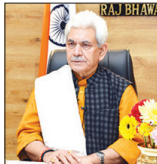


Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Landed in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. Looking forward to paying my obeisance to holy relics of Lord Buddha & interaction with Mr. Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, Head of Republic of Kalmykia, Head of the Buddhists of Kalmykia, Shajin Lama of Kalmykia, venerable monks & local devotees.

Srinagar • Saturday 18, October 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 240 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Assures Support For Priority Works

CM Omar Reviews Progress Of Development Projects



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Continuing his extensive tour of districts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the developmental scenario, ongoing projects and implementation of government schemes in District Anantnag.

The Chief Minister took detailed stock of the progress under District CAPEX 2025-26, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and other flagship programmes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, District Development Coun-

cil Chairperson Anantnag, Members of the Legislative Assembly Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed (Anantnag), G.A. Mir (Dooru), Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam), Abdul Majeed Bhat (Anantnag West), Zaffar Ali Khatana (Kokernag), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigufwara-Bijbehara) and Reyaz A. Khan (Shangus-Anantnag East).

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Fakhruddin, heads of departments, district officers, and other concerned officials also attended the meeting.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Fakhruddin gave a detailed presentation highlighting the status of. **• P-06**

LG Travels To Russia To Repatriate Lord Buddha's Holy Relics



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha arrived in Russia on Friday to lead a delegation tasked with bringing back the holy relics

of Lord Buddha to India. The relics were recently displayed at the Geden Sheddup Chokorling Monastery in Elista, the capital of the Kalmykia Republic.

In a post on X **• P-06**

MHA Orders Judicial Probe Into Leh Police Action On Sept 24

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed a judicial inquiry into the police action in Leh town on September 24, which led to the deaths of four people.

According to the notification issued on Friday, an FIR (No. 144/2025) has been registered at Police Station Leh under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, covering offences such as abetment, attempted offences, causing injury, and obstruction of public servants.



The inquiry will be headed by former Supreme Court Judge Dr. B. S. Chauhan, who will be supported by retired District and Sessions Judge Mohan Singh Parihar as Judicial Secretary and IAS officer Tushar Anand as Administrative Secretary.

The judicial **• P-06**

PM Modi Led Govt's Tough Stand On Terror In J&K Unmatched: Amit Shah

'During Congress Rule, Terrorists Played Khoon Ki Holi Across India'

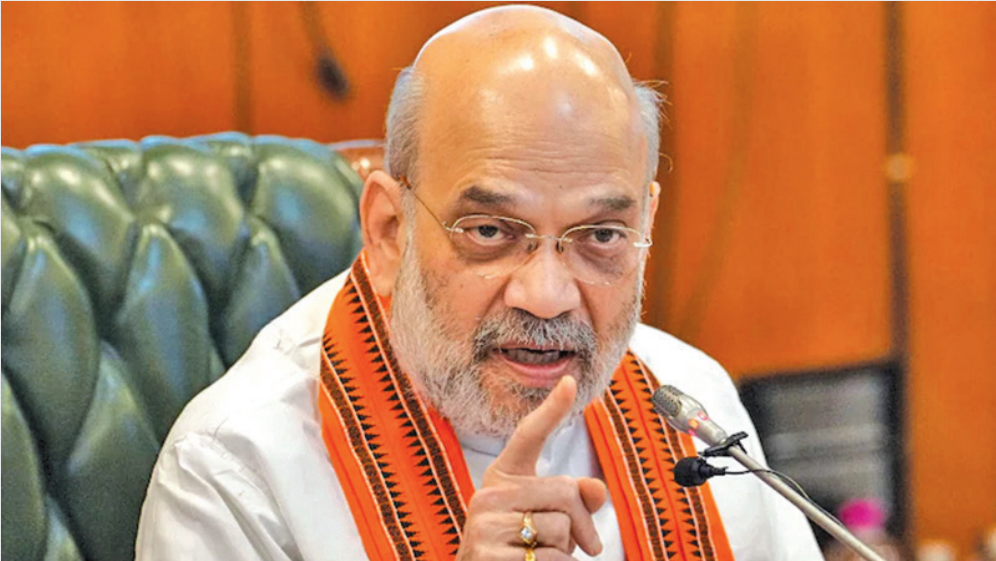
SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Asserting that India now responds to terror threats with unprecedented resolve and strength, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the PM Modi-led government's action against terrorism in J&K is unlike anything seen in decades.

Addressing a public rally in Taraiya, Bihar, Shah, said, "During the Congress rule, terrorists played 'khoon ki holi' (blood-soaked Holi) across India. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we entered their homes and wiped them out through 'Operation Sindoor'."

He said that terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack were brought to justice under 'Operation Mahadev,' and their handlers were also targeted inside Pakistan. "The way Modi ji responded to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, no one did in the past several decades," he added.

Highlighting the government's achievements, the Home Minister said the abro-



gation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir was a historic decision that permanently integrated the region with the rest of the country. "From removing Article 370 to fighting terrorism, we have acted on every front. When terrorists tried to rise again, we launched Operation Sindoor and taught them a lesson in their own

homes," Shah said.

He said the government ended the practice of triple talaq, giving justice to Muslim women, and after 350 years fulfilled the long-standing promise of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Shah also accused opposition parties of misleading people with "unrealistic

promises" and reviving what he described as the politics of corruption and fear.

He said the regime led by PM Modi remains focussed on development, welfare, and national security.

"The Indian economy is now among the fastest-growing in the world, inflation is under control, and the **• P-06**

THE INDIAN ECONOMY IS NOW AMONG THE FASTEST-GROWING IN THE WORLD, inflation is under control, and the country's global standing has strengthened," he said, adding that the government's vision is to build a self-reliant and secure nation rooted in cultural values.

Congress Denies Rift With NC, Says Will Continue Despite Differences

RAHEEN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Amid growing speculation over cracks in the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance, the Congress on Friday said that the partnership between the two parties will continue for the greater common good.

Congress General Secretary, Ghulam Ahmad Mir told the media persons, that internal differences do not mean the alliance is breaking apart.

"Leaders express their opinions—some support one side, some the other—but there are proper party forums and authorized persons to speak on such matters," he said.

Mir explained that Congress had asked for a specific Rajya Sabha seat but could not reach an agreement with the NC. "The fourth seat was given according to their own calculations. Our top leadership had decided



that if we were not given what was rightfully ours, we would not contest. That was a party decision," he said.

He dismissed speculation about the alliance collapsing, saying disagreements on one issue should not be seen as a split. "If we focus on just one

issue, no one achieves any major goal," Mir said.

He said that both parties remain united against the BJP. "We will not let the BJP's designs or their communal agenda succeed in Jammu and Kashmir. Internally, we may have differences, but **• P-06**

NIA Charges Migrant Labourer For Conspiring With LeT



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against a migrant labourer from Bihar for allegedly supporting proscribed terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu.

The accused, identified as Akhalatur, alias Mohammed Akhlaque Mujahid, a resident of Katihar district, Bihar, has been charged under Sections 196 and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya San-

hita (BNS) and Sections 13(1) (b) and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The chargesheet was filed today before the NIA Special Court at Poonamallee, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Mujahid, employed as a labourer at a private construction site in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, was arrested in April by Kayar Police for his involvement in anti-national activities. The case was subsequently taken over by the NIA due to its gravity.

During the investigation, authorities discovered that Mujahid maintained **• P-06**

Rajya Sabha Polls

All Eyes On Independents, But No One Can See Their Vote

Opaque Voting Rules Put Spotlight On 7 Non-Party MLAs

IBNI MAQBOOL

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) and Congress made last-ditch efforts to forge unity ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls, following Congress's public announcement that it would not contest the 'riskier' fourth seat. As a result of negotiations, Congress leaders claim they had nearly agreed to field a candidate for the competitive seat; however, the issue of independents played spoilsport in the final moments of the unity talks. The differences arose from the voting method of independent MLAs, who are not required to show their marked ballots to polling agents-unlike party-affiliated legislators.

With the Rajya Sabha election just a week away, all eyes are on seven independent MLAs-five of whom support the gov-



ernment and two who are aligned with the fragmented bloc of Kashmir-based opposition in the Assembly.

