

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



We will not allow Unnatural Demographic Change in India; we will drive out every single infiltrator.

Srinagar • Saturday 23, May 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 125 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Drugs, Terrorism Two Sides Of Same Coin: LG Sinha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the battle against narcotics is intertwined with national security, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that drugs and terrorism are "two sides of the same coin" in the Union Territory, adding a deliberate role of the neighbouring country in pushing drugs to fuel extremism. In an interview with CNN News 18, Sinha said investigations into drug networks have repeatedly exposed links to cross-border terrorism. "In several investigations, when the forward and backward linkages were examined, substantial evidence clearly emerged that our neighbouring country is deliberately involved in this. The smuggling network is directly linked to terrorism,"

he stated. The LG cautioned that while some smugglers may have built houses and increased their incomes, the ultimate beneficiaries are terror outfits. "Most of this money goes to those organisations that radicalise people, buy weapons, and spread terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and across the country," he said. Sinha framed the menace as a well-planned conspiracy aimed at destroying the region's youth. "If the goal is to build a new Jammu and Kashmir and move towards a developed India, then it seems there was a well-planned conspiracy to destroy the youth itself. If the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are ruined, how will they move forward?" he asked. The Lieutenant Governor

■ 'Responded Firmly Whenever Challenged'

If Need Arises Armed Forces Will Act Inside Pakistan's Territory: Amit Shah

'India To Create 'Smart Border' Along Pak, Bangladesh To Stop Infiltration'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming India's zero tolerance policy towards terrorism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that if the need arises armed forces will act even inside Pakistan's own territory.

Addressing the Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised in honour of Border Security Force (BSF) founding director K F Rustamji, Shah, referred to cross-border terrorism and infiltration and said, "India has responded firmly whenever challenged. We replied to Pakistan all three times and, if required, we will act even inside their territory."

He said India will soon implement a complete "smart border" system along its frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh to strengthen surveillance and curb infiltration, drone activity and smuggling through technology-driven monitoring mechanisms.

He said the government was rapidly expanding modern border infrastructure equipped



with high-tech cameras, radars, sensors and real-time surveillance platforms.

The Union Home Minister said the Centre plans to roll out large-scale smart fencing and Integrated Border Management Systems along the two international borders within this year.

"The entire border management system is being upgraded with the help of technology.

Advanced surveillance tools and real-time monitoring systems will strengthen the country's border security," Shah said.

The Union Home Minister said the new system will help security agencies detect infiltration attempts, drone movement, cattle smuggling, narcotics trafficking and other suspicious activities instantly.

He said land allocation for

the smart fencing projects was progressing quickly and added that the West Bengal government had provided the required land for the initiative.

Shah said security personnel would receive real-time alerts under the proposed mechanism, allowing faster response and improved coordination on border-related threats.

Speaking on Left Wing Extremism, Shah said India was moving rapidly towards becoming free from Naxal violence, asserting that the government's strategy had produced decisive results on the ground.

"A problem that persisted for decades is nearing its end. Merely controlling a problem is not enough; eliminating it from the root is the real solution," he said.

The Home Minister also said the BSF would be assigned greater responsibilities in the coming years, particularly in coordination with local administrations to check illegal cross-border activities.

He said coordination mechanisms would be strengthened from patwari-level

■ **A PROBLEM THAT PERSISTED FOR DECADES IS NEARING ITS END. MERELY controlling a problem is not enough; eliminating it from the root is the real solution,"** he said.

IFS Induction Stalled In J&K For 13 Years



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The induction of local officers from Jammu & Kashmir into the prestigious Indian Forest Service (IFS) has been in deep freeze over a staggering 13 years without a single promotion quota appointment.

Documents reveal that the process has remained paralysed since 2013, tangled in prolonged litigation over the constitution of a valid "State Forest Service."

"In the case of J&K, the induction process has remained stalled since 2013 due to prolonged litigation regarding the constitution of a valid 'State Forest Service,'" reads official documents.

The recruitment into Indian Forest Service (IFS) is governed by two methods: direct recruitment through Union Public Service Commission exams and induction via promotion quota.

While 66% of posts are filled via UPSC civil services examination, the remaining 33% are reserved for promotion of eligible officers State Forest Services.

According to

Camels Arrive In Kashmir Markets Ahead Of Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A practice once largely unfamiliar in Kashmir is gradually finding space in Eid-ul-Adha preparations, with camel traders arriving in the Valley and encouraging people to opt for camel sacrifice ahead of the festival.



Livestock markets across parts of Kashmir have begun to see camels, drawing curiosity among buyers and adding a different dimension to the traditional Eid trade dominated by sheep, goats, and cattle.

Traders dealing in camels said interest in the practice has increased over recent years, particularly among groups of people looking for a shared and comparatively economical option for sacrifice.

Under Islamic tradition, a camel is among the animals

most permissible for sacrifice during Eid-ul-Adha.

Islamic teachings permit a camel sacrifice to be shared by up to seven persons, making it financially manageable compared to purchasing separate sacrificial animals individually.

The practice, while historically more common in desert regions,

remained relatively uncommon in Kashmir where sheep and goats traditionally formed the core of Eid sacrifices.

That pattern, traders say, is slowly changing.

Camel sellers arriving in Kashmir ahead of Eid said awareness regarding Islamic permissibility and the shared nature of camel sacrifice has encouraged interest among some sections of the public.

"People are asking questions and showing

India, Cyprus Demand Global Action Against Cross-Border Terrorism, Condemn Pahalgam Attack

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Condemning the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 tourists dead, India and Cyprus on Friday called for stronger global action against cross-border terrorism and demanded accountability for terror networks.

The position, was articulated during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, as the two countries elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and agreed to deepen cooperation in counter-terrorism and security domains.

Briefing the media, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George said both leaders "categorically and unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism" and



reaffirmed commitment to joint efforts against radicalisation and terror financing.

He said Cyprus extended "solidarity and unwavering support" to India in its fight against terrorism, particularly in the context of recent incidents, including the Pahalgam attack and the blast near the Red Fort.

The two sides also stressed the need for perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice without delay, and underlined that fragmented global responses were insufficient to address

evolving terror threats.

The Ministry of External Affairs said that both leaders called for strengthening international mechanisms to counter terrorism in a "comprehensive and sustained manner" and pushed for early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework.

India and Cyprus also agreed that state-backed and cross-border terror networks required coordinated global pressure, including disruption

Northern Railway Launches New Commercial Initiatives To Enhance Passenger Facilities, Boost Revenue

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a major step towards providing world-class facilities to passengers and strengthening financial self-reliance, Jammu Division of Northern Railway has launched several new commercial initiatives under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal.

The initiatives aim to enhance passenger convenience while generating non-fare revenue for Indian Railways through a transparent e-auction system.

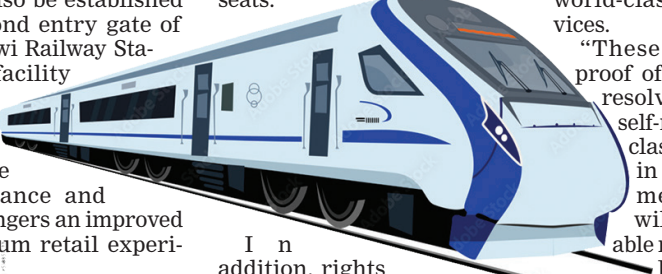
As part of the initiative, Jammu Division has awarded key commercial contracts through the e-auction platform to ensure transparency and modernization in railway services.

At Kathua Railway Station's Platform No. 1, a new multi-purpose stall will provide passengers with travel essentials, snacks and reading material under one roof, improving convenience for commuters and visitors.

Similarly, a multi-purpose stall will also be established at the second entry gate of Jammu Tawi Railway Station. The facility is expected to reduce congestion at the main entrance and offer passengers an improved and premium retail experience.

Besides station facilities, the division has also initiated steps to upgrade catering services in trains. As part of the first phase, TSV services

have commenced in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Budgam Vistadome Special train (04687/04688). Passengers travelling through the scenic Kashmir valley route will now be served branded food items and sealed drinking water directly at their seats.



In addition, rights for sale of various items in DMUs and other local trains have also been awarded through the e-auction process, making travel more

convenient for daily commuters and tourists alike.

Speaking about the initiatives, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said that the measures reflect Indian Railways' commitment towards balancing financial self-reliance with world-class passenger services.

"These initiatives are proof of Indian Railways' resolve where financial self-reliance and world-class service go hand in hand. These commercial measures will ensure sustainable revenue for Jammu Division and make every passenger's journey through Jammu & Kashmir safer, more convenient and more memorable," he said.

Valley's High Altitudes Receive Snowfall; Hailstorm Batters Plains

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall was recorded in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including Minimarg along the strategic Zoji La axis, while heavy rain and hailstorm lashed several plains areas on Friday, damaging orchards and standing crops in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

The weather activity affected many parts of the Valley as an active western disturbance continued to influence Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said that higher reaches around Minimarg received fresh snowfall during the day, leading to a sharp dip in temperatures in the area. Rainfall was also reported from several plains districts of Kashmir, including Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara and parts of central Kashmir.

A severe hailstorm struck the Lasar area of Rafiabad in Baramulla district and nearby villages, causing extensive damage to apple orchards, vegetable fields and standing crops, locals said. The hailstorm,

Dialogue Ends Deadlock Centre, Ladakh Reach Understanding On Key Issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The prolonged standoff between Ladakh and the Union Government over safeguards and the form of elected governance has almost come to an end, with both sides reaching an understanding on key issues on Friday.

Two groups spearheading the agitation in the Union Territory claimed that they have reached an in-principle agreement with the Government of India on providing constitutional safeguards to Ladakh on the lines of Article 371, along with a powerful elected government headed

by a Chief Minister, with the entire bureaucracy under his control. In a joint handout, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) said they have reached an in-principle understanding with the Government of India on restoring democracy in Ladakh and providing constitutional safeguards similar to those under Articles 371A, 371F, and 371G, which apply to Nagaland, Sikkim, and Mizoram respectively. Articles 371A, 371F, and 371G of the Indian Constitution provide special protections to these states: Article 371A safeguards

SANJY-2026

DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk

Conduct onsite review of preparedness, arrangements for smooth pilgrimage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb Friday visited Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk to review the onsite arrangements being put in place for the smooth and seamless conduct of the upcoming Annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

The visit was aimed to ensure seamless arrangements and better facilities for devotees traveling to the Shri Amarnathji cave during the annual pilgrimage, halting at the Transit camp, Panthachowk.

During the visit the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SSP Security, Kashmir, Sajad Khaliq, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadi Fareed, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Deputy Commandant (IR), K.Sahu, Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abu Qasim, SDPO Panthachowk Zohaib Ahmad, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er. Anbreen Anjum, Superintending Engineer KPDCL, Syed Ahmad Wani, SDM East, Zuber Ahmad, DySP Traffic Suhail Ahmad, Tehsildar



Pantha Chowk, Muzamil Zamaan and senior Officers of District Administration, Police, SMC, Information, Fire & Emergency, Health, RTO, Traffic and other line Departments accompanied them.

During the visit, the DC and SMC Commissioner carried out an inspection of the Yatri Facilitation Centre and took stock of its readiness to manage and facilitate pilgrim-related services. They reviewed the facilities and infrastructure being established at the Transit Camp regarding KYC/RFID registration, accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power availability, health-care facilities, security, traffic management and other essential services.

On the occasion, the duo also inspected the readi-

ness of Yatri Facilitation Center, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution and registration process to streamline the pilgrimage process, thereby ensuring streamlined movement, better crowd management and an efficient pilgrimage experience for the Yatris.

They also held detailed interactions with Officers from various line Departments and comprehensively reviewed the preparedness measures undertaken to ensure a smooth, efficient and hassle-free experience for the pilgrims. They assessed the overall coordination mechanism, operational readiness and service delivery framework being put in place for the upcoming Yatra.

