

Fabric Nation hosts 'Unmute': A Bold Platform for authentic voices, untold journeys

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fabric Nation, Jammu's premier destination for curated fabrics, hosted Unmute - a one-of-a-kind afternoon celebrating real stories, quiet resilience, and creative courage. The event marked an elegant intersection of design and dialogue, where entrepreneurship was not showcased through accolades, but through authenticity.

As a brand where the finest fabric brands and designer collections come together, Fabric Nation is home to fabrics catering to both everyday elegance and couture sophistication. The store features premium brands like Floor & Furnishings, Nilaya by Asian Paints, and Maishaa, while also offering exclusive wall coverings, upholstery, and curtain fabrics from renowned Indian design houses such as



Ritu Kumar with Paayal Saraf and others at a programme.

Sabyasachi and Ritu Kumar.

The event Unmute, curated by Paayal Saraf, the founder of Fabric Nation and the design studio Samaya, reflected this very philosophy. Designed as a circle rather than a stage, Unmute brought together some of Jammu's most spirited entrepreneurs and creators for conversations rooted in vulnerability, perse-

verance, and purpose.

The gathering was graced by three distinguished women leaders: Kuvrani Ritu Singh, Co-Founder of the Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation and Chairperson of DPS Jammu, Katra & Nagbani; Devyani Rana, Executive Director & CEO, Take One Television & Digital Network and Vice President, B-JP Yuva Morcha;

and Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JK & L and Founder of Luxuries of Kashmir.

Ritu Singh remarked that spaces like Unmute are rare - where voices are heard not for their titles but for their truths.

Devyani Rana described the event as a grounded and inspiring exchange - the kind of real, unfiltered stories India needs to hear. Aarti Chowdhary reflected on the power of women-led conversations that are driven by clarity, character, and courage.

The panel featured inspiring entrepreneurs from the region, including Dr Palki Sharma (Founder, PS Body, Skin, & Hair), Ridhima Arora (Founder, Namhya Foods) Adishree Singh (Co-founder, Reformary), Harman Khorana & Udit Kalra (Co-founders, Sama Homestays), Sakshi Khullar (Founder & Artist, SKA Studio), Iruvanthika Chowdhary (Founder, Brandify) Guneet Singh (Founder, Kitaab Aur Kalam Foundation), Ashwarya Thakur (Founding Chef, Ohaana Patisserie & Pantry).

Each founder shared their personal journeys - the doubts, dilemmas, and defining moments that shaped their growth. Rather than pitches or rehearsed narratives, the afternoon was filled with unfiltered stories of silent grit and turning points no one saw coming. At the helm was Paayal Saraf, a designer whose career spans over two decades. Through her studio

Samaya, she has transformed homes into timeless sanctuaries. With Fabric Nation, she has extended this vision into curated experiences - blending craftsmanship, storytelling, and emotion.

She envisioned Unmute as a space for honest, human connection - not a spotlight, but a circle where presence, not performance, takes centre stage.

Unmute emerged as more than an event. It became a reminder - that behind every brand is a brave beginning, behind every success a silent story. For Jammu's evolving creative landscape, it marked a moment of reflection, community, and celebration that will echo well beyond the studio walls.

Food Safety Deptt intensifies drive across Jammu Division during Holy Amarnath Yatra 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the ongoing Holy Amarnath Yatra 2025, the Department of Food Safety (DFCO), Jammu, under the supervision of Smetta Sethi, Commissioner, FDA J&K, has launched an extensive food safety enforcement campaign to safeguard the health of pilgrims and the general public.

The department has mobilized its teams from Lakhnampur (Kathua) to Banihal (Jawahar Tunnel) to ensure the strict implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) 2006 across the Jammu Division.

Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers conducted rigorous inspections across markets, roadside eateries, Dhabas, and Langars along the National Highway. Erring food business operators (FBOs) were penalized under various sections of the Act, amounting to a total fine of Rs 69,000.

During inspections, about two quintals of unhygienic, uncovered, spoiled fruits and perished vegetables were seized and destroyed on the spot. Operators were also instructed to avoid repeated use of cooking oil under FSSAT's RUCO initiative to reduce toxicity and associated health risks.

The department deployed five Mobile Food Testing Vans (MFTVs), working round-the-clock to conduct on-the-spot food sample tests. Langars and community kitchens serving pilgrims were checked for compliance with hygiene, potable water availability, and sanitation standards.

