

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



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Pakistani Role in Pahalgam Massacre Exposed. Conclusive evidence has emerged linking Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives to the April 22, 2025 massacre in Pahalgam, where 26 innocent civilians—mostly Hindu tourists—were brutally gunned down in the Baisaran meadow.

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Agriculture, Allied Sector Witnessing Women-Led Development: LG Sinha

Addresses The 9Th Convocation Ceremony Of SKUAST- Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday highlighted the growing role of women in Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture sector, calling it a shining example of women-led development.

"Agriculture and Allied Sector is witnessing women-led development. I am extremely proud that out of 8 gold medalists in post-graduate and graduate students, 7 are our daughters. Out of 35 Certificates of Merit in PhD and Post-Graduate, 32 Merit Certificates were awarded to our daughters. It is a symbol of the rising influence of

Nari Shakti in Agriculture and allied sectors and I believe they will be driving innovation for sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmers' income," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the 9th Convocation ceremony of SKUAST-Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the graduating students. He also extended his felicitations to the management, faculty, and staff on the completion of 25 glorious years of the University.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the significant contribution of Nari Shakti to innovation and

■ Aug 5 Special

LG Sinha To Hand Over Job Letters To 250 Terror Victim Families Today

SUHAIL MIR

SRINAGAR: In a significant move towards rehabilitation and justice, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will hand over appointment letters to 250 family members of terror victims at a special ceremony today at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. The initiative is part of the government's ongoing efforts to support those who have suffered due to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three decades.

The beneficiaries include families from North, Central, and South Kashmir who lost their loved ones to brutal attacks by terrorist organizations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). These groups have carried out widespread violence, targeting civilians, security personnel, and government officials in an attempt to destabilize the region.

Suhail Yusuf Shah from Kupwara carries wounds that time has failed to heal. His



mother and uncle were brutally killed by terrorists, and his family was shattered in an instant. "My mother was mercilessly shot in a burst-fire attack by terrorists," recalls Shah, his voice trembling. "Even as she lay dying, my siblings and I kept saying, 'Nothing happened, she will be okay.' But she didn't survive."

For years, the families of terror victims have endured

immense pain, often without adequate recognition or support. Many victims were subjected to horrific acts of violence, including public executions, mutilations, and targeted killings, aimed at instilling fear among the local population. The loss of primary breadwinners pushed numerous families into financial hardship, social exclusion, and psychological trauma.

Official sources revealed that the victims included daily wage laborers, farmers, government employees, and businessmen, ordinary citizens who were caught in the cross-fire of terrorism. Their deaths left behind widows, orphaned children, and elderly parents struggling to survive.

These areas have witnessed some of the worst atrocities during the peak of

"SINCE THE 1990S, WE LIVED IN SILENCE, PAIN, AND HOPELESSNESS," SAID ONE victim. "Today, LG Sinha has lit a lamp of hope in our homes." As the administration vows to reach every affected family, Kashmir's forgotten victims finally see a glimmer of justice, one that had been denied for far too long.

Imran Ansari Meets HM Amit Shah in Delhi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant political development, a comprehensive meeting was held Monday in the national capital between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and prominent Shia cleric Imran Raza Ansari. The high-level dialogue focused on the current ground realities in the UT.

The meeting acknowledged the ongoing rehabilitation efforts of terror victims led by the Lieutenant Governor's office, with both parties recognizing the need for sustained support to those whose lives continue to be impacted by violence and unrest.

During the detailed discussion, appreciation was extended for the Centre and UT administration's support during the observance of Muharram this year. However, concerns were also raised regarding the ban on certain traditional Muharram processions. The

CM Omar Advocates Organic Farming, Climate-Resilient Agriculture



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Underscoring the critical role of agriculture in shaping the economic future of J&K, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu, Monday addressed the 9th Convocation of the University at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Chatha.

Congratulating the graduating scholars, the Chief

Minister said that agriculture and allied sectors are "fields of promise as well as of responsibility" and acknowledged their growing complexity in the face of climate change, resource depletion and emerging global standards.

He observed that fragmented land holdings, depleting water resources and the unchecked use of chemical-based fertilizers are issues that demand urgent course correction, calling

Gunbattle In Kulgam Continues As Security Forces Push To Neutralise Terrorists

1 Terrorist Killed, 4 Soldiers Injured; Operation Enters Day 4, Cordon Extended

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

KULGAM: The encounter in the Akhal forest area of Devsar in south Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its fourth day on Monday, with intermittent firing and explosions continuing.

The operation was launched on Friday evening after security forces received credible intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists hiding in the dense Akhal forest. As the troops moved in to cordon off the area, they came under fire, triggering a prolonged gun battle, according to officials.

"So far, one terrorist has been killed and four soldiers injured," an official informed, adding that



the injured personnel are being treated at the Army hospital in Srinagar.

The firing is still going on, and terrorists appear to be firing from multiple directions, he added.

In a post on X, Chinara Corps of the Indian Army said, "OP AKHAL, Kulgam. Intermittent and intense firefight continued through the night. Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose"

'Monitor Social Media Platforms'

Increase Surveillance Upon Anti-National Elements: DGP To Officers

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday directed the officers to increase surveillance upon anti-national elements and to increase area domination in their respective areas.

Chairing a security review meeting in view of forthcoming events PCR Kashmir here, the DGP, emphasized the need to review and enhance the security plans and to design effective counter insurgency strategies for smooth and peaceful conduct of the events.

The DGP also directed the district heads to closely monitor social media plat-

forms to prevent any attempt to spread mis-information impacting public safety and order.



The Director General of Police stressed on the need to enhance the security of vulnerable targets and to ensure foolproof security arrangements.

The meeting, according to the officials, was attended by Special DG Coordination J&K SJM Gillani, ADG CRPF Rajesh Kumar, ADGP Armed J&K Anand Jain, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar, JD SIB J&K/L, IGsP of (Kashmir zone, Jammu Zone, Security J&K), IG BSF, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, all range DisG of J&K, DisG (Traffic, Railways Kashmir,

Post-Pahalgam Strike, India Reaffirms Tough Stance On Terrorism: Army Chief

'India's Counter-Terror Doctrine Changed After Operation Sindoor'

SAJID RAINA

CHENNAI: Describing Operation Sindoor as a major shift in India's counter-terror strategy following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, Army Chief General Uday Shankar on Monday said the 88-hour-long tri-services operation compelled Pakistan to seek a ceasefire.

The Army Chief was speaking during the inauguration of 'Agnishodh', a new Indian Army Research Cell at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. The facility has been established as part of a broader effort to integrate academic research with operational needs and support the Indian Army's transformation agenda.

General Dwivedi said the Indian Armed Forces are preparing for fifth-generation warfare marked by non-contact operations and strategic



psychological pressure. He said modern conflicts demand the co-existence of conventional forces and technological tools, where "boots must share space with bots".

He said the Army is working towards self-reliance through collaborations under national technology missions like

INDIAai, Chip-to-Startup, and Project QuLLA. Institutions like MCTE Mhow are acting as key strategic partners in these efforts, he added.

Gen Dwivedi mentioned the contributions of Army research cells at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISc Bengaluru, which are focused

Security Situation In J&K Improved Since 2019 Reorganisation: Official Data



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Six years after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked and the erstwhile State was reorganised into two Union Territories, official data indicates a substantial decline in terror-related deaths across the region and overall security situation.

Between August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated, and August 4, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a total of 1,230 terror-related fatalities, according to official figures accessed. This marks a 33.3% decline compared to the previous six-year period

...Terror-Linked Deaths Fell 33%

from 2013 to 2019, during which 1,845 such deaths were reported. The drop reflects a notable shift in the security landscape following the region's constitutional reorganisation. Breaking down the fatalities by category, the post-abrogation period recorded 833 terrorist deaths, 204 security personnel fatalities, and 189 civilian deaths, along with four others whose identities were not specified. In contrast, the pre-abrogation period saw 1,121 terrorists killed, 475 security personnel lost, and 243 civilian deaths. This translates to a 25.7% reduction in militant

Security Agencies Confirm Pakistani Nationality Of Pahalgam Attackers



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Security agencies have gathered evidence, including documents issued by the government of Pakistan and biometric data, confirming that the three slain foreign terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam attack were Pakistani nationals, PTI reported citing officials.

Biometric records of Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), voter identity slips and digital satellite phone data, including logs and GPS waypoints, are among the clinching evidence gathered by the security agencies confirming the Pakistani nationality of the three terrorists, the officials said.

Voter ID cards issued by Pakistan's Election Commission were found on Suleman Shah and Abu Hamza, linked to electoral rolls in Lahore (NA-125) and Gujranwala (NA-79). A smart micro-SD chip retrieved from a damaged satellite phone contained NADRA biometric data of all three attackers, confirming their identities and Pakistani origin—addresses traced to Changa Manga (Kasur) and Koian near Rawalakot (PoK).