Emphasizing pilgrim comfort and convenience, the Officers stressed the need for close coordination among all Departments to ensure timely completion of works and augmentation of essential services at the Transit Camp. They laid special focus on maintaining sanitation standards, ensuring availability of clean drinking water, uninterrupted power supply and other civic amenities, besides strengthening facilities at Langars (community kitchens) to provide wholesome meals to the pilgrims.

During the visit, the DC was informed that a sufficient number of bathrooms, urinals and mobile toilets have been established at the Transit Camp for the convenience of the Yatris. He was also apprised that, besides a dedicated water supply to the camp, standby water storage tanks with a cumulative capacity of 80,000 litres have been installed to cater to the needs of the visiting pilgrims at the halt camp.

On the occasion, the DC directed all line Departments to ensure that all arrangements and facilities are completed in a time bound manner to facilitate the smooth conduct of this year's Annual Yatra.

DC Anantnag reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

Directs departments to ensure smooth observance of festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Friday chaired a meeting of officers at DC office to review the arrangements for smooth observance of upcoming Eid-ul-Adha in the district.

The meeting was attended by SP, ADC, SE PHE, ACR, SDMs, AC Food Safety, CAHO, DD Fisheries, Exen PDD, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, DSHO, CEO MCA, representatives of F&ES, Legal Metrology, Traffic and Waqf Board, EOs of MCs and other concerned officials.

At the outset, the officers briefed the chair about the respective arrangements that have been put in place for smooth observance of the holy and festive days.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said it is essential the people and devotees are duly facilitated so they observe the holy days with ease and convenience. He called for providing all requisite facilities to the devotees visiting Khiram Dargah Sharief, Kabamarg, Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines, mosques and Eidgahs on upcoming Eid-ul-Adha.

The DC directed officers of Jal Shakti Department



and KPDCL to ensure smooth supply of water and electricity across the district. Jal Shakti Department shall keep adequate number of water tankers available at critical locations especially in view of the prevailing high temperatures, he noted.

Emphasizing the importance of essential commodities during the festive days, the DC asked the FCS&CA Department to maintain sufficient stocks of rice, atta, sugar, and other daily essentials in the district. He further directed the concerned authorities to intensify market checking to ensure the quality and availability of essential commodities, including bakery and confectionery items, milk, meat, chicken, vegetables, and other essentials in the

ed the concerned authorities to designate teams and locations for proper collection and disposal of offal, hides and waste to maintain cleanliness and hygiene both in urban and rural areas.

Instructions were also issued regarding seamless transport facilities particularly at crucial hours besides proper security and deployment of fire and emergency tenders especially near the Eidgahs, shrines, mosques and places of congregation. The Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams at places of importance to provide immediate health-care assistance in view of the expected large gatherings. For smooth vehicular movement during the festival, traffic authorities were directed to implement effective traffic management plans around major mosques and marketplaces.

Additionally, the departments were instructed to impart adequate publicity to their respective plans well in advance so the public don't face any inconvenience.

At conclusion, SDMs were tasked to establish control rooms for monitoring and facilitating the seamless observance of the festival in their respective subdivisions.

Bilal Baghat Brings Kashmiri Heritage to Cannes with Bombay Stories

GMK NEWS NETWORK

FRANCE: As the spotlight of the 2026 Cannes Film Festival falls on global cinema, a distinct voice from Kashmir has emerged on the international stage. Bilal Baghat, actor and associate director, arrived at the festival with Bombay Stories, a cinematic adaptation of Saadat Hasan Manto's legendary tales, directed by Rahhat Shah Kazmi.

The film features an ensemble cast including Mouni Roy, Anupriya Goenka, Sushmita Singh, Rahul Sudhir, Shoib Nikash Shah, and Rahhat Shah Kazmi himself. But beyond the film's premiere, Baghat's presence has drawn attention for a deeper reason - his embodiment of Kashmir's centuries-old performing arts heritage.

Baghat hails from a traditional performing gharana of Wathora, Kashmir, where the folk theatre tradition of Bhaand Pather has thrived for generations. Trained as a Bhaand actor and performer, his artistic journey is built on an indigenous legacy of storytelling, satire, music, and performance - a cultural thread that has shaped Kashmir's creative imagination for centuries.

Over the years, Baghat has worked extensively in cinema as both an actor and assistant director,



building a body of work that bridges folk tradition with contemporary visual language. His contributions to modern theatre have also been widely recognised, most notably for his acclaimed portrayal of Macbeth in Maag - a powerful adaptation that toured multiple venues and reinterpreted Shakespeare through a distinctly Kashmiri lens.

Making a striking cultural statement, Baghat walked the Cannes red carpet wearing traditional Kashmiri attire - a classic Pheran paired with a Karakul cap and an elegant Pashmina shawl. The ensemble carried the essence of Kashmiri identity and craftsmanship onto one of the world's most glamorous cinematic stages.

Nasha Mukh Abhiyan intensified across Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam has intensified activities under the 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan across the district with an aim to create mass awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

As part of the ongoing campaign, a series of awareness and outreach programmes are being organised in educational institutions and public spaces involving active participation of students, teachers, officials and community members. Various departments including Education, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder agencies are jointly conducting awareness drives to sensitise youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

In continuation of the campaign activities, essay competition and debate programmes were today conducted at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Budgam under the National Mental Health & Behaviour Awareness (NMBBA) programme. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their ideas and awareness on important social and behavioural issues through creative writing

and engaging discussions. The activities were aimed at promoting awareness, critical thinking, effective communication and positive behavioural values among students while encouraging them to stay away from substance abuse and other harmful practices. Teachers and organisers appreciated the active involvement, creativity and confidence displayed by the participants during the programme.

Officials stated that the 100-day campaign focuses on preventive awareness, behavioural change, counselling support and community participation to effectively address the growing concern of drug abuse. Awareness rallies, seminars, interactive sessions and youth engagement programmes are also being organised across different areas of the district under the initiative.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment towards strengthening the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan through coordinated efforts and sustained public participation. Citizens, parents, educational institutions, religious leaders and civil society organisations have been urged to actively support the campaign and contribute towards making Budgam a drug-free district.

Commissioner SMC reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to review and finalise arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival across Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioners SMC, Secretary SMC, Chief Sanitation Officer, and other senior officials of the Corporation, who briefed the Commissioner on the preparedness of various SMC wings with regard to sanitation management, waste collection and disposal, deployment of manpower, availability of machinery, and maintenance of overall cleanliness and public hygiene during the festival period.

During the meeting, the Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around mosques, shrines, Eidgahs, and other important religious places across the city to facilitate the smooth conduct of Eid prayers during Eid-ul-Adha.



Emphasizing the importance of efficient waste management during the festival, the Commissioner instructed officials to further strengthen waste collection and disposal mechanisms across all areas of the city. He also directed the provision of free hooper services for the timely collection and scientific disposal of animal skins, sacrificial waste, and internal animal organs to maintain sanitation and prevent inconvenience to the public.

The Commissioner stressed that all sanitation teams and field functionaries must remain fully operational and responsive throughout the festival days to ensure uninterrupted municipal services

and prompt redressal of public grievances. He further appealed to the citizens to extend full cooperation to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation by using designated waste collection facilities and adhering to sanitation guidelines in the larger interest of maintaining a clean, hygienic, and healthy environment during the festival.

To facilitate immediate public assistance and grievance redressal, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation has established round-the-clock Control Room services. Citizens can contact the helpline numbers (0194-2474499, 0194-2470465, 1800-180-7038) for sanitation-related assistance and support.

JKLCMA organizes Awareness Programme on World Biodiversity Conservation Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Biodiversity Conservation Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA) organized an awareness programme at Hadura village to promote the conservation of biodiversity and encourage sustainable farming practices.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah emphasized the urgent need to protect the planet's rich biodiversity and adopt eco-friendly agricultural practices for the wellbeing of future generations. He urged farmers to move towards organic farming methods to maintain ecological balance and ensure healthy agricultural production.

During the programme, farmers were made aware of the harmful effects of the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, fungicides, and pesticides on soil health, water resources, and the environment. The importance of sustainable and environmentally responsible farming practices was highlighted in detail.

DLSA organizes Closing Ceremony of Road Safety Awareness Week

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Closing ceremony of the Road Safety Awareness Week was Friday organized by the District Legal Services Authority Budgam in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Magam at Lucent International School Magam.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Chairman District

Budgam, O.P. Baghat and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Budgam, Tabassum Parray, and under the chairmanship of Chairperson TLSC Magam, Rabyia Snober Gulzar.

The event was graced by the Secretary DLSA Budgam, and Chairperson TLSC Magam. Officials from Traffic Police, Police Department, PLVs, teachers, students, and members of civil society also participated in the programme.

During the programme, speakers highlighted the importance of road safety measures, responsible driving, use of helmets and seat belts, and strict adherence to traffic rules for prevention of road accidents.

Students of various institutions presented awareness skits, speeches, and Nukad Natak performances focusing on traffic rules, safe driving practices, and protection of human life.

A series of awareness

activities, rallies, and programmes were conducted during the Road Safety Awareness Week from 18th May, across different institutions of Magam. The participants appreciated the efforts of DLSA Budgam and TLSC Magam for spreading awareness among the general public, especially youth and students. The programme concluded with a pledge by participants to follow traffic rules and promote road safety awareness in society.

Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in
TEL/FAX: 0194-2427478

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

As propos to the above cited subject, it is informed that the unit M/s Feroz Textiles Phase-III I/E Khunmoh Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/03/08842/PMT/MSME dated. 01-07-2015 for the activity of "Weaving of wool silk and cotton fabric on power looms" as proprietorship concern of Feroz Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat R/o Nowgam Bypass Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit intends to allow change of line of activity from "Weaving of wool silk and cotton fabric on power looms to Manufacture and printing of Non-Woven Cloth Carry Bags (Automatic Process) and change in line of name and style from M/s Feroz Textiles Phase-III I/E Khunmoh Srinagar to M/s Rehmania Fancy Shopping Bags-II Phase-III I/E Khunmoh Srinagar

Any person having any objection to the proposed change in line of activity and name and style may submit the same in writing to the office of General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice

General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar

DIPK-1566-26
DT: 22/05/2026

Dy Chief Minister calls for time bound report on Gair Mumkin Khads

Sub-Committee reviews public issues, asks for identification of chronic problem areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Friday chaired a meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, who are members of the Sub-Committee.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for seeking public suggestions before finalizing the committee's report through designated offices. He directed on designating a nodal officer from the Civil Secretariat for easy access for submission of suggestions by the general public. He directed that the report be submitted in a time-bound manner, ensuring that the genuine public concerns are addressed in a fair and legitimate way.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, briefed the Sub-Committee on the present status of Gair Mumkin Khads and the ongoing process of segregation.

Speaking during the



meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for pragmatic and people-centric decisions to ensure amicable resolution of issues faced by the public. He said that policy interventions must maintain a balance between the environmental protection and safeguarding the livelihoods and property rights of citizens.

The Committee directed for constitution of a technical team for proper segregation of Khads and submission of accurate details. Directions were issued for identification of chronic problem areas to address recurring public issues effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Ahmad Rana stressed the importance of adopting a balanced and environmentally sustainable approach while addressing the issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among the departments to safeguard the ecological inter-

ests while ensuring relief to the affected population.

Agriculture Minister highlighted the importance of transparency, public participation and timely redressal of grievances.

The Sub-Committee discussed in detail the existing status of Gair Mumkin Khads, Daryas and Nallahs, along with related concerns, with the objective of providing relief to the general public wherever required.

The members of the Sub-Committee also put forth various suggestions and highlighted several public concerns requiring urgent attention.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Revenue Department Rajiv Rajan, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav, VC JDA, Chief Engineer I&FC Jammu, Rupesh Kumar and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

Legislators, deputations call on Javed Rana; project public issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Several legislators, public deputations and individuals Friday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana at Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various public welfare issues, developmental concerns and sector-specific demands.

MLA Uri, Dr Sajjad Shafi and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar discussed several constituency-related matters. They sought the Minister's intervention for augmentation of public infrastructure, improvement in water supply schemes, irrigation facilities and other developmental works in their respective areas.

