

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah

Lohri has traditionally marked the beginning of the harvest & the end of the coldest days of winter. Fires are lit & peanuts, popcorn & local sweets are thrown in to the fire to celebrate. Lohri brings with it a sense of renewal & change. I wish everyone celebrating today a very happy Lohri. I was fortunate to be able to join my security team in Jammu to celebrate Lohri with them.

Srinagar • Tuesday 14, January 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 13 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Srinagar Freezes At Minus 5.1 Deg Celsius



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Minimum temperature dropped several notches below the freezing point in Kashmir on Monday as intense cold affected life in J&K. The minimum temperature was minus 5.1 degrees Celsius in Srinagar city while it was minus 6.5 and minus 8.4 in Gulmarg and Pahalgam respectively. Jammu city had 7.2 degrees Celsius, Katra town 6, Batote 2.6, Banihal minus 0.6 and Baderwah minus 0.4 as the minimum temperature. A Meteorological (MeT) department statement said, "Weather would be mainly clear and dry in J&K on January 13. On January 14, mainly cloudy, but dry. On January 15 and 16, generally cloudy with light snow in isolated higher reaches during the 16th early morning. On January 17 to 19, generally cloudy with nothing signifi-

cant till the 19th." Tourists and travellers have been advised to follow the advisory issued by the traffic department. People in the Jammu division observed the 'Lohri' festival, which is a seasonal festival marking the end of winter cold in the division. It is generally believed that the weather improves remarkably after the Lohri festival, but climatically, the 40-day period of intense cold in the Valley remains unabated till January 30. The 40-day-long period of intense winter called locally the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21 and will end on January 30. Doctors have advised people especially children and elders to avoid long exposure to intense cold, which causes hypothermia. This leads to constriction of blood vessels resulting in heart attacks and heart failures. ●P-06

Kashmir Is Crown Of India: PM Modi Assures To Fulfil All Promises, Including Statehood To J&K

AGENCIES

SONAMARG: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that Kashmir is the crown of the country, and he desires that this crown should shine better and become more glorious in the days to come. The Prime Minister said this after inaugurating and dedicating the Sonamarg tunnel to the nation. PM Modi started his speech by lauding the hard work of the workers who worked to make the Sonamarg tunnel possible and were not deterred from giving the supreme sacrifice. He offered tribute to civilian workers, who laid down their lives during the construction of the tunnel he inaugurated. He said despite the grave danger to their



lives, no worker wanted to go home even after we lost seven friends to terrorism. My tribute to those martyrs who gave their ●P-06

Inaugurates Z-Morh Tunnel In Sonamarg



GAGANGIR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated the Sonamarg tunnel in Kashmir to the nation after inaugurating and inspecting it. The inauguration event was also attended by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Surface Transport and Highways, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. PM Modi interacted with the engineers and workers, whose hard work made the all-●P-06

Sonamarg Tunnel Is Lifeline For J&K: LG Sinha

SONAMARG: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that Sonamarg tunnel is the lifeline for J&K and it will be a game-changer for the local economy, winter



tourism and also create new avenues of livelihood & trade in the region. ●P-06

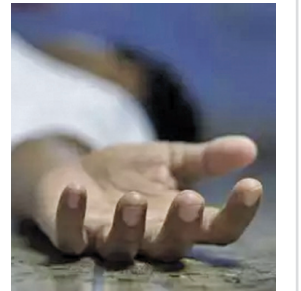
CM Omar Reminds PM Of Statehood Promise

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his promises of restoring the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Omar at the inaugural cer-



emony of Sonamarg Tunnel in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district praised ●P-06

2 More Children Die Of Mysterious Illness



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Two more children died on Monday after six kids from a family were admitted to hospital due to a mysterious illness at Badhaal village in Rajouri district, officials said. Six children of Mohammad Aslam were taken to the community health centre for a medical check-up on Saturday evening. The children were initially referred to the Government Medical College (GMC) Associated Hospital in Rajouri and later they were shifted to the SMGS Hospital in Jammu where 5-year-old Nabeena breathed her last on Sunday, they said. On Monday, Zahoor (14) and Maroof (8) died during treatment at the hospital. The village under the Kotranka sub-division has been grappling with a mysterious disease that claimed the lives of nine people from two ●P-06

60% Terrorists Killed In J&K Were Pakis: Army Chief

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday revealed that 60 per cent of the terrorists eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 were of Pakistani origin. Speaking at the annual press conference held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, General Dwivedi highlighted the consistent efforts of the Indian Army in maintaining security along the sensitive borders of the country. He emphasised the Army's mission to ensure "full-spectrum preparedness while concurrently transforming

the Indian Army into a self-reliant, future-ready force to be a relevant and key pillar of the national security apparatus that also contributes meaningfully towards national development." He stated that the Indian Army's initiatives are in line with the goal of the Viksit Bharat 2047. Addressing the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he noted that the majority of terrorists neutralised in the region were of Pakistani origin. "In the last year, 60 per cent of terrorists eliminated were of Pakistani origin. As of today, over 80 per cent of the terrorists still ●P-06



Jubilant Locals Thank Prime Minister Modi For Opening Tunnel

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the strategically important Z-Morh Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Ganderbal district has been met with widespread praise from local residents, who expressed gratitude for the significant improvement in connectivity and its potential to boost tourism in the region. Local resident Manzoor Ahmad shared his excitement about the tunnel's impact, particularly in connecting the regions of Ganderbal, Ladakh, and Kargil. "Today, this Z-Morh Tunnel



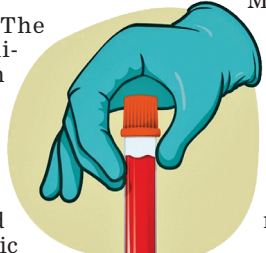
has been inaugurated by our successful Prime Minister Modi, we are very grateful to him. He has especially connected Ladakh, and the people here are very happy. This will benefit us greatly, turning Kashmir's

Panel To Regulate Quality, Pricing Of Lab Tests

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Health & Medical Education Department has constituted a committee for regulating and standardising the quality and rates of diagnostic tests and pathological examinations done in private laboratories across Jammu and Kashmir. As per an order issued by H&ME Department, Principal GMC Srinagar will be the chairperson of the committee. The members of the committee include HOD Pathology GMC, Srinagar, HOD Pathol-

ogy, GMC, Jammu, HOD Microbiology GMC, Jammu, HOD Biochemistry, (JVC Medical College), Bemina, HOD Radiology, GMC Udhampur and Director Health Services, Kashmir. "The committee shall have the mandate to frame pricing of diagnostic tests/pathological examinations by way of measuring the impact of the cost of medical equipment, instruments and patent procurements to make these examinations affordable and accessible," the order states. The committee shall be serviced by Director ●P-06



ACB Books Crorepati Former-Engineer In DA Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against a former engineer of the roads and buildings (R&B) department for amassing huge wealth, including flats in Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi, based a fleet of cars and hefty fixed deposits in banks, disproportionate to his known sources of income. In a handout issued here on Monday, a spokesperson of the anti-graft body said that a verification was conducted into the allegations that Riyaz Ahmad Parry, retired Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) has amassed huge assets, by indulging in corrupt practices. He said that the verification of Parry, a resident of Hygam Baramulla revealed that the suspect public servant during service period has acquired properties in shape of immovable/movable



at Hygam, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi and has also made huge investments/expenditures which are disproportionate to his known sources of income. "It was found during probe that the accused public servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during ser-

vice period have been found prima facie disproportionate to his known sources of income," he said. Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a Case FIR No. 01/2025 under section 13 (1) (b) r/w 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (As amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against the accused and the investigation of the case was initiated. During the course of investigation, he said, ●P-06

Non-Payment Of Maintenance Not Criminal: SC



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has clarified that proceedings related to non-compliance with maintenance orders, despite their penal consequences, are civil in nature and do not qualify as criminal proceedings. The apex court stated, "If non-compliance with an order for payment of maintenance entails penal consequences, as may other decrees of a Civil Court, such proceedings would not qualify as or become criminal proceedings. The nomenclature of maintenance proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) cannot conclusively determine their nature." In its detailed judgment, the court referred to the 41st Report of the Law ●P-06

IT WAS FOUND DURING PROBE THAT THE ACCUSED PUBLIC servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during service period have been found prima facie disproportionate to his known sources of income."

Special Offer

LATEST BLOCKBUSTERS, BIG SCREEN, UNBELIEVABLE PRICE

TICKETS AT FLAT ₹ 99 & ₹ 199

Recliner/Royale Club
Excluding 3D movie screenings.

WWW.INOXMOVIES.COM
Offer Ends Thu. 16th Jan.

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

Orientation program on registration processes held in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Registration Department Jammu and Kashmir Monday organized a one day orientation program on the registration processes in Jammu and Kashmir at TRC Srinagar.

The training programme was attended by AIGR Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Sub Registrars of Kashmir Division along with their staff, experts from SDU NIC Pune and Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, Stamp vendors, Deed writers etc.

During the orientation program, detailed discussions were held regarding existing system of document registration in J&K.

It was revealed that

within a short span of time, the Registration Department has made remarkable progress and emerged as vital revenue generating institution. Annually around 700 crores of rupees is generated by the department to the state exchequer.

The sessions covered the use of advanced digital tools, e-documentation, e-signatures, and secure online platforms designed for efficient property and document registration.

Special focus was placed on the power of attorney module for document registration, with discussions highlighting the importance of empowering authorized representatives for ease of transaction.

Speaking on the occasion,

Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Additional Inspector General of Registration, Kashmir highlighted the significance of transitioning to a paperless registration system, stating, "This is a landmark step towards digitization, reducing paperwork and delays while enhancing service quality and environmental sustainability."

He also threw light on the initiatives which have either been taken or are in the pipeline for a more transparent and citizen friendly registration.

The technical experts from SCHIL (Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited) also participated and gave detailed presentation on the steps involved in operation/usage of e-stamping

system, do's and don'ts of the processes involved to enhance transparency.

The department also provided hands-on training on handling digital registrations, troubleshooting common issues, and maintaining data security to instill confidence among the staff in adopting the new system.

The program witnessed active participation and enthusiasm from attendees, who expressed their readiness to implement the learnings in their respective offices.

This training marks a significant step in the department's journey toward achieving a fully digital, eco-friendly, and citizen-centric registration process.

MLA Shopian expresses solidarity with fire victims of Saidpora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity, the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay Monday visited the fire-affected families in Saidpora Payen, Shopian.

The tragic incident caused severe damage to the house of Bashir Ahmad Lone and the cow

sheds belonging to Bashir Ahmad Lone and Mohammad Yousuf Mir, leaving the families in distress.

During his visit, the MLA assured the affected families of full support and assured of necessary assistance to be provided to help them recover from this unfortunate event.

The visit underscores his commitment to standing by the people of Shopian in their times of need.

Admin provides immediate relief to victims

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar Monday visited Saidpora Village of the district to sympathize with the fire victims and extend immediate relief.

The DC provided Rs 20000 as immediate financial relief to one fire victim who suffered damages to the residential house and cowshed, due to the fire and directed Tehsildar Shopian to provide immediate relief including required essentials.

The Tehsildar Shopian intimated that some

essentials including ration, utensils and bedding was provided to the residential house owner.

The DC said that financial assistance as per SDRF norms shall also be processed immediately and financial assistance will be provided immediately to all three victims.

The other two victims suffered damages to cowsheds.

ADDC, Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SP, Javid Ahmad and Tehsildar and other officers & officials were also present on the occasion.

ACB books retired PWD Engineer for disproportionate assets

BILAL DAR

BARAMULLA: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case of disproportionate assets against Riyaz Ahmad Parray, a retired Superintendent Engineer of PWD (R&B) and a resident of Hygam, Baramulla.

The case, registered under FIR No. 01/2025 at PS ACB Baramulla under sections 13(1)(b) and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), follows an investigation into allegations that Parray amassed wealth beyond his known sources

of income during his service tenure.

