

YOUNG BITES TEAM IN SRI LANKA

With PM Modi's visit, Indians in SL see renewed hope for growth & unity

■ VIJAY GUPTA

COLOMBO: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi



visited Sri Lanka, the Indian diaspora across the island nation expressed optimism and warmth, highlighting the growing bond between the two nations.

Large number of Indians living in Sri Lanka received PM Modi when he landed in Colombo.



Madhumita from New Delhi, and a Managing Director of a company: "Sri Lanka needs the help of India to grow, and we are here to support that. I am originally from Bengal, and I feel connected to this land through the legacy of King Vijaya. I felt very happy when we met Modi ji - it was a proud moment. He even listened patiently as my friend recited a poem. That human touch was very moving."



A Members of the Muslim community from Gujarat, now residing in SL, also extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister: "We felt very happy to meet Modi ji. His presence here brought pride and joy to the Indian community in Sri Lanka. It was a moment of unity and celebration for all of us. We extend warm welcome to our Prime Minister".



An Indian Businessman said, "Since the Prime Minister Modi took office, there has been a noticeable boost in confidence. Globally, India's stature has risen, and Indians are respected here in Sri Lanka. On a local level, we are doing our best to contribute positively. Relations with every country is moving in positive direction and there is new confidence among the people to contribute towards development".



K.P. Nagaraja, a businessman from Bengaluru shared his optimism about the evolving relationship: "Since Modi ji became Prime Minister, the outlook of India has changed. Not just within India but here in SL too. There is a renewed sense of respect and partnership. Indian business leaders are more confident and are looking to invest here. I truly believe this will pave the way for a healthy, long-term India-Sri Lanka relationship."



Nitin Saini, from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, who has been working in Colombo for the past year: "I felt privileged to meet and shake hands with PM Modi. He took time to meet everyone. It meant a lot to us. Being in Sri Lanka, we see how Indians are respected here. PM Modi's work for India's development is being recognized even outside the country. We feel proud to be Indian."



Another Indian citizen said, "India and Sri Lanka are strengthening ties across every sector, and this growing partnership is mutually beneficial for both nations. Bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka are growing stronger across multiple sectors, a development that promises shared prosperity and regional stability. We are proud of Modi ji and his leadership."

CSIR-IIIM conducts workshop on Women led Entrepreneurship in Aroma Crops

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu organized a two-day technical and entrepreneurial skill development workshop at its Field Station in Bonera Pulwama, with a focused aim to empower women through scientific cultivation, processing and value addition of aromatic crops.

The initiative is part of Institute's CSIR Aroma Mission to translate its research and technologies into grassroots impact, particularly by empowering women in rural and semi-urban areas.

The workshop was designed to equip 100 women farmers, self-help group (SHG) members of National Rural Livelihood Mission with



CSIR IIIM Jammu officials along with participants during the workshop.

hands-on training and entrepreneurial knowledge to enhance income, livelihood opportunities, and foster the Agritech startup ecosystem.

The programme featured onsite practical demonstrations and expert sessions on scientific cultivation of aromatic crops, post-harvest handling and processing, techniques to develop value-added products, market

research and business model creation.

Participants also interacted with successful women entrepreneurs trained under previous Aroma Mission initiatives, gaining insights into market opportunities and business challenges.

At the culmination of the workshop 70000 quality plants of Lavender and Rosemary were distributed

free of cost to the trained beneficiaries.

Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR IIIM Jammu said that women are at the heart of our rural economy. By imparting scientific knowledge and entrepreneurial skills in aromatic crop cultivation and value addition, we are not only enhancing incomes but also nurturing a new generation of women-led agritech startups.

He added that the Institute is dedicated to the development and dissemination of technologies based on medicinal and aromatic plants, with a strong focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, and societal impact.

This workshop at our Field Station in Pulwama is part of our ongoing effort to empower women as key drivers of economic change in the rural

bioeconomy.

Addressing the participants at the workshop, Dr Shahid Rasool, Senior Scientist and Incharge Field Station Pulwama, informed that the activities under the Mission are in conformity with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 for empowering women and are personally being mentored and monitored by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister for Science and Technology.