As per the sources, GPS data from a Garmin device matched exact shooter positions as reported by eyewitnesses at Baisaran. Satellite phone logs from a Huawei device (IMEI: 86761204-XXXXXX) p-06

CM reviews progress of Tawi Riverfront Development Project in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday conducted an extensive inspection of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project, a flagship initiative under Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL). The project aims to revitalise the banks of the Tawi River by integrating flood protection with recreational and commercial infrastructure to create a dynamic urban space.

The inspection was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, IT, S&T and Transport, Satish Sharma.

Commissioner JMC and CEO JSCL, Devansh Yadav; Additional CEO JSCL and Joint Commissioner JMC, Subah Mehta; Director Projects JSCL, Sunil Thusu; Senior GM JSCL, Rajesh Abrol; AEE JSCL,

Akhil Samyal; and senior engineers and officers from UEED Jammu and Irrigation & Flood Control Department were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of civil works under Phase-I of the project, which spans from Bhagwati Nagar Barrage to Bikram Chowk Bridge. He was informed that over 97 percent of work under Part-A, which includes the construction component of Phase-I, has been completed. The target for full completion is set for September 2025.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister reviewed key features of the project, including the development of multi-tiered promenades along both banks of the river and a central island, construction of flood mitigation infrastructure such as diaphragm and retaining walls, pier protection measures on existing bridges,

creation of a central business and recreational zone and installation of interceptor drains to divert polluted nullahs away from the river.

The CM was briefed that under Part-A, a total embankment length of 2.70 kilometres is being developed, incorporating four promenades of varying widths and reclaiming around 23 hectares of land. Part-B of the project will include finishing works such as construction of connecting roads, food courts, viaducts, toilet blocks, horticulture and promenade flooring.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the pace of execution and stressed the importance of its timely completion. He stated that the project is not solely about urban beautification but about shaping a new identity for Jammu centred on the historic Tawi River. He added

that the initiative will serve both ecological and economic objectives.

He also highlighted the potential of the project to enhance tourism, generate employment and provide sustainable commercial real estate options, including green buildings, parks, sports zones and cultural plazas.

The Chief Minister reviewed the monetisation strategy currently being prepared by CBRE, which will support the extension of the riverfront development from Tawi Bridge to Sidhra Bridge in future phases.

The Chief Minister appreciated the coordinated efforts of JSCL, JMC and the Jal Shakti Department. He directed the concerned officials to maintain strict adherence to quality and timelines while ensuring sustainability and public convenience throughout the execution of the project.

Sakeena Itoo conducts extensive tour of Haveli Constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Monday conducted extensive tour of Haveli Constituency of Poonch district and inaugurated several public infrastructure projects besides laying foundation stone for multiple developmental projects.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated Outpatient Department (OPD) block at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Mandi and also laid foundation stone for Dialysis Unit at the hospital.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Health Minister said that the operationalization of OPD at SDH Mandi is a critical step in bolstering healthcare facilities in this remote area. She added that this OPD block, equipped with modern diagnostic and consultation facilities, is expected to ease the patient load on the existing infrastructure and enhance service delivery for residents of Mandi and adjacent areas.

“This new OPD block is a testament to our commitment towards improving the healthcare delivery in underserved regions. Timely and accessible medical care is not a luxury but a necessity and our government will ensure that no one is left behind”, the Minister stated.

Reiterating the Government’s commitment to grassroots level development, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah led government is focusing on strengthening grassroots development and improving public health infrastructure across J&K. She added that Dialysis facilities are being established at all Sub District Hospitals of J&K so that public get better healthcare facilities near their vicinities.

Later, the Minister laid foundation stone for Government Degree College Mandi.

Addressing a mammoth gathering after inauguration, the Minister



highlighted that with the efforts of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the long pending demand of the public has been fulfilled.

She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister for timely release of funds which will lead to timely construction of college.

The Minister further said that the College will lead to significant development in the field of higher education in this region. She also praised the MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan and Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal for resolving the land dispute issue of GDC Mandi.

During the visit, the Minister also interacted with the locals and took stock of their genuine issues and grievances. She

received feedback on several ongoing projects and also various social sector schemes.

While interacting with the locals, the Minister said, “Our aim is to ensure inclusive growth of J&K, where development reaches the last mile,”. She assured the public delegations that their genuine issues will be addressed promptly.

MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Director Health Services Jammu; Director School Education Jammu; Director Colleges; other senior officers of district administration and locals were also present on the occasions.

Govt releases ₹33.34 lakh for Karkhandar Scheme in Kashmir Div

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR– Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Monday announced release of ₹33.34 lakh for the implementation of its Karkhandar Scheme across the Kashmir Division.

This significant financial allocation, disbursed to the respective Assistant Directors of Handicrafts and Handloom, underscores the Government’s commitment to preserving and promoting the rich artisanal heritage of the region while ensuring the welfare and economic upliftment of craftsmen.

The Karkhandar Scheme, notified in 2021, is a landmark initiative designed to revive languishing crafts like pottery and foster sustainable development of the craft sector in UT of J&K. Implemented by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, the scheme aims to empower artisans, enhance skill development, and boost the livelihoods of craftsmen through structured interventions.

Highlighting its role in revival of languishing crafts, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the Karkhandar Scheme focuses on preserving traditional crafts such as walnut wood carving, silver

filigree, carpet weaving, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband, papier-mâché, and others like Sozni, tapestry, and engraved copperware, which face a shortage of skilled artisans. “It prioritizes crafts at risk of extinction, ensuring their legacy endures. It also facilitates skill transfer from master craftsmen, including National/State/Shilp Guru awardees, to the younger generation,” he said, adding meritorious trainees from departmental training centres receive advanced training in nearby Karkhanas to enhance their expertise and productivity.

Trainees receive a monthly stipend of ₹2,000 during the six-month training period, disbursed via direct bank transfer. “Karkhandars are provided ₹25,000 in two equal installments to cover logistics, tools, equipment, and raw materials, along with ₹2,000 per trainee per month to support their efforts.

This financial release of Rs. 33.34 lakh will empower Assistant Directors, in first phase, of Anantnag, Budgam, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Srinagar districts to accelerate the scheme’s implementation, ensuring artisans receive the necessary resources, training, and support to thrive.

137-year-old Nedous hotel sealed, GDA takes control

Govt cites unauthorised occupation since lease lapsed in 1985

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Days after the issuance of a formal eviction notice, authorities sealed and took over the iconic 137-year-old Nedous Hotel in Gulmarg. The action was carried out by the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), following orders from the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

The eviction notice, served on August 01 under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1988, directed the immediate vacation and handover of Hotel Nedous, which was declared as being under unauthorised occupation.

The Assistant Director of Tourism, Gulmarg, was tasked with taking possession of the property and handing it over to the GDA within 24 hours of the notice, while the District Magistrate of Baramulla was asked to deploy a magistrate and adequate police personnel to ensure the eviction was carried out peacefully and in accordance with law.

Spanning over 98 kanals and 11 marlas of government land, the hotel, as per



the details, had operated under multiple leases that expired in 1985 and were never renewed. The J&K government rejected the lease in February 2015. Later, the J&K High Court too dismissed the hotel’s plea for lease renewal and declared an unauthorised occupant under the J&K Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1988.

Originally established in 1888 by Michael Adam Nedou, the hotel has deep historical roots. It was linked to the influential Abdullah family through marriage—Nedou’s granddaughter, Akbar Jahan, married Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the founder of the National Conference. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is also related to the Nedou family—(KNO)

CS inspects Jammu's premier health institutions

Reviews healthcare services, ongoing infra projects too

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a move to assess and strengthen the healthcare delivery system in Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday conducted an extensive tour of the city’s major government-run medical institutions.

Those who accompanied the Chief Secretary included the Principals of concerned Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, Faculty Members, Chief Engineer (PWD) and others.

The visit aimed to take stock of the patient care facilities being provided in these premier medical facilities besides taking on spot assessment of the status of critical infrastructure projects currently underway to upgrade healthcare services in the region.

The Chief Secretary commenced his visit from the Government Medical College (GMC), Bakshi Nagar, where he inspected the newly constructed 100-bedded Critical Care Block, a vital addition to the hospital’s capacity to handle high-dependency patients.

He also reviewed the progress on the site of the Department of Interventional Pulmonology and High-End Laboratory (DIPHL), which is envisioned to further enhance the specialized care services at the institution.

Afterwards, the Chief Secretary visited the adjoining Bone & Joint Hospital and later the Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital at Salamar, Jammu.

At SMGS, he undertook a detailed inspection of the under-construction 243-bedded Gynaecological



Conducts surprise inspection of GGHSS Surankote

POONCH: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, Monday conducted surprise inspection of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Surankote and Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Lassana and took stock of their functioning and academic activities.

During the visit to GGHSS, Surankote, the Minister interacted with the students, teachers and other non-teaching staff to assess the functioning of the institution, status of infrastructure facilities and adherence to the academic standards.

While interacting with the teachers, the Minister took note of various shortcomings and assured them prompt redressal of the same.

Speaking to the students, she encouraged them to prioritize education as a transformative tool for their empowerment and upliftment.