During the interactions, the legislators highlighted the need for timely execution of ongoing works and early resolution of issues concerning public service delivery. They also projected several demands related to strengthening civic amenities and improving infrastructure, besides highlighting the early completion of desiltation process of irrigation network.

Besides the legislators, several deputations and individuals from different



areas also met the Minister and projected their grievances and demands.

A delegation of JMM contractors raised issues concerning execution of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission. It sought timely resolution of procedural and payment-related matters for smooth implementation of projects. The delegation urged the Minister for necessary intervention to ensure uninterrupted progress of works being undertaken under the mission.

Another deputation comprising seasonal labourers of the Irrigation Department projected issues and sought redressal of their long-pending concerns. They appealed for sympathetic consideration of their demands and measures for their welfare.

Various other delegations and individuals also apprised the Minister of issues related to drinking

water supply, irrigation facilities, public infrastructure and other local concerns requiring departmental attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and assured them that all genuine issues and demands projected during the meetings would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring responsive governance and timely redressal of public grievances.

Javed Rana said that the government is committed to strengthen public service delivery and ensuring that developmental benefits reach every section of society in an effective and transparent manner. He directed the concerned officers to take appropriate follow-up action on the issues raised by the visiting delegations and individuals.

Sakeena Itoo reviews Education, Health sector scenario in Budgam

Calls for acceleration of works on ongoing developmental projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday held an extensive review of the education and health sector scenario in Budgam constituency in a meeting at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Mutazir Mehdi; Special Secretaries of School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare departments, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Colleges, Director Planning/Director Finance of School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare departments, Additional Secretaries of all concerned departments, CMO Srinagar, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam and other concerned officers.

During the review meeting, the Minister took stock of the progress achieved under various schemes and assessed the status of infrastructure development works being executed across the constituency. She directed the officials to maintain close coordination and ensure that projects are completed within stipulated timelines without compromising quality standards.



Regarding Government Degree College, Soibugh, the Minister called for expediting the ongoing works so that the project is completed timely and dedicated for public use, on all ongoing developmental projects to ensure timely public benefit.

While reviewing other developmental aspects of the Budgam constituency, the Minister directed the concerned officers to prioritise all the issues raised by concerned public representative and take immediate steps for their timely redressal. She also stressed on resolving all the bottlenecks to make satellite campus of Maulana Azad National Urdu University functional at permanent campus.

While reviewing the healthcare sector, the Minister sought detailed updates regarding func-

tioning of health institutions, availability of medical staff, medicines, diagnostic facilities and patient care services in the constituency. She instructed the concerned authorities to address gaps on priority and ensure that healthcare institutions remain fully equipped to cater to the needs of the public.

She directed the health department for rationalisation of staff in health institutions of cities and towns to fill gaps in rural and peripheral areas.

While reviewing other aspects related to health sector, the Minister directed the officers of health department that diagnostic facilities like MRI, CT Scan, USG should be made functional 24x7 in hospitals and GMCs wherever these are available. She also directed the health department to submit a report

emphasized that patient welfare and quality healthcare services should remain the foremost priority of the department.

Reviewing the education sector scenario, Sakeena Itoo assessed the progress on school infrastructure projects, availability of teaching staff, classroom facilities and implementation of various educational initiatives. She directed the officers to focus on improving academic standards and ensuring better learning environments for students.

She further called for speedy completion of ongoing school building projects and upgradation works so that students do not face inconvenience. The Minister maintained that modern educational infrastructure is essential for enhancing the quality of education and ensuring equitable opportunities for students across the constituency.

During the meeting, the Minister also highlighted the importance of regular monitoring of developmental works and asked officers to ensure transparency and accountability in execution of projects. She said that timely completion of public welfare initiatives is necessary to meet people's expectations and accelerate overall development in the region.

J&K Biodiversity Council celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity Friday at Dachigam, highlighting the Union Territory's rich ecological heritage and reinforcing the global call to "Act Locally, Impact Globally."

The event was attended by Chief Guest Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Ecology and Environment; Sarvesh Rai, PCCF/HoFF J&K and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council; Chaturbhuj Bahera PCCF/CWW/Director SFRI and Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council; Irfan Rasool Wani, CCF Kashmir; Tawheed Ahmad Deva, Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir; Saurabh Sharma CF Srinagar; Irfan Ali Shah, CF North and Professor Anzar Khuroo Member Biodiversity Council from Kashmir University, alongside Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), Range Officers (ROs) and members of various Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) from across J&K.

In her address, Sheetal Nanda told the audience that the International Day for Biological Diversity serves as a vital reminder of humanity's deep dependence on the natural world. "Humans have a core responsibility to conserve biodiversity because our very survival depends on it," she stated.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the



critical need to balance infrastructure development with environmental preservation, noting that economic growth must not come at the cost of nature. On this occasion, she directed the Council to prepare a comprehensive catalog of the region's flora, fauna and avian species and advocated creation of ex-situ (off-site) conservation areas to protect the vulnerable species.

Sarvesh Rai outlined J&K's unique ecological footprint, noting that 48% of the region's geographic area is under forest cover, with 25% of that dedicated to Wildlife Protected Areas. He highlighted the vital ecosystem services that forests provide, such as water purification and pollination and pointed out the economic significance of the region's Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

"Our local BMCs have successfully collected ₹25 crore over the last three years," Rai revealed while advocating the sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants to safeguard them for future generations. He

also shared positive conservation news, noting that populations of iconic species like the Hangul, Brown Bear, Black Bear and Tiger are steadily bouncing back.

Earlier, Chaturbhuj Bahera highlighted that biodiversity extends far beyond dense forests to include agricultural and cultural diversity, which must be protected to ensure future food security. He spoke on the root causes of human-animal conflict and emphasized the crucial role played by the 2,490 active BMCs across Jammu and Kashmir in documenting the local resources.

Providing a broader scientific context, Professor Anzar Khuroo noted that India is one of only 20 mega-diverse countries globally, harboring 4 of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. He detailed the immense richness of the Himalayan ecosystem, which boasts 12,000 flowering plant species, 5,000 of which are found in Kashmir alone. He stressed the need for "course correction" in development practices to achieve true sustainability.

IGP reviews security arrangements for upcoming Eid-ul-Adha, Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi Friday reviewed security and logistical arrangements during a meeting held at PCR Kashmir to assess preparedness for upcoming festivals and the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

The meeting was attended by DIsG of IR Kashmir, CKR Kashmir, Traffic Kashmir, SKR Anantnag, Armed Kashmir, all district SSSPs of Kashmir Zone (including PDs), SO to IGP Kashmir, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSSP of Traffic Rural Kashmir, Special Crime Wing Kashmir, CID SB Kashmir, APCR Kashmir, Telecom Kashmir, CO SDRF 1st Bn Kashmir, SP Cargo Srinagar, Addl. SP Security Kashmir, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, District SSSP gave detailed presentations regarding security preparedness, deployment plans, traffic regulation, crowd management measures, and other logistical arrangements concerning Eid-ul-Adha celebrations and the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Highlighting the significance of the Eid celebrations, IGP Kashmir directed officers to implement robust crowd management measures at mosques and major congregation points across the Valley. Shri V.K. Birdi-IPS emphasized the need for adequate security measures to regulate entry and exit points, ensure public safety, and deploy

security personnel at sensitive locations to avoid overcrowding. IGP Kashmir also instructed field officers to intensify surveillance, conduct random checks at vulnerable spots, and enhance patrolling to counter any potential security threats during the festive period.

Reviewing arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), IGP Kashmir emphasized coordinated planning and preparedness, particularly regarding the safety and security of the Yatis. Shri V.K. Birdi instructed officers to strengthen security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying Anti-Sabotage teams along the Yatra routes. He also urged officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities by utilizing advanced technologies and real-time monitoring on both pilgrimage routes.

Additionally, IGP Kashmir provided insights into the necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that must be followed throughout the pilgrimage. He underscored the significance of collaboration among stakeholders and the implementation of robust contingency plans to effectively address any unforeseen challenges.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to ensure the highest level of preparedness and commitment to safeguarding the lives and well-being of residents, devotees, and visitors during the festive season and the annual pilgrimage.

Doctor Receives 8 Stitches After Alleged Attack by Attendant in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: A medical officer at District Hospital Pulwama sustained head injuries requiring eight stitches after he was allegedly assaulted by an attendant inside the hospital premises, officials said on Friday.

The incident also left a security guard injured during the altercation.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Pulwama, Dr. Abdul Gani, told KNT that the injured doctor, iden-

tified as Dr. Omar Khan, was attacked while performing his duties at the Outpatient Department (OPD).

According to Dr. Gani, the incident occurred after an attendant allegedly tried to compel Dr. Omar Khan to examine his patient. He said the doctor had already worked an additional hour beyond duty time and had advised the attendant to have the patient examined by another doctor who was on duty.

"The attendant pushed the doctor and attacked

him with a sitting bench. The iron portion of the bench struck his forehead, causing serious injury," Dr. Abdul Gani said.

He said Dr. Omar Khan suffered a head wound and required eight stitches on his forehead.

Dr. Gani added that a police case has been registered and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the assailant.

"We have registered a police case and efforts are on to nab and identify the

attacker," he said.

Meanwhile, the FAIMA Doctors Association strongly condemned the assault, terming the attack unacceptable and alarming.

In a statement, FAIMA said violence against healthcare workers must be dealt with strictly and called for immediate action against those responsible.

Dr. Mohammad Momin Khan said Dr. Omar Khan was attacked while discharging his professional responsibilities inside the

hospital.

"Doctors are meant to save lives, not become victims of violence inside hospitals," Dr. Momin said.

He urged the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama and police authorities to ensure prompt and strict action against those involved in the assault.

The incident has once again brought attention to concerns surrounding the safety and security of healthcare professionals working in public hospitals. [KNT]

Pre-dawn Hailstorm Ravages Orchards, Crops in South Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In the pre-dawn hours on Friday, a heavy hailstorm swept through several villages of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, damaging orchards and standing crops and triggering fresh anxiety among farmers already dependent on a delicate agricultural season.

The hailstorm struck Nagbal, Zaradihar, Machama, Chankitaar, Mandora, Panmer Jageer and

adjoining areas, pelting orchards and vegetable fields with intense hail.

Local residents said the storm struck during pre-dawn hours and lasted long enough to leave visible damage across agricultural belts.

Apple blossoms, regarded as the foundation of the coming fruit season and a principal source of livelihood for thousands of farming families, were among the worst affected.

Farmers said the hail badly damaged blossoms and tender fruit-bearing growth in orchards, raising fears of reduced yield and financial losses later in the season.

Vegetable fields also suffered damage as hail and strong weather conditions battered standing crops.

Several affected growers expressed concern over the extent of losses and called for immediate assessment by the horticulture and revenue departments.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Intimidation Of Sacrificial Animal Traders

As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, livestock markets across Jammu and Kashmir are once again descending into complete disorder, exposing the shocking failure of regulatory authorities to protect ordinary consumers from unchecked exploitation. From arbitrary pricing to open intimidation, many sacrificial animal traders appear to be operating above the law. Rates are being fixed at the whims of sellers, with no transparency, no accountability, and absolutely no fear of administrative action. What should have been a religious occasion marked by dignity and fairness has instead become an annual season of economic blackmail.

Consumers visiting cattle markets are being forced to pay exorbitant amounts for animals whose prices often have no logical basis. Bargaining is frequently met with arrogance, hostility, and coercive tactics. The common citizen, already struggling under inflation and financial stress, is left helpless before a cartel-like system that functions without restraint.

The silence of the administration is equally disturbing. One is compelled to ask: where are the market regulators, municipal authorities, consumer protection bodies, and enforcement agencies? Have they surrendered public spaces entirely to profiteers? The absence of visible regulation has emboldened unscrupulous traders who now behave as though livestock markets are their private fiefdoms.

Adding to the chaos is the complete lack of standardisation in weighing practices, health certification, sanitation, and price monitoring. There is little oversight to ensure whether animals are healthy, fairly priced, or even being sold in hygienic conditions. This administrative vacuum not only encourages exploitation but also undermines public trust.

