

# Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

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If you cross the #PakistanArmy, no punishment is ever enough, even for a former PM. #ImranKhan's 700+ days in solitary confinement show the truth: #Pakistan isn't a democracy, it's a military dictatorship in denial. A failed state where justice is held hostage.

## Amarnath Yatra crosses 1.11 lakh mark in 6 days

7th batch of 7,541 pilgrims leaves from Jammu



UMAISAR GULL GANIE

**SRINAGAR:** The annual Amarnath Yatra continues to witness a massive rush of devotees as over 1.11 lakh pilgrims have performed the darshan at the holy cave shrine in the first six days of the pilgrimage, while more than four lakh people have registered so far. Officials informed that a total of 93,342 pilgrims had visited the holy cave shrine till July 7. On the sixth day of the Yatra (today), an additional 18,633 pilgrims performed dar-

shan, taking the cumulative total to 1,11,975. Today's figure includes 13,010 males, 4,118 females, 256 children, 174 sadhus, 26 sadhvis, 2 transgender pilgrims, and 347 security personnel. Officials said the Yatra is proceeding smoothly from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes amid tight security and favourable weather conditions. They said the 7th batch of 7,541 pilgrims, including 5,516 men and 1,765 women, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu in 309 vehicles ● P-06

## UTs tourism secretaries meet in Srinagar befitting reply to terrorism: LG

Addresses Tourism Secretaries' meet of UTs at Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that the meeting of the tourism secretaries from all union territories in Srinagar is a befitting reply to terrorism as it reflects J&K's march towards peace, progress and prosperity. Addressing the tourism secretaries meeting here, the L-G said, "Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji, J&K is an unstoppable force & it will continue to flourish." In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor shared the remarkable development journey of Jammu Kashmir and its emergence as a preferred global tourist destination. "This conference is a befitting reply to terrorism and reflects J&K's march towards peace, progress and prosperity. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K is an unstoppable force and it will continue to flourish," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the phenomenal transformation of J&K's tourism sector over the last few years. "God has truly been generous to Jammu and Kashmir. This land, adorned with snow-capped peaks, shimmering lakes, apple-laden orchards, temples and rolling meadows, is a living canvas of natural beauty, spirituality and peace.



- UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PM NARENDRA MODI, J&K IS AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM SECTOR IS POSSIBLE ONLY IN A PEACEFUL AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT
- IN J&K, SECURITY FORCES HAVE A HUGE ROLE IN ENDING TERRORISM BUT THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IS ALSO NO LESS
- TERRORISTS' ATTEMPT TO DRAW THEIR SUSTENANCE FROM SOCIETY SHOULD BE FOILED
- STREET PROTESTS AGAINST PAK-BACKED TERRORISTS IS A GOOD SIGN TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- ENTIRE JAMMU KASHMIR MUST RISE AND MAKE SURE TERRORISTS HAVE NO PLACE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL UNION TERRITORY

We have strengthened ● P-06

## LG reviews progress of PM TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in the UT of Jammu Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary, Mission Director, NHM J&K; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Medical & Health institutions and senior officials. The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the strategies and actionable plans aimed at accelerating TB case detection, improving treatment outcomes, identifying challenges, and ensuring inter-departmental coordination to achieve the national ● P-06

## J&K TOURISM REVIVING Will match last year's figure soon: Yasha Mudgal

OWAIS GUL

**SRINAGAR:** Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal on Tuesday said the tourist footfall is increasing across Kashmir and the region will match last year's figures of visitor arrivals soon. Talking to reporters here at SKICC, on the sidelines of the two-day National Secretaries' Conference, Mudgal, said tourist arrivals are gaining at almost all destinations, with visitors from different parts of the country visiting Jammu and Kashmir's destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. She said that as footfall increases, they are expecting it to match last year's figures very soon, adding that the tourism sector is bouncing back in Jammu and Kashmir and is once again becoming the preferred and favourite destination for travellers. Mudgal was responding to a query about the slump in tourism activities following the Pahalgam terror attack. She praised the efforts made by the Lieutenant Governor and government officials for ● P-06



## UT framework restricts development funding across J&K projects: Dy CM



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday said the elected government is committed to addressing the genuine concerns of contractors, but reminded them that the Union Territory framework restricts development funding across Jammu and Kashmir projects. He said that while developmental responsibilities remain with the government, financial allocations are shaped by the current administrative framework and must be managed accordingly. Speaking to reporters here,

Choudhary, said he was there as the in-charge minister to review ongoing work, meet with contractors, and understand the issues they are facing. He said several contractors raised concerns related to payments and card renewals, and that he had directed officials to take appropriate steps to address them. Choudhary said the elected government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah carries the responsibility of fulfilling the expectations of the people. "While some shortcomings exist, many positive developments have taken place," he said. ● P-06

## Mixed reactions from parents, students on new school timing

New school timing not final, will revise it if needed: Edu Min

RIYAZ BHAT

**SRINAGAR:** The parents and the students Tuesday responded with mixed reactions to the first day of new school timing that was announced after the 15-days of summer break. Several teachers and students who responded with mixed reactions wherein some of the parents opined of change in school timing and others suggested adjusting the new school time decision to complete the syllabus on time. One of the parents, Asiya Jan said, "My son is studying in 6th class and it takes him nearly 20-30 minutes to reach his school. In the morning when I tried to wake him, he couldn't. Instead he resisted not going to school that early." "The new school timing

is not suitable for all of the students and I think there is a dire need to change it with immediate effect for the well-being of the kids," she said. Another parent, Abdul Hameed said that he and his wife are both working parents. "My wife had to apply for a leave only to receive our son from the schools. He said that the government can conduct online classes till the weather turns out to be a bit normal. "The heatwave is a matter of a week or two and mostly then after the weather will not remain the same. I suggest that the government shall conduct the online classes till then for the wellbeing of the students." In the meantime, a student of one of the private schools said, "The decision of new school timing is good to some extent because I believe that

the students won't be able to complete the syllabi on time if there is further reduction in academics." "Moreover, the students are now supposed to appear in the annual exams in November-December instead of March-April and keeping in view the time left to complete the syllabi, it is mandatory and utmost important for the School Education Department to conduct the physical classes regularly," he said. Another parent said that the decision of new school timing should be respected and followed in letter and spirit for the future of our students. "I think even if there are some hardships for the parents and students pertaining to the new school timing, we all must encourage our wards to adhere to it for their betterment." ● P-06

## Crucial Govt websites non-functional for 2 months in Kashmir

PEERZADA UMMER

**SRINAGAR:** Several crucial government websites and portals in Kashmir have been non-operational for the past two months, causing severe inconvenience to needy individuals relying on various social welfare schemes. The disruption is particularly impacting beneficiaries of the Golden Card and other welfare programs. The Food Supplies department's online portal is also affected, preventing the registration for essential services. Patients suffering from chronic illnesses have expressed urgent need for Golden Cards to facilitate treatment. However, with the online registration process suspended, they are unable to obtain these cards and are compelled to seek medical care in private hospitals, which many cannot afford. Similarly, the government's Marriage Assistance Scheme

(MAS) for poor girls is also facing setbacks as the online portal is non-functional. Registration for this scheme is mandatory one month prior to marriage. Many girls with imminent wedding dates are unable to apply, risking exclusion from the scheme if they marry without registration. Complaints have also been received regarding other departments, with citizens demanding clarifications to ensure eligible girls do not lose access to government support. Sakina Itoo, the Minister in charge, when contacted, admitted that the portals are down at present and that the government is aware of the hardships being faced by the people. "The portals are currently down, and many are unable to apply. This issue is now on my notice. I will discuss it with departmental officers because the poor people have to bear the brunt. If online registration cannot ● P-06

## 'Tourism Secretaries Meet' Pahalgam terror attack painful, need to forget it, move forward: Union Tourism Min

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on Tuesday termed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead, as an "Amavas ki kali raat" (a dark night of no moon), stating that while the tragedy was painful, the nation must look ahead and move forward with resilience and unity. Addressing a Tourism Secretaries' Meet of Union Territories here, Shekhawat, said, "We must not let one dark night define the future. We have to forget the Pahalgam terror attack as 'Amavas ki kali raat' and focus on building a brighter tomorrow." Referring to the ongoing tourism secretaries' Meet of Union Territories" he said, "It's for the first time, such an event is being held to collectively discuss and promote tourism in the UTs."



The Union Minister emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a transformative journey since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. "J&K has witnessed unprecedented development in recent years," he said. He said that the global outlook towards India is changing rapidly, with tourism playing a significant role in driving economic growth and improving

India's international image. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always maintained that the Union Territories, must emerge as tourism powerhouses," Shekhawat said. Highlighting the diversification of religious tourism in J&K, the Minister said that earlier the region was known only for select pilgrimage sites. "Now, multiple new locations have been integrated into the religious tourism circuit," he added. He also stressed the potential of adventure, water, and nature-based tourism in the UT. "Lavender tourism, for instance, has drawn lakhs of tourists to Jammu and Kashmir and become an emerging attraction," he said. Underscoring the importance of accessibility, Shekhawat noted that "the first prerequisite to develop any tourist destination is ease of access—via road, rail, or air." ● P-06

## WATER WOES CONTINUE

## Jhelum sees only marginal rise despite rains



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Despite a brief spell of rainfall plummeting the maximum temperatures in central Kashmir on Monday, the water level in River Jhelum has shown "only a marginal rise," while the water scarcity continues to grip several areas of Srinagar, triggering fresh public anger. As per the data from the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department, the water level at Sangam stood at 0.51 feet on July 8 (today), up from 0.33 feet on July 7, but still lower than 0.57 feet ● P-06

### Show Timings

Wed, 9<sup>th</sup> July

METRO IN DINO (U/A16+)  
HINDI - 12:00 PM, 06:35 PM

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (U/A13+)  
(D) ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (U/A16+)  
(E) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 07:15 PM

F1 THE MOVIE (U/A 16+)  
(E) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
10:40 AM, 03:25 PM

SITARE ZAMEEN PAR (U/A 13+)  
HINDI - 11:30 AM, 02:45 PM, 06:00 PM

TICKETS AT: www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com  
Paytm, Inox App, or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

**INOX SRINAGAR** | **INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR**

# Committee on Privileges holds meeting in Srinagar

Deliberates on matters related to legislators' rights, protocol

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to deliberate on matters pertaining to the privileges and entitlements of legislators.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including Vikram Randhawa, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Salman Sagar, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Bharat Bhushan and Javid Iqbal.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of legislators asserting their constitutional rights and



privileges across all appropriate platforms. He highlighted the need for a clear framework to ensure that the dignity and functioning of elected representatives is preserved and respected.

The Committee resolved to hold a joint meeting with the heads of the Law, General Administration Department (GAD) and Protocol Department to

address issues within the ambit of constitutional mandate and ensure better coordination among the concerned departments.

The members held a threadbare discussion on a range of issues including staff support (drivers), security arrangements, housing and office facilities and other privileges for the legislators.