The investigation revealed that Parray owned immovable and movable properties across Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, and Hygam. He also made significant investments and expenditures inconsistent with his declared income.

Properties linked to him include: 3BHK flat at Greater Kailash, Jammu, 3BHK flat in Chhatrapur Enclave Phase 2, Delhi, Houses at Residency Road, Jammu; Hygam, Sopore; and a palatial house in Bagh-e-Mehtab, Srinagar, shopping complex and



four shops in Hygam, Sopore, several parcels of land, including 2 kanals at National Highway Baramulla and 17 kanals in Dodan, Hygam.

Additionally, Parray owns luxury vehicles such as a Tata Safari and Hyundai i10, financial assets including fixed deposits worth ₹88 lakh, and insurance policies amounting to

₹45 lakh.

Searches were conducted at multiple locations within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, including Delhi and Jammu, under warrants issued by the Hon'ble Court. Incriminating documents related to property acquisition were recovered and seized during the operation.

The ACB stated that the accused enriched himself illicitly during his service, with expenditures and assets far exceeding his known sources of income. The investigation into the case is ongoing, with further revelations expected in the coming days.

Custom Hiring Centre established at Imam Sahib, DC inaugurates Unit



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a first of its kind initiative by the Cooperative Department, a Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) was Monday established at Imam Sahib tehsil of Shopian district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar inaugurated the Custom Hiring Centre under Cooperative Sector, established by the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS).

While praising the initiative and the efforts of the Department, the DC high-

lighted the need for such initiatives where modern farm machinery shall be made available to farmers on rental basis at nominal rates.

This initiative is a significant step towards promoting agriculture and horticulture development and empowering farmers in the region, Shahid Saleem said. This initiative, he said, will make farm machinery accessible to locals, enabling them towards efforts in enhancing their productivity and efficiency.

Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Shopian explained that Custom

Hiring Centre (CHC) shall address the challenges faced by small and marginal farmers of the area who may not have the resources to purchase expensive farm machinery.

Today's initiative is in line with the cooperative spirit of achieving sustainable and equitable development.

The event was also attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Muzaffar Ahmad, Assistant Registrar and other officials of the department.

ADDC B'pora chairs SOP committee meeting for verification of structural damages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Committee to discuss the verification process for structural damage cases in the district.

During the meeting, out of 09 cases, 06 relief cases from various areas of Bandipora were evaluated and forwarded to the Relief Section for payment disbursement according to government guidelines, whereas 02 cases were rejected and one case was forwarded for reverification.

During the meeting, the ADDC proposed conducting a joint inspection to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the matters at hand. Additionally, all cases were thoroughly reviewed and presented before the committee for informed discussion and decision-making.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC urged the tehsildars of Sub-Division Gurez to submit their jurisdic-



tional damage case files through the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, promoting more efficient and coordinated processing of cases.

On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl stressed the need to streamline and accelerate the process of addressing damage cases, ensuring that relief is promptly delivered to

affected individuals. He urged the committee to adopt simplified procedures for file submissions to avoid unnecessary delays and alleviate hardships for the public.

The meeting was attended by District Treasury Officer Bandipora, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora, and representatives from other concerned departments.

Dir AHD reviews physical, financial targets achieved under various schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Sudan Monday reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes including CAPEX (Capital Expenditure), Holistic Agricultural Development Programme, Central Sector Schemes and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) during the current financial year.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the implementation status of these programs and ensure that objectives are being met effectively.

The meeting holds the importance in view of last quarter of current financial year and aimed to target the loopholes and remove bottlenecks.

The deliberations were

augmented by the view points presented by various officers and officials.

The Director reiterated his stand on focussing and analysing the progress reports submitted by various wings of the department and strategizing future actions to enhance productivity and efficiency in animal husbandry Sector across Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the Animal Husbandry Department towards improving livestock management and ensuring sustainable development in the region.

Joint Director, Poultry/LPP Hari Parbat, Deputy Director Poultry, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers, Superintendent Central Veterinary Hospital, Assistant Director Planning and Technical Officers and Poultry Development Officers attended the meeting.

Special Lok-Adalat on 'MACT, recovery cases on Jan 24th in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As per the calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, a Special Lok-Adalat on MACT & Bank Recovery Cases is scheduled to be held on 24th of January, 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar.

The special Lok Adalat is being convened for expected amicable settlement of MACT & Bank Recovery Cases, pending in the MACT, Bank court

and Pre-Litigation & Pre-Institution Commercial Mediation applications in DLSA Srinagar.

Meanwhile, all concerned Ld. Advocates as well as Persons/ parties who desire to get their MACT & Bank Recovery Cases/ Matters settled through the said Special Lok-Adalat are informed that they may approach concerned court/ADR Centre for referring their aforementioned nature of cases to the said Lok-Adalat for their amicable settlement.

DC B'pora chairs meeting to finalize annual Plan 2025-26 under SBM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri Monday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to discuss and finalize the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for the year 2025-26 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

During the meeting, the targets and achievements under the Annual Implementation Plan for 2024-25 were reviewed.

The focus of the discussion was on setting targets for the upcoming year, with an emphasis on achieving specific goals related to sanitation and cleanliness.

The targets for 2025-26 under SBM include the construction



of 755 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), 80 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs), 91 Community Compost Pits (SWM),

and 106 Community Soak Pits (GWM).

On the occasion, DDC reviewed the utilization of existing SBM assets and stressed the importance of maximizing their usage.

He highlighted the need for increased awareness about SBM assets and encouraged the concerned officers to ensure proper and efficient use.

The DDC also directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to work closely with Tehsildars to identify suitable land for the creation of additional SBM assets. He also emphasized the need for BDOs to upload geo-tagged photos of completed community compost pits promptly to ensure transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the meeting reviewed the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for both rural (PMAY-G) and urban (PMAY-U) areas.

The DDC underscored the importance of raising awareness about the scheme and urged officials to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered.

Qadri emphasized enhancing the pace of the allotted works and ensuring the timely completion of all targeted projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Planning Officer and other concerned officers from various departments.

J&K Bank's Performance Improved in Last 4 Years: PM Modi

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lauded the improved performance of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, with its business growing from ₹1.6 lakh crore to ₹2.3 lakh crore in the past four years.

He remarked that the bank's increased capacity to provide loans benefits the youth, farmers, orchardists, shopkeepers, and entrepreneurs in the region.

Remarking on the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir's past into a present of development, Modi said that the dream of a developed India will be realized when its crown, Kashmir, is adorned with the jewels of progress.



He expressed his desire for Kashmir to become even more beautiful and prosperous.

He noted the continuous support from the youth, elders, and children of the region in this endeavor. The Prime Minister emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are working diligently to turn their dreams into reality, contributing to the progress of the region and the nation.

Concluding his address, the Prime Minister assured the people that he will support them unflinchingly in all their endeavours and extended his heartfelt congratulations to every family in Jammu and Kashmir for the development projects. (ANB)

BJP Welcomes Omar Abdullah's Statement on Violence in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday welcomed Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's assertion that those who commit violence will always face defeat in the region.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Z-Morh Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Omar Abdullah said that those who support violence will never succeed in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Perpetrators of violence will always face defeat in Jammu and Kashmir, and we will not allow them to harm democracy in our region," Abdullah said.

BJP MLA and leader of the opposition in the JK Assembly, Sunil Sharma, expressed his appreciation for the Chief Minister's statement.

"We welcome Omar Abdullah's stance on terrorism. Previously, certain political parties acted as shields for separatism, but since the abrogation of Article 370, the scenario has drastically changed. Terrorism is being wiped out, and while occasional incidents occur, we firmly believe it will soon be eradicated," Sharma said.

Sharma also noted that Omar Abdullah raised the issue of statehood during his address. "Let



me remind you that the Prime Minister has already stated that statehood will be restored at the appropriate time," he added.

The BJP leader highlighted the significant changes in Jammu and Kashmir since the region became a Union Territory.

"Since the Ministry of Home Affairs took charge, the law and order situation has greatly improved. Now, all political parties, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, understand that the Centre will never tolerate terrorism or separatism," he said.

Sharma further lauded the transformation of the region's political and social landscape under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

He cited the example of MP Engineer Rashid, who he said previously opposed the governor's authority but now appears to appreciate the progress initiated

by the current government. "Engineer Rashid, who used to disrupt the governor's addresses, is now acknowledging the developments spearheaded by the Prime Minister and Home Minister," Sharma remarked.

"This is a new Jammu and Kashmir. Projects like the ring road, railways, highways, and tunnels have brought peace, eliminated stone-pelting, and curbed terrorism. This is the 'Naya Kashmir,' a direct result of PM Modi's leadership," he added.

Sharma also highlighted improvements to the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was once in poor condition.

"Today, the situation has transformed. Projects like the Ring Road, the Rafiaband-Kupwara road, and plans to reduce travel time between Kashmir and Delhi to eight or nine hours demonstrate the progress made," Sharma concluded. (KINS)

80% Terror Handlers in J&K are From Pakistan: Army Chief

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday while acknowledging ongoing challenges in Jammu and Kashmir said that last year, 60 per cent of the terrorists neutralised were of Pakistani origin. He said currently, they estimate that over 80 per cent of the remaining terrorist elements in the valley and Jammu region are also from Pakistan.

General Dwivedi highlighted that the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is well under control. "The ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC), effective since February 2021 after the DGO-level understanding, continues to hold. However, the terrorist infrastructure across the border remains active, and infiltration attempts persist, including through the International Border (IB) sector," he said.

He pointed out an uptick in terrorist activity in areas like North Kashmir and the Doda-Kishtwar belt in recent months but emphasised that overall violence levels are manageable.

He said, "This year's Amanrath Yatra saw over 500,000 pilgrims, and the peaceful conduct of elections signals a shift towards normalcy. The transformation from terrorism to tourism is steadily taking shape," he remarked. (KNT)

33 Tunnels to Revolutionise J&K's Connectivity: Gadkari

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, announced on Monday that 33 tunnels are planned in Jammu and Kashmir, with 15 already completed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These tunnels are expected to significantly improve the region's connectivity, economic opportunities, and quality of life for its residents.

Gadkari said that a vital corridor between Jammu and Srinagar is under development, with 33 planned tunnels in the project. "Of these, 15 have been completed, and 18 are currently under construction, with the entire project expected to be finished by December. The total cost of the corridor is estimated at Rs 5,000 crores, marking a significant investment in the region's infrastructure," Gadkari said.

Addressing a gathering in Sonamarg after the inauguration of Z-Morh tunnel, Gadkari highlighted the



Prime Minister's continuous focus on enhancing critical infrastructure to propel India towards prosperity. "Water, power, transport, and communication are the backbone of any thriving nation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has made great strides in these sectors," he said.

In a major milestone

for Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg Tunnel today, a project that had been underway since 2012, he said.

"The 6.5 km tunnel, will ensure all-weather connectivity for the region, which has faced annual closures of the Srinagar-Leh road for 5-6 months due to harsh weather. The tunnel, now

complete, will provide year-round access to essential supplies and services, revolutionising connectivity for local communities."

"The Zojila Tunnel, another ambitious project in the region, is progressing well. Initially budgeted at over Rs 12,000 crores, the project is now being completed at Rs 6,800 crores, saving Rs 5,000 crores. This 14 km tunnel, along with its 18 km approach road, is set to reduce travel time between Srinagar and Leh by nearly three and a half hours, enhancing connectivity and fostering economic growth," he said.

Gadkari expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for his commitment to the development of critical infrastructure and congratulated the citizens of India for their role in witnessing such transformative projects. He termed the Sonamarg Tunnel as a gift for a brighter and more prosperous future, reinforcing the importance of all-weather connectivity for the region and the nation as a whole.

J&K witnessing rapid growth under PM's leadership: Naqvi

IANAS

NEW DELHI: In a significant development for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg Tunnel on Monday. Speaking about the progress in the region, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi remarked that post-Article 370 abrogation J&K is witnessing remarkable growth under PM Modi's leadership.