Authorities cannot continue treating this issue as a seasonal inconvenience. Strict market regulation, price monitoring committees, designated sale zones, veterinary inspections, and consumer grievance mechanisms must be implemented immediately. Surprise inspections and penalties against violators are no longer optional — they are necessary.

Eid-ul-Azha is a sacred occasion rooted in sacrifice, compassion, and community spirit. Allowing greedy elements to hijack the festival for profiteering and public exploitation is both unacceptable and shameful. If the administration continues to look away, it will only reinforce the perception that lawlessness thrives wherever accountability disappears.

The Spiritual Core Of Qurbani

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Muslims all around the world are all set to perform "Qurbani". All those Muslims who can afford a sacrificial animal are under obligation to sacrifice an animal as prescribed by Islam. Most of the people see this ritual merely associated with money. No doubt the money plays an important role in it. But it's not about money; it's something way beyond.

Let's go back to where it emerged. Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) had no child up to the age of 86. But he used to pray to Allah to grant him a child. When we look at science, it's impossible to have a child at this age. When Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) used to pray for a child at this age, his wife Hazrat Sarah (ra) used to wonder how at this age they

At the time of Ismail's birth, Ibrahim's wife, Sarah, was unable to bear children, so Ibrahim had married her handmaiden, Hajar (Hagar), who became Ismail's mother. Later, when Ibrahim was 100 years old, his second son, Prophet Is'haq (Isaac), was born to Sarah.

could become parents. But Allah isn't bound by any restrictions. At the age of 86 Allah blessed Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) with his first son. At the time of Ismail's birth, Ibrahim's wife, Sarah, was unable to bear children, so Ibrahim had married her handmaiden, Hajar (Hagar), who became Ismail's mother. Later, when Ibrahim was 100 years old, his second son, Prophet Is'haq (Isaac), was born to Sarah. A very important thing to note. Not only at the age of 86 but also at the age of 100 Allah blessed



Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) with a child. This must be a clear understanding for all those waiting for a miracle to happen. When you have firm belief, anything can happen. But the condition is that your belief should be only and only in Allah, not anyone else.

When Allah blessed Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) with Hazrat Ismail (AS). He was put to test by Allah. Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was asked to leave his wife Hajar and his infant son Ismael (Ishmael) in the barren, uninhabited valley of Makkah (in the Arabian Peninsula). At the time, this location was an empty desert with no water or vegetation. He left them with only a small leather bag of dates and a skin of water before returning to Palestine. This faithful act eventually led to the settlement of Makkah and the construction of the Kaaba. When Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) completed the construction of the Kaaba. He was asked to call People to come for Haji. Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), seeing the barren land and no one around, asked, "Ya Allah, who will hear my call?" Allah replied, "You do it and leave the rest to me." It's said the lakhs of people who go to perform Hajj is in response to the same call. And the same call shall be responded to till the day of Judgement.

Muslims who have gone to Perform Haj shall have to run between the mountains of Safa and Marwa. One of the essentials of Haj. The running between the mountains is linked to event when Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) left his son and his

wife alone on the order of Allah. She ran between the mountains when they ran out of water. It's from where the Zamzam water has originated.

We need to pause here and think. Father gets a son after 86 years of waiting. And he's being asked to let the same son at the place where there's no one other than them. What do we grasp from the event? Allah tests to check the level of the Imam. And that tests are not for those whom Allah is annoyed with. But for those who Allah loves.

It's mentioned in the Quran multiple times that those who are the believers are tested by Allah so that their rewards are increased. Same was done with Hazrat Ibrahim (AS). He was first made to wait for 86 years before he was blessed with a child, and then he was asked to abandon the same son along with his wife at a place where there were no human beings living. It was just Hazrat Ismail (AS) and Hazrat Hajar (ra). For Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) the tests weren't over. There was much more to come. Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) had a dream, and in the dream he was asked to sacrifice his son Hazrat Ismail for the sake of Allah. When he woke up in the morning, he went to his son Hazrat Ismail (AS) and told him about the dream. To which he said, "If it's from Allah, I am ready." It's reported that Shaitan went to Hazrat Hajar (ra) and told her that "Your husband had a dream where he got command from Allah to sacrifice Ismail for me." To which she replied,

"When it's from Allah. I have no problem. I won't stop them."

There are many stories associated with the event of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismail (AS), but all at the end lead to the same goal, and that's the trust of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) in Allah. The only thing that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) had in his mind was how his actions shall please Allah and no one else. When Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) made Hazrat Ismail lie down and tried to make a cut on his neck, the knife failed to do it. After many attempts, he angrily threw the knife, which hit a stone and broke into two. After a brief time Allah sent an animal and asked Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) to sacrifice it. Is it that the only purpose of sacrificing an animal is to fulfil the requirements? No, the basic fundamental purpose of it is to teach us that when it's an order from Allah, you have to sacrifice your most loved thing. And that too without giving it a second thought. As Allah has mentioned it clearly in the Holy Quran, if you love your wealth, your hard-earned wealth, your cultivated lands, your children, your parents and your wives more than me. Wait till I send down trouble for you.

It's very important to understand we as Muslims should have the order of Allah, the most important and beloved for us and that's what the sacrificing of animals teaches us.

Author is a law student. He can be mailed at raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com

The Heat Is On And So Is Our Responsibility

LALIT GARGG

The summer of 2026 has emerged not merely as a seasonal phenomenon but as a grave warning standing before human civilization. The record-breaking heatwaves that swept across India and several parts of South Asia during April and May have made one reality unmistakably clear: climate change is no longer a crisis of the future; it is the frightening reality of the present. Temperatures soared to 46-48°C across Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and several regions of central India. Electricity demand shattered previous records in many cities. Streets fell silent, labour activities slowed, and for children, the elderly, and economically vulnerable communities, survival itself became a challenge.

This crisis did not emerge overnight. It is the consequence of decades of ecological imbalance, reckless urbanization, deforestation, overexploitation of natural resources, and an excessively consumption-driven lifestyle. Nature repeatedly sent warning signals, but in the blind pursuit of development, humanity chose to ignore them. Today, those neglected warnings have returned in the form of devastating heatwaves. The root cause of heatwaves is not merely rising temperatures but a development model that has weakened the Earth's natural protective systems. Forests have long functioned as the planet's natural air conditioners. They absorb carbon dioxide, cool the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, and maintain the balance of rainfall cycles. Tragically, forests have been destroyed at an alarming pace in the name of development, with millions of hectares disappearing every year. The result has been predictable: local tempera-

tures have risen, humidity levels have declined, rainfall patterns have become erratic, and the duration of heat spells has lengthened.

Today, cities have transformed into "concrete jungles." Green spaces in urban areas are shrinking rapidly, replaced by cement, asphalt, and glass-covered skyscrapers. This has intensified the Urban Heat Island effect, making cities significantly warmer than surrounding rural regions. Concrete absorbs heat throughout the day and releases it slowly at night, causing nights to remain unusually hot and depriving the human body of essential relief. Cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, and Lucknow are witnessing steadily rising nighttime temperatures. Conditions are even more severe in low-income settlements, where green cover is absent, water supply remains inadequate, and cooling facilities are scarce. Homes with tin roofs become furnaces during the day. Heatwaves also deepen social inequality. The affluent can seek refuge in air-conditioned spaces, but labourers, rickshaw pullers, street vendors, and construction workers continue to toil under the open sky.

Ironically, the most popular solution to rising heat—air conditioning—is itself becoming a contributor to the crisis. An air conditioner cools indoor spaces while expelling an equal amount of hot air outdoors. It also increases electricity consumption, much of which still depends on coal-based energy. Refrigerant gases further intensify greenhouse effects. Thus, a vicious cycle has emerged: rising temperatures lead to increased use of air conditioners, which raises emissions and, in turn, causes temperatures to rise further. The impacts of climate change extend far beyond temperature increases. Agriculture, food security, public health, and the economy are all under growing threat. Scientific



studies indicate that rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns are already affecting the productivity of wheat, rice, and other crops. Heat stress inhibits plant growth, dries water sources, and degrades soil fertility. If this trend continues, food insecurity could become a major challenge in the coming years.

The health sector is already experiencing severe consequences. Cases of heatstroke, dehydration, cardiovascular ailments, and mental stress are rising. Hospitals are reporting increasing numbers of heat-related illnesses. The most vulnerable include children, the elderly, pregnant women, and outdoor workers. This heat crisis also carries the potential to evolve into a broader humanitarian challenge. Drying water sources, agricultural distress, and deteriorating living conditions may trigger large-scale migration. Biodiversity is equally under threat, with numerous species of flora and fauna losing their natural habitats and facing existential risks. In such circumstances, the role of governments becomes critically important. Merely issuing red and orange alerts is no longer sufficient. Heatwaves must be recognized as a central issue in national disaster management strategies, supported by long-term policy interventions.

Cities need effective implementation of Heat Action Plans. Expansion of green cover, water conservation measures, shaded pathways, public drinking water facilities, and cooling centres must become priorities. School schedules, workplace timings, and public activities should be adjusted according to regional temperature conditions. Working hours for labourers should be regulated during peak afternoon heat, and mandatory provisions for rest and drinking water must be ensured.

Building policies also require urgent transformation. Traditional Indian architectural practices—ventilated homes, courtyards, and natural ventilation—should be revived and promoted. The dominance of glass facades and heat-absorbing structures demands serious reconsideration. Technologies such as cool roofs, rainwater harvesting systems, and solar-powered cooling mechanisms should receive strong policy support.

Forest conservation and afforestation must move beyond symbolic campaigns and become national priorities. Urban micro-forests, parks, green corridors, and the restoration of lakes and traditional water bodies should be pro-

moted, as these play a crucial role in regulating local temperatures. However, governments alone cannot win this battle. Citizens must also recognize their responsibility. Reconsidering consumerist lifestyles is imperative. Water conservation, energy efficiency, tree plantation, use of public transport, and local environmental protection are no longer personal choices—they are social responsibilities. Indian society once had a rich tradition of public water stations (pyau), shaded rest shelters, and community water services. Providing drinking water to travelers during summer was considered an act of virtue. Reviving these traditions is the need of the hour. Social organizations, religious institutions, and volunteer groups can collectively launch campaigns for water service and heat relief.

Heat and water crises must become subjects of cooperation and solutions rather than political contention. Water disputes and self-serving politics over resources will only make the future more difficult. Environmental conservation, water management, and climate adaptation must become matters of national consensus. The scorching summer of 2026 is warning humanity that unless we restore harmony with nature, future years will become even harsher. Rising temperatures, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and increasing human suffering may define the coming decades. This is not the time to fight nature; it is the time to coexist with it. We must adopt a model of development that safeguards the environment, human life, and future generations. Otherwise, the day may not be far when the sun's heat will cease to be merely an inconvenience and become a profound threat to human existence.

The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@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



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

Land, Trust, And Timelines

Why Backlog Mutations Matter More Than You Think

MOHD AMIN MIR

There is a tendency in our country to treat government review meetings as little more than box-ticking exercises, photographs of officials sitting around a table, a few files shuffled, some vague assurances given, and then business as usual. But that cynical view misses something essential. In any modern administration, periodic reviews are not ceremonial. They are the instruments through which intent is converted into action, paperwork is transformed into public service, and accountability is injected into the system.

Nowhere is this more true than in Jammu & Kashmir, and within that, nowhere more critical than the Revenue Department. Land, records, mutations, inheritances, compensation, these are not abstract legal terms. They are the stuff of daily survival for lakhs of people across the Union Territory. When the Revenue Department works efficiently, a farmer gets a loan, a family proves its inheritance, a displaced person reclaims a sliver of security. When it stumbles, lives can be ruined for decades.

That is why a recent review meeting chaired by the Financial Commissioner Revenue at Dak Bungalow Anantnag deserves more than a passing mention. It was not a grand spectacle. There were no press releases bursting with self-congratulation. What happened instead was something far more valuable: a quiet, thorough, and serious stock-taking of how the revenue machinery is actually performing on the ground. The presence of the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, both Additional Deputy Commissioners, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, and Naib Tehsildars was not just for show. It signalled that from the top echelons down to the field, the message was clear, governance is being watched, measured, and pushed to perform.

