.

Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shiv Kumar Sharma DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba, and senior officials of civil and police administration were also present.

Raids conducted at...

conducted as part of an operation to look for terror networks reportedly being operated from inside the prisons.

The operation comes in the backdrop of a major crackdown in the Kashmir valley following the recent unearthing of a 'white-collar' terror network run by a group of doctors and the subsequent blast in a car in Delhi's Red Fort area on November 10 that left several people dead.

CM underscores entrepreneurship...

YUVA have been devised to fulfil this objective. He emphasised that banks must ensure smooth disbursement of cases under various entrepreneurship schemes and assured budding entrepreneurs of all possible support from the government. He added that the aim of Mission Youth is to empower young people to explore innovative ideas, build sustainable businesses, contribute to the region's economic progress, and evolve into job creators.

The Chief Minister noted that trade fairs play a crucial role in strengthening the economy by offering emerging entrepreneurs opportunities to showcase their talent, connect with wider markets, and expand their business networks.

During the event, the Chief Minister visited entrepreneur stalls, business units, and departmental exhibits and interacted with the participants. He also distributed sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, said that youth are actively participating in entrepreneurship schemes. She informed that many beneficiaries have already been identified and numerous cases approved. She stressed the need for smooth processing of cases to maximise the benefits and urged youth to avail themselves of these opportunities.

MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, encouraged young people to seize every opportunity to build prosperous and progressive lives.

The programme was attended by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo; DDC Chairperson Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; MLA Devsar; Peerzada Feroz Ahmad; Secretary Labour and Employment, Kumar Rajiv Ranjan; Secretary in Information Department, Muneer Ul Islam; DDC Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Shadab Aalam; other senior officers; representatives of business organisations; entrepreneurs; and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Capacity-building completion certificates were distributed, Mission YUVA sanction letters were handed over to beneficiaries, and MoUs were exchanged between Mission YUVA and ONDC.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan presented the welcome address and highlighted the aim of organising the two-day fair. Mission Director Shadab Aalam presented the vote of thanks and highlighted achievements under Mission YUVA.

Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal...

Palki sahib, Panj Pyaare, Panj Nischaanchi, Nagada, Raagi and sound, digital museum, Langar, storage, Sangat (bus and car), ambulance, crew, recovery and others will complete the Yatra upto Sri Anandpur Sahib in four days. Thousands of devotees imbued in religious fervor are participating in this Nagar Kirtan to mark the sacred occasion.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister Mann and National Convener of AAP Kejriwal said that it was a historic occasion as "all of us were commemorating the 350th martyrdom day of the ninth Sikh Guru, who made supreme sacrifice for humanity". They said that all of us were very fortunate to have got the chance to be part of these historic events during our lifetime.

Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the Almighty had bestowed His bountiful blessings on the state government to accomplish this gigantic task and no stone will be left unturned for this noble cause.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP called upon the people to follow the path shown by great Guru Sahib to the entire humanity. They said that the Punjab government was committed to observe this sacred occasion in an unsurpassed and befitting manner.

Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Guru ji's universal message of peace, humanity, love and brotherhood continued to be relevant even in the contemporary national and international scenario.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP exhorted people to imbue the Guru's ideology, which had emerged as a unifying force binding the entire country in an unbreakable social fabric. They reminded the people about Guru ji's unparalleled contribution to upholding the age-old traditions of secularism, besides safeguarding human rights and ensuring religious freedom, for which he sacrificed his own life. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the state government has made elaborate arrangements to ensure that a befitting tribute was paid to great Guru sahib on this sacred occasion.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP further said that they were greatly moved by the devotion and dedication displayed in this regard by the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir. They specially thanked the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Umar Abdullah for making this historic event a reality. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that it was indeed a proud moment for the entire Sikh community and our brethren in Jammu and Kashmir, who deserve our special thanks and felicitations for this.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP also placed on record the gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir government and Sikh sangat personally on behalf of the Punjab Government and Punjabis for making this possible. They said that to commemorate Guru Sahib's martyrdom day, the Punjab Government is organizing events across various states. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that events begin from Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib on October 25 and a grand Kirtan

