

Mahanavmi Yagya concludes at Karkutnag Temple

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ANANTNAG: The historic Karkutnag Temple in Salia witnessed a day of devotion and ritual observance on Thursday as the annual Mahanavmi Yagya concluded with Vedic chants and traditional ceremonies, drawing members of the Kashmiri Pandit community from across the region.



Organised by the Papharan Nag Karkutnag Trust in association with the Shri Martand Tirath Trust, the event was held amid heightened security measures in the Kashmir Valley. Despite the prevailing alert, devotees assembled in large numbers, reflecting continued adherence to religious traditions.

The rituals reached their culmination at around 1:00 PM with the performance of the Puran Ahuti, marking the final offerings into the sacred fire. Following the conclusion of the Yagya, a community meal was served, with hundreds of participants receiving the sanctified food. Facilitating participation, the organisers arranged transport services, including a dedicated bus from Mattan, which enabled elderly and distant devotees to attend the gathering

without difficulty. Ashok Kumar Sidha, President of the Shri Martand Tirath Trust, led special prayers seeking peace, communal harmony, and stability in Jammu and Kashmir, while also invoking safety for the nation in view of prevailing global tensions. The event also underscored the cultural and spiritual linkage of the Kashmiri Pandit community with the Karkutnag springs, long regarded

as a site of religious importance in the Anantnag district. Participants described the gathering as a reaffirmation of their connection to ancestral heritage. Security arrangements remained in place throughout the day, with local authorities ensuring the safe conduct of the programme. Trust members later described the smooth completion of the Yagya as reflective of the community's continued commitment to preserving its traditions. Addressing the gathering after the conclusion of the rituals, Sidha spoke of faith, continuity, and collective resilience. He described the congregation at the shrine as an affirmation of enduring ties to the region and urged the community to remain composed in the face of uncertainty. He also called for unity and cooperation with security agencies, emphasising that spiritual practices serve as a source of strength during challenging times. Extending prayers beyond the immediate community, he expressed hope for peace across regions affected by conflict and for stability within Jammu and Kashmir. Sidha concluded by acknowledging the efforts of the organising bodies and the support extended by the administration, while encouraging younger members of the community to uphold and continue traditional practices associated with Salia and Mattan. The day's proceedings closed with a sense of shared purpose, as devotees dispersed after participating in rituals that continue to hold religious and cultural relevance for the community.

Shopian admin reviews supply of Fuel & LPG stock

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SHOPIAN: A meeting under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, was convened today at the Mini Secretariat, to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities, particularly petrol, diesel, and LPG, in the district. The meeting was attended by all petrol pump owners and LPG (gas) agency holders of the district, along with concerned officers. During the meeting, the ADC sought detailed inputs from all petrol pump and gas agency owners regarding current stock positions, supply mechanisms, and on-ground challenges. The ADC emphasized the seriousness of the issue in

view of public concern and the need to maintain uninterrupted supply. It was informed that sufficient stocks of petrol, diesel, and LPG are available in the district, and there is no shortage of essential fuel supplies. To ensure transparency and prevent any malpractice, strict monitoring mechanisms have been put in place. The ADC directed all stakeholders to remain vigilant and ensure fair and smooth distribution. Petrol pump owners were strictly instructed to adhere to all government guidelines while dispensing fuel. They were also directed to ensure proper traffic and crowd management at fuel stations so that the general public does not face inconvenience. During the interaction,

petrol pump and LPG agency owners also highlighted certain operational issues being faced during distribution. Owners were strictly instructed to adhere to all government guidelines while dispensing fuel. They were also directed to ensure proper traffic and crowd management at fuel stations so that the general public does not face inconvenience. The ADC assured that all genuine concerns will be addressed on a priority basis to facilitate smooth functioning. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shopian, Sha-koor Ahmad Dar, DySP Headquarters, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, DIO, All Tehsildars, Assistant Director, FCS & CA, Shopian, TSOs, Assistant Controller, Legal Metrology, Assistant Controller Drugs, Shopian.

EOW Kashmir busts COVID-era fraud, raids multiple sites in Srinagar, Budgam

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SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday said they have conducted searches at multiple locations in Srinagar and Budgam in connection with a major fraud case involving alleged siphoning of huge funds during the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said. In a statement, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, of Crime Branch J&K, today conducted house searches at three different locations in the districts of Srinagar and Budgam in

connection with FIR No. 11/2026 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, read with Section 66-D of the IT Act, at Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar. He said the case was initiated on the basis of a written complaint submitted by M/s Sanjay Trading Company, Najafgarh, New Delhi, through its proprietor, Sanjay Kumar Sahu. The complainant alleged that Emad Muzafar Makdooi @ Imran Shah, S/o Muzaffar Iqbal Maqdooni, R/o House No. 09, Bismillah Colony, Peerbagh, Srinagar, and Vikar Ahmad Bhat, S/o

Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, R/o L.D Colony near Fire & Emergency, Sanatnagar, Srinagar, dishonestly induced the firm on the pretext of procuring medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. "A preliminary probe revealed that the accused persons, through deceitful means, fraudulently obtained huge amounts, including funds from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag. They also attempted to siphon off crores of rupees from Government Medical College, Srinagar," he said. "The accused individuals impersonated government officials, posing as

delegates and OSD (Supplies) and issued fake allotment orders of various departments and institutions," said the spokesperson. "They further created fake email IDs of the complainant firm and opened fraudulent bank accounts in its name to divert payments." He said, on the basis of these findings, a formal case has been registered and the investigation has been set into motion. The house searches conducted today are aimed at securing further evidence, including digital records and financial documents. Further investigation is underway.

DC Shahzad reviews healthcare and education facilities

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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the Manzgam area to inspect key public institutions and review the status of healthcare and education facilities. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected Primary Health Centre (PHC) Manzgam and took stock of the patient care services available at the facility. He interacted with doctors, paramedical staff, and patients, and reviewed the availability of medicines, medical equipment, and other essential healthcare services. The DC emphasized the need to ensure quality healthcare delivery and directed the staff to maintain proper patient care and hygiene standards.



Later, he visited Higher Secondary School Manzgam, where he reviewed the academic environment and infrastructural facilities. He stressed the importance of maintaining a conducive learning atmosphere

for students and ensuring a supportive academic environment. Alam also conducted on site visit to review the ground facilities of Water Supply Scheme, Common Raw water Main for various WSS of

Manzgam being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). During the inspection, the DC emphasized the need for early completion of the scheme and directed that all remaining households be connected at the earliest to ensure 100% coverage of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). It was informed that the raw water supply system has been completed and commissioned successfully. The allied infrastructure, including pipe crossing at Kadlbal, anchor blocks, intake channel, and break pressure structures, has also been executed and made operational. Accompanying the DC were Joint Director Planning, Malik Suhail and other officers.

DC Indu issues advisory on rumours of fuel and LPG shortage

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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chhib, along with SSP Bandipora, Aijaz Ahmad Zargar, today chaired a meeting with all concerned stakeholders to review the availability of essential commodities and services in the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner urged residents not to pay heed to rumours circulating on social media regarding shortages of essential commodities, particularly petrol, diesel, and LPG. The district administration clarified that there is no shortage of essential supplies in the district. Adequate stocks of fuel and cooking gas are available at all authorised outlets, ensuring uninterrupted services for the



public. In a follow-up media briefing, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that misinformation can lead to unnecessary panic and disrupt normal supply mechanisms. Citizens were strongly

advised to avoid panic buying and rely only on verified information disseminated through official government channels. She further appealed to the public to remain calm and vigilant against unverified information, and urged residents to strictly follow official advisories and not pay heed to rumours. The administration informed that all essential commodities and services are being closely monitored through designated control rooms manned by senior officers and officials from concerned departments. Supply chains are functioning smoothly and there is no cause for concern. Authorities also warned that spreading false information or rumours may invite legal action. The public has been urged to act responsibly and cooperate with the

administration in maintaining peace and normalcy in the district. The meeting was attended by Assistant Director FCS&CA, Naseer Ahmad Baba (JKAS), LPG and fuel dealers, and representatives from other concerned departments. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also visited various petrol pumps and LPG distribution centres across the district to review the on-ground availability of essential commodities. She interacted with dealers and the public, and was informed that adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and LPG are available at all outlets. The DC directed officials and dealers to ensure uninterrupted supply and adhere to prescribed norms and rates, while urging the public not to pay heed to rumours and rely only on official information.

NIT Srinagar hosts 'Alumni Back to Classroom' lecture on sustainable fuel technologies

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday organised an interactive lecture under its "Alumni Back to Classroom" initiative, aimed at strengthening alumni engagement and exposing students to emerging research and industry perspectives. The session began with a welcome address by Prof. Shah, who highlighted the role of alumni in mentoring students and bridging the gap between academia and industry. Dr. Ashok from IIT Jammu introduced the speaker, Iyman Abrar, an alumna of NIT Srinagar currently associated with BITS Pilani, outlining her academic journey and research contributions. He also chaired the special session. Delivering a lecture titled "Fuel Formulations: Alternative Fuels for a Circular Carbon Economy - Thermochemical Conversion and Interfacial Engineering Approaches," Iyman spoke about the transition from a linear to a circular carbon economy. She explained how waste materials such as plastics and used oil can be converted into valuable fuels through



processes like pyrolysis and transesterification, and highlighted the importance of interfacial engineering in improving fuel stability and efficiency. Iyman also emphasised the need for sustainable alternatives to conventional fossil fuels, pointing to growing global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote cleaner energy solutions. The lecture provided students with insights into cutting-edge research areas and potential career pathways in energy and environmental engineering, she added. In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said the institute remains committed to strengthening alumni connect as a key pillar of academic growth. "Such initia-

tives bring valuable industry and research exposure to our students, helping them understand real-world challenges and encouraging innovation," he said. Registrar Atikur Rahman said alumni engagement plays a crucial role in enriching the academic ecosystem. "Our alumni are our strongest ambassadors. Their interaction with students not only inspires but also opens avenues for collaboration, mentorship, and career guidance," he added. The session was coordinated by Iffat Bashir and Mahapara in consultation with Associate Dean Alumni and International Affairs, Dr. H.S. Pali. It concluded with a vote of thanks and the presentation of a token of appreciation to the speaker.