What makes such meetings indispensable is the administrative momentum they create. Senior officers get a real feel for bottlenecks that never appear in written reports. Field officers, who often operate in relative isolation, realise that their work is being noticed. Problems that have festered for months get flagged, and solutions are demanded within timelines. More than anything, these gatherings send a powerful signal to the public that the administration is not asleep at the wheel.

The focus of the Anantnag review was telling. It was not about ritualistic speeches or routine formalities. The discussion reportedly covered almost every nerve centre of revenue admin-

istration: backlog mutations, migrant grievances, the Jan Sugam platform, the Revenue Plus Portal, RTI applications, and the overall delivery of online services. This is precisely the kind of granular review that separates serious governance from mere posturing.

Let me dwell on backlog mutations, because this is where a silent administrative revolution is underway. For decades, thousands of

That is why a recent review meeting chaired by the Financial Commissioner Revenue at Dak Bungalow Anantnag deserves more than a passing mention. It was not a grand spectacle. There were no press releases bursting with self-congratulation. What happened instead was something far more valuable: a quiet, thorough, and serious stock-taking of how the revenue machinery is actually performing on the ground.

mutations across Jammu & Kashmir remained either unattested or, even if attested, not properly uploaded into digital records. Why does this matter? Because a mutation is the legal bridge between a change in land ownership—through inheritance, sale, gift, or court order, and the official record. When mutations pile up, what emerges is a



dangerous gap between ground reality and government papers. Disputes multiply, banks refuse loans, court cases clog the system, and ordinary citizens are left running from one office to another.

The news from the Anantnag meeting was genuinely encouraging: nearly seventy percent of the backlog mutation uploading process has already been completed. This is not a small achievement. It is the result of sustained pressure, digital upgrades, and a recognition that old manual systems cannot serve a modern society. Seventy percent is not one hundred, but it is a solid platform to build on. It shows that the department is moving in the right direction, and that the remaining thirty percent is now a matter of when, not if.

Alongside this, the emphasis on migrant grievances struck a deeply humane note. Governance is not merely about data entry and file disposal. It is about the lived reality of people who have endured immense hardship. For migrants from Jammu & Kashmir, issues related to land, property records, inheritance, and encroachments are not abstract legal puzzles. They are daily wounds. When the Financial Commissioner reportedly directed officers to resolve all such grievances within a short span, it was not just an administrative instruction. It was an acknowledgment that the state owes a duty of care to its most vulnerable citizens. Timely resolution restores faith. Delay deepens despair. That distinction is not lost on those who have waited years for a single piece of paper.

The review's attention to digital platforms, Jan Sugam, Revenue Plus Portal, and online services, reflects a broader and necessary shift. We have moved past the era where citizens had to make endless pilgrimages to revenue offices, hoping to find the right official on the right day. Digital governance, when done properly, reduces corrup-

tion, eliminates middlemen, accelerates service delivery, and empowers people to track their own applications. The fact that disposal rates on these platforms were found satisfactory in the meeting suggests that the culture of e-governance is finally taking root. But a word of caution: digitisation must be accurate. A wrong entry in an online record can be as damaging as a missing one. Capacity building, training, and continuous monitoring are not optional extras; they are the bedrock of success.

RTI applications were also on the agenda, and rightly so. The Right to Information Act remains one of the most powerful tools for democratic accountability. A revenue department that handles land, perhaps the most emotive and valuable asset for any family, must welcome scrutiny. Delays in responding to RTI queries create suspicion. Efficient responses build trust. The emphasis on proper handling of RTI matters, therefore, is not a bureaucratic formality. It is a statement that this administration has nothing to hide.

I must also note something that is rarely discussed in official summaries: the personal leadership shown by the Financial Commissioner Revenue. It is easy for senior officers to remain enconced in their chambers, dealing with policy files and inter-ministerial meetings. To spare valuable time from an extremely busy schedule and personally sit through a detailed review in a historic district like Anantnag, that is not a small thing. It demonstrates that administrative leadership gains meaning only when it stays connected to field realities. And interestingly, among common people in the region, the Financial Commissioner is reportedly being compared to a "second Lawrence of Jammu & Kashmir." That reference to Sir Walter Lawrence, the famed settlement officer of the late nineteenth century, may be historically ambitious. But the senti-

ment behind it is genuine. People do not bestow such comparisons lightly. They do so when they perceive sincerity, discipline, and reform-oriented action over an extended period.

That said, no honest opinion can pretend that all challenges are behind us. The remaining backlog of mutations must be cleared within a fixed timeframe. Accuracy in digitisation cannot be sacrificed for speed. Many field-level officials still need deeper training on digital systems. Public awareness campaigns are needed so that citizens actually use online services instead of falling back on touts and middlemen. Internet connectivity and hardware in remote areas remain genuine constraints. And perhaps most importantly, the review mechanism itself must be sustained. One good meeting does not transform a department. A series of such meetings, with consistent follow-up and real consequences for delays, is what will finally change the culture.

What made the Anantnag meeting different was its refusal to be perfunctory. It was not a photo opportunity. It was not a lecture. It was a working session where progress was measured, gaps were identified, and instructions were issued with timelines. That is how governance should function every day.

In the end, the success of the Revenue Department, or any department, is not measured by the number of meetings held. It is measured by whether a citizen walking into a tehsil office feels heard, whether a widow gets her inheritance recorded without bribes, whether a migrant receives a long-delayed compensation, whether a farmer can walk into a bank with a clean online record. Meetings like the one in Anantnag are not the final destination. They are the necessary engine along the way.

Jammu & Kashmir stands at an important crossroads. Digitisation, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric governance are no longer optional ideals, they are the only path forward. If the discipline shown in Anantnag becomes a template for regular reviews across all districts, the Revenue Department can emerge as a genuine model of modern governance. And that, more than any comparison to historical figures, would be the real achievement. Because the ultimate measure of any administration is not how many files it clears, but how much public trust it earns. Small steps, honestly taken, are what move us toward that ideal. The meeting at Dak Bungalow Anantnag was one such step. May there be many more.

The author can be mailed at mira-min354@gmail.com

Kashmir's Falling Fertility Rate

NAWAZ MANZOOR

Nestled in the northern reaches of the Indian subcontinent, Kashmir has long been renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural tapestry & vibrant communities. Yet, beneath this scenic & cultural splendor lies a demographic phenomenon quietly reshaping the region's future—the marked decline in fertility rates. This demographic shift is not merely a statistical curiosity, it is a profound transformation with far-reaching implications on the social fabric, economy & cultural continuity of Kashmir. The fertility rate, defined as the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime, serves as a vital indicator of population dynamics. In Kashmir, recent decades have witnessed a conspicuous downward trend in this rate, mirroring global patterns yet influenced by uniquely local factors. This article endeavors to unravel the complex web of causes driving this decline, explore its multifaceted consequences, & consider pathways for addressing the emerging demographic challenges.

Historically, Kashmir had relatively high fertility rates, consistent with traditional rural societies where larger families were common due to agrarian lifestyles, lower access to healthcare & cultural preferences. However, over the past few decades, fertility rates in Kashmir have steadily declined. According to data from various health surveys & census reports, the total fertility rate (TFR) in Kashmir has dropped below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman in



many districts. This trend aligns with improvements in education, healthcare, & socio-economic conditions but also reflects changing aspirations and lifestyles.

Drug addiction is emerging as a key driver behind falling fertility among young adults in Kashmir. Narcotics interfere with the endocrine system, leading to poor sperm health in males & irregular cycles in females. Substance use is also tied to unhealthy lifestyles, risky sexual behaviour & nutritional deficiencies that weaken reproductive potential. For Kashmiri youth navigating unemployment & social

stress, addiction amplifies these challenges & pushes fertility rates lower. Comprehensive strategies involving education, rehabilitation services & mental health support are needed to protect fertility & maintain population balance.

Understanding TFR and Replacement Level

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) measures the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime based on current age-specific fertility rates. A TFR of 2.1 is the "replacement level" needed to keep a population stable without migration. Jammu & Kashmir has now dropped

far below this threshold, marking one of India's fastest fertility declines.

Govt Data Showing Kashmir's Fertility Crash

National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

NFHS-3 (2005-06): J&K TFR = 2.4

NFHS-4 (2015-16): J&K TFR = 1.7

NFHS-5 (2019-21): J&K TFR = 1.4

That is a decline of 1.0 child per woman in 15 years.

NFHS-5 shows a rural-urban split: Rural TFR = 1.50, Urban TFR = 1.20

Sample Registration System (SRS) - Registrar General of India

2005: J&K TFR = 2.400

2019: J&K TFR = 1.500

2020: J&K TFR = 1.500 - record low

Birth Rate 2023: 14.4 per 1000. Urban = 12.2

J&K's Rank: 6th lowest among States/UTs at 1.40 TFR.

Only Sikkim 1.05, Ladakh 1.30, Goa 1.32, Chandigarh 1.39, and Lakshadweep 1.40 are lower/equal. SRS data shows J&K's TFR stayed constant at 1.500 in 2019 and 2020, after falling from 2.400 in 2005. This sustained low rate puts J&K in "demographic contraction" territory, similar to Japan & Italy.

Why Is Fertility Falling?

Late Marriages & Infertility: Dr. Farhat Jabeen, former head of obstetrics at GMC Srinagar, cites late marriages & rising obesity as key drivers of infertility in the region

Economic Insecurity

PLFS 2024 reported J&K unemployment at 30%. Demographers note that underemployment and cost of living make larger families unaffordable. Urban TFR 1.2 vs Rural 1.5 reflects economic pressure in cities.

Urbanisation & Nuclear Families: Rapid urbanization reduces extended family support for childcare. Couples in Srinagar & Jammu report choosing 1-2 children due to space, schooling costs & lack of help.

Successful Family Planning

Director-General, Family Welfare Dept, J&K called the decline a "rare success" of family welfare programmes. NFHS-5 shows high contraceptive use & women opting for delayed second births.

District-Level Patterns

NFHS-5 district fact sheets show wide variation, but all districts are below replacement. Between NFHS-4 & NFHS-5, the number of districts in India with TFR below 1.6 rose from 21 to 166. In J&K, districts like Srinagar and Jammu show urban TFR near 1.1, while some rural districts are closer to 1.6.

J&K's fall from TFR 2.4 in 2005-06 to 1.4 in 2019-21 is one of India's steepest. Govt data from NFHS & SRS confirms the region is well below replacement level. The declining fertility rate in Kashmir is a bewildering phenomenon shaped by an intricate blend of socioeconomic, cultural, political & health-related factors. Understanding this demographic transition is essential not only for policymakers but also for the people of Kashmir, as it holds the key to shaping the region's future trajectory. Through informed dialogue, targeted interventions & inclusive development, Kashmir can navigate this demographic shift to secure a prosperous & harmonious future.

The author can be mailed at nawazmanzoor71@gmail.com

CM extends greetings on Urs of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani (RA)

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of the annual Urs of revered saint Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani (RA), popularly known as Ameer-e-Kabeer.

In his message, the Chief Minister highlighted the immense spiritual, cultural and social contributions of Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabeer (RA), whose teachings of peace, compassion, brotherhood and righteousness continue to guide humanity and inspire generations across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

The Chief Minister said that the revered saint played a pivotal role in spreading the message of Islam, promoting communal harmony and enriching the region's spiritual and cultural heritage through his wisdom, scholarship and exemplary character.

He urged the people to imbibe the noble values preached by the saint and work collectively towards strengthening mutual respect, unity and harmony in society.

The Chief Minister prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the blessed occasion.

SKUAST-K organizes Tribal Agriculture Development Programme in Machil

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project entitled "Transforming Tribal Agriculture, a Comprehensive Vegetable Development Initiative" sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, an input distribution and farmers' awareness programme was successfully organized at Machil area of District Kupwara in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kupwara, with the objective of strengthening vegetable-based livelihood opportunities among tribal farming communities.