He remarked, "The abrogation of Article 370 has paved the way for remarkable growth in J&K. The people of the region are now active participants in both the developmental process and political refinement. This transformation is a testament to PM Modi's leadership, which has created an atmosphere of trust and progress across the country, and its impact is clearly visible in J&K."

Naqvi emphasized that the region, once marked by turmoil, has now become a hub of development and opportunity, reflecting the Union gov-

ernment's vision for inclusive growth and stability.

PM Modi, during the inauguration event, interacted with the engineers and workers, whose hard work made all-weather connectivity possible. He

tunnel under the most challenging weather and topography of the area.

Addressing recent remarks of Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the INDIA bloc lacks coherence, as its approach varies

even its members no longer trust each other."

"The alliance, driven by negative agendas and opportunism, is now in shambles, with no leader to guide it or push it forward," he professed.

Naqvi highlighted that alliances formed with divisive or self-serving motives are bound to collapse under the weight of their internal contradictions.

As Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi kicks off his electoral campaign in Delhi, Naqvi dismissed the Congress' prospects, stating, "The public will no longer fall for the victim narrative peddled by the Congress. This election is about development, not lamentation."

Naqvi noted that those who have spent years running away from accountability will face the electorate's wrath. "The deceptive promises and excuses of the past are now fully exposed, and the people are ready to deliver a decisive mandate against them," he added.



encouraged and patiently listened to the laborers in addition to gathering technical details about the Rs 2,700 crore tunnel.

The Prime Minister appreciated the hard work put in by everyone engaged in the construction of the

between Delhi and local elections like the BMC polls, Naqvi criticized the Opposition alliance, claiming, "This coalition was built on a foundation of convenience and corruption. It has failed to deliver on its promises, and today,

JKRLM celebrates Lohri with women SHGs as festival of self-reliance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a vibrant celebration of community, culture, and empowerment, the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Monday celebrated the festival of Lohri with women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from across the districts of the Jammu Division.

Member Legislative Assembly Suchetgarh Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat; Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma and Deputy Commandant BSF Pardeep Kumar attended the main function of Lohri at Duggarani - A

At the JKRLM led initiative SHG women serve freshly cooked delicious Dogri Cuisines specially to tourists who visit from across the nation to witness the grand parade at Octroi Post Suchetgarh thereby offering a taste of the Dogri culture to them.

The festivities featured a blend of traditional and modern activities, including cultural performances, traditional Lohri celebrations and exhibitions. Stalls were set up showcasing the unique crafts, products, and culi-



nary delicacies crafted by members of the SHGs. The event highlighted the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of these women, offering them a platform to share their talents with the broader community.

Speaking on the occasion, Mission Director JKRLM Dr. Shubhra Sharma emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting unity, resilience, and growth among rural women. "The spirit of Lohri is about coming together and celebrating our roots. Today, as we celebrate this festival with our women Self-Help Groups, we not only

honour their hard work and dedication but also strengthen our commitment to empowering rural women in Jammu and Kashmir," the MD said.

He further added that empowering women is not just about providing opportunities; it's about fostering a community where they can support each other and grow together. The participation of women SHGs is a testament to their strength and determination. When women come together, they can achieve remarkable things and today's celebration is a perfect example of that unity."

The event brought together numerous SHG

members, celebrating the shared goals of empowerment and economic development. JKRLM reaffirmed its commitment to creating opportunities and nurturing the growth of rural women entrepreneurs.

The Lohri celebrations served as a reminder of the Mission's vision of fostering self-reliance and enhancing livelihoods in rural Jammu and Kashmir. The energy, enthusiasm, and camaraderie displayed by the participants underscored the transformative impact of women's collective efforts and the enduring significance of community festivals.

NC's Claim Of Following Gandhi's Vision, False: BJP

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The result of the recently held assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir proved beyond doubt that the voting was not done on regional basis but religious basis because of the successfully played communal card by National Conference.

According to the Associated News Bureau, Brig Anil Gupta, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party in a press release issued today said that Gandhi Ji was a firm believer of inclusivity and secularism, the two ideals NC never adhered to since its inception.

"The Maharaja was called a 'Kafir' by Abdul Qadir in his fiery speech in 1939 where Sheikh Abdullah was the Stage Secretary. The Quit Kashmir call given by the latter in 1946 was manifestation of the same ideology because Sheikh wanted the Hindu Dogra ruler to leave Kashmir Valley, a Muslim majority area. The demand was not to relinquish the throne. Sheikh was interested only in Kashmir Valley and had neither any interest nor any stake in the rest of the princely state," alleged Brig Gupta.

Elaborating further Brig



Gupta said that the secular claim of NC got busted when Sheikh refused the Sikh refugees from Muzaffarabad and nearby areas to settle in Kashmir Valley.

It was further exposed when the Uyghur & Balti Muslim refugees were granted citizenship while the Hindu refugees from West Pakistan were refused the same. The icing on the cake was the refusal of NC to insert the word secular in the then State's Constitution while it was inserted in the Indian Constitution. Exclusivity has been the hallmark of NC politics. Why was the state administrative service and radio services named KAS and Radio Kashmir and not JKAS and Radio Jammu Kashmir questioned by the NC leadership?

NC's love for Gandhi Ji is out of compulsion and not conviction, asserted

Brig Gupta.

Reminding NC of its disrespect for Gandhi Ji, Brig Gupta questioned as to why the installation of the statue of Gandhi Ji in the newly constructed high court complex in Srinagar was cancelled on October 2, 1988 by the then NC-Congress government? Not only that, the person who spearheaded the movement against installation, an active member of NC, was later given a ticket for the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in 1989. Not even a little finger was raised by the NC or Congress leaders who now shed crocodile tears on the ideals of Gandhi ji. It was only after the abrogation of 370 that the BJP government ensured installation of the statues of Gandhi ji in the High Court and the Secretariat in Srinagar claimed Brig Gupta. (ANB)

PM Meets Engineers and Workers After Inaugurating Z-Morh Tunnel

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday commended the efforts of engineers and construction workers who worked tirelessly to bring the Z-Morh Tunnel to fruition.

After inaugurating the tunnel, PM Modi interacted with the workers and engineers involved in the project. The workers took photographs with the Prime Minister and briefed him on the tunnel's construction.

Earlier, PM Modi arrived in Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and dedicated the much-awaited Z-Morh Tunnel to the nation. Union Ministers Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Dr Jitendra Singh, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and other dignitaries were present at the event.

The 6.5-kilometer-long Z-Morh Tunnel is set to make Sonamarg accessible from Srinagar year-round, overcoming the harsh winter conditions that previously hindered connectivity. (KNO)

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Thank You PM Modi

The wishes of millions have been fulfilled. A long-pending demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir has seen the light of the day. By inaugurating Z-Morh tunnel Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that the pace of accomplishing big-ticket infrastructure projects would not halt in Jammu and Kashmir. This coupled with the inauguration of the direct train link between Delhi and Srinagar expected to be inaugurated later in the month has ensured that the 2025 is the watershed year in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Whenever the history of Jammu and Kashmir would be written it would be divided into the time zones of before and after the year 2025. The Z-Morh Tunnel is a 6.5 km long 2-lane road tunnel between Gagangeer and Sonmarg in Ganderbal district of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in India. It is named after the Z-shaped stretch of road that the tunnel has replaced (Z-Morh translates to "Z-turn in English). The road used before was avalanche-prone and used to get blocked for several months, but the Z-Morh tunnel provides all-weather connectivity to the Sonamarg tourist town. It takes only 15 minutes to travel the 6.5 km long tunnel compared to hours over the zig-zag road up and down the hills. One cannot afford to lose sight of the tremendous contribution Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has put in to boost key infrastructure projects in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. By implementing a proper checks and balances administrative mechanism and clamping down on corruption LG Manoj Sinha has ensured that the crucial timelines are not missed. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now eagerly waiting for the train connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar. It is just a matter of two weeks when one can board a train from Srinagar to Delhi. Narendra Modi said that Kashmir is the crown of India and he would try to make this crown more beautiful. These words resonate with the people of Kashmir who sees a capable leader at centre with great empathy for Kashmiris. Thank you PM Modi for fulfilling all the promises and most importantly thank you for fulfilling them on the designated timeline.

Big Ideas For Better Schools



PRIYANKA SAURABH

According to the latest report of the Integrated District Information System for Education, the number of schools in India is increasing, but the number of school students is decreasing. The decrease in the number of school students is not only worrying and thought-provoking but is also a major obstacle to building a new India—Strong India. The number of schools in India has increased by about 5,000. According to the report, there are 14, 89, and 115 schools in India, including primary, secondary, and senior secondary levels. These schools teach 26, 52, 35, and 830 students. Some of these schools get high student enrollment due to their reputation, years of establishment, significant school results, marketing strategies, etc. But between the years 2022-23 and 2023-24, the enrollment of school students has decreased by 37 lakh. This situation raises many questions. Is school education out of reach of most children? Has the attraction of education decreased compared to before?

Despite the excellent facilities available in government schools, the number of students getting enrolled is not increasing. Despite the better facilities in government schools, poor quality education, inadequate teacher training, lack of accountability, competition from private schools, and the availability of good government schools in some areas, the perception that private schools offer better learning outcomes often leads to low student enrollment; this leads parents to opt for private schools even if they can afford government education. As we all know, nowadays students and their parents prefer to enroll in private schools over government schools. We see the same trend in rural areas as well, where most of the parents are dependent on agriculture and belong to the lower economic class.

Recently, the Supreme Court has directed state governments and union



territories to provide basic facilities in schools to attract more students to enroll in government schools. The main reasons for low enrollment in government schools despite improved facilities are inadequate teacher training, low motivation, and high absenteeism. Teachers can significantly impact the quality of learning in government schools, leading parents to opt for private schools with better teacher standards. Even when government schools have good infrastructure, there is a perception among parents that private schools provide better education, leading to a preference for private institutions. Poor monitoring and evaluation systems in government schools can lead to inconsistent quality of education, further eroding parental confidence.

The rapid growth of private schools with facilities and marketing strategies often drives students away from government schools, even in areas where there are good public education options. In some cases, parents may choose private schools due to social pressure or a desire to access a network of peers from higher socio-economic backgrounds. Government schools may not always update their curriculum and teaching methods to align with modern educational prac-

tices, leading to a gap in quality. We have to accept the truth, however bitter it is. Inadequate facilities, low teacher attendance, and outdated teaching methods are some of the reasons why people are abandoning free government schools and choosing expensive fee-paying private institutions, which is not a very good sign.

The problem is not just that private schools have higher enrollments than government schools. There will be less care and attention in government schools. There will be mediocre oversight over the process in government schools. There is no question of the availability of proper infrastructure. This is very common with most schools running with inadequate staff. There is no accountability to parents, primarily towards their children's education. While private schools will have the above strategy formulations available, commercial gimmicks will also be added to increase the school's capacity. The improvement in the country's school infrastructure also gives a glimpse of the major problems that remain to be addressed. The decline in the number of students despite the improvement in the state of infrastructure is a matter of intense debate.

Prioritize teacher training, recruiting qualified teachers, and performance-based incentives to improve teaching standards in government schools. Implement strong systems to monitor school performance, identify areas of improvement, and hold schools accountable for student learning outcomes. Involve parents and community leaders in school decision-making to build trust and promote government schools. Regularly review and update the curriculum to ensure relevance and alignment with current needs. Continue to invest in improving physical infrastructure in government schools to provide a conducive learning environment. Run campaigns highlighting the quality of education available in government schools to dispel negative perceptions and encourage enrollment.

There are some challenges in the education system that cause India to be unable to achieve optimum development. To improve the education scenario in India and increase the enrollment of students, there is a need to work strictly on the policies that ensure a quality education system in India.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science

Importance Of Early Childhood Care And Education

MUKHTAR AHMAD QURESHI

Early Childhood Care and Education form the bedrock on which individuals' and nations' futures are established. ECCE represents that important period in life when an individual's brain develops very fast between birth and eight years of age.

