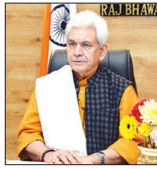


Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Humble tributes to Smt. Savitribai Phule Ji on her Janm-Jayanti. She was the great social reformer and trailblazer who laid the foundation of women's education & devoted her life to the upliftment of marginalized sections of society. Her life & ideals continue to inspire us all.

Srinagar • Sunday 04, January 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 04 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Fare Hike 'Confusion'

Govt Denies Revision, Commuters End Up Paying More



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Even as the government maintains that no official order has been issued regarding a hike in passenger fares, transporters across several parts of Kashmir have already increased the rates, leading to confusion and resentment among commuters.

According to the details available, last week the government 'reportedly approved an 18 percent' hike in passenger fares across all categories of public transport vehicles, with the revised rates scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2026.

The decision followed deliberations by the Fare Revision Committee (FRC), chaired by Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, during a meeting with transporter representatives at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu on December 23.

However, no formal noti-

fication has been issued till date by the government, leading to uncertainty on the ground. 'Transporters have also stated they plan to implement the fare hike from January 5—Monday.

"There was a meeting at the Civil Secretariat from about 7 PM to 8 PM—what was it for if fares were not up for revision?" asked a transporter.

He said that transporters were compelled to increase fares due to the government not revising rates during the past five years.

"Our fitness fare increased from Rs 13,000 per year to Rs 28,000 at one point—over 200 percent. The hike will apply across Jammu and Kashmir for all vehicles, large or small, including passenger vehicles," he said, adding that it will come into force from their side from January 5, 2026.

Despite the government's claims, several commuters told KNO they

Kashmir's Jewel Losing Shine

Houseboats Float In Silence As Tourists Skip Lakes, Prefer Gulmarg, Pahalgam

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Once the pride of Kashmir's tourism and a floating symbol of its charm, Srinagar's houseboats, often called the "jewel in the crown" are quietly sinking into neglect as visitors are bypassing the lakes.

Houseboat owners said, "Occupancy has dropped to as low as 10–15 percent this winter, leaving most rooms empty, heaters off and livelihoods adrift. We are watching the rush in Gulmarg and Pahalgam on television. But here, our boats are empty," said Ghulam Nabi, a houseboat owner from Dal Lake. "It feels like tourists have forgotten that Srinagar exists," he added.

Notably, despite a packed tourist season in Gulmarg



and Pahalgam, where hotels are running full, Dal and Nigeen lakes narrate a differ-

ent story. The charm of the floating hotels, once popular with couples, filmmakers and

other people from different parts of the world has faded amid changing

Govt Determined To Complete Reconstruction In Flood Hit J&K Areas: Dr Jitendra

SAJID RAINA

KATHUA: Asserting that PM Modi led government is determined to complete major reconstruction works in the flood hit areas in Jammu and Kashmir by August this year, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said the Centre has released over Rs

1,400 crore as special assistance to rebuild the shattered infrastructure.

Chairing a meeting with district officials and public representatives, Dr Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that Kathua was the worst-affected district due

to recent flash floods, given its location near the international border and its geographical linkage with adjoining areas of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

"Kathua was worst hit due to floods. After the Prime Minister's intervention, we have received more than Rs 1,400 crore from the central

government," Dr Singh said.

He said the meeting focused on ensuring proper utilisation and accountability of the funds. "It was decided that the money should be used judiciously and in a time-bound manner," he added.

Singh said the administration has been asked

J&K Bank Q3 Business Grows 13.34 Per Cent To Rs 2.72 Lakh Crore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank has reported a steady improvement in its business performance in the third quarter of the financial year, with total business rising 13.34 per cent year on year to Rs 2.72 lakh crore, according to a provisional quarterly update released on Friday.

The growth was driven by a strong expansion in advances and a sustained increase in deposits, underscoring the lender's resilience amid a competitive banking environment. Gross advances rose sharply by 17.26 per cent to Rs 1,16,247.92 crore as of December 31, 2025, compared with Rs 99,133.35 crore a year earlier, reflecting continued momentum in lending activity across segments.

Total deposits increased

by 10.58 per cent on a yearly basis to Rs 1,55,861.35 crore as of the end of the quarter, up from Rs 1,40,947.14 crore as of December 31, 2024.

The bank said deposit growth during the quarter was supported by both retail and institutional inflows, indicating sustained customer engagement and balance sheet expansion.

However, growth in low-cost deposits remained modest. Current account and savings account, or CASA, deposits stood at Rs 68,736.27 crore at the end of the quarter, registering a marginal increase of 1.25 per cent year on year. As a result, the CASA ratio declined to 44.10 per cent as of December 31, 2025, compared with 48.17 per cent in the corresponding period last year. The decline in the ratio points to a higher share of term deposits in the overall deposit mix.

LG Sinha Unveils Poster Of Anti-Drug Abuse Film 'The Last Dose'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday unveiled the poster of an awareness film titled 'The Last Dose' on drug abuse at Lok Bhawan.

The film has been produced by Khwaish Gupta Productions. A Lok Bhawan press communique said the Lt Governor congratulated the entire team and conveyed his best wishes to them.

Khwaish Gupta, Founder of Khwaish Gupta Productions; Shivdeep Gupta and Priya Gupta, Producers of the film, along with other team members, were present at the unveiling ceremony.

Earlier in the day, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir highlighted drug abuse as a major challenge in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner described drug addiction



as a grave social issue facing J&K today.

He said the problem has intensified rapidly, multiplying three times in the last three and a half years, which is alarming.

The Divisional Commissioner said the government is expanding its anti-drug awareness campaign by involving all stakeholders, including religious leaders. "A very big awareness cam-

paign is going on in J&K, and the Chief Secretary is personally monitoring it," he said.

He added that extensive programmes are being organised by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), where counsellors are being trained across health and educational institutions.

Five-day training sessions are being held to build a

...Efficient Traceability

Transport Ministry Proposes Aadhaar-Like Number To EV Batteries

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Transport Ministry has proposed assigning Aadhaar-like unique identification number to EV batteries to ensure their end-to-end traceability and efficient recycling.

The proposed framework will make it mandatory for battery producer or importer to assign a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to batteries, as per the draft guidelines issued by the ministry.

They will also have to upload the relevant Battery Pack Dynamic data on the official portal of BPAN.

"The battery producer or importer shall have the obligation of assigning a unique Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to each battery that they introduce in



the market and the battery they put to self-use."

"BPAN shall be in a clearly visible and accessible position. The location shall be chosen in a way that it cannot be destroyed or deteriorate," the guidelines said.

BPAN will capture and store vital information starting from raw material extraction and manufacturing to its usage, recycling, or final disposal, as per the 'Guidelines For Implementation Of Battery Pack Aadhaar

India Living Bearer Of Lord Buddha's Traditions

PM Modi Showcases Efforts To Preserve, Promote Buddhist Heritage

IAN5

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted the initiatives undertaken by his government to develop sites associated with the heritage of Lord Buddha in India and across the world, while also emphasising efforts to connect the present generation with Buddhist traditions and values.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics associated with Bhagwan Buddha at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in Delhi.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, PM Modi spoke about India's deep-rooted spiritual links with Buddhism and its role in sharing this legacy globally.

Recalling his international visits, the Prime Minister said,



"Wherever I went, I tried to connect people with Buddha's legacy by taking a part of it back with me. That's why, whether to China, Japan, Korea, or Mongolia, I carried saplings of the Bodhi tree. In Hiroshima, the city devastated by the atomic bomb, the presence of a Bodhi tree at the Peace Memorial Park sends a powerful message to

humanity."

He said the shared heritage of Lord Buddha demonstrates that India's bond with the world extends far beyond formal ties.

"It proves that India's connection with the world is not just about politics, diplomacy, or economics. It runs much deeper, connected by heart, sentiments, faith and spirituality," he said.

PM Modi underlined that India is not only the custodian of Lord Buddha's sacred relics but also a "living bearer" of his heritage.

"Relics associated with Lord Buddha found at Piprahwa, Vaishali, Devni Mori, and Nagarjunakonda are a living presence of his message. India has preserved and nurtured these relics in every form—scientific and spiritual," he said.

Highlighting India's role in preserving Buddhist

Key Accused In Red Fort Blast Remanded Till January 16

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday remanded Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, one of the accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, to judicial custody for 13 days till January 16.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) produced Malla at the Patiala House Court amid tight security on Saturday, upon the expiry of his 8-day NIA custody granted on December 26.

Mediapersons were barred from covering the proceedings.

The accused was produced before Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna, who sent Malla to judicial custody till January 16.

NIA arrested Malla in Delhi on December 9 and termed him a key accused in the conspiracy.

According to the NIA probe, Malla knowingly provided logistical support to Dr Umar-un-Nabi, the suicide bomber who was driving the explosive-laden i20 car that

Apple Demand Picks Up, Controlled Atmosphere Storage Facilities Open Up

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: After months of uncertainty and distress sales during the peak harvest season, demand for Kashmiri apples has begun to show a noticeable improvement with the gradual opening of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities, raising hopes of better returns among growers across the Valley.

Officials associated with the Horticulture Department and CA storage units said that for now, apples stored in the corridor spaces of CA units are being released into markets, while the main CA chambers have also started opening in a phased manner. These developments have already resulted in improved demand and comparatively better



prices.

"In routine practice, apples kept in corridor spaces are stored under basic arrangements, where fans help circulate air and temperatures are maintained at a minimum level. These are not fully controlled conditions like the main CA chambers," an official explained.

He added that the main CA chambers, which offer advanced regulation of oxygen, carbon

dioxide, and temperature to preserve fruit quality for longer periods, are now being opened gradually to ensure a steady market supply. "The idea is to avoid oversupply and maintain price stability," the official said.

Currently many CA stores have already opened their main chambers as demand for apples have surged and growers have been getting better returns.

Orientation-cum-Capacity-Building Prog on Substance Abuse held at IMHANS

Div Com Kashmir stresses on 3-stage approach to curb surge in substance use

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to highlight the role of Religious Scholars in eradication of Substance abuse, District Administration Srinagar organized an Orientation-cum-Capacity Building Workshop for Masjid Imams and Religious Scholars at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), here Saturday.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg was the Chief Guest of the programme while Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo attended the event as Guest of Honour.

The Workshop aimed at highlighting the crucial role of religious scholars in eradicating the growing menace of drug abuse in society and was attended by over 100 prominent Religious Scholars including Imams and Ulemas from across the Valley, besides a large number of eminent citizens and civil society members.

Principal GMC Srinagar, Prof. Iffat Hassan, Administrator, GMC, Srinagar Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid,



Tehsildar Wakaf Board, Ishtiyak Ahmad, Nodal Officer ATF IMHAANS, Dr Arshid, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Dr Yasir and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the workshop, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir sought active support and cooperation from religious scholars in sensitising people especially the youth about the harmful and dangerous effects of drug abuse. He urged scholars to convey through Friday sermons that drug consumption is

not only prohibited in all religions but also severely damages individuals, families, and society at large.

He said that concerned departments and institutions shall adopt 3-stage approach including awareness campaigns, identification of victims and counselling to curb surge in cases.

He also emphasised the importance of early reporting of drug abuse cases, urging affected individuals and their families to approach Drug De-addiction Centres for timely rehabilitation through

professional counselling and expert guidance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar termed the rising drug menace as a matter of serious concern and called for collective efforts from all sections of society to uproot the grave problem. He noted that drug abuse not only destroys the life of an addict but also leads to the breakdown of entire families.

The DC highlighted that while the administration is taking strong measures to curb drug abuse, religious scholars and parents must play a pivotal role alongside the government. He also outlined key aspects of the rehabilitation policy of the District Administration aimed at reintegrating drug victims with their families, as well as the deterrence measures being taken to break the supply chain and curb drug peddling in the district.