Among the five supporting

the government are Satish Sharma, a minister in the Omar Abdullah-led administration; Pyare Lal (MLA, Inderwal); Muzaffar Khan (MLA, Rajouri); Choudhary Akram (MLA, Surankote); and Dr. Rameshwar Singh (MLA, Bani). These MLAs did not contest the 2024 Assembly elections on the ticket of any recognized or registered party and won as independents. They submitted letters of support to Omar Abdullah when he staked his claim to form the government in October last year.

In the House, Sheikh Khurshheed (MLA, Langate) and Shabir Ahmed Kulley are the two independents aligned with the **• P-06**

Budgam By-Election

NC, PDP Yet To Nominate Candidates As Deadline Nears

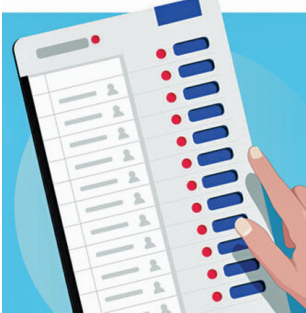
NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: As the last date for filing nomination papers for the Budgam by-election approaches, the two major regional parties including National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are yet to officially declare their candidates.

Speculations are rife that the National Conference may field Aga Syed Mehmood, though party sources said that the final decision is expected within the next 24 hours.

In the 2024 General Assembly elections, PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi had secured 17,525 votes from Budgam, while NC's Omar Abdullah bagged 36,010 votes and won the seat by a significant margin.

Omar Abdullah, however, chose to retain his Ganderbal seat, leaving the Budgam constituency vacant. The Budgam seat fell vacant on October 21, 2024, after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah retained the



Ganderbal constituency following his dual victory in last year's Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already announced Aga Syed Mohsin as its candidate for the Budgam by-polls.

Muntazir Mohiuddin, who was earlier associated with the Apni Party has also confirmed his decision to contest as an independent candidate.

Another independent candidate, Jibrin Dar, has filed his nomination papers today at the Returning Officer's office in Budgam, **• P-06**

India Now Unstoppable, Does Not Remain Silent After Terror Attacks: PM



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that India now does not remain silent after terror attacks but hits back using surgical and air strikes.

Addressing the NDTV World Summit here, he said there are several roadblocks and speed breakers but India remains "unstoppable".

"India no more remains silent after terror attacks but gives befitting reply through air strikes, surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor," he

said. "When wars became headlines globally, India proved naysayers wrong by continuing to march ahead as fastest growing economy," added Modi.

Noting that India is not in a "mood to stop", he said as the world today faces various roadblocks and speed breakers, it is only natural to talk about an unstoppable India.

"We will neither pause nor slow down. 140 crore Indians will move forward together with full momentum.

"Today, India has **• P-06**

CM Omar convenes review meeting of District Kulgam

Emphasizes timely completion of projects, winter preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of District Kulgam to assess the progress of developmental works under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The Chief Minister appreciated the district administration's effective response during the recent floods and reviewed ongoing measures for infrastructure restoration and public service delivery. He directed officers to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the upcoming winter months, to expedite permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, to intensify field inspections, and strengthen inter-departmental coordination. He further instructed the officers to prioritize the completion of all ongoing projects within set timelines to ensure visible outcomes on the ground.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, DDC Chairperson Kulgam, MLAs M.Y. Tarigami and Pirzada Feroz Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary R&B, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Amir Ul shafi Khan, heads of departments, and all district officers attended the meeting.

While reviewing winter preparedness, the Chief Minister underscored the importance of equipping



districts, particularly in snow-prone areas, with sufficient 4x4 ambulances to ensure uninterrupted emergency services. "We are working with the concerned departments to make sure that every district has an adequate number of 4x4 ambulances so that people do not face difficulties during heavy snowfall," he said, directing officials to ensure that the ongoing arrangements include appropriate mobility and safety measures.

On the developmental front, the Chief Minister noted that while the number of new works had increased compared to the previous year, the value and scale of ongoing projects had also grown significantly. "Our achievement levels need to improve further as the working season is short. I urge the district administration to utilize the remaining two months effectively to maximize expenditure and progress," he said.

Highlighting the importance of timely fund utilization under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Omar Abdullah directed officers to ensure that the first instalments are fully utilized by December to avoid delays in the release of subsequent funds. "Frequent reviews are essential to track the progress and utilization under schemes like SASCI to prevent work disruption and withholding of funds on account to low percentage of expenditure by the end of December," he added.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister e-inaugurated several key urban infrastructure projects in Kulgam, including the Solid Waste Management & Material Recovery Facility at Lirrow, the Municipal Shopping Complex, and a Modern Abattoir, aimed at strengthening commerce and civic amenities in the district.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected departmental stalls showcasing various

government schemes, welfare initiatives, and achievements under flagship programmes. He interacted with officials and beneficiaries, appreciating their efforts in ensuring citizen-centric governance and effective public service delivery.

During the meeting, the DDC Chairperson and local legislators raised several development related issues concerning their respective areas. The Chief Minister assured that all genuine demands would be considered on priority to accelerate Kulgam's overall growth and development.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Ul shafi Khan, gave a detailed presentation outlining the district's developmental progress, achievements, and challenges for 2024-2026. He highlighted key focus areas like post-flood infrastructure restoration, healthcare, agriculture, education, and rural-urban development.

Speaker engages with Media persons in Pre-Assembly session talks

Assures full support to media fraternity during Assembly Session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather Friday interacted with media persons of different News organisations at Assembly Secretariat here to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the forthcoming Assembly session.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR), Javid Ahmad Rather; Assistant Director Doordarshan, veteran Journalists, bureau chiefs, senior journalists and correspondents, representatives of All India Radio and other concerned officers.

During the interaction, Speaker Rather held detailed discussion with media fraternity on various issues concerning the media professionals, identifying additional requirements to enhance their working environment during the upcoming session. The deliberations also focused on ensuring hassle-free entry of media persons to the Legislative Assembly premises and as well as their facilitation for smooth coverage of the session.

The Speaker highlighted the vital role of media in upholding transparency and fostering informed public discourse on legislative proceedings. He emphasized that the



media acts as a vital bridge between the people and the legislature, ensuring citizens remain aware of policies, discussions and decisions that shape governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognizing the significance of media in highlighting public issues, the Speaker sought cooperation from media houses for balanced and responsible reporting of the Session. He emphasized the critical role of journalists in ensuring transparency and public awareness of legislative discussions and advised them to keep public interests paramount while discharging their professional assignments.

While reviewing arrangements for media persons, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings. He instructed the Assembly Secretariat officers to prepare and issue entry passes for journal-

ists in coordination with information department well in advance for their unhindered entry into the assembly complex.

To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the information department to install sufficient number of microphones and Public Address Systems (PAS) within the Assembly Hall and its lawns, facilitating smooth interaction between dignitaries, Ministers, legislative assembly members and the journalists. He also directed the Hospitality & Protocol department to install Shamyana with a dais for press briefings by the MLAs and Ministers.

The Speaker also directed SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to make appropriate parking arrangements for media personnel near the Assembly Secretariat.

During the interaction, the Speaker also invited constructive suggestions from journalists for improving media engagement and coverage of legislative business. Representa-

tatives of both print and electronic media expressed their appreciation for the Speaker's proactive approach and shared valuable inputs on improving accessibility and communication channels between the media and the Assembly Secretariat.

They highlighted key concerns like designating parking spaces, provision of high-speed Wi-Fi for seamless coverage and extension of other logistical support. The Media representatives also sought smooth distribution of entry passes for coverage from Assembly Secretariat, particularly for Accredited Journalists as well as veteran Journalists who have been in the field for decades.

In response to concerns raised by the media fraternity, the Speaker assured them that the highlighted issues would be addressed promptly and the Assembly Secretariat remains committed to ensure conducive environment for media persons to discharge their professional duties.

B'pora Scripts History, Bags Best Performer Award in India under AKY

President of India Felicitates DC Bandipora for Exemplary Performance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a historic moment and a matter of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir, District Bandipora has bagged the Best Performer Award in the Country under the prestigious Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan (AKY), recognizing the district's outstanding implementation and on-ground impact of the initiative.

For this remarkable feat, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, was felicitated by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, during a national-level ceremony held today. The honour marks a significant milestone for the district, reflecting its commitment to innovation, transparency, and citizen-centric administration.

The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at capacity building, skill enhancement, and improving governance efficiency, was implemented in Bandipora with remarkable zeal



and vision. The district administration adopted a proactive approach by conducting extensive training sessions, awareness programmes, and introducing digital governance practices, all of which contributed to its recognition as the Best Performing District in India.