Investment in early childhood education is not just the act of developing the young mind; it is rather a strategic move toward national development. The following article deals with the multidimensional importance of ECCE for building the socio-economic, cognitive, and emotional future of a nation.

Early childhood care and education lay a foundation for a lifelong process of learning. According to studies, 90% of brain development takes place before the age of five; hence, the experiences at that age are significant in the cognitive development of the child. Well-structured learning environments during these ages help develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities along with good communication skills in children. All these skills are required for successful academic completion but also for being productively employed later in life.

It fosters curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning. These skills allow individuals to cope with change and foster innovation a crucial component for a country's advancement. Those who have a good early childhood education are likely to succeed in higher education and professional lives and positively contribute to their country's economy and society.

Early childhood education is an excellent vehicle for the attainment of social equity and inclusion. Disadvantaged children begin school with a substantial gap in their learning compared to other children. Quality



ECCE programs can help fill these gaps, giving every child an equal opportunity to learn and grow. Early intervention for inequalities ensures that no child falls behind, regardless of their background, gender, or location.

ECCE also encourages social values such as mutual respect, cooperation, and acceptance of diversity. Such values form the foundation for the development of harmonious and integrative societies. When children of different backgrounds spend their formative years in mixed settings and learn together, they become adults who appreciate harmony and cooperation and therefore strengthen the social fabric of the nation.

High Returns of Economic Value to Investing in Early Childhood Care and Education There is empirical evidence that, for every dollar spent on quality early childhood care and education, there will be a return as high as \$13, because of less remedial education and healthcare costs as well as other social welfare expenses. It follows that fewer chances of early school dropout and even criminal behavior by educated children and Govt. welfare dependency.

Also, ECCE makes a con-

tribution toward workforce development: it readies the next generations for the shocks of a new globalized world. As different industries grow in demand for an increasingly skilled and competent workforce, a well-learned nation is its country's greatest investment. Early education equips young people with the skills and tenacity to survive the shocks required by the workforce, keeping their country competitive around the world.

Early childhood education is an essential factor in building emotional and social well-being. Young children learn how to regulate their emotions, create relationships, and develop self-regulation skills in structured activities with peers and educators. These are the very basics of mental health and emotional stability throughout life.

Children who are supported emotionally and guided during their early years are more likely to become confident and empathetic adults. This, in turn, helps in the development of a harmonious society where people can work together towards common goals. A mentally and emotionally stable population is better placed to handle challenges and contrib-

ute constructively to national development.

This is perhaps the most profound influence of ECCE as it breaks the chain of poverty. Providing quality education to children from low-income families opens opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible. A well-educated individual stands a higher chance of landing better jobs with resultant high incomes, thereby bequeathing a better future for his or her family.

This upward mobility not only transforms individual lives but also benefits national economic growth and poverty reduction. Once a child has the skills and knowledge to be successful, he or she can be an active member of his or her country in the development process, breaking the cycle of poverty across generations.

Early childhood education is a means of instilling national values and developing identity. Children learn about their heritage, traditions, and the need to be civic-minded through stories, activities, and cultural teachings. This exposure from an early age helps children feel proud of their country and dedicated to contributing to its progress.

When citizens share common values and a strong sense of

identity, they are bound to work collaboratively towards realizing national goals. ECCE acts as a source of unity that brings together separated communities with harmony and a common purpose.

Despite its undeniable importance, early childhood education often faces challenges such as inadequate funding, lack of trained educators, and disparities in access. Governments and policymakers must prioritize the development of ECE by allocating sufficient resources, implementing evidence-based curricula, and ensuring equitable access for all children to maximize the benefits of ECCE.

Partnerships between govt., non-governmental organizations and private sectors can also play a crucial role in expanding the reach and quality of ECCE programs. Another significant factor is community involvement and parent engagement in creating an environment that supports children's growth and learning. The importance of early childhood education in national development cannot be overstated. It is the underpinning of an economically prosperous, equitable society cognitive, social, and emotional abilities of successive generations. Such investment in ECCE empowers individuals but sets the stage also for sustainable growth in the economic, social coherence, and global competitiveness arenas.

As the saying goes, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." With early childhood care and education, countries are creating a bright, inclusive, and prosperous future for all. The journey of national development starts in the early education classrooms where young minds grow to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

(The author is a teacher and hails from Uri, Baramulla)

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Good Morning **Kashmir**

Printer, Publisher, Owner,
Editor in Chief:
Javed Ashraf Shah

Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay

Manager:
Peer Sajad

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998
Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:
goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir
Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing
Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

...From **Thatta Sukkur To Khanqah** Moulla

The Spiritual Legacy Of Maulana Syed Yasin Shah Gilani



SYED MAJID GILANI

Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani was born on July 18, 1890, in the historic Khanqah Moulla, Srinagar. His life stood as a strong example of resilience, the preservation of culture, and a deep passion for learning. Although he did not have formal education in subjects like English, Mathematics, or Science, he gained profound knowledge in Islamic teachings, spiritual wisdom, and a thorough understanding of Fiqah, the Quran, and the Hadith. He was also a skilled linguist, fluent in Persian, Urdu, and Kashmiri.

Inspired by his ancestors, Maulana embarked on a journey of spiritual discovery, following in the footsteps of his esteemed forebear. His spiritual journey was a deep immersion in faith, as he devoted himself to the recitation of the Quran, heartfelt prayers, Zikr o Azkar, Chilla Kashi, Etikafs, and constant remembrance of Allah.

Under the guidance of his father, the respected Peer o Murshid Syed Ghulam ud Din Gilani, he diligently followed Riyazat, a path of spiritual discipline and self-purification. With family roots tracing back to Baghdad, Maulana developed a strong desire for spiritual knowledge, a thirst that only grew as he delved further into his studies. His connection to his father's spiritual legacy sparked a burning desire to explore religion and spirituality, a passion that guided his life's journey.

Beyond his professional expertise as a Unani treatment expert, Maulana's passion for Islamic history and Fiqah only intensified, fueling his insatiable quest for knowledge and spiritual growth. He inherited a valuable legacy from his father—a collection of ancient Persian manuscripts passed down through generations. His dedication to knowledge and intellectual growth remained steadfast, as he committed himself to preserving his family's rich cultural heritage. This commitment reflected his unwavering determination to honor his ancestors and uphold their values.

Inspired by Syed ul Mursaleen Hazrat Mohammad Mustafa's (PBUH) teachings, Maulana's life embodied humility, compassion, and righteousness. With strong determination, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani worked tirelessly to follow the virtues of his ancestors, remaining steadfast in their beliefs and values while ensuring the continuation of their noble legacy.

In his relentless pursuit of spiritual guidance and Islamic knowledge, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani traveled to remote villages across Jammu and Kashmir, as well as to distant places like Campbellpur, Muree, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad. During this time, his youngest son, Syed Mohammad Yousuf Gilani, had settled in Campbellpur (now Attock), Punjab, where he took up residence. Additionally, Maulana's brother-in-law, S. Syed Ahmad Gilani, who lived in Rawalpindi at the time, also hosted his stay.

As a Unani healer, he not only treated physical ailments with herbs and remedies but also offered comfort and healing through compassion and empathy. Despite facing financial challenges and relying solely on his Unani practice, he made the challenging journey to perform Hajj by sea—a six-month voyage that cost him only a few hundred rupees. This incredible journey was a testament to his deep commitment to his faith and his refusal to commercialize spirituality. For him, spirituality was a sacred mission, not a way to gain wealth or fame.

His life embodied modesty and humility, living with grace and dignity while avoiding worldly luxuries. His home was simply furnished with earthen pots and vessels, reflecting his commitment to simplicity. Though he spoke little, his writings in Persian and Urdu were extensive, and we are fortunate to have preserved his manuscripts, letters, and travel diaries as a valuable legacy. He remained deeply committed to the Shariah, never deviating from its principles.



In his sermons, he stressed the importance of following the Shariah and guided his followers, disciples, and mureeds on the righteous path. One of his most remarkable accomplishments was completing 40 consecutive Etikaafs (spells of seclusion), each lasting 10 days, in the solitude rooms (Aitikaaf Kothri) of the revered Khanqah Moulla Shrine in Srinagar.

The monthly gatherings of the 'Anjuman Tabligul Islam' were often held at Maulana's residence in Khanqah Moulla, attracting prominent religious and spiritual leaders from all over Kashmir. Among the distinguished attendees was the famous religious figure, Syed Noor ud Din Geelani of Riyazat Teng, Khanyar. These meetings were presided over by the renowned Mufasir Quran, Maulana Syed Mohammad Qasim Shah Bukhari RA, who served as the President of the organization. Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani was a respected member of the Anjuman.

The primary aim of Anjuman Tabligul Islam was to spread the teachings and mission of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) and the Auliya e Kiram (Islamic saints and mystics) to the wider community, fostering spiritual awareness and enlightenment. These gatherings created a space for scholarly discussions, spiritual guidance, and community building, deepening understanding and appreciation of Islamic values and traditions.

In 2018, I had the privilege of visiting Handwara in North Kashmir, invited by his disciples, followers, and family friends. During my journey, I passed through Magam Handwara, where I made a remarkable discovery. On the wall of the Eid Gah, I noticed a big marble plaque that had been installed in 1955. My heart filled with pride as I saw Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, my great-grandfather's name and his residential address, Khanqah Moulla inscribed on it. He had founded and inaugurated this Eid Gah and delivered its first sermon. Seeing his name engraved on the plaque brought tears of joy to my eyes, as I felt a deep connection

to my heritage. The legacy of my great-grandfather, immortalized in marble, stood as a testament to his lasting impact on the community. In that moment, I was overwhelmed with pride, nostalgia, and gratitude.

The migration of Syed Ghulam ud Din Gilani, the father of Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, from their ancestral home in Khanyar, Srinagar to Khanqah Moulla in 1872 AD (1289 Hijri) marked a pivotal moment in the family's history. However, the Gilani family's roots in Srinagar can be traced back to the reign of Aurangzeb in 1322 AD (1095 Hijri), when Hazrat Syed Mohammad Fazil Gilani RA, the founder of the Silsilah Qariyah in Srinagar, first arrived in Khanyar. This marked the beginning of the Qadriyah legacy, which would significantly influence the spiritual and cultural landscape of the region.

The family tree of Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani is as follows: Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani (S/O Syed Ghulam ud Din Gilani)

Syed Ghulam ud Din Gilani (S/O Syed Wazir ud Din Gilani)

Syed Wazir ud Din Gilani (S/O Syed Nizam ud Din Gilani, Wali Ullah)

Syed Nizam ud Din Gilani (S/O Syed Noor ud Din Shah Gilani)

Syed Noor ud Din Shah Gilani (S/O Syed Mohammad Malook Gilani)

Syed Mohammad Malook Gilani (S/O Syed Mohammad Mahmood Gilani)

Syed Mohammad Mahmood Gilani (S/O Abul Barakaat, Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani)

Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani (S/O Syed Shams ud Din Abdul Majeed Gilani)

Syed Shams ud Din Abdul Majeed Gilani (S/O Taj ud Din Syed Yousuf Gilani)

Taj ud Din Syed Yousuf Gilani (S/O Syed Ahmad Gilani)

Ahmad Sani Gilani)

Syed Shahab ud Din Ahmad Sani Gilani (S/O Syed Sharaf ud Din Qasim Gilani)

Syed Sharaf ud Din Qasim Gilani (S/O Syed Mohi ud Din Yahya Salis Gilani)

Syed Mohi ud Din Yahya Salis Gilani (S/O Badr ud Din Syed Hussain Gilani)

Badr ud Din Syed Hussain Gilani (S/O Syed Ala ud Din Ali Gilani)

Syed Ala ud Din Ali Gilani (S/O Abu Abdullah Syed Shams ud Din Gilani)

Abu Abdullah Syed Shams ud Din Gilani (S/O Abu Zakariya Syed Saif ud Din Yahya Gilani)

Abu Zakariya Syed Saif ud Din Yahya Gilani (S/O Syed Zaheer ud Din Abu Masood Gilani)

Syed Zaheer ud Din Abu Masood Gilani (S/O Mir Abu Nasr Syed Mohi ud Din Mohammad Gilani)

Mir Abu Nasr Syed Mohi ud Din Mohammad Gilani (S/O Imaad ud Din Syed Abu Sualeh Gilani, Qazi ul Quza)

Imaad ud Din Syed Abu Sualeh Gilani (S/O Hazrat Taj ud Din Abu Bakr Syed Abdur Razak Gilani)

Hazrat Taj ud Din Abu Bakr Syed Abdur Razak Gilani (S/O Hazrat Perani Peer Mehboob e Subhani Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani RA).