The DC also highlighted the key points of the rehabilitation policy of the District Administration to bring back the drug victims to their families and deterrence measures taken by the District Administration Srinagar to break the supply chain and crush the drug ped-

dling in the District.

During the programme, prominent religious scholars spoke about the vital role of religious scholars and Ulemas in creating awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and stressed the need for such targeted awareness initiatives to safeguard society.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal, GMC Srinagar, highlighted the crucial role of Imams as trusted community leaders in prevention, early intervention, and stigma reduction.

Prof. (Dr.) Arshad Hussain, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS-GMC Srinagar, highlighted the growing burden of substance use disorders in the region and stressed the importance of early intervention and community participation in prevention efforts.

Earlier, Mental Health Experts delivered detailed presentations on drug abuse, its systematic treatment, existing policies, and available preventive and rehabilitation services. They underlined the importance of early identification of signs and symptoms of drug abuse and raising sustained awareness at the community level.

DC Sgr flags off Mobile Veterinary Units for vaccination of livestock against FMD



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday kick-started the 7th round of vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) by flagging off mobile veterinary units from the DC Office premises here.

The district-wide vaccination drive is being carried out by the District Sheep Husbandry Department with the objective of protecting livestock and strengthening disease prevention mechanisms across Srinagar.

The mobile veterinary units will visit villages, urban localities and remote areas of the district to vaccinate livestock at the doorstep, making the process accessible and convenient for farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the importance of timely vaccination to safeguard livestock from Foot and Mouth Disease, which causes heavy economic losses to farmers and livestock owners. He stressed that the administration is committed to ensuring 100 percent vaccination coverage of the sheep population and other susceptible animals in the district.

The DC directed the concerned to ensure proper planning, monitoring, and execution of the vaccination campaign so that every livestock pocket is covered efficiently. He also appealed to livestock owners to extend full cooperation to veterinary teams and ensure their animals are vaccinated during the drive.

The Deputy Commissioner added that the 7th round of FMD vaccination is part of the Government's ongoing efforts to control animal diseases and enhance livestock health, productivity, and farmers' livelihoods.

He was informed that under the campaign, mobile veterinary units will reach farmers at their doorsteps, providing free-of-cost vaccination services to about 3,400 farming families across Srinagar district, covering nearly 58,000 sheep and goats and 28,000 cattle.

District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf, Officials of Sheep Husbandry Department, Veterinary Officers, Field staff and other concerned were present during the launch of the vaccination drive.

JKEDI rolls out 5th, 6th MDP batches in 18 districts

504 participants including 479 women begin training under RAMP scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday launched the fifth and sixth batches of Management Development Programmes (MDPs) across 18 districts of the Union Territory under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The programme is funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in Jammu and Kashmir by the Industries & Commerce Department.

The MDPs were inaugurated simultaneously in Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Samba, Jammu, Pulwama, Ramban, Rajouri, Reasi, Doda, Poonch, Kulgam, Kupwara, Kathua, Kishtwar and Udhampur. A total of 504 entrepreneurs, including 479 women, have enrolled for the 30-hour training programme scheduled over a period of six days.

At Udhampur, the programme was inaugurated by Sh. Jugal Kumar



Sharma (JKAS), Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), while at Nagam, Budgam, the inaugural session was presided over by Sh. Irshad Ahmad Dar, Block Programme Manager, NRLM. In the remaining districts, the MDPs were inaugurated by the respective District Nodal Officers and their teams.

The district-level programmes have witnessed enthusiastic participation from local MSMEs, who will receive hands-on training in modern business management prac-

tices. The initiative aims to strengthen managerial, financial and operational capabilities of entrepreneurs, enabling them to scale up their enterprises, improve competitiveness and adopt sustainable business models.

The MDP curriculum covers business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, statutory compliance, innovation and leadership, supplemented by case studies, mentorship sessions and experiential workshops for practical exposure.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of JJM, SASCI schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Saturday convened a series of meetings of concerned officers to review the status of Water Supply Schemes (WSS) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) that have been granted extensions for completion, besides, reviewing implementation of SASCI scheme.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara; Superintending Engineer, R&B; Chief Education Officer; Chief Planning Officer; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress under JJM, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for concerted efforts and expedited execution of the pending works, directing officers to ensure completion of all incomplete projects within the revised timelines.

He also directed to Jal Shakti department to actively address issues regarding drinking water during ongoing winter.

In a separate meeting, the DC reviewed the implementation of the



Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to submit detailed proposals of works to be taken up under the SASCI scheme to ensure their timely execution. He emphasized that the projects proposed should be impact-oriented and aimed at improving the quality of life of the people in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that priority should be accorded to projects related to disaster mitigation.

He further instructed

the officers to ensure that complete details of the proposed works are submitted within one week positively, enabling early approval and prompt execution of the projects under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle Kupwara; Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara; Chief Planning Officer; Assistant Commissioner Development; Chief Education Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Divisional Forest Officers, Executive Engineers from PHE and R&B departments, along with other concerned officers.

KPDCL conducts Safety Equipment Distribution Program at IT&C Bemina

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Safety Equipment Distribution Programme was organized by Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) at Conference Hall of IT&C Division, Bemina Srinagar as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen electrical safety practices among field staff engaged in operation and maintenance of the power distribution network.

During the event, the Managing Director,

to prevent accidents for ensuring a secure working environment. A range of safety equipments were distributed among the concerned staff during the programme.

The initiative underscores KPDCL's commitment towards promoting a culture of adopting safety and responsibility across all levels of its workforce.

The programme concluded with a collective resolve to maintain high safety standards while delivering reliable power supply to consumers.



KPDCL, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, stressed upon the need and importance of strict adherence to safety norms while working on electrical installations. He emphasized that safety of personnel is of utmost concern and proper use of safety gear is essential

Among others present on the occasion were Chief Engineer (Distribution) KPDCL, Er. Nisar Ahmad Lone, and the Chief Engineer (Planning & Procurement), KPDCL, Shurjeel Ghani Lalla along with other senior officers and officials of the Corporation.

AC State Taxes reviews GST enforcement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant push towards enhanced revenue mobilization and stricter GST compliance, Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement), Kashmir Division, Parveez Ahmad Raina, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials of the department.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (Central), Deputy Commissioner IT, State Taxes Officers, and other key functionaries from across the Kashmir Division.

The deliberations covered

a wide range of critical issues, including enforcement measures, advanced data analytics, revenue realization up to December 31, 2025, progress in cash settlements, audit cases under Section 65 of the JKGST Act, time-barred cases for FY 2021-22 under Section 73, and concerted action against fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) frauds.

Officers presented in-depth updates on enforcement activities and the effective deployment of IT-enabled data analytical tools. A detailed sector-wise analysis was undertaken to pinpoint vulnerabilities and bolster compliance mechanisms.

Highlighting the division's performance, it was noted



that the Kashmir Division has recorded an impressive 16.55% year-on-year growth in cash revenue and 4.56% growth in

settlement revenue for the current financial year 2025-26 (up to December 31, 2025), reflecting the positive outcomes of

rate rationalization measures introduced under the GST 2.0 framework. Fresh targets were assigned to circles to ensure

achievement of the allocated revenue goals for the remaining period of the financial year.

The meeting also acknowledged the beneficial impact of GST 2.0 reforms in simplifying tax structures, easing the burden on essential goods, and fostering fair trade practices.

The Additional Commissioner, underscored the need for intensified efforts in key areas, including expeditious recovery through DRC-03, reversal of ineligible IGST claims, and optimal cash utilization under Rule 86B. He directed officers to redouble their focus on these priorities while continuing to leverage cutting-edge data analytics tools to detect and deter

ITC misuse.

Raina further emphasized continuous skill upgradation of field teams to strengthen capabilities in combating tax evasion and promoting ethical trade practices. "The State Taxes Department remains steadfast in building a transparent, technology-driven, and taxpayer-friendly ecosystem. The encouraging growth trajectory achieved so far is a testament to our collective efforts, and with renewed focus on enforcement and compliance, we are confident of surpassing our annual targets while protecting revenue and consumer interests," stated the Additional Commissioner.

Rana reviews PHE, Irrigation and Forest sector works in Kalakote-Sunderbani

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning and progress of Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation and Forest sector works in the Kalakote-Sunderbani area.

The review aimed at enhancing the service delivery, identifying bottlenecks and strengthening infrastructure to ensure maximum benefit to people of the area.

The review meeting was attended by MLA Kalakote-Sunderbani Thakur Randhir Singh, Chief Conservator of Forests Jammu, Chief Engineer PHE Jammu, Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Jammu, Divisional Forest Officer Rajouri along with other senior officers of the concerned departments.

While reviewing the PHE sector works, the Minister directed the officers to conduct a detailed assessment of non-functional machinery and incomplete projects. He asked for identifying the underlying causes such as mechanical failures, inadequate maintenance and logistical shortcomings. He



instructed the departments to formulate time-bound corrective action plans to restore functionality at the earliest.

The Minister stressed the need for strengthening and upgrading the existing PHE and irrigation infrastructure, including pumping stations, water supply schemes and irrigation channels, to ensure reliable, sustainable and uninterrupted services for the public.

Special emphasis was laid on revival of defunct dug wells, particularly in water-scarce areas of the constituency.

The concerned departments were directed to assess the technical viability of such wells and take up cleaning, repair and restoration works wherever feasible to augment local water resources.

Highlighting the importance of regular field mon-

itoring, Rana instructed the officers to intensify on-ground inspections to ensure quality execution of works, adherence to timelines and prompt redressal of public grievances.

The Minister also reviewed the progress on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes nearing completion. He directed the officers to submit detailed reports on the physical and financial status of various schemes being implemented in the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency.

He reiterated Omar Abdullah government's commitment towards providing safe and adequate drinking water to every household.

During the meeting, irrigation and flood control works were reviewed in detail. The progress of ongoing flood protection projects was assessed and directions were issued to

ensure quality execution and completion within stipulated timelines to safeguard vulnerable and flood-prone areas.

The meeting was informed that two irrigation works have been proposed under NABARD to further strengthen irrigation and flood protection infrastructure in the constituency.

The Minister stressed expediting all procedural formalities to facilitate early execution of these projects.

A detailed review of forest sector activities was also undertaken.

The Minister was apprised of works being executed under CAPEX and CAMPA, including construction of boundary walls, erection of boundary pillars and plantation drives.

The status of the Nagar Van at Sialsui was

reviewed, with emphasis on its proper development, maintenance and protection.

Progress under the Green India Mission was also assessed and the Minister directed the officers to check fresh encroachments on forest land. He laid special emphasis on soil and water conservation measures, particularly in view of emerging climatic challenges. He stressed for strengthening the conservation efforts to protect natural resources, enhance ecological resilience and promote sustainable development.

Reiterating that tribal development remains a key priority of the present dispensation, Rana laid special focus on inclusive development of tribal communities during the meeting. He directed the officers to ensure focused implementation of welfare schemes, improved access to basic services and creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal populations in the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency.

Rana directed the officers to commit to efficient, transparent and people-centric implementation of PHE, irrigation and forest sector projects so that overall quality of life is improved.

Parents' Struggle at CHC Hajin Raises Serious Issues Regarding Child Healthcare Services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: What should have been a standard visit to the Community Health Centre (CHC) Hajin for a concerned parent seeking urgent assistance for a sick child turned into an emotionally draining and profoundly troubling ordeal—one that has now brought to light significant concerns about the quality of child healthcare at the facility.

The child was experiencing considerable chest congestion and a blocked nose and urgently required nebulization. Inside the crowded outpatient department, filled with anxious parents and crying children, there was only one nebulizer available—and it was non-functional.