Operators were advised to strictly follow guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India regarding community kitchens. Mass awareness



Food Safety Officers during a drive.

sessions were also held to educate FBOs on safe food practices, emphasizing the use of low salt, sugar, and oil.

During the drive, milk vendors, Rehriwalas, retailers, and wholesalers were sensitized on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygienic Practices (GHP). The department stressed on maintaining personal hygiene, especially among milk handlers, and emphasized proper storage systems to avoid contamination.

The drive witnessed active public participation and support. Citizens were urged to report violations on the department's toll-free number 104. Local police also extended full cooperation in ensuring smooth operations.

The Food Safety Department remains committed to ensuring pure, hygienic, and quality food during the yatra and beyond, reiterating its resolve to go the extra mile in safeguarding consumer health across the region.

Khatana accuses Congress & NC of derailing Kashmiri youth



MP (Rajya Sabha) Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana addressing gathering at Uri.

STATE TIMES NEWS

URI: In a address at a massive public rally held at the revered Baba Fareed Shrine in Garkote, Uri, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana launched a scathing critique of the Congress and National Conference (NC) for, what he termed, "derailing the youth of Kashmir from the mainstream and leading them towards destruction."

Addressing hundreds of enthusiastic attendees, many of whom had travelled from nearby villages on foot, MP Khatana said, "While our Prime Minister envisions a future of prosperity, schools, playgrounds, tourism, and eco-

nomie empowerment, these parties filled graveyards and raised the numbers of orphans and widows during their regimes."

Speaking from the foothills of the historic Baba Fareed Shrine under the shade of majestic chinar trees, MP Khatana laid out a comprehensive vision for Uri's. He proposed the enhancement of facilities at the Baba Fareed site, including improved road connectivity, signage, rest areas, and pilgrim lodging - positioning Uri as a key religious and eco-tourism hub. Urging youth to engage in entrepreneurship, he pledged support for handicrafts, adventure tourism, and hospitality

initiatives - with special focus on empowering the tribal communities. He highlighted Central Government programs like PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, and Kisan Credit Card (KCC), calling on locals to actively benefit from these schemes. He particularly encouraged women to join skill development and livelihood missions. The MP praised the community's unity and cultural strength, saying, "This rally is not just a gathering, it's a message of hope, strength, and a shared vision for Uri."

The event witnessed strong participation from local leaders, elders, youth, and women - with community voices expressing optimism and support for this new chapter in Uri's.

In the mean time uri division officers meeting also taken, and directed them to work with enthusiasm and reach the last deserving person.

Other prominent accompanied Mohd Anwar Khan, Ghulam Hussain Dar, Mushtaq Mir Nowshari, Harjeet Singh, Umar Khan, Ashish Mungrial, and Rafiq Balote, Rafiq Chechi were the main organisers of the program.

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NOWSHERA: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting at Nowshera to review the preparations and activity plan for the celebration of the birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, besides the launch of Vibrant Village Program (Phase-II) at the border village Saryia.

The Deputy Commissioner laid emphasis on honouring the legacy of Brigadier Usman, a revered war hero who laid down his life defending the nation. He directed that senior officers shall felicitate Bal Sainiks as a mark of tribute to Brigadier Usman and to instill patriotic fervour among youth.

The DC instructed officials to put up departmental



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma visiting memorial of Brigadier Mohammad Usman.

stalls showcasing the government schemes and services. Directions were issued for organising vibrant cultural programs to celebrate local heritage, identify hidden talents and foster a spirit of nationalism.

Highlighting the developmental and economic potential of the region, the Deputy Commissioner

asked officials to focus on promotion of agriculture and allied sector activities, religious tourism-particularly at Mangla Mata Temple-and tapping of tourism potential in the

border belt. Promotion of Swachhta (cleanliness) activities, local cuisine and rural sports was also underscored as key components of the celebration, aimed at holistic community engagement and development.

To educate and inspire the young generation, the DC directed the District Information Officer to host an essay writing competition on the life and sacrifice of Brigadier Usman across schools in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed active involvement of servicemen, defence forces and educational institutions in the event to pay befitting tribute to the valiant soldier

and foster a strong civil-military connection.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the memorial of Brigadier Mohammad Usman to pay homage to the brave heart, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the Indo-Pak war of 1947-48. He reiterated the district administration's commitment to preserving the legacy of national heroes and inspiring future generations.

ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa; Tehsildar, BDO and other sectoral and district officers were present during the meeting and assured full cooperation for the successful conduct of the event.

Brigadier Usman's Birth Anniversary: Rajouri gears up to pay tributes to valiant soldier

SSP Samba pins rank to newly promoted ASIs



SSP Samba Virinder Singh Manhas after pinning new rank on ASIs.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: SSP Samba Virinder Singh Manhas pinned new rank on the five newly promoted Assistant Sub Inspectors of Samba Police in a pipping ceremony held at District Police Headquarters Samba.

The officers who were promoted from the rank of Head Constables to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspectors include Angeej Singh, Krishan Lal, M A Katoch, Surjeet Singh and M A Shan.

The pipping ceremony was

attended by Addl. SP Samba and other officers of District Police Samba.

SSP Samba congratulated the promoted officers & their families and expressed hope that they would continue to work with the same zeal and dedication in future also.

Narco-terror module in J&K: NIA Court rejects bail plea of Branch Manager

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge NIA J&K Sandeep Gandotra rejected the bail application of one Afaq Ahmad Wani then Branch Manager at Handwara Central Cooperative Bank Ltd who was key operative of narco-terror module in J&K.

According to the case that the charges were framed against applicant on 15-11-2023 for offences under sections 8/21/25/29 NPDS Act, section 120-B of IPC read with section 17 and 40 of UA (P) Act. The applicant was engaged in Central Co-operative Bank Limited and was posted as Branch Manager at Handwara Central Cooperative Bank Ltd in the year 2019 and was performing his duties with most diligence and honesty.

In June, 2020 an FIR was registered at Police Station Handwara vide case No.183/2020 dated June 11, 2020 in which the applicant was later on falsely implicated, then the investigation was entrusted to NIA and NIA registered the case as case No.RC-03/2020/NIA/JMU dated June 23, 2020. As per the

prosecution story that on June 11, 2020 at 0805 hrs. SgCt Fiyaz Ahmed 274/H posted at Police Post Langate along with staff was busy in checking of vehicles and pedestrian at Kaiora Bridge.

During checking a vehicle make Creta (White Colour) without registration Number which was on the way from Baramulla towards Handwara was stopped and checked.

During checking of the vehicle, a Black bag was found under the front seat of the said car. During search of the recovered bank, a large number of Indian currency notes of Rs.500 denominations were found. During further search of vehicle, six packets of narcotic drug i.e. Heroine were found from the dickey of the vehicle which was kept on both sides of the stepny.

On preliminary questioning the driver disclosed his name as Abdul Momin, son of Mohd Ashraf R/o Washkhura, presently residing at MIG Colony, Bemina Srinagar. Driver Abdul Momin Peer was taken into custody as the offences under sections

8/21 NDPS Act was found to be committed by the said driver. The investigation of the case No.183/2020 dated 11-06-2020 was entrusted to Sub Inspector Irshad Ahmed, 48 PAU Police Post Magam. On being disclosed by accused A-1, there was further seizure/recovery of 15 kgs of Heroine and cash amounting to Rs.1.15 Crore from the possession of A-2, A3, A4, A5 and A6. The total seizure in the case is 21 kgs of Heroine (commercial quantity) and cash amounting Rs.1,35,89,850/-.

Special Judge NIA J&K Sandeep Gandotra after hearing Sr. Adv MA Goni with Adv Adv Tanzeel Iahi for the applicant whereas Special PP KS Pathania for the NIA, observed that the material available on record indicates the involvement of the appellants in furtherance of terrorist activities backed by members of terrorist organization that is why two of their accomplices were killed in an encounter during the currency of the investigation, so mere delay in trial that too pertains to grave offense as the one

involved cannot be urged as a ground for granting of bail.

In view of the discussion made hereinabove taking into consideration the nature and gravity of offence, evidence on record and security of the state, the accused/applicant Afaq Ahmed is not entitled to bail at this stage, because not only the approver Showket Ahmed Parry but other witnesses examined the court have also stated against the applicant in their depositions in court.