A team of five scientists

from the Division of Vegetable Science, Faculty of Horticulture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir lead by Head, Division of Vegetable Science Prof. Ishfaq Abidi, Prof. Faheema Mushtaq, Dr. Asima Amin, Principal Investigator (PI) of the project, Dr. Ummiyah Masoodi and Dr. Berjes Zehra, along with technical staff, participated in the programme. Scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kupwara, including Prof. G. M. Bhat, were also present during the event.

As part of the programme, more than 100 tribal beneficiary families were provided

with vegetable cultivation input kits comprising quality seed material and other essential inputs required for scientific vegetable production. The intervention aims to promote the adoption of improved vegetable cultivation technologies, enhance household nutritional security, and augment farm income in the remote tribal areas of Machil.

A comprehensive training and awareness programme was also conducted for the participating farmers focusing on scientific cultivation practices of vegetable crops, improved crop production technologies, nutrient and pest management, and the

role of vegetable cultivation in livelihood enhancement and sustainable agricultural development.

The experts highlighted the adoption of new innovative approaches for quality seed production, establishment of protected structures, harnessing of solar energy and utilization of organic village concept to move forward for sustainable production in Machil area.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local farming community, who appreciated the efforts of the whole team of SKUAST-K, Division of Vegetable Science and ICAR for supporting this

initiative and expressed keen interest in adopting modern vegetable production technologies for improving productivity, income generation, and socio-economic upliftment in the tribal region.

The programme was framed under the guidance of Prof. Nazir A Ganie, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth Director Extension and Director Research who have been advocating for wider outreach programmes for tribal belts.

The participants appreciated the efforts of Division of Vegetable Science and Tribal Sub Plan project team for this endeavour in these high altitude areas.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Drugs, Terrorism

Governor reiterated his administration's commitment to a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising that saving the younger generation remains his primary objective. "This is also an answer to them (adversaries), but my main objective is to save our younger generation," Sinha added.

The remarks come amid an ongoing crackdown on narcotics smuggling networks in the Union Territory, with multiple agencies working to dismantle terror-funded drug trails originating from across the border.

If Need Arises

offices to district administrations, especially along the India-Bangladesh border.

According to Shah, the BSF's role would not remain limited to stopping or pushing back infiltrators, but would also focus on preventing illegal entry attempts through stronger intelligence and administrative coordination.

He added that the Centre and border states were working together to strengthen border security infrastructure and ensure smooth implementation of fencing and surveillance projects—(KNO)

IFS Induction Stalled

documents, the Union Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change has not determined IFS promotion quota vacancies for J&K beyond Select Year 2012, due to the legal and procedural constraints.

In a ray of hope that the issue could be sorted out, the Division Bench of High Court settled the matter vide judgment dated 21.11.2024.

After the judgement, the proposal for constitution of State Forest service with the approval of the Competent Authority was forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India for approval December 11, 2025.

"Upon approval and notification of the State Forest Service, the process for determination and filling up of promotion quota vacancies in IFS will be initiated," the documents state.

The Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change examined the matter and found that only J&K Forest (Gazetted) Service (Territorial) is satisfying the recruitment, training and other criteria envisaged in the Ministry notification No.3-17/99-RT(1) dated 21.06.2004.

"Therefore, the state Government is requested to submit the proposal for consideration of J&K Forest (Gazetted) Service (Territorial) under Rule 2(g) of IFS (Recruitment) Rules, 1996," reads the letter written to J&K Chief Secretary to MoEF & CC.

Rule 2(g) of the Indian Forest Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1996 defines what constitutes a "State Forest Service" for the purpose of induction into the IFS under the 33% promotion quota—(KNO)

Camels Arrive In Kashmir

curiosity. Many see it as a practical and affordable option for several families or friends together," a trader said at a local livestock market.

The growing visibility of camels in markets has also turned them into a point of attraction, with visitors gath-

ering around transport vehicles and temporary holding areas to inspect the animals.

The emergence of camel trade in Kashmir markets reflects changing consumer choices and growing exposure to practices followed elsewhere in the Muslim world. [KNT]

India, Cyprus

of financing channels and logistical support systems.

As part of institutional cooperation, the two countries agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism to enhance coordination on intelligence sharing, counter-radicalisation efforts and security capacity building.

Prime Minister Modi, during the discussions, also outlined broader security cooperation including cyber security, maritime domain awareness and emerging technology-based defence systems.

The talks formed part of a wider strategic shift in bilateral relations, with both sides agreeing to expand engagement across defence, infrastructure and digital sectors. Cyprus also reiterated its support for India's position on global governance reforms, including its bid for a permanent seat in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

President Christodoulides, on his part, said global governance structures must reflect current geopolitical realities and stressed deeper cooperation with India in addressing shared security challenges.

The visit also included discussions on investment, migration mobility frameworks and trade cooperation, with both sides noting steady growth in economic ties.

However, officials said counter-terrorism remained a central pillar of the renewed partnership, with both New Delhi and Nicosia describing terrorism as a shared global threat requiring urgent and coordinated international action—(KNO)

CS Reviews Comprehensive

rectification of black spots, widening of major roads, creation of rotaries and junction improvements in both cities.

He stressed the need for clearly identifying funding sources for all the proposed works, noting that these interventions are aimed at providing much-needed relief to the general public by improving ease of mobility in the twin cities and other urban centres of the UT. He directed the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take up the matter with the Finance Department to ensure smooth and timely execution of these projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the measures undertaken by different departments for decongestion of major traffic corridors, augmentation of parking facilities, improvement of road infrastructure, streamlining of public transport and strengthening of intelligent traffic management systems in both the capital cities.

It was informed that several diversion routes have already been identified and operationalised in Jammu and Srinagar to reduce congestion on critical stretches and ensure smoother vehicular movement. In Jammu city, 10 diversion routes are being utilized

for traffic decongestion. Similarly, five diversion routes have been made operational in Srinagar to reduce pressure on heavily congested city stretches.

The meeting was informed that dedicated e-rickshaw zones have also been notified to regulate traffic movement and improve last-mile connectivity. Six e-rickshaw zones have been established in Jammu while multiple operational, free and restricted zones have been identified in Srinagar city with some already implemented and others under consideration in consultation with stakeholders.

Reviewing traffic regulation measures, the Chief Secretary was apprised that one-way traffic systems have been introduced at several key locations in both cities, while proposals for additional no-vehicle zones in crowded commercial and hospital areas are under implementation after consultations with stakeholders and local authorities.

The meeting further discussed the implementation of Smart City Command and Control Response Systems (SCCoRS), installation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS), creation of Automated Traffic Management System (ATMS) junctions and procurement of modern enforcement and surveillance equipment.

It was informed that Traffic Police and allied departments have procured motorcycles, interceptor vehicles, cranes, body-worn cameras and ambulances for better traffic enforcement and emergency response.

In order to improve road safety and enforce traffic discipline, action has also been taken against habitual offenders across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was informed that action has been initiated against more than 39,000 habitual offenders, resulting in suspension and cancellation of driving licences and registration certificates besides seizure and blacklisting of vehicles.

It was informed that several projects including Canal Head-Bohri, Jewel-Canal Head and Satwari-Belicharana road stretches in Jammu have already been completed, while other projects are at different stages of execution. In Srinagar, widening proposals and road safety interventions are under progress, including installation of metal beam crash barriers and preparation of DPRs for identified black spots.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of no-parking zones, IT-based parking systems, on-street parking management, parking policy formulation and development of dedicated vending zones. It was informed that GIS-based mapping for parking management is underway in Srinagar while several parking sites in Jammu have already been tendered and partially operationalised.

The meeting also discussed regulation of banquet halls and schools lacking adequate parking facilities. The Municipal Commissioners informed that notices have been issued to non-compliant establishments and parking management plans are being enforced to prevent roadside congestion.

Besides, the progress on installation of traffic signages, creation of no-honking zones, development of new roads, construction of rotaries and upgradation of bus stands in Jammu and Srinagar was also reviewed in detail.

The Chief Secretary further called for expediting all pending works, removing bottlenecks hampering project execution and ensuring visible improvement in traffic flow and

commuter convenience across the twin cities at the earliest.

Valley's High Altitudes

accompanied by heavy rain and gusty winds, also affected villages in the Zaingeer belt, where residents reported damage to agricultural land during the afternoon hours.

"The weather changed suddenly as dark clouds gathered over the area, followed by intense rainfall and hailstones. Apple orchards and crops have suffered damage," a resident from Rafiabab said.

Farmers expressed concern over losses to orchards and crops, saying the untimely hailstorm could impact the ongoing agricultural season in the area.

Officials said preliminary reports of damage had been received from affected villages, and assessment teams would evaluate the extent of losses.

The latest weather activity disrupted normal life in some areas, with waterlogging reported from low-lying localities and movement slowing on several roads during heavy showers.

The Meteorological Department said weather conditions are expected to remain unstable over the next few days.

According to the forecast, generally dry weather is expected during the forenoon between May 23 and 25, with brief showers likely at scattered places towards late afternoon hours.

From May 26 to 28, the weather is expected to remain mainly hot and dry across Jammu and Kashmir, while brief showers are likely at a few places between May 29 and 31.

Weather officials have advised people, particularly those in vulnerable and mountainous areas, to remain cautious during periods of thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorm activity—(KNO)

Centre, Ladakh Reach

Nagaland's customs and land rights, Article 371F secures Sikkim's laws and representation, and Article 371G protects Mizoram's traditions and land ownership.

According to the handout, legislative, executive, and financial powers will rest with elected representatives through a Union Territory-level legislative body. "All bureaucrats of the UT, including the Chief Secretary, will come under the executive head of the UT-level elected body proposed to be the Chief Minister," the handout stated.

The KDA and LAB stated that they look forward to closely working out the finer operational details with the MHA in consultation with legal and constitutional experts.

Both LAB and KDA said MHA authorities explained that the only reason Ladakh cannot be granted statehood at present is its lack of adequate revenue generation to meet revenue expenditures such as employee salaries. "However, this setup will lead Ladakh towards full statehood once it meets the revenue criteria," the handout further stated.

The handout was issued after a meeting of sub-committee comprising representatives of MHA, LAB and KDA.

During the meeting, both LAB and KDA, as per statement, reiterated the long-standing aspirations of the people of Ladakh regarding the restoration of democracy, constitutional safeguards, and the demand for Statehood and Sixth Schedule protections—(KNO)

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Sakeena Itoo calls for adopting comprehensive roadmap to curb drug abuse in Edu Institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a decisive move to strengthen the fight against substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday called for adopting a comprehensive roadmap and awareness mechanism in all educational institutions and coaching centres across Jammu and Kashmir to identify and prevent drug abuse among youth at an early stage.



Health departments to initiate structured awareness programmes in schools, colleges, universities and private coaching centres with the objective of early detection, timely counselling and rehabilitation of vulnerable students. She stressed that preventive intervention and awareness at the grassroots level are essential to protect the younger generation from falling prey to narcotic substances.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on strengthening drug de-addiction, mental health awareness and rehabilitation measures at Civil Secretariat here today, the Minister emphasized that the growing threat of drug addiction among young people demands a coordinated and society-wide response involving government departments, educational institutions, parents, civil society and healthcare professionals.

"Educational institutions are not merely centres of learning but also platforms for shaping responsible and healthy citizens. We must ensure that our campuses remain completely free from the influence of drugs and tobacco", the Minister stated.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez; Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director Social Welfare Kashmir/Jammu, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Director Colleges, Principals of all GMCs, Special Secretary Health and Medical Education, Joint Director Information (Hqrs), State Drug Controller, representatives of Civil Society Forum, Private Schools Association, Un-aided Private Schools Association and Private Coaching Centres Association, prominent citizens and other concerned stakeholders.

She directed the Commissioner Secretary Education to devise a proper roadmap for preventing and combating issues of drug menace in Educational institutions as well as coaching centres in coordination with other stakeholders.