Parents waited in despair as their children struggled to breathe, holding them tightly in their arms, praying for relief that never arrived. "Standing there, witnessing children gasp for air, is something no parent should ever endure," the parent recalled, reflecting on the terror and helplessness of those moments.

The situation became even more excruciating when the issue was brought to the attention of the hospital staff. Instead of offering support or understanding, the parent claims they received a dismissive reaction. "In moments like these, you don't just require medication—you need compassion," the parent expressed.

Expressing regret over the inconvenience caused to patients and their attendants, the official said



that the administration remains committed to strengthening healthcare services at CHC Hajin. "We are in the process of installing advanced facilities, including a blood bank and dialysis services, while ensuring the availability of all basic healthcare services on a round-the-clock basis," the official stated.

Emphasising the commitment of the district and Union Territory administration towards quality healthcare delivery, the official acknowledged that the non-availability of a sufficient number of nebulizers and other basic medical equipment was "simply unacceptable." "We will ensure the immediate availability of the required equipment and will also ascertain the reasons behind this lapse," the official said.

While acknowledging the efforts of the Auhaf Committee Hajin for providing the hospital with seating arrangements and other basic amenities, the parent emphasized that goodwill must also extend to essential, life-saving medical equipment. "Chairs can wait," the parent remarked. "A child gasping for air cannot."

This incident has also

highlighted the harsh realities many families in the region face. While some parents may consider transferring their child to another facility, many others—the poor, the elderly, and daily-wage earners—rely entirely on CHC Hajin. For them, a lack of equipment or delays in care can lead to extended suffering and unbearable anxiety.

Health specialists assert that events like this serve as a reminder that hospitals are not merely buildings housing doctors and medications; they are environments where human dignity, empathy, and readiness are just as critical as treatment.

The issue has been brought to the attention of the district administration, with requests to the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora and Block Medical Officer Hajin to ensure the immediate availability of operational nebulizers and to educate hospital staff on compassionate patient care.

Residents now hope that this distressing incident prompts swift action so that no parent feels powerless while seeking life-saving care for their child in the future.

IRP 4th Battalion Celebrates Raising Day with Ceremony, Camaraderie in Kupwara



RAHE MUSHTAQ

KUPWARA: The 4th Battalion of the Indian Reserve Police (IRP) celebrated its Raising Day with traditional enthusiasm and dignity at its headquarters in Wayen, Kupwara, on Saturday.

The event commenced with a brief but impressive ceremonial parade, showcasing the discipline and drill excellence of the bat-

talion. This was followed by an interaction session that highlighted the unit's rich traditions, history, and accomplishments. Officers and personnel of the battalion actively participated in the day's events.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shri Shrikant Suse, and Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara, Shri Syed Al-Tahir Gilani. Shri

Arif Amin Shah, SSP and Commandant of the IRP 4th Battalion, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and all attendees.

The Raising Day celebrations concluded on a note of unity with a traditional 'Bada Khana' (community meal), fostering camaraderie and strengthening the bonds among all ranks of the battalion.

Rana inaugurates community langar at Bahu Fort Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday inaugurated a Community Langar at the historic Bahu Fort, Jammu.

On the occasion, the Minister interacted with the visitors and the devotees visiting Bahu Fort and the adjoining revered Kali Mata Temple.

He extended greetings to the visitors and enquired about the facilities being provided to them, emphasizing the importance of ensuring comfort, cleanliness and accessibility for all devotees.

The Minister also undertook a detailed tour of the fort and temple premises along with yatis and concerned officials to assess the existing civic amenities and infrastructure available for the pilgrims. He reviewed the arrangements related to sanitation, drinking water supply and general upkeep

of the premises.

During the visit, Rana stressed the need for systematic beautification of the Bahu Fort area besides creation of enhanced civic amenities to improve the overall experience of the tourists.

He stated that issues pertaining to infrastructure development, sanitation, drinking water facilities and aesthetic enhancement would be taken with the concerned departments to ensure timely and effective implementation.

The Minister reiterated that sustained and focused efforts would be made to develop Bahu Fort as a major religious tourism destination in Jammu, while carefully preserving its rich cultural, historical and religious heritage.

The Minister was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, concerned Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer besides other senior officers.

Udhampur delegation meets Rana; seeks resolution of drinking water issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A delegation of public representatives from various villages of Udhampur district, including Makyani Chanoonta, Dhannu and Majalta, on Tuesday, met Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, and apprised him of drinking water issues affecting their respective areas.

The delegation was led by Abdul Ghani Teli, Chairman OBC Cell of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC).

During the meeting, the members raised concerns regarding irregular drinking water supply, the need for upgradation of existing infrastructure and replacement of old and damaged pipelines. They also stressed the importance of augmentation of water sources and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to address the long-

standing water scarcity and infrastructure-related challenges in their villages.

Senior officers of Jal Shakti Department present on the occasion included Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Jammu; Superintending Engineer, Udhampur; Executive Engineer, Udhampur, along with Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs) of Jal Shakti Division Udhampur.

Taking serious notice of the issues raised, the Minister asked the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti, to personally visit all the habitations and ensure regular and adequate water supply. He further instructed for formulation of DPRs for permanent restoration of damaged water supply infrastructure in the affected areas at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the department was directed to put in place appropriate temporary and alternate arrangements to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

Mandeep Kaur leads sanitation drive in Jammu under "Swachh R-Day" campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a major push to enhance cleanliness and civic hygiene ahead of the Republic Day celebration, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, Friday conducted an extensive sanitation drive in Jammu city under the "Swachh Republic Day" campaign.

The initiative aims to ensure a clean, safe and healthy urban environment in the run-up to January 26.

Under this special campaign, comprehensive cleanliness drives are being carried out across all wards under the jurisdiction of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The sanitation drive primarily focused on removal of legacy waste dumped in vacant plots, cleaning of Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs), lifting of Construction and Demolition (C&D)

waste from roadsides, removal of overgrown bushes, tree pruning and grass cutting, desilting of deep drains to prevent water logging, cleaning and maintenance of public toilets and addressing the persistent menace of stray animals in residential areas.

On the first day of the drive, focused sanitation activities were conducted in Ward Numbers 20, 21, 22, 23 and 73.

Mandeep Kaur personally inspected various locations along with Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav and concerned officers of the Corporation.

The officers briefed the Commissioner Secretary on the ongoing sanitation measures and challenges on the ground.

Several prominent localities, including Gandhi Nagar, Valmiki Colony, Sanjay Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Nai Basti and Nanak Nagar were covered

during today's drive.

During the inspection, the Commissioner Secretary issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for the immediate removal of GVPs, C&D waste and garden waste. She also instructed the officers to initiate compounding and enforcement action against the defaulters found violating sanitation and waste management norms. About 10 such drives have been scheduled till 26th of January 2026 and all the concerned officers were directed to be personally present during the drives.

As part of the drive, encroachments on footpaths and public spaces in the form of extensions, rehries, fencing were also removed.

The Commissioner Secretary further directed that all encroachments on lanes and footpaths across the city be identified and removed without delay, emphasizing zero tolerance

towards violation of civic norms.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon the officers and field staff of the Jammu Municipal Corporation to carry out sanitation drives with zeal, dedication and a sense of responsibility. He stressed that the impact of these efforts must be clearly visible at the ground level. She underscored that sustained cleanliness requires regular monitoring, strict enforcement and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders.

She called upon the citizens to actively cooperate with the Jammu Municipal Corporation by maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings, avoiding littering, segregating waste at source and refraining from encroaching upon public spaces. She emphasized that public participation is crucial for making Jammu a cleaner, healthier and more livable city.

J&K records significant gains in maternal, child healthcare

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: From safer childbirths to healthier childhoods, Jammu & Kashmir is scripting a quiet healthcare success story, with sustained reforms translating into measurable improvements in maternal, infant and child health indicators across the Union Territory.

Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing tangible progress in maternal and child health, positioning J&K among the better-performing regions in the country. For instance, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the Union Territory stands at 47 per 100,000 live births, substantially lower than the national average of 88. This achievement is attributed to improved institutional delivery care, wider availability of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) and blood services, along with strengthened referral transport systems under the National Health Mission (NHM).

Jammu & Kashmir has

also performed commendably in infant and neonatal health indicators. The Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) is 10 while the early NMR stands at 6, both significantly better than the national averages of 19 and 13, respectively. The Under-5 Mortality Rate in the UT is 15, compared to the national average of 29 while the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 14, against the national average of 25.

The Union Territory has further achieved impressive immunization outcomes with full immunization coverage reaching 96.5 per cent, placing J&K among the highest-performing regions in the country. This progress is attributed to intensified routine immunization drives and robust monitoring mechanisms.

In another significant step, Jammu & Kashmir is introducing the HPV vaccine under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) for girls aged 14-15 years, reinforcing its preventive healthcare framework.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Religious Heads To Be Part Of Future Medico Endeavors

To highlight the crucial role that religious leaders can have in fighting substance abuse, the District Administration Srinagar hosted an Orientation-cum-Capacity Building Workshop for mosque Imams and religious scholars at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) on Tuesday. The programme featured Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, as the Chief Guest, with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, attending as the Guest of Honour. The workshop aimed at engaging religious scholars as essential allies in tackling the increasing problem of drug abuse within society. Over 100 notable Imams and Ulemas from different parts of the Valley took part in the event, along with respected citizens and civil society representatives. Among those present were Principal GMC Srinagar Prof. Iffat Hassan; Administrator GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid; Tehsildar Wakaf Board, Ishtiyahq Ahmad; Nodal Officer ATF IMHANS, Dr. Arshid; Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Dr. Yasir; and other relevant officials. While addressing the audience, the Divisional Commissioner underscored the necessity for active collaboration and support from religious scholars to educate the community—especially the youth—about the perilous and life-threatening effects of drug abuse. He encouraged the scholars to utilize Friday sermons and other religious forums to communicate that substance abuse is forbidden in all religions and has catastrophic implications for individuals, families, and society at large. He also stated that relevant departments and institutions are employing a three-pronged strategy to address the issue, concentrating on raising awareness, early detection of affected individuals, and providing counselling. Highlighting the significance of timely intervention, the Divisional Commissioner called for prompt reporting of drug abuse cases and encouraged affected individuals and their families to reach out to Drug De-addiction Centres for professional counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher
Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

EDIT

Western Disturbances: Disturbing The Weather Pattern

“Is Abode Of Snow Transitioning Into A Cold Desert.”

SHOAIB SHABIR KHAN

The towering snow-clad Himalayas and the wet north and northwest of India in winters were a gift of Western disturbances hitherto, now turned otherwise. The notable geo-climatic impact of these disturbances at regular intervals was a treat to watch via snowy Himalayas, rain spells and moist winds. This article comprehensively showcases the changing dimensions of weather patterns vis-à-vis western disturbances, taking into consideration the whole science around them.

Western disturbances: The temperate cyclones

Cyclones are a low-pressure system caused by differential heating conditions. These are either tropical cyclones [thermal origin] or temperate cyclones [frontal origin]. And western disturbances are an example of the latter.

Western disturbances are the extra-tropical (temperate) cyclones that originate over the Mediterranean Sea, which is an intercontinental sea stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to Asia in the east and separating Africa from Europe. Now that the Mediterranean Sea is located in the mid-latitudinal region, i.e., between 30°N and 60°N, the cyclones formed over it are called mid-latitudinal cyclones or, oftentimes, depressions.

Formation:

The moist tropical air mass meets the dry and cold polar air mass, creating a frontal zone with contrasting humidity, temperature, and density, setting up the rules for the weather patterns of many regions, including our Kashmir Valley. Not only the Mediterranean Sea, but also western disturbances gather ample moisture from the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, as they too fall in the mid-latitudinal area. Under the influence of westerlies [westerly jet streams] in this mid-latitudinal region, moist-laden western disturbances travel along with them eastwards, crossing countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and finally India, leaving an appreciable impact.