Later, the Minister visited GHSS Lassana and reviewed the working of the institution. She inspected different sections of the school, classrooms and other infrastructure.

She reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to educational equity across Jammu and Kashmir, adding that these inspections would continue for improving the educational standards.

The Minister also directed the school administration to submit details regarding infrastructural and staffing needs for the institution.

Block, being developed at a cost of Rs31.59 crore.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that the new block is poised to significantly

strengthen the hospital’s maternal and neonatal care services, with advanced Perinatology and Neonatology units.

The facility is expected to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) besides cutting down the waiting time for planned surgeries considerably.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary also reviewed the functioning and infrastructure of the State Cancer Institute (SCI), Jammu, which is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs104 crore. He took a first-hand assessment of various crucial services including Outpatient and Inpatient Departments (OPD/IPD), diagnostic laboratory facilities, chemotherapy and radiotherapy units and the PET Scan operations.

He also enquired about the ongoing work on three modern operation theatres, and the status of installation of Linear Accelerator (LINAC) and other high-end medical equipment, being facilitated by Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) here.

The Chief Secretary was briefed on other flagship projects taken up at GMC Jammu to further augment specialized patient services, including the establishment of a Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) and other related infrastructure components.

Earlier, he visited the Government Dental College, Amphalla, where he inspected both the patient care arrangements and the newly constructed infrastructure block. He directed the executing agency to expedite the formal handover of the building to the department to ensure its early operationalization for public benefit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, brother of Azad Ahmad Bhat (Son of Gh. Rasool Bhat), hereby bring to public notice that my brother Azad Ahmad Bhat, S/o Gh. Rasool Bhat went missing on 21st August 2000 and has remained untraced since then. Despite our persistent efforts, we have received no information regarding his whereabouts. At the time of his disappearance, his dependents are, Gh. Rasool Bhat (Father), Sara Begum (Mother), Bashir Ahmad Bhat (Brother). All the above-mentioned family members are still alive as of today.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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Superintendent
Industrial Training Institute,
Rohama

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Quiet Comeback Story

As Jammu and Kashmir marks the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, the region finds itself in a new phase of stability, growth, and quiet transformation. While the political debate around the constitutional change persists, one figure who has emerged as a key driver of post-Article 370 governance is Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Since assuming office in August 2020, Sinha has prioritized grassroots governance, economic revival, and public trust-building. But perhaps his most humane contribution has been his unwavering support to victims of terrorism. The LG has consistently extended both financial and moral assistance to terror victims and their families, often visiting affected households personally. In multiple cases, ex-gratia relief, government jobs to next of kin, and relocation or security arrangements have been made swiftly. Sinha has underscored that the administration stands with every innocent life lost, and that terrorism will not be allowed to derail the march toward normalcy and justice. Beyond that, the region under his leadership has seen a remarkable shift toward development-oriented governance. Through initiatives like 'LG Mulaqaat', thousands of citizen grievances have been addressed in real-time. Transparency has improved, and public services have become more responsive. Under his stewardship, Jammu and Kashmir hosted its first-ever Global Investors Summit, receiving investment proposals worth over 80,000 crore. Projects in tourism, infrastructure, education, and health have been fast-tracked. In 2023, the Union Territory recorded its highest-ever tourist influx, signaling a major rebound in public confidence and economic potential. His focus on youth empowerment is evident in schemes like Mission Youth, HAUS-LA, and Tejaswini, which promote entrepreneurship among women and young people. E-governance, digital access, and education have also been major thrust areas under his administration. Security-wise, while challenges remain, the data points to a sharp decline in stone-pelting and separatist activity. Sinha has emphasized dignity without disruption, delivering on promises without politicization. Six years after August 5, Jammu and Kashmir is still healing but also building. In LG Manoj Sinha, the region has found a quiet, consistent administrator who believes that peace must be protected not just with force, but with compassion, justice, and opportunity.

Good Morning Kashmir

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In Blood And Law

Tracing Identity Through Blood Relation Certificates In J&K

MOHD AMIN MIR

In an age of biometric identities, digital signatures, and DNA tests, the phrase blood relation might sound ancient or even sentimental. But in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it continues to hold concrete legal and administrative value. The Blood Relation Certificate—a document that once existed mostly in family succession matters—has today evolved into an essential tool for a wide range of purposes: land ownership mutations, job applications under compassionate appointment, inheritance claims, visa approvals, pension disbursements, and even school admissions in some government-run schemes.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, recognising the increasing demand and potential for misuse of this certificate, issued Statutory Order (SO) No. 75 dated 27th March 2025. This SO standardises the issuance process, defines the competent authorities, and ensures procedural integrity. But to understand the relevance of this document today, one must first delve into its origin, legal importance, and recent procedural updates.

The Origins: Why the Blood Relation Certificate Was Created

Historically, the Blood Relation Certificate emerged as a practical administrative instrument in revenue and succession-related matters in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. With joint family structures dominating rural life, particularly among agriculturists, disputes over land inheritance often required documentation that proved familial lineage. The death of a landholder necessitated proof of succession, especially when mutation of inheritance (warasat) was under process.

In the absence of formal wills or registered family trees, the Blood Relation Certificate filled a critical gap. It verified whether the claimant was truly the son, daughter, widow, brother, or sister of the deceased—a declaration that had legal consequences for revenue records, agricultural rights, and even tenancy.

Over time, as the administration diversified and citizen services became more formalized, the utility of the certificate expanded beyond land disputes. It began to be used for:

- Compassionate appointments after the death of a government employee
- Bank account succession and insurance claims
- Pension and gratuity disbursements
- Immigration and visa applications
- Scholarship and social welfare scheme eligibility

Yet, for decades, there existed no formal policy governing the issuance of this certificate—leading to ambiguity, inconsistent formats, and sometimes manipulation.

The Legal Milestone: SO No. 75 Dated 27th March 2025

To address this gap, the General Administration Department (GAD) of the Govern-



ment of Jammu and Kashmir issued SO No. 75 on 27th March 2025, bringing much-needed clarity and standardization to the process.

Key Highlights of SO 75 (Dated 27-03-2025):

Competent Authority: The Statutory Order designates the Tehsildar of the concerned jurisdiction as the issuing authority for the Blood Relation Certificate. It clearly states that no official below the rank of Tehsildar shall issue this certificate.

Mandatory Documentation: The order outlines a list of documents to be submitted with the application (discussed in detail later).

Verification Process: The Tehsildar is mandated to verify the facts through revenue records, municipal registers, and field staff like Patwaris. Where disputes are noticed, the certificate may be withheld until legal adjudication is done.

False Declaration Clause: Any applicant providing false information is liable for legal action under IPC Sections 417, 420 (cheating), and 468/471 (forgery of document).

Issuance Timeline: The order encourages issuance within 15 working days provided all documents are complete and verification is positive.

Why It Matters: Legal and Practical Importance Today

Inheritance and Land Mutation: In the Revenue Department, mutations based on inheritance (intiqal warasat) often require a certificate proving the blood relationship between the deceased and the claimant. A Blood Relation Certificate issued by the Tehsildar helps establish prima facie evidence and reduces the need for litigation. It's especially important when there's no registered will or clear Tatima Shajra of the family subdivision.

Compassionate Appointment Cases: When a government employee dies while in service, dependents can apply for a job on compassionate grounds. Here, the certificate proves legal heirship and dependency. With increasing numbers of such cases, especially after COVID-19 and recent security incidents, the need for such documentation has only risen.

Visa and Immigration Formalities: Several foreign embassies, including those of Canada, UK, and Gulf countries, now require blood relation proof when a dependent is applying for a visa under family sponsorship. Since Jammu and Kashmir doesn't

have a traditional birth certificate system for older generations, the Blood Relation Certificate is often the only acceptable document.

Pensions, Insurance, and Gratuity: Financial benefits payable after death often require nomination proof or relationship authentication. Here again, the Blood Relation Certificate is crucial for widows, children, or parents claiming entitlements.

Dispute Minimization and Record Accuracy: In areas where oral family settlements are the norm and Tatima maps are absent, the Blood Relation Certificate serves as a reference point for entering correct names in revenue records. It helps patwaris and girdawars in preparing Jamabandis accurately and avoids overlapping claims.

Documents Required for Issuance: As per SO 75 dated 27-03-2025, the following documents must be submitted to the Tehsildar along with the application:

Application Form addressed to the Tehsildar mentioning:

- Name and address of the applicant
- Relationship claimed
- Purpose of certificate

Affidavit on stamp paper duly attested by a Notary or Magistrate declaring the relationship and undertaking that all information is true.

- Aadhar Card or other valid ID proof of the applicant
- Death Certificate (if the certificate pertains to a deceased relative)
- Revenue Record Extract (Jamabandi/Khasra Girdawari) if the claim is related to land inheritance
- Municipal or Panchayat record, if applicable, proving family relationship or residential linkage
- Ration Card showing family members together
- Verification Report from Patwari or concerned field staff—must be signed and sealed
- Supporting statements from two independent witnesses, preferably from within the revenue village
- Passport-size photograph of the applicant

The Tehsildar is to verify all documents before signing and sealing the certificate. In case of conflicting records or rival claims, the matter may be kept in abeyance and referred

to civil court for final determination.