Pertinently, Syed Mohammad Malook Gilani is laid to rest at Zuri-manz village, located on the banks of the world-famous Wullar Lake. He was the son of Syed Mohammad Mahmood Gilani, whose grave is situated in Mir Mohalla, Khanyar, near the Masjid of Syed Jalal ud Din Gilani.

Syed Mohammad Mahmood Gilani, in turn, was the son of Abul Barakaat Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani, who hailed from Thatta Sukkur, Sindh, and never visited Kashmir.

Syed Sakhi Shah Mohammad Fazil Gilani, whose grave is at the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine in Khanyar, was the brother-in-law of Abul Barakaat Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani, as Syed Sakhi Shah Gilani's sister was married to Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani. On the other hand, Syed Mohammad Mahmood Gilani, son of Syed Yousuf Sani Gilani, was both the nephew (sister's son) and son-in-law of Syed Sakhi Shah Gilani, having married

Syed Sakhi Gilani's daughter. Hazrat Syed Sakhi Fazil Gilani was blessed with four sons and three daughters.

Syed Muhammad Yasin Shah Gilani, drawing inspiration from his distinguished ancestors, shared wisdom and spiritual teachings that resonated far and wide. His insights attracted followers from various backgrounds, all seeking enlightenment and comfort in his guidance. His influence reached beyond geographic boundaries, inspiring many and securing his position as a prominent figure in the Qadriyah tradition.

Maulana Yasin Sahib was the elder brother of the renowned Persian poet and scholar, Maulana Syed Mubarak Shah Fitrat Gilani, who founded the "Bazm Sadat-e-Gilani" in Jammu and Kashmir and served as its lifelong president. Additionally, Maulana Yasin Sahib was the uncle of the distinguished author and poet, Syed Mohammad Aslam Gilani, popularly known as Farhat Gilani.

Syed Mohammad Yasin Gilani was blessed with four sons: Syed Mohammad Syed Gilani, Syed Ghulam Mohammad Gilani, Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani, and Syed Mohammad Yousuf Gilani. However, his life was marked by profound hardship, including the heartbreaking loss of his son, Syed Ghulam Mohammad Gilani. He passed away while serving as a postmaster in Gilgit (now in Pakistan), shortly after beginning his government service.

Another tragedy struck when his youngest son, Syed Mohammad Yousuf Gilani, left Kashmir in search of better job opportunities. Despite holding a matriculation, Moulvi Aalim, and Fazil degrees, he struggled to find suitable employment in Kashmir. As a teenager, he migrated to Campbellpur (now Attock, Punjab), completed his graduation, and was appointed as a government teacher in Muzaffarabad (now POK). Later, for family reasons, he chose to settle in Attock, where he tragically passed away at the age of 50 while still in service.

These successive losses could have broken anyone, but Maulana Yasin Sahib remained strong and steadfast. His unwavering dedication to his family's well-being and upbringing became a source of resilience and strength, even in the face of such adversity. His timeless teachings continue to light the way to spiritual growth, self-discovery, and inner peace, offering comfort and wisdom to all who seek guidance.

As a revered spiritual and religious figure, his disciples and followers across the valley reflect his wide-reaching impact. His invaluable manuscripts, sermons, and letters in Persian and Urdu remain cherished treasures, carefully preserved for future generations. Devotees still visit his grave with love and reverence, honouring his selfless service and the lasting legacy he left behind.

After a brief illness, Syed Mohammad Yasin Gilani passed away peacefully at his residence, Maskani Sadaat, Khanqah Moulla, on April 19, 1966, at the age of 76. May Allah bless his noble soul.

Throughout his life, Maulana enjoyed good health, but a week before his passing, he developed a chest infection, which led to his brief illness. The renowned Kashmiri physician, Dr. Ali Mohammad Jan, visited him twice at his residence in Khanqah Moulla and provided treatment. Despite the efforts, Maulana peacefully passed away in the evening hours of April 19, 1966.

At the request of his devoted disciples, followers, and mureeds, his body was kept at his home for the night. The following morning, he was laid to rest near his father's grave in the Makbare Sadate Gilani, within the grounds of the Shah Hamdan Shrine, Khanqah Moulla.

Born on July 18, 1890, Maulana lived for 76 years, leaving behind a profound legacy of spiritual guidance, wisdom, and inspiration that continues to resonate through generations.

For references and insights, I have drawn from the works of Maulana Syed Mubarak Shah Fitrat Gilani, particularly Aayine Fitrat and Tazkira Sadat-e-Gilani. Additionally, I sought guidance from Jinab Syed Mohammad Yahya Geelani, a distinguished author and writer from Professor Colony, Naseem Abad, Srinagar. His extensive work on the subject and his vast knowledge have greatly enriched my understanding.

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer and serves as a GST Inspector with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

Srinagar Freezes At

With shortages of electric power in the Valley people rely more on traditional methods to keep themselves warm. An earthen firepot woven in a basket of willow wicker called the 'Kangri' is filled with ember and kept under the loose tweed overgarment, the 'Pheran'. The Pheran and the Kangri are still the best friends of Kashmiris when all modern heating appliances fail to live up to their expectations.

Kashmir Is Crown

lives for the country." "Kashmir is the crown of India and it is my desire that this crown should become more shining and glorious. In this endeavour, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are helping me. I assure you that any roadblock in the way of realising your dreams will be removed," the PM assured the people.

He said two days back Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had uploaded some pictures and videos around the tunnel. By seeing those, my eagerness to be here increased. "When I worked here as a BJP worker, I have spent a lot of time in Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Baramulla. It used to snow heavily even in those days. But, the warmth of the people of J&K did not make you feel the cold. Today is a great day, crores of people are taking part in the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh. Lohri is being celebrated in Punjab. This is the period of the 40-day intense cold of 'Chillai Kalan', which people face with a smile in Kashmir. People are coming to Sonamarg from different parts of the country and enjoy your hospitality," said PM Modi.

"I recently inaugurated the Jammu rail division. Today I have dedicated Sonamarg tunnel to the country and the people of J&K and Ladakh," he said.

Referring to Omar Abdullah's demand for statehood, PM Modi said, "Modi always fulfils his promise. Every promise will be fulfilled at the right time. Every decision has a proper time when it is taken," the PM said.

"This tunnel was started by us, and it is my decision that whatever work we start we must also inaugurate. Sonamarg and the entire area here will get a great boost. In days to come, road and railway projects will be completed. The Valley will soon be connected through railways. New roads, colleges, etc., it will be a 'Naya Kashmir' that we have been speaking about," said the PM.

"In 2040, India will be a developed nation and no family, no area of the country will be left out in that developed India. In the last 10 years, over four crore poor people got concrete houses. In days to come, three crore more people will get new homes. Free healthcare given in the country is beneficial to the people of J&K as well. New IITs, AIIMS, educational institutions, polytechnics, etc., are being opened. Today you have a good road from J&K to Arunachal Pradesh. The world's highest tunnel, highest railway bridge, and highest cable bridge are also being built in J&K. Ropeways to Shankaracharya temple, and ropeways to other places will be completed in J&K. These projects will make J&K the most connected place in the country. Through better connectivity, hitherto unexplored tourist destinations will be opened up," the PM said in his address.

"Peace in J&K has given great dividends. Over two crore tourists came to J&K in 2024. Everybody connected with tourism has benefited. Our Kashmir is regaining its glory of being the paradise on earth. People go to enjoy ice cream in Lal Chowk in the evening. Polo View market has become a hub of modern activity. People go with families to cinemas. The situation could out have improved without the participation of the people, no government could have done it without the people's support. There was an international marathon in Srinagar in which the chief minister also participated. I greeted him for that when he met me in Delhi. After 40 years, international cricket was held in Srinagar. We saw car racing in Srinagar. Gulmarg will host the 5th Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg next month," PM Modi said.

He said that there are greater and better avenues being thrown open for the youth of the union territory. The local youth will not need to go out for better education in the days to come.

The PM said that the J&K bank has crossed Rs 2.30 lakh crore business and this has increased the lending capacity of the bank. "The dark past of J&K has now changed into the future of prosperity and progress," the PM said.

Before the PM's address, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari addressed the public rally. He said to make a self-reliant India, we have to ensure road connectivity and infrastructure development.

"US President John F Kennedy said that American roads are good not because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good. After completing the 6.4 km long Rs 2,700 crore Sonamarg tunnel, we are also completing the Rs 6,800 crore Zojila tunnel. Ladakh will have all-season connectivity after the Zojila tunnel is completed," Gadkari said.

He also referred to various corridors being made in J&K and gave details of projects completed in the UT. He spoke of ring roads in Valley and Jammu division.

The Minister said the distance from Delhi to Srinagar will be completed in 7 to 8 hours within one year. "This will, Hon'ble PM, realise your promise of cutting the distance between Dili and Srinagar," he said.

Inaugurates Z-Morh

weather connectivity possible. He encouraged and patiently listened to the labourers in addition to gathering technical details about the Rs 2,700 crore tunnel.

The Prime Minister appreciated the hard work put in by everyone engaged in the construction of the tunnel under the most challenging weather and topography of the area.

PM Modi earlier landed in a special aircraft at the technical area of Srinagar International Airport from where he took an Air Force helicopter for Neelgrad in the Sonamarg.

The PM landed at the Neelgrad helipad and

drove in a cavalcade to the Gagangir area, where he inaugurated the Sonamarg tunnel.

PM Modi will also address a public rally at the truck yard in Sonamarg. Hundreds of people, braving extreme cold, have already gathered at the Sonamarg public rally venue to listen to the PM. This is PM Modi's first visit to the union territory after an elected government took office here.

Sonamarg tunnel will bypass the stretch of the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway that is prone to avalanches and heavy snowfall during the winter months.

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) oversaw the Z-Morh tunnel constructed by APCO Infratech Private Limited for Rs 2,700 crore. The construction of the tunnel was started in 2018. This tunnel will make Sonamarg an all-weather tourist destination, thereby helping employment for local youth, and boosting trade, tourism, and traffic to the Ladakh region, Amarnath Yatra and businesses.

The tunnel is a 6.5 km long 2-lane road tunnel between Gagangair and Sonamarg in Ganderbal of Jammu and Kashmir. It was earlier called the Z-Morh tunnel because of the Z-shaped stretch of road that the tunnel has replaced (Z-Morh translates to "Z-turn" in English). It takes only 15 minutes to travel the 6.5 km long tunnel compared to hours over the zig-zag road up and down the hills.

The Zojila Tunnel being constructed across the Zojila Pass together with the Z-Morh tunnel will make the journey to the Ladakh region safer and possibly throughout the year.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the Gagangir area of Ganderbal district on Saturday. "Visited Sonamarg today to review preparations for PM @narendramodiji's visit on Monday. The inauguration of the Z-morh tunnel will open Sonmarg to tourism all year round, Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort. The local population will not have to leave in winter & the travel time to Kargil/Leh from Srinagar will also reduce," he wrote on X on January 11.