Once these moisture-laden winds cross Central Asia and West Asia gets intensified with further moisture from the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea,



they thereby reach India and meet the Himalayas. The lofty Himalayas therefore force these moist winds to rise, cool, and condense, which finally causes precipitation in the form of snow or rain in North and Northwest India. And that is how the appealing snowfall in the Kashmir Valley turns into a reality.

Upset western disturbances and repercussions in the Kashmir Valley:

Since the science behind western disturbances and their working is penned above, let's unveil their recent and current impacts on the Kashmir Valley. In the last few years, Kashmir has seen a continuous decrease in winter precipitation in the form of SNOW DROUGHTS amid many reasons, primarily weakened western disturbances.

The post-monsoon rainfall deficit and midwinter snow drought are unpleasant things to observe. The water scarcity for the whole year is a set trend now, for snowmelt accounts for 50% of streamflow. This adds up to the spring and summer droughts [green drought].

The economic setback is very important to mention, as the economy faces an elephantine blow across sectors like

agriculture, horticulture, tourism, and hydropower from the past few years, the primary reason being seldom or no precipitation. The recent forest fires at an alarming rate is somewhat a result of dry weather amid declining western disturbances, which, if left unchecked, may sweep away the lushness of paradise Kashmir.

The recent Air Quality Index touching 400 in the city of Srinagar is majorly fuelled by the dry weather, temperature inversion, and no free mixing of air, which one way or another are influenced by western disturbances, which have remained displeasing for a long time now. Delayed winters and precipitation deficit affected the migratory birds. The trajectory dipped as migratory species are not getting their feasible environment.

Therefore the weakened Western disturbances propelled by polycrisis leave drastic footprints on the valley's geoclimatic pattern.

The other localised issues exacerbating the drier winter in the Kashmir Valley are:

- Rising temperature: i.e., whatever precipitation occurs, occurs in the

form of rain, leaving little or no possibility for snow.

- Deforestation: Loss of forest cover reduces moisture retention in the atmosphere and affects weather patterns.
- Urbanisation: Urban heat islands will suffice as an example.
- Pollution: Air pollution disrupting the cloud formation.

Western disturbances failure:

There are ample reasons for the declining trends of western disturbances, the most remarkable being:

- The northward shift of the jet streams that act as a highway for these moisture-laden winds.
- El Niño: fuelling up the failure of western disturbances and causing drier conditions or milder winters in north and northwest India.

Message: “As the larger geography behind the current precipitation deficit is evident now, the upper air oscillations are something not in our helm, but the local anthropogenic causes are definitely to take notice of.”

The author can be mailed at ks641673@gmail.com

From Homes To Society: How We Are Failing Our Mother Tongue



RAVINDER KAUR

In today's fast-paced world, there is one thing that seems common among most people the herd mentality. Everyone blindly follows others without thinking for themselves. If we talk about the Punjabi language, sadly, it too has become a victim of this herd mentality. This mentality does not begin in society; it starts right from our homes.

I really don't understand why people today feel embarrassed or inferior when they speak in their own Punjabi language. Because of this, Punjabi has become a language associated with shame. People continue running after international languages, forgetting that they could take their mother tongue along with them. In this modern era, learning or promoting Punjabi is not at all difficult it's all about the love and respect we have for our mother tongue. When a common person steps out of their home, we often see that to appear more respectable or high-status, they rely on English even if their English is broken or limited. Yet, they feel proud and honoured while speaking that broken English. On the other hand, if they don't know English, they switch to Hindi. It's absolutely fine to learn and know different languages be it English, Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali, or Turkish. Learning other languages is very important today. But how fair is it to completely forget one's own language and feel ashamed while

speaking it? You can even see this on a person's face the hesitation, the discomfort when they treat their mother tongue like something inferior. Nowadays, children are first taught English or some other foreign language at home, but teaching them their own mother tongue feels like a burden. Parents fear that if their children speak Punjabi, they will be considered “rural” or “backward.” But that's not true at all.

Our mother tongue is an art, it is the only language through which a person can express every emotion, every feeling, every joy and every sorrow in a deep, heartfelt way. No one can express their emotions with the same depth in a foreign language as they can in their mother tongue. This clearly shows that by abandoning our own language, we not only deceive our culture but also our own emotions. The problem starts from home itself. When parents admit their children to school, they check whether English is taught, whether the school has all the necessary facilities but they rarely ask whether Punjabi or Gurmukhi is being taught there. In many schools today, Punjabi is offered only as an optional subject and in some, it has completely disappeared. Perhaps, outside Punjab, it might be acceptable to teach Punjabi optionally, but in places where Punjabis or Sikhs are in large numbers, not teaching Punjabi is no less than a crime.

This discrimination against Punjabi has gone to such an extent that even people who know Punjabi very well, and whose listeners also understand it perfectly still switch to other languages in public places just to show off their false prestige. I repeat again speaking other languages is not a bad thing. But if we replace our own language with others in our daily



lives, how will Punjabi progress?

Learning other languages is certainly important, but they should be used only when needed for example, if the person in front of you does not understand Punjabi. In that case, yes, you can use another language to communicate. But nowadays, the situation is reversed even when both people know Punjabi, they still prefer speaking another language, fearing that speaking Punjabi might make them seem less educated or low-status. This is not just the story of Punjabi it's true for many mother tongues. Everywhere in the world, people seem weak when it comes to their native language. Such an attitude prevents the growth and preservation of our language. If we look around markets in Punjab, we'll see that most signboards are written in other languages, while Punjabi — the state language and mother tongue missing. When Punjabi starts disappearing from our homes, how can we expect to find it outside? The discrimination against Punjabis begins within families which is why we fail to see it thriving in society.

Punjabi is such a sweet language that even harsh words sound like sugar when spoken in it. Organising large event campaigns for a few days cannot truly promote Punjabi. The real promotion begins with a single person, within one's own home,

every time we speak a word of Punjabi with love. Promoting Punjabi is not only the responsibility of teachers — it is something that must come from the heart, from within our homes and our surroundings. If we start small by speaking Punjabi politely and proudly with every child, elder, and friend at home I believe Punjabi will live on. If shop boards and public signs are written in Punjabi, that too will mark a new beginning for Punjab. Supporting our mother tongue means keeping our literature alive. By embracing Punjabi and Gurmukhi in our daily lives, we keep our culture, history, emotions, and the sacred words of our Gurus eternal.

Punjabi is already admired globally, whether it's Punjabi songs, poetry, conversations, or folk music people love it. This clearly shows that learning and promoting Punjabi is not difficult at all. We must consider it our pride and honour to carry our mother tongue forward. Wherever we go, wherever we live, let us walk with our Punjabi language always and forever.

What we often forget is that this pain is not limited to Punjabi alone. The same silent decline is happening with many mother tongues whether it is Kashmiri, Pahari, Urdu, Dogri, or any regional language. Any mother tongue can survive, grow, and be proudly carried forward if we

choose to protect and practice it, and it can decline the moment we start feeling ashamed of it or replace it unnecessarily. Languages do not disappear suddenly; they fade slowly first from our homes, then from our schools, and finally from our public spaces.

A mother tongue lives only when it is spoken, respected, and passed on. If parents stop speaking it at home, if children stop hearing it with love, and if society stops valuing it, no campaign or slogan can save it. Whether it is Punjabi or Kashmiri, Urdu or Pahari the rule remains the same: what we nurture survives; what we neglect declines.

Every language carries the soul of its people, their history, emotions, stories, prayers, and identity. When we abandon our mother tongue, we do not become more modern we become more disconnected. Learning global languages is important, but walking forward does not mean leaving our roots behind. A strong identity is one that carries both, the world's language in the mind and the mother tongue in the heart.

If we speak our mother tongue proudly at home, teach it gently to our children, use it respectfully in society, and give it space in schools, signboards, and daily life, it will flourish. But if we follow the same herd mentality, choosing prestige over identity and imitation over originality then any mother tongue, no matter how rich or beautiful, can face decline.

Preserving a language is not a responsibility forced upon us; it is a love we choose to show. When we honour our mother tongue, we honour ourselves, our ancestors, and the generations yet to come.

Author is an educationist and poet. She can be mailed at rommykaur09@gmail.com

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



Nature Of Religion: Service Or Selfishness?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

For centuries, India has been considered a land of religion, faith, and spirituality. Here, religion has not been limited to worship or rituals, but has been a guiding force in every aspect of life. Faith has provided strength to individuals in difficult situations, keeping them connected to morality and humanity. However, with changing times, it is becoming clear that the very nature of faith is gradually becoming distorted. Religion, once a means of spiritual peace, is in many places becoming a tool of fear, superstition, and commerce.

Today's reality is that a large part of religious traditions has deviated from their original purpose. Rituals that were meant to provide spiritual balance to humans have now become associated with financial transactions and ostentation. Pilgrimage sites, once centers of penance, sacrifice, and meditation, have often become mere commercial activities. The financial situation of the devotee is increasingly prioritized over his or her feelings.

The foundation of faith is belief, in God, in life, and in oneself. This belief stems not from fear or greed, but from inner satisfaction. When faith becomes based on fear, it degenerates into hypocrisy. Unfortunately, many religious activities today are driven by this fear. People are led to believe that if they do not follow a particular tradi-



tion or donate a certain amount, disaster will occur. Thus, religion, which used to be reassuring, is becoming a source of fear.

Traditions are the hallmark of any society. They evolve through experience and knowledge passed down from generation to generation. However, traditions are only useful as long as they are in keeping with the times, wisdom, and humanity. Accepting traditions as set in stone hinders social progress. Today, there is a need to reconsider traditions, to understand their purpose and their relevance in the present.

Service has been an important aspect of religion. Service means selflessly helping others. However, when

a price is attached to that service, its nature changes. Charity is only considered charitable when it is given voluntarily. When it is given out of pressure, fear, or social prestige, it loses its sanctity. Unfortunately, today, charity is being levied as a compulsory fee in many places.

This situation affects ordinary and emotional people the most. In times of grief, sorrow, or crisis, a person is mentally vulnerable. Exploiting their faith during such times is not only immoral but also inhumane. The purpose of religion is to protect humanity from breakdown, not to burden it further.

The greatest danger of hypocrisy is that it gradually breeds distrust of

religion. When people are repeatedly deceived and their emotions exploited, they either turn away from religion or begin to view every tradition with suspicion. This situation is detrimental to society, as a healthy form of religion plays a vital role in maintaining social balance.

In today's educated and aware society, it is expected that individuals should test everything through logic and reason. Faith and reason are not in conflict. True faith is that which is in harmony with reason. If a tradition goes against humanity, morality, and compassion, changing it should be considered a righteous step.

The role of religious institutions and those involved in religion is also

crucial. They must understand that their responsibility extends beyond simply performing rituals, but also guiding society in the right direction. If religious leadership itself is driven by greed and self-interest, it is futile to expect morality from the public. The need of the hour is to transform religion into a medium of service, not a business.

Society's responsibility is no less. Hypocrisy will never end until people become self-aware. Asking questions isn't unrighteous. Understanding and reflecting on the purpose of every tradition is a sign of intellectual maturity. Blindly accepting everything is neither faith nor religion.

The role of the media and educational institutions is also crucial in this context. A balanced, rational, and sensitive discussion of religious issues will increase social awareness. The purpose of education is not just employment, but also the creation of rational citizens, citizens who can distinguish between faith and superstition.

Today, we need to strive to return religion to its original form. A religion that offers peace, not fear; one that protects, not exploits; and one that preaches unity, not division. Faith must be transformed into a strength of the soul, not a means to self-interest.

Ultimately, it's clear that the future of religion depends more on our thinking than on traditions. If we base our faith on conscience, compassion, and self-respect, hypocrisy will begin to disappear. True religion is one that transforms humans into better human beings. This is the greatest need and the greatest religion in today's times.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

India's Prosperous Year For Peace, Progress, And Democracy



LALIT GARGG

The year 2026 arrives before us carrying a constellation of hopes, expectations, aspirations, and collective resolutions. If 2025, at both global and national levels, was a year marked by uncertainty, turbulence, and prolonged waiting, then 2026 appears to open a window for the restoration of peace, stability, and progress. The experiences of the past year have clearly demonstrated that old problems cannot be resolved through outdated approaches. Therefore, in 2026, the answers to yesterday's unresolved questions must be sought through new thinking, renewed wisdom, and a deeper moral vision. This year is not merely a change in the calendar; it is an opportunity to redefine our priorities, recalibrate our outlook, and reimagine our collective future. If 2026 is to truly become a proclamation of solutions, resolve, and democratic awakening, preparedness—both intellectual and ethical—will be indispensable.

On the global front, beyond the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, there exist at least ten major zones of confrontation where humanity continues to bleed. Terrorism, racial hatred, religious extremism, and the unrestrained lust for power have devalued human life. Though the bloodshed did not cease in 2025, the aspiration for freedom from wars, conflicts, and terror in the new year must transcend emotional yearning and evolve into a global moral imperative. India, the land that gifted the world the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world as one family—can once again assume the role of moral leadership through peace and dialogue. Over the past year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has demonstrated India's capacity to play a constructive global leadership role. India's ethos of non-violence, inclusive growth, and a humane, optimistic worldview can offer meaningful direction to a fractured world.

For India, 2026 is decisive in many respects. Whether internal political challenges or mounting global pressures, the new year may confront us with difficult and at times turbulent experiences. Yet, as in previous years, India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership is expected to reaffirm its commitment to peace, non-violence, harmony, and goodwill. His observation carries particular significance:



while 2025 was a year of reforms—keeping India aboard the “Reform Express”—the period from 2026 to 2047 marks the decisive journey toward making India a developed nation. This journey is not limited to economic indicators alone. It must also encompass social justice, cultural self-confidence, and democratic resilience. For reforms to be truly effective, transformation is required not only in politics but across every level of bureaucracy. While significant changes have been introduced at higher administrative levels in recent years, the functioning at the grassroots often remains unchanged. Most concerning is the persistence of bureaucratic corruption, which continues to dilute the intended outcomes of well-designed policies.

At the same time, it is imperative to take seriously the growing concerns regarding the perceived erosion of democratic values. Democracy is not merely the conduct of elections; it is a living system built on dialogue, respect for dissent, institutional integrity, and constitutional propriety. Parliament is the temple of democracy, yet repeated disruptions, confrontations, and legislative paralysis in recent years have weakened democratic traditions. The new year must witness a collective resolve to restore Parliament as a forum for deliberation and solutions,

not obstruction.

Both the ruling establishment and the opposition share responsibility for placing national interest above partisan calculations. The revitalization of political values is essential to elevate democracy to a higher plane. Transparency, accountability, ethical conduct, and public concern—these four pillars alone can sustain a robust democratic structure. In 2026, politics must be reclaimed not as an arena of power struggles, but as an instrument of public service. Only when governance genuinely addresses employment, education, healthcare, and security will public trust in democracy deepen.

For the new year to illuminate the lives of ordinary citizens, a culture of solutions must replace a culture of complaints. Challenges such as inflation, unemployment, social inequality, and environmental degradation cannot be resolved through announcements alone; they demand collective resolve and public participation. The Indian populace possesses the discernment to recognize falsehood, appreciate integrity, and understand the essence of humanity. Rooted in the civilizational values of peace and non-violence, India must draw upon this moral strength to confront the complexities of our time.

On the health front, 2026 must be

approached as a year of heightened awareness. The post-pandemic world has taught us that health is no longer a purely personal concern—it is a matter of national and global security. Our dietary culture must be reoriented toward local, nutritious, and balanced food systems. By embracing yoga, meditation, and disciplined lifestyles, we can lay the foundation for a healthier society. Simultaneously, the mantra of Swadeshi must be elevated—whether in production, consumption, or technological innovation. Self-reliance must extend beyond economics to include mental and cultural autonomy.

Social life, too, demands fresh commitments. Substance abuse, ostentation, and hollow displays erode our collective vitality. Simplicity, restraint, and ethical awareness must be encouraged. Social rituals and marriages should be liberated from market-driven extravagance and reconnected with the dignity of human relationships. Environmental sensitivity, water conservation, and harmonious coexistence with nature must become non-negotiable resolutions for the new year. India cannot advance in the twenty-first century without balancing technology and tradition. While the nation is setting new benchmarks in artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and green energy, safe-

guarding human sensitivity and compassion remains equally vital. True development is that which ensures dignity and security even for those standing at the very end of the social queue.

Meaningful transformation in 2026 will require small yet concrete steps toward larger change. New saplings of resolve must be planted, new symbols of development and wisdom must be crafted—but for this, both climate and consciousness must be cultivated. Positive thinking, social trust, and political harmony form the ecosystem in which the seeds of change can flourish. Without preparation, resolutions remain hollow; hence, the alignment of policy, intent, and planning is indispensable. Ultimately, 2026 reminds us that while history offers opportunities, direction must be consciously chosen. If peace becomes our priority, democracy our practice, and solutions our culture, this year can transcend the limits of a calendar and emerge as a defining historical turning point. If India advances anchored in its spiritual core—non-violence, coexistence, and compassion—then 2026 will not only be a year of hope for us, but a guiding light for the entire world, capable of offering it a renewed direction and vision.

The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

Govt Denies Revision,

are already paying higher fares. “I used to pay Rs 25 from Brein Nishat to Lal Chowk Srinagar, but from January 1, they started asking Rs 30,” said Firdous Nazir, a commuter.

Another commuter, Sajad Ahmad, told KNO that fares have suddenly gone up without any notice, leaving passengers unsure about the actual rates. “Before I used to pay, Rs 20 and now I paid Rs 30 from Pantha Chowk to Dal Gate Srinagar and it is frustrating,” he said.

Another student who travels daily said, she used to pay Rs 60 from Awantipora to Dalgate, Srinagar, but drivers are now demanding between Rs 75 and 80.

The J&K Transport Welfare Association, which had earlier demanded a 35–40 percent hike, had welcomed the government’s 18 percent increase, calling it a “balanced decision.”

Meanwhile, MLA Zadibal and NC’s chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq refuted claims of any fare hike, saying it was merely a proposal and “has not been approved yet.”

“There has been no notification of revised fares. The government must clarify the matter immediately,” Sadiq told reporters over a week ago when asked about the situation.

The contradictory statements have left both passengers and transporters confused. With no official order in circulation, some routes are witnessing arbitrary fare increases, while others continue under old rates—(KNO)

Houseboats Float

travel trends and the winter chill. “Tourists are preferring snow-covered resorts, which could be one of the reasons for the emptiness of Dal Lake,” said a houseboat owner.

“Running a houseboat in winter is costly, with high expenses for heating, frozen water pipes and maintenance,” said Manzoor Ahmad, who has been in the business for over decades. “When guests don’t come, it’s a double loss.”

Pertinently, Srinagar’s houseboats have long been the face of Kashmir’s tourism, offering visitors a unique experience of living on the serene Dal and Nigeen lakes.

Once numbering over 3,000, only around 750 remain operational today due to decades of restrictions on repairs, declining water quality and shifting tourist preferences—(KNO)

Govt Determined To

to prepare, within a week, a list of public structures that have suffered damage exceeding Rs 2 crore. “Once the list is ready, a detailed plan will be prepared so that reconstruction work can be completed by August, before weather conditions turn unfavourable,” he said.

Dr Singh said from January 5 to 7, elected representatives and officials would carry out a local-level assessment to identify damaged structures and incorporate public suggestions. “We want to ensure that no eligible structure is left out and the opportunity provided by this assistance is fully utilised,” he said.

Dr Singh clarified that the special allocation was primarily meant for public infrastructure, including school buildings, roads and bridges, while separate funds would be provided through SDRF and other mechanisms for private housing damage.

The Minister also announced several development initiatives for the district.

He said an MRI facility is being installed at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua. “After Jammu, this will be the first such facility in the region,” he said.

Dr Singh added that a comprehensive cancer care unit, supported by Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Mumbai, has been established at GMC Kathua.

The Minister said a homeopathy college is moving into the tendering stage, with groundwork and planning to begin soon.

Dr Singh said development works in Kathua had faced a setback due to flash floods, but measures were being taken to bridge the gap.

He said the long-pending Ujh multipurpose project has been revived. “The project is nearly a century old and has now been revived with the Prime Minister’s support,” he said.

He said a canal system is being planned to utilise excess water locally in Jammu and Kashmir and, where feasible, divert it to neighbouring states such as Haryana and Rajasthan.

Dr Singh also said approval has been granted for the Chattergala tunnel, which will serve as an alternative highway. He said the project will now be executed by the National Highways Authority of India due to its expanded budget.

On infrastructure, Dr Singh said widening work on the Dhar Road, a long-standing demand, has begun. “Following inputs from the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry, it was decided that widening the road is necessary from a security perspective,” he said—(KNO)

Cold Wave Grips

Ganderbal minus 1.6 degrees Celsius.

Baramulla and Bandipora recorded relatively higher minimum temperatures of minus 0.5 degrees and minus 0.2 degrees, respectively.

In the Jammu region, temperatures remained above freezing at most places. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 7.9 degrees Celsius, while Jammu Airport registered 8.8 degrees.

Katra recorded 6.6 degrees, Udhampur 5.0 degrees, and Banihal 2.7 degrees. Bhaderwah was the coldest place in the region, with the mercury dipping to minus 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ladakh continued to reel under intense cold, with Kargil recording a low of minus 11.2 degrees Celsius, Leh minus 10.6 degrees, and Nubra Valley minus 8.2 degrees.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather on January 6, with the possibility of light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir. From January 7 to 15, the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy.

The department has also warned of dense to very dense fog at a few places over the plains of the Jammu division during the next three days, advising commuters to exercise caution—(KNO)

J&K Bank Q3 Business

Despite the moderation in CASA growth, the bank’s overall business performance reflects stability in its core operations. Total business, which includes deposits and advances, stood at Rs 2,72,109.27 crore as of December 31, 2025, up from Rs 2,40,080.49 crore a year earlier.

On the investment side, gross investments declined marginally by 2.07 per cent to Rs 40,535.76 crore, compared with Rs 41,394.29 crore in the year-ago period.

The quarterly business update offers an early snapshot of the bank’s operational momentum ahead of the release of its detailed financial results. In the previous quarter, the bank had reported a 1.91 per cent sequential rise in net profit to Rs 494.11 crore in Q2 FY26, even as total income declined 2.04 per cent quarter on quarter to Rs 3,446.71 crore. On a year-on-year basis, net profit in Q2 FY26 had fallen 10.31 per cent, while revenue had risen marginally by 0.79 per cent.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank operates across three major divisions, including support services, depository services, and third-party services, and remains a key player in the region’s banking sector.

The market responded positively to the update, with shares of Jammu and Kashmir Bank ending higher on Friday. The stock closed at Rs 102.42, up 1.37 per cent, on January 2, ahead of the announcement, while on the BSE it gained around 1.29 per cent to close at Rs 102.35.

The bank noted that the figures disclosed are provisional in nature and subject to audit and review.

LG Sinha Unveils

strong network for early intervention and prevention.

He said all sections of society are joining the effort, and religious leaders of Srinagar are being involved to inform people about the menace.

Helpline numbers of IMHANS are being widely circulated to assist those seeking help.

The government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital in Srinagar has two components: a 100-bedded Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) at Rainawari and a 30-bedded Community General Hospital Unit within SMHS premises.

The hospital provides diagnostic services including routine haematology, biochemistry, serum electrolytes, serology, EEG and ECT.

Transport Ministry

System’.

According to the guidelines, any change in attributes of BPAN due to recycling and repurposing shall result in a new BPAN by the same or a new producer or importer.

This system aims to bring transparency, accountability, and sustainability to the battery ecosystem by enabling accurate tracking of performance, and environmental impact.

BPAN will play a crucial role in enabling second-life usage, regulatory compliance, and efficient recycling.

Electric vehicle applications account for 80–90 per cent of the total lithium-ion battery demand in India, significantly exceeding demand from industrial or non-automotive applications.

While the guideline recommends applicability of BPAN for industrial batteries above 2 kWh, it is proposed that electric vehicle batteries be given priority during standard formulation, considering their scale, safety implications, and regulatory relevance.

“This approach will ensure that the Battery Pack Aadhaar framework addresses the most impactful segment of the Indian battery ecosystem in its initial phase,” the draft guidelines said.

They also recommended that the

Battery Pack Aadhaar framework be taken forward through the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) route under the Automotive Industry Standards Committee (AISC), following the established multi-step standardization process.

This will enable structured stakeholder consultation, technical validation, and harmonization with existing automotive regulations while ensuring national uniformity and regulatory acceptance, it said.

The AISC committee may include representatives from relevant stakeholders such as battery manufacturers, electric vehicle manufacturers, recyclers, testing agencies, and regulatory bodies, to ensure that practical implementation aspects across the battery lifecycle are adequately addressed.

As the world moves toward digitalization and electrification, energy storage cells serve as the foundation for consistent, flexible, and efficient power delivery.

In addition to electric mobility, batteries play a vital role across a wide range of applications, including energy storage in private and domestic settings, industrial operations, and the generation and distribution of electrical energy.(PTI)

PM Modi Showcases

heritage beyond its borders, the Prime Minister said, “India has continuously strived to contribute as much as possible to the development of sites worldwide connected with Buddha’s heritage. When a devastating earthquake in Nepal damaged ancient stupas, India assisted in their reconstruction. After the earthquake in Myanmar’s Bagan, we helped conserve over 100 pagodas. There are many such examples.”

He added that within the country as well, work related to discovering and conserving Buddhist sites and relics is ongoing.

Referring to Vadnagar in Gujarat, he said, “As I mentioned earlier, my birthplace, Vadnagar in Gujarat, was a major centre of Buddhist tradition. When I was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, thousands of relics linked to the Buddhist tradition were discovered there. Today, our government is ensuring their preservation and also connecting the present generation with them.”

PM Modi noted that a state-of-the-art experiential museum has been developed at Vadnagar. “A splendid experiential museum has been built there, offering an immersive journey through nearly 500 years of history,” he said.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that a significant Buddhist-era site was discovered a few months ago in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, and efforts to conserve it are now being expedited. He had also referred to this discovery during his recent episode of the monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’.

He further said that over the past decade, the government has worked to integrate Buddhist sites with modern infrastructure. “A convention centre and a meditation-cum-experience centre have been built in Bodh Gaya,” he said.

Detailing other initiatives, PM Modi said, “In Sarnath, a light and sound show at the Dhamek Stupa and the construction of the Buddha Dhamma Park have been undertaken. Modern facilities have been developed in Sravasti, Kapilvastu, and Kushinagar. A digital experience centre has been established in Nalgonda, Telangana. New amenities for pilgrims have been introduced at Sanchi, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Amaravati.”

He added that a Buddhist circuit is being developed across the country to improve connectivity between pilgrimage sites.

“Today, a Buddhist circuit is being developed in the country to ensure better connectivity between all Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India, allowing pilgrims from across the world to experience faith and spirituality like never before,” he said.

The Prime Minister said the government aims to ensure that Buddhist heritage reaches future generations without interruption.

“This is also the vision behind organising international events like the Global Buddhist Summit, Vesak, and Ashadha Purnima”, he said.

PM Modi also mentioned efforts to promote the Pali language associated with Lord Buddha, noting that it has been accorded the status of a classical language.

He urged people across the country to visit the exhibition to have darshan of the sacred relics and connect with the teachings of Lord Buddha.

“Our school students, college students, young people, sons and daughters -- they must definitely visit this exhibition. This exhibition is a powerful medium to connect the glory of our past with the dreams of our future. I urge people from across the nation to participate in this exhibition,” he said.

Discovered in 1898, the Piprahwa relics occupy a pivotal place in the archaeological study of early Buddhism. They are among the earliest and most historically significant relic

deposits directly associated with Lord Buddha.

Archaeological evidence links the Piprahwa site to ancient Kapilavastu, widely believed to be the place where Gautam Buddha spent his early life before renunciation.

Key Accused In Red

blew up outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people.

Malla is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack, the agency said on December 9.

The NIA has arrested nine people in the case so far, including three doctors – Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather and Shaheen Sayeed – and a religious preacher named Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay.

The other five are Malla, Amir Rashid Ali, Soyab, Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish and Yasir Ahmad Dar. (PTI)

Apple Demand Picks

Growers said the improvement in demand has come as a relief after a challenging main season marked by weak market response and low prices. Many farmers had refrained from selling their produce during harvest due to unviable rates and instead opted to store apples in CA corridors.

“The rates during the peak season were extremely disappointing. Selling then would have meant selling at a loss,” said Bashir Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian district in South Kashmir. “That is why many of us chose to store apples in CA corridors, even though they don’t offer the same level of protection as main chambers.”

According to growers and traders, the strategy is now showing positive results. With demand picking up in outside markets, prices have improved considerably.

“At present, a 15-kg box is fetching between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500, depending on the variety and quality,” said a grower from Sopore in north Kashmir. “Compared to the rates we were offered during the harvest season this is a significant improvement and gives us some breathing space.”

Despite the positive trend, growers have urged CA operators to ensure a regulated and systematic release of apples from storage units. “If apples from the main CA chambers are released too quickly, the market could again face oversupply, leading to a crash in prices,” warned Ghulam Rasool, a fruit dealer associated with the Bijbehara fruit mandi.

“A phased release is crucial to maintain demand and ensure fair returns for farmers.”

Growers echoed similar concerns, stressing that careful market management will determine whether the current improvement is sustained.

“We are hopeful now, but the situation remains delicate,” Sameer Ahmad said. “If supply is managed well and demand from outside markets remains strong, growers may be able to recover at least part of the losses we suffered earlier.”

With the opening of CA main chambers underway and more fruit expected to reach markets in the coming days, apple growers across Kashmir are optimistic that the worst phase of the season is behind them and that better days may still lie ahead—(KNO)

RAHI ADVERTISERS

Contact Us for

Newspaper Designing

Advertising

Social Media Post Designs

Tabloid Designing & More...

For Further Details

7006034174

rahiajaz786@gmail.com

US will run Venezuela after Maduro’s arrest: Trump

IANs

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said the United States will “run” Venezuela for a period following the arrest of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, declaring that Washington would oversee a transition while rebuilding the country’s oil sector and maintaining a continued American presence tied to energy interests.

Trump, at a news conference in Mar-a-Lago, outlined what he described as an extraordinary U.S. operation and its aftermath.

Asked who would govern Venezuela, he said, “We’re going to be running it with a group,” adding that the administration was already “designating various people” to manage the transition.

On the possibility of U.S. troops on the ground, Trump said, “We’re not afraid of boots on the ground,” noting that American forces had already been involved during the operation.

He stressed that Washington was prepared to act again if necessary, saying the United States was “ready to go again if we have to.” The president said the United States would maintain a continued presence linked to Venezuela’s oil sector.

“We’re going to have a continued presence as it pertains to oil,” Trump said, arguing that rebuilding the energy infrastructure was central to stabilising the country and funding its recovery.

Trump said the operation aimed to prevent remnants of the Maduro regime from retaining influence.

Asked whether he was concerned that “bad elements” would remain, he replied, “We know who they are. We’re on them,” adding that their behaviour had already changed.

Questions about congressional notification were directed to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said the mission could not be disclosed in advance.

“This was not the kind of mission that you can do congressional notification on,” Rubio said, warning that advance notice “endangers the mission.”

Trump was also asked about the broader geopolitical impact, including relations with China and Russia.

He said the United States would sell Venezuelan oil on the global market and rejected the idea that the operation would limit future energy exports.

Responding to criticism that past U.S. interventions lacked clear plans for what followed, Trump said, “Not with me,” citing previous operations he described as successful.

He said he wanted a transition to happen “quickly” but insisted it would take time to rebuild what he called “rotted” infrastructure.

Pressed on why administering a South American country aligned with his “America First” doctrine, Trump said stability in the region was a U.S. interest.

“We want to surround ourselves with good neighbours,” he said, adding that Venezuela’s energy resources were important to protect.

Trump was also asked whether the move sent a message to Cuba. He described Cuba as “a failing nation” and said the United States wanted to help its people, while Rubio warned that officials in Havana “would be concerned at least a little bit.”

Toward the end of the exchange, Trump was asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin. “I’m not thrilled with Putin,” he said. “He’s killing too many people,” adding that he wanted to stop the war and the loss of life.

Venezuela has been mired in a prolonged political and economic crisis marked by international sanctions, disputed leadership claims and a sharp decline in oil production, developments that have driven millions of Venezuelans to leave the country and drawn sustained U.S. attention to the region.

US action in Venezuela a dangerous precedent: UN chief

IANs

UNITED NATIONS: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is “deeply alarmed” by the US action on Saturday in Venezuela that captured President Nicolas Maduro and called it “a dangerous precedent”.

Guterres’s Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said the secretary-general is worried the military action “has potential worrying implications for the region”.

“Independently of the situation in Venezuela, these developments constitute a dangerous precedent”, the spokesperson said in a statement.

“The Secretary-General continues to emphasise the importance of full respect by all of international law, including the UN Charter”, he said. “He’s deeply concerned that the rules of international law have not been respected”.

Guterres calls for an “inclusive dialogue, in full respect of human rights and the rule of law” and stresses the “importance of full respect -- by all -- of international law, including the UN Charter”, Dujarric said. “He’s deeply concerned that the rules of international law have not been respected”, the spokesperson added.

In an early morning operation, US Delta forces attacked an army base in Venezuela, capping months of military buildup and picked up Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores.

They were put on a warship for transportation to New York, where “narcoterrorism” charges have been filed in a federal court, US officials said.

“They’re on a ship, and they’ll be heading into New York”, US President Donald Trump told Fox News. “They went by helicopter on a nice flight. I’m sure they loved it”.

Trump has been criticising Maduro, accusing him of being involved in the drug trade and sending gangs to the US.

Lalu Prasad Yadav moves Delhi HC against framing of charges in IRCTC hotel ‘scam’ case

IANs

NEW DELHI: Former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav has moved the Delhi High Court challenging a trial court decision that ordered the framing of criminal charges against him and his family members in the alleged IRCTC hotel scam case.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief has filed a criminal revision petition assailing the order passed by the Rouse Avenue Court, which had found sufficient grounds to proceed against the accused for offences relating to corruption, criminal conspiracy and cheating.

As per the causelist published on the website of the Delhi HC, the matter is scheduled to come up for hearing before a single-judge Bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on January 5.

In an order passed on October 13, 2025, Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts paved the way for the trial of Lalu Prasad Yadav, his son Tejashwi Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, and other accused under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as the Prevention of Corruption Act, after they pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The special court had reserved its order on May 29 after hearing detailed arguments on framing of charges against Lalu Prasad, his family members, Prem Gupta, Sarla Gupta and Railway officials Rakesh Saxena and P.K. Goyal.

The alleged scam took place between 2004 to 2009 when Lalu Prasad was the Union Railway Minister.

During his tenure, two hotels were given on lease without following the norms. One of the hotels was allotted to Sarla Gupta, wife of Prem Gupta, a close associate of the RJD chief and a Rajya Sabha MP at the time.

As per the prosecution, the RJD leader got three acres of prime land through a benami company. Claiming that there were no irregularities on his part, Lalu Prasad said that the tenders were awarded fairly and had sought a discharge from the case.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar | (www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Provisional Selection List for the post of Driver, UT Cadre of Home Department in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2025 Dated: 27.01.2025 under Item No. 01.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Home Department, vide indent No. HOME-FSL/19/2024-10- HOME Dated 16.08.2024 followed by 07.10.2024 forwarded the requisition for making direct recruitment to the below-mentioned 23 posts, which were subsequently advertised under item nos. as mentioned as per the following break up:

S. No.	Advt No	Item No.	Name of the post	Cadre of the post	OM	SC	ST1	ST2	OBC	ALC/ IB	RBA	EWS	Total posts
1.	01 of 2025	01	Driver	UT	10	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	23

Whereas, as per the Indent/ Advertisement, the qualification prescribed for the post(s) is/ was as follows:

S. No	Item No.	Name of the post	Cadre of the post	Prescribed Qualification (As per Indent)
1.	01	Driver	UT	Minimum Matric, maximum 10+2 having valid HGV/ PSV driving license

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) advertised the aforesaid 23 posts of Home Department in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2025 Dated: 27.01.2025; and

Whereas, as per the Notification, the selection to these posts was to be made on the basis of Driving Test and Written Examination and, accordingly, the JKSSB conducted the Driving test on 02-04-2025 to 26-05-2025 at State Motor Garages, New Plot, Jammu/Bemina, Srinagar and OMR based written test on 15.06.2025; and

Whereas, on the basis of merit obtained by the candidates, the Document Verification was conducted vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/23/2025-03(7699962) dated 07-10-2025 both at Jammu and Srinagar by the DV Committees. Separate DV for the left-out candidates was also conducted vide Notice No. JKSSB-Scry/ 34/2025-03(7793725) dated 18.11.2025; and

Whereas, the Selection Committee for preparing the selection to the aforementioned posts was constituted vide Order No. 332-SSB of 2025 dated 28.10.2025 and the selection stands framed by the Selection committee strictly in accordance with the indent received from the Indenting Department; and

Whereas, the provisional Selection List, as prepared by the aforesaid selection committee for the aforementioned posts was placed before the Board in its 331st Board Meeting held on 19.12.2025 which after due deliberations and consideration of the matter, approved its notification; and

Now therefore, the provisional Selection List for the above-mentioned post(s) of Driver of Home Department in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2025 Dated: 27.01.2025 is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to this Notification. It is further notified that:

(i) This Provisional Selection List shall be subject to the outcome of the OAs/ writ petition(s), if any, pending in any court of law.

(ii) The list shall also be subject to the outcome of pending inquiry, if any, involving candidate(s), figuring in this selection List.

(iii) This is a provisional List and shall be subject to the change(s) as per the objections as may be received against it and mere figuring in it shall not confer any right to selection, which shall be finalized after examination of the objections based on merit.

(iv) In case any candidate/s is(are) aggrieved with this provisional Selection List or intend(s) to furnish any document/clarification regarding his/her withheld candidature, he/she may represent through the email address Usselection-jkssb@jk.gov.in within Five (05) days from the date of issuance of this Notification, beyond which no representations whatsoever shall be entertained. The representations in this regard shall necessarily include complete details of the candidate including Name, Address, Roll Number and an active Contact Number.

No. JKSSB-Scry/34/2025-03 (E- 7793725)
Dated: 29.12.2025
DIPK-9652-25
DT: 03/01/2026

ANNEXURE "A"

Provisional Selection List of candidates for the post of Driver of Home Department in J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2025 dated 27.01.2025 under Item No. 01.

S NO	D.V.No.	Roll No.	Candidate Name	Father Name	DOB	Category	Address	TOTAL MARKS	Qualification	Institution/ Board	Year of Passing	REMARKS
Selection under Open Merit												
1	1-KMR	2050288	SHAHID AHMAD LONE	GHULAM MOHAMMAD LONE	07/09/2002	OM/RBA	35 OKEY KULGAM 192231	101.500	Matric	JKBOSE	2017	
2	2-KMR	2070058	IRFAN KHURSHED GANAIE	KHURSHED AHMAD GANAIE	07/07/2001	OM	71 Kaichachkoot Awantipora 192122	99.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2019	
3	1-JMU	1050112	SAJAD AHMED	MAQBOOL HUSSAIN	06/03/1995	OM/ST1	ward-no-06 androoth qila-darhal 185151	99.500	Matric	JKBOSE	2016	
4	3-KMR	2050062	KAMRAN SHAKEEL	SHAKEEL AHMAD	04/03/2004	OM	20 FIRDOUSABAD BATALMALOO SRINAGAR SOUTH 190009	99.000	10+2	JKBOSE	2023	
5	4-KMR	2050090	IRSHAD AHMAD DHOBI	HABIBULLAH DHOBI	01/06/1995	OM/OBC	opposite uhc zakura srinagar north 190024	98.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2015	RWH, subject to the production of valid, within date OBC certificate
6	2-JMU	1080191	ROBIN SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA	20/03/2000	OM/ST2	changi kangrial changi kangrial beripattan 185156	97.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2017	
7	5-KMR	2070199	SAQIB JAVAID LAWAY	JAVAI AHMAD LAWAY	12/12/2000	OM	61 Chawalgam Kulgam 192231	97.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2018	
8	3-JMU	1090042	RAHUL SHARMA	RAM PAUL	10/02/1997	OM	CHAPRIAL CHAPRIAL KHOUR 181204	95.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2014	
9	6-KMR	2060205	MOHD SIKANDAR DAR	MOHD RAJAB DAR	20/02/1992	OM	41 sail awantipora 192122	95.250	10+2	JKBOSE	2010	RWH, subject to the production of Affidavit regarding not possessing higher qualification
10	7-KMR	2060398	SAKIB RASHEED SHAH	ABDUL RASHEED SHAH	15/10/2000	OM/RBA	32 DRANG KHAG 193411	92.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2020	
Waiting under Open Merit												
1	5-JMU	1050203	KARANDEEP SINGH	SUKHDEV SINGH	30/01/1995	OM	MARHBAGH HALQA MARH 181206	92.250	10+2	JKBOSE	2012	
2	6-JMU	1090036	SEWA SINGH RANA	BANSI LAL	20/03/2002	OM	Na BIBROTTA Rajgarh 182148	91.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2018	
3	7-JMU	1060095	GOURAV MANHAS	ASHOK SINGH	22/02/1994	OM	Purkhoo opposite sham rice mill Jammu akhnoor road Tehsil bhalwal 181206	91.250	10+2	JKBOSE	2012	
4	8-KMR	2070261	ILYAS AHMAD DAR	MOHAMMAD YAQOUB DAR	02/03/1994	OM	0 PARIGAM CHECK YARIPORA 192232	90.250	10+2	JKBOSE	2011	RWH, subject to the production of valid Driving Licence
5	9-KMR	2050067	AEJAZ AHMAD BHAT	MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT	01/03/1985	OM	Qaimoh qaimoh qaimoh 192231	90.000	10+2	JKBOSE	2004	
Selection under SC Category												
1	8-JMU	1090137	SUSHIL KUMAR	PARAS RAM	03/07/1995	SC	115 FILLER KISHTWAR 182205	90.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2012	
2	12-JMU	1080354	VIVEK KUMAR	SHAM LAL	26/01/2003	SC	60 sunat udhampur 182126	85.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2021	
Waiting under SC Category												
1	17-JMU	1050303	GULSHAN JANGRAL	KRISHAN LAL	30/10/1992	SC	VILL KOTHEY GAGIAN R S PURA R S PURA 181102	81.250	10+2	JKBOSE	2009	
Selection under ST1 Category												
1	4-JMU	1070179	MOHD MAQSOOD CHOUDHARY	NEK MOHD	24/10/2001	ST1	R/O BRI KAMILA P/O GURHA SLATHIA BRI KAMILA VIJAYPUR	92.500	10+2	JKBOSE	2021	
2	38-KMR	2060226	MOHAMMAD ASLAM GOJAR	IRSHAD AHMAD GOJAR	06/03/1999	ST1	00 Uttersoo Briangan Shangus 192201	75.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2017	
Waiting under ST1 Category												
1	39-KMR	2060057	HASHIR ALI KHAN	BAHADUR KHAN	18/08/1996	ST1	49 Nowpora Bandipora 193502	73.500	Matric	JKBOSE	2013	
Selection under ST2 Category												
1	9-JMU	1070114	MANPREET SINGH	ATTAR SINGH	08/04/2000	ST2	01 rajat dhallain nowshera 185151	89.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2020	
2	15-JMU	1070167	ANKUSH SHARMA	RAJINDER PARSAD	28/03/2003	ST2	RO MOHRA KAMPLA LAROKA QILA DARHAL 185155	84.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2020	
Waiting under ST2 Category												
1	32-JMU	1090289	DINESH KUMAR DUTTA	DEEP KUMAR DUTTA	24/02/1994	ST2	84 Ward no 2 Nowshera Nowshera 185151	81.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2012	RWH, subject to the production of valid, within date ST2 certificate
Selection under OBC Category												
1	11-JMU	1060021	ANKUSH KUMAR	SARDARI LAL	01/10/1997	OBC	Village Badyal Brahmana Tehsil RS P Near Radha Krishna Mandir Rs pura 181102	86.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2016	
2	55-KMR	2050131	SHEERAZ AHMAD MOCHI	AB AHAD MOCHI	17/04/1982	OBC/ESM	88 SHEKH MULLAHA BUN GAM DH PORa DH PORa 192233	28.000	Matric	JKBOSE	2023	RWH, subject to the production of valid, within date OBC certificate
Waiting under OBC Category												
1	39-JMU	1060103	SHUBHAM SHARMA	MOHAN LAL SHARMA	05/02/2002	OBC	Nit Village channu chak Marh 181206	80.000	10+2	JKBOSE	2019	RWH, subject to the production of valid, within date OBC certificate
Selection under ALC/IB Category												
1	48-JMU	1060188	YOGESH SINGH	JAGDISH SINGH	03/02/2001	ALC	8 Satrayan khurd Suchetgarh 181102	76.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2018	
Waiting under ALC Category												
1	1- JMU (Additional DV)	1060091	CHETAN SHARMA PAGYAL	JIA LAL	38038	ALC	Platan, Khour, Jammu	67.500	Matric	JKBOSE	2020	
Selection under RBA Category												
1	12-KMR	2060232	SAHEEM UL TUIEB	MOHAMMAD TUIEB ROON	04/06/1999	RBA	74-B Dardgund Devsar Devsar 192231	88.000	Matric	JKBOSE	2013	
2	13-KMR	2070151	MUDASIR BASHIR BHAT	BASHIR AHMAD BHAT	27/01/1990	RBA	39 Devdargar Tangmarg 193402	87.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2011	
Waiting under RBA Category												
1	14-KMR	2070274	SHAKEEL AHMAD BHAT	MOHD ISMAIL BHAT	14/03/1992	RBA	45 Krangsoo chickenpora Anantnag east mattan	87.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2010	
Selection under EWS Category												
1	16-JMU	1080129	VARUN BHARTI	SUBASH CHANDER SHARMA	25/03/2000	EWS	Gurha Mundian, Hiranagar, Kathua	83.750	10+2	JKBOSE	2017	
2	56-JMU	1090089	RAM JI DOGRA	SOM DUTT SHARMA	26/01/1996	EWS	Gurha Mundian, Hiranagar, Kathua	68.000	10+2	JKBOSE	2016	
Waiting under EWS Category												
1	57-JMU	1070020	MOHAN LAL	ISHAR DASS	27/06/1988	EWS	Muthi Khurd, A/P Harsath, Ghagwal, Samba	66.750	Matric	JKBOSE	2004	

Sd/-
Atul Kumar (JKAS)
Secretary
J&K, Services Selection Board

●●●●●

CMYK

●●●●●

Shreyas Iyer, Gill back in India's ODI squad for NZ series

AGENCIES

Shubman Gill will return as ODI captain and Shreyas Iyer, subject to fitness clearance, will be the vice-captain for India's three-match ODI series against New Zealand at home starting January 11. Mohammed Siraj also returns to the 15-man squad, while Hardik Pandya is being rested.

Gill had missed the South Africa ODI series because of a neck spasm suffered during the Kolkata Test while Iyer is making his return from a spleen injury he picked up during the tour of Australia. While Gill returned to action during the T20Is against South Africa, Iyer has not played any competitive cricket since October 2025.

Siraj last represented India in ODIs during the tour of Australia. He has been a regular member of the Test squad while also turning out for Hyderabad in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Shubman Gill will return as ODI captain and Shreyas Iyer, subject to



fitness clearance, will be the vice-captain for India's three-match ODI series against New Zealand at home starting January 11. Mohammed Siraj also returns to the 15-man squad, while Hardik Pandya is being rested.

Gill had missed the South Africa ODI series because of a neck spasm suffered during the Kolkata Test while Iyer is making his return from a spleen injury he picked up during the tour of Australia. While Gill returned to action during the T20Is against South Africa, Iyer has not played any competitive cricket since October 2025.

Siraj last represented India in ODIs during the tour of Australia. He has

been a regular member of the Test squad while also turning out for Hyderabad in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

As for Hardik, the BCCI is managing his workload with one eye on the T20 World Cup starting February 7. The BCCI's statement said that Hardik has not yet been cleared by the Centre of Excellence to bowl 10 overs in a game.

Both Gill and Iyer are expected to play a Vijay Hazare Trophy match each on January 6 before India's squad gets together. Gill missed Punjab's game on Saturday with food poisoning but should turn out against Goa on Tuesday.

As part of Iyer's return-

to-play protocol, the batter featured in a practice game on January 2 in Bengaluru's Centre for Excellence. Iyer batted pain-free, and came through all his drills, both pre- and post-game, without showing any signs of discomfort that day. He is expected to play for Mumbai against Himachal Pradesh in Jaipur on January 6 as well.

The ODI series against New Zealand starts on January 11 in Vadodara before the teams move to Rajkot for the second ODI on January 14. The series ends with the third ODI on January 18 in Indore. India's squad for the T20I series that will follow (and the T20 World Cup starting February 7) was announced in December 2025.

India ODI squad
Shubman Gill (capt), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk), Shreyas Iyer (vice-capt)*, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh and Yashasvi Jaiswal (*subject to fitness clearance).

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Kulkarni's ton takes Maharashtra to victory over Mumbai, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand also win

IAN S

JAIPUR: Arshin Kulkarni struck his second List A century as Maharashtra ended Mumbai's unbeaten streak in the 2025/26 Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group C with a commanding 128-run victory on Saturday. The right-handed opener made 114 off 114 balls, hitting 11 fours and three sixes, as he shared a 140-run opening stand with Prithvi Shaw (71 off 75) elected to bat first in foggy conditions.

Mumbai suffered a setback early when captain Shardul Thakur limped off after bowling just six overs. Shaw appeared set for a century before being trapped lbw by Musheer Khan, who celebrated animatedly, but Maharashtra regrouped through captain Ruturaj Gaikwad's gritty 66 off 52 balls.

Kulkarni and Gaikwad added 108 runs for the third wicket, capitalising on sloppy Mumbai fielding that saw more than five catches being dropped. Ramakrishna Ghosh smashed an unbeaten 64 off 27 balls, including 30 runs off Sylvester D'Souza in one over, propelling Maharashtra to 366/4.

Mumbai's chase never gained momentum - Yashasvi Jaiswal lasted nine deliveries while Musheer fell for a duck as the score slumped to 4/2. Angkrish Raghuvanshi (92) and Siddhesh Lad (52) staged a recovery with fifties in a 99-run partnership before Satyajee Bachhav dismissed the latter lbw.

With Sarfaraz Khan absent due to leg stiffness, Mumbai's middle order collapsed. Raghuvanshi waged a lone battle before falling eight runs short of his maiden List A century. Shardul returned to bat despite struggling to run, but lasted just five deliveries



as Mumbai were bowled out for 238 in 42 overs.

Meanwhile, Pukhraj Mann's magnificent 134 off 121 balls went in vain as Chhattisgarh chased down Himachal Pradesh's 320/8 with two balls to spare in a thrilling encounter. Mann, who came to the crease with his side struggling at 32/2 inside the sixth over, struck 11 fours and two sixes in a valiant effort.

He shared a 178-run partnership with wicket-keeper Innesh Mahajan, who narrowly missed his century by falling for 95, but Chhattisgarh's collective batting effort, led by Aayush Pandey's 78, proved to be decisive in the tense finish.

On the other hand, Aanjaneya Suryavanshi's unbeaten 115 off 87 balls trumped Goa opener Snehal Kauthankar's century as Uttarakhand over-

number five batter turned the match on its head with a match-winning 191-run partnership alongside Shashwat Dangwal, who contributed a run-a-ball 70. Kauthankar's 105 had earlier anchored Goa's innings, but Suryavanshi's explosive knock proved to be too much.

Brief scores:

Maharashtra 366/4 in 50 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 114, Prithvi Shaw 71; Tushar Deshpande 2-83) beat Mumbai 238 all out in 42 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 92, Siddhesh Lad 52; Pradeep Dade 3-43) by 128 runs.

Himachal Pradesh 320/8 in 50 overs (Pukhraj Mann 134, Innesh Mahajan 95; Ravi Kiran 3-65) lost to Chhattisgarh 321/7 in 49.4 overs (Aayush Pandey 78, Amandeep Khare 72; Vaibhav Arora 2-70) by three wickets

Goa 270 in 50 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 105, Abhinav Tejra 54; Jagadeesha Suchith 3-54) lost to Uttarakhand 274/3 in 46.2 overs (Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 115 not out, Shashwat Dangwal 70; Vasuki Koushik 1-28) by seven wickets

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr. Ashiq Hussain Mir, S/o D/o W/O Gulam Mohi Ud Din Mir R/o Kunzer, Tangmarg, Kashmir, intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style "M/s Riskfree Holidays Kashmir", situated at Kunzer, Tangmarg, Kashmir, under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance ₹ 10,000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photographs of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and two Passport Size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as a Travel Agency / Tour Operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of the general public, financial institutions/banks/organizations, etc. for objection, if any. The same should reach the Deputy Director, Tourism Registration (email id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Over 1,300 athletes to compete in 2nd Khelo India Beach Games from Monday

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India's coastline is set to transform into a vibrant national sporting arena as the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 return to Diu from January 5 to 10, with over 1,300 athletes from across the country competing in the event, promising an energetic celebration of beach and indigenous sports.

The second edition of the Games will bring together over 1,300 athletes from across the country, representing 31 States and Union Territories, including 25 States and six UTs, reflecting the growing reach and popularity of beach-based disciplines within India's sporting ecosystem.

The Games will feature competition across six medal disciplines: Beach Soccer,

Beach Volleyball, Beach Sepaktakraw, Beach Kabaddi, Beach Pencak Silat, and Open Water Swimming, accounting for 786 competing athletes, including 366 women and 420 men, highlighting the inclusive and balanced participation encouraged under the Khelo India initiative.

Discipline-wise, participation includes 263 athletes

in Beach Sepaktakraw, 157 in Beach Pencak Silat, 156 in Beach Soccer, 96 in Beach Kabaddi, 64 in Beach Volleyball, and 50 in Open Water Swimming, underlining the scale and diversity of competition across beach and water-based sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) informed in a release on Saturday.

Fast-forward Ashes reaches its final instalment with WTC points at stake

AGENCIES

Had you canvassed England's touring fans back in November (and bearing in mind the horrors they have witnessed in Australia over the past 15 years) it's hard to imagine many would have been truly gutted at the prospect of a 3-2 Ashes defeat. At the very least, that scoreline would have implied competitiveness, belief, enduring optimism ... maybe even a Gazza's tears-style denouement, with Ben Stokes and Joe Root leading a proud lap of honour at the SCG after the sort of heart-break from which legends are forged.

This looming scenario, on the other hand ... this is not what the prognosticators would have ordered. Clearly we're getting ahead of ourselves even to contemplate the absurdity that England could win back-to-back Tests in Australia after losing 16 of their previous 18. But supposing they did, from the depths to which this tour had descended? Then what? Would the players be permitted to take pride in their bouncebackability, or would they forever lament the fecklessness that wrecked their previous visions of glory? Perhaps a fourth defeat out of five would be the more merciful death; final, definitive proof that the notion of winning back the Ashes in Australia was only ever a delusion.

And what of Australia, themselves so triumphant after Adelaide, having ransacked Bazball in a mere 11 days of action? Leading into the fourth Test, the chance to inflict a third whitewash in six home Ashes had been a very real and compelling incentive for a squad



that had been derided as Australia's "worst" since 2010-11. Now, however, that notion has been banished, and in uncompromising fashion, following a two-day loss at the MCG that has cost Cricket Australia an eight-figure sum, and has drawn overdue scrutiny on a side whose cracks England had so manifestly failed to exploit at the sharp end of the series.

Admittedly, some of that scrutiny has been mitigated by Usman Khawaja's decision to call time on an 88-Test career. Fifteen long years ago, Khawaja made his Australia debut in the fifth and final Ashes Test at Sydney - a fixture that, until last week, had been England's most recent success in the country. Now, at the age of 39, and after a wild mid-series reprieve at Adelaide, he's read the runes and decided to take final control of his story.

His departure will guarantee some degree of turnover come the end of Australia's campaign, although it's hard to imagine that Khawaja alone will be missing when these teams next convene in 2027. Travis Head's moments of magnificence have masked an unusually fallible batting line-up, while we're already contemplating an Ashes series in which Pat

Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon managed an effective net contribution of two appearances out of 15. As for the two men who have shouldered the burden in their absence, Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland will both be closer to 40 than 35 by then.

As for England, though Ashes tours tend to mark more ends than beginnings, there's been a sense - certainly in the aftermath of the MCG win - that more of this squad's structure will remain intact than their early-tour performances perhaps warrant.

Stokes, for one, has indicated he wants to stay on as captain, while his endorsement of Brendon McCullum has offered the coach some cover in the short term, at least, as his methods come under more sustained scrutiny than at any time in his tenure.

On the personnel front, if the end of the road has surely been reached for Mark Wood, then Josh Tongue, Brydon Carse and the injured Gus Atkinson all look set to be central to their seam-bowling plans for some time yet - as indeed will Jofra Archer, assuming his body remains as willing as his heart has been since his improbable return to the Test fray.

INOX CINEMA

SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

DHURANDHAR (A)

HINDI - 01:50 PM, 04:40 PM, 06:00 PM

HINDI ATMOS - 11:10 AM

IKKIS (U/A 13+)

HINDI - 10:50 AM, 01:35 PM, 07:00 PM

TU MERI MAIN TERA MAIN TERA TU MERI

(U/A 16+) HINDI - 10:40 AM

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (U/A 16+)

3D HINDI - 03:10 PM

BOOK TICKETS NOW

www.bookmyshow.com, www.inoxmovies.com

Paytm, Inox App, or directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

CALL 95416 13868

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

●●●●●

CMYK

●●●●●