Field-Level Challenges and Observations

- Despite the clarity brought by SO 75, the process is not without practical hurdles:
- Patwari Reports Delay: Many Tehsildars report that patwaris delay field verification due to staff shortages or overlapping assignments.
- Fudged Affidavits: Some applicants submit forged documents or affidavits. Without strict scrutiny, these can lead to wrong succession entries.
- No Central Database: There is still no centralized digital register of family trees or verified relations. Tehsildars often rely on ration cards and oral statements.
- Pressure from Influential Parties: In politically sensitive areas, officers often face undue pressure to issue or withhold certificates.
- Disputed Land and Dual Claims: In some cases, two people may claim to be sons of the deceased—one biological and another adopted or out-of-wedlock—leading to legal entanglements.

Recommendations for Reform

To ensure the integrity and efficiency of the Blood Relation Certificate system, the following steps are recommended:

Digital Verification Platform: Establish a Blood Relation e-Registry integrated with birth/death records and Aadhaar data.

Tatima-Based Inheritance Charts: Encourage patwaris to digitally draw family-based Tatima (sub-survey maps) for each village.

Mandatory Gazette Notification: For cases with large landholding claims, a mandatory public notice should be issued to invite objections.

Video Statement of Applicant and Witnesses: To prevent false claims, brief video recording of the applicant's statement may be retained in Tehsildar's office.

Time-Bound Disciplinary Guidelines: Any delay beyond 15 working days without valid cause must be reviewed at SDM level.

A Document Rooted in Trust and Law

In the final analysis, a Blood Relation Certificate is more than just paper; it is a bridge between human relationships and administrative record-keeping. It carries the weight of trust, the force of law, and the burden of potential misuse. With the issuance of SO 75 dated 27th March 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir government has taken a decisive step to make the system accountable and uniform. But its success will depend on how honestly it's implemented on the ground—from the patwari's pen to the Tehsildar's seal.

For the citizens of this Himalayan region, where family and land are deeply intertwined, the certificate is a silent but powerful recognition that blood still matters—not just in tradition, but in law.

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Pension Paradox: 5 Years Of Power, Lifetime Of Perks!



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

A man works for 60 years but still has to wander around for pension, and a leader enjoys his entire life after holding the chair for 5 years! Is this the same democracy that we believed was 'of the people, for the people and by the people'? Did the Constitution promise this equality?

Petitions of citizens like Sardar Singh Johal reach the Supreme Court because now the limits of patience have been crossed. For the employee who has been carrying files all his life, sweating in the fields, caring for children in school, saving lives in the hospital—pension is still not a facility but a struggle for him. On the other hand, a public representative, who has been elected by the people for 5 years, even if he has not gone to the House even for a single day, gets a lifelong pension—and that too only on the basis of becoming an MLA or MP once!

No work, just a chair is enough!

There are many politicians in India who once became MLAs or MPs, and then never contested any election. But money from the government



treasury will keep going into their pockets for the rest of their lives—because 'they were once MLAs'! Imagine, if a clerk starts getting pension after working for just one year, the Finance Ministry will shudder! But when it comes to politicians, logic, morality and equality all go to the side.

The hollowness of the 2018 Reform Act

A reform act was introduced in 2018, in which an attempt was made to rationalize the pension system of public representatives. But neither its rules were implemented at the ground level, nor was any accountability of the leaders fixed. The pension of leaders is neither based on job nor on contribution. There is no review, no evaluation. Just take an oath once, happiness for life.

The question is not why they get it, the question is why don't we?

The question is not why leaders get pension. The question is why ordinary citizens who serve their entire lives do not get it? Thousands of contractual employees, guest teachers, Anganwadi workers, doctors and nurses working on contract, sanitation workers—their hard work any less than that of a leader?

Even today, lakhs of government employees are waiting to get pension after retirement by paying EMI of their own money under NPS (New Pension Scheme). And on the other hand, netas, who already have all the allowances, cars, bungalows and security, are also enjoying pension.

Pension system makes a mockery of democracy

If there is any system in this country that is most unequal and dictatorial, then it is the pension of leaders. These people, who call themselves

public servants, enjoy power more than service. And even when the service ends, the benefits of power continue—in the form of pension.

Many leaders who remain silent on issues related to the public remain in politics only on the basis of this pension. Whatever the ideology—everyone gets the same pension. There is no reservation, no deduction, no grade pay here. Everyone is equal—because they are leaders! Is this the secret of equality?

Eliminate politicians' pensions—or give workers equality too!

If a politician can be entitled to pension after 5 years of service, why shouldn't a teacher be given the same facility after 5 years of service? Why shouldn't a farmer, who grows food every year, get a minimum pension for life?

Or a strict and fair decision

should be taken—that until the common employee is guaranteed a permanent job and pension, no leader will get this facility.

Supreme Court's intervention: A ray of hope

In Sardar Singh Johal's petition, it has been demanded that the pension of leaders should be abolished or at least the same rules should be applied in it as in the case of employees. The Supreme Court should give a quick and historic decision on this.

This is not a political issue, it is a question of social justice. It is an insult to the spirit of equality written in the Constitution of India that a particular class is given benefits only in the name of position, and the rest of the people have to struggle throughout their lives.

Role of the public: Do not remain silent now

If we remain silent, this inequality will never end. We have to take this message, this feeling and this voice to every street, locality, panchayat and university. The person who is an employee today, will be a voter tomorrow—and until the power of the vote brings about change, facilities like pension will remain only in the pockets of the leaders.

Every employee organisation, every youth forum, every teachers' union, every doctors' organisation must now raise this demand loudly—"Either pension for everyone, or no one!"

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

■ Job Effect

How Financial Independence Is Reshaping Marriage



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Marriage has now taken refuge in selfishness and independence instead of sacrifice and dedication. Many cases are coming to light where the husband educated the wife, got her a job, but as soon as she became self-dependent, she rejected the husband. This modern thinking is breaking relationships. Education and law are giving rights to women, but taking them away from responsibilities. Empowerment is incomplete until it teaches respect for relationships. Society should now raise its voice against such selfish attitude which is causing the breakdown of families.

There was a time when the relationship of husband and wife was a symbol of sacrifice, love and mutual dedication. Marriage was not just a social contract,



but was considered a deep emotional and spiritual journey. But today's modernity, education and the so-called "rights consciousness" have thrown this sacred relationship into the furnace of selfishness. Today, there is concern over the rapidly increasing number of cases in the country where a husband works hard for years, does labour work and educates his wife, gives wings to her dreams, and as soon as she gets a government job - she asks the same husband: "Who are you?"

This question is not being asked of a man alone, this question is being asked of the entire sacrifice that was made to maintain a relationship. This question is also on the system that gave the right to education but did not teach responsibility. This question is also on the law, which gave protection to women but did not try to teach them the morality of maintaining relationships.

Along with modern education, another ideology has taken deep roots in the society — "put yourself first", "relationships are burden", "freedom means being free from any bondage". This thinking is teaching, especially women, that marriage, husband, family are just a social formality that can be discarded if needed. And when education, law and a section of the society promote this thinking, the result is — homes

break, trust shatters and men's sacrifice becomes a joke.

A poor husband who carried bricks, worked as a daily wage labourer to educate his wife, filled her form, paid her fees, dropped her off at the examination centre, distributed sweets to her after she got selected - when the same husband stands at the door, the wife says - "I don't need you anymore." This sentence is not just words, it is the death of the struggle in which relationships breathed. This is the face of modernity, which shines but is hollow from within.

If a wife rejects her husband without any reason, without any harassment, just because he has got a job, then this is neither empowerment nor freedom — this is a social crime. This is the murder of those values which are the foundation of Indian society. It is important to make it clear here that we are not talking about those women who are really harassed, exploited or who need protection. We are talking about those cases where a wife leaves her husband by misusing the law and rights only because she has become financially independent.

The protection that the law has given to women is necessary and should be there, but that protection is sacred only as long as it is used and not misused. Today, the number

of such incidents is increasing in society where women have sent not only their husbands but also their families to jail by making false allegations, harassed them mentally and ruined them financially. Is this the family face of "New India"?

When a girl says, "Now I earn, I don't need anyone", it is not independence, it is narcissism. Does self-reliance mean abandoning relationships? Does the value of love and sacrifice become zero as soon as one gets a job? Why is it not explained that a strong woman is one who keeps her nest safe even during her flight, and not burns it as soon as she flies away?

The purpose of education is not only to get a job but also to bring maturity in thinking. Unfortunately, today's education has not given this maturity but in many cases has given rise to self-centred thinking. If self-reliance turns into selfishness, then it becomes a threat to the society. If a woman runs away from her relationships after studies, then it raises a question mark on that education, on that thinking and on that law which allows her to do this.