Sonamarg Tunnel

Addressing a public gathering after inauguration of the much-awaited Z-Morh tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday morning, the LG said that with the opening of Sonamarg Tunnel, a new chapter has begun in the history of J&K. He expressed gratitude to the PM for fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the people of UT and creating an environment which is enabling common man to flourish and live a dignified life.

"Sonamarg tunnel is the Bhagya Rekha (life-line) for J&K, enabling year-round connectivity to the picturesque Sonamarg. It will be a Game-Changer for the local economy, winter tourism and also create new avenues of livelihood & trade in the region," he said.

Praising the leadership of Modi, he said that the PM has taken the J&K on a path of progress & prosperity from agonies. From darkness he has brought light of hope in the lives of people.

"J&K has been mentioned as heaven in books, he has made it a reality. Today instead of terrorism, tourism is being discussed," he said.

"This ground-breaking project is a testament to Government's commitment to rapid and inclusive development of the UT of Jammu Kashmir. The opening of this tunnel will not only change the fortunes of the tourism sector in Sonamarg but will also change the social and economic condition of this area," he said.

On this occasion, Sinha also paid tributes to the workers who were killed in a terror attack in Gagangir last year.

"Today, we have also taken a big leap from a strategic point of view and have provided a strong infrastructure support to facilitate the movement of our Armed Forces. The under-construction Zojila tunnel, likely to be completed by 2026, will also ensure connectivity to Ladakh throughout the year and uninterrupted essential services to remote areas," he said.

He further said that the unprecedented expansion of infrastructure, new industrial revolution, large network of highways, strengthening of democracy at the grassroots level, new revolution in agriculture and horticulture sector, rejuvenation of socio-economic sectors and upliftment of deprived sections have laid a strong foundation for a developed, self-reliant Jammu Kashmir.

"Peace and stability have transformed the tourism sector. The number of foreign tourists has increased by 300%. J&K has recorded 2.35 crore tourist visits in 2024, while 2.11 lakh tourists visited Jammu Kashmir in 2023," he said.

Under the leadership of the PM, he said, J&K was witnessing an unprecedented road and tunnel infrastructure development. He said around Rs 1.5 lakh crores worth Road and Highways projects are underway in Jammu Kashmir.

He also referred to the ongoing work on the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, Baramulla-Kupwara-Trehgam National Highway, Baramulla-Uri Highway, Pattan Bypass, Baramulla Bypass and many other projects aimed at strengthening the road connectivity in the UT.

Besides, he said, the construction work of 8 tunnel projects is going on at a rapid pace and is likely to be completed by December 2025.

"We have succeeded in connecting more than 99% of the villages of Jammu Kashmir with road under PMGSY and connectivity will be established soon to the remaining 09 villages and they will be connected to the mainstream of socio-economic development," Sinha said.

"The dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway network will soon become a reality. The opening of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link will usher in a new era of socio-economic development and national integration," he added.

CM Omar Reminds

PM Modi for fulfilling two of his promises out of three made during his speech in Srinagar after assuming the office last year for the third straight term.

"You talked about three important things including 'Dil ki duri aur Delhi se duri', and

you have proved it by your work. This is your second function in Jammu and Kashmir within 15 days after inaugurating (virtually from Delhi) the separate Jammu Railway Division (on January 6) and today the inauguration of Sonamarg tunnel," the Chief Minister told the Prime Minister.

"The second promise of conducting assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir was also fulfilled as the people, who turned up in large numbers after getting a chance to elect their representatives with no complaints of rigging and other related things. That's why I am here today," he said.

However, he stated that the third promise of restoring statehood to J&K has not been fulfilled yet and the people here including the media persons usually ask him the questions related to it. "My heart believes that the promise will also be fulfilled by you soon," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Modi for visiting Kashmir in the cold weather and said, "We hope that you will come again and again, and join in our happiness."

Earlier, the Chief Minister started his inaugural speech while remembering the seven persons including a doctor who were killed in an attack at Gagangir in October last year. He read the names of all the slain persons, who were involved in the construction work of Sonamarg tunnel.

Omar stated that they sacrificed their lives for this project and the progress of this nation. "I belong to the party which has sacrificed a lot for this nation as we were not ready to see the division of the country. From the past 35 years, the people in J&K have sacrificed their lives for the progress of this nation," he said.

Omar added that the presence of PM Modi to inaugurate this project is a clear message to those who don't want the progress of J&K. "We will not allow anti-peace elements to succeed and they will have to face defeat. They won't be allowed to harm democracy," Omar said.

The Chief Minister also stated that the Sonamarg will be developed as a tourist destination and this tunnel will also facilitate speedy work on the Zojila tunnel.

He also praised the Prime Minister for his efforts for establishing peace along the Line of Control (LoC). "We are seeing the results as the tourists are visiting far-off places along the LoC," he said—(KNO)

2 More Children

different families since December last year. The latest deaths have taken the toll to 12, officials said.

"Six children were admitted to the hospital here. One girl died yesterday, while two more children passed away today. Nothing is known about the exact cause of the deaths yet. The health department has failed to identify the disease," Aijaz Ahmed, a close relative of the deceased children, told reporters here.

The situation in the village is grim, with fear of the unknown disease gripping its residents, he added.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, principal of GMC Hospital, had said last month that preliminary investigations pointed to a viral infection as the cause of the mysterious deaths. However, he also said that more studies were needed to reach a definitive conclusion.

Teams of experts from Pune's National Institute of Virology, PGI Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi, and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, have visited the village to assist in the investigations.

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Rajouri-Poonch range Deputy Inspector General Tejinder Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar have visited the village to assess the situation.

Health teams have also been deputed to ensure necessary medical check-ups, officials said.

60% Terrorists

active in the valley and Jammu area are from Pakistan," he said.

Highlighting positive developments in the region, he added that the peaceful conduct of elections and the record influx of five lakh pilgrims are indicators of a positive change.

"The theme of 'terrorism to tourism' is gradually taking shape," he stated.

Speaking on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh, General Dwivedi described the situation as "sensitive but stable" and acknowledged ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions.

He pointed out that "resolving the border issue with China requires strong strategic patience" and explained the steps taken to address lower-level issues.

"When you carry out a negotiation, you see the degree of violence and try to create distances. There is nothing called a buffer zone when you are resolving the situation," he said.

Regarding disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, he noted, "Since April 2020, both sides had advanced forward and prevented the other side from accessing traditional areas previously under paramilitary control."

"In this disengagement process, both sides have agreed to return to their original positions, restoring access to the traditional patrolling areas," he said, adding, "Verification patrols have been conducted twice by both sides over time, and both are satisfied with the progress. Grazing grounds have also been mutually agreed upon."

Discussing the situation in Manipur, General Dwivedi said that the violence-struck region has been "brought under control" through "synergised efforts of security forces and proactive government initiatives."

However, he acknowledged, "Cyclic incidents of violence continue," and assured that measures to establish peace are ongoing.

Jubilant Locals

how the project addresses long-standing connectivity issues, making travel easier for pilgrims and local residents alike.

"My journey to the Amarnath Yatra was successful today, and it wouldn't have been

possible before. This tunnel is for the benefit of the people here and for tourism," he added.

Another local, Showkat Ahmad, emphasised the significance of the project as PM Modi's first gift to the people of Kashmir since the formation of the elected government.

"This is the first visit of our Prime Minister after the formation of the elected government, and his first gift to Kashmir, especially to Ganderbal district, is the inauguration of the Z-Morh Tunnel. This initiative will provide comfort for those traveling to the Amarnath Yatra and boost tourism," he said.

Ahmad also expressed optimism that the project would generate employment opportunities for the local youth and support the region's transformation from a "terrorism valley" to a "tourism valley," as promised by PM Modi.

The 6.5 km-long, two-lane Z-Morh Tunnel will bypass the treacherous stretch of the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway, which is prone to avalanches and heavy snowfall during winter months. Constructed by APCO Infratech Private Limited at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore, the tunnel was overseen by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and was completed after beginning construction in 2018.

By reducing travel time to just 15 minutes for the 6.5 km stretch, compared to hours on the winding road, the tunnel is set to transform Sonamarg into an all-weather tourist destination. This improvement is expected to boost employment for local youth, enhance trade and tourism, and increase traffic to the Ladakh region, Amarnath Yatra, and local businesses.

In addition to the Z-Morh Tunnel, the ongoing construction of the Zojila Tunnel across the Zojila Pass is expected to further improve access to Ladakh and make the journey safer, potentially enabling year-round travel to the region. Together, these tunnels will significantly enhance infrastructure in the area and support the region's economic growth.

Panel To Regulate

Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) and shall submit its recommendation to the Administrative Department within a month from the date of issuance of this order.

Non-Payment

Commission of India, which justified placing maintenance provisions for wives and children—a civil matter—within the CrPC framework. The rationale was to provide a faster and more economical remedy than civil courts could offer, aiming to prevent starvation and vagrancy that might lead to crime.

The court reiterated its earlier stance, emphasizing that maintenance proceedings are not punitive. Instead, they serve as a means to prevent destitution and provide essential support, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to deserted wives and dependents.

"Section 125 Cr.P.C. is a measure of social justice designed to protect women and children. It aligns with the constitutional mandate under Article 15(3), reinforced by Article 39, to alleviate the financial hardship of destitute individuals, including wives, children, and parents," the court observed.

Under Section 125(1) of the CrPC, a Magistrate can order a person with sufficient means who neglects or refuses to support their wife, children, or parents, who cannot maintain themselves, to pay a monthly allowance as deemed appropriate.

The judgment highlighted that Section 125 Cr.P.C. traces its roots back to Section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898, underscoring its historical continuity.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar upheld a wife's right to maintenance under Section 125 Cr.P.C., stating that a decree for restitution of conjugal rights in the husband's favor, combined with the wife's non-compliance, does not automatically disqualify her from claiming maintenance.

"In any event, such a decree, coupled with non-compliance by the wife, would not directly determine her right to maintenance or invoke disqualification under Section 125(4) Cr.P.C.," the bench held in its 28-page judgment.

This landmark ruling reinforces the objective of maintenance laws as a tool of social justice, providing a lifeline to those in financial distress, while also clarifying the legal interpretation of such proceedings.

ACB Books

search warrants were obtained from Hon'ble court and searches were conducted at all locations inside as well as outside UT of J&K at Delhi, Jammu, during which various incriminating documents related to property acquisition were collected and seized in presence of independent witnesses.

During the probe, he said, it was found that the suspect has accumulated properties and made various expenditures, including a 3 BHK flat at Greater Kailash Jammu, a 3 BHK flat at Chhatarpur enclave phase 2nd New Delhi, a house at Residency road Jammu, a house at Hygam, Sopore besides a palatial house at Bagh-e-Mehtab Srinagar.

Besides it, the accused has also a shopping complex at Hygam Sopore housing some business establishments including J&K Bank Branch Hygam, four shops at Hygam housing business units, land measuring 2 Kanals at National Highway Baramulla village Bulgam, land measuring 17 Kanals 9.5 Marlas at Dodan Hygam Baramulla, land measuring 2 Kanals 9 Marlas situated at Kaidub Hygam Baramulla.

The former engineer has also a TATA Safari, Hyundai i10, Wagnor & Tractor John Deere in possession.

Apart from this, the spokesperson said, he has five FDs amounting to Rs. 88 lacs in J&K bank, HDFC Bank, policies amounting to Rs 35. Lac, Health insurance policies amounting to Rs 10 lac, huge expenditures incurred on re-payments of bank loans etc.

"Further investigation in the case is going on," he added.

Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage, celebrates faith and harmony: PM Modi



IAN S

NEW DELHI : As the Maha Kumbh began on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this is a very special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture, and that the Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony.

Greeting the nation on the occasion of the Paus Purnima, PM Modi took to social media X to wish all pilgrims and tourists a wonderful stay in the Maha Kumbh area.