DC Bilal directs petrol pump operators, gas agencies to ensure seamless supply

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ANANTNAG: Amid rumors of fuel and LPG shortage, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat convened a high-level meeting today with Petrol Pump owners and operators of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL besides representatives of various LPG agencies of the district, at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal. The meeting, attended by the ADC, AD FCS&CA, and other senior officials, was aimed at assessing the current stock levels and ensuring the uninterrupted distribution of essential commodities. The meeting was informed there is adequate stock of petrol, diesel, and LPG within the district and all supply lines remain fully functional and stable. Explicit directions were issued to all operators to prevent any instances of hoarding or illegal profiteering and any agency found violating these norms would face legal action. Operators were instructed to strictly comply with administrative guidelines and standard operating procedures



(SOPs) to maintain the supply chain. The representatives from LPG agencies and petrol pumps assured the DC of their full cooperation in maintaining a steady supply for the public. Addressing the public's concerns, the DC appealed to citizens to avoid panic buying and refrain from hoarding fuel, which can potentially lead to uncomfortable situation for other consumers. "There is no shortage of fuel or gas in the district so the public should not pay any heed to baseless rumours. We

are monitoring the situation closely, and the supply position is comfortable," the DC stated. Meanwhile, the district administration has taken a serious note of misinformation being spread on social media. The authorities warned that rumor mongers and fake news peddlers attempting to create artificial scarcity will be dealt with under the law. Residents are advised to rely solely on official communications and follow advisories issued by the district administration.

GMC Srinagar Showcases Cutting-Edge Bariatric Surgery In Live Operative Workshop

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Post Graduate Department of Minimal Access and General Surgery, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar organized a PACE Program on Bariatric Surgery, featuring a live operative workshop at the Surgery Seminar Hall. According to the details available the event was inaugurated by Prof (Dr) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, who lauded the department's progressive strides in minimal access and bariatric surgery. She said, "The integration of cutting-edge laparoscopic and metabolic techniques has significantly enhanced surgical precision, minimized perioperative risks, and improved recovery timelines." She emphasized that such academic engagements are vital for nurturing innovation, evidence-based practices, and surgical excellence among emerging clinicians. Speaking on the occasion,

Prof. (Dr.) Iqbal Saleem Mir, Head of the Department Minimal Access & General Surgery, acknowledged the dedication of his team and reaffirmed the department's focus on quality care and academic advancement. "Over the past five years, the Department of Minimal Access and General Surgery at GMC Srinagar has made significant progress in the field of bariatric surgery, successfully performing more than 300 bariatric procedures with encouraging outcomes," he added. "The Department of Health and Medical Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has facilitated the availability of staplers and energy sources at significantly reduced costs, thereby enabling the performance of these procedures almost free of cost at GMC Srinagar," he said. The inaugural session was followed by an extensive live operative workshop, where real-time surgical procedures were demonstrated.

Ram Navami celebrated with Religious Fervour in Anantnag

ANANTNAG: The auspicious festival of Ram Navami was celebrated today with great enthusiasm and religious fervour at the historic Nagdandi Ashram in Achabal, Raghunath Mandir, Sherbagh, and other places of district Anantnag. A large number of devotees from the Kashmiri Pandit community gathered at both venues to offer prayers and perform traditional rituals to mark the sacred occasion. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat visited Nagdandi Ashram, Achabal and Raghunath Mandir, Sherbagh and extended warm greetings to the Kashmiri Pandit community. He was accompanied by ADC and other senior officers from administration and the line departments. During the visit, Dr. Bilal attended the celebrations and ceremoniously participated in the rituals alongside the devotees. Interacting with them, the DC stated that Nagdandi Achabal and Raghunath Mandir Sherbagh have long stood as symbols of brotherhood and communal harmony, defining the region's shared heritage. He appreciated the spirit of unity among the people and urged everyone to continue preserving the rich cultural and religious heritage of the area. On the occasion, the DC also reviewed the arrangements at both venues and impressed upon the concerned departments to ensure all necessary facilities are provided to the devotees in a smooth and uninterrupted manner. The devotees expressed gratitude to the district administration for extending proper support during the holy days.