Addressing the participants in the meeting, the Minister directed the officers of School Education, Higher Education and

Highlighting the need for a robust preventive framework, Sakeena Itoo instructed officials to intensify awareness campaigns focusing on the harmful effects of drug addiction, tobacco consumption and substance abuse. She asked the concerned stakeholders to involve Ulemas, Molvis, Masjid and Mohalla Committees in the awareness regarding impact of drug abuse on youngsters as a whole.

Taking serious note of the sale of tobacco in the vicinity of schools and colleges, the Minister issued strict directions to education department to coordinate with concerned agencies for the immediate closure of all shops and outlets for selling cigarettes and other tobacco products near educational institutions, in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

She further directed enforcement agencies to carry out regular inspections and ensure strict compliance with anti-tobacco laws, particularly around schools and coaching centres, warning that violators should face stringent action.

She asked the departments concerned to collaborate with school administrations, youth organisations and healthcare experts for conducting regular counselling sessions, seminars and community outreach programmes across urban as well as rural areas.

The Minister also stressed the importance of strengthening de-addiction and rehabilitation facilities across Jammu and Kashmir, while directing health officials to ensure accessible counselling services and treatment support for affected individuals and families.

During the meeting, representatives of Civil Society Forum, Private Schools Association, Un-aided Private Schools Association and Private Coaching Centres Association and other prominent citizens also gave their valuable suggestions for addressing this growing issue in the society.

Calling upon society to collectively address the menace, Sakeena Itoo reiterated the government's commitment towards safeguarding the future of the

youth and creating a healthier, drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez apprised the Minister about Whole-of-Government approaching on tackling this menace across Jammu and Kashmir. He informed the Minister about the Treatment and Stabilization, Reintegration and Livelihood Activation and Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion strategies for combating this menace.

Speaking during the meeting, noted Neurologist of J&K, Dr. Sushil Razdan said that young people are getting badly affected by this and doctors have prominent role to play in tackling this issue as they can pick the symptoms much early in the affected persons. He also called for de-stigmatisation of affected individuals.

Dr. Razdan also highlighted that doctors and medical professionals need to be careful about prescribing psychotic drugs and keep such patients under watch so that they don't become addicts of any particular medicine.

During the meeting, representatives of Civil Society Forum, Private Schools Association, Un-aided Private Schools Association and Private Coaching Centres Association and other prominent citizens also gave their valuable suggestions for addressing this growing issue in the society.

The attached property belongs to Umar Yousuf Rather of Chinigam and is linked to FIR No. 69/2021 registered under Sections 8/15 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Yaripora, police said.

According to police, the action was carried out under provisions of Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act

Debates, PTMs, Sports Activities held across Bandipora under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Awareness and outreach activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) continued across district Bandipora on Friday with debate competitions, discussion sessions, parent-teacher meetings, sports activities and awareness programmes organised at various educational institutions.



Educational institutions including HSS Budoab, HS Panar, Govt HSS PTL Gurez, GHS Naidkhai, GHS Nadihal, HS Koragbal, H/S Ketson, HS Malangam Tulail, Govt Boys High School Garoora, HSS Nowgam, PM SHRI HSS Shadipora, HSS Quilmuqam, PM SHRI GHS Odina and HS Wanpora conducted different activities under the NMBA action plan focusing on peer pressure awareness, positive decision-making, youth engagement and prevention of substance abuse.

At Govt HSS PTL Gurez, a debate and discussion programme on the theme "Peer Pressure" was organised

under Day-33 of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan by Shahjahan Sheikh.

Similar debate sessions on 'peer pressure' were conducted at GHS Naidkhai, HSS Nowgam, PM SHRI HSS Shadipora, HSS Quilmuqam and Govt Boys High School Garoora, where students actively participated and expressed their views on the positive and negative impacts of peer pressure.

At GHS Naidkhai, Teachers highlighted how positive peer pressure could motivate students towards discipline, education and good habits, while negative peer pressure could lead youth towards

addiction and harmful activities. Students were encouraged to make wise decisions, choose good company and remain committed towards a healthy and drug-free life.

PM SHRI HSS Shadipora organised interactive sessions, role plays and critical thinking exercises aimed at equipping students with tools to handle peer pressure and avoid substance abuse. The programme concluded with students taking a pledge for a clean, healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) were also organised at HS Koragbal, HS Malangam Tulail

and PM SHRI GHS Odina. During the meetings, teachers and parents discussed the academic performance, discipline, mental well-being, moral values and overall personality development of students. At PM SHRI GHS Odina, parents were also guided regarding registration on the JK Parent Plus platform for better communication and student monitoring.

Meanwhile, sports and extracurricular activities were organised at several institutions to promote healthy lifestyles among students. At HS Wanpora, a basketball match was organised under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, where students were encouraged to stay away from drugs and adopt positive and healthy activities through sports.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, parents and staff members across the district, reflecting the continued commitment of educational institutions towards strengthening awareness and preventive outreach under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Kulgam Police Attaches House Worth Rs 51 Lakh in NDPS Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Kulgam Police on Friday said it attached a double-storey residential house belonging to an accused involved in a narcotics case as part of its continuing drive against drug trafficking and properties allegedly acquired through illicit proceeds.



The attached property belongs to Umar Yousuf Rather of Chinigam and is linked to FIR No. 69/2021 registered under Sections 8/15 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Yaripora, police said.

According to police, the action was carried out under provisions of Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act

through the competent authority, SAFEMA, in the presence of revenue officials.

Police said the attached property comprises a double-storey residential house with an estimated present market value of nearly Rs 51 lakh.

The attachment forms part of intensified measures being undertaken

by law enforcement agencies in south Kashmir targeting not only narcotics trafficking but also assets suspected to have been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal drug trade. Police said the action was taken after following legal procedure under provisions governing forfeiture and freezing of properties linked to nar-

cotics offences. Kulgam Police said it remains committed to curbing drug trafficking and dismantling financial networks associated with narcotics activities. The district police has in recent past undertaken multiple actions under the NDPS Act, including arrests, seizures and attachment proceedings aimed at disrupting drug supply chains and deterring trafficking. Police also appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and share information related to drug peddling and criminal activity. Authorities assured that the identity of informers would be kept strictly confidential. [KNT]

HKM GDC B'pora organizes Drug Awareness Programmes under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora organized a series of awareness and extracurricular programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) with the objective of promoting awareness against drug abuse and encouraging constructive youth engagement.

As part of the campaign, the NCORD Cell of the college, in collaboration with the Department of Education, organized an awareness programme on drug abuse in the college campus.

The programme aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of building a drug-free society.

The programme was personally viewed and appreciated by the Principal of the college, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, who encouraged the participants and highlighted the importance of sports and physical activities in building a healthy and drug-free society.

During the programme, Head of the Department of Education, Dr. Manzor Ahmad Parrey, delivered an insightful lecture on the growing menace of drugs among youth and highlighted its social, psychological and health-related consequences. He urged students to stay away from narcotics and contribute positively towards society.

The event witnessed active participation from students and faculty members, who appreciated the

initiative undertaken by the college under the banner of drug awareness.

Meanwhile, under the banner of NMBA, the College Sports Committee organized a Men's Badminton Competition under the leadership of the Convener of the Sports Committee, Prof. Shahid Shafi. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and promoted the spirit of sportsmanship, discipline and healthy competition among the youth.

The competition aimed to engage students in constructive extracurricular activities and reinforce the message of fitness, wellbeing and social responsibility.

In another programme, the NCORD Cell, in collaboration with the Department of Education, organized an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony in the college campus as part of the ongoing campaign against drug abuse. During the ceremony, students and faculty members collectively took a pledge to remain away from drugs and actively support the mission of creating a healthy and addiction-free environment.

Faculty members of the Department of Education emphasized the need for awareness, moral responsibility and community participation in eradicating drug addiction from society. The students participated enthusiastically and expressed their commitment towards the anti-drug campaign.

Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan Awareness Camp on Drug Abuse held in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a powerful demonstration of unity and determination against the growing drug menace, Zila Sainik Welfare Office Kupwara in collaboration with District Administration and ARTO Kupwara Friday organised an awareness programme under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan for the drivers and members of the Transport Association Kupwara.

The programme was witnessed by many officials from Civil and Police Administration including, ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; ASP Kupwara, Shahzad Kabir; ZEO Kupwara, Principal, Boys Higher Secondary School, Kupwara, representatives from ARTO Kupwara and Dy.SP Traffic Rural, besides several officers from different departments along with Ex-servicemen, stakeholders from the transport association.

The Programme commenced by a Welcome address delivered by Col SS Raja, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer who highlighted the collective responsibility of every stakeholder in combating the growing menace of drug abuse and stressed that the fight against drug menace is not merely an administrative responsibility but a larger social mission requiring vigilance, awareness and sustained public participation.

ACR, Kupwara in his address appreciated the initiative taken by the Zila Sainik Welfare Office and highlighted the importance of sustained awareness, community participation and role of ex-servicemen including all stakeholders

to effectively tackle the drug menace and emphasized to carry out such programmes in future at grass root levels.


On this occasion, various officers also addressed the gathering, including the ASP Kupwara who emphasized that fighting the drug menace is a collective responsibility and every individual has a vital role to play in safeguarding society from this growing threat. Special emphasis was laid on the role of drivers and the transport fraternity being the main stakeholders and frontline contributors, in identifying suspicious activities, spreading awareness and helping the administration in curbing the menace of drugs.

During the event, representative of ARTO Kupwara addressed the gathering and highlighted the responsibility of the transport sector in preventing the spread of Narcotics and ensuring vigilance at every level.

Representatives of the transport association also shared their views and expressed wholehearted support towards the campaign against the drug abuse.

Meanwhile, solemn pledge taking ceremony was held during which participants, reaffirmed commitment towards a drug free society.

The programme concluded with the pasting of anti-drug awareness stickers carrying the message of "Say No to Drugs" on transport vehicles. The vehicles were thereafter flagged off jointly by ACR and ZSWO as symbolic gesture to spread awareness across the district and strengthen the fight against the drug abuse.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION)

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Tentative seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Commerce as on 01.04.2026.

NOTICE

WHEREAS, the final seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Commerce was issued vide Government Order No: 297-JK(EDU) of 2023 dated 5.09.2023;

AND WHEREAS, after issuance of the final seniority list, the Department received various objections/representations from cadre members/Directorates for correction/inclusion/up-dation of sen/ice particulars in the seniority list;

AND WHEREAS, the objections received by the Department have been examined/scrutinized and necessary corrections/additions/deletions etc., wherever required, have been made in the seniority list;

AND WHEREAS, the Designated Committees have recommended 195 incumbents, (Annexure-D + Annexure-E) in light of Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 Dated 15.03.2024, who have obtained their PG degrees through distance/private mode during service. The recommendations made in their favour, after examination in the Department, have been accepted by the Competent Authority. These incumbents, some of whom already figured in the tentative seniority list on conditional basis, have now been incorporated in the Tentative seniority list at appropriate places, except for 46 incumbents whose complete service particulars have not been provided by the concerned Directorates;

AND WHEREAS, recommendations of the committee constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024, dated 15.03.2024 in respect of one (01) incumbent has NOT been accepted by the Competent Authority due to the reasons mentioned against him in "Annexure-F";

AND WHEREAS, some of the incumbents, who have obtained their PG degrees during service and whose cases have not yet been recommended by the Designated Committees constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated 15.03.2024, have also been incorporated in the seniority list, with the condition that their inclusion in seniority is subject to the condition that proper permission has been/is granted by the Competent Authority for acquiring the PG degree during service. Their names shall be deemed to have been deleted from the seniority list, ab-initio, in case the recommendations are not received in the time frame decided in the ibid Government order;

AND WHEREAS, this has necessitated Issuance of an updated seniority list of members of the service.

Now, therefore, tentative seniority list in respect of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Commerce, forming "Annexure-A" to this notice, is hereby circulated for inviting objections, if any, from the concerned members of the service, who either is/are not included in the list or is/are aggrieved with the positron assigned to them in the tentative seniority list along with authenticated documentary proof of their service particulars/bio-data, within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of the list. The objections must be filed/forwarded through concerned Directorates, so as to reach the Administrative Department within stipulated time. Further, no objections in this regard shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time period.