The Committee also underscored the need for enhanced hostel accommodations and club facilities for both the sitting and former legislators in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Chairman expressed confidence in the collective capabilities of the Committee members to contribute constructively and uphold the integrity of the institution. He reiterated that the Committee would work strictly within its defined mandate and would meet regularly to devise actionable plans for resolving the issues placed before it.

The members actively participated in the discussions, offering valuable suggestions and feedback on key concerns impacting the functioning of legislators.

Pioneering Gastroenterologist

# Dr. Zeeshan Wani Sets Record Straight on Groundbreaking Procedure in J&K

AZHAR HAJINI

**SRINAGAR:** In the ever-evolving field of gastroenterology, innovation and expertise go hand in hand. Dr. Zeeshan Wani, a senior faculty member and renowned gastroenterologist at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, has been at the forefront of adopting advanced medical techniques in J&K. With numerous pioneering achievements to his name, Wani has once again found himself in the spotlight this time to clarify misconceptions surrounding a groundbreaking procedure he introduced years ago.

Wani, known for his dedication to modern medical practices, has performed over 4,000 endoscopic ultrasounds (EUs) and 300 fin needle biopsies (FNB/FNA), setting benchmarks in the region's medical

community. His contributions extend beyond routine procedures; he has been instrumental in introducing complex interventions that were previously unavailable in J&K.

One such milestone was the placement of a cholecholedodenal stent, a technically demanding procedure for a patient suffering from a duodenal tumor with extrahepatic biliary obstruction (EHBO). This achievement, performed three years ago at the Super Specialty Hospital, Shereenbagh, garnered widespread media attention, highlighting Wani's expertise in handling intricate cases.

Recently, a doctor from a private hospital in



emphasized the importance of accurate medical historiography. "Medicine is about collaboration and acknowledging the work of peers," he stated. "However, it's equally crucial to ensure that credit is given where it's due, not just for professional integrity but also to inspire young doctors to pursue excellence."

Media reports has claimed to be the first to perform this stent placement technique in Kashmir. However, records indicate that Wani and his team had successfully executed the procedure as far back as 2017, following extensive training between 2011 and 2012 in specialized centers.

Wani, maintaining his characteristic humility,

As the medical fraternity debates precedence, Wani remains focused on his mission: bringing world class treatments to Kashmir. "Our goal should be patient welfare," he remarked. "Whether it's a new technique or refining existing ones, what matters is that patients receive the best possible care."

# DC B'la reviews progress under Capex Budget 2025-26

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** In a proactive initiative to accelerate developmental activities under the Capex Budget 2025-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired two sector-wise review meetings at the DC Office Baramulla to assess physical and financial progress across departments.

The first meeting focused on key departments including Irrigation, Public Works Department (R&B), Education (Elementary and Secondary), Youth Services & Sports, Health, and Public Health Engineering (PHE). Department officers presented PowerPoint presentations highlighting the status of ongoing projects.

DC conducted a detailed review, stressing transparency, optimal fund utilization, and strict quality control in project execution.

In the second session, DC engaged with officials from the Rural Develop-



ment Department (RDD) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB), reviewing the progress of PRI, BDC, DDC, and urban sector works. Emphasis was laid on clearing pending liabilities and ensuring progress aligns with the fund allocation under these critical components.

Highlighting the importance of timely action, DC directed all departments to expedite project execution, regularly update the BEAMS portal, and mandatorily submit detailed plans for new works under the 2025-26 Capex Budget by July 10 to facilitate early

administrative approvals. Calling for inter-departmental coordination and a focus on high-impact public works, DC reiterated the administration's commitment to accountable and citizen-centric governance through timely and transparent development planning.

Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Joint Director Planning, Superintendent Engineer R&B, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other concerned officers and officials were present in the meeting.

# DLIC approves 59 cases under Mission Yuva scheme in G'bal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** To examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Tuesday chaired District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting here in the V.C room of DC Office Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The com-

mittee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU), and after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 59 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval

support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units. DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Lead District Manager; Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

# District level workshop on PAI 2.0 held in Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** One day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 (PAI) was held Tuesday at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to apprise the stakeholder departments about the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Diverse sessions on SDGs, their relevance to Panchayats, structure and utility of PAI and its linkage with the nine LSDG themes besides understanding new improvements in the new evaluation tools were conducted by theme experts.

The sessions were presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone, and were attended by ACP, GM DIC, DTO, ExEn PDD, CAO and other officers and

officials of various departments.

The focus of the workshop was on apprising the stakeholder officials about the new and improved version of Panchayat Evaluation and Assessment.

Panchayat Assessment Index (PAI), formerly Panchayat Development Index (PDI) is a comprehensive tool designed to assess the multi dimensional development status of a panchayat, where it evaluates the progress of panchayats in achieving the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Convergent Planning, pooling minimum resources with maximum output was emphasised. Nine themes to be targeted for saturation included advancements in sectors including Infrastructure, health, education, social development, governance, environment, etc.

# House Committee on JJM holds 4th meet at Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Tuesday held its fourth meeting at Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Mohammad Yousuf Tariqami, Ali Mohammad Dar, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Arjun Singh Raju.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti department, Shaleen Kabra; Mission Director JJM; Chief Engineer PHE Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officers of the department were present in the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underscored that this Committee has been given an important assignment to look in alleged irregularities



in implementation of JJM, a flagship initiative aimed to provide adequate and safe drinking water to public.

The Chairman also called upon the members of Committee to conduct field visits of districts in

order to gather on ground assessment of various works being executed under JJM.

The members of the Committee, during the meeting, also spoke on different aspects of the JJM.

# Capacity Building Program for ASHAs held in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** A comprehensive training and capacity-building program was Tuesday conducted for ASHAs at Shopian focusing on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), proper filling of various formats, and related field responsibilities. The sessions were effectively led by Master Trainers.

The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of ASHAs for better community health delivery and efficient reporting in line with national health objectives.



# Awareness camp under BBBP held at Hermain Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** An awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was organised Tuesday by Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian at Hermain Block, Shopian.

The programme began with an opening address by District Mission Coordinator, Sankalp Hub who sensitized the audience about the critical importance of educating the girl child and empowering her in every sphere of life. She underlined how investing in girls' education and well-being not only uplifts families but lays the foundation for a strong and progressive society.

Adding further value to the programme, Gender Specialist, Sankalp Hub conducted an informative session where she

briefed participants about various government welfare schemes specifically meant for women and girls. She explained the eligibility criteria, required documentation and shared important helpline numbers, ensuring the attendees were better equipped to access these entitlements and assist others in doing the same.

The event witnessed enthusiastic involvement from ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and community members, reflecting strong grassroots participation and a shared commitment to gender equity.

The programme concluded with a pledge ceremony, where the community reaffirmed its dedication to protect girls from all forms of injustice and to ensure they are given every opportunity to lead safe, dignified, and fulfilling lives.

# Special Lok-Adalat for MACT, Matrimonial Cases on July 26 in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** A Special Lok-Adalat for amicable settlement of MACT & Matrimonial cases is scheduled to be held at District Court Complex Kulgam and in Taluka

Courts of the district on 26 July, 2025 (Saturday).

During the Lok Adalat, all such cases pre and post litigation pending before the courts shall be taken up for amicable settlement. All the Judicial Officers at

District Headquarter Kulgam & other Judicial Officers at Taluka Courts are requested to identify the cases fit to be taken up in the said Lok-Adalat. The list of such cases be furnished to DLSA Kulgam by or before 22-07-2025.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**DEPARTMENT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT J&K**  
 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT  
**INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE-BARAMULLA**  
 No:-ITI/Bla/Trgs/2024/243-47  
 Dated:-04-07-2025  
**SELECTION LIST NOTIFICATION-(ROUND 1<sup>st</sup> 2025-26-27)**  
 The Provisional Selection list (Round 1<sup>st</sup>) of the candidates who have submitted Online applications for seeking admission to various trades of this Institute for the session 2025-26-27 compiled by the IT Cell. The selection list is based on the marks obtained by the candidates in the minimum qualifying examination and various reservation guidelines of the Department of Skill Development. The selected candidates of "Round 1<sup>st</sup>" are advised to complete all the admission formalities by 24th of July 2025. Along with the prescribed admission fees, the selected candidate will have to submit the following documents in original at the time of admission.  
 1. Marks certificate of the qualifying examination 2. Domicile Certificate 3. Date of birth certificate 4. Discharge certificate from the institution last attended.  
 4. Category Certificate (Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Ex-Serviceman/differently abled / Economically Weaker Sections and OBC) if applicable.  
 Apart from these documents the candidate has also to submit (i) Attested copy of Aadhar card (ii) Three Passport size Photographs.  
 Important:  
 4. The validity of selection of a candidate is subject to the authentication of the requisite Original documents which will be scrutinized and verified thoroughly by a verification committee constituted for the purpose. Any fraudulent and misleading attempt or submission of forged /scanned/fake document will invite instantaneous legal action.  
 8. All the courses are full time with a minimum compulsory attendance of eighty percent required to appear in the final examination.  
 10. Candidature of Ex-trainees having completed their training course after August 2023 can be considered only in trades having poor response.  
 11. Any genuine grievance or objection may be submitted in writing to the undersigned before the closing date of operating the Round One selection list.  
 12. The original documents requisite for admission will retain in the ITI till completion of course.  
 Yours faithfully  
**Principal**  
 Govt. ITI Baramulla  
 DIPP-3420-25  
 DT: 08/07/2025

**FIRST IN INDIA**

# SKUAST-K Celebrates Innovation with 72 Startups, 88 Patents at Convocation

**BILAL BASHIR BHAT**

**SRINAGAR:** In a pioneering move, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) became the first agricultural university in India to honor innovation and entrepreneurship as part of its convocation ceremony.

At its 6th Convocation held at the Shalimar Campus, SKUAST-K felicitated 72 agri-startups and 88 patentees under the SKUAST-K Innovation Ambassadors initiative—marking a historic first in aligning academic achievements with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was graced by Union Agriculture Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha,



and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, whose presence underscored the national significance of the occasion.

"This is exactly how the NEP envisions higher education—not just as a path to degrees, but as a launchpad for innovation and impact," said Naveed

Bhat, CEO of the SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE).

The success of the initiative is credited to the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and the dedicated efforts of the SKIIE team, transforming

SKUAST-K into a national model for innovation-led agricultural education.

"This convocation was more than ceremonial—it was a bold statement about the university's role in driving economic self-reliance and technological progress," noted one of the medallists.

## Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of CE R&B, PMGSY offices in Srinagar



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday conducted a surprise inspection of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) and PMGSY offices in Rajbagh, Srinagar to assess the operational efficiency and employee punctuality.

The inspection was aimed at ensuring seamlessly functioning of the department, with a focus on timely execution of duties and projects.

During the inspection, the Dy CM reviewed the attendance registers to verify the presence of staff across different branches. He emphasised the importance of punctuality, stating that timely arrival at the workplace was essential for maintaining discipline and ensuring smooth operations.