Darbar was organized at Gurdwara Sri Rakab Ganj Sahib.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP said that from November 1 to November 18, light-and-sound shows took place across all districts of Punjab, showcasing the life and philosophy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Similarly, they said that Kirtan darbars are being organized in towns and cities sanctified by Guru sahib's visits and on November 18 (Tuesday), a Kirtan Darbar was organized in Srinagar. Likewise, Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that today this Nagar Kirtan has started from this land which will culminate at Sri Anandpur Sahib on November 22.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP said that on November 20, three Nagar Kirtans will be organized from Takht Sri Damdama Sahib (Balwandi Sabo), Faridkot, and Gurdaspur adding that all these four Nagar kirtans will culminate at Sri Anandpur Sahib on November 22. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that from November 23 to 25, large-scale events will take place at Sri Anandpur Sahib. They said that a "Tent City," named "Chakk Nanaki," is being set up at the holy city for the accommodation of thousands of pilgrims arriving in large numbers.

Likewise, The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP said that an inter-faith conference will be held, along with exhibitions and drone shows illuminating Guru Sahib's life and message. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann said that on November 24, a special session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly will take place at Sri Anandpur Sahib, where prominent personalities will share reflections on the Guru ji's life, philosophy, and his sacrifice for religious freedom and human rights. They said that on November 25, statewide blood donation camps will be held, alongside a large-scale plantation drive by the Forest Department and a massive "Sarbat da Bhala Ikkatarta" in which several eminent personalities will participate.

The Chief Minister and National Convener of AAP further informed that for this sacred 350th martyrdom day commemoration, spiritual leaders and saints from across the globe have been consulted and have been invited to participate in these events. They said that the Punjab Government feels truly privileged to have been entrusted with the honor of organizing these historic commemorations during its tenure. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann appealed to devotees and Sikh Sangat across India and abroad to participate wholeheartedly in these events.

On the occasion, Sant Baba Sewa Singh Ji Rampur Khera Wale, Gurdwara Chhevin Patshahi Local Committee President Jaspal Singh and Secretary Gurmeet Singh were also present.

Prominent amongst others present on the occasion included Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kuldar Singh Sandwan, Cabinet Ministers Harpal Singh Cheema, Aman Arora, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Dr. Baljit Kaur; Lal Chand Katarchakk, Harbhajan Singh ETO, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Dr. Ravjot and Hardeep Singh Mundian, Member Parliament Sant Balbir Singh Seehawal, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer and Malwinder Singh Kang, Chief Secretary KAP Sinha, Principal Secretary to CM Dr Ravi Bhagat and others.

EOW chargesheets CAT...

"unlawfully altered while in its custody". The prime accused Khan - in criminal conspiracy with CAT employee Mishra and other employees - made "unauthorised insertions" in records regarding their regularisation in the Horticulture Department, officials said.

The investigators also recovered at least 12 official seals of different departments or institutions, including director (horticulture), BDO, tehsildar, zonal education officer (ZEO), etc., from Khan's residence, they said.

The call detail records and WhatsApp communications corroborated the conspiracy and criminal breach of trust by the CAT employee, Mishra, as established from Khan's seized cellphone, according to officials.

The chargesheet has been submitted for judicial determination, they added.

Modi, Shah to...

set to assume office as chief minister for a record 10th time.

Several Union ministers and chief ministers of NDA-ruled states are expected to be present at the event.

A large number of security personnel have been deployed in and around Gandhi Maidan, and entry of the general public has been completely banned until November 20, sources added. Vehicular traffic has also been diverted on certain routes leading to Gandhi Maidan due to the event.

Nitish Kumar had reviewed preparations for the oath-taking event on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, several ministers, and Chief Secretary Pratvaya Amrit.

Drug peddler arrested with 3.52 grams heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered approximately 3.52 grams heroin like substance from his possession.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police team of Police Station Vijaypur during special Naka at Rakh Barotain near AIIMS residence complex Vijaypur, intercepted a person under suspicious circumstances who was coming from Rakh Barotain side and moving towards NHW. During frisking, approximately 3.52 grams heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of said person.

