

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Maha Kumbh concludes...

on January 13, Makar Sankranti on January 14, Mauni Amavasya on January 29, Basant Panchami on February 3, Maghi Purnima on February 12 and Mahashivratri on February 26 -- including three 'Amrit Snans'.

A stampede on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya last month led to the deaths of at least 30 people and left 60 injured, according to the government.

Mahashivratri commemorates the divine union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and holds special significance in the context of the Kumbh Mela.

According to Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva played a crucial role in the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean), which led to the emergence of the Amrit Kumbh (nectar pitcher), the very essence of the Kumbh Mela.

Terrorists fire at...

The identity of the intruder is being ascertained. A BSF spokesperson, Jammu frontier, said a strong protest will be lodged with Pakistan Rangers over the incident.

In another instance reported earlier this year on February 8, terrorists fired at a patrol from a forested area across the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri's Keri sector. This led to a retaliatory response from Indian soldiers.

India successfully test...

seeker for terminal guidance.

The mission also has demonstrated the high bandwidth two way datalink system, which is used to transmit the seeker live images back to the pilot for in-flight retargeting, the ministry said in a statement.

The missile has been developed by different labs of DRDO including Research Centre Imarat, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory.

BJP's Prashikshan Shivir...

Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, and MPs Jugal Kishore Sharma and Ghulam Ali Khatana will also be part of the workshop.

According to BJP sources, the Prashikshan Shivir is designed to familiarize the legislators with legislative strategy, public issues, and the party's approach in the Assembly. The initiative comes in response to the fact that 19 of the 28 BJP MLAs are first-time legislators.

Apart from Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma and a handful of former ministers, most members are new to legislative affairs and require guidance on handling debates, countering opposition arguments, and presenting the party's stance effectively.

The training program will consist of ten sessions, including a concluding session, where senior BJP leaders and former MLAs will share insights and experiences. The first day of the workshop will see B.L. Santosh attending all five sessions, while J.P. Nadda and Dr. Jitendra Singh are scheduled to join on March 1. The discussions will focus on strengthening the party's organizational framework, tackling key public concerns, and ensuring a proactive approach inside and outside the Assembly.

In preparation for the session, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh had earlier convened a luncheon meeting with BJP MLAs at their Trikuta Nagar residence in Jammu. The meeting centered on formulating strategies to engage with ruling party members and counter political challenges during the Assembly session.

All BJP MLAs have been instructed to attend the training, which will begin at 8 AM on February 28. After the day's sessions, they will stay overnight in Katra and return only after the concluding session on March 1. The BJP views this workshop as a critical step in sharpening its legislative team's effectiveness, ensuring that its members are well-prepared for the challenges of the upcoming Budget Session.

Gang of robbers...

and arrested from different areas of the city, " the spokesperson said.

Two dummy guns, nine mobile phones, a car, ATM cards, cash, and black commando uniforms used in the commission of the crime were seized from the accused, he said.

The accused specifically targeted trucks with registration numbers from outside the union territory, choosing desolate highway stretches during nighttime to execute their crimes, he added.

They intimidated drivers using dummy guns while dressed in black commando uniforms before robbing them of cash, ATM cards, and other valuables, he said.

The spokesperson said the arrested persons are history-sheeters with multiple cases registered against them in various police stations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Police in Awantipora...

The e-FIR was registered two days after police in Handwara lodged a case based on a complaint filed through a WhatsApp message.

Coca-Cola India's sustainability initiatives shaping Maha Kumbh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: At Maha Kumbh 2025, Coca-Cola India is leading the charge on driving behavioural change and creating lasting value with its Maidaan Saaf campaign. This year, the brand isn't just tackling environmental challenges; it's inspiring real change with a series of thoughtful, community-driven initiatives that transform waste into value. From recycled PET jackets to hydration carts promoting responsible disposal, these sustainable innovations are redefining what it means to respect the environment while empowering local communities.

The five game-changing efforts making an impact at the festival includes empowering waste workers with recycled PET jackets, life jackets for boatmen, recycled plastic changing rooms for women, art for awareness and hydration carts promoting responsible waste disposal and economic opportunity.

"We tell visitors to drop any plastic bottles here, so

they can be recycled. It's not just about selling water-it's about keeping the Kumbh clean," said Mala Goswami, a hydration cart vendor.

Commenting on the initiative, Devyani Rana, Vice President, Coca Cola India, said, "We take pride in the lasting impact of our Maidaan Saaf campaign at Maha Kumbh 2025. Through collective action, we've empowered communities, encouraged responsible behavior, and turned challenges into meaningful opportunities. This campaign has been a testament to what can be achieved when we come together, not just to manage waste but to redefine how it can be used purposefully."

As Maha Kumbh 2025 nears its end, the message is clear: sustainability doesn't stop here. By empowering communities, promoting responsible waste management, and fostering cleaner habits, Coca Cola India's Maidaan Saaf campaign ensures its benefits extend far beyond the festival, inspiring continued environmental stewardship.