The DC expressed gratitude on receiving the national honour and dedicated the achievement to the collective efforts of her team and the people of Bandipora. She said that the recognition belongs to the entire Bandipora team who worked tirelessly to make the Adi

Karmayogi Abhiyaan a success.

The DC acknowledged the relentless dedication and coordination of the District Nodal Officer (DNO) Yar Ali, Khan, Chief Planning Officer, M. Maqbool Lone; District and Block Mission Teams (DMTs and BMTs), Aadi Saathis, Aadi Sahyogis, and all 17 participating Ministries.

This national recognition has brought unprecedented pride and visibility to Bandipora and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, placing it firmly on the national map for excellence in governance and public administration.

Nagrota Bye Election First Randomization of EVMs, VVPATs conducted

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: First Randomization of FLC passed EVMs and VVPATs was conducted by the District Election Officer Jammu to allocate EVMs and VVPATs for the bye election to 77- Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

The Randomization of EVMs and VVPATs was done through the EVM Management System, developed by Election Commission of India, in the presence of the representatives of National and State Recognized Political Parties.

After completion of the First Randomization, the lists of EVMs and VVPATs were shared with all the National and State Recognised Political Parties at district headquarters.

The EVMs and VVPATs will be provided to the Returning Officer 77- Nagrota for use in bye-election 2025. These EVMs and VVPATs will be stored in strong room of 77- Nagrota Assembly Constituency in the presence of the representatives of the National and State Recognised Political Parties.

After finalization of the list of contesting candidates, the list of first randomized EVMs and VVPATs will be shared with all the contesting candidates, as well.

Training for Polling Staff for Budgam Bye-Elections Enters Second Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The second day of training for polling personnel deputed for the Bye-Elections to 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency continued smoothly Friday across all three designated venues i.e. Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall Budgam, Government Degree College Budgam, and Community Hall Budgam.

The training sessions are being organized under the overall supervision of the District administration to ensure that all election officials are well-versed with the latest guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Master Trainers conducted detailed demonstrations on handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

(VVPAT) units, along with hands-on practical exercises for all categories of polling staff.

The trainees were sensitized about the importance of maintaining transpar-

accessibility arrangements to facilitate inclusive voting, especially for senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

District-level officers and Nodal Officers monitored the training process at all venues to ensure comprehensive coverage and effective participation.

The DEO has directed that every official engaged in poll duty must attend all phases of training sessions to ensure foolproof arrangements on the polling day.

The next phase of training is scheduled to continue in the coming days, during which Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, and other staff will undergo further sessions focusing on practical simulations and case-based learning to strengthen preparedness for the smooth conduct of the bye-elections.



CEO reviews preparedness for bye-election to 77-Nagrota AC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Verma Friday chaired a review meeting to assess preparedness for the upcoming bye-election to 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency (AC), scheduled to be held on November 11, 2025.

During the meeting, District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Rakesh Minhas, presented a detailed account of the election arrangements being made in the constituency. He highlighted key parameters from the updated constituency profile and informed that 150 polling stations, with robust polling infrastructure and 100% assured minimum facilities like ramps, lighting, drinking water and sanitation, have been established for



the bye poll to the Constituency, having 97,893 registered voters.

Detailed deliberations were held on EVM and VVPAT management, transport planning, SVEEP campaigns, strongroom arrangements and facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens during the meeting.

Addressing the officers, CEO Sanjeev Verma stressed that the bye-election must be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, ensuring voter confidence

through strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and timely redressal of grievances. He added that the bye-election represents a "festival of democracy", which should witness inclusive participation from all sections of society.

The CEO directed officers to ensure completion of all training and logistical exercises as per schedule. He appreciated the proactive measures taken by the district administration and emphasized on citizen outreach through SVEEP rallies and awareness

programmes.

The CEO expressed satisfaction over the coordinated arrangements led by the DEO and Returning Officer and urged all officers to work in close synergy, maintaining high standards of neutrality and efficiency to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process.

Dr. Nirupma Rai, Special Secretary; Sandish Kumar Gupta, Special Secretary, Joint CEO Anil Salgotra, other Nodal Officers and senior district officers were present in the meeting.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HORTICULTURE OFFICER ANANTNAG

DC OFFICE COMPLEX ANANTNAG, PIN: 192101 01932-467596

OPEN AUCTION NOTICE

Subject: - Open-auction of 268 No's of walnut trees existing in Departmental Hazelnut Farm Lehenwan of District Anantnag.

Reference: - Deputy Commissioner Anantnag's letter No. DCA/MISC/2033-34, Dated: 14-10-2025.

Due to very poor response and lack of registered bidders of the wood carving society for manufacture of Kashmir fine arts, approval has been granted by the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, to carry out an open auction of 268 walnut trees located at Lehenwan Hazelnut Farm via above referred communication. Accordingly, schedule for conducting of open auction of said walnut trees is framed as under:

S. No.	Departmental Farm	Date of auction	Time of auction	Venue/Place of Auction
1	Hazelnut Farm Lehenwan	24 / 10 / 2025	11:00 AM	Chief Horticulture Office Anantnag

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- All the interested persons are informed to participate in the auction proceedings at the specified venue on scheduled date, time and venue.
- Interested bidders must be present in person and should carry valid identification.
- A security deposit (EMD) in the form of CDR/Cash shall be submitted before the commencement of auction proceedings. The amount so required shall be decided by the committee on spot.
- The successful bidder will have to deposit the auction amount in one installment on the spot after completion of the auction in the office of Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag along with notarized agreement within week's time.
- The committee reserves the right to accept or reject the bids offered without assigning any reasons to the participants.

For further details, please contact the office of Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag during office hours except holidays up to 23/10/2025.

DIPK-7274-25

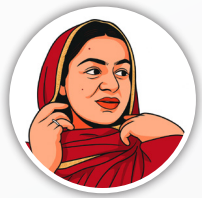
DT: 17/10/2025

Sd/-

Chief Horticulture Officer, Anantnag.

■ Prophet Of Progress

Why Sir Syed's Vision Matters More Than Ever



MUSKAN SHAFI MALIK

As a student at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), it is meaningful to observe 17 October as birthday of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, whose society and contribution could be labeled as Eid-e-Alig. On his 208th birthday, we keep his struggles in perspective, particularly on his day. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was born into a respected family in Delhi in 1817 and received traditional Islamic education, studied both Persian and Arabic. Early in life he showed an enthusiasm for modern scientific pursuits and Western education. As a young person, he joined the British administration as a subordinate judge in Ghazipur, where his occupation led him to be familiar with the social, educational and political condition of the Indians and Muslim community.

After the decline of the Mughal Empire, and the decline of Muslim society, he noticed the divide and the destruction of community bounds to develop with the British and surely became concerned with the Muslim society. Before the Revolt of 1857 and during the British expansion, Khan was an advocate for Muslims to adopt modern education, learning English and the blessings of scientific study, which was the foundation to his later enterprise of social and educational reform.

In the aftermath of the Revolt of 1857, the world of India had crumbled. Delhi lay vacant, the Mughal crown was shattered, and the Muslims of North India had lost their power, property and pride. From those ashes stood a quiet reformer named Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. He realized that the struggle for honour would no longer be lived on the battlefield, but in the classroom.

For Sir Syed, the path to renaissance travelled through the mind. He was not a revolutionary but rather, a reconstructionist who wanted to rebuild a traumatized community through education, reason and conversation. However, it was the same pragmatism that made him a visionary that also made him a target. The detractors of Sir Syed thought of him as a loyalist who had too much in common with the British, an elitist who turned his back on the poor, and someone limited in his thinking who had emphasized Muslim identity and inadvertently left the door open for impending communal division.

A hundred years later, as India discusses education, identity, and secularism yet again, his life calls for a new assessment. After 1857, Muslims were cast as the primary perpetrators of the revolt. Sir Syed, who had seen the chaos in Delhi up close, understood that his community could not go through another round of violence. His pamphlet Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind (The Causes of the Indian Revolt) was radical for its day:



he attributed the revolt not to native "fanaticism," but to British administrative hubris and cultural arrogance. Still, he couched this criticism in reason, not revolt.

He concluded that the only way was education. In 1875, he started the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, which would grow into Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The promise was radical: to create and integrate Western sciences and Islamic morals, with a generation empowered by both faith and reason.

Through his journal Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq, he urged Muslims to reject superstition and exercise reason. For him, science and religion were not antithetical. "The Quran," he wrote, "invites man to study nature, for both are creations of God." The rationalization of belief became his intellectual trademark.

Sir Syed's reforms angered both conservatives and nationalists. The orthodox ulema of his time condemned him as a heretic for questioning literal interpretations of miracles and angels. The Deoband movement, founded around the same period, argued that his ideas diluted Islam under the influence of the West. From the nationalist camp, figures like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and later Maulana Azad accused him of dividing India along religious lines. His refusal to join the Indian National Congress in 1885 which he saw as premature and dominated by the Hindu elite was read as a precursor to the "two-nation theory." Even sympathetic historians such as Bipan Chandra saw him as too accommodating to colonial authority. Others labelled him an elitist reformer who worked only for the upper classes, not for the masses. To view Sir Syed's loyalty to the British as servility is to ignore the world he lived in. The rebellion had destroyed Muslim social capital; thousands had been executed, lands confiscated, and jobs lost. His cooperation with the British was not ideological but strategic – an act of survival. He believed political confrontation without education was suicide.

His recommendation for Muslims to engage in knowledge before entering the political arena, did not reflect retreat, but preparation... His idea was simple: "Read first, then rule." He intended that Muslims would adapt to the new system, rather than succumb to it. Syed was far from a communal thinker, as he was concerned with Muslim identity that was cultural, as opposed to separatist. His vision for India was "a beautiful bride, one eye Hindu, the other Muslim. Loss of either reflects a loss of vision." The later communal politics of the 20th century cannot be blamed on him; they were distortions of a message that was about coexistence. Syed was also working within a 19th century bigger movement of Islamic modernism, with people like Jamal al-Din al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh, but his was specifically Indian, pluralist, dialogic, and reformist approach.

He maintained that genuine faith can never be in conflict with reason because both arise from the same source of divine revelation. In this, he resurrected the rationalist perspective of early Islamic thinkers like Ibn Sina and Al-Farabi, who viewed knowledge as a form of worship. His reinterpretation of texts was less a matter of contrariness than of regeneration and essentially implied a restatement of eternal truths in a newly emerging situation. In an age where religion and science frequently contradict one another, Sir Syed's synthesis feels eerily relevant. He perceived the divine as not inhibiting reason, but inspiring it. Today, the Sir Syed legacy pertains to more than just the red-brick structures of Aligarh. His life offers a moral lesson on modernising while maintaining your legitimacy and engaging with the state while preserving your dignity. His assertion that advancement must begin in the classroom is a cautionary note to contemporary India where educational indifference and the political framing of education are threats to excellence and equity.

His articulation of education, rational yet ethical, modern yet moral still feels like a lost ideal.

Sir Syed's idea of cultural confidence, not separatism is especially important in this age, when identity politics often deepens into hostilities. He believed that Muslims could be loyal to both Islam and India and did not see the two values as contradictory. His belief in reasoned discussion rather than confrontational means is a lesson for India's increasingly polarised society. He may have shaken off Congress in his lifetime, but his intellectual descendants, both nationalists and reformers, fought for India's liberation. As historian Francis Robinson observed, the Aligarh Movement it created indirectly the educated Muslim middle class that would form the groundswell for India's national awakening even among those who disagreed with his cautious politics. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was not without flaws, no reformer is, and he sometimes could be conservative in temperament, cautious in politics, and limited by class bias. However, above all else, he was a man who had thought ahead of his time.

He did not preach revolution, but transformation. He did not reject faith, but reinterpreted it. And he did not seek separation, but survival through understanding. In an age of noise and certainty, his voice of measured reason sounds almost prophetic. He once wrote, "When the Quran invites man to think, it is not commanding disbelief it is commanding understanding." That single sentence sums up his life's philosophy: that belief without thought is stagnation, and thought without belief is emptiness.

More than a century later, as India wrestles with questions of identity, education, and harmony, Sir Syed's message still whispers across time: progress begins in the mind, but it must never end at the cost of the soul.

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CM Omar Under Fire For Comparing Prepaid Electricity Meters To Mobile Recharges

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah faced backlash for comparing prepaid electricity meters to mobile recharges, with critics accusing him of making a U-turn on his pre-election promise. The installation of smart meters has been one of the most debated issues in Kash-

mir, with residents opposing them for being more expensive than previous meters. Over the past few years, hundreds of protests have been held across the region against the rollout. During the election campaign, Abdullah criticised the meters and told voters that he would address the issue after winning office.

Before the assembly elections, he had told voters that smart meters were being installed even though electricity supply was not yet available, and people would be required to pay bills in advance. He promised that the issue would be addressed after the elections. After assuming office, Omar described prepaid elec-

tricity meters as similar to prepaid mobile phones. He said consumers pay first and then use electricity, questioning why people were concerned and pointing out that the meters were installed across the region, not just in Jammu. The shift in stance has drawn criticism from political leaders and social media users.

People's Conference (PC) president Sajad Gani Lone said Abdullah's earlier assurances about electricity units were misleading and accused him of reversing his position. Sajad Gani Lone said, "Now this is no longer about free 200 units of electricity. This is about CM sahib lying through his teeth. The comparison between the pre- and post-elec-

tion videos of CM sahib about smart meters unambiguously and digitally nails the lies and deception. Mark my words, this is the 'coffee and toffee' moment for CM sahib for all times to come." Senior Congress leader Vikar Rasool said the pre-election promises now appeared inconsistent with his current remarks. "Omar

Abdullah spoke about installing smart meters before the elections, but where did that honesty go after he became Chief Minister?" Meanwhile, social media users also criticised the Chief Minister. Many highlighted clips from his campaign statements alongside his recent comments, accusing him of a U-turn—(KNO)

Ladakh Violence Act Responsibly, Don't Repeat Past Mistakes: CS Tells People After MHA Probe

SAJID RAINA

LEH: Soon after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) ordered a judicial probe into September 24 Leh violence, which left 4 people dead and several injured, Chief Secretary of Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal on Friday urged the people to 'act responsibly' and avoid repeating the past mistakes. Addressing a news conference here Dr Kotwal, said, "We have come out of a painful experience. Let us not repeat it. The Government of India has responded positively to every major demand, including the judicial inquiry. Now it is time for peace, progress, and unity. Ladakh's future depends on our collective responsibility." Dr Kotwal expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, recalling his visit to the hospital where doctors performed 11 complex surgeries overnight, saving multiple lives. "Their competence, dedication, and the blessings of God saved many people," he said. "Only five patients remain hospitalized, mostly with bone

injuries, and are expected to recover within two weeks." Dr Kotwal said that the Government of India has responded to public demand for transparency by ordering judicial inquiry to be conducted by former Supreme Court Judge Justice B S Chauhan, who will be assisted by an IAS officer and a senior judicial officer. "The order has been issued, and the Commission will begin its work immediately. Its purpose is to uncover the truth and ensure that such an incident never happens again," the Chief Secretary said. Dr Kotwal said that most people who were detained after the Leh violence have been released. "Only 23 individuals remain in judicial custody under the authority of the courts. The law will take its course and public order must be maintained at all costs," he added. Dr Kotwal thanked community leaders for their cooperation in restoring peace and normalcy, highlighting that internet services, schools, markets, and tourism activities have now resumed. "We have just

withdrawn restrictions under Section 163. Our goal is to keep Ladakh peaceful and stable," he said. Dr. Kotwal said, "We cannot afford another incident. Once large crowds form, emotions rise and control becomes difficult. I request everyone not to gather in large numbers. Let's focus on rebuilding our peace and progress." He commended the patriotism and peace-loving nature of Ladakh's people, noting their historic contribution to national security through the Ladakh Scouts regiment. "Ladakhis are known for their nationalism and devotion to the country. No one can ever doubt their patriotism," he added. The Chief Secretary said that the High-Powered Committee (HPC) meeting regarding Ladakh's constitutional safeguards will be held shortly. "The Government of India has accepted the demand for a judicial inquiry. The next step is to hold the HPC meeting where all issues and demands will be discussed and resolved through dialogue," he said.

Dr Kotwal said the administration is considering compensation for the families who lost their breadwinners in the incident. "If an innocent person has suffered, the government is positive about providing compensation as per law. The issue is not money, but principle," he said. Security Measures Dr Kotwal explained that the Rapid Action Force (RAF) has been deployed in replacement of existing forces not as an addition. "The RAF is better trained for mob control and reduces the risk of casualties. We now have two normal and two RAF companies deployed," he said. He stated that the Government of India is moving ahead with plans to create five new districts in Ladakh, as announced in August. The proposal is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Finance for approval of necessary posts and resources. On the issue of internet suspension, Dr. Kotwal acknowledged the difficulties faced by students and businesses. "Students depend on online classes and YouTube courses. Traders

and professionals also rely on connectivity. That's why we restored internet services as soon as the situation improved," he explained. Dr Kotwal said that applications for district-level job recruitment have been invited and that LSSB exams are scheduled for November. "Our focus now is on education, employment, and tourism revival," he said. The Chief Secretary announced that Ladakh will participate in the WTM London Exhibition an important global tourism event, to promote the region and attract visitors. "We are trying to revive tourism which was affected by recent events. Peace and stability are essential for Ladakh's economy," he said.. He reiterated that traditional village headmen (Goba) play a crucial role in maintaining communication between communities and the administration. "They are respected figures and are appointed by the District Commissioner. Their cooperation is vital for maintaining public order and community welfare," he said—(KNO)

Week Long Outreach Programme On ABS For Migrants Concludes At New Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The week-long outreach camp organized by the Relief Organization, J&K, in collaboration with the J&K State Health Agency (SHA) in Delhi NCR area concluded successfully Friday. The outreach camp was held in Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, and other areas, in which more than 400 new families were enrolled under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and the members of many already enrolled families were added. Facilitation regarding various Government schemes and services being offered by the Relief Organization was also provided in these special camps. The camp was held under the overall supervision of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, who was assisted by Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Kailash Devi; officers of SHA and Relief Organization. Dr. Karwani also interacted with the social activists and representa-

tives of various organizations of Kashmiri migrants at New-Delhi and patiently listened to their suggestions/ grievances related to immovable properties of migrants in Kashmir Valley, development of robust database of migrants and various services being offered by the Relief Organization. There was a general demand that more such outreach programmes be organized in future. On the occasion, Dr Karwani also reviewed arrangements for the Kashmiri Migrant voters based in New-Delhi for the Bye Election of Budgam Assembly Constituency, which is going to polls on 11-11-2025 with Assistant Returning Officer Delhi. Dr Karwani impressed upon ARO and his team to reach out to the migrants and create voter awareness and offer all possible facilitation to them for smooth voting process. He was informed that four special polling stations have been established for the facility of Kashmiri migrant voters in Delhi.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Omar Reviews

development works, ongoing projects, and performance of various departments in the district. During the review, the Chief Minister underscored the need to accelerate development works with regular fortnightly monitoring, ensuring timely utilisation of funds and preventing lapsing of funds. He directed that all core infrastructure - healthcare, education, tourism, and horticulture initiatives be strengthened to enhance livelihood opportunities and economic growth. Emphasizing inter-departmental coordination and rigorous project monitoring, the Chief Minister directed officers to ensure time-bound completion of all ongoing works and effective delivery of public services. In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called upon the district administration to expedite implementation under the CAPEX budget, noting that current expenditure levels were low. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct fortnightly reviews to ensure full utilisation of allocations by December, ensuring timely execution of works under SACS and cautioning against any lapsing of funds. Reiterating his government's commitment to development, the Chief Minister assured that all significant and priority works would be taken up for implementation. He urged legislators to make optimum use of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for local projects, citing the construction of marriage halls as one such viable initiative. Speaking on the SASCI scheme, the Chief Minister said: "There is a big responsibility on us under SASCI. We must ensure full expenditure of the funds received by December to secure the next instalment. I urge the Deputy Commissioner to monitor progress weekly, address slippages promptly, and keep my office informed of any issues. I do not want a single SASCI project to suffer due to implementation delays." He further directed that utilisation of available funds be prioritised and assured that all legitimate public demands raised during the meeting would receive due consideration. "As we have done in the past year, we will continue to take up and execute as many developmental works as possible in the coming year," he added, complimenting the district team for their efforts so far. Earlier, the public representatives presented various constituency-specific issues and developmental demands for redressal. On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah e-inaugurated the Tehsil Office Building at Shangus and dedicated it for public use.

PM Modi Led Govt's

country's global standing has strengthened," he said, adding that the government's vision is to build a self-reliant and secure nation rooted in cultural values. Calling for public vigilance, Shah urged

citizens to stay alert against those who seek to derail progress. "Only a stable government can ensure continuity of development and the safety of the nation," he said. The Home Minister also launched a sharp attack on Lalu Prasad Yadav, the RJD, and the INDI Alliance, recalling the "jungle raj" era in Bihar marked by corruption and lawlessness. Expressing confidence, Shah said the NDA would return to power in Bihar with the largest majority in two decades. He also paid tribute to late BJP leader Brijmohan Ji, and remembered Loknarak Jayaprakash Narayan and Bhikhari Thakur, calling them symbols of Bihar's political and cultural pride—(KNO)

MHA Orders Judicial

team will investigate the events that led to the law and order breakdown, the police response, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the four individuals. The unrest followed protests in Ladakh over demands for statehood and Sixth Schedule protections. Peaceful demonstrations in Leh on September 24 escalated into clashes between youth and police, during which BJP offices and vehicles were set on fire. Four civilians died and more than 80 people were injured. (KNS).

LG Travels To Russia

(formerly Twitter), the Office of the J&K Lieutenant Governor, wrote, "Landed in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. Looking forward to paying my obeisance to the holy relics of Lord Buddha and interaction with Mr. Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, Head of Republic of Kalmykia, Head of the Buddhists of Kalmykia, Shajin Lama of Kalmykia, venerable monks and local devotees." Senior Kalmykia officials, including First Deputy Chairman Tserenov Erdni Nikolayevich and Deputy Chairman Dzhambinov Ochir Vladimirovich, along with India's Deputy Chief of Mission Nikhilesh Giri, welcomed Sinha. The Indian delegation will accompany the relics back to India on October 19. The Golden Abode of Shakyamuni Buddha in Elista has enshrined the relics since October 11, attracting devotees and dignitaries from India and Russia. Before his departure, Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X, calling the assignment a 'sacred opportunity' and invoking the Buddhist mantra, 'Om Namoh Buddhaya'. India's Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the National Museum, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, organised the exposition. A press conference at the monastery last week featured dignitaries, including Batu Khasikov, Head of Kalmykia, Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy CM of Uttar Pradesh, Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar Abhijit Halder, and senior Buddhist monks. Participants highlighted the event's significance in promoting Lord Buddha's message of peace, spiritual pilgrimages,

and strengthening India-Russia cultural, academic, and people-to-people exchanges. The visit marks a landmark in cultural diplomacy, showcasing India's efforts to preserve and share Buddhist heritage worldwide while strengthening spiritual, academic, and people-to-people ties with Russia.

Congress Denies

externally, we will remain united to stop the BJP's ambitions," he said—(KNO)

NIA Charges Migrant

contact with LeT handlers in Pakistan through cyberspace and conspired with them to target non-believers in Tamil Nadu. Further inquiries revealed that he attempted to procure arms and weapons to carry out a jihadi-style attack aimed at destabilizing the country. The NIA confirmed that the accused's plans were foiled through coordinated action by the agency and other security forces. Investigations in the case, registered as RC-01/2025/NIA/CHE (Akhlatur LeT and Salafi Ideologue case), are ongoing to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism in India.

India Now Unstoppable,

moved from being among the fragile five to becoming one of the world's top five economies...from chips to ships, India is self-reliant and filled with confidence in every sphere," he said. (PTI)

NC, PDP Yet To

accompanied by his supporters. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), candidates can submit their nomination papers until October 20 for the 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota constituencies. Scrutiny of nominations will be held on October 22, while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 24. Voting for the by-elections is scheduled on November 11, with counting set for November 14—(KNO)

All Eyes On Independents,

opposition bloc. Kulley contested the last Assembly election as an independent after being denied a party ticket. Interestingly, he also accompanied the NC's Rajya Sabha candidates to the office of the Returning Officer on October 13, when they submitted their nomination papers. Khursheed's Awami Ittehad Party does not exist in the records of the Election Commission of India, and he contested the election as an independent. With the BJP just one vote short of victory on the fourth Rajya Sabha seat, the entire attention has shifted to independent MLAs in the Assembly given opaque voting

rules for them. According to officials of the Election Commission of India (ECI), open ballot voting applies only in elections to the Rajya Sabha. "Every political party which has members in the Assembly can appoint an authorized agent to verify whom its members have voted for. The authorized agent will be seated inside the polling station in seats provided by the Returning Officer. In the case of MLAs who are members of political parties, after they mark their vote and before inserting the ballot into the box, they are required to show the marked ballot paper to the authorized agent of their party," the officials said. However, they added that independent MLAs are required to display the marked ballot paper into the ballot box without showing it to any agent. "If they display their vote to anyone, including the authorized agent of any political party, it is liable to be cancelled," they said—(KNO)

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Hope next Trump-Putin meeting will be more fruitful: German Ambassador

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Germany's Ambassador to India, Philipp Ackermann on Friday hoped that the proposed next meeting between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will be "more fruitful" than the last one held in Alaska. Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, the diplomat stated that Germany looks at the situation in Ukraine with great concern and feels the desire to see an end to the conflict between Moscow and Kyiv.

"I think we in Germany, and I think that's valid for across Europe, look with great concern and preoccupation of what happens in Ukraine. You know, you talk about fatigue and exhaustion. I think we had a wake-up call, two-three weeks ago when all of a sudden Russian fighter jets entered NATO territory for 15 minutes or something. Then we had drones over Scandinavian airports, all of a sudden, it's not clear whether they were Russian, but the likelihood is there. So, I think Europe more and more feels under threat," said Ackermann.

"So, I think we don't feel the exhaustion or fatigue. We feel the desire and the urge to end this war. And you mentioned a possible meeting between Presi-



dent Putin and President Trump. I hope it will be more fruitful than the last one. But at the same time, I think it is very important to see that the American side has now at least alluded to being ready to deliver talks to the Ukrainian side and that makes Russia, I think, a little nervous and maybe that is also a sign of strength that you say, you know, we don't accept everything, we want to be allies. You know, Pete Hegseth has said it at the NATO Defence Council recently, we are not standing idle, we will do something and therefore, I think you have to have this mixture of strength, decisiveness, but

also readiness for dialogue. Unlike the Middle East, I don't see cessation of hostilities, that's what it is in the Middle East. It's not a peace process yet, I hope. It will be one, but it's not one yet. I hope, we'll see that in Russia and Ukraine soon," he added.

The German Ambassador mentioned that Ukraine is helping Germany when it comes to combatting drone attacks. "Let me tell you one thing, basically, Ukrainians are helping us now because they are pretty good when it comes to drones and drone attacks and also drone combat and fighting drones. Their technology is really

advanced. Ours is not, so we will learn from them. But what you rightly say is that all of a sudden we see Russian warfare. I mean, if it is Russian, I think we have to be very careful so far. It has not been proven, but I think there is a likelihood at least there, has crossed borders, NATO territory, and that's provocation. We have to react and I think what you see all across Europe, including the UK, of course, we will have to put our armed forces in a position to fight that, to deter this aggression and therefore, you will hear that my country's defence spending is going up big time in order to put our army in a better state."

PM Modi meets Egyptian FM, hails President Sisi's 'crucial role' in Gaza Peace agreement

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Badr Abdelatty called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi today before wrapping up his two-day visit to the country.

"Pleased to receive Foreign Minister of Egypt, Dr. Badr Abdelatty. Conveyed deep appreciation for my friend, President Sisi for his crucial role in the Gaza Peace Agreement. India-Egypt Strategic Partnership continues to grow from strength to strength for the benefit of our people, our shared region and the humanity," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm congratulations to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for Egypt's crucial role in the Gaza Peace Agreement and expressed hope that it would lead to lasting peace in the region. "Foreign Minister Abdelatty briefed the Prime Minister on the first India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue being held during his visit. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the progress being achieved in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including trade, technology, energy, defence and people-to-people ties," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Abdelatty, who is on his first visit to India as a Foreign Minister, held

the First India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue alongside External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday evening. During the meeting, EAM Jaishankar highlighted that India and Egypt share commitment to the progress of the Global South.

"India and Egypt share a commitment to the progress of the Global South and the strengthening of independence and freedom of choice of nations in world affairs. This solidarity will surely guide our discussions today," EAM Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the strategic dialogue.

EAM Jaishankar also mentioned that the first India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue is a milestone in bilateral ties which have seen intensified cooperation in various domains since the elevation of the relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership in 2023.

"Our political contacts and coordination have been strong and sustained, including in the multilateral side. Our defence and security exchanges have grown. Trade and investment continue to be promising, and we will discuss how to take them forward. We can also explore possibilities in digital public infrastructure, fintech, pharma, space, startups, and green technologies. As befitting two old civilizations, culture and people-to-people exchanges also occupy an important place in our ties," the EAM said in his remarks.

World sees opportunity in unstoppable India as a responsible partner: PM Modi



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that before 2014, the discussions used to be how India would brace for global headwinds but in the last 11 years, we have defied all odds, coming out of the 'fragile five' to rank among the top 5 economies, and are on our way to become the third-largest.

Beginning his much-awaited address at the 'NDTV World Summit 2025' here with a 'Happy Diwali to all' message, the Prime Minister said India was in policy paralysis 11 years back.

"But India took on every challenge and today, the world respects us," said PM Modi.

The Prime Minister further stated that there are several roadblocks across the world at the moment, and the topic of the Summit — Unstoppable India — becomes relevant.

The Prime Minister lauded India's growth in the artificial intelligence (AI) space, saying Google's latest \$15 billion investment to make the country a global AI hub "marks a milestone in its growth".

He stated that India's average growth has been

7.8 per cent.

This week, the merchandise exports data came out, and India's exports have grown by about 7 per cent, said PM Modi.

India's merchandise exports in September rose 6.75 per cent to \$36.38 billion compared to the same month of the previous year, despite the punitive tariffs imposed by the US. The exports in September were also higher on a month-on-month basis than the corresponding figure of \$35.1 billion for August.

"S&P upgraded India's credit rating after 17 years. Today, big investments are being made in the green energy and semiconductor sectors. IMF did an upward revision of India's growth. UK PM Keir Starmer came to India with his biggest trade delegation. It showed the world sees opportunity in India. The world sees India as a responsible partner," he added.

"India has proved everyone wrong. Today, world's 50 per cent digital transaction happens in India. India's UPI dominates global digital payments. India performed better than every estimate. This is India's moment," PM Modi highlighted.

and digitalisation.

In a post on X, the Vice President's office wrote, "Vice-President of India, CP Radhakrishnan, met Geraldo Alckmin, Vice-President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services of Brazil, who is on an official visit to India, at the Vice-President's Enclave today."

"The two leaders

Real challenge lies in implementation of Gaza peace plan: UK envoy

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Expressing relief over the Israel-Hamas ceasefire, British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron on Friday said that the real challenge lies in the implementation of the peace plan as it is just the beginning of the process and not the end.

"I am from Northern Ireland and for me it is very personal. The ceasefire is the beginning of the process, it is not the end. There are many years of work to go and many challenges ahead, but you must start because violence is not a way to resolve this. There is a complex journey. There are tough decisions. There are huge implementation challenges," Cameron said at the NDTV World Summit.

Having worked in the Middle East for long, the High Commissioner highlighted the significance of sustaining the ceasefire.

"I have worked in the Middle East for long. It is very hard to predict how it will go... I am just hopeful that we see peace. The profound sense of relief that everybody felt when the hostages returned this week, that profound sense of hope and optimism is something we must hold on to. The challenge will be in implementation," she mentioned.

Cameron also described British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's recent visit to India as "fantastic" while recalling the warm welcome extended to the leader and the accompanying delegation in Mumbai. She said that UK sees its ties with India as "future facing partnership" and



referred to people of Indian origin in the UK an "amazing living bridge."

She also recalled Starmer's visit to the Yash Raj Studios, where he watched the 'Romantics' trailer.

"As we received the Prime Minister, the Business Secretary, the Scottish Secretary, our Investment Minister, 126 people, the Prime Minister joked that they had to hire a larger plane because there were so many people that wanted to come. So, it was genuinely a wonderful visit, and I think Mumbai couldn't have hosted us better. I think there were more than 5,000 posters around the whole of Mumbai, and they were lit up on the sea link as well.

"So, a genuinely warm welcome, and I think that comes to the relationship between the two Prime Ministers, also between the two nations. We see this as a genuinely future-facing partnership where we see a fantastic set of existing

ties. Almost two million people in the UK of Indian origin, that is an amazing living bridge. But actually, what that ought to be is a superpower for the future, where we turn that into amazing opportunities for businesses to work together and that's what I saw happening," Cameron said.

Earlier this month, Starmer arrived in Mumbai for a two-day visit to India at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi. This was Starmer's first official visit to India after assuming office. During the visit, Starmer held a meeting with Prime Minister Modi, with talks focused on boosting ties.

The British High Commissioner also spoke about the recent India-UK defence Exercise Konkan, terming it a "real signal" that the UK sees India as a significant power of the future.

"We were delighted that the Indian carrier and the UK carrier were able to

undertake quite a complex exercise off the west coast of India, last week. I think really testing each other, some fantastic pictures of our aircraft flying together and indeed of the two carriers together and I think it is a real signal that we see India as a significant power of the future. We want to see India as its best self in the future, and we want to be part of that as well in terms of our defence relationship. So, the carriers are important, and of course our naval cooperation is really significant. We've had a number of conversations in the course of the last year about the importance, for example, of the maritime security in the Indian Ocean... But, we've also signed a letter of intent around the electric propulsion for ships, one of these really innovative future things which the UK has long experimented with, but I think is a really key part of India's future too.

"And of course, finally, we had as part of the UK delegation last week, the CEO of Rolls-Royce, Tufan Erginbilgic, who was here describing the kind of wider vision for how we think UK defence and wider civilian capability and power, for example, can participate in India's future, including made in India. So, I think real opportunities, and I think for us, there is a future thinking about both of our security, but there's also a future thinking about both of our prosperity and we see huge opportunities and huge complementarity for us across those industries, for our industries to work together," she added in her remarks at the NDTV World Summit.



HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG
COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210

Subject: Engagement of candidate for the post of Speech Therapist on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in GMC Anantnag.

Ref.:-

1. Advertisement Notice No. 04 GMCA of 2024, dated: 14.07.2025.
2. Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2025/6192-97, dated: 06.09.2025.
3. Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2025/6215-19, dated: 09.09.2025.

ORDER NO: 592 GMCA of 2025
DATED:13/10/2025

Pursuant to the selection list issued vide Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2025/ 6192-97, dated: 06.09.2025, the below mentioned candidate who has submitted her Personal verification Rolls (PVR) through online mode to the Criminal Investigation Department qrs. and upon receipt of the same from CID qrs. vide Form No. 's 137244, dated: 06-10-2025, is hereby engaged as Speech Therapist on Academic Arrangement Basis under S.O -364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in Govt. Medical College Anantnag for a period of one (01) year, extendable upto 06 years (on yearly basis subject to the satisfactory performance) or till such posts are filled up by the competent authority on regular basis, whichever is earlier.

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Fathers Name	Post Name	Address	Category
1.	Mariya Amin	Mohammad Amin Mir	Speech Therapist	Manzimpara Shopian, J&K 192303	OM

The above-mentioned selected candidate is directed to join GMC Anantnag at office of the Principal, Main Campus Dialgam within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order and shall be allowed to join on production of the following documents/testimonials in original for verification.

- I. Essential Qualification Certificate(s).
- II. Marks Certificate(s) of essential qualification.
- III. D.O.B. Certificate.
- IV. 10th/12th Marks sheet.
- V. Registration Certificate.
- VI. Domicile certificate.
- VII. Category certificate (if any).
- VIII. Health Certificate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. In case the selected candidate fails to join within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order, it will be presumed that the said candidate is not interested and her engagement shall be cancelled ab-initio.
2. If the candidate is found guilty of impersonation or submitting fabricated or tempered documents/ testimonials or making statement which are incorrect/false or suppressing material information shall render such person liable for legal action under law and her candidature shall be cancelled. In case such a defaulter is traced after selection, her contract shall be terminated.
3. The candidate shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by the Judicial/ 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that:-
 - a. That in case any adverse report about Qualification, Date of Birth, Marks Certificates, Reserved Category certificate, Domicile Certificate etc, if any, is received from the concerned authority, I shall have no right to claim my engagement as such & shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio. I will not also claim for any dues from GMC Anantnag as well in that case.
 - b. I shall not claim for any regular appointment in the department.
 - c. I will not participate in any kind of strike during my tenure.
 - d. I shall remain disciplined during my tenure of service in the institute.
 - e. I am not involved in any criminal/subjudice activity nor there is any FIR/Court Case pending/ registered in the Police Department/Court of Law against me.
 - f. I have fully understood the terms, conditions and nature of my engagement in GMC Anantnag on academic arrangement basis and will not claim for any regularization/extension after completion of the term (beyond 06 years) or at any point of time.
4. The engagement is purely on temporary basis for a period of one year on academic arrangement basis or till posts are filled on regular basis, whichever is earlier. However, the services of the engaged person shall be terminated in case her performance is not satisfactory/upto the mark.
5. The contractual engagement shall not confer any right on the appointee to claim extension or for regular appointment at any point of time.
6. The above engagement shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition, if any, pending before the Hon'ble court of law.
7. The salary of the engaged candidate shall be kept withheld and shall be drawn/distributed only after the receipt of verification report of documents/ testimonials from the concerned quarters.

No.GMCA/Estt./Rec./2025/ 7259-64
Dated: 13/10/2025

DIPK-7290-25
DT: 17/10/2025

Principal/Dean,
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

Want Rohit and Virat to play 2027 ODI WC, but will have to perform continuously, says Mishra

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra said he wishes to see batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli feature in the 2027 ODI World Cup, but emphasised that consistent performance and fitness will be key to their selection for the mega event.

The upcoming series against Australia, starting in Perth on Sunday, marks the return of the veteran batting stalwarts to international cricket after more than seven months. Both last featured internationally in India's triumph in the 2025 Champions Trophy in March.

"I see India winning this series over Australia. I am a 100 percent Indian team supporter, and I want India to win the series. The performances have been going great. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's experience is also there, and I think this is a positive thing for the Indian team."

"They are seniors, but I want them to perform well for the Indian team for as long as possible. I want them to be in the World Cup as well. When there is pressure in the World Cup,

the young players get a lot of support from their experienced players," Mishra told IANS on the sidelines of Media Mantra's MM Dialogues 2.0 in Gurugram on Friday.

He further spoke about how the longevity of Rohit and Virat in ODIs will depend on fitness and consistent performances. "I said this before that I want to see them play there. But for that, they will have to perform continuously. Everyone knows how important fitness is for the Indian team. They will have to be fit and perform well. But it is good for them as well. If they go and play matches after this series or play domestic matches, it is good for them as well as for the Indian team."

"Being in the World Cup depends on their performance. Of course, it does - these people have made the rule that whoever performs will be on the team. There is no doubt that you are a senior, but performance matters a lot these days. It depends on how match-fit you are. I want them to go and play."

"The most important thing is that you keep talking to them. It is important for everyone, as you can see the same



result when you talk to them. The more you talk to them, the clearer their mind will be. They will know what their responsibilities are and what they have to do," elaborated Mishra.

Asked about the challenges of playing just one format, Mishra felt the clarity of being in one format could help both players focus better. "I think they will focus better, as they

know that they have to play in the same format. They know how to play, and moreover, the pressure is less. They are not playing in two formats. They have to play in one format and

perform at one place."

"They know where they have to bat and which bowler they have to play against. They have the experience, but they have to be match fit. As I said earlier, you have to be at a certain level to play for an Indian team."

"All of them are doing it. But the most important thing for them, whether they perform or not, is to be match fit and play in the domestic circuit. It's good for them, I've said it before, and I'm saying it again, it's good for the team too."

Mishra added that the presence of senior players like Rohit and Kohli will be crucial for Shubman Gill's growth as captain in ODIs. "Gill has handled everything very well in his captaincy stint so far. He is leading from the front and has shown that. The best thing is that he is enjoying it. He is communicating with all the players. Since he has been a captain, he is performing well."

"As a youngster, there is no pressure on him to be a captain, and he is performing well for the Indian team. I hope that, as the captain, along with the senior players, you perform well for the Indian team. When

a big series comes, it's good for the team to have their (Rohit and Virat) experiences. It's good for the team, and for them too, because the youngsters will be on the right track. Plus, it will be a good thing for Shubman too in being the captain."

"Both of them are players who are always ready to help. It's not like they'll show their ego, or they'll say that they don't want to play, and would try to put them down. Instead, they're very supportive, especially Rohit. I've never seen Rohit's attitude around, never supporting any youngsters or anything like that. It's always been a positive support for both of them, and I think it will be very beneficial for Shubman Gill."

"It will be very beneficial for the team to benefit from Kohli also, because when the senior is there during pressure time, he tells the players how to play when the wicket is down, when to play shots, and when to play aggressively. So I think it will be very beneficial for the team, but I would also like them to perform well together because it will be very good for the Indian team if they both perform," he concluded.

Secy Transport visits IDTR Kot Bhalwal, reviews ongoing works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport department, Avny Lavasa Friday visited Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Kot Bhalwal here and held detailed assessment of ongoing works.

The visit was part of department's focused efforts to expedite the development of critical transport infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The Secretary was accompanied by Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Additional Transport Commissioner, Anju Gupta; Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu, Additional Secretary, Transport, Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu; Executive Engineers PWD & Mechanical and Assistant Engineers PWD and



Mechanical Departments.

At the outset of the visit, Transport Commissioner, presented a detailed overview of the IDTR project. He informed the Secretary about components of the institute like Administrative Block, Hostel Block, various driving test tracks, and other associated infrastructure being devel-

oped to facilitate professional driver training and research.

During the inspection, Secretary assessed the progress of civil works and examined key training facilities such as driving simulators, classrooms, laboratories and other equipment essential for modern driver educa-

tion. She also held on-site deliberations regarding coordination, quality control and future operational planning of the IDTR.

Expressing concern over delays in the completion of critical infrastructure, the Secretary issued firm instructions to the Executive Engineers, PWD, Mechanical and Electrical to ensure timely execution of all pending works. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timelines and directed that the balance works must be completed within next 15 days.

Avny Lavasa also reiterated the Transport Department's commitment to developing state-of-the-art training and testing facilities in J&K to enhance road safety, reduce accidents and professionalize driver training standards.

Labuschagne replaces Green in Australia's squad for India ODIs



IAN S

PERTH: Australia all-rounder Cameron Green has been ruled out of the upcoming ODI series against India due to side soreness, with Marnus Labuschagne named as his replacement. The injury has been assessed as low grade and Cricket Australia (CA) has opted for a precautionary approach given Green's significance to their Ashes plans.

Green will miss the three ODIs scheduled for October 19, 23 and 25, but is expected to return for Western Australia's next Sheffield Shield fixture starting October 28. The all-rounder made his bowling comeback in last week's Shield match - his first since undergoing back surgery last year - where he picked up a wicket in a four-over spell. CA confirmed that his current setback is unrelated to the operation he had last October.

"Green will complete a short period of rehabili-

tation and is tracking to return to play in round three of the Sheffield Shield to continue his preparation for the Ashes," CA said in a statement this morning.

Labuschagne returns to the ODI setup in the midst of a rich form, as two of his four centuries for his domestic side, Queensland, have come in the 50-over format. The top-order batter was initially overlooked for selection after he returned scores of 1 and 1 in the home ODIs against South Africa in August.

This marks Australia's third enforced change ahead of the series opener against India - Josh Philippe stepped in for Josh Inglis, who remains sidelined with a calf strain, while Matthew Kuhnemann replaced Adam Zampa, who is unavailable for the series opener due to family commitments.

From the second fixture onwards, Australia will have Zampa, Inglis and Alex Carey ready to feature.

JDF Exits PAC Just Months After Formation of Alliance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Less than four months after three political parties in Jammu and Kashmir announced the formation of People's Alliance for Change (PAC), one of its constituents - Justice and Development Front (JDF), a party comprising of former members of banned outfit Jamaat-e-Islami - on



Friday walked out of the coalition due to differences in its "modus operandi."

The alliance, formed just a few months ago, included Sajjad Lone's Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, the People's Democratic Front (PDF) and JDF.

"We wish to announce, with great mutual respect, that the Justice and Development Front (JDF) has decided to exit the People's Alliance for Change (PAC), which came into existence a few months ago in collaboration with the People's Conference (PC) and the People's Democratic Front (PDF)," the JDF said in a statement.

The outfit said it believes pursuing an independent course will better serve its vision, values, and principles.

"...within the alliance framework, JDF has always exercised its democratic right to express differing opinions. After due reflection, we believe that pursuing an independent course will better serve our vision,

values, and principles," the statement said.

Though the JDF cited "certain differences" in the working style of the PAC, it didn't provide the specifics. However, sources in the know say that the outfit wanted to field their candidate in the upcoming bypolls in the Budgam assembly seat, scheduled to go to the polls in November. But the PAC is believed to be pushing for Hakeem Yaseen as its joint candidate.

With the exit of JDF, it will be a difficult run for the PAC candidate as the outfit could have managed support from this region.

Real Kashmir FC withdraw from Super Cup; Dempo FC named replacement

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Real Kashmir FC have pulled out of the upcoming AIFF Super Cup 2025-26 owing to visa delays for their foreign players, the club announced on Thursday.

The Srinagar-based side's withdrawal has led to Dempo SC being named as their replacement in the tournament, which kicks off in Goa on October 25.

Real Kashmir, popularly known as the Snow Leopards, were drawn in Group A, dubbed the "Group of Death", alongside Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal FC, and Chennaiyin FC. The team had been slated to face East Bengal in the tournament opener on October 25, followed by fixtures against Mohun Bagan SG on October 28 and Chennaiyin FC on October 31.

However, logistical challenges in securing travel documents for their overseas players forced the I-League outfit to withdraw



from the competition just days before its start.

Confirming their decision, All India Football Federation posted on X. "Real Kashmir FC have withdrawn from AIFF Super Cup 2025-26, as VISAS for their foreign players could not be secured. They will be replaced by Dempo SC."

The decision comes as a major blow for Real Kashmir, who were keen to test themselves against the

country's top-flight clubs after a promising I-League campaign. The team's foreign contingent - instrumental in their recent performances - were key to their Super Cup ambitions, making their absence a decisive factor in opting out.

Earlier, the AIFF's executive committee confirmed that the Super Cup will be held from October 25, whilst approving the federation's Request for Quotation (RFQ)

for selecting an agency to manage the process of awarding the tender for the Indian Super League.

As per the Supreme Court order on September 2, AIFF has to take necessary measures to ensure the Indian football calendar begins on time, which would need the football governing body to find a new commercial partner, after failing to reach a new Masters Right Agreement with the AIFF.

Movies Schedule

Saturday, 18th October 2025

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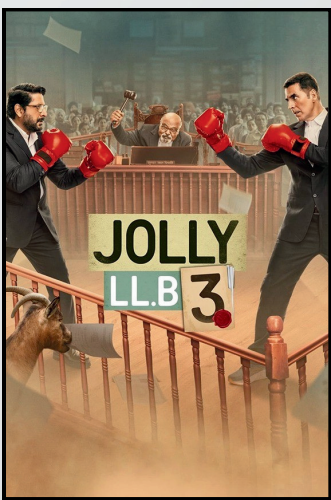
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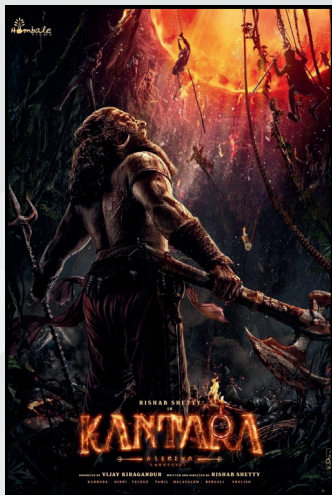
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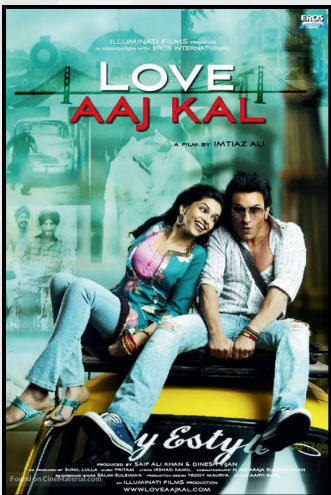
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HINDI - 01:45 PM, 05:15 PM



LOVE AAJ KAL - RE-RELEASE (U/A)
HINDI - 11:00 AM