"With the holy bath on Paus Purnima, the Maha Kumbh has begun on the holy land of Prayagraj from today. On this divine occasion related to our faith and culture, I salute and greet all the devotees from my heart. I wish that this huge festival of Indian spiritual tradition brings new energy and enthusiasm in the life of all of you."

The PM said he was happy to see Prayagraj abuzz with countless people coming there, taking the holy dip and seeking blessings.

"A very special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture!," he said.

"Maha Kumbh 2025 commences in Prayagraj, bringing together countless people in a sacred confluence of faith, devotion and culture. The Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony," the PM added in his post.

Devotees took a holy dip in Triveni Sangam -- a scared confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and 'mystical' Saraswati in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Monday morning as this day -- Paus Purnima in the Hindu calendar -- marks the beginning of the 45-day Maha Kumbh festival.

A huge crowd of devotees, many of who have travelled from across India and the world, performed the sacred ritual 'Shahi Snan'.

Expected to host at least 45 crore people, the Maha Kumbh festival from January 13 to February 26, will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Uttar Police government in and around the city to ensure people's safety during Maha Kumbh.

In a first, underwater drones that

are capable of diving up to 100 meters have been deployed across the city to provide round-the-clock surveillance in the Sangam area. Tethered drones - capable of reaching heights up to 120 meters - have also been deployed providing aerial view to identify swelling crowds or areas requiring medical or security intervention. At least 2,700 cameras with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities provide real-time monitoring and facial recognition technology will be used at entry points.

Authorities have set up 1,50,000 tents to accommodate the pilgrims, along with additional toilets and sanitation facilities. At least 4,50,000 new electricity connections have been installed, with the Kumbh expected to drain more power than what 1,00,000 urban apartments in the region consume in a month.

Several electric buses are being run for devotees. The Indian Railways has introduced 98 special trains to make 3,300 trips during the festival.

For healthcare facilities, temporary hospitals equipped with surgical and diagnostic facilities are set up.

Devotees thank PM Modi, Yogi govt for extensive arrangements

IAN S

PRAAYAGRAJ : Devotees expressed gratitude to the Uttar Pradesh government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the extensive arrangements during the Maha Kumbh 2025 on Monday.

One of the most revered Hindu festivals, Maha Kumbh, commenced on Monday with the auspicious 'Shahi Snan' at the Sangam in Prayagraj, marking the confluence of the sacred rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati.

This spiritual event, occurring once every 144 years due to a rare celestial alignment, began on 'Paus Purnima,' attracting over 4 million devotees on the first day.

Prayagraj transformed into a spiritual hub and welcomed



saints, seers, pilgrims, and devotees from across India and the world.

The massive gathering witnessed people performing the sacred ritual of taking a holy dip in the Sangam, symbolising the cleansing of sins and the attainment of spiritual merit.

The Maha Kumbh, spanning from January 13 to Febru-

ary 26, is expected to host an unprecedented 45 crore people, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions.

Elaborate security arrangements have been implemented by the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure the safety and convenience of the attendees.

Devotional activities, including aarti and other rituals, were conducted with fervour, uniting people in their faith.

Speaking to IANS, Sarita Yadav, a devotee from Rajasthan, expressed her joy, saying, "It feels like we are in heaven to be here. The arrangements are good. We thank PM Modi and the state government for such an amazing experience."

Another devotee, Neelam Pachheriya, shared her sentiments with IANS, stating, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us. We took a holy dip in the Sangam, and it's all because of the incredible efforts and arrangements made by PM Modi and the authorities."

As the Maha Kumbh unfolds, it promises to offer an unparalleled experience of devotion, faith, and cultural celebration to millions who journey to the sacred city of Prayagraj.

50 lakh people take dip in Sangam a day ahead of Paus Purnima

IAN S

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR : Around 50 lakh people on Sunday took a dip a day before the first bathing festival, Paus Purnima, which will begin on Monday along with the Mahakumbh 2025.

The results of the efforts and arrangements of the Yogi Adityanath government, which is committed to providing convenience and smooth bathing to the devotees, are becoming visible even before the commencement of Mahakumbh as the devotees wore a cheerful look on their faces amid the festive mood.

On Sunday, before the first bathing festival of Paus Purnima, about 50 lakh devotees took a holy dip in Sangam Triveni. Numerous saints, sages, men, women, elderly and children took a dip in Sangam.

On Saturday also, at least 33 lakh devotees had taken a dip in Sangam. This time, over 45 crore people are expected to take a bath in the Sangam during the Mahakumbh. It has been learned that before the bathing festival, all the major saints and sages entered the Akhara area.

On the first 'Amrit Snan' on Makar Sankranti on January 14, all the Akharas will take a bath according to their order.

Once characterised by narrow and worn-out roads, Prayagraj has undergone a remarkable transformation under Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government. Ever since the groundwork was laid for Kumbh, the city has seen unprecedented development ahead of Mahakumbh 2025.

The city has undergone a world-class makeover ahead of the biggest

congregation of the followers of Sanatan Dharma. More than 200 roads have been constructed and upgraded, ensuring seamless connectivity for millions of devotees likely to attend the grand spiritual gathering.

Adding to the transformation, these roads have been beautified by placing over 3 lakh plants and 1 lakh horticultural samplings, enhancing their visual appeal. As devotees flock to Prayagraj for Mahakumbh, they will not only experience seamless travel but also take home the lasting memories of the city's beautified and welcoming atmosphere. Apart from the construction of new roads, many others have been widened and broadened for smooth traffic flow.

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has led this effort, successfully reconstructing, widening, and strengthening 78 roads. The Public

Works Department (PWD) has developed 74 roads, while Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) has worked on 48 roads.

A variety of plants have been placed along the routes, with 3 lakh plants and 1 lakh horticultural samplings adorning these upgraded roads. These beautified roads promise to make the journey to Sangam smooth and spiritually enriching, offering devotees an experience of divine bliss during their visit to Mahakumbh.

The construction and development of these roads posed significant challenges for the three departments involved. One of the major hurdles was addressing encroachments along the routes. To facilitate smooth construction, a total of 4,426 encroachments were removed, ensuring clear pathways for both devotees and the residents of Prayagraj.

Delhi CM Atishi visits Kalkaji temple ahead of filing of nomination papers

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Delhi Chief Minister and AAP candidate from Kalkaji Assembly constituency, Atishi, will officially file her nomination papers on Monday for the upcoming Assembly elections. Ahead of filing her nomination papers, Chief Minister Atishi visited the Kalkaji Temple to offer prayers and seek blessings.

Sharing her plans earlier in the day, Chief Minister Atishi posted on X, "I am going to file my nomination today. I will visit the Kalkaji Temple to take the blessings of Kalka Mai. After praying at the Giri Nagar Gurudwara, I will begin the nomination rally. Over the last five years, I have received immense love from my Kalkaji family. I am confident their blessings will continue to guide me."

In a bid to garner support for her campaign, CM Atishi had launched a crowdfunding initiative on Sunday, emphasising her party's commitment to "politics of work and



honesty." During a press conference, she provided an online donation link and revealed that she needed Rs 40 lakh to finance her election campaign.

"The AAP has always relied on small contributions from the common people to fight elections, enabling us to pursue transparent and honest politics," CM Atishi stated. She further said that over the past five years, "you have supported me as an MLA, a minister, and now as the Chief Minister of Delhi. This journey would not have been possible without your unwavering blessings and trust."

CM Atishi faces competition in Kalkaji from BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri and the Congress' Alka Lamba.

Congress should not undermine regional parties: Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena

IAN S

MUMBAI : Amid talks of the disintegration of INDIA bloc and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the Shiv Sena (UBT) in its mouthpiece 'Saamna' editorial took a dig at the Congress party saying that it should not undermine the regional parties as it alone cannot fight on its own in many states.

"Congress does not have the strength to fight, but it does not stop putting its fingers in the bowl of the regional parties. Its results were seen in a state like Maharashtra. One truth that should be accepted is that the allies who entered the BJP's 'cave' have lost their existence. Congress should not behave with that attitude. Congress is and will remain a national party. There is no reason for anyone to have any doubts about that," says the editorial.

"The earthworms or frogs formed during the monsoon season are destroyed as soon as the monsoon season ends. We are of the opinion that alliances like 'INDIA' formed for elections should not have a short life and should always be dedicated to national service. Congress and AAP may have a face-off in Delhi, but projecting Kejriwal as an anti-national during the poll campaign issue is not in keeping with the Congress culture.



If Congress 'alone' has the ability to defeat the Modi mentality, no one will stop them. They should definitely do it. Still, winning a state like Maharashtra in a mafia-like manner shows what kind of politics the BJP and its affiliated gangs are winning. To fight this aberration, we need a thunderbolt of unity, leadership of the INDIA bloc and if possible, a convener. Otherwise, everything will go to waste. The All India National Congress should think about whether to let that happen," reads the editorial requesting Congress to take an initiative to further strengthen the opposition alliance.

"There is an INDIA bloc in the country and MVA in Maharashtra but there is a feeling among

the people that they are in a mess, who is responsible for it? When these two alliances were formed and started working, enthusiasm was created in every constituent party in the alliance and the public mind as a whole. Indians were confident that a force had been created to fight against the arbitrary administration and corruption imposed on the country. The feeling that Modi could be defeated in the country and the illegal government in Maharashtra started to burn like lightning, but are these two alliances now becoming dull and inactive? This is not good for the country," reads the editorial.

It further adds, "The tree of INDIA bloc does not seem to be

blooming. Omar Abdullah of the National Conference says that the last meeting of this alliance was held on June 1, 2024. After that, the Assembly elections of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand were held. Congress could not make a big leap in these elections. Congress suffered a major defeat in Haryana and Maharashtra. After that, questions started being asked about the existence of the INDIA bloc. Mamata Banerjee even publicly said that she formed the INDIA Alliance and now if she gets the opportunity, she is ready to lead this alliance. This means that the leadership of the Congress is not acceptable to anyone. Lalu Prasad Yadav also expressed similar views."

"In various states such as Punjab and Delhi, AAP and Congress are fighting against each other. In Kerala, there is a battle between Congress and the Left. In West Bengal, Congress will continue to fight against Trinamool and there is no alternative. Because every regional party has to maintain its own role, workers and existence, the Congress party is not ready to understand this. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is a seasoned and experienced leader but asks who will take the responsibility of restoring the

disarray that has arisen in the INDIA bloc," read the editorial.

The editorial mentions that some of the parties in the INDIA bloc today were once members of the National Democratic Alliance. "What does the experience of that alliance then tell us? Whether it was in power or not, when a national issue arose, an 'NDA' meeting was called in Delhi. Often, leaders like Pramod Mahajan and L.K. Advani would go to that state and discuss with the party chiefs there. The NDA also had a strong convener. For a long time, a senior leader like George Fernandes was in this position and this convener would interact and discuss with the heads of all the constituent parties, and convene the meetings with dignity. Sometimes Atal Bihari Vajpayee would chair such meetings or L.K. Advani would. Therefore, it must be accepted that the relationship within that alliance was not superficial, but rather built on family ties."

Against this backdrop, the Shiv Sena (UBT) in the editorial makes a strong pitch for a strong INDIA bloc, saying that "elections will come and go but insisting that there is a need to put an end to jealousy, hatred and gossip to take on those who hijacked the elections and taken control of the country".

Top industry associations slam Zomato, Swiggy over private label food delivery

IAN S

NEW DELHI : The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) have reiterated serious concerns over online food aggregators Zomato and Swiggy's recent move to enter the private label food delivery business.

The FHRAI, which is the third largest hospitality association in the world, pointed out several issues, including unfair competition, misuse of restaurant data, and potential risks to food safety.

The NRAI, representing over five lakh restaurants

-- an industry valued at Rs 5.69 lakh crore -- said that private-label food delivery undermines the principles of fair competition and poses a significant threat to the viability of thousands of restaurants across the country.