MD KPDCL reviews revenue realization, RDSS progress, PM Surya Ghar scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Managing Director (MD) of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), accompanied by the Superintending Engineer of South Circle Bijbehara and concerned Executive Engineers and other officials, visited South Kashmir to assess the ongoing revenue realization efforts, progress under the RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme), the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, and measures taken to ensure a reliable power supply during the Holy month of Ramzan.

During the visit, MD conducted a detailed review of the revenue realized in comparison to set targets, directing concerned officials to expedite the disconnection of consumers with outstanding arrears.



He emphasized the importance of achieving the revenue targets in full and underscored the continued need for rigorous inspections to curb power pilferage and theft. MD commended the dedicated efforts of the field staff and engineers who have been working tirelessly to improve revenue realization and restore power supply despite several challenges. He also reviewed the

progress made under the RDSS scheme in the region, urging officials from the Project Wing and the Project Implementing Agency, Powergrid Energy Services Ltd (PESL) to accelerate work and ensure timely completion of approved projects.

While reviewing PM Surya Ghar Yojana, he highlighted the need to increase awareness about the scheme and to encourage more consumers

to avail themselves of the government subsidy. He called for focused efforts to cover the maximum number of beneficiaries under the scheme.

As part of his visit, the MD toured the Receiving Station Sangam and directed all Sub-Transmission and Distribution level officers to strictly adhere to the curtailment program.

He stressed the importance of efficient power supply management to ensure seamless and reliable power during Ramzan particularly during Sehri and Iftaar.

With adverse weather conditions expected towards the end of the month, the MD advised all officers to remain vigilant & prepared and instructed them to have personnel and materials ready to respond swiftly to any outages and ensure timely restoration of power.

Student politics, unions not banned in Kashmir Valley: RTI reveals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has not officially banned student politics, Associations or unions in the Kashmir region, as revealed by an RTI response. Earlier, in its reply to the same RTI, it also stated that there is no ban on student politics in the Jammu region. Officials from the Higher Education Department confirmed that no communication or official order has been issued by the authorities imposing such a restriction.

The RTI was filed by Nasir Khuehami, National Convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, who sought a photocopy of any official order banning student activism and student associations in universities and educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

In response, officials from the Higher Education Department clarified that no circular or directive exists prohibiting student associations or restricting their formation and functioning in the Union Territory. The government has not imposed any ban on student politics anywhere. The RTI response dispels misconceptions about a potential ban on student activism, affirming that there are no official

restrictions on campus politics in J&K.

Khuehami said that he filed an RTI to sought information whether any official order prohibits student unions associations in Jammu and Kashmir or campus politics at Kashmir University. He submitted similar requests to various universities in Kashmir, and the response from Kashmir University was particularly striking. While other universities simply stated that no official ban exists on campus politics, Kashmir University's reply stood out.

Several institutions, including the University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu, Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu, Central University of Kashmir, Islamic University of Science and Technology, and other educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, have confirmed in their respective responses that no official order banning student politics has been issued, either by the universities themselves or by the government. They further clarified that they have not prohibited the formation of student associations or unions.

However, the RTI reply from the University of Kashmir states that there is no need for a student union

in the university because a transparent system is already in place. The University of Kashmir specifically said that it has not issued any circular or formal order banning student unions. There is also no official communication from the Government or university restricting the formation of student associations. However, in its response to the applicant, the university's Proctor mentioned that student unions were verbally banned in 2009 by the then Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Riyaz Punjabi. This decision was not implemented through any written or official order but was conveyed as a verbal directive. The reply goes on to say that the university has a proper grievance mechanism in place.

Reacting to this, Khuehami said that the university can gaslight with the "proper grievance cell" reply, but not anyone who is privy to Kashmir University's defunct system-especially a student who is a daily sufferer. "Which Kashmir University student doesn't know that when a student speaks about university issues, he is summoned by the Chief Proctor the next day? They fear the University Chief Proctor more than the people of North Korea fear Kim Jong Un. Students say he is anything but an

academician."

He further said that the University of Kashmir justified the absence of student unions and associations by claiming it had a "transparent" grievance redressal system. "But the counter-question is: who accredited the university as 'transparent'?" The question is, who gave them the accreditation of being 'transparent'? Isn't this reply laughable to those students who have to endure hardships daily due to the lack of an operational student union? That is the first point. The second is that student unions and associations are part and parcel of a vibrant higher education system. Just because the system is transparent does not rule out the necessity of a student union.

Every major institution in India-be it Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Delhi University (DU), or TISS-operates within transparent frameworks while also having active student unions. Transparency and student representation are not mutually exclusive. If anything, they strengthen each other. Does that mean they will stop having student unions?

From what I gather, "law and order" has been a convenient excuse for Kashmir University authorities

Jaswinder nominated President JKMEF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) on Wednesday held conference under the chairmanship of Sushil Sudan to discuss grievances of health employees.

After consultation of all District and Block Presidents and Presidents of all sister organization of employees association, Jaswinder Singh nominated as president unanimously with one voice of JKMEF.