The drug peddler identified as Raj Kumar S/O Mangal Dass R/O near Prasthan Ashram Sujampur road district Pathankote (Punjab) has been arrested and the contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No 128/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.



Substantial quantity of contraband seized; accused arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, J&K Police recovered substantial quantity of contraband substance from a residential house in Bonagund Verinag besides, arrested the accused person involved in the commission of crime.

Police Post Verinag received credible information that one individual, Mukhtar Ahmad Haji son of Gh. Rasool Haji resident of Bonagund Verinag, had concealed cannabis-like substance in a tin shed near his residence. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 110/2025 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Dooru, and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, a police team accompanied by the Executive Magistrate Dooru, Lambardar, and the concerned Chowkidar conducted a thorough search of the suspected tin shed. During the search, Joint team recovered one nylon bag containing cannabis leaves with seeds and top-like material, in a half-dried and half-crushed form, weighing about 5 kg 180 grams. The seized substance was properly sealed on the spot in presence of the Executive Magistrate. The accused has been arrested, and further investigation is underway to identify other individuals involved and to dismantle the supply chain.

Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals: 14 vehicles seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA/PULWAMA: Continuing its special drive against illegal mining and transportation of minerals, J&K Police has seized 07 Tippers/Dumpers and 02 JCBs Involved in Illegal Transportation of Minerals in Awantipora.

A police team from Police Station Awantipora, headed by SHO Police Station Awantipora along with Incharge Police Post Reshipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora, seized seven tippers/dumpers and two JCB machines in Renzipora areas of Awantipora. The vehicles were found being used for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. Accordingly, a case

FIR No. 254/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora, and investigation has been initiated.

Police has seized 05 vehicles (one LNT machine and four tippers) involved in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Puchal area of Pulwama.

A team from Police Station Pulwama conducted seized one LNT machine and four tippers that were found violating mining and transportation regulations. Accordingly, FIR No. 273/2025 has been registered at Police Station Pulwama under relevant sections of law, and further investigation is underway.

J&K Police reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding natural resources, protecting the environment, and ensuring strict enforcement against illegal mining. Citizens are requested to report any information related to illegal mineral extraction or transportation to the nearest police station.

12 gamblers arrested, stake money & Vehicles seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its drive against social crimes, J&K Police in Baramulla arrested 12 gamblers and seized stake money along with playing cards & Vehicles from their possession.

Acting on specific information regarding gambling activities in the orchards at Check Tappar, a police party of Police Station Kreeri headed by SDPO Kreeri raided the specific spot and apprehended the 12 gamblers. They have been identified as Khurshed Ahmad Dar son of Ab. Aziz Dar, Shabir Ahmad Wani son of Ab. Ahad Wani, Ab. Hamid Ahanger son of Khazir Mohammad and Waheed Ahmad Najjar son of Gh. Mohammad Najjar all residents of Hajin and Mehraj Deen Sofi son of Mohd. Yusuf Sofi resident of Narbal Sozeith Budgam, Mehraj Deen Para son of Mohd. Shafi Parra resident of Pattan, Bilal Ahmad Dar son of Ab. Ahad Dar resident of Sopore Sher Colony, Javed Ahmad Changa son of Mohd. Altaf Changa resident of Sopore, Mohd. Yousuf Baba son of Ghulam Deen Baba resident of Baramulla, Manzoor Ahmad Dar son of Gh. Ahmad Dar resident of Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh son of Ab. Rehman Sheikh resident of Sadarkoot, Bandipora and Shabir Ahmad Wani son of Mohd. Akbar Wani resident of SK Bala, Bandipora.

Officers have seized stake money of ₹1,55,000/- and playing cards & 02 Alto cars, and 01 scooty from their possession. They have been arrested and a case FIR No. 87/2025, under relevant sections Gambling Act stands registered at Police Station Kreeri and further investigation taken up.

Authorities begin exercise of inspecting lockers of doctors, medical staff in hospitals

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday began the exercise of inspecting the lockers of doctors and medical staff in hospitals as part of enhanced security measures after the recent Delhi blast and recovery of arms and ammunition in the "white collar" terror module, officials said.

As part of the process, the authorities in Shopian and Kulgam districts, in south Kashmir, inspected the lockers of doctors and medical staff at various hospitals, the officials said.

In Shopian, the authorities inspected the lockers at the district hospital and community health centre (CHC) Zainapora, the officials said. Similarly, in Kulgam, the lockers were inspected at Sub-District Hospital Yaripora, and primary health centre Devsar, they said.

They said the locker inspection is part of the enhanced security measures after the Delhi blast, and in line with ongoing efforts to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper utilisation of hospital infrastructure.

The inspection drive was carried out to prevent any possible misuse of lockers for storage of unauthorised items and to strengthen internal security measures in medical facilities, they added.

During the inspection, unclaimed lockers were identified, and the hospital authorities were instructed to update records to prevent any misuse, the officials said.

The exercise has been undertaken in the wake of the recovery of arms and ammunition from the locker of a doctor in Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag recently.

The arrest of the doctor led to the busting of the "white collar" terror module, involving several doctors, and the recovery of around 2900 kg of explosive material.

LG admits discontent in Ladakh over 'imbalanced' representation in talks with Centre

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday acknowledged that some people are unhappy with what they see as "imbalanced" representation in the ongoing dialogue with the Centre, but expressed hope that all issues would be resolved through discussions.

He lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Police for busting a white-collar terror network and averting major attacks in the country, and suggested stern action against those found involved in such conspiracies.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Gupta said the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) had prepared a 29-page draft proposal of their demands as a follow-up to the last meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) sub-committee.

"The MHA had asked them to prepare a draft proposal of their demands. It is natural that when we sit together, many things will come out of it," the Lt governor said.

However, he admitted that some people were upset with the "imbalance" in representation in the talks with the Centre. "I have given my report to the MHA, which is directly handling the matter, so let them sit and discuss it," he said.

Former president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Tondup Tsewang Chhospa, had recently voiced concern

over what he termed an "imbalance in the composition of Ladakh representatives" holding talks with the Centre on the region's key demands like statehood and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Chhospa said the majority of representatives in the ongoing talks were from the Muslim community, while the Buddhist community was under-represented. He warned that such an "imbalance" could limit the chances of the Buddhist community's cultural, social and regional perspectives being adequately reflected in the dialogue process.

On the draft proposal seeking general amnesty for climate activist Sonam Wangechuk and others detained following the September 24 violence in Leh, which left four people dead and several injured, Gupta said it would be inappropriate for him to comment due to the ongoing talks between the Centre and Ladakh representatives.

Wangechuk was detained under the National Security Act, while dozens of youths were detained and later granted bail in Leh.

"The case against Wangechuk was filed on the basis of certain evidence. Once discussions happen, we will see what results come. It would be wrong to make any comment at this stage," Gupta said.

He said the government had invited the agitating groups for talks, but "some

people did not want the dialogue to take place." However, he added that the initiation of talks was a welcome step and he was hopeful of a positive outcome.

Gupta praised the security agencies for recently busting a white-collar terror network allegedly run by a group of doctors, and also expressed sympathies with the families who lost their loved ones in the Delhi blast on November 10.

"Some people are trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere, but our agencies are alert. We will maintain peace in Ladakh," he said.

LG Gupta said those involved in radicalisation should not be spared and strict action must be taken against them.

He welcomed the prompt action by police in Kashmir against radical elements and their supporters, adding that "some people are still trying to spoil the environment in the valley."

He also expressed confidence that tourism in Ladakh would rise this winter, and said the region was fully prepared for the upcoming All India Winter Games and North Zone games.

At the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah on November 17, Gupta said the focus was on addressing issues related to river waters.

"The home minister was of the opinion that these issues should be resolved through mutual discussion instead of moving to courts," he said.

Jammu IGP visits Poonch, reviews security situation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti on Wednesday visited the border district of Poonch and reviewed security situation, officials said.

Security has been beefed up and surveillance operations enhanced in the border district following a blast in Delhi on November 10 that claimed 15 lives.

The senior officer visited Poonch and held a meeting

with senior security officials, they said, adding that he was briefed about the security measures. IGP Tuti reviewed security and operational readiness and called for stronger surveillance and coordination.