Many times, when a wife leaves her husband, society remains silent. Women consider it their right, and men do not even have a say. If a husband says, "I educated her, raised her, made her career", he is told,

"She did not do you any favour, she is independent now." But when a woman moves forward by sacrificing her husband, does that sacrifice not have any value? Doesn't she have any emotional recognition?

This mindset has now reached the courts. There are thousands of cases pending in the courts where men are fighting for their marital rights, yearning to meet their children, and carrying the burden of a relationship that exists only on paper for years. They can neither get a divorce, nor start a new life, and neither does society understand their suffering.

In many cases, educated women have extramarital affairs, distance themselves from their husbands, and then hide behind legal protection. When someone questions such matters, he is called "anti-women", "narrow-minded" or "patriarchal". But does a society not have the right to listen to the voice of a man who protects relationships?

If this mindset continues, the institution of marriage will be hollowed out in the coming years. Men will fear marriage, families will break, and walls of mistrust will be erected in society. Women must understand that they are not only responsible for getting a job, but also for maintaining relationships. When a husband pays your fees, gets you coaching, encourages you, then he is not just a husband, but a guide, a helper, a mentor. And when you leave him after achieving success, you reject not just a person, but a trust.

This society can no longer tolerate false cases, superficial freedom and relationships broken in the name of selfishness. Now the time has come to add moral values to education, bring balance in laws, and give the message to the society that empowerment does not mean running away from responsibility, but fulfilling it honestly.

In relationships, duties are as important as rights. True empowerment is that which does not break relationships, but strengthens them. Because if a wife asks her husband as soon as he gets a job - "Who are you?" - then it is not only the husband's defeat, but the entire society's defeat.

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Listening Beyond The Classroom

Reimagining Schools With Social Workers

IMRAN MAQBOOL WANI / ZAHID AHMAD LONE

In today's dynamic and often overwhelming world, schools have transformed from mere institutions of academic learning into complex social environments where students face a multitude of challenges that extend far beyond textbooks and exams. Amid the pressure to perform, many students silently grapple with emotional distress, family instability, peer conflicts, and social exclusion. In this evolving educational landscape, the role of school social workers has become not only relevant but indispensable. These professionals serve as critical anchors in a system that increasingly recognises the importance of emotional well-being as central to educational success.

School social workers are trained professionals who operate at the intersection of education and mental health. Their core responsibility lies in supporting students facing barriers to learning that arise from emotional, social, or behavioural difficulties. They engage with students individually and in groups, offer counselling, mediate conflicts, and act as a liaison between school, home, and community services. Unlike traditional educators or even general school counsellors, school social workers bring a unique lens of social justice, empathy, and systemic understanding to their practice. They are adept at identifying root causes of problems and designing interventions that are both context-specific and child-centred.

The relevance of school social workers is particularly pronounced in regions marked by social instability, economic disparity, or cultural stigma around mental health. Kashmir is a telling example, where prolonged political conflict, financial challenges, and social pressures weigh heavily on children and adolescents. In such a setting, students may enter the



school premises carrying the weight of trauma, anxiety, or familial stress. Teachers, though compassionate, often lack the training or bandwidth to address these underlying emotional needs. School social workers step in as a supportive presence, someone students can turn to without fear of judgment. Their intervention often means the difference between a student feeling isolated or understood, ignored or empowered.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has significantly contributed to reimagining India's education system with a focus on holistic development, emotional well-being, and inclusive learning. It advocates for integrating mental health support into the school ecosystem, thus validating the essential role of school social workers. This policy shift is not just aspirational but foundational — because learning cannot take place in an environment where students feel unsafe, unheard, or emotionally overwhelmed. School social workers play a vital role in realising NEP's vision by creating a supportive climate that

nurtures both academic and emotional growth.

One of the most transformative contributions of school social workers is their ability to normalise conversations around emotional well-being. In many traditional settings, including Kashmir, speaking about mental health is often met with discomfort or denial. Children are taught to endure rather than express, to hide rather than seek help. Social workers gently challenge this silence. Through one-on-one interactions, group discussions, and community engagement, they help students articulate their feelings, build coping strategies, and gain confidence in their ability to navigate life's challenges. In doing so, they not only assist individual students but also contribute to shifting the culture of the school toward one that is empathetic, inclusive, and emotionally intelligent.

Another key function of school social workers is to reduce dropout rates by addressing the non-academic issues that deter children from pursuing education. These can include

poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse in the family, or neglect. By connecting families to support services, advocating for student needs, and working closely with teachers, social workers ensure that vulnerable students do not fall through the cracks. Their work is preventative as much as it is remedial. They don't wait for a crisis; they build the scaffolding that keeps students resilient and engaged in their education.

Moreover, school social workers act as guides for teachers and parents. Educators often encounter behavioural problems in the classroom without understanding the underlying causes. A student acting out might be facing issues at home, or a child who appears disinterested may be dealing with anxiety or depression. School social workers help interpret these signals, provide strategies for effective communication, and conduct workshops that improve the emotional literacy of both staff and families. This holistic engagement strengthens the overall support system around a child.

Despite their proven impact, school

social workers remain largely absent from many educational institutions in India, including those in Kashmir. Budget constraints, lack of awareness, and under-prioritisation of mental health continue to be significant barriers. Educational policies mustn't be only written but also implemented with urgency. Governments must allocate dedicated funds for the recruitment and training of school social workers, particularly in regions with higher rates of social vulnerability. Teacher training programs should include modules on working collaboratively with social workers. Community-based organisations and NGOs can also play a pivotal role by sponsoring such positions or offering training support.

Reimagining the role of education means accepting that children are not just learners — they are emotional beings, social beings, and deeply influenced by their environment. The inclusion of school social workers is not a supplement to quality education; it is a cornerstone of it. Their presence ensures that no child must carry their burdens alone, that emotional wounds are not left untreated, and that every student has an advocate looking out for their holistic well-being.

In conclusion, the essence of school social workers lies in their ability to humanise education. They restore the soul of schooling by putting empathy at the centre of the classroom. As society becomes increasingly complex and demanding, the emotional safety net it provides becomes even more critical. In a place like Kashmir, where students often walk into classrooms carrying invisible burdens, having someone who listens, understands, and stands by them is not just helpful, it is life-changing. The time has come to recognise school social work not as a luxury, but as an educational necessity.

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Agriculture, Allied Sector

enhancing productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector.

He said, in areas like climate smart crops, pest management, biotech solutions, organic farming, the participation of women scientists has made invaluable contribution.

At the convocation ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the need for a stronger innovation and modern technology ecosystem for sustainable agricultural practices to prioritize farmer incomes, risk mitigation and strengthening farmer-industry linkages.

“Farmer welfare is the top priority of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The positive impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKICP) on farmers’ income is now visible. Total transformation at all stages of Beej se Bazar tak- from Seed to Market has been our Mantra in J&K. The resolution of Lab to Land has been realised to make the small and marginal farmers self-reliant,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the new generation of scientists and experts to focus on smart farming. He said the revolution in seed production, pest management, food processing, farm mechanization has ensured opportunities for the young professional to contribute in product development and quality control. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank. SKUAST Jammu has become the 3rd institution in the country to have Ex-Situ Gene Bank. This facility will preserve genetic resources such as seeds, plant tissue, animal germplasm outside their natural habitat and will prove to be an invaluable resource for breeding and research programmes.

The Lieutenant Governor also laid the Foundation stone for 200-bedded Farmers’ Hostel and a Faculty Building with common academic facilities.

During the convocation, 446 degrees were awarded including 157 Masters, 46 Doctorates, and 243 Undergraduate degrees. Eight Gold Medals were also conferred to meritorious students. Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture Production, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; members of Board of Management and University Council, faculty members and students were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly and Vice Chancellors of various universities were also present at the convocation ceremony.

LG Felicitates Recipients

class 10th and 12th from JKBOSE. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students. “It is inspiring to see the soaring spirit of our young generation and equally firm resolve for nation building. The adventurous pursuit of our students will ensure a bright future for the nation and humanity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the educational institutions and teaching community to focus on the overall development of the youth, impart life values, encourage new ideas, promote creativity and independent thinking among the students while ensuring they have access to global standards of education.

“I firmly believe that the right balance of science and sanskar will provide students with the ability to face the challenges of the future. To fully exploit the potential of India’s growing economic power, school education must focus on developing scientific temper and curiosity among students,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He urged the Amar Ujala Group to dedicate a special award to recognize and honour students for unique innovations and research. The unique ideas, original and distinct essays and research papers of the students which reflect their individual personality and critical thinking should be honoured and celebrated, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has gifted the National Education Policy to the nation’s education system, which has empowered the young generation. He underscored that the education policy’s emphasis on value-based education, have ensured that the young students not only gain knowledge but also develop a moral and ethical foundation to become responsible citizens.

“True Knowledge is transformative. It changes the life of the seeker. It fosters new innovations, discoveries, and research while instilling core values like integrity, patience, and honesty. The true Knowledge allows an individual to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation. We must understand that the right education triggers curiosity and creative thinking and inspires students to explore the unknown.

It should be our prime responsibility to nurture future-oriented talent and create a conducive environment where the students acquire knowledge and education in their truest forms,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the youth to find their inner voice and achieve excellence in life. “You are the future of this nation and the engine of its growth. The responsibility for steering India towards a Viksit Bharat lies on your shoulders,” he further said.

Advisor, Amar Ujala Group, Shri Uday Sinha; Executive Editor, Amar Ujala Group, Dr. Indu Shekhar Pancholi, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr KS Chandrasekar; Principal Secretary, School Education, Shri RN Sharma; Editors and members

of Amar Ujala Group; teachers, students and their parents were present.

LG Sinha To Hand

terrorism in the 1990s and early 2000s. Even today, sporadic attacks continue to claim lives, leaving behind grieving families.

Since 2002, Shah and countless others like him have been left to fend for themselves. “No government ever cared to ask about our pain,” he says. “For decades, J&K’s political class played into Pakistan’s ISI hands, empowering terrorists while leaving victims to rot.” However, he expresses gratitude towards LG Manoj Sinha for his recent efforts in providing jobs and support to terror-affected families.

Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh from Sheeri Baramulla lost his father to terrorism and has since faced a relentless struggle for justice and survival. “No one can imagine our pain,” Sheikh says, his anger palpable. “Past governments mocked us with false promises and endless verifications. They made us run from office to office, only to be turned away.” “We don’t want sympathy; we want dignity,” Sheikh asserts.

A heart-wrenching account comes from a mother who met LG Sinha in Baramulla. With tears in her eyes, she narrated how terrorism snatched away her husband and son, leaving her alone to raise two grandchildren in poverty. “I have nothing left but pain,” she said. “For years, no one listened. Now, at least someone is acknowledging our suffering.”

The event at SKICC is part of a broader initiative by the Jammu & Kashmir administration to provide long-overdue justice and economic stability to terror-affected families. Earlier, on July 13, LG Sinha distributed appointment letters to 40 families in Baramulla, followed by another 80 families in Jammu on July 28.

For decades, many terror victims’ families lived in obscurity, their pain ignored by society. Some faced social ostracization due to fear of terrorist reprisals, while others struggled to make ends meet. By offering employment, the government aims to restore dignity and hope to these families.

For years, these voices were stifled, their pleas for justice ignored. Political regimes, instead of standing with the victims, allegedly played into the hands of Pakistan’s ISI, emboldening terrorists while leaving survivors to rot. The change began when young activists Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Mudasir Dar and Anika Nazir, founders of the NGO ‘Save Youth Save Future Foundation,’ decided to break the cycle of neglect. “We asked a simple question: Why is no one listening to the victims?” says Wajahat.

Their journey was not easy. Moving from village to village, they documented harrowing accounts, families living in fear, some too traumatized to speak. “Many had lost faith in the system. We had to convince them that this time, someone (LG) would listen,” says Mudasir.

Their efforts revealed a staggering truth, approximately 11,000 terror victim families exist across Jammu and Kashmir UT, with over 2,000 identified and 400 personally interviewed so far.

When Wajahat and Mudasir approached LG Sinha with these findings, they found a leader who listened, and acted. “I will go meet them at their homes. I want to hear their stories in their own words,” Sinha told them.

True to his word, on June 29, 2025, he visited terror victims in Anantnag, promising jobs and other help. The administration delivered even sooner, handing out appointment letters in a deeply emotional ceremony in Baramulla and now in Srinagar today (Tuesday).

A senior official stated, “This is not just about jobs, it’s about telling these families that their sacrifices have not been forgotten. It’s a step towards healing and rebuilding their lives.”

The violence perpetrated by groups like JeM, HM, and LeT was not just aimed at security forces but also at civilians who resisted terrorism or supported democracy.

Despite the decline in terrorism in recent years, the scars remain. The government’s latest initiative is an attempt to address the lingering wounds of terrorism.

The initiative has been welcomed by civil society groups and mainstream political parties in Kashmir. Many view it as a necessary step towards reconciliation. However, some critics argue that more comprehensive measures, such as counseling and educational support for victims’ children, should also be implemented.

The government has indicated that similar initiatives will continue in the coming months, ensuring that no victim’s family is left behind.

The distribution of appointment letters to 250 terror victims’ families is more than just a welfare measure, it is a recognition of their suffering and a commitment to their future. As Jammu & Kashmir moves towards peace and development, such initiatives play a crucial role in rebuilding trust and fostering social cohesion.

For terror victims, this is more than just employment, it’s validation. “Since the 1990s, we lived in silence, pain, and hopelessness,” said one victim. “Today, LG Sinha has lit a lamp of hope in our homes.” As the administration vows to reach every affected family, Kashmir’s forgotten victims finally see a glimmer of justice, one that had been denied for far too long.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha’s efforts underscore the administration’s resolve to stand with the victims of terrorism and ensure that their sacrifices are honored with dignity and justice. Today’s event at SKICC as per the officials is not just a ceremony but a milestone in Kashmir’s journey towards healing and hope.

Imran Ansari

leader urged the Union Minister to consider steps toward the peaceful resumption of these religious practices from next year, highlighting their cultural and spiritual importance to the Shia community in

Kashmir.

“Met the Hon’ble Union Home Minister @AmitShah Ji today in Delhi for a sincere and in-depth conversation regarding the on-ground realities in Jammu & Kashmir,” Ansari posted on X along with his picture with Home Minister Amit Shah.

Ansari, who is secretary general of Sajjad Lone led Peoples Conference, said, “We spoke at length and acknowledged the efforts made by the @OfficeofLGJandK for the rehabilitation of families impacted by terrorism that continues to demand urgent and sustained attention.”

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has recently announced that all militancy victim families would be provided compensation and jobs. He has also directed police to register cases in some cases, where the cases were not registered yet.

“I also expressed appreciation for the support by the Central and State Government during Muharram and brought up the issue of certain banned processions, urging that steps be taken to ensure their peaceful resumption from next year onwards,” Ansari said.

The meeting concluded on a hopeful note, with both sides looking forward to tangible outcomes that would directly benefit the people of Jammu & Kashmir and promote greater harmony and stability in the region.

CM Omar Advocates

for a decisive shift toward sustainable and organic practices. He also emphasized the rising concerns around microplastics in the food chain and climate vulnerability, noting that environmental awareness is no longer optional, but an operational imperative.

Encouraging the graduating students, Omar Abdullah urged them to imbibe the ideals of SKUAST and contribute to the broader mission of rural transformation. “Let your innovation create employment, let your knowledge build enterprises and let your compassion redefine agriculture,” he said, calling on the new graduates to be job creators rather than seekers.

Commending the University’s efforts, the Chief Minister appreciated the launch of the Ex Situ Gene Bank, highlighting its role in conserving native seed varieties and crop diversity. “Such infrastructure will only bear fruit when paired with the right talent,” he said, urging students and faculty to make full use of the facilities to address the evolving challenges of agri-science.

The Chief Minister also lauded the students’ academic excellence and equal participation in developmental narratives, expressing confidence that SKUAST-Jammu’s alumni will drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-sector.

Among other dignitaries present at the Convocation of SKUAST-Jammu were Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha as the Chief Guest, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Javid Ahmed Dar; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; and Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar, who congratulated the university on its silver jubilee and commended the Vice Chancellor and faculty for their visionary alignment with national frameworks such as NEP-2020, Startup India and Viksit Bharat @2047.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi highlighted SKUAST-Jammu’s consistent achievements in education, research, innovation and outreach. “Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the patents we’ve secured, the start-ups we’ve incubated and the knowledge we’ve transferred to empower the farming community,” he noted.

The convocation saw the awarding of 446 degrees, including 157 Master’s, 46 Doctorates and 243 Undergraduate degrees, in addition to 8 Gold Medals for meritorious students. Several Professors of Practice, innovators and entrepreneurs were also felicitated for their contributions to agri-technology and rural entrepreneurship.

The ceremony also marked the inauguration of a Farmers’ Hostel and a state-of-the-art Faculty Building funded under CAPEX-NABARD and J&K Government, bolstering SKUAST-Jammu’s capacity for academic and research excellence.

The event was attended by senior officials, members of the University Council and Board of Management, faculty, students, farmers and members of the public.

Gunbattle In Kulgam

while maintaining contact.” “One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces so far. Operation continues,” the post added.

The Indian Army last night kept the terrorists engaged in intense gunfights to prevent them from escaping in the dark. This is one of the longest anti-terrorist operations, as it has taken four days and is likely to take more time.

Top police and Army officials, including the Director General of Police (DGP) and senior commanders from the Army’s 15 Corps, are closely monitoring the operation.

The encounter has stretched beyond 72 hours, with fierce exchanges of fire in dense and difficult terrain. “The thick forest and challenging landscape are slowing the progress,” the official said.

He said that to track and neutralise the remaining terrorists, the forces have deployed high-tech surveillance systems, drones, elite Para forces, and attack helicopters like the HAL Rudra. Ammunition was dropped through a hexacopter to eliminate the terrorists, he added.

The official said the source said additional deployments of security forces have been activated to maintain pressure on the hiding terrorists. “The cordon has been extended to a larger area,” he said—(KNO)

Increase Surveillance

ITBP Srinagar, SSB Jammu, CISF Jammu, all district SSsP of J&K, SSsP of (PCR Kashmir, Railways, APCR, CID SBK, Security Kashmir, CID CIK), SsP of PC Srinagar, PC Jammu and other senior officers.

DGP Prabhat was apprised of the prevailing security situation in the Union Territory by the Zonal Inspectors General and heads of various wings.

Senior officials from the intelligence wing also presented their assessments and briefed the DGP on relevant developments. During the meeting, the officers discussed the recent security developments along with the current challenges viz a viz the measures to counter these challenges.

The meeting concluded with the resolve to ensure heightened vigilance, improved coordination and effective implementation of security measures to maintain peace and safety across the valley—(KNO)

Security Agencies Confirm

were active nightly from April 22 to July 25 within a 4 sq km area in Harwan forest. Ballistics testing confirmed that shell casings from the attack matched the AK-103 rifles recovered after the encounter. DNA tests linked blood from the attack site with the deceased terrorists.

he terrorists, identified as senior Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Dachigam forest on the outskirts of Srinagar on July 28 during an operation code-named ‘Mahadev’. They had been hiding in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt since the April 22 attack in Pahalgam’s Baisaran meadow, which claimed 26 lives.

The slain terrorists were identified as Suleman Shah alias ‘Faizal Jatt’, an A++ category terrorist, mastermind and lead shooter; his close associate Abu Hamza alias ‘Afghan’, an A-grade commander and the second gunman; and Yasir alias ‘Jibran’, also an A-grade commander and the third gunman, the officials said.

Security Situation In J&K

fatalities, a 57% drop in security force casualties, and a 22.2% decline in civilian deaths over the comparative six-year spans. The trend becomes clearer when viewed annually. The year 2018 remains the deadliest of the last decade, with 452 fatalities, comprising 271 militants and 86 civilians. Before 2019, yearly fatalities frequently exceeded 170.

For example, 2013 recorded 172 deaths, followed by 189 in 2014, 175 in 2015, 267 in 2016, and 357 in 2017. Security forces faced heavy losses during this period, especially in 2016 and 2017, which saw 88 and 83 personnel killed, respectively.

A sharp shift was observed in the second half of 2019. From January to July that year, 233 terror-related deaths were recorded. But in the five months following the abrogation, from August to December, the number dropped sharply to just 50, reflecting a 78.5% decline in fatalities in the latter part of the year.

The following year, 2020, registered a spike in overall deaths, reaching 321.

Officials attribute this to an increase in counter-insurgency operations that resulted in the deaths of 232 terrorists. However, from 2021 onwards, annual fatalities consistently remained below 275.

The lowest fatality figures of the decade were recorded in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, a total of 134 people lost their lives in terrorism-linked incidents, followed by 127 deaths in 2024, marking a 62% and 65% drop, respectively, from the 2018 peak.

Civilian deaths followed a general downward trend but with fluctuations. The year 2023 saw only 12 civilian fatalities, the lowest in over a decade. This number rose to 31 in 2024.

As of August 2025, 28 civilian deaths have been reported, with 26 of those occurring in a single major attack in Pahalgam on April 22—(KNO)

Post-Pahalgam Strike,

on translating academic knowledge into usable military applications.

He said the Agnishodh cell at IIT Madras will help convert lab-scale innovations into field-ready defence technologies. It will work with the IIT Madras Research Park and organisations such as the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development Centre (AMTDC) and Pravartak Technologies Foundation.

These collaborations are expected to support Indian Army projects in additive manufacturing, cyber security, wireless systems, unmanned aerial platforms, and quantum computing.

He said the research facility would also help upskill Army personnel in emerging technologies, thereby building a more capable and tech-enabled workforce within the military.

During his visit to Chennai, General Dwivedi also visited the Officers Training Academy (OTA), where he reviewed infrastructure and training methods. He said the OTA is equipping cadets to handle evolving security challenges. He interacted with Army veterans and honoured four retired officers with Veteran Achievers Awards for their contribution to the Armed Forces.

The Indian Army, he said, is undergoing major changes under its “Decade of Transformation” plan, which includes doctrinal shifts and a focus on integrated responses to grey-zone conflicts.

The Army chief said initiatives like Agnishodh would support India’s journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047 through sustained progress in indigenous defence innovation—(KNO)

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign
sees vibrant participation
across Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A series of patriotic activities were held Monday across various educational institutions and public offices in district Budgam as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being celebrated under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

These events were organized under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, aimed at fostering a spirit of nationalism and deepening the emotional connect of citizens with the Indian national flag.

All departments, educational institutions, and local bodies have been actively mobilized to ensure widespread awareness and community involvement.

The day witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members in flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, awareness rallies, and painting competitions. Special focus was laid on educating students about the significance of the national flag and the Flag Code of India, ensuring

ing they understand the correct ways of displaying the Tiranga.

At various Government schools across the district, including Government Higher Secondary School Kanir, students showcased handmade tricolour-themed artwork and participated in engaging patriotic song competitions. The school premises were decorated with flags and banners echoing national pride.

The Municipal Council building and Clock Tower in Budgam town were beautifully illuminated in the colours of the national flag, creating a vibrant ambience and drawing public attention towards the importance of the campaign.

District administration also appreciated the efforts of schools, government departments, local bodies, and community stakeholders for their proactive role in spreading awareness and encouraging public participation.

The campaign continues to gain momentum in Budgam, as students, citizens come together to honour the Tricolour and reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of the nation..

JKSDM launches India
Skills Competition 2025
across 20 districts of J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) Monday launched the India Skills Competition 2025 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory, signaling a significant push to empower the skilled youth of J&K and align them with national and global platforms of excellence.

The launch, held simultaneously across the districts, is part of the nationwide campaign initiated by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to discover and reward the most skilled young professionals across India through India's largest skill competition.

On the occasion, the Mission Director, JKSDM, remarked that "India Skills 2025 is more than just a competition, it is a movement that recognizes skill as a tool for empowerment. Launching it across all the 20 districts ensures inclusivity and access for every aspiring youth in J&K. Our goal is to continue building on past successes and prepare our youth to meet world-class standards."

The district-level roll-outs were conducted in collaboration with the District Skill Committees, ITIs, Polytechnics, educational institutions and industry partners. The activities included awareness sessions, orientation drives and registration support for the interested



candidates. On the spot registration kiosks were setup and many candidates registered for the competitions. All the information related to India Skills was provided to the aspirants.

As per J&K's track record in the India Skills 2023-24, the UT showcased stellar performance during the India Skills 2023-24 competition, securing 3 Gold Medals, 4 Bronze Medals and 6 Medallions of Excellence.

This performance reflects the growing competence and potential of youth across the Union Territory. With expanded outreach and strategic mentoring, JKSDM is aiming for even greater success in the upcoming national rounds.

India Skills 2025 is featuring 63 official and provisional skill trades including sectors like Mechatronics, Welding, Web Technologies, Fashion Technology, Cyber Security, Bakery, Health, Social Care and many more.

All the eligible youth born on or after 01 January 2004 (and for select skills, after 01 January 2001) are encouraged to register for the competition. "There is no formal educational requirement for participation, the only eligibility criteria is that participant should fall in the specified age group and should have skills to showcase in the competitions even if acquired informally," said one of the Officers of J&K Skill Mission.

As per the format, the participants shall have to compete at the District Level Competitions which will lead to State Level Competitions. The State Level Winners will form Team J&K and will represent the UT at the Regional Level Competitions that shall be conducted by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the winner will proceed to National Level Competitions.

The winners of National Level Competitions will

form Team India and represent India in the World Skills Competitions scheduled in Shanghai, China in 2026. In previous edition, J&K sent 03 candidates who won Gold at National Level and represented India at World Skills Competitions that were held in Lyon, France in September 2024. All the expenses on part of competitions and trainings for level of competitions shall be borne by the Government.

"This is the biggest platform where the youth can showcase their skills and get recognized and appreciated at State, National and International Levels. The India Skills Competitions are aimed at glamorizing the skills and evade the blue collar stigma", added Leena Padha, Mission Director JKSDM.

JKSDM will continue its outreach and mobilization through institutional networks and local industry. District Nodal Officers have been activated and SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) will be assigned for each skill sector to streamline the registration and training coordination. All the information about India Skills 2025 and the guidelines and tutorials of registration are available at www.skill.jk.gov.in/cms/competition.

All the eligible candidates can register themselves for the competitions by or before 30th of September 2025 which is the last date for registrations.

SHA J&K clarifies allegations
of denial of PM-JAY benefits
in Private Hospitals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In response to a recent news report by KNS Kashmir highlighting the concerns about alleged denial of services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme in certain private hospitals, the State Health Agency, J&K, has issued a clarification to reassure the beneficiaries of their rights and the support available to them.

As per an official communication issued Monday in this regard, the SHA has established a robust and transparent grievance redressal mechanism to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is denied treatment under the scheme.

If any empanelled private or public hospital refuses to provide treatment under the scheme, beneficiaries are advised to immediately report the issue. Complaints can be registered by calling the toll-free helpline 104 for direct assistance and quick action. Additionally, grievances can be submitted online through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), Central Grievance Redressal and Management System (CGRMS) or the JK Samadhan Portal. If any hospital is found guilty of denying treatment or violating scheme guidelines, strict action is taken, including imposition of penalties, temporary suspension and even permanent de-empanelment from the scheme.

A dedicated Grievance Cell at SHA monitors and resolves complaints on a



priority basis. Additionally, the State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) conducts regular follow-up calls with the patients to verify whether they received the entitled cashless treatment.

It is important to note that all treatment packages under the Ayushman Bharat scheme are scientifically designed and standardized by the expert committees under the National Health Authority (NHA). These packages define clear medical protocols, costs and durations and are applicable uniformly across all empanelled hospitals in the country. Hospitals are not permitted to alter or overcharge for these packages, ensuring transparency and uniform quality of care.

As per the scheme guidelines, no empanelled hospital is allowed to deny treatment or demand payment for services covered under the scheme. Any such act whether in the form of service denial or asking for money constitutes a serious violation. Hospitals found guilty are liable to face strict action, including penalties, suspension or permanent de-empanelment from the scheme.

The SHA has urged all the beneficiaries to register their Grievances/Complaints through available channels. For any help or complaints, beneficiaries can call 104

Speaker Rather reviews arrangements
for upcoming Urs at Pakherpora Shrine



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Monday visited the revered Pakherpora Shrine to review the preparations and arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Urs celebration.

During the visit, the Speaker held public interaction with the local residents, civil society members and shrine management.

The public raised wide range of issues and demands regarding smooth conduct of the Urs. Main issues raised included uninterrupted electricity, adequate water supply,

timely ration distribution and proper transport facilities from major routes like Budgam, Pulwama and Charar-i-Sharief to Pakherpora Shrine.

The Speaker assured the public that all the necessary arrangements will be made well in advance. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that adequate electricity, water and ration supplies are available during the Urs days to avoid any inconvenience to the devotees. Furthermore, he emphasized on the need for hassle-free transport facility from the surrounding districts and towns to facilitate smooth movement of pilgrims.

The Speaker reiterated

that the administration is committed to facilitate the religious events with dignity and proper planning. He added that all public grievances would be resolved at the earliest to ensure a peaceful and spiritually enriching Urs at Pakherpora Shrine.

The locals expressed gratitude to the Speaker and District Administration for active role and commitment for arrangements for the Urs.

CEO Yousmarg Development Authority, SDM Charar-i-Sharief, BMO, Assistant Director Food, ARTO Budgam and other senior officers accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

DSEK mourns demise of
former Commissioner
Secretary, G.A. Peer

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of G.A. Peer, a distinguished former Commissioner-Secretary to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

A seasoned and visionary bureaucrat, Peer served J&K with distinction from 1977 across several pivotal administrative roles during his illustrious civil service career.

In a condolence message, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, described late G.A. Peer as a man of rare dedication, humility, and intellect, who always remained connected with the grassroots and was deeply committed to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"G.A. Peer was an officer of impeccable integrity and a reservoir of knowledge whose sincerity and tireless work ethic made him one of the most respected officers in our administration. His ability to empathize with the people and resolve their

concerns with sensitivity set him apart. With his demise, the administration of Jammu and Kashmir has lost one of its finest public servants," Dr. Itoo said.

To pay homage to the departed soul, a condolence meeting was convened today at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir. The solemn gathering was attended by officers and staff of the Directorate who recalled Peer's outstanding contributions to public administration and his inspiring legacy of leadership, simplicity, and service.

The entire staff of the Directorate joined in conveying their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family, especially to his wife, Mrs. Peer, and his sons, noted journalist and author Basharat Peer and Wajahat Peer. They prayed for eternal peace to the noble soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

"His legacy will continue to inspire generations of civil servants in Jammu and Kashmir" Dr. Itoo noted in his message.

Stringent regulations soon for dressed
mutton, chicken supplies entering J&K: FDA

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to bring stringent regulations on the supply of dressed mutton and chicken entering J&K from outside, with a specific focus on mandatory labelling and source disclosure, following public concerns over meat quality.

Commissioner FDA Smita Sethi, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration J&K, clarified that there was no ban on mutton or chicken supplies. She said all consignments must now strictly follow legal provisions related to labelling, hygiene, and traceability.

"We are not imposing a ban, but we are enforcing strict compliance. Whatever is brought into the valley must have proper labelling, a source of origin, processing details, and other necessary information so that customers know exactly what they are buying," she said.

The move comes in the wake of rising religious and public health concerns, particularly after several Muslim religious bodies, including the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU), the largest conglomerate



of religious organisations in Jammu & Kashmir, questioned whether meat coming from outside J&K met halal standards.

Sethi said labelling transparency would help avoid hurting religious sensitivities and ensure legal accountability. "If you are not giving the right information to the consumer, that is a violation, and that will be dealt with as per law," she said.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner said the FDA has launched a full-fledged investigation into the recent recovery of 1200 kilograms of rotten mutton, which was reportedly being transported for local consumption, possibly to restaurants and hotels.

"We are establishing a complete chain. No one transports 1200 kg without a destination in mind. We are

tracking who was involved and where it was meant to be sold," she said.

Sethi confirmed that some illegal storage points were identified and more locations were under scrutiny. "We are keeping the investigation confidential for now. Revealing too much at this stage could alert those involved and allow them to dodge action," she said.

The department will soon issue a public notice to raise awareness among consumers and vendors about labelling norms and food safety protocols.

A case has been registered in the case. As per the officials, an FIR bearing no. 48/25 U/S 271, 275, 61(1) BNS stands registered in Police Station Zakora against the individuals selling spoiled and rotten meat in the market—(KNO)

'Real Test cricket': Rashid Latif hails India's Oval heist as Siraj seals historic six-run win

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NEW DELHI: Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif called it "real Test cricket" — a drama soaked in pressure, tactics, grit, and late twists. India's astonishing six-run win over England in the fifth and final Test at The Oval ticked every box, and for Latif, it was a throwback to the finest traditions of the format.

"Test matches in England and Australia have a charm of their own. What we saw in this series, especially the final Test, was real Test cricket — pressure, fightbacks, and tactical gambles," Latif told IANS. "This final match turned into

a fast-bowler's contest, and the way Siraj and Prasidh Krishna bowled under pressure was incredible."

On a nail-biting final day, Mohammed Siraj produced one of the finest spells of his career, taking three of the last four England wickets to complete a five-wicket haul and bowl India to a six-run win — their narrowest victory by runs in the history of Test cricket. With it, India squared the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2024 series 2-2, ending an unforgettable tour on a high.

England, resuming at 339/6 and needing just 35 runs, were favourites to seal the match and the series. But Siraj had



other plans.

He got things rolling by drawing a tentative poke from Jamie Smith, caught brilliantly low by Dhruv Jurel for 2. Then, after a tense few overs in which England chipped away at the target, Siraj struck again — trapping Jamie Overton LBW with a nip-backer. Umpire's call went India's way, bringing them two wickets away from a famous win.

Prasidh Krishna, who had already bowled his heart out for four wickets, joined the act with a sensational 141 kmph yorker to clean up Josh Tongue. That brought Chris Woakes to the crease, walking out bravely with his left arm in a sling.

With England still in the contest, Atkinson heaved Siraj for a six and tried to farm the strike. But Siraj finished it in style — a searing yorker that clattered Atkinson's off-stump and triggered euphoric celebrations from the Indian players and travelling fans.

Siraj, who had dropped a vital catch of Harry Brook earlier, spectacularly redeemed himself, ending with figures of 5 for 104 in 30.1 overs. Prasidh Krishna's 4 for 126 ensured the two pacers accounted for nine of the ten wickets in the innings. "Siraj especially held his nerve when England looked set to win," said Latif. "The ball to get Jamie

Smith was crucial. And after that, he just didn't let them breathe."

The former Pakistan wicket-keeper also praised the courage of India's returning star Rishabh Pant, who was reportedly playing through pain in the Manchester Test. "Coming back from a near-fatal accident and still standing up to keep wickets and bat under pressure — that's inspiring for the team and fans."

He added that India's depth is becoming a strength, especially as they navigate a new generation: "With players like Jaiswal scoring big and Pant back, they have options. But there's still a puzzle around the number three slot. They'll need to back some-

one consistently."

Latif also reflected briefly on Pakistan's recent Test struggles, citing selection inconsistencies and leadership concerns: "We lost to Bangladesh and the West Indies — games we shouldn't have lost. Our captain can be good, but juggling formats is tough. There's talent, but we're not making the right decisions yet."

For India, it wasn't just a win — it was a statement. With Gill captaining his first series, and questions circling new coaching structures under Gautam Gambhir, the comeback from 1-2 down to level the series showed depth, belief, and character.