Jaswinder Singh took oath in presence of employees and pledged to serve the medical employees federation with full might and work sincerely with the cooperation and support of health employees.

He also requested to Sushil Sudan to enlighten the federation as chairman of federation with their extensive experience of struggle.

Sushil Sudan, while addressing the conference, congratulated Jaswinder Singh and also extended his full support for welfare of health employees and showed full faith that flag of Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation remain high under his leadership. Other who addressed the conference were Parfulat Singh General Secretary, Bharat Bhushan Bhagat President pharmacist association, Harpal Singh President X Ray Tech , Neeraj Maladhar Distt President Kathua, Aslam Bhai President Lab Tech, Onkar Singh President Ophthalmic Tech, Mohd Nadeem General Secretary, Anita Bhagat, Gagan Singh Block President, Madan Sharma, Kulwant Singh, Sanjay Choudhary, Vikas Sahharwal, Rajinder Sharma, Sultan Mohd, Ashwani Gupta, Surjeet Rajan, Daleep Choudhary, Sorab Bakshi General Secretary, Vinod Kumar Advisor, Tejinder Singh, Sahil Kumar, Sanjeev Chadha, Mukhtar Ahmed Kohli, Netar and Arti.

LUPIN sponsored five days training for capacity building of farm women concludes at SKUAST-J

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The five days training programme on "Capacity Building of Farm Women through training on Animal Husbandry Management Practices" w.e.f. 19-21 & 24-25 February 2025 concludes at Division of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, R.S. Pura. LUPIN Human Welfare and Research Foundation (LHWRF), Jammu has sponsored the five days training programme for farm women under their CSR initiative and it was being organized under the able guidance and leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu

Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura was the Chief Guest during the valedictory session of the training programme. In his address, he congratulated

the trainees for being selected for this training programme who have come from border villages of R.S Pura block of Jammu district. He asked the trainees about their experience and learning during the five days of training. Participants were happy about the theoretical and practical exposures received during the programme.

Dr. Pranav Kumar, Training Coordinator of five days training programme and Associate Professor, Division of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries and gave details of the activities being conducted during the five days training programme. He gave a brief note on the importance women-oriented training programme on animal husbandry. He said that since, women play a crucial and significant role in livestock rearing, but their contribution in livestock rearing has not been

given the due place they deserve. They always remain invisible workers. Keeping above points in view, LUPIN Human Welfare and Research Foundation (LHWRF), Jammu has sponsored the training programme under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Dr. Kumar informed the gathering that trainees were exposed to clinical visits, various practical demonstrations such as vermicompost making, cow dung log making, value addition of milk, natural farming preparations/concoctions, indigenous technical knowledge for the treatment of dairy animals, cattle dung based entrepreneurial opportunities etc in such a way that they could start their own enterprise as well as for the promotion of organic/natural farming.

Ujjwal Kumar, Head, Quality Control and Atul Sharma of Lupin Ltd. Jammu also spoke and interacted with trainees and thanked SKUAST-

Jammu for being part of their CSR initiative programmes. During the valedictory session of the training programme, a training manual in Hindi on "Pashupalan Ke Madhyam se Krishak Mahilayon ka Kshamta Nirmaan" was released by the dignitaries and distributed among the participants. Various inputs (such as milk can, mineral mixture, dewormer etc) were also distributed among the trainees for scientific and hygienic rearing of dairy animals at farm level.

During the valedictory session, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Prof. LPT; post graduate students of the division and non-teaching staffs namely Satbinder Singh, Chain Singh & Vyas Dev were present. Dr. Pranav Kumar, Training Coordinator extended vote of thanks, while proceedings of the programme was coordinated by Dr. Anna Singh, Dr. Anny Kujur and Dr. Veerta Bhagat, post graduate students of VAHEE division.

Dr. Banarsi of KVK Reasi gets prestigious 'Best KVK Scientist Award'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: National Agriculture Development Co-operative Ltd. (NADCL) awarded Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (K V K) , Reasi of K a s h m i r U n i v e r s i t y o f A g r i c u l t u r a l S c i e n c e s a n d T e c h n o l o g y - J a m m u



(SKUAST-J) with the coveted 'Best KVK Scientist Award' during the three days International Conference on Global Research initiatives for Agriculture, Science and Technology (GRIAST-2025) recently held at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (I G K V) , R a i p u r , Chhattishgarh.

The conference was jointly organised by the National Agriculture Development Co-operative Ltd. (NADCL) and Indira

Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, Chhattishgarh. Many eminent scientists, academicians and research scholars across the globe participated in the mega

event and deliberated on the various issues of agricultural and allied sector innovations for the welfare of the farming community.

The 'Best KVK Scientist Award' was bestowed upon the J&K scientist based on his outstanding contributions and accomplishments in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. His overall research papers, books, book chapters, articles, success stories, case studies, consultancy services, improved technologies disseminated etc. were considered for the prestigious award. He has also developed an exponential communication model which is very handy to assess the communication behaviour of farmers.