Surinder Choudhary, while interacting with the staff there, maintained that the government is committed to ensure speedy and hassle free delivery of public services

to the people. He directed the employees to strictly adhere to office hours, underscoring that consistent punctuality reflects a commitment to public service and enhanced department's credibility.

The Dy CM also instructed the officials to avoid any mismanagement in their work and prioritise timely completion of all ongoing projects. He highlighted that delay in project execution could weaken public trust. He stressed that disciplined work ethics are foundational towards achieving the departmental goals.

The Deputy Chief Minister also asked the senior officials to closely monitor the attendance and project progress, ensuring that any lapse in this regard is addressed promptly.

Emphasising on the need for transparency, timely execution, improved citizen service and cleanliness, the Dy CM stressed for speedy disposal of pending bills for seamless execution of projects without any hindrance.

## Top Officials Meet GCC Delegation Over Grave Civic Concerns in Kashmir

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development, a high-level meeting chaired by the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir was held on Tuesday to address pressing civic issues flagged by the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) J&K, a civil society forum comprising retired bureaucrats, engineers, doctors, and policy experts.

The meeting, held in Srinagar, saw participation from senior officials including the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, Director Health Services, SSP Traffic, and engineers from UEED and other departments.

The GCC delegation, led by former Divisional Commissioner Naseem Lanker (Retd. IAS), included prominent figures such as Er. Mohammad Ashraf Fazili (Retd. Chief Engineer), Mr. Abdul Rashid Khan (IGP Retd.), Dr. Farooq Ahmad Kaloo (Former Director, Animal Husbandry), Dr. Fiaz Fazili (Health Policy Expert), Er. Hakim Iftikhar (Former Chief Town Planner), Er. Iftikhar A. Drabu (WSP India; Head of Nordics, ICRC), and Mohammad Rafi (Former Director Education & Dy Commissioner, Secretary GCC J&K).

The GCC highlighted the environmental and health hazards posed by the Achan landfill, warning that toxic gases ema-

nating from the site may be affecting residents in Eidgah, Lal Bazar, Soura, and even patients at SKIMS Hospital. The group warned of increased risks of cancer, respiratory issues, allergies, and infertility.

They urged the administration to conduct a comprehensive gas emission survey, install continuous air quality monitoring, and issue public advisories aligned with OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards.

The group expressed concern over a makeshift dumping site near Jamkash, Hyderabad, where women are seen sorting waste barehanded, exposing themselves to severe health risks. GCC demanded immediate intervention to halt the practice and ensure safe handling protocols.

GCC stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination, stricter regulations to curb haphazard construction, and public awareness campaigns to educate residents on health and environmental safety.

The Divisional Commissioner assured the GCC delegation that all issues raised would be reviewed on priority. He directed concerned departments to initiate prompt action and emphasized that public health and environmental safety remain top priorities for the administration.

## Rana felicitates officials of Wildlife Department at Dachigam

Inaugurates Wildlife Research & Training Centre, training course on Wildlife Laws

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**DACHIGAM:** Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday felicitated the officers and staff of the Wildlife Department for their outstanding achievement in conservation of protected areas in Jammu and Kashmir during an event organised at Dachigam National Park.

The Minister appreciated the officers and other stakeholders who contributed in making Dachigam National Park highest-scoring protected area in the country with a remarkable score of 92.97% in Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) exercise conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

MLA Salman Ali Sagor, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Sarvesh Rai; Senior Officers/ HoDs; representatives of NGOs; staff and trainees attended the felicitation ceremony.

Rana said that Dachigam National Park's achievement is a testament



to the unwavering commitment and dedication of the forest department, wildlife experts and local communities towards conservation of protected areas.

Hailing the achievement, Javed Rana said that the park's excellence in biodiversity protection, ecological management, staff efficiency and community engagement has set a benchmark for other protected areas to follow. He said that there is a long way to go and hoped that the department will continue to work with renewed enthusiasm.

Highlighting the impacts of trespassing natural boundaries of ecology, Javed Rana said that today's climatic challenges being faced at national and international level are due to the ecological imbalance attributed to unrestricted man activities. He said that

the Omar Abdullah-led Government's commitment to protect Jammu and Kashmir's natural heritage and promote eco-tourism, biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration.

On the occasion, the Minister inaugurated the Wildlife Research & Training Centre and a one-day compulsory training course on Wildlife Laws for Officers.

Javed Rana also released a booklet titled "Insights to Wildlife Health" and a Scroll of Honour on celebration of the event.

MLA Salam Sagor highlighted the need to create awareness among the locals regarding management and conservation efforts.

Commissioner Secretary, Sheetal Nanda, said that it is a proud moment for all of us that Dachigam National Park has gained national recognition in conservation and management efforts. She said that there is need to do more for maintaining the ecological balance in the coming years, amidst development pressures.

PCCF Suresh Kumar Gupta said that there are challenges in the conservation journey and we have to replicate the best practices in other protected areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

## DC Srinagar visits UPHCs of Nishat, Harwan, inspects upgradation works

## Haj Committee of India opens application process for Haj 2026

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**



**GMK NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an on-site review of the infrastructural works at Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) located in Nishat and Harwan areas of the district to take appraisal of the overall health infra available at these two centres.

The visit was also aimed to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works to further strengthen and improve the patient care facilities ensuring that better medical facilities are provided to the local population.

At Urban Primary Health Centre, Harwan, DC inspected diagnostic labs, and other sections of the Health Centre. He also inspected the newly

installed Digital Computed Radiography machine recently installed under District Capex to provide Digital X-Ray facility to the patients.

Later, DC visited the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Nishat and took stock of the functioning of the facility. He also inspected the 2nd floor of the UPHC Nishat which is nearing completion to strengthen the healthcare services at the facility.

While interacting with the senior health functionaries and staff of the Health Centre, DC laid emphasis on providing better medical facilities to the patients, besides treating them in a compassionate manner. He stressed the importance of accessible and quality healthcare services to urban, rural and tribal populations of the area.

**NEW DELHI:** The Haj Committee of India, under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, has officially opened the application process for Haj 2026, a sacred pilgrimage of profound importance for the Muslim community.

Intending pilgrims can submit their applications through the official Haj portal <https://hajcommittee.gov.in> or via the "HAJ SUVIDHA" mobile application, available for both iOS and Android users. The online application window will remain open from 7th July 2025 to 31st July 2025 (11:59 PM).

Applicants have to thoroughly read the Guidelines and Undertakings before submitting their forms. It is mandatory to possess a

machine-readable Indian International Passport issued on or before the last date of application, and valid at least till 31st December 2026.

The Haj Committee also advises applicants to consider their preparedness carefully before applying. Cancellations, except in the unfortunate event of death or a grave medical emergency, will invite penalties and could lead to financial loss.

This announcement marks the beginning of yet another opportunity for thousands of Indian Muslims to fulfil their spiritual aspiration of performing Haj with the support and facilitation of the Government of India.

For detailed instructions, visit <https://hajcommittee.gov.in>.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Yasmeen Jan, W/o Late Shameem Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Peth Dialgam, Anantnag, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for a Dependency Certificate from the office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Anantnag in respect of my late husband, Shameem Ahmad Sheikh, who was an employee by profession and passed away on 23-04-2025.

The deceased has left behind the following dependents:

- Adeena Shamim, aged 14 years Daughter
- Hurmat Rani, aged 8 years Daughter
- Yasmeen Jan, aged 51 years Wife

Any person having any objection, claim, or interest in this matter is hereby requested to submit the same in writing to the office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the matter shall be processed further without any objections.

## Satish Sharma launches Kashmir Super League 2025

Reiterates Govt's commitment to sports development, youth empowerment

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, IT & Transport, Satish Sharma, Tuesday launched Kashmir Super Football League 2025 besides unveiling the tournament trophy and official jerseys.

The launch event, held with great enthusiasm, marks a significant milestone in the sporting calendar of Jammu and Kashmir. Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafiz; Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; Chief Sports Officer Annisa Nabi; senior officers of Sports Council, Football veterans and legends of J&K, coaches, participating teams and sports enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma extended heartfelt congratulations



to the Sports Department, Sports Council and other stakeholders for their tireless efforts in promoting sporting activities and building infrastructure across the Union Territory.

The Minister highlighted the rich legacy of sports in Kashmir, stating, "Kashmir has always been home to a unique sporting talent. It is heartening to see initiatives like the Kashmir

Super League reviving and celebrating that culture in a structured and professional manner."

Satish Sharma emphasized that sports is a powerful tool to fight against drug abuse and other social evils. "Youth today are facing numerous challenges and sports offers a healthy and productive alternative that not only builds physical fitness but

also strengthens character, discipline and teamwork. It is a frontline defence in our fight against substance abuse," he remarked.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government, the Minister said that the administration is focused on upgrading the sports infrastructure, expanding outreach to rural and border areas and creating sustainable platforms for youth engagement through leagues, tournaments and grassroots programs.

With six teams participating in the Kashmir Super League 2025, the tournament promises to be a celebration of talent, spirit and unity.

"We are committed towards building a sporting ecosystem that nurtures talent, fosters inclusion and creates opportunities for our youth to shine,

both nationally and internationally," the Minister maintained.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports highlighted the importance of conducting such types of sports activities that provide a platform to young and aspiring sports persons. He said that leagues provide requisite exposure to footballers besides polishing their talent.

Secretary Sports Council, while speaking on the occasion, gave an overview of the sports activities being undertaken by the council. She also gave a brief about the Super League.

The event drew wide public attention, with enthusiastic participation from football lovers, athletes and youth clubs, reflecting the growing popularity of football in the region.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU /SRINAGAR.

### NOTICE

Subject:- Compassionate appointment case of Mrs. Ashwar Shalani W/o Shailender Singh Baloria, R/o Karan Nagar, District Jammu under RAS-2022.

It is hereby informed through the medium of this notice that the Competent Authority has approved the Compassionate appointment under Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme 2022 in favour of Mrs. Ashwar Shalani W/o Shailender Singh Baloria, R/o Karan Nagar, District Jammu against the post of MTS(Class-IV) lying vacant in Agriculture Department Jammu (District Jammu).

Before the issuance of formal appointment order in favour of the applicant, it is mandatory to seek the Character and Antecedents verification report of the applicant from Criminal Investigation Department in terms of Clause 12 (vii) of S.O 397 of Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme 2022. As such, the applicant is hereby advised to provide her particulars. Contact, Mobile number and email ID to Dr. Sahil Jandyal, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu, Mobile No. 9419234144 on email ID ([sahiliandyal.kas@jk.gov.in](mailto:sahiliandyal.kas@jk.gov.in)) within twenty one (21) days from the issuance of this notice, for uploading the same on the Employees Verification system on the following format:

Name of the candidate	
Parentage	
Permanent Address as per Domicile Certificate	
Mobile No.	
E-mail ID	

No. Agri-NG/46/2024 (7457665) DIPK-3408-25 (Fayaz Ahmad Bhat) Under Secretary to the Government. Dated 24.06.2025 DT: 08/07/2025

## Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

### PMAY's Slow March – A Wake-Up Call on Public Awareness

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), envisioned as a transformative housing scheme for the economically weaker sections, has yet to gain meaningful traction in several regions across the country. While the intent behind the initiative is commendable—"Housing for All" by providing affordable and quality homes—the reality on the ground paints a disappointing picture.

In many districts, including ours, the pace of implementation remains sluggish. Beneficiaries are few, and construction lags well behind targets. There may be multiple reasons for this delay—bureaucratic red tape, land acquisition issues, or procedural inefficiencies. However, one core issue overshadows the rest: a glaring lack of awareness among the intended beneficiaries.

Government agencies responsible for disseminating information about the PMAY have failed to engage the people it is meant to uplift. Instead of proactive outreach, what we have witnessed are half-hearted campaigns—scattered hoardings, occasional newspaper ads, and some token community meetings. Such superficial efforts barely scratch the surface of public consciousness, especially in rural or semi-urban areas where digital penetration is low, and illiteracy remains a challenge.

The result? The very people who are supposed to benefit from the scheme—low-income families, informal workers, single women, and slum dwellers—remain unaware of how to apply, what the eligibility criteria are, or even that such a scheme exists in the first place. For them, PMAY remains just another acronym in the alphabet soup of government programmes.

It is high time that awareness is treated not as an afterthought but as a cornerstone of policy execution. Local bodies, municipal corporations, and rural development departments must adopt a grassroots approach. Door-to-door outreach, vernacular language campaigns, partnerships with community leaders, self-help groups, and local NGOs can help bridge the information gap. Public meetings, mobile information vans, and simplified guidance centers must be made regular features rather than one-off efforts.

Furthermore, awareness should go hand in hand with transparency. Applicants must not only be informed but also guided through the process—with dedicated helpdesks, easy-to-navigate portals, and grievance redressal mechanisms that actually work.

The failure to adequately promote PMAY is not just a lapse in communication; it is a denial of opportunity. The government has a blueprint for transformation, but unless the voices of the most marginalized are heard and informed, the dream of a pucca house for every Indian family will remain just that—a dream. Let this be a clarion call to policymakers and implementers alike: Wake up the public, and the scheme will come alive.

# An Open Letter to Dy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary

Restore the Forgotten Link, Make Back to Village Visible in Nadora-Kralmad

Respected Sir,

I write this open letter as a humble voice from the foot of the mighty Pir Panjal, from the heart of South Kashmir's Doru Tehsil, on behalf of the silent, long-waiting villagers of Nadora-Kralmad. It is a cry for attention, not confrontation. It is a reminder—not a complaint. And most of all, it is a sincere appeal to the highest authorities to turn promises into presence, plans into pavement, and sanctions into service—before hope fades again into silence.

Over twenty years ago, a vital link road from Upper Nadora to Upper Kralmad was constructed by the Roads and Buildings Department in Village Nadora-Kralmad. The road, though modest in size, was mighty in meaning. It connected livelihoods, brought people closer to healthcare and education, and symbolised the beginning of rural integration. The villagers of Doru, particularly Nadora-Kralmad, were full of praise for the department and especially for then MLA Doru, Gh. Ahmad Mir Sahib, whose efforts made the road a reality.

Yet, decades later, the story is one of half-complete dreams and full-blown neglect.

A decade ago, a portion of this road was macadamised, giving villagers a taste of what real connectivity feels like. But only half the stretch received the blacktop, and since then, the road has slowly deteriorated. The remaining part has turned to dust and potholes, especially during rains, rendering the road hazardous for vehicles and almost non-traversable for elderly residents and school-going children.

The macadamised portion has also suffered wear and tear, and today, the entire link road—once a symbol of hope—is now an abandoned artery, leading not to progress, but to disillusionment.

We are told of crores being spent on rural infrastructure. We hear about Smart Cities, expressways, tunnels, and widening projects. Yet here, in this forgotten corner of Anantnag district, a few kilometers of link road wait for mere repair and completion.

In the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji launched the ambitious "Back to Village" (B2V) programme—a grassroots governance mission that brought officers, departments, and policymakers face-to-face with the people. For the first time, villagers felt seen and heard.

During Back to Village Phase I and Phase II, a senior visiting officer came to our village and conducted public meetings. The Nadora-Kralmad road was prominently mentioned in public interactions. The visiting officer duly recorded our grievances, and assured follow-up. The matter of macadamisation and repair was acknowledged officially. The people rejoiced, believing that now, at last, the project will be completed.

As part of the Power Development Department's rural electrification initiatives, a transformer was sanctioned for our area five years ago. In preparation, two iron poles were erected inside the graveyard of Lower Kralmad, meant to support the transformer and the electric wiring. The sight of

poles in the graveyard seemed odd but promising—perhaps a temporary compromise to speed up implementation.

But since that day, the poles have stood rusting amidst silence and overgrown grass. No transformer ever came. No electricity upgrade followed. Five long years have passed, and people still ask: Was it real? Was it sanctioned? Who will complete it?

Even today, voltage fluctuations, overloading, and frequent outages plague the residents, especially during winters. Students cannot study. Small businesses suffer. And most importantly, the villagers feel cheated—not because the transformer wasn't delivered, but because faith was built and broken.

Through this open letter, we appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Roads and Buildings, the Hon'ble Minister of Power Development, and the Chief Engineers of both departments to intervene immediately and restore public trust by completing these two basic developmental works:

- Macadamisation and Repair of the Nadora-Kralmad Road in full length, including widening where necessary.
- Installation of the sanctioned transformer along with a safe, alternative pole structure (preferably outside the graveyard), to improve electricity supply to the village.

We are not asking for multi-crore projects. We are not demanding special treatment. We are only reminding the government that Sabka Vikas

includes villages like ours, and that a road left half-done is a promise half-kept.

Why It Matters

- A village road and a transformer may seem minor in a nation of a billion dreams. But to us, they are lifelines.
- For the children of Upper Kralmad, a well-laid road means reaching school on time and safely.
- For the ailing and elderly, it means easier access to healthcare.
- For women, especially expecting mothers, it means reduced risk in medical emergencies.
- For farmers, it means transporting goods and tools more efficiently.
- And for the youth, it symbolises that the government hasn't forgotten them.

Similarly, the transformer project is not just about electricity. It is about ensuring that when India speaks of Digital India, our village isn't in the dark—literally and metaphorically.

The delay in these two small works does more harm than visible. It erodes the credibility of government schemes. It makes a mockery of the B2V documentation where these projects were recorded. It also reflects poorly on implementation mechanisms and accountability channels at the field level.

How can B2V be meaningful if even officially sanctioned works remain pending for years? How can we explain to villagers that iron poles in a graveyard are "progress"? How do we defend macadamisation that ends halfway, when the

road still stretches ahead?

Sir, this letter is not intended to criticise but to request redressal in the true spirit of democracy. As citizens, we believe in the vision of the Honourable Prime Minister, who has made rural empowerment a cornerstone of national development. We have faith in the system, in the institutions, and in the leaders who promise us "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance."

All we ask is this:

- Send a team from R&B Department to survey the current status of the Nadora-Kralmad road.
- Allocate funds and ensure complete macadamisation before the onset of winter.
- Ask the PDD authorities to install a transformer that has been already sanctioned.

B2V is not merely a programme. It is Prime Minister Modi Ji's dream of inclusive growth. But for that dream to materialise, departments must convert field visits into field action.

Let Nadora-Kralmad be a model of micro-level transformation. Let this letter be a turning point, not a dead end. Let this be a testament of listening leadership—not just in slogans, but in soil.

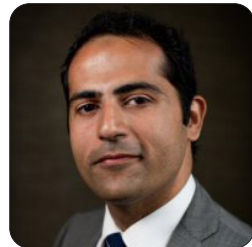
We believe in the slogan: "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

Now, we ask for Sabka Sunwai—so that no village is left behind.

Thanking You

Mohd Amin Mir  
miramin354@gmail.com

## China's Rare Earth monopoly is a global threat



RISHI SURI

The world is once again waking up to the brutal reality of China's strategic dominance over rare earth elements (REEs), the critical minerals that power everything from electric vehicles and smartphones to guided missiles and renewable energy systems. A recent report from Reuters has laid bare how China is now actively leveraging its control over rare earth processing to pressure rebels in Myanmar's Kachin State, threatening to sever global access to nearly half the world's supply of heavy rare earths (HREEs).

This is not just a geopolitical flare-up in Southeast Asia. It is a flashing red light for the global economy, and a stark warning: whoever controls the rare earth supply chain, controls the future. Fortunately, one major country is preparing to defy this monopoly. That country is India.

### China's New Economic Weapon: Rare Earths

For years, China has quietly amassed overwhelming control of rare earths. While it only holds about 36% of the world's rare earth reserves, it is responsible for over 90% of the world's processing capacity. This means that even if the raw minerals are mined elsewhere, they're almost always refined in China.

This control has translated into real political muscle. Nowhere is this clearer than in Myanmar, where China is trying to dictate battlefield outcomes through economic pressure. The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), a powerful rebel group, recently took over



major mining sites in northern Myanmar. China's response? Threaten to halt imports entirely unless the rebels comply with Beijing's wishes. This is a move straight out of the authoritarian playbook, weaponizing supply chains to influence sovereign and non-sovereign actors alike.

The implications are vast. Already, prices of rare earth elements such as dysprosium and terbium, critical for high-performance magnets in EVs and defense technologies have surged. Industries across the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Southeast Asia are scrambling to respond. Many had assumed rare earths were just another commodity. They are now realizing they are a strategic vulnerability.

### The World's Response: Too Slow, Too Fragmented

Despite the alarm bells, the global response remains sluggish. The U.S. has signed deals to source rare earths from Australia and Greenland. The European Union is investing in recycling and secondary sourcing. But none of these projects will mature fast enough to offset the short-term supply crunch or break the monopoly.

Even more worryingly, China isn't just restricting

access to raw materials, it's tightening controls over finished rare earth products. In April 2025, Beijing implemented new licensing rules on exports of rare earth magnets, directly targeting global manufacturers dependent on Chinese-made components.

This is not protectionism. This is economic warfare by stealth.

### India's Rare Earth Strategy: A Rising Power Steps Up

Unlike many others, India has been quietly building the foundation of a rare earths counter-strategy. As the world's fastest-growing major economy and a future manufacturing hub, India cannot afford to be a hostage to China's whims. Recognizing this, New Delhi has made securing rare earths a matter of national importance.

First, India holds significant rare earth reserves, estimated to be the fifth largest in the world. While these were underutilized for decades, this is rapidly changing. The government is pushing forward with new exploration projects and reworking policies to allow private sector involvement in mining, something that was long restricted to public sector

units.

In May 2024, India launched a strategic minerals alliance with countries like Australia, Canada, and Vietnam. This multilateral initiative focuses on co-investing in rare earth extraction, processing, and trade routes that bypass China. India has also signed bilateral pacts for supply diversification, including a major deal with Kazakhstan for rare earths and critical metals.

Second, India is investing heavily in domestic processing capacity. The Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), under the Department of Atomic Energy, is working to expand its processing plants, while new pilot facilities in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are being commissioned for refining high-value heavy rare earths.

Third, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Defence are jointly developing magnet production and component manufacturing facilities using domestically sourced and refined REEs. This is key for national security, especially as global tensions rise.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, India is building resilience into the supply chain. New strategic stockpiles of key rare earths are being cre-

ated under the National Critical Minerals Strategy. Much like the petroleum reserve, this stockpile will act as a buffer in the event of export disruptions.

### Geopolitics and the Minerals Race

China's actions in Myanmar are a clear warning that the battle for minerals is the new great power contest. Much like oil shaped 20th-century geopolitics, rare earths will shape the 21st. And just as OPEC once held the world hostage through oil embargoes, China today is signaling that it will do the same with critical minerals.

But this time, the world has choices. India is emerging as one of the most serious contenders to provide an alternative. Its geological endowment, growing industrial base, and assertive diplomacy make it a credible challenger to Beijing's monopoly.

The need of the hour is for like-minded democracies to rally behind India's efforts, through co-investment, technology sharing, and long-term trade pacts. The Quad and BRICS can be ideal platforms for such collaboration, especially as India pushes for multilateral rules on rare earth access.

China's weaponization of rare earths is not just a regional issue, it's a global crisis in the making. If left unchecked, it will create a mineral iron curtain around the world's technology and defense sectors.

India, however, is showing that alternatives are possible. With smart policy, global partnerships, and strategic ambition, New Delhi could soon be the world's next critical minerals powerhouse, and a bulwark against China's economic coercion.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Millap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper. He can be mailed at rishisuri@dailygoodmorningkashmir.com

# Roasts, Reels and Responsibility: The Harm Principle and Free Speech



FAROOQ AHMAD BAKLOO

While social media platforms have undoubtedly become powerful tools of empowerment and expression, their misuse is increasingly raising concerns. Recently, several accounts have been blocked for violating community guidelines and ethical standards. This serves as a crucial reminder: empowerment through digital platforms comes with responsibility. Every user must not only be aware of the immense potential of social media but also be well-versed in its ethical use. Freedom of expression should not be mistaken for a license to spread vulgarity, misinformation, or hate. In a civil digital society, ethics are the backbone of meaningful and respectful communication. While social media platforms have empowered millions by giving them a voice, they have also brought with them a darker reality—a dangerous surge in vulgar, abusive, and harmful content masquerading as comedy and entertainment.

From Facebook reels to Instagram stories and YouTube vlogs, a large portion of Kashmiri digital content has taken a problematic turn. What was once a platform for creative expression and healthy dialogue has now been overtaken by "roasting" culture, vulgar jokes, and offensive language under the garb of humour? Disturbingly, many of the creators of such content hide behind the constitutional protection granted under Article 19(1) (a) of the Indian Constitution, claiming freedom of speech and expression.

However, constitutional freedoms are not absolute. While Article 19(1) (a) guarantees freedom of speech, Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution clearly provides for "reasonable restrictions" in the interest of public order, decency, morality, and the integrity of the nation. This crucial balance between liberty and responsibility is being dangerously tilted by the rising digital vulgarity in Kashmir. In recent years, videos targeting individuals, mocking physical appearances, spreading vulgar innuendos, and promoting abusive language have become commonplace. These videos often receive thousands of views and likes, encouraging more creators to join the race for digital popularity, regardless of the content's moral or legal implications.

Philosopher J.S. Mill's "harm principle" states that liberty must be limited when it begins to harm others. When creators release content that publicly humiliates others, uses derogatory language, and spreads moral decay, they are no longer exercising free speech—they are abusing it. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, has been interpreted by the judiciary to include the right to live with dignity. Vulgar content that targets individuals, especially women and children, violates their right to dignity and personal security.

Furthermore, Article 39(f) of the Directive Principles of State Policy clearly states the obligation of the state to protect children from exploitation and moral degradation.

Unfortunately, the creators of such content often justify their actions by calling it "comedy." But the line between humour and humiliation is clearly defined in both ethical and constitutional terms. Good comedy uplifts and brings people together, while vulgar roasting and abusive content alienate, demean, and divide. In Kashmir, where social cohesion is fragile and the wounds of conflict still run deep, such digital trends are dangerous. They threaten the cultural integrity and emotional balance of society.

The legal framework to tackle this issue exists, but its enforcement needs strict implementation in this context. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, particularly Section 69A, empowers the government to block online content that affects public

order or decency. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, make it mandatory for platforms to remove such harmful content and appoint grievance officers to handle complaints. Furthermore, the The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which has replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), represents a significant overhaul of India's criminal justice framework in line with modern societal needs, especially those arising from the digital era.

One of its most notable strengths lies in its strong legal provisions against defamation, obscenity, religious insult, and the circulation of vulgar content, issues that have become increasingly rampant on social media platforms such as Facebook. Under the BNS, Section 356 addresses criminal defamation, extending its scope to include online and digital spaces. This makes individuals liable for intentionally damaging another person's reputation through memes, videos, or posts on Facebook and other social media platforms. Similarly, Section 354 focuses on obscene acts, gestures, and language, criminalizing vulgar digital content that undermines public morality or objectifies women, a trend seen widely in the form of "comedy reels" or sexually suggestive material shared for entertainment.

In addition, Section 298

of the BNS specifically deals with insults to religion and religious beliefs. It prohibits any content—written, spoken, or visual—that is deliberately intended to offend or provoke religious communities. This provision has become crucial as social media is increasingly used to circulate controversial religious jokes, edited videos, or inflammatory posts that hurt the sentiments of communities. Furthermore, the BNS also strengthens laws related to public mischief and the spread of false information, as outlined in Section 153, which applies to the creation and circulation of misleading, provocative, or false narratives via online platforms. This becomes particularly relevant in the context of viral content that spreads communal hatred, false accusations, or public outrage through deceptive media.

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, strong punitive measures have been introduced to address the growing menace of vulgar,

erately offend religious sentiments. Likewise, Section 153 of the BNS focuses on public mischief and the spread of false, misleading, or provocative information, such as edited videos or communal hate posts, and provides for imprisonment up to three years with an additional fine.

In cases of online abuse, threats, or character assassination—especially targeting women and minors—Section 124 offers legal recourse with imprisonment up to two years, or a fine, or both. These punishments can be more severe in instances where the digital offence leads to social unrest or mental trauma for the victim. Alongside these, the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021, remain applicable, making it mandatory for platforms to remove objectionable content within 36 hours of notice. Failure to comply may result in the loss of legal immunity under Section 79 of the IT Act, holding the platform itself accountable for hosting illegal material.

practices. Roasting, which originally referred to humorous and friendly banter, has turned into a toxic culture of humiliation and abuse. People are publicly shamed for their looks, accents, personal habits, or beliefs, all under the illusion of humour.

To curb this trend, a multi-pronged strategy is needed. First and foremost, digital literacy must be integrated into the school curriculum under Article 21A (Right to Education). Students must be taught the ethical, legal, and psychological aspects of online behaviour. They must learn that each like, share, or comment has consequences. Educators, parents, and community leaders must work together to build a culture of responsible digital citizenship.

Secondly, social media platforms must take greater responsibility. Under Section 79 of the IT Act and the IT Rules 2021, platforms are obligated to remove unlawful content once notified. But they must go beyond passive

parent. The blocking of accounts or removal of content must be communicated clearly, with reasons and evidence. A publicly accessible grievance redressal system should be established so that users can challenge wrongful actions and receive timely responses.

Finally, there must be space for community-driven digital platforms. Encouraging local creators to produce content in education, history, culture, science, and mental health can help shift public interest away from toxic content. Providing training, funding, and promotion to ethical content creators can lead to a positive content revolution.

In this digital age, where smartphones are mightier than swords and reels reach further than reason, the moral compass of online expression in Kashmir is in urgent need of recalibration. The growing culture of vulgarity, roasting, and emotional assault masked as entertainment is not just an aesthetic concern—it is a constitutional and ethical crisis. The overuse and misuse of Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees freedom of speech, cannot be allowed to silence the foundational values of decency, dignity, and public order enshrined in Article 19(2). Kashmir's cultural fragility, its vulnerable youth population, and its conflict-stained psychological landscape make it all the more necessary to draw a clear line between liberty and harm.

It is here that J.S. Mill's Harm Principle becomes indispensable—not just as an academic ideal, but as a guiding light for democratic responsibility. Mill reminds us that the liberty to speak, joke, or critique must end where it begins to inflict damage—whether that damage is emotional, reputational, psychological, or communal. When creators deliberately craft content that humiliates individuals, disrespects religious sensitivities, or corrupts young minds through vulgarity, they are not using freedom—they are weaponizing it. In such cases, as both Mill and the Indian Constitution agree, the state has not only the right but the duty to intervene.

Liberty without responsibility is chaos; and humour without empathy is cruelty. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 gives us a much-needed modern legal arsenal. With explicit provisions against defamation, obscenity, religious insult, and false information, the law now has sharper teeth to deal with digital indecency. But law alone cannot cleanse the digital ecosystem unless accompanied by social responsibility, ethical literacy, and institutional transparency. Parents, educators, religious scholars, media regulators, and tech platforms must rise as co-guardians of digital sanity. In schools and homes, in content policies and algorithms, in courts and communities, the message must be clear: free speech does not include the freedom to harm.

The digital world should not become another battlefield of character assassinations and moral erosion. Instead, it must be reclaimed as a space for thoughtful creativity, constructive dialogue, and cultural healing. The way forward demands collective accountability—from the meme-maker to the law-maker. We need to understand that freedom doesn't mean saying anything we want—it means speaking in a way that doesn't harm others.

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*While law and policy have their role, the root of the problem lies in the lack of digital literacy and ethical awareness. Many young content creators in Kashmir lack formal education about the consequences of their actions online. They seek fame and validation through cheap entertainment, unaware of the legal and social damage they cause.*

abusive, and harmful content circulating online. Acts such as criminal defamation, now covered under Section 356, are punishable with up to two years of imprisonment, a fine, or both, especially when individuals use digital platforms like Facebook or YouTube to damage someone's reputation through false accusations, memes, or roasting videos. Similarly, Section 354 targets the uploading or sharing of obscene gestures, vulgar jokes, or sexually suggestive content, imposing a punishment of up to three years of imprisonment along with a fine, particularly in cases that objectify women or corrupt public morality.

Moreover, the insult or provocation of religious beliefs, increasingly common on social media, is strictly prohibited under Section 298, which prescribes a punishment of up to three years of imprisonment, a fine, or both, for content intended to delib-

These provisions reflect a clear shift in India's criminal justice framework toward greater accountability in the digital space, ensuring that online freedom does not come at the cost of others' dignity, safety, or social harmony.

It is unfortunate that despite the existence of legal safeguards, such vulgar and negative content continues to rise each day, gradually damaging the neural wiring and moral compass of the younger generation.

While law and policy have their role, the root of the problem lies in the lack of digital literacy and ethical awareness. Many young content creators in Kashmir lack formal education about the consequences of their actions online. They seek fame and validation through cheap entertainment, unaware of the legal and social damage they cause. Fake profiles, impersonation, and abusive language have become common

compliance. Platforms should introduce stricter identity verification, especially for content creators. Algorithms must be updated to detect regional languages and flag abusive content swiftly. Moreover, content moderation teams should include individuals familiar with Kashmiri language, culture, and sensitivities to ensure culturally aware decisions.

Thirdly, public awareness campaigns must be launched at the community level. Influencers, teachers, religious scholars, and artists should speak out against the misuse of digital freedom. These campaigns must promote a digital culture that values creativity, knowledge-sharing, and respectful dialogue over vulgarity and online humiliation. Roasting and insult-based entertainment must be recognized for what they are—not humour, but emotional violence.

Fourthly, governance mechanisms must be trans-

# CS reviews preparations for hosting SLSAs 8th North Zone Regional Conference

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday had a comprehensive review of the preparations being made for hosting the 8th North Zone Regional Conference of State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), scheduled on 26th and 27th of this month.

The conference will bring together esteemed dignitaries and legal professionals including the Chief Justice of India, Union Law Minister, Chief Justices of various High Courts, Executive Chairpersons of SLSAs and other key legal and administrative officials to discuss key initiatives and strategies related to legal aid and awareness.

Preparations for the high profile event were reviewed by the Chief Secretary with arrangements finalized for accommodation, transporta-

tion, security and various conference activities to be held during the two days of the conference.

Some of the Conference highlights included an inaugural session at the SKICC followed by a mega legal awareness camp for the tribals at Juvenile Home, Harwan, Srinagar, with stalls by twelve different departments.

The Chief Secretary emphasized upon making all the arrangements beforehand and designated the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, as an overall Nodal Officer to finalise the same in coordination with other line departments.

Overall coordination for the event will be managed by Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, M K Sharma, who is also Principal Secretary to Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



It was informed that various sub-committees have been formed to ensure seamless execution, covering aspects like liaison with the government, finance, coordination with the Judges, reception,

transport, accommodation, venue arrangements, catering, cultural events, stationery, mementos, correspondence, IT/communication and media coordination.

The Mega Legal Awareness

Camp at Harwan will feature stalls from 12 departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Tribal Affairs, Handloom & Handicraft, Industries & Commerce, Social Welfare, Tourism & Cultural Academy,

Health Services, Floriculture, J&K Bank, Legal Services Authority and Youth Services & Sports. The Directors of these departments will serve as Nodal Officers for their respective stalls.

It is pertinent to mention here that the conference serves as a crucial platform for legal luminaries and stakeholders from the North Zone to deliberate on advancements in legal aid, access to justice and effective implementation of legal services programs for the benefit of citizens across this region.

Those who were present in the meeting included Registrar General, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court; Member Secretary, J&K, SLSA; Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, GAD and Information Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Secretary, RDD; Director, Information; Director, Handicrafts along with officers from other concerned departments.

## DSEK, Gandhi Global Family felicitate Class 10 toppers from Govt Schools across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a remarkable celebration of academic excellence and youth empowerment, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in collaboration with Gandhi Global Family (Kashmir Chapter) Tuesday held a felicitation ceremony to honor Class 10th toppers from Government Schools across the Kashmir division.

The event, held in the Conference Hall of DSEK, Srinagar acknowledged the hard work, dedication, and achievements of one topper

from each of the ten districts of Kashmir division, bringing recognition and pride to government schools that continue to produce bright minds despite numerous challenges. Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo in his address, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Gandhian Global Family for organizing this meaningful event.

Director remarked that such gestures of recognition play a vital role in boosting the morale of students, especially those studying in government institutions. "Our government school

students have consistently shown that they are second to none. Recognizing their merit not only uplifts them but also sets a powerful example for their peers," said Dr. Itoo.

He further stated that these young achievers represent the future of Kashmir. Their success is a testament to the spirit of perseverance, and it is imperative that we continue to nurture their potential through love, education and Gandhian ideas.

In his address Padma Shri Dr. S. P. Verma, President of the J&K Chapter

of Gandhian Global family emphasized the importance of inculcating Gandhian values of truth, non-violence, and discipline among students. He applauded the toppers for their stellar performances and encouraged them to be torchbearers of ethical leadership in society.

The event was also attended by Director, (IIM) Indian Institute of Management Srinagar Chapter, Dr. Burhan and Joint Director elementary education, Muhammad Mushtaq and Joint Director Secondary Education, Kishore Kumar,

who shared insights on holistic education and motivation-based learning. Their presence underlined the department's continued commitment to recognizing and encouraging merit at the grassroots level.

The felicitation ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates and mementos to the district toppers. Parents of these students on the occasion expressed profound joy and appreciation for the initiative, which they viewed as a milestone moment in the lives of their children.

## CME on 'Obstetric Sepsis – Fate or Failure to Act' held at GMC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on "Obstetric Sepsis – Fate or Failure to Act".

The event aimed to raise awareness, improve early recognition, and promote evidence-based management of obstetric sepsis, a major contributor to maternal morbidity and mortality.

Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean,

GMC Srinagar, inaugurated the CME, emphasizing the importance of timely intervention, clinical vigilance, and ongoing professional education in improving maternal outcomes.

Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, highlighted the need to empower healthcare providers with updated clinical knowledge and protocols to effectively address sepsis care challenges.

The scientific sessions featured expert presentations from renowned faculty members, including Dr.

Irshad, Dr. Humaira Bashir, Dr. Sana Attar, and Prof. Ajaz Nabi Koul, who discussed contemporary practices in sepsis management, microbial resistance trends, and practical approaches for frontline care.

Panel discussions brought together former Heads of Department and senior faculty, Prof. Rizwana Habib Kanth, Prof. Shaheena Parveen, Prof. Shylla Mir, Prof. Muzafar Jabeen, and Prof. Nighat Firdous fostering rich case-based discussions and exploring strategies for systemic improvement.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

#### Amarnath Yatra

for the twin base camps in Kashmir amid tight security arrangements on Tuesday morning.

"A total of 4,05,817 pilgrims have registered for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra so far. The number of casualties recorded to date stands at four, mainly due to health-related issues such as cardiac arrest, which are often triggered by low oxygen concentration at higher altitudes," an official said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that more than 1 lakh devotees have visited the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the first six days of the annual pilgrimage. "The journey of faith, holy Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has surpassed 1 lakh pilgrims within the first six days of pilgrimage," Sinha said in a post on X.

He said the Yatra is continuing smoothly on both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes and is expected to draw more devotees in the coming days.

Moreover, Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat, conducted a comprehensive security review along the Baltal axis on Tuesday.

The DGP assessed the deployment and operational preparedness of forces guarding the Yatra route. "DGP J&K Shri Nalin Prabhat alongwith IGP Kashmir, DIG Central Kashmir Range & senior officers conducted security review of ongoing #yatra along the Baltal axis today. The officers later reviewed the security and pilgrim facilities at #Shadipora, #Manigam and #Baltal Yatra camps," Kashmir Zone Police post on X.

The pilgrimage to the 3,890-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas started on July 3 and will conclude on August 9—(KNO)

#### UTs tourism

traditional tourism circuits and expanded tourism's horizon. We have ensured benefits of tourism reach every corner of J&K UT and transform lives. The people of J&K and their warm hospitality makes Jammu and Kashmir a truly fascinating tourist destination," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting was a defining moment in J&K's history and helped in building the brand J&K in global tourism sector. This was followed by major international and national events which not only showcased our organizational capabilities but presented J&K as a destination for luxury, film, entertainment, and global engagement, he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated the administration's commitment to promote sustainable tourism, under the SPREAD (Strategic Promotion and Revamping of Emerging Alternate Destinations in J&K). This strategy aims to mitigate environmental pressure by diversifying tourist activities to lesser-known and emerging destinations.

Our aim is to bring 9 Emerging Destinations on the national-international tourism

map and provide direct employment to at least 5 lakh people in the first year and these destinations will be able to attract high value tourists, he added.

We are also exploring ways to develop two Phase Ropeway for Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine to facilitate the old-aged and divyangjan, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the development of tourism sector is possible only in a peaceful and secure environment.

"In J&K, Security forces have a huge role in ending terrorism but the role of society is also no less. Terrorists' attempt to draw their sustenance from society should be foiled.

Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pakistan-backed terrorists is a good sign to establish permanent peace in the valley. Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful union territory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Union Secretary, Tourism; Shri Suman Billa, Additional Secretary & Director General, Tourism; Shri Gyan Bhushan, Senior Economic Advisor, Tourism, Shri Praveen Kumar Rai, Joint Secretary, MHA; Tourism Secretaries, officials from Government of India and UT Administration, panellists and experts were present.

#### LG reviews

goal of TB elimination. The Lieutenant Governor called for collaborative efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis. "TB Mukta Jammu Kashmir should be our common goal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor desired the use of various forms of media for generating awareness about all the aspects of TB. He also exhorted the Health Department to ensure that its field functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme. This must include close monitoring of all TB patients so that they regularly consume prescribed medicines and do not become drug resistant. Use of IEC in the form of daily SMS and phone calls to the patients for ensuring that they do not miss their daily dose of medicine, was also stressed upon.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Health Department to make all efforts for ensuring the availability of diagnostic machines including CBNAAT and TrueNat across the length and breadth of the UT.

"This would go a long way in increasing the testing of patients and screening of the population with the aim of achieving TB Mukta J&K and TB Mukta Bharat at the earliest," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked Deputy Commissioners to broaden the IEC and awareness campaigns and take onboard the religious leaders, healthcare professionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

He further directed for mapping of vulner-

able populations through screening and testing on priority, enhancing Diagnostics, Treatment, and promoting Early Diagnosis. People should be encouraged to register themselves as Ni-Kshay Mitras, he added.

Meeting also discussed the performance of Jammu Kashmir on various Parameters under National TB Elimination Programme, achievements registered under TB Mukta Panchayat Initiative, Media workshops for TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, saturation of Ayushman Bharat Golden cards, procurements of treatment and testing equipment.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education gave a detailed presentation on District wise status of Treatment Outcome, Presumptive TB Testing and Strategic Plan activities being implemented across the UT.

#### Will match last

the ongoing revival of the tourism sector. Regarding the two-day event held at SKICC, the Secretary described it as the biggest event of the year, saying it has set a tone for the season ahead. "In the event, secretaries from all states and Union Territories participated in a brainstorming session, which was held on the directions of the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), in which the Lieutenant Governor himself participated. Such an event indicates that J&K has been a priority destination for the government," she said.

Notably, the Union Ministry for Tourism organised a two-day Tourism Secretaries' Conference for all States and Union Territories at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on 7th and 8th July 2025, for the first time in Jammu & Kashmir. The national event brought together Tourism Secretaries and Heads from across the country for high-level deliberations on collaborative policy-making and strategic planning in the tourism sector.

The conference focused on key national policy areas such as tourism-related budget announcements for 2025-26, destination development and infrastructure initiatives, review of sanctioned projects, promotion and marketing strategies, investment opportunities, and film tourism promotion.

A special session dedicated exclusively to Union Territories was held on Tuesday—(KNO)

#### UT framework

The Deputy CM expressed hope that the pending issues would be resolved before his next visit in ten days. He added that if the Chief Minister is actively monitoring the administration, the officers should be equally alert in carrying out their duties.

Choudhary said that with the Darbar move in Kashmir and several new project packages under schemes like PMGSY and PWD, the government is working on a fast track to implement projects.

"Although some work has been temporar-

ily affected by rain, the government remains focused on meeting public expectations," he added.

On the issue of contractor protests over pending payments and implementation of legislative proposals, Choudhary said that while some individuals are inclined towards protest, the administration is ready to listen to and resolve genuine grievances through dialogue.

"The government is not afraid of protests but believes that peaceful discussion is the appropriate way to resolve issues," he said.

The Deputy CM urged contractors to consider the financial limitations of a Union Territory and to raise concerns with the administration instead of resorting to agitation. He said that if the work has been completed as per the tenders, the government must make payments.

Choudhary said Jammu and Kashmir belongs to all its residents, and both regions must move forward together. "Cooperation between contractors and the administration is essential to ensure development continues without disruption," he added—(KNO)

#### Mixed reactions from

He said, "The parents can compromise with it for the better future of their wards."

Minister of Education Sakina Itoo said, "I am getting a number of calls from the various concerned stakeholders with regard to the new school timing that was announced yesterday post summer break."

"The new school timing is not the final decision. If we find that there is a need to amend it, we will revise it accordingly," she said.

Itoo further said, "Since we have shifted the academic session to November-December, the only issue for now is to complete the syllabi before the exams."—(KNO)

#### Crucial Govt

be restored immediately, we may need to consider offline alternatives until the system is fixed."

"I will call the concerned officers to explore possible solutions or workarounds, so people do not face difficulties," she said.

Regarding the Golden Card specifically, the Minister said that the registration for the Golden Card should be linked to ration cards, which is also currently affected online. We know that portals are closed, and Golden Cards are made online, so this issue is significant. We will explore all possible options to assist people and thoroughly examine the situation. We will assess the scope of the problem, including the number of affected individuals and applicants, to determine feasible solutions."—(KNO)

#### Pahalgam terror

He called for significant infrastructural

# PM Modi accorded grand ceremonial welcome in Brazil capital, talks with President Lula next

IAN S

**BRASILIA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a warm welcome by Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia on Tuesday evening, India time, as he began a State Visit to the country following his participation in the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

After the special ceremonial welcome - which featured 114 horses escorting PM Modi's car - with military honours and introduction of delegates, both leaders proceeded for a meeting in restricted format that will be followed by delegation-level talks. A signing ceremony on various agreements will be held and followed by leaders' statements to the press. PM Modi will then be honoured with a State Lunch at the Alvorada Palace.

"Good morning. We are now back in Brasilia. Today, I will welcome the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a State Visit. We will sign new agreements and take another important step in strengthening bilateral relations between Brazil and India," the Brazilian President posted on X shortly before the welcome ceremony.

Prime Minister Modi earlier visited Brazil on three occasions,



the first in July 2014, followed by another visit in 2019 to attend the BRICS summit, and in November last year to attend the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the State Visit will provide an opportunity to review the entire gamut of India-Brazil partnership, including trade and investments, oil and gas, renewable energy, mining and critical minerals, defence and security, agriculture and livestock, healthcare and traditional medicine, tourism, space, science and technology, DPI, and also sports and people-to-people

relations in general. Both leaders will also be discussing during their talks global issues of mutual interest.

The visit will be a significant milestone in the India-Brazil strategic partnership and is envisaged to add renewed momentum to the strategic partnership, which New Delhi agreed to in 2006.

"I will travel to Brasilia for a bilateral State Visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in nearly six decades. This visit will provide an opportunity to strengthen our close partnership with Brazil, and work with my friend, President H.E. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,

on advancing the priorities of the Global South," PM Modi said ahead of his visit.

India and Brazil also continue to cooperate intensively in international bodies, such as the United Nations, the G20, BRICS, IBSA and the G4.

"In bilateral cooperation, the two leaders should endorse five priority pillars for joint work over the next decade: Defence and security; Food and nutritional security; Energy transition and climate change; Digital transformation and emerging technologies and Industrial partnerships in strategic sec-

tors such as the aeronautical industry, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas and critical minerals," the Brazilian President's office said in a statement on Monday, ahead of PM Modi's visit.

President Lula visited India in September 2023, where he participated in the G20 Summit and met with PM Modi. The 9th Meeting of the Brazil-India Joint Commission for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (COMISTA), the main mechanism for dialogue and coordination between Brazil and India, was held in August 2024, in New Delhi, under the co-chairmanship of the foreign ministers of both countries.

In 2024, India-Brazil bilateral trade totalled US\$12 billion, which kept India in the position of Brazil's 10th largest trading partner. Exports were US\$ 5.26 billion, with India being the 13th largest destination for Brazilian exports. Imports were US\$ 6.8 billion, which made India the sixth largest source of imports for Brazil.

Lula's office detailed that, since the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, 72 Brazilian trade and investment promotion missions have visited India while around 40 Indian missions have visited Brazil in the same period.

## PM Modi shares 'productive interactions' with world leaders during BRICS Summit

IAN S

**BRASILIA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday shared glimpses of his meeting with a host of world leaders - including the President of Chile, the UN Secretary General and the former President of Brazil - on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which concluded late Monday night, India time.

Sharing details about his meeting with the Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font, PM Modi mentioned the growing friendship between both nations.

"Delighted to have met President Gabriel Boric Font of Chile during the Rio BRICS Summit. India-Chile friendship is getting stronger and stronger!" PM Modi posted on X.

In April, the Chilean President paid a State Visit to India accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, Members of Parliament, senior officials, business associations, media and prominent Chileans involved in the India-Chile cultural connect.

During the visit, which commemorated the completion of 76 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, both leaders had discussed in detail the historic diplomatic ties that

were established in 1949, growing trade linkages, people-to-people linkages, cultural ties and also the warm and cordial bilateral relations between both countries. They had expressed desire for further expanding and deepening of the multifaceted relationship between the two countries in all areas of mutual interests. PM Modi also met the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Rio de Janeiro on Monday.

Talking to X, PM Modi said, "Interacted with Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro yesterday".

India's deepening engagement with the UN is based on its steadfast commitment to multilateralism and dialogue as the key for achieving shared goals and addressing common challenges faced by the global community including those related to peacebuilding and peacekeeping, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, climate change, terrorism, disarmament, human rights, health and pandemics, migration, cyber security, space and frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence, comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, among others.

# Flash floods hit Nepal-China border, 18 missing

IAN S

**KATHMANDU:** As many as 18 people are missing following sudden flash floods that struck Nepal's Rasuwa district early on Tuesday, according to local media reports.

The missing included three police personnel, nine civilians, and six Chinese nationals, according to the Assistant Chief District Officer of Rasuwa.

Additionally, according to the official, the massive flood swept away the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge and several newly imported electric vehicles (EVs) parked at the dry port.

"The flood has swept away the Friendship Bridge and several EVs at the dry port. There is suspicion that some people were inside vehicles when the flood hit, but that is yet to be confirmed," leading Nepalese newspaper The Kathmandu Post, quoted Arjun Paudel, chief district officer of Rasuwa, as saying.

He mentioned that many individuals caught in the flood, including security personnel, who were involved in the rescue opera-



tion, were brought to safety. Meanwhile, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Tuesday took to his social media, stating that the government is on "war footing" to rescue those impacted by the flood.

"The government has mobilised resources at a war footing to rescue those affected by the flood in the Trishuli River (The Bhotekoshi River becomes Trishuli downstream). Several lives have been lost, some people are still missing, and the damage to property is extensive," the

Prime Minister said. Oli offered condolences to the citizens who lost their lives and expressed sympathy to those who were affected by the disaster.

"At this tragic moment, I am taking regular reports from the Security Agency about rescue operations happening in the affected areas by postponing scheduled programs except for essentials. I have directed authorities to ensure there is no shortfall in the government's response. Emergency assistance is being closely coordinated in vul-

nerable areas," he added.

Furthermore, Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs has called for an emergency meeting in response to the flood, which led to widespread devastation in the Rasuwa district.

Additionally, a joint meeting of the Central Security Committee and the Executive Committee of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) has been scheduled for Tuesday, according to the Home Minister's Secretariat.

## Armed forces top brass address senior officers, emphasising 'joint operational planning'

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Emphasising the growing need for integrated military responses in modern warfare, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday jointly addressed senior officers from the armed forces, reaffirming their commitment to enhancing joint operational capabilities and fostering deeper tri-service synergy.

The high-level interaction, organised as part of an ongoing initiative to streamline India's joint warfare doctrines, focused extensively on future battle scenarios, particularly in the maritime and aerospace domains.

Taking it to X, ADGPI said, "The address focused on joint operational planning, with emphasis on integrated maritime and air warfare in future battle scenarios."

This crucial interaction has taken place in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor where the Indian Air Force, in synergy with credible intelligence, hit Pakistan's

nearly a dozen air force bases and as many as 10 terror camps.

Last week, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Rahul R Singh, during an event in New Delhi, said, "A total of 21 targets were identified, out of which nine targets we thought would be prudent to engage."

The operation was deliberately designed to be a tri-services approach involving the Army, Air Force and the Navy to "send the right message that we indeed are an integrated force," he said.

The senior army officer also underlined that real-time monitoring of targets and the availability of credible intelligence were central to the planning and execution of the strikes.

The push for integration aligns with ongoing reforms under the Department of Military Affairs, aimed at achieving theatreisation and establishing joint commands for enhanced warfighting efficiency.

The interaction is also seen as a step towards refining India's Joint War Doctrine, with maritime-air synergy now becoming central to the country's strategic deterrence matrix.

## No fresh order to block Reuters' account: Govt rejects X claims

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Tuesday rejected Elon Musk-run X's claims that it had directed the social media platform to block 2,355 accounts within the country, including Reuters, on July 3.

According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), no such fresh blocking order or request was made to X.

After the Reuters' account was withheld earlier this month, the government, in fact, continuously engaged with X to unblock it. After a lot of follow-ups, X finally unblocked Reuters and other URLs on July 6.

A MeitY spokesperson said: "The Government has not issued any fresh blocking order on 3rd July, 2025 and has no intention to block any prominent international News Channels, including Reuters and Reuters World. The moment Reuters and Reuters World were blocked on the X platform in India, immediately the government wrote to 'X' to unblock them."

An order was issued on May 7 during Operation Sindoor, but it was not enforced. In the aftermath

of Operation Sindoor, India had issued a flurry of orders to take down posts and block accounts owing to national security concerns.

X appears to have enforced that order now, which is a mistake on their part. The government had reached out to the company to resolve this issue.

The clarification came after Musk-owned X claimed that it was directed by the Indian government to block more than 2,300 accounts, including the official handles of the global news agency Reuters.

According to the X's Global Government Affairs handle, on July 3, 2025, the Indian government ordered X to block 2,355 accounts in India, including international news outlets like Reuters and ReutersWorld, under Section 69A of the IT Act.

"Non-compliance risked criminal liability. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology demanded immediate action - within one hour - without providing justification and required the accounts to remain blocked until further notice," the social media platform claimed.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

### E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No -17/Xen/Rew/Bla/2025-2026 Dated. 04/07/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work -

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT HIGH SCHOOL GORIPORA Block TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
2	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT PRY. SCHOOL CHECK HARWAN TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
3	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL LATISHAT TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
4	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL SAGIPORA TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
5	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT IN AHANGER MOHALLAH TUJER A TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
6	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR PYR.SCHOOL BUNASTAN TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
7	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL WADOORA BALA TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
8	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT HIGH SCHOOL YEMBERZALWARI TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
9	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCHI MOHALLA TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
10	C/O COMMUNITY SOAK PIT NEAR GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL DARDPORA TUJER SHARIEF	2.30	200	4600	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
11	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT at PEER MOHALLA IN ZALOORA A BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
12	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT YEMBERZALWARI BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
13	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT CHAPAN EDIPORA CHOPAN MOHALLA BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
14	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT IN PEER MOHALLA HARWAN BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
15	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT AT SAGIPORA BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
16	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT DILBAGH CLNY BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited
17	C/O COMMUNITY COMPOST PIT AT EDIPORA B BLOCK TUJER SHARIEF	1.26	200	2520	45 days	DEE	SBM-GII	AAA Accredited

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-07-2025 to 16-07-2025 up to 6 00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	04-07-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	16-07-2025 up to 6 00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 17-07-2025 at 11 00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED 08.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat only in 1st Call, for subsequent call the bidders from Panchayats (within Block) can participate too, after production of the residence proof certificate for local bidders from Concerned BDO & adjoining area certificate issued from Concerned BDO's under his seal & signature.

NOTE The Above Order (G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED 08.09.2021) is applicable For District Plan only.

• If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.

• In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.

• Watershed Development Fund (WDF), as per guidelines shall be collected at the time of release of payment.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (REW) Division Baramulla(AccountHead-0515-Executive Engineer REW Baramulla) mentioning therein NIT No. & Serial No. Of Work on it.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money/CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer (REW) Division Baramulla Non submission of earnest money/bid security shall render the bidder as non-responsive.

Note: There shall be no relaxation to MSME/Start ups for Earnest Money Deposit, Cost of Tender Document and Submission of Performance Security. Any bidder who fails to submit/upload the requisite EMD and Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) shall be out rightly rejected.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.

4. Successful bidder (L1) has to produce 3% additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ B.G within 7 days after opening of financial bid and total 5% (3%+2%) will be released after completion of defect liability period of the work.

5. The lowest bidder (L1) shall have to provide the CDR/FDR/B.G. within weeks' time for the issuance of allotment failing which he/she will be recommended for black listing. The CDR issue date to be uploaded, shall not before the date of e-NIT and no other CDR shall be accepted as replacement, under rules.

6. The successful bidder / Contractor who fails to start work within seven (07 Days) from the date of issuance of Allotment will be imposed a penalty of Rs 200 / Day starting from 8th day, deductible from the running/final bills of contractor.

7. All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No 150-158 Dated 04-07-2025

DIPK-3360-25 DT: 08/07/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer REW Baramulla

# Bumrah in high spirits as he prepares for Lord's return

AGENCIES

Old ball or new ball was the question from India bowling coach Morne Morkel. "I'll definitely take the new ball," Jasprit Bumrah said as he searched for the right one out of the Dukes box. A few minutes later Bumrah was appealing animatedly on bent knees, raising both hands, having induced what looked like an outside edge from Karun Nair with a delivery that seamed away viciously from good length.

Bumrah last bowled on June 24, the final afternoon of the first Test at Headingley. He bowled 43.4 overs in that Test, picking up a five-for in the first innings and going wicketless in the second. Having been advised to play only three out of the five Tests in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy due to his back issues, Bumrah opted out of the second Test in Birmingham. That decision received heavy flak as critics feared India could go down 2-0 with England taking advantage of an inexperienced bowling attack.

With those fears not coming true and India drawing level with a dominant victory, Shubman Gill's

team arrived for their first training session at Lord's on Tuesday wearing a relaxed look. None more so than Bumrah, who has been chirpy and playful right from the first day of the tour. After observing Nitish Kumar Reddy delivering an outswinger at good pace, Bumrah quipped "good one, Brett Lee." At one point Shardul Thakur would bow towards Bumrah's feet as if he was paying obeisance as the pair shared a light moment.

With ball in hand, though, Bumrah's intensity never dipped. He bowled for close to an hour without a break. It did not matter to him that several of India's batters were



resting and this was just optional training. Those absent included Gill, KL Rahul, Yashuvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Washington Sundar apart from Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep, the new-ball pair that won India the Edgbaston Test. But Bumrah tested the patience and the skills of Nair, B Sai Sudharan, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Dhruv Jurel as he worked his way back towards playing his second Test at Lord's, a venue of which he has fond memories.

On his first visit during the 2021 tour, Bumrah played a key role in India win-

ning a thriller. He scored a duck and went wicketless in the teams' first innings, but in the third innings Bumrah cobbled together a match-turning, unbroken 89-run partnership for the final wicket with Mohammed Shami to help India set a challenging target. He then returned to pick up three wickets including those of Rory Burns in the first over of the chase, England's talisman and captain Joe Root, and Ollie Robinson with that mesmerising offcutter delivered from around the wicket, wide of the crease, in the dying moments of the final afternoon.

The Lord's pitch four summers ago was a relatively flat one in a time of helpful English pitches, but Bumrah still imposed himself, generating reverse-swing and keeping batters guessing with his variations. The forecast for this Test is fair with temperatures in the early 30s (Celsius). On Tuesday the pitch wore a greenish tinge, and India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak expected it to be "challenging". Pitches have never bothered Bumrah. Come Thursday, he will be licking his lips. *-(ESPNCRINFO)*

# Dominant South Africa wrap up 2-0 sweep inside three days



AGENCIES

A complete mismatch of a Test in Bulawayo ended within two sessions on the third day, as Wiaan Mulder alone scored only 23 runs lesser than what Zimbabwe's entire line-up managed across two innings. But even that happened when, at nine wickets down after being asked to follow-on, an outside edge off Wellington Masakadza dribbled away for four wide of the slips.

The tenth-wicket stand between Masakadza and Tanaka Chivanga frustrated South Africa for nearly nine overs, but couldn't prevent an innings defeat. South Africa comprehensively won by an innings and 236 runs to wrap the series 2-0 after confining Zimbabwe to their heaviest defeat by runs in the first Test of the series. It was South Africa's tenth Test win on the trot, including their victory over Australia in the WTC 2025 final last month.

Zimbabwe started day three of the Bulawayo Test trailing by a massive 405 runs, with nine wickets in hand. While an innings defeat was inevitable given the deficit and the time

remaining in the Test, a middle- and lower-order collapse of 6 for 31 after lunch hastened the eventual result.

But before that, overnight batters Takudzwanashe Kaitano and Nick Welch negotiated the seven overs from Codi Yusuf and Corbin Bosch to start play by mostly blocking and leaving the deliveries. The first over of spin, though, got South Africa the breakthrough. Off his second ball, Senuran Muthusamy had Kaitano chipping to cover for 40 in the 24th over.

Welch, at the other end, struggled to tick along. His first 45 balls fetched him only 14 runs, and one of his two boundaries came earlier in the day when he outside-edged Yusuf between third slip and gully. In the 26th over, however, Welch swung Muthusamy for a huge down the ground. Next ball, he went for a hoick across the line, and the ball missed both the bat and the leg stump.

But that didn't prevent Welch from keeping his counterattack going. He punched Mulder wide of gully for four, had a difficult chance dropped by David Bedingham at backward point off Muthusamy, was beaten and nearly

stumped next ball, and repeated his massive hit for six off Muthusamy - all these in the space of facing nine balls.

It was Mulder's Test, though, and come the 29th over, his heel just within permissible limits as he cleaned Sean Williams up for 11. Welch slowed down after that wicket, looking content to push for singles and bat time. He raised his fifty just before lunch when he flicked Prenelan Subrayen for two to fine leg, before both Welch and Craig Ervine went unbeaten at the interval. At the time, Zimbabwe were still another 131 runs behind South Africa.

However, Welch and Ervine didn't last long enough. Muthusamy got a leading edge from Welch, who was caught by Mulder at slip for 55 in the third over after lunch. That began the slide, as 153 for 3 soon turned out to be 184 for 9. Yusuf got among the wickets when he trapped Wessly Madhevere in front for 5 in the 53rd over. Ervine and Tafadzwa Tsiga strung together plenty of dots as the scoring stalled, before Yusuf had Tsiga chipping to short midwicket to end his stay on 1 off 20 balls. *-(ESPNCRINFO)*

# My dream of giving back to my country came to life with NC Classic: Neeraj Chopra

IANS

NEW DELHI: Neeraj Chopra, the Golden Boy of Indian athletics, has revealed he has always dreamt of giving back to his country for showing relentless support in his pursuit of gold whenever he takes the field and believes he has done exactly that with the Neeraj Chopra Classic.

The 27-year-old won the inaugural edition of Neeraj Chopra Classic, a World Athletics gold-level event, with a best throw of 86.18m here at Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.



"I have many to thank from friends and family to officials and organisations. But for now, I'll keep it simple. Giving back to my country was a small dream of mine that came to

life with the Neeraj Chopra Classic. Winning it was special, but even more special was the process of putting it together.

"I want to say a big thank you to everyone who played their part in making this possible. To the athletes who came from far, we'll try to do one better next time. And to everyone that turned up at the Kanteerava - this was honestly one of the best atmospheres I've experienced while doing what I love the most," read the post by the two-time Olympic medallist.

Kenya's Julius Yego finished second after notching up his season-best throw of 84.51m Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage came third with a best throw of 84.34m.

Chopra, who was welcomed by the 14,583 people

with thunderous roars and cheers, began with a foul but took the lead with the 2nd attempt of 82.99m. He then registered the biggest throw of the night with his third throw of 86.16 to thrill the Bengaluru crowd. He followed it up with a foul in the fourth attempt and 84.07 in the fifth before rounding off the event with 82.22m.

Chopra began his season by winning the Potchefstroom, South Africa, in April before finishing second at the Doha Diamond League, where he breached the elusive 90m mark with a 90.23m throw to reset the Indian national record.



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