As such, in the humble opinion of this court the stage has not arisen for

this court to record its satisfaction with regard to the "prima facie" truthfulness of the accusation or otherwise against the accused/applicant. The embargo contained under section 43(D) proviso 5 UA (P) Act and Section 37 NDPS Act is attracted in the present case and the accused/applicant herein does not deserve the latitude of bail at this stage.

Further, if the accused is enlarged on bail, public interests/ interests of state/UT shall be put to stake. With these observations Court dismissed the application.

World's First 'Sanskrit Mohalla': A historic step towards revival of divine language

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust has officially declared Subhash Nagar Extension-1 in Jammu as the world's first 'Sanskrit Mohalla'. The historic inauguration was jointly carried out by Jammu & Kashmir BJP State President Sat Sharma and SP Rural Brijesh Sharma.

Addressing the dignitaries present at the inaugural ceremony, Sat Sharma praised the efforts of Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, stating that he has played a pioneering role in promoting Devavani Sanskrit across the region and in awakening awareness among the masses.

He said Sanskrit is not just the cultural and spiritual soul of India, but also one of the oldest, most scientific, and richest languages in the world. Priceless scriptures of Vedic knowledge, Upanishads, philosophy, Ayurveda, yoga, astrology,



SKJVS Trust members and BJP leaders officially declaring Subhash Nagar Extension-1 as 'Sanskrit Mohalla'.

and grammar were composed in this language. At a time when the language was becoming obsolete in the modern age, the resolve to revive it is truly the beginning of a cultural revolution. SP Rural Brijesh Sharma described Sanskrit as the soul of Indian culture and stated that this initiative is commendable and worthy of emulation. He appreciated the crucial role Mahant Rohit Shastri is playing in promoting Devavani Sanskrit in the region.

On the auspicious occasion of Sanskrit Month, the grand inauguration of the

Sanskrit Mohalla was held. A large number of Sanskrit lovers, students, scholars, journalists, public representatives, and local residents attended the historic event.

Mahant Rohit Shastri engaged with the local residents, encouraging them to become active participants in this cultural movement. As a result, the citizens of Subhash Nagar Extension-1 adopted the initiative and undertook several resolutions, the key ones being Installation of a Sanskrit welcome board at the entrance of the mohalla and Nameplates of every house

written in Sanskrit.

Mahant Rohit Shastri has resolved to develop this Sanskrit Mohalla as a Sanskrit Laboratory. This initiative has now become a national model, with delegations from across the country visiting Jammu to witness this unique experiment.

The approval of Sanskrit names at the municipal level, promotion of Sanskrit lifestyle in schools, the use of Sanskrit in social functions, and the echo of Sanskrit songs and shlokas in neighborhoods - all of this is now becoming a possible reality. For years, the Trust has been actively engaged in preserving and promoting Sanskrit, Vedas, astrology, Ayurveda, and Indian traditions. The 'Sanskrit Mohalla' is a historic milestone in this direction. The Trust regularly organizes shloka-recitation competitions, Vedic conferences, and training programs for Sanskrit teachers.

The 'Sanskrit Mohalla' is not just a locality, but a cul-

tural renaissance. It is a movement to re-establish Sanskrit in everyday life - a flame that will illuminate the path for future generations. Heartfelt congratulations to Mahant Rohit Shastri and his dedicated team for this historic initiative. It is now our collective responsibility to ignite this 'Sanskrit flame' across the entire nation.

On this occasion, many dignitaries were present including Former Chairman and current Board of Directors member of Jammu & Kashmir Bank R.K. Chhibber, Former Councilor Harjeet Mankotia, Prof. Sharad Sharma, Prabhat Singh, Dr. Vishva Gupta (Director, Kalindi Narsingh Home), M.L. Verma, Pramod Sharma, Ashish Gupta, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Vinay Agarwal, Dal Bahadur Singh, Lucky Sharma, Yogrj Abrol, Ravikant Gupta, Sunil Vaid, Satish Maldar, Vinod Saharwal, Dr. Arun Gupta, Ashok Sharma, Anil Gupta, Sushil Dutta, and many other eminent citizens.

Bukhari calls on LG



President JKAP, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, President, J&K Apni Party called on Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday and put forth various important matters pertaining to Horticulture sector and welfare of

orchardists and farmers across the UT affected due to recent and recurrent weather-related adversities.