The FHRAI plans to meet the Ministry of Commerce officials to discuss these concerns and push for regulatory action to ensure fair practices in the food service industry.

"We are meeting with the Commerce Ministry very soon and have requested an expedited appointment to discuss this serious issue. The actions of platforms like Zomato and Swiggy represent a

direct violation of established e-commerce regulations," said Pradeep Shetty, Vice President of FHRAI. Shetty noted that these companies were originally designed to function as neutral marketplace platforms -- connecting consumers with restaurants -- and not as direct competitors.

By introducing and selling their own food products, they undermine the very essence of a marketplace model, creating an uneven playing field that disproportionately harms restaurants, said the association.

According to the FHRAI, by leveraging data from restaurants, such as customer preferences and sales trends, Zomato and

Swiggy can create personalised deals that directly impact the restaurant's business.

Sagar Daryani, President of the NRAI, said that Zomato and Swiggy "have all our data which they do not share with us. For us, there is complete consumer masking".

This strategy not only "cannibalises the business of restaurants that rely on these platforms" but also raises serious concerns under the Copyright Act and related laws, the NRAI said.

In addition, the industry bodies also raised concern over food safety standards applied to these private label products.

Brands likely to pour in Rs 2,000 crore for advertising as Maha Kumbh begins

IAN S

NEW DELHI : As the Maha Kumbh 2025 began on Monday, companies across the spectrum are trying to capitalise on a huge opportunity to reach at least 45 crore people, and are likely to pour in thousands of crores in marketing campaigns and activities on the ground.

From January 13 to February 26, the world's largest spiritual congregation is offering companies, especially fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), automobiles and electronics players, a lifetime chance to tap into millions of consumers.

According to industry estimates, brands are projected to invest Rs 1,800-Rs

2,000 crore in advertising campaigns across platforms, utilising artificial intelligence (AI)-driven themes, LED outdoor screens, virtual assistants and mobile apps.

The mega event offers luxury tents that cost up to Rs 1 lakh a night for budget homestays.

As per the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) estimates, the event is expected to generate a revenue of Rs 1.2 lakh crore for Uttar Pradesh.

Other industry estimates project that Maha Kumbh is likely to generate over Rs 4 lakh crore in trade, giving a boost to both nominal and real GDP by over 1 per cent.

According to government estimates, Maha

Kumbh may generate Rs 2 lakh crore in trade if each of 40 crore visitors spends an average of Rs 5,000.

Industry estimates further say that the average expenditure per person could rise to even Rs 10,000 at the mega event, and the total economic impact could reach Rs 4 lakh crore.

Companies from India as well as abroad are jostling for space to showcase their presence during the 45-day event.

Public sector giant Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has supplied approximately 45,000 tonnes of steel for the construction of various structures at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025.

Prayagraj has undergone

a major makeover ahead of the biggest congregation of the followers of Sanatan Dharma. More than 200 roads have been constructed and upgraded, ensuring seamless connectivity for millions of devotees likely to attend the grand spiritual gathering. The roads have been beautified by placing over three lakh plants and one lakh horticultural samplings, enhancing their visual appeal.

To ensure the safety of crores of devotees along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, especially in the Sangam area, the Uttar Pradesh government has deployed a large contingent of Water Police personnel equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Konstas, Green and Andrews put Thunder in BBL playoffs

AGENCIES

Sam Konstas smashed a half-century on a tricky Showground surface before Sydney Thunder capitalised on reckless batting from Perth Scorchers to secure their place in the BBL finals.

After being sent in, Konstas produced a fast start for Thunder before they were reeled in by Scorchers' spinners until Tom Andrews blasted an unbeaten 37 off 13 balls at the death.

Chasing 159, Scorchers had a horror show with the bat marked by the disastrous run-outs of Cooper Connolly and Sam Fanning as they were bowled out for 97 in the 18th over.

BBL powerhouse Scorchers require a miracle to reach the finals after slumping to a fourth straight defeat.

KONSTAS FIRES, ANDREWS PROVIDES LATE LIFT

On a surface known for being sluggish and favouring spin, Konstas and fellow opener David Warner decided to go for broke against the new ball.

They smashed 36 runs in the first three overs with Warner setting the tone with an early blow over the infield before being overtaken by Konstas.

Konstas mixed elegant strokes with trademark inventiveness to race to 28 off 12 balls, but Warner's dismissal in the last over of the powerplay triggered a collapse.

Konstas could not find the strike as Thunder's batters struggled mightily on a surface that started to become difficult to bat on. They didn't score a boundary for almost 10 overs until Konstas cleverly reverse-swept Connolly's left-arm spin for a boundary.

He brought up his half-century off 40 balls with a dismissive boundary off speedster Lance Morris before holing out shortly afterwards. At 114 for 7 after 17 overs, Thunder appeared likely to fall well short of a decent total until Andrews unfurled several mighty strokes at the death.

He finished the innings with a six down the ground in a final over that cost 25 runs - the most expensive of veteran Jason Behrendorff's T20 career.

BEARDMAN DEBUTS, SPIN TAKES OVER

Scorchers' finals hopes received a blow after Jhye Richardson's latest injury setback ended his BBL season.

But it meant an opportunity for 19-year-old quick Mahli



Beardman, who has been mentored by Dennis Lillee. A year ago he starred at the Under 19 World Cup and recently played in the Prime Minister's XI two-day match against India in Canberra.

He had a tough BBL initiation, entering the attack in the third over against Konstas and

Warner. Beardman hopes to one day emulate Morris and bowl 150 kph, but he can already produce significant pace around 140 kph.

Beardman was under siege against a rampaging Konstas, his Australia Under-19 teammate, who used his feet superbly to whack a slower delivery

down the ground for six. But with the wicket slowing up notably after the powerplay, skipper Ashton Turner turned to his spinners and Connolly, Ashton Agar and Matthew Spoons delivered with three wickets between them.

Connolly, whose bowling is slowly progressing, was

extremely accurate and clean-bowled Sam Billings to finish with 1 for 16 off 4 overs. It was a tonic after Connolly was not named in Australia's Champions Trophy squad.

Having taken 2 for 6 off 4 overs at this ground last season, Agar was again miserly with 1-14 off 4 overs while Spoons claimed his first BBL wicket after dismissing George Garton.

Morris recovered from a tardy start to claim three wickets with fiery bowling touching near 150 kph. But Turner was left to rue not bowling out Spoons, who still had two overs left, with Morris and Behrendorff smashed at the death.

SANGHA RETURNS IN FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

Playing just his third BBL game of the season, legspinner Tanveer Sangha had the ideal surface to make his return. He started nervously after a loose delivery was swept by Aaron Hardie to the boundary.

But Sangha had his revenge with a flatter, straighter delivery that clean-bowled Hardie. He bowled tidily through the middle overs to suffocate Scorchers in tandem with off-spinner Chris Green to finish with 1 for 18 off 4 overs.

Green claimed a couple of

late wickets to finish with 3-13 off 4 overs, while Andrews capped a fine all-round match with the wicket of Nick Hobson.

HARDIE'S STRUGGLES CONTINUE

Allrounder Hardie started the day with good news after he was selected for Australia's Champions Trophy squad despite a modest BBL season playing as a specialist batter.

He came to the crease in the second over following the wicket of Finn Allen. Disaster struck when Fanning was run out at the non-striker's end after Hardie had initially called for a single before changing his mind.

The run-out seemed to rattle Hardie, who was edgy at the crease before smashing consecutive sixes on the leg side off quick Nathan McAndrew. But he was soon bowled for 22 - which was Scorchers' top score - to trigger a collapse.

Scorchers' disastrous performance was summed up by Connolly, their leading batter this season, being run out attempting a second run after a direct throw from Hugh Weibgen at midwicket.

Turner, who has rescued his team many times before, holed out tamely as Scorchers appear almost certain to miss finals for just the third time in BBL history.

Barcelona crushes Real Madrid to win Spanish Supercup

IAN S

JEDDAH : FC Barcelona produced a stunning first-half display to beat Real Madrid 5-2 in the final of the Spanish Supercup on Sunday.

Hansi Flick's side led 4-1 at the break and despite seeing goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny sent off for bringing down Kylian Mbappe early in the second half, they were able to hold on with relative ease against the Madrid attack, reported Xinhua.

Things looked to be going Madrid's way when goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois pulled off two stunning saves in the opening minutes from Lamine Yamal and Raphinha before Mbappe put Madrid ahead in the fifth minute.

A Barca attack broke down with Vinicius feeding the ball to the Frenchman, who produced a powerful



run from deep, held off the defender and scored with his right foot.

Barca continued to create chances, with Raphinha shooting across the face of the goal before Yamal equalized in the 22nd minute.

Robert Lewandowski dropped deep and pulled Antonio Rudiger out of position to create space for the young winger to run onto his pass. Yamal then

turned inside and wrong-footed Courtois with an angled shot.

Barca suffered an injury setback when Inigo Martinez had to be replaced by Ronald Araujo, but they took the lead after 36 minutes when Eduardo Camavinga's rash challenge on Gavi gifted Barca a penalty, which Lewandowski dispatched into the corner.

Three minutes later, it was 3-1 as Real Madrid's

defense gave Jules Kounde space to angle a cross for Raphinha to head home after the Brazilian stole in completely unmarked past Lucas Vazquez.

There were nine minutes of injury time and in the last action of the first half, Madrid made a horrible mess of a short corner, allowing Yamal to steal possession. He slid the ball to the onrushing Raphinha, who in turn passed to Alejandro Balde to beat Courtois with a low shot.

With his side 4-1 down, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti brought on midfielder Dani Ceballos for Camavinga.

Real Madrid went close in the 47th minute when Rodrygo saw his volley hit the post.

But it was Barcelona's night and that was clear one minute later when Raphinha made it 5-1 with a calm finish.

Bailey admits to not having much idea about Cummins' availability in Champions Trophy

IAN S

NEW DELHI : Australia chief selector George Bailey has admitted that he doesn't have much idea about the availability of Pat Cummins for the upcoming Champions Trophy, especially after undergoing scans on his ankle.

Cummins, who is missing out on Australia's upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka due to the birth of his second child, recently went for scans over an ankle problem he was managing while leading Australia to a 3-1 series win over India earlier this month.

While Cummins has been named as Australia's captain in the preliminary 15-man squad for the eight-team tournament starting on February 19, teams are allowed to make a change to their teams a week before their first match.

"I don't really have any



more information than what I shared when we were announcing the Test squad a few days ago. I believe (Cummins) has had the scan, but I wanted to give him a little bit of space at the back end of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and obviously baby pending."

"We'll work through that in good time. I've got no idea what the scan has said or

what it showed. I know he's very keen, so we'll work through that. That's always the challenge with the ICC requirements in terms of naming your squad this far out. I don't have a date for you in terms of a hard timeline," Bailey told reporters after announcing Australia's squad on Monday.

All-rounder and T20I captain Mitchell Marsh looms as the stand-in captain if Cummins misses the Champions Trophy. Another big call Australia made was to leave out young opener Jake Fraser McGurk, who has struggled to get big runs at international and domestic levels.

In place of him, Australia have included Matt Short. "As far as Jake goes, I think he's still very young. We know that's going to be a journey. The skill set is still incredibly exciting. We've got plenty of top order batters in the mix there."

"It is a pretty preliminary

squad. There will be opportunities to move should anyone get hit with injury or we need to change the balance of that for some reason in the lead-up," added Bailey.

Australia have a plethora of all-round options in Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, and Aaron Hardie, while Nathan Ellis was selected ahead of Sean Abbott in the fast-bowling department. Australia, who last won Champions Trophy in 2009, are in Group B alongside England, South Africa and Afghanistan.

"I think Sean's been the beneficiary through his robustness and ability to be fit on the park. He's had some opportunities in some of the one-day squads, when some other guys haven't quite been there. In this sort of lineup, with the four quicks that we've gone with, we just feel like that was the best balance for this particular tournament," concluded Bailey.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS

