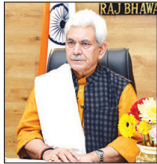


Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

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Paid tributes to the Sahibzades on Veer Baal Diwas at Jammu, earlier today. We remember their unparalleled bravery, sacrifice and courage, commitment of Mata Gujri Ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Their lives and teachings are a source of inspiration for all citizens.

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Terrorists Used 40 Kg Explosives In Red Fort Car Blast: Amit Shah



IANIS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that terrorists used 40 kg of explosives in the Red Fort car bomb blast that killed 11 persons on November 10. The Union Home Minister was speaking on the inaugural day of a two-day 'Anti-Terror Conference' organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here. In the terror attack near the Red Fort, terrorists had loaded explosives in a car, which blew up while it was being driven by a suicide bomber near a busy traffic signal facing the historic monument. In another development related to the Red Fort explosion, a Delhi court on Friday extended the NIA custody of two accused in the Red Fort bomb blast case that killed 11

persons and injured several others last month. Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the NIA to probe the accused Yasir Ahmad Dar for 10 more days, while the custody of the other accused, Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, was extended for eight days. According to the NIA, Yasir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir, is the ninth accused to be arrested in the case. He was arrested in New Delhi under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. "NIA investigations have revealed Yasir's active role in the conspiracy behind the car bomb blast that rocked the national capital on November 10. An active participant in the

■ Veer Baal Diwas

PM Modi Ensured Justice To Victims Of 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots: LG Sinha

Pays Tribute To The Sahibzades, Mata Gujri Ji, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

GMK News Network

JAMMU: Asserting that Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi ensured justice to the to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that under the leadership of PM Modi, historic steps have been taken to honor the legacy of Sikh Gurus. "We remember Sahibzades' unparalleled bravery, sacrifice and courage, commitment of Mata Gujri Ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Their lives and teachings are a source of inspiration for all citizens, the Lieutenant Governor said while paying tribute to the Sahibzades, Mata Gujri Ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He was speaking at a Vishesh Shaheedi Samagam 'Safar-E-Shahadat', organised by All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee, at Gurdwara Digiana Ashram. "The supreme sacrifice of our Sikh Gurus inspires all of us to uphold the unity



and integrity of the nation. It should be our sincere endeavour to build a prosperous country which is united and strong in its diversity," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that, the Sikh tradition, imbued with devotion, valor, and glory, truly symbolizes

the invaluable spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat". "The path of righteousness paved by the Sikh Gurus serves as the foundational strength for modern India's inclusive development. Their legacy continues to empower those on the frontlines of nation-building," he said.

“WE REMEMBER SAHIBZADES' UNPARALLELED BRAVERY, SACRIFICE AND courage, commitment of Mata Gujri Ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Their lives and teachings are a source of inspiration for all citizens, the Lieutenant Governor said while paying tribute to the Sahibzades, Mata Gujri Ji and Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Cold Wave Grips Gulmarg, Pahalgam

Minimum Temperature Rises Above Zero In Srinagar



IANIS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city rose above the freezing point, while at Gulmarg ski resort and Pahalgam hill station it remained below the freezing point on Friday. The Meteorological (MeT) Department officials said, "Seasonal precipitation (October 1-December 25) remained -44 per cent (Kashmir Division) departure from normal, which is a deficit and -9 per cent (Jammu Division), which is normal. A spell of light snow (higher reaches) and light rain at scattered to many places of J&K during December 31 to January 1 and improvement thereafter." Srinagar city had 0.2 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg minus 4.5 and Pahalgam minus 1.6 degrees as the minimum

Delhi Court Extends Custody Of Two Accused In Red Fort Blast Case



IANIS

NEW DELHI: A court here on Friday extended the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody of two accused in the Red Fort bomb blast case that killed 11 persons and injured several others last month. Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the NIA to probe the accused Yasir Ahmad Dar for 10 more days, while the custody of the other accused, Dr. Bilal Naseer Malla, was extended for eight days.

According to the NIA, Yasir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir, is the ninth accused to be arrested in the case. He was arrested from New Delhi under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. "NIA investigations have revealed Yasir's active role in the conspiracy behind the car bomb blast that rocked the national capital on November 10. An active participant in the

2025 Toughest Year For J&K's Fruit Industry, Losses Pegged At Rs 2,000 Crore: Growers

'Low Market Demand, Lack Of Compensation Push Valley's Apple Economy To The Brink'

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The year 2025 has gone down as the toughest and "most disastrous" year in recent memory for Jammu and Kashmir's fruit industry, according to growers and traders. They estimated losses of nearly Rs 2,000 crore due to prolonged highway closures, erratic weather, low market demand, "exorbitant" freight charges and the "absence" of any government compensation. The industry, is on the brink, and immediate steps need to be taken for its revival. According to growers, the crisis began in the last week of August, when continuous and heavy rains triggered landslides at multiple locations, forcing the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway for nearly a month, right at the peak of the apple harvesting season.



"This was the worst possible time for such a disaster. Apples were ready for dispatch, orchards were full of produce, but the highway remained shut. Thousands of trucks carrying fresh fruit were stranded for days and weeks. By the time they reached markets outside the Valley, a large portion of the produce had already rotted," they said. Growers said apples continued to pile up in orchards and

mandis as repeated highway closures due to landslides and repair works choked the only major all-weather surface link with the rest of the country. As supply chains collapsed, market arrivals became erratic, leading to a steep crash in prices. "Farmers who invested their life savings, took loans and worked the entire year were left with no option but to sell their produce at throwaway prices. Many couldn't even

■Himayat 2.0 Preparing J&K Youth For Jobs Of Tomorrow

GMK News Network

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday said that Himayat 2.0 aims to equip the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with market-relevant skills to enable gainful employment in high demand jobs. He was speaking while distributing sanction orders among the Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) at Panchayat Bhawan, Railway Road, Jammu. The Minister said the revamped programme focuses on outcome-oriented skill development, aligning training with current and emerging market demands. He emphasized that Himayat 2.0

gives special priority to rural youth and high-growth sectors to drive inclusive socioeconomic development. Stressing the need for a diversified skill base, he directed the PIAs to introduce new trades and strong soft-skill components aligned with industry requirements

STRESSING the need for a diversified skill base, he directed the PIAs to introduce new trades and strong soft-skill components aligned with industry requirements

duce new trades and strong soft-skill components aligned with industry requirements. He asked them to ensure implementation with commitment, transparency and accountability. Secretary, Rural

...Year Ender 2025

Year Marks Shift In J&K Narrative From Violence To Development And Aspirations

IANIS

SRINAGAR: For the first time in decades, the story of Jammu and Kashmir is no longer dominated by guns, bullets, dead bodies, or government buildings gutted in separatist fires. As the year 2025 draws to a close, the dominant narrative is one of roads and railways, classrooms and connectivity, opportunity and aspiration. Headlines this year were largely free from the routine cycle of insurgency and counter-insurgency. The lone exception was the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, in which 26 innocent tourists and a local pony owner were killed -- an incident that briefly brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war. Beyond that tragic episode,



however, 2025 in Kashmir and the rest of Jammu and Kashmir has been defined by infrastructure upgrades, a railway link connecting the Valley to the rest of the country, improved educational facilities, and the steady emergence of a peace-driven development narrative that has overshadowed decades of violence and mayhem. Opportunity, connectivity and empowerment -- combined

with the presence of an elected government and close coordination with security forces under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha -- have made it possible for people to look beyond terrorism in 2025. Increasingly, public voices have been heard condemning terrorism and the decades of deprivation it inflicted on ordinary citizens.

PM Modi To Chair Conference Of Chief Secretaries



Agencies

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the fifth national conference of chief secretaries of all states here over the weekend during which deliberations will be held on further strengthening the Centre-State partnership through structured and sustained dialogue. Based on the extensive deliberations between central ministries, departments, NITI Aayog, states and union territories and domain experts, the conference will focus on the theme 'Human Capital for Viksit Bharat' covering best practices and strategies for states and UTs to follow, an official statement said.

5-Year Clock Ticks: DDCs To Wind Up On Feb 24, 2026

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ending weeks of speculation over the fate of the District Development Councils (DDCs), the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has opined that the five-year tenure of the councils began on the day of their constitution-a ruling that sets their dissolution date at February 24, 2026. Citing Sub-Rule (2) and Sub-Rule (3) of Rule 1082P of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Department of Law has clarified that the District Development Councils shall be deemed to be duly constituted from the date of issuance of the notification for their constitution, sources said. Sub-Rule (2) provides that, upon receipt of the names of the elected members, Chairpersons,

and Vice-Chairpersons, the Government shall, by notification, constitute District Development Council(s) bearing the name of the concerned district. Sub-Rule (3) states that upon issuance of such notification under Sub-Rule (2), the District Development Council shall be deemed to be duly constituted. The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj issued notifications for their constitution on February 25, 2021. With the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs opining that their term begins from the date of their constitution, the Councils will cease to exist on February 24, 2026.

The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj had sought clarification from the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on whether the five-year term should be counted from the date of their constitution (February 25, 2021) or from the oath-taking (December 28, 2020). As per the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the term of a District Development Council shall be five years, except in cases where common elections are held to all tiers of the Panchayats simultaneously so that all tiers have co-extensive terms in the district. On October 16, 2020, the Union



DC Srinagar takes Tehsil-wise review of Revenue services

Directs clearing of pendency and strict adherence to PSGA timelines

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar on Friday chaired a comprehensive meeting of senior Revenue Officers here at Conference Hall of the DC Office to review Tehsil wise delivery of revenue service, pendency status and implementation of various citizen-centric revenue related services initiatives across the district.

The DC also took stock of the infrastructure upgradation of Revenue Offices and progress achieved in digitization and management of Revenue records.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz-Ul-Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zuber Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars and Assistant Revenue Attorney (ARA) with DC and other concerned.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed Tehsil wise



progress and performance of Revenue Officers, with stress on timely disposal of Revenue Service under Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), Digitization of Revenue records, disposal of migrant grievances, replies to Court cases, modernization of Revenue Offices and other revenue related matters.

On the occasion, the DC

emphasized the importance of seamless, timely and efficient public service delivery across all Revenue offices of the district. He stressed the need for maintaining a comprehensive and transparent land records management system to strengthen public trust and administrative efficiency.

The DC directed all concerned Officers to clear

pending cases on priority and ensure strict adherence to timelines prescribed under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

The DC also took stock of the infrastructure upgradation of Revenue Offices and reviewed the progress achieved in construction of new Revenue Offices in the district.

He directed the Officers to personally monitor the progress and quality of the works of their respective Tehsil and SDM Offices so that they are timely completed and made functional.

The DC also emphasized timely completion in digitization and management of revenue records. He directed the concerned officers to expedite digitization efforts and ensure proper maintenance of records for improved accessibility and efficiency.

The DC stressed the Officers to adopt a proactive and citizen-friendly approach while discharging their duties to ensure effective governance and improved public satisfaction.

DC Budgam reviews key Infrastructure Projects at Khansahib

Inspects Additional accommodation of SDH, Jan Aushadhi Kendra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Friday conducted an extensive inspection of key developmental projects at Khansahib, with special emphasis on strengthening healthcare, educational, and residential infrastructure in the area.

During the visit, the DC inspected the approved project for construction of additional accommodation at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Khansahib, sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹492.11 lakh. The project envisages construction of a new ground-floor hospital block with a built-up area of approximately 363.32 square metres (around 3,900 sq ft), proposed to be executed through the tendering process.

It was informed that the upcoming facility is planned as a 40-bedded hospital block, aimed at improving patient care services, decongesting the existing hospital infrastructure, and strengthening healthcare delivery at the Sub-District level. The new block will house both Out-Patient Department (OPD) and In-Patient Department (IPD) facilities, thereby significantly enhancing the functional capacity of SDH Khansahib.



tional capacity of SDH Khansahib.

The DC directed the executing agency to ensure strict adherence to approved specifications, quality parameters, and timelines. He further directed preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the renovation and upgradation of the existing hospital building, so that the healthcare infrastructure is modernized in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Later, the DC inspected the Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Khansahib, where he reviewed its functioning and the availability of essential medicines at affordable rates. He emphasized ensuring unin-

terrupted availability of quality generic medicines for the benefit of the general public.

The DC also reviewed the construction of the 100-Bedded Girls Hostel at Khansahib, being executed to strengthen educational infrastructure and provide safe residential facilities for girl students.

The total allotted cost of the 100-bedded Girls Hostel project stands at ₹272.40 lakh, with overall savings amounting to ₹19.00 lakh (excluding electrical works and beddings). The hostel building has a total built-up area of 7,600 square feet.

The DC reviewed both the financial and physical progress of the hostel project and stressed its early

completion and operationalisation, so that the facility is made available for the intended beneficiaries at the earliest.

Subsequently, the DC visited Government Degree College Khansahib to review the progress of the ongoing construction of the College Auditorium. It was apprised that about 85 percent of the construction work has been completed, and the remaining works are at an advanced stage, expected to be completed within one month.

The DC emphasized timely completion and adherence to quality standards, so that the facility can be utilized for academic, cultural, and co-curricular activities at the earliest.

The DC reiterated that creation of robust and durable infrastructure in the sectors of healthcare and education remains a top priority of the District Administration.

He directed all executing agencies to work with dedication, transparency, and accountability to ensure timely delivery of public assets for the welfare of the people.

Besides, CPO budgam, SDM Khansahib, CMO budgam, Tehsildar Khansahib, executive engineers of all wings, BMO Khansahib accompanied the DC during his visit.

JKTPO Organizes Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) successfully organized an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding drive in Baramulla.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla, the ODOP Team, DPIIT, APEDA, and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

The primary objective of the workshop was to empower local MSMEs, artisans, SHGs, FPOs, and entrepreneurs by equipping them with compre-

hensive knowledge on export-related schemes, procedures, and the benefits of digital commerce platforms. The event aimed to connect local producers and artisans with national and international markets through digital platforms and to get well acquainted with the different schemes of the Centre and State Governments.

The programme was attended by the Assistant Director, Handicrafts Baramulla, along with officers from various line departments.

At the outset, a representative of JKTPO highlighted the pivotal role

of JKTPO in organizing district-level outreach programmes to promote ODOP and facilitate seller's onboarding on e-commerce platforms.

Senior Consultant from GeM, briefed the participants on the functioning of the GeM portal, documentation requirements for registration, and the benefits available to sellers upon onboarding.

Likewise, Business Development Consultant, APEDA, provided valuable insights into APEDA's role in promoting agricultural exports and explained the registration process and docu-

mentation requirements.

ITS, Assistant Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), joined the session virtually and elaborated on foreign trade policies, and the procedure for obtaining the Import Export Code (IEC). The participants were explained the role of Credit Guarantee Bank for exporters after conceiving the order from the overseas buyers by providing the insurance guarantee to the consignment.

More than 110 artisans, exporters, and FPO representatives from Baramulla district participated in the workshop. The event witnessed enthusiastic

engagement, with participants actively interacting during the sessions and expressing keen interest in onboarding their products on the GeM platform.

The initiative is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts to promote exports from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir under the Districts as Export Hubs scheme and the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Expert-led sessions also covered topics such as export benefits, branding of local products for international markets, export financing options, and credit risk insurance mechanisms.

SWD organises celebrations of Veer Bal Diwas at Palash Shalimar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD) through Mission Vatsalya, Friday organized a commemorative programme on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas at Child Care Institution (CCI) Palash Shalimar.

Veer Bal Diwas is observed annually on 26th December to honour the extraordinary bravery and martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The day symbolizes unwavering faith, righteousness, and courage against oppres-

sion, inspiring the youth to uphold moral values and national integrity.

The event was organized by the District Social Welfare Officer/District Child Protection Officer, Srinagar and was attended by the Chairperson and members of the Child Welfare Committee, Srinagar.

Children from various CCIs (boys and girls) of Srinagar District, along with participants from Budgam District and registered private CCIs, actively took part in the programme.

A series of activities including drawing, essay writing, singing, and quiz competitions were conducted. Cultural performances

and aerobatic acts added vibrancy to the event and captivated the audience. The programme aimed to nurture creativity, showcase talent, and enhance self-esteem and confidence among children.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of such initiatives in empowering children and providing them with platforms for holistic growth and self-expression.

Later, participating children were felicitated for their performances, and words of encouragement were extended by the guests to motivate them for future endeavors.



Mission Vatsalya B'pora Organises Bal Veer Diwas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The District Child Protection Unit Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services) Bandipora, Friday organized Bal Veer Diwas at N Academy Bandipora to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the younger sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who laid down their lives for truth and righteousness.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students, teachers, and officials from various child protection institutions, including the Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, DCPU, Child Helpline and Child Helpdesk Bandipora.

The event aimed to instill values of courage, resilience, and moral strength among children by recalling the unparalleled bravery of the

Sahibzadas, who chose martyrdom over surrendering their faith.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson CWC Bandipora, Dr. Asima Hassan highlighted the historical and moral significance of Bal Veer Diwas, emphasizing that the day reminds society of the extraordinary courage shown by the young sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji at a very tender age. She stressed the need to inculcate such values among children to help them grow into responsible and fearless citizens.

Resource Person POIC, underlined that the sacrifice of the Sahibzadas stands as a timeless example of standing firm for truth and justice. She urged students to draw inspiration from their lives and uphold ethical values in their daily conduct.

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD Meeting

Reviews Measures to Curb Drug Abuse in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the measures undertaken by various departments for the ongoing anti-drug measures and the overall response to drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kupwara, Syed Tahir Al Geelani; SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ASP Handwara, ACR, CEO, CMO, and other concerned officers. Principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) and Tehsildars participat-

ed in the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner sought detailed feedback from all departments on the progress made on various important agenda points like functioning of ATF & DDRC, ongoing awareness drive, CCTV surveillance monitoring in hot spot areas, Nasha mukta Panchayat, rehabilitation etc.

SSP Kupwara and SSP Handwara briefed about enforcement action and preventive initiatives undertaken including registration of cases, arrests, seizures, licence suspensions, and attachment of properties related to narcotics offences.

While addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the

need for sustained and coordinated efforts to eradicate drug abuse and addiction in the district. He directed the concerned departments to work proactively and aggressively, with special focus on the rehabilitation by facilitating self-employment opportunities.

CEO Kupwara and all Principals of GDCs were instructed to submit status of working of CCTV cameras to ensure strict surveillance and deter drug-related activities.

Tehsildars, in coordination with SHOs, were directed to monitor drug hotspot areas on regular basis.

It was emphasised to ensure support from community leaders in ongoing awareness activities to have wider impact.

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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

GOVT. PSYCHIATRIC DISEASES HOSPITAL, SRINAGAR

(INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH & NEUROSCIENCES KASHMIR, SRINAGAR)

An associated hospital of Govt. Medical College, Srinagar

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

CHIEF MINISTER

PUBLIC NOTICE

INFORMATION REGARDING AN UNCLAIMED DEAD BODY OF A PATIENT ADMITTED AT GOVT. PSYCHIATRIC DISEASES HOSPITAL, SRINAGAR

A patient namely Syeda was admitted in Govt. Psychiatric Diseases Hospital (IMHANS) on 16.06.2023, on the directions of Hon'ble Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam, vide order No. 38788/DLSA/BDM/23 dated 16.06.2023. The patient was suffering from CA Ovary (Adenocarcinoma) in addition to her Psychiatric ailment and expired on 22-12-2025 during the course of treatment. No family or next of kin of the deceased patient could be traced during the entire period of hospitalisation. Now the public at large is once again informed that if any relative or next of kin of the patient are available they can contact the following to claim the dead body.

1. Medical Superintendent, Government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital Srinagar, Contact No:9419002526, email :psyhosp786@gmail.com.

2. Police Station Rainawari, Contact No:9596770876.

Details of Deceased

Name	Sex	Height
Syeda (as per records)	Female	5 feet 1inch

Sd/=

Medical Superintendent

Govt. Psychiatric Disease Hospital Srinagar. IMHANS-K

DIPK-9354-25

DT: 26/12/2025

●●●●● CMYK ●●●●●

.....Year Ender 2025

Operation Sindoor and the new India's doctrine

VICKY NANJAPPA

NEW DELHI: Operation Sindoor was a loud message that was sent out to Pakistan to avenge the horrific Pahalgam attack. While this strike by the Indian armed forces destroyed several terror camps and headquarters, apart from launch pads, the message to Pakistan was that any act of terror would no longer be considered as cross-border. It would be considered an act of war.

On the morning of May 7, the Indian armed forces announced Operation Sindoor hit terror infrastructure both in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan. Among the major infrastructure to be destroyed was the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and the Lashkar-e-Taiba's top training facility in Muridke. Both terror groups and the Hizbul Mujahideen suffered immense losses both in terms of manpower and infrastructure, and are currently finding it extremely challenging to regroup.

With Operation Sindoor, India announced to the world that it had rewritten its doctrine that any act of terror would be considered an act of war. Experts say that such a

response was the need of the hour. Pakistan would think twice before it carries out a strike in India, as it is aware that the response would be brutal. Such a response was needed to avenge such an audacious attack in Pahalgam carried out on April 22, in which 26 innocent lives were lost.

The idea of the ISI was to unleash the Lashkar-e-Taiba in Jammu and Kashmir to hurt the tourism industry, which has been booming since the abrogation of Article 370. Pakistan did manage to hurt the industry, but only briefly. Experts say that Operation Sindoor was not just about revenge and a strong message, but about the optics as well. The Pahalgam attack targeted only men, and they were all asked about their religion before being shot at point-blank range in front of their wives.

In the aftermath of Sindoor, two military women briefed the media. They told the media that the terror training camps were hit and how indigenously developed modern military equipment like Akash and BrahMos missiles were used. They also briefed about the real-time recordings of the attacks through modern technology.

Such briefings were important since there was a fake



narrative being spread by the Pakistanis. They tried to project that this had won the duel, and it was India which suffered losses. The briefings, recordings and the proof dispelled all doubts, and Pakistan's bluff was caught. Overall, Operation Sindoor was a demonstration of India's military and strategic might. It was executed through

a combination of both military and non-military means. It was a multi-dimensional operation which neutralised terrorists, deterred aggression by Pakistan and also enforced India's zero-tolerance policy towards terror.

What is important is that the operation maintained strategic restraint while also gaining

international support. After the Pahalgam attack, India was a nation that was seething with rage. Everyone wanted a strong response against Pakistan. It was one of the toughest periods that the Narendra Modi-led government had to endure.

One big challenge was that the people wanted quick action. However, Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi wanted decisive action and not a rushed one. He endured the pressure and gave the Indian armed forces a free hand. The gamble paid off, and under PM Modi's leadership, India firmly established that terrorism and its sponsors will be treated alike. In the aftermath of the operation, PM Modi made it clear that a fitting reply would be given to terror. India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail and terror camps being created, and it will hit back at any cost.

Further, Pakistan was told that there would be no difference between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism. The PM said, terror and talks will not go together; terror and trade cannot go on together; water and blood cannot flow together.

Operation Sindoor destroyed nine terror camps and conveyed that there would be equal punishment for terrorists and their sponsors. India also displayed air defence superiority, during which the indigenous Akashteer system shot down hundreds of drones and missiles. The strikes were precise without escalation, and during the operation on May 9-10, India carried out air strikes on

11 airbases of a nuclear-armed nation.

This led to the destruction of 20 per cent of Pakistan's Air Force assets. High casualties were inflicted at the Bhoolari airbase. The strikes were coordinated and executed by tri-services -- Army, Air Force and Navy. The impact of the operation was huge. The terror infrastructures in Pakistan are scrambling for funds, and many top leaders have gone underground. The likes of Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar are not visible and are probably underground.

In their absence, the terror infrastructure is finding it hard to restart. Azhar, the man behind the Parliament attack, Pulwama strike, among others, was the worst hit. Not only did he lose infrastructure, but a significant part of his family was wiped out. The strikes claimed the lives of high-value Jaish-e-Mohammed operatives such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf, and Mudassir Ahmad.

All these persons were involved in the IC-814 hijacking. The biggest hit has been in recruitment. In a nutshell, Operation Sindoor not just finished terror infrastructure, but destroyed the morale of the top terror leadership. (IANS)

Rana reviews development works in Poonch; calls for expeditious completion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Aimed at accelerating the pace of development in Poonch district, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday chaired a virtual meeting to review the progress of ongoing developmental works in the district.

The review meeting was attended by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, along with Heads of Departments and key district officers representing various line departments.

The meeting was convened to assess both the physical and financial achievements across all sectors, schemes and development plans currently under implementation in the district during the 2025-26 financial year.

The Minister evaluated the district's developmental roadmap, with special emphasis on critical infrastructure projects and public welfare initiatives.

While chairing the meeting, Rana stressed the importance of achieving the set targets within the stipulated timelines, underscoring that qual-



ity and transparency must not be compromised at any stage. He directed the officers to expedite project implementation and ensure that processes such as tendering, approvals and on-ground execution are carried out in a swift and time-bound manner.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to holistic development of Poonch, the Minister instructed the officials to maintain meticulous sector-wise documentation of progress and submit weekly updates to enable continuous and effective monitoring.

He further called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and real-time monitoring mechanisms to bridge implementation gaps and ensure that UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes

reach the grassroots level.

During the meeting, the Minister also reviewed the prevailing power supply scenario and the status of ongoing power infrastructure works in the district.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), particularly for a hilly district like Poonch, he described the scheme as a transformative initiative for strengthening the power distribution network in Jammu and Kashmir.

He directed the concerned officers to formulate a proactive roadmap to ensure the successful and timely implementation of RDSS in the district.

The Minister further emphasized that no payments should be released without thorough physical verification of all ongoing

and completed works. He instructed the officers to conduct regular on-ground inspections to verify quality, progress and adherence to approved specifications, reiterating that financial disbursements must be strictly linked to verification reports.

Additionally, the Minister reviewed the progress of J&K Green Drives being implemented by the Poonch Forest Division. He reiterated that any bottlenecks hampering the execution of projects and schemes must be resolved immediately to avoid inconvenience to the public.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner presented a detailed scheme-wise overview of the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed in the district. He informed the meeting that under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), 151 works are underway in Haveli, 17 in Mendhar and 67 in Surankote constituencies.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Deputy Commissioner stated that 19 works have been allotted in Mendhar, while 23 works have been allotted in Poonch. He further

apprised that under the Public Works Department (PWD), 225 works have been approved in Poonch, 18 in Surankote and 742 in Mendhar.

Providing an update on rural development initiatives, he informed that under the Rural Development Department (RDD), a total of 3,280 works have been tendered, of which 2,842 works have been allotted. He also shared details of works being executed under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Ground Water Division, Border Area Development Programme and other schemes, assuring that concerted efforts are being made to expedite their completion.

The Deputy Commissioner also briefed the meeting on implementation of Tribal Welfare Schemes in District Poonch. He informed that under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, 317 works have been allotted and are currently at different stages of completion.

He further highlighted the welfare initiatives being implemented under schemes such as SCA to TSS, PMAAGY and DAJGUA.

Div Com Reviews Implementation of Traffic Management Proposals in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Friday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management System to review the implementation of various proposals aimed at streamlining traffic movement in Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo; CEO SSCL, Fazlul Haseeb, VC SDA, SSP Traffic, and officers from the Public Works Department, Waqf Board, and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the drawings of proposed traffic interventions, including the construction of a rotary at Exchange Junction, road widening at Sangarmal Junction, and improvements at Jahangir Chowk to facilitate smooth-

er traffic flow on MA Road. After detailed deliberations, the committee approved the implementation of these proposals.

The meeting also reviewed the positive outcomes of introducing one-way traffic on several interior city roads and proposed extending the arrangement to additional areas.

It was informed that color coding of mini-buses has been completed in the western zone, while the process in the eastern zone will be initiated shortly.

To curb noise pollution, areas near JVC, Children's Hospital, and Karanagar were declared no-honking zones.

Regarding traffic accident black spots on the Parimpora-Narbal Highway, the Divisional Commissioner directed the PWD to conduct a joint inspection with BEACON to ascertain the causes of frequent accidents.

On the development of a multi-level parking facility at Jamia Masjid Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and CEO SSCL to take up the matter with the Aauqf Commission.

The meeting was informed that tenders for IT-based parking facilities at Harwan, Nehru Park, and Makai Park have already been floated.

Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the Action Taken Report on issues related to realignment of e-bus routes, establishment of e-bus charging stations, and construction of a vehicular underpass at Mominabad Junction.

Emphasizing the importance of effective traffic monitoring, the Divisional Commissioner directed the CEO SSCL to expedite the installation and operationalization of all ITMS cameras across the city.

Indian Railways to run special New Year train between New Delhi to Katra

IANs

NEW DELHI: To manage the expected surge in passenger traffic during the New Year period, Northern Railway's Jammu Division has announced the operation of a special reserved train between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, officials said on Friday.

The special train service will run for five trips in each direction between December 27, 2025 and January 1, 2026, aiming to provide relief to passengers during the peak holiday rush.

According to the Jammu Division of Northern Railway, the decision has been taken keeping in mind the increased travel demand due to New Year celebrations and the influx of tourists and pilgrims heading towards Jammu and Kashmir.

The special train is expected to facilitate smoother travel while

also helping the Railways manage crowd movement more effectively.

Special Reserved Train No. 04081 will operate from New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra from December 31, 2025.

The train will depart from New Delhi at 11:45 p.m. and reach Katra at 12 noon the following day. En route, it will halt at Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu and Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur) stations.

In the return direction, special reserved train no. 04082 will run from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi from December 28, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

It will depart Katra at 9:20 p.m. and arrive in New Delhi at 10 a.m. next day, stopping at Udhampur, Jammu, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar Cantt,

Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt, Kurukshetra and Panipat.

Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Northern Railway's Jammu Division, said the special train has been introduced to cater to the growing number of tourists and to meet the travel requirements of local residents during the holiday season.

He added that the train service will help passengers connect with their families and friends for New Year celebrations while easing congestion on regular trains.

The special reserved train will operate with 16 coaches.

Passengers can book tickets through the official Indian Railways website, mobile application or authorised booking agents.

Railway officials have advised passengers to check train schedules and timings before commencing their journey.

Dir Estates conducts extensive inspection of office, residential accommodations in Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Estates, Kashmir, Ashwani Khajuria conducted an extensive inspection and review of office and residential accommodations and allied facilities at multiple locations in Srinagar, including Civil Secretariat, Assembly Complex, Old Secretariat Complex and Tulsibagh and Jawahar Nagar residential quarters.

During the inspection, the Director was accompanied by senior officers of department including FA/CAO, Deputy Director Estates, Deputy Director(P) and Assistant Director Estates, along with other officers.

At the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, the Director took comprehensive tour of various blocks, reviewing ongoing renovation, upgradation, cleaning, fumigation and sanitation works. He impressed upon the concerned officers and execut-

ing agencies to ensure their time-bound completion so that officers and officials do not face any inconvenience regarding office accommodation and related facilities.

He inspected different offices, enquired about the pace and quality of works and stressed that all amenities for Civil Secretariat employees must be kept in a functional, clean and employee-friendly condition.

The Director also enquired about the proposed additional block being constructed within the Secretariat premises and instructed the executing agency to submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed building at the earliest so that work on the new block can be started as soon as possible to augment office accommodation.

During the visit, the Director also held a comprehen-

sive meeting with accompanying officers and took stock of all office and residential accommodations being provided by the Department. He also reviewed issues and requirements projected by different sections.

The Director also visited the Assembly Complex and Old Secretariat Complex, where he took stock of all office accommodations and issued instructions for their proper upkeep, timely repairs and optimal utilization in the interest of government functioning.

In the meanwhile, the Director also undertook a detailed inspection of residential accommodations at Tulsibagh, Jawahar Nagar, where he reviewed the ongoing repair and renovation works and physically checked various quarters to assess the condition of facilities and the progress on maintenance activities.

Secy Transport reviews functioning of Weighbridge at Sonamarg



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, Friday visited Sonamarg to take stock of the functioning and facilities at the Weighbridge here.

The Secretary was accompanied by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Ganderbal and other concerned officers and officials.

During the visit, the Secretary assessed the operational status of the weighbridge, availability of manpower and adequacy of infrastructure. She stressed the importance of strict enforcement of axle load norms to curb overloading, ensure smooth

traffic regulation, enhance road safety and protect road infrastructure.

The Secretary directed the officers to ensure transparency in weighbridge operations, improve inter-departmental coordination and maintain round-the-clock functionality of the facility, especially during peak tourist influx and high-traffic periods.

She also interacted with the staff on duty and took stock of the challenges faced in routine operations, emphasizing timely redressal of issues to improve efficiency and public service delivery.

The visit was aimed at strengthening the transport enforcement mechanisms and ensuring effective regulation of vehicular movement in Sonamarg area.

When Healing Hurts: The Unseen Injuries Of Indifferent Care

QURAT UL AIN

Patients come here seeking hope. This hospital stands as the only ray of hope for nearly 1.5 crore people living in Jammu and Kashmir UT. When that hope is met with silence, confusion, and loss of dignity, the pain goes far beyond physical injury. On 6th December 2025, my younger sister suffered a devastating accident. She was electrocuted by an 11 kV high-tension wire, resulting in severe burn injuries to her hands and legs. She was referred from SDH Sopore to SKIMS, where she has now been admitted for over 17 days in the Plastic Surgery ward.

Unclear Planning and Sudden Surgical Decisions

From the day of admission, we were informed that her in-charge doctor was (name not mentioned). However, throughout most of her hospital stay, we have rarely seen the concerned senior doctor personally examine the patient. Initially, we were told that only dressings would be done for 2-3 weeks to observe recovery, after which grafting would be planned. Yet on the 6th day, without prior counselling or explanation, we were suddenly asked to arrange medicines, keep the patient fasting for six hours, and by evening, consent papers for surgery were presented.

There was no detailed discussion of urgency, risks, or alternatives. After surgery, we were told dressings would be done every two days, but in reality, they have been done daily.

Today marks the 11th day post-surgery, and yet:

- No senior doctor has clearly explained wound progress
- 60-70% of the graft has already been removed
- We have not been informed whether re-grafting is planned

Every question receives the same response:

Due to signs of infection, a culture test was conducted. Despite repeated requests, we have not been informed



whether the report is positive or negative, what organism is involved, or how it is being managed. This lack of transparency has caused constant anxiety and fear.

Focus Shifted Away from Burn Care

At admission, CT scans of the head, brain, and spine were already performed. Despite this, on 20th December 2025, the Head of Department called for a neurology consultation.

The neurologist performed basic assessments, vision, hearing, and response checks, and stated that everything appeared normal, yet advised an MRI "just in case." When questioned, the response was: "Isse kuch nahi hoga, kara lo." While this may seem routine to the medical staff, for the patient's family it means financial burden, emotional exhaustion, and distraction from the primary issue, burn recovery, which remains largely undiscussed. During this neurology consultation, before even beginning the examination, the consultant openly used ChatGPT in

front of us to ask for an examination checklist for a burn patient. While technology can be a supportive tool, witnessing this at the bedside, before examining a critically injured patient, deeply shook our confidence and raised serious concerns about preparedness, professionalism, and clinical accountability.

Loss of Dignity During Medical Rounds

When the senior doctor finally appeared during rounds, what followed was deeply distressing. A junior doctor opened my sister's dressing in the corridor, exposing her wounds in a cold environment while she was not properly clothed. The senior doctor did not even look at the patient's face and walked away saying, "I will see the photograph." A patient is not a photograph, not a file, and not a case number. She is a human being, conscious, suffering, and in need of reassurance. When questioned, a staff member replied, "Yeh government hospital hai, yahan aise hi hota hai."

Does being treated in a government hospital mean patients must surrender their dignity?

Night-Time Suffering Ignored

A few days ago, in the middle of the night, my sister experienced severe back and rib pain due to a broken, uncomfortable bed and prolonged static positioning. When medical assistance was sought, the duty doctor was consulted. He appeared half-asleep and did not even open his eyes while responding. Despite being informed repeatedly that the problem was intense back pain, he initially suggested a pantoprazole injection. Later, she was given a brief massage, a pain-relief spray, and paracetamol. Only after exhaustion did she finally fall asleep.

Inhumane Infrastructure and Hygiene

The physical conditions of the ward further worsen the patient's suffering:

- Broken beds unsuitable for immobilized patients
- Torn, dirty bedding changed after

- weeks
- Unhygienic floors and washrooms
- No hot-water facility, even during winter

A Painful History That Continues

What makes this experience even more heartbreaking is that none of this is new for us. Our relationship with this hospital dates back to 2016, when my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. For over nine years, we have been coming here with hope, faith, and patience, only to face the same issues again and again. This is not an isolated incident. It is a pattern. And despite the passage of time, nothing seems to have changed.

A Plea, Not an Accusation

I'm not saying that doctors should not make clinical decisions or adjust treatment plans. I do understand that medical care often involves assessment, trial, and change based on patient response. However, such decisions must go hand in hand with empathy, transparency, and clear communication with the patient and family. This article is not written to attack doctors or healthcare workers. We recognize the pressure and workload they face. But workload cannot justify silence, neglect of communication, or loss of basic human dignity. Patients come here seeking hope. This hospital is the final refuge for nearly 1.5 crore people of Jammu and Kashmir. When that hope is met with confusion, indifference, and humiliation, the injury becomes deeper than any wound.

We are not asking for privilege. We are asking for clarity, compassion, dignity, and humane care. Because behind every patient lies a family, waiting, trusting, and slowly breaking.

Note: Views expressed in this opinion are writers' own and may not be found in accord with those of Good Morning Kashmir.

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■ Bridging The Gap

How Engineering And Policy Can Save Elephants

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The December 2025 train accident that killed seven elephants, including a calf in Assam's Hojai district was no ordinary accident. It symbolized the growing conflict between India's development model and environmental sensitivity. The high-speed train not only killed the elephants, but also derailed the engine and several coaches, highlighting the serious threat such incidents pose not only to wildlife but also to human life and public property.

The elephant is India's "National Heritage Animal" and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Despite this, the annual deaths of elephants on railway tracks raise questions about whether our development is truly sustainable, or is it proceeding at the expense of nature. According to government data, hundreds of elephants have been killed in train accidents over the past two decades, with Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand being the worst affected states.

India has seen rapid expansion of railway lines, national highways, power transmission lines, and other linear infrastructure. This expansion was considered essential for economic progress, but problems arise when these projects encroach upon forests, grasslands, and wetlands without adequate ecological planning. Railway tracks are particularly dangerous because trains cannot change direction or stop suddenly. Elephants, on the other hand, have limited vision and their heavy bodies, hindering rapid reaction.

Elephants are large-scale migratory animals and rely on traditional migratory routes for food, water, and breeding. When railway lines cut off these corridors, elephants have no choice but to cross the tracks. Unfortunately, many accident-prone areas have still not been officially declared "elephant corridors." The Hojai region of Assam is a prime example, where legal protection has been lacking despite regular elephant movement for years.

Excessive train speeds are a major cause of accidents. Even in environmentally sensitive areas, trains often reach speeds of 90 to 110 kilometers per hour. At such speeds, it is nearly impossible to stop a train in the face of



elephants. Temporary speed restrictions and warnings often prove to be mere formalities. This demonstrates that time and efficiency continue to be prioritized over environmental safety in railway operations.

Visibility problems also contribute to these accidents. Most elephant-train collisions occur at night or early morning, when fog, rain, or dense vegetation limit train drivers' vision. This situation is even more severe in Assam and Northeast India, where unpredictable weather is common. Furthermore, railway tracks themselves attract elephants. Food waste thrown by passengers, salty soil, and ripening crops near the tracks draw elephants to vulnerable areas, especially during the harvest season.

The design of railway tracks also often exacerbates the problem. High embankments, concrete walls, and fences trap elephants on the tracks. Cubs are unable to escape quickly,

slowing the entire herd down and increasing the risk of accidents. Furthermore, a lack of proper coordination between the Forest Department and the railways is a major challenge. Patrol teams often fail to report elephant presence to the railway control room in time, preventing accidents.

After every major disaster, steps such as investigations, compensation, and temporary bans are taken, but these are all reactive measures. Environmental impact assessments often remain a formality, and changes in animal behavior after project approval are not taken seriously. The need is to treat conservation not as an obstacle to development, but as an essential part of it.

To protect elephants, it is essential to provide legal protection to all known migratory corridors, whether they are already notified or not. Permanent speed limits should be implemented in all such areas. As a

technological solution, AI-based intrusion detection systems, which detect elephant movements and alert train drivers in time, could prove extremely effective. Limited use of these systems is not sufficient; they need to be adopted nationwide.

Additionally, scientifically designed underpasses, overpasses, and earthen ramps can play a vital role in ensuring safe elephant transit. According to the Ministry of Environment, such structures can significantly reduce elephant mortality. Trimming fruit trees along tracks, regular cleaning, and adopting a zero-waste policy on trains are equally important. Schemes like "Plan B," which uses the sound of bees to deter elephants, offer practical and humane solutions.

International experience shows that when conservation is taken seriously, a balance between development and wildlife is possible. Countries like Canada, Australia, and the Nether-

lands have significantly reduced accidents through wildlife transit structures and strict speed controls. India can adapt these models to its own circumstances.

The deaths of elephants are not only a moral failure, but also an economic loss. Train accidents, human casualties, property damage, and service disruptions—all cost far more than preventative measures. Ultimately, elephant deaths on railway tracks are the result of policy failure, not technology.

India must decide whether its development will proceed at the expense of nature or coexist with it. Only through environmentally-minded engineering, legal protection, and technological innovation can we ensure that the train of progress doesn't crush wildlife.

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Terrorists Used 40 Kg

conspiracy, he had sworn allegiance and taken an oath to carry out self-sacrificial operations,” the anti-terror agency said.

During the anti-terror conference inaugurated by HM Shah, the Union Minister and experts focused on developing synergies among various stakeholders by establishing formal and informal channels for coordinated action against the menace of terrorism in the spirit of the ‘Whole of the Government approach’ and to present substantive inputs for future policy formulation.

On the first day of the conference, HM Shah led experts from operational forces and technical, legal and forensic agencies in chalking out strategies to fight terrorism.

During the conference, experts will also discuss issues impacting national security and threats emerging out of terrorism at the conference being organised by the premier anti-terror agency, the National Investigation Agency, said a statement.

PM Modi Ensured

discrimination. He called upon the citizens to honour the sacrifice of the revered Sikh Gurus by fostering a society rooted in unity and progress.

“There has been a new dynamism in our country and let us resolve today to stand together and stand firm in our determination to build Viksit Bharat of our dreams,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also remembered the martyrdom of Baba Moti Ram Mehra and his family, calling their sacrifice a testament to human spirit and loyalty.

The members of All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for fulfilling the long-pending demands of the Sikh Community.

S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee projected a demand to rename “Veer Baal Diwas” to “Sahibzade Shaha-dat Diwas”. The Lieutenant Governor assured the committee that the memorandum of demand would be forwarded to the Government of India.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated a newly married Sikh couple who had their marriage registered under the Anand Marriage Act in the Union Territory.

Mahant Manjeet Singh; S. Ajit Singh, Chairman All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination committee; members of Sikh Coordination Committee and eminent persons of the Sikh community were present.

Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, Member of Legislative Assembly from RS Pura Jammu South; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; senior officials of Police and Civil administration were also present on the occasion.

Minimum Temperature

temperature. Jammu city had 10 degrees Celsius, Katra 9.5, Batote 6.1, Banihal 3.8 and Bhaderwah 2.6 degrees as the minimum temperature.

The maximum temperature was 13 degrees Celsius in Srinagar, 4 in Gulmarg and 9 degrees Celsius in Pahalgam on Thursday. This indicates that the gap between the maximum and the minimum temperature is narrowing, a typical phenomenon during the 40-day-long ‘Chillai Kalan’ that started on December 21 and will end on January 30.

During this period of extreme winter cold, most water bodies in the Valley freeze either partially or completely, making navigation difficult in rivers and lakes. People have to cover themselves in multiple layers of woollen clothes to save themselves from catching a cold.

For this reason, the tweed overgarment called the ‘Pheran’ is the most sought-after winter dress for men, women and children in Kashmir.

Most Kashmiris hold an earthen pot filled with live charcoal woven in a beautifully crafted willow wicker basket under the Pheran. This is called the ‘Kangri’ and has become a part of Kashmir’s culture for centuries.

New Year's Eve revellers have arrived in good numbers in Gulmarg, Srinagar and Pahalgam, while hoteliers and tour and travel operators suggest bookings are still increasing.

The Kashmir tourism industry has suffered majorly due to the terrorist attack of April 22, in which 25 tourists and one local pony owner were killed by Pakistan-backed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam.

Tourist arrivals around the year-end indicate that 2026 will be a better and prosperous year for those depending on this industry for their livelihood.

Delhi Court Extends

An active participant in the conspiracy, he had sworn allegiance and taken an oath to carry out self-sacrificial

operations," the agency had said earlier.

The NIA has also claimed that Yasir was in close contact with other accused persons in the case, including Dr. Umar Nabi, the deceased perpetrator of the bombing, and Mufti Irfan.

Dr. Bilal Naseer Malla of Baramulla, who is the eighth accused in the case, was arrested by an NIA team from Delhi on December 9.

As per the agency, he had knowingly harboured Umar Nabi by providing him logistical support and is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terror attack.

The NIA has said that it is continuing its investigation into the larger conspiracy behind the deadly blast and is working closely with various central and state agencies to unravel all its links.

Earlier this month, the agency conducted extensive searches at the premises of several accused and suspects in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, seizing digital devices and other incriminating materials.

These were preceded by similar searches at the premises of prime accused Dr. Muzammil Shakeel Gania and Dr. Shaheen Saeed in Haryana's Faridabad.

The probe agency has said that further investigation in the case is underway.

2025 Toughest Year

recover the cost of harvesting and packaging,” Bashir Ahmad Basheer, President of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said.

With the national highway closed, the Mughal Road was used as an alternative route, but growers said it proved grossly inadequate.

“Only small trucks were allowed on Mughal Road, which made large-scale transportation impossible. Even then, vehicles were given turns after two or three days,” Basheer said.

He said freight charges on the Mughal Road were three to four times higher than normal, further eating into already shrinking margins.

“In desperation, some growers even used small load carriers to transport fruit up to Rajouri. From there, the produce was reloaded onto trucks for onward transportation. This not only increased costs but also damaged the quality of fruit,” the Union leader said.

Growers said they had never witnessed such a bad year for the fruit industry.

They said that even during past disruptions or political turmoil, the losses were not this massive. “In 2025, everything went wrong at once—weather, roads, markets and policy support,” they lamented.

While the industry has been grappling with multiple challenges for years, 2025 exposed its structural vulnerabilities. “Every year, new diseases are emerging in orchards. Fake pesticides and substandard fertilisers have flooded the market, damaging crops instead of protecting them. Despite all this, apple prices continue to remain low year after year,” growers said.

Growers acknowledged that Controlled Atmosphere (CA) and cold storage units have emerged as a major relief for the sector, helping farmers store produce and avoid distress sales. However, they said the number of such units remains insufficient.

“Cold storages are a boon, but they are too few compared to the volume of production. Moreover, many units operate as per their own will rather than government guidelines,” they said.

Growers demanded that cold storage units be regulated strictly and urged authorities to establish 200–300 additional CA and cold storage facilities across the Valley.

KVFG also reminded CA store owners to adhere to the 2024 decision allowing growers to use their own packaging material (bardanna) if they wish.

One of the strongest grievances raised by the growers is the “complete absence” of compensation from the government despite losses running into thousands of crores, Basheer alleged, adding that the industry suffered Rs 2,000 crore losses.

Basheer added, “The KVFG had time to time placed a detailed charter of demands before the government, including immediate Rs 2,000 crore relief package for affected growers, introduction of a crop insurance scheme for horticulture, Revival and strengthening of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), especially for Grade B and C produce, Declaration of Mughal Road as a National Highway and construction of additional alternative routes, waiver of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans and interest exemption on farmer loans, Abolition of municipal chungli on fruit transportation, Establishment of fully equipped fruit mandis, Standardisation of packaging (bardanna) and Strict quality control on pesticides and fertilizers and a ban on artificial colouring chemicals.”

We had also called for effective quarantine measures for high-density plantation rootstock to prevent the entry of infected plants into the Valley, he added.

Interestingly, despite the mounting challenges, the shift from traditional agriculture to horticulture continues unabated in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, around 1,000 hectares have already been brought under high-density orchards, and the government plans to bring an additional 5,500 hectares under such plantations in the coming years.

“This shows people’s faith in horticulture as a livelihood option. But unless infrastructure, insurance and market support improve, this expansion could expose farmers to even greater risks,” growers

warned.

Growers said the fruit economy—which employs lakhs of people directly and indirectly and forms the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir’s rural livelihood—is at a breaking point.

“If urgent corrective measures are not taken now, the damage will not be limited to one season. It could permanently weaken the horticulture sector,” they said, urging the government to act without further delay—(KNO)

Preparing J&K

Development Department, Mohamad Aijaz Asad, described Himayat 2.0 as a shift from skill training to assured employability, with a sharper focus on standards, accountability and long-term employment outcomes. He noted that skills remain the most sustainable form of empowerment and that the government has established a system that is clear in intent and supportive in execution.

The Chief Executive Officer, Himayat, briefed the gathering on the roles and responsibilities of PIAs, underlining the importance of quality training, placement performance and strict adherence to programme guidelines.

The event was attended by Heads of Departments of Panchayati Raj and IWMP, senior officers, representatives of PIAs and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of Himayat 2.0.

Year Marks Shift

The pain and tragedy of families whose loved ones were killed by terrorists are now being acknowledged and addressed in ways rarely seen during the long years of conflict.

"These people suffered in silence -- unheard, without justice and often without even a dignified burial for their loved ones," the L-G said during the year.

"Their hour of reckoning has finally come."

In 2025, this translated into concrete measures: registration of long-pending FIRs, government jobs for next of kin, compensation, and public recognition of their suffering.

While terrorism may not yet be entirely residual, as official statements sometimes suggest, there is little doubt that it no longer dictates the narrative in Kashmir.

People increasingly speak of terrorism in the past tense -- perhaps the strongest endorsement of the administration's efforts.

The year was not without political friction.

Tensions surfaced between Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and L-G Manoj Sinha over the division of powers between the elected government and Raj Bhavan.

Having earlier served as the Chief Minister of a full-fledged state, Omar Abdullah faces the challenge of adapting to the altered realities of governing a Union Territory -- an adjustment that could ease institutional misunderstandings going forward.

On the development front, connectivity remained a defining theme.

The inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2025 marked a major milestone, significantly improving all-weather access.

Rail connectivity expanded further with the introduction and extension of Vande Bharat services to Srinagar, boosting tourism, trade and ancillary sectors such as hospitality and retail.

Education remained firmly in focus. The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlighted major investments in schooling, including thousands of smart classrooms, ICT labs and early childhood education centres.

Vocational education expanded to more than 1,000 schools, reaching more than 1.4 lakh students and aligning skill development with modern job markets.

Schools and colleges are increasingly transforming into vibrant centres of learning rather than distant, under-resourced outposts.

Leisure, culture and community life also saw a revival.

Public spaces, events and recreational avenues expanded, giving people a sense of normalcy -- and time -- to live rather than merely survive.

For many, the once-constant urgency to rush home to avoid crossfire is now a memory.

Public and private investment is reshaping Jammu and Kashmir's hospitality and industrial sectors. These investments are strengthening road networks, promoting commerce, and supporting skill-based employment aligned with local aspirations.

Between 2020 and 2024, domestic tourist arrivals surged nearly tenfold, reflecting renewed confidence among travellers and residents alike.

The momentum continued in 2025 with the launch of Asia's longest ski drag lift in Gulmarg in December, significantly enhancing winter tourism infrastructure and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an international destination for snow sports and adventure tourism.

The cumulative shift is unmistakable. Stone-pelting, separatist-called shutdowns, street violence, arson and the pervasive fear that once defined daily life have largely vanished.

The separatist narrative has steadily given way to one of growth -- of individual and collective aspirations driven by confidence that the worst lies behind.

As 2025 ends and 2026 dawns, Jammu and Kashmir stands at the cusp of a long-awaited new chapter -- one shaped less by conflict and more by hope, opportunity and a shared vision of a more prosperous future.

PM Modi To Chair

Under this overarching theme, special emphasis will be placed on five key areas: early childhood education, schooling, skilling, higher education, sports and extracurricular activities.

Six special sessions will also be held on deregulation in states; technology in governance; opportunities, risks and mitigation; agristack for smart supply chain and market linkages; one state, one world class tourist destination; Atmanirbhar Bharat and swadeshi and plans for a post-left wing extremism future.

Besides, focused deliberations would be held on heritage and manuscript preservation and digitisation and Ayush for All - Integrating Knowledge in primary healthcare delivery.

The conference marks another important milestone in strengthening Centre-State partnership through structured and sustained dialogue on national development priorities, the statement said.

Anchored in the prime minister's vision of cooperative federalism, this conference serves as the forum where Centre and States collaborate, designing a unified roadmap to maximise India's human capital potential and accelerate inclusive, future-ready growth.

The three day conference to be held from December 26-28 will be devoted to intensive deliberations aimed at finalising a common development agenda.

It will lay the ground for collaborative action to move beyond viewing India's population merely as a demographic dividend and instead position citizens as human capital by developing concrete strategies to strengthen education systems, advance skilling initiatives and generate future-ready employment opportunities across the country.

The national conference of chief secretaries has been organised annually over the past four years. The first conference was held in Dharamshala in June 2022, followed by subsequent conferences in New Delhi in January 2023, December 2023 and December 2024. Chief secretaries, senior officials of all states and UTs, domain experts among others will be present at the conference.

5-Year Clock Ticks

Government amended the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to provide for the setting up of District Development Councils. The law was amended through an executive order by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), invoking the powers vested in it under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Each DDC comprises 14 elected members. With J&K having 20 districts, the total strength of elected DDC members is 280. In the first-ever DDC elections held in November–December 2020, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won 110 seats, while the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats—(KNO)

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Directorate of YSS, Hosts “Dastaan-e-Mic”: A Landmark Open Mic Event for Youthful Expression



AZHAR HAJINI

JAMMU: The historic Bahu Plaza on Friday echoed with the powerful voices of J&K's youth at “Dastaan-e-Mic: Kuchh Apni Kahoi, Kuchh Meri Suno,” a first-of-its-kind Open Mic program organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), J&K. The event, a vibrant initiative to foster creative expression and youth engagement, witnessed an overwhelming response from young artists and audiences alike, setting a new precedent for youth-centric platforms in the UT.

The program was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, with Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, presiding as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Anuradha Gupta, Director General, YSS J&K; Mohammad Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Kashmir; Megha Bagia, Deputy Director Planning/Activities; Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jammu; along with officials, employees from the Directorate, and a spirited audience comprising

locals, school children, and a large number of youth from across the UT.

Anuradha Gupta, Director General, YSS, in her welcome address, set the tone for the evening. She extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, participants, and the audience, stating, “Dastaan-e-Mic is our commitment to listening. It is a platform built on the belief that every young person in J&K has a story worth telling and a voice worth hearing.” She appreciated the participants for their courage and creativity in sharing their authentic expressions. Furthermore, she commended the dedicated efforts of the subordinate officers and officials of the Directorate for organizing the event magnificently, highlighting their teamwork and passion in translating the vision of youth engagement into a vibrant reality.

In his address as the Chief Guest, Ramesh Kumar delivered an inspiring speech, warmly congratulating the Directorate of YSS for organizing this pioneering event. He highlighted the essential need for such innovative pro-

grams that provide a legitimate and encouraging stage for the youth, who are brimming with untapped talent and perspectives. He emphasized that initiatives like Dastaan-e-Mic are crucial for channeling creative energy positively, building confidence, and giving a democratic platform to every voice that deserves to be heard.

The Open Mic was a tapestry of diverse artistic expressions, featuring captivating poetry by artists like Akhil Brahmanu, Paras Angral, Anup Kumar, Deepankar Sharma, and Saddam Hussain Kafel, who wove emotions into eloquent couplets. The stage also resonated with powerful poetry from Saqib Wani, Pankaj Kumar, Sheikh Masood Hamid, Sayed Rizwan, Kriti Malhotra, Simran Bharti, Ahmad Irfan, Iran Shareef, and Ajay Singh, each presenting original verses that ranged from personal introspection to social commentary. The art of storytelling was masterfully presented by Mukhtar Ahmed Madni and Ishwar Kumar, who held the audi-

ence spellbound with their narratives. The program further diversified with melodic singing by Salmar Najar and a dynamic fusion of singing and rap by Hai Singh.

The event was further elevated by distinguished guest performers who lent their stature to the cause, including the lyrical prowess of RJ Aryan and Yogeshwar Singh, the literary compositions of poetess and lecturer Sushma Rani, the evocative words of writer Sushant Sabarwal, and a unique performance by G One, a singer-rapper who also serves as a policeman, symbolizing the multifaceted talents within the community.

As a token of appreciation and encouragement, all participants were honored with trophies and certificates, presented by the dignitaries on stage. This gesture highlights the Directorate's commitment to recognizing and validating the artistic contributions of the youth.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Megha Bagia, Deputy Director Planning/Activities.

Football: FIFA Club World Cup takes centre-stage as PSG rules Europe

IAN S

MADRID: In a year without a major men's international tournament, club football dominated the headlines, with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) emerging as one of the standout winners in Europe.

PSG capped the season by winning the UEFA Champions League in late May with a 5-0 rout of Inter Milan, as coach Luis Enrique underlined the value of cohesion over a collection of star names. The former Spain coach has built a side that blends technical quality with pace

after heavy summer spending, expectations of further dominance have given way to a difficult campaign, with new signings struggling to gel and Slot facing growing pressure.

Barcelona enjoyed a successful first season under Hansi Flick, winning La Liga despite strict financial limits and playing home matches at the former Olympic Stadium while Camp Nou undergoes renovation. Lamine Yamal drew the biggest headlines, but Flick also earned credit for elevating players such as Raphinha, Pedri, Fermin Lopez and Ferran

questions over Alonso after poor results.

Elsewhere, Bayern Munich reclaimed the Bundesliga title, while Napoli sealed Serie A with a 2-0 win over Cagliari in the final round.

The expanded Club World Cup reinforced European strength in the global game -- and the prize money distribution that sustains it. Five European clubs reached the quarterfinals, along with Brazil's Fluminense and Palmeiras, and Saudi side Al-Hilal. Fluminense beat Al-Hilal before losing to Chelsea in the semifinals.

Tuchel appears to be gradually stamping his authority on England. Argentina are also expected to challenge, although there are doubts over whether Lionel Messi would be involved.

Messi continued to make headlines in the United States as Inter Miami won the MLS title, with Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets also playing key roles. In South America, Flamengo lifted the Copa Libertadores, with Filipe Luis enhancing his reputation as one of the continent's most promising young coaches.

Al-Hilal's Club World



and aggression, and after years of domestic dominance, PSG fully justified their first European crown.

Ousmane Dembele set the tone and was later named Ballon d'Or winner and FIFA Best Men's Player. Despite a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea in the FIFA Club World Cup final, PSG look well-placed to maintain their grip on French football and mount another Champions League challenge.

In England, Liverpool stormed to the Premier League title in Arne Slot's first season after replacing Jurgen Klopp. However,

Torres. Barcelona end 2025 top of La Liga again and are hoping to contend in Europe, with a return to Camp Nou expected to ease financial strain.

Real Madrid endured a more turbulent year. Carlo Ancelotti's side missed out on the league title and exited the Champions League in the quarterfinals last season, before Xabi Alonso took over ahead of the Club World Cup. Madrid were then outclassed by PSG in the semifinals, and the year ends amid reports of dressing-room unrest and renewed

while Chelsea produced a strong final to defeat a fatigued PSG.

The tournament also raised concerns about player workload, with many heading into a long season without a proper summer break ahead of the 2026 World Cup. Extreme heat and storms that forced temporary stoppages also offered a warning for next summer.

Looking ahead, Spain go into 2026 World Cup preparations as one of the leading contenders after an impressive qualifying campaign, while Thomas

Cup run and Al-Ahli's AFC Champions League title underlined the impact of big spending in the Saudi Pro League, although questions remain over whether the league's rise reflects imported stars or genuine local development.

England rose to the top of the women's game after defeating world champions Spain in the European Championship final, before Spain gained some consolation under new coach Sonia Bermudez by beating Germany to win the UEFA Nations League in December.

3rd T20I: Renuka Singh Thakur aims to take a rare five-for after picking a four-wicket haul

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India Women's pacer Renuka Singh Thakur said she was delighted with her four-wicket haul coming in the eight-wicket win in the third T20I against Sri Lanka Women, but admitted she was still chasing the elusive five-wicket haul in the shortest format.

In what was the first international women's game at the Greenfield International Stadium, Renuka picked 4-21 on her return to the T20I team as India restricted Sri Lanka to 112/7.

"Very happy. I never get five wickets; it's always four. So maybe I'll have to work harder to get a five-for as they are rare for me. I go to the NCA (CoE) to

prepare for any tournament because it works for me. I can do some extra work on my bowling and fitness, and that helps me execute better," said Renuka in the post-match presentation ceremony.

Renuka now holds the record for most four-wicket hauls by an Indian bowler in women's T20Is with four, ahead of leg-spinner Poonam Yadav's three. Her 4-21 ranks as the second-best figures by an Indian bowler in T20Is, and is only behind Daina David's 4-12 at Basseterre during the 2010 T20 World Cup.

"Harmanpreet was fully motivating me to get 5, as she also knows that I get only four wickets every time. I remember Jhulan (Goswami) di's words when she said to take five wickets, you need to work

harder. So that's what I was thinking - to work harder to get the 5 wickets," added Renuka.

Against Sri Lanka in T20Is, Renuka has featured in eight matches, claiming 11 wickets at an average of 14.81, with a strike rate of 15.2 and an economy rate of 5.82. Renuka signed off by saying she's using the ongoing series to get her preparation right for next year's T20 World Cup in England.

"I wanted to during this series, so that when I play in the future against Australia or the World Cup, there shouldn't be any doubt about my slower one or anything else, so that I can mentally prepare myself. If my first over doesn't go well, I think about what I need to do and what to bowl on this wicket when the captain throws the ball next.

Tata Open 2025: Yuvraj Sandhu moves to the top with a sizzling 64 in Round Two

IAN S

JAMSHEDPUR: Yuvraj Sandhu moved to the top of the leaderboard thanks to his sizzling eight-under 64 in Round Two of the Tata Open 2025, an INR 2 crore event and the PGTI's season-finale, being played at the Beldih and Golmuri golf courses in Jamshedpur.

Yuvraj (67-64), who played at Beldih on Friday, totalled 11-under 131 at the halfway stage to lead by three shots and move up seven positions from his overnight tied eighth.

Yuvraj, a six-time winner on the PGTI this year, has already won the 2025 PGTI Order of Merit



crown and thus sealed his spot on the DP World Tour for next year. Sandhu is now looking for a record seventh title on the PGTI.

The 21-year-old Shubham Jaglan (68-66), playing his third event on the

PGTI, struck a four-under 66 at Golmuri in round two to move up four spots into second position at a total of eight-under 134.

The halfway cut was declared at two-over 144. Fifty-three professionals made the cut.

In Round One, one half of the field played its 18 holes at Beldih Golf Club while the other half of the field played its 18 holes at the Golmuri Golf Club. In Round Two, both halves of the field switched venues. In rounds three and four, the leading groups will play their first nine holes at Golmuri before moving to Beldih to play their second nine holes.



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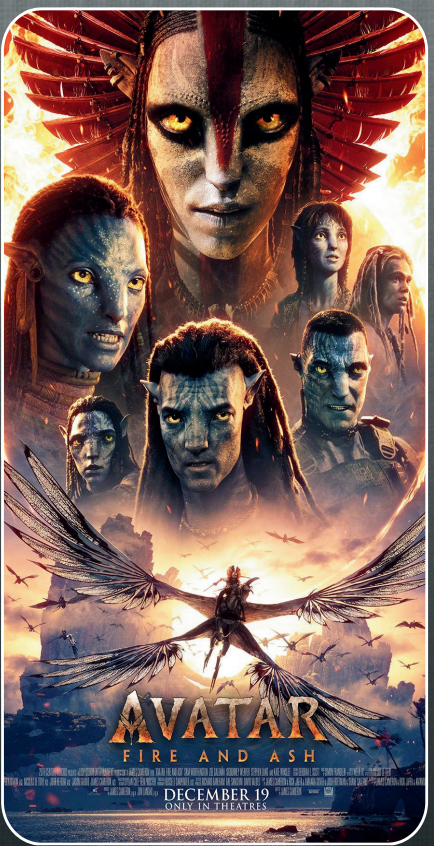
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