Through the CSIR Aroma Mission, we aim to bring scientific knowledge and entrepreneurship to the grassroots. This capacity-building initiative is expected to serve as a model for community-led development, creating new opportunities in the natural product value chain and helping integrate women more fully into India's bioeconomy, he said.

Free Artificial Limbs, Medical Camp organized by Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic, Jammu, organized a free Artificial Limbs Camp and Medical OPD Camp on Sunday at Fattu Chogan, Kali Jamm, here. This initiative marked the 449th monthly limb camp conducted by the organization. During the camp, 35 new artificial limbs (Jaipur Foot), 18 calipers, 2 tricycles, and 4 hearing aids were distributed to the underprivileged individuals. In the medical OPD section, 224 patients were examined, and free laboratory tests were conducted. Essential medicines were also provided to patients at no cost. Beneficiary expressed their appreciation for the commendable efforts of the clinic. They acknowledged the dedicated work being done for the welfare of the poor and underprivileged sections of society.

Pritul Jain, General Secretary of the Society, briefed on the institution's history and its continued commitment to social service. Pradeep Jain, Chairman of the Society, extended heartfelt thanks.

Several dignitaries were present at the camp, including Kimti Jain, Davinder Jain, Praveen Seth, Deepak Jain, Vikas Jain, Rishik Jain, and Shailesh Jain.



Organisers along with participants during the camp.

Eight-day long spiritual activity concludes by Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust



Trust members performing Hawan Yagya.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To inculcate moral and spiritual values among the masses, Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust organized eight-day long spiritual activity at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu during auspicious 'Navratras.' Hundreds of devotees thronged the Ashram during these days and it was gratifying to watch the devotees participating in the spiritual

activities in a spirit of true devotion and humility. The Hawan started on 30th of March, 2025 and Puran Ahuti was offered on the 6th of April, 2025 at 1 p.m. marking the end of the festival days. A huge gathering of devotees took part in recitation of about crores of mantras during these auspicious days for propitiating the Blessings of Mother Goddess. Devotees prayed to Bhagawaanji for the well

being of mankind. Prasad was distributed among the devotees in the lush green lawn of Bhagawaanji's Vatika.

It is pertinent to mention that such spiritual activities are held on a regular basis by the Trust at its various ashrams / centres spread across the country to inculcate spiritual and moral values in the young and old to preserve our rich culture and heritage.

Over 30 Kgs of narcotic substance seized, three arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: In a major success in the fight against the drug menace, Police in Anantnag carried out a series of raids during the intervening night, resulting in the recovery of a large quantity of narcotic substances from three separate residential houses in village Wantrag, falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Mattan. Acting on specific information, Police Station Mattan raided the residence of Jehangir Ahmad Khan, son of Mohd Abdulla Khan, resident of Wantrag and recovered 23 Kgs 330 grams of Charas Powder.

In another operation, a raid was conducted at the residence of Reyaz Ahmad

Khan, son of Sher Afzal Khan, resident of Wantrag. Officers recovered 3 Kgs 670 grams of Charas Powder from the aforesaid residential house.

In the third instance, police raided the house of Nowshad Pathan son of Kastiyia Pathan resident of Wantrag, leading to the recovery of 3 Kgs 900 grams of Charas Powder.

These operations lead to the recovery of over-all 30 Kgs 900 grams of Charas Powder. Additionally, the accused persons have also been arrested.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and investigations are underway, and more arrests and recoveries are expected.

Delegation from ALTOA calls on CEC, LAHDC Leh



ALTOA delegation calling on Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: A delegation from the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), led by President Tsewang Dorjey and General Secretary Tsewang Namgyal, along with executive members, called on the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, to discuss key issues concerning tourism in Ladakh.

The delegation raised the need to simplify the current process for obtaining Protected Area Permits (PAP), highlighting that tourists are currently required to submit the same information multiple times.

They requested the introduction of a single, streamlined application system to make the process more tourist-friendly.

They also urged the implementation of a single registration process for Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs), Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs), and general Tour Operators, to ease administrative challenges and improve efficiency.

Concerns were also raised regarding the continued collection of Open Peak Permit fees by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).

CEC assured the delegation of his full support in addressing the issues raised.