Moreover, 114 incumbents have been included in the tentative seniority list at appropriate places as detailed in "Annexure-B" and 37 incumbents have been deleted from the Tentative seniority list as detailed in "Annexure-C" for the reasons as shown against each.

Furthermore, 46 incumbents who have been recommended by the Designated Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 188 JK(Edu) of 2024 Dated 15.03.2024, conveyed by the Director School Education Jammu, as detailed in "Annexure-D" shall be included in the seniority list at appropriate place, as and when full authenticated service particulars of the incumbents are received from the concerned Directorate.

The tentative seniority list is also available on the official website of School Education (<https://schooleducation.jk.gov.in>).

No, Edu-HRM/215/2022-01 (206003)

Dated: 15.05.2026.

DIPK-1544-26

DT: 22/05/2026

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department.

IPL 2026: Fireworks in Hyderabad as Sunrisers flex playoff muscle, hand RCB a 'sweet defeat'

SIANS

HYDERABAD: If this were a playoff trailer, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) delivered a blockbuster with fire, fury, and fearless intent in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 on Friday.

On a night illuminated by sixes at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, SRH didn't just beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 55 runs — they sent a chilling reminder to the rest of the IPL 2006 top guns that their most dangerous version may finally have arrived.

The scorecard read 255/4. The atmosphere felt even bigger.

Everywhere RCB looked, the ball was disappearing into the stands. Boundaries arrived in clusters, bowls vanished into the night, and Hyderabad's batting lineup played with the kind of freedom that can shake a tournament.

For RCB, strangely enough, the defeat carried little damage. They still secured a top-two finish and closed the league stage at the top of the table. But while the visitors could afford to look ahead to the playoffs, SRH seized the moment to make a statement of their own.

And what a statement it was.

Abhishek Sharma lit the fuse almost instantly. There was no caution, no feeling-out period — just pure aggression. His breathtaking 56 off 22 balls, packed with towering sixes and audacious strokeplay, set the tone for the carnage that followed. Beside him, Travis Head added another burst of chaos with a rapid cameo before the innings found its heartbeat in Ishan Kishan.

Kishan's 79 off 46 deliveries was more than just an innings of power. It was controlled destruction. He



pierced gaps effortlessly, manipulated the field with ease, and punished anything remotely loose. Just when RCB seemed desperate for the innings to slow down, Heinrich Klaasen walked in and ensured the nightmare continued.

Klaasen's brutal 51 off 24 balls felt like the final act of a perfectly scripted assault. By the time Nitish Kumar Reddy added the finishing touches with an unbeaten 29 off 12 deliveries, Hyderabad had transformed the stadium into a launchpad.

RCB's bowlers had no answers. Every frontline option leaked runs at more than 12 an over. Length balls disappeared. Yorkers missed. Even good deliveries were punished. Only Rasikh Salam escaped with a semblance of control, picking up two wickets amid the wreckage.

And yet, for a fleeting moment, the chase threat-

ened to produce another twist.

RCB opener Venkatesh Iyer exploded out of the blocks with a blistering 44 off 19 balls, injecting belief into what looked like an impossible pursuit. The tempo briefly shifted. The crowd stirred again. But cricket's momentum can disappear as quickly as it arrives.

The dismissals of Iyer, Virat Kohli, and Devdutt Padikkal in quick succession drained the chase of its edge, and Hyderabad tightened their grip.

Captain Rajat Patidar fought with composure during his fluent 56, while Krunal Pandya remained unbeaten on 41. But the asking rate climbed relentlessly, and SRH never allowed the game to drift back toward uncertainty.

Young pacer Eshan Malinga stood out with figures of 2/33, while Sakib Hussain impressed with

his calm execution under pressure. Even Travis Head found himself among the wickets as Hyderabad completed a commanding victory.

The result may not derail RCB's campaign. They now head to Dharamsala for Qualifier 1 against the Gujarat Titans with momentum from an excellent league stage still intact.

But beyond the points table and playoff permutations, Friday night belonged to Hyderabad's warning shot.

Because this was not merely a win. It was a reminder of what SRH can become when their batting clicks in unison — explosive, relentless, and almost impossible to contain.

Heading into the Eliminator, one thing suddenly feels clear: Hyderabad are no longer just dangerous. They are terrifying at exactly the right time.

IPL 2025-26: Champions Diamond Harbour face Shillong Lajong in the final match

SIANS

KALYANI: Champions Diamond Harbour FC will face Shillong Lajong FC in the final fixture of the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the Kalyani Stadium in Kalyani on Saturday.

Diamond Harbour head into the contest as the newly-crowned champions of the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26, having secured the title following a dramatic 1-1 draw against Dempo SC in Goa last Sunday. Shillong Lajong, meanwhile, arrive in Kalyani aiming to finish in second place after a high-scoring 4-2 victory over Rajasthan United.

As per the current standings, Diamond Harbour FC lead the pack with an unassailable 29 points from 13 matches. Shillong Lajong sit in second place with 25 points from the same number of games, level on points with Sreenidi Deccan but ahead on the table.

The previous meeting between the two sides in the league stage on March 14 ended in a tight 2-1 victory for Diamond Harbour. However, Shillong have proven themselves to be formidable opponents, currently boasting an impressive unbeaten run in their last six matches.

Despite having already



secured the title, Diamond Harbour head coach Kibu Vicuña will demand his side maintain their high standards in front of their home fans, particularly to finish the season strongly and extend their unbeaten run to 12 matches. Reflecting on the club's remarkable journey, Vicuña expressed immense pride, "Fantastic feeling to be a part of this unit. So proud, happy, and very satisfied for the whole DHFC family and enjoying the way especially," said Vicuña. "Not only because at the end we got our objective, which was, you know, a dream at the beginning. And the dream came true, and we are in the ISL."

The Spanish tactician also highlighted the underlying philosophy that drove their success. "The vision that they had from the beginning was not only

to participate. The vision was to win any tournament that we were playing. This sporting ambition and the vision that DHFC had from the beginning are one of the keys to their success."

Regarding their approach for Saturday's finale, Vicuña was unequivocal. "The same approach as all the games. Try to play our game, be better than the opponent, and create more chances than the opponent. Try to be an offensive team, fight for every single ball, every single challenge."

The home side will look to their potent attacking trio to break down the Shillong defence. Antonio Moyano and Hugo Diaz, both with four goals to their names this campaign, remain central to Diamond Harbour's creative play. Moyano also leads the team with four assists. Up front,

Luka Majcen (four goals) and Jobby Justin (three assists) will be tasked with converting chances against a Shillong backline that has conceded 12 goals this season.

Diamond Harbour forward Girik Khosla echoed his coach's sentiments regarding the team's motivation for the final game. "It will be a positive approach. Personally and from the team's point of view, we want to finish at a top level," Khosla stated. "We will go for all three points. Some players are still hungry to play. We will go all out." When asked about the key to their dominant campaign, he added, "I think unity. As the coach said, it is the vision. The vision of the team and the unity of the team."

For Shillong Lajong, the objective is clear: secure three points to guarantee a second-place finish and potentially put an end to Diamond Harbour's dominance. Head coach Birendra Thapa expressed a strong desire to close the campaign strongly. "As you know, the championship is already decided, but for me, we want to finish on a good note," said Thapa. "We have not decided whether we are second or third, but we'll go all out for the match tomorrow. If we get second position, it's also a good result for us."

IPL 2025-26: Dempo, Sreenidi end season with a 1-1 draw

SIANS

MARGAO (GOA): Hadi Idrissou struck the equaliser as Sreenidi Deccan FC came from behind to hold Dempo Sports Club to a hard-fought 1-1 draw in an entertaining encounter in the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the P.J.N Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Friday.

Marcus Joseph gave Dempo Sports Club the lead early in the sixth minute, which was eventually cancelled out by a sec-

ond-half strike from Hadi Idrissou in the 71st minute as the points were shared.

With this result, Sreenidi Deccan FC, with 26 points from 14 matches, have moved into second position after the penultimate game of the season.

Meanwhile, Dempo Sports Club finished fifth in the table, securing 15 points from the season. Dempo custodian Ashish Sibi was adjudged the Player of the Match.

The match began with the hosts striking early

to catch the visitors completely off guard. In just the sixth minute, Arnold Antonio Oliveira delivered a precise corner kick, and Marcus Joseph rose highest to plant a perfect header into the back of the net.

The clinical finish gave Dempo a crucial 1-0 advantage. The striker found his target once more, netting his ninth goal of the season and inching closer to the Golden Boot award.

Apart from the goal from the corner, there was not much goalmouth action

in the opening stages. The visitors gradually got hold of the midfield after numerous aerial duels but initially lacked precision in the final third.

Following the early setback, Sreenidi Deccan dominated proceedings, monopolising possession and dictating the tempo. The visitors controlled an overwhelming 63 per cent of the ball and relentlessly pushed forward, creating numerous chances to test the Golden Eagles' goalkeeper Ashish Sibi.

PWL wrestlers gear up to represent India at U-17 & U-23 Asian Wrestling Championships in Da Nang

SIANS

NEW DELHI: With focus on stars like Chandermohan, Sachin Mor, Neha, and Kajal, the Pro Wrestling League's (PWL) growing influence on India's wrestling ecosystem will once again be reflected at the continental stage when India takes part in the U-17 & U-23 Asian Wrestling Championships beginning in Da Nang, Vietnam, from May 23 to 31.

Though multiple athletes from PWL 2026 are part of the Indian contingent, attention will be on the four wrestlers who featured prominently in PWL 2026, underlining the league's emergence as a key platform in nurturing, developing, and accelerating the growth of India's next generation of wrestling talent.

In the U-23 men's freestyle category, reigning U-23 Asian champion Chandermohan of Punjab Royals will compete in the 79kg division, while Haryana Thunders' Sachin Mor — part of the franchise's title-winning campaign in PWL 2026 — will represent India in the 86kg category.

The U-23 women's contingent will also feature strong PWL representation through Haryana Thunders' Neha (59kg) and Kajal (76kg), both of whom were integral members of the franchise's triumphant PWL 2026 campaign.

Neha heads into the championships with a significant international pedigree, having previous-



ly secured a bronze medal at the U20 World Championships while also winning gold at the U17 Asian Championships. Kajal, meanwhile, has rapidly established herself as one of India's brightest wrestling prospects, arriving in Da Nang as a reigning U20 World Champion, U17 World Champion, and U20 Asian Champion.

The presence of these wrestlers in India's squad further reinforces the growing role PWL continues to play in strengthening the country's wrestling structure beyond the confines of a franchise league competition.

One of the defining aspects of PWL has been its ability to provide young and emerging Indian wrestlers with the opportunity to share the mat, training environments, and dressing rooms with some of the biggest stars in world wrestling. That exposure to elite international standards, high-pressure match situations, and professional sporting structures has proven invaluable in building experience, confidence, and tactical matu-

urity among India's rising wrestlers.

Since its return, PWL has consistently positioned itself as an athlete-first ecosystem focused on bridging grassroots Indian wrestling with the global stage. Through sustained competitive exposure and interaction with world-class talent, the league has aimed to create pathways for young Indian wrestlers to prepare themselves for success at the Asian, World, and Olympic levels.

PWL CEO and Promoter Akhil Gupta has previously reiterated the league's long-term vision of contributing meaningfully to the growth of Indian wrestling by building a sustainable professional ecosystem capable of supporting and elevating emerging talent.

The selection of multiple PWL wrestlers for the U-17 & U-23 Asian Wrestling Championships once again highlights the league's increasing contribution towards identifying, nurturing, and showcasing India's future wrestling stars on the international stage.

Movies SCHEDULE

★ SATURDAY, 23RD MAY

1	BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)	
	Hindi - 03:45 PM	
2	PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+)	
	Hindi Atmos - 04:45 PM, 07:15 PM	
3	STAR WARS: MANDALORIAN AND GROGU (U/A16+)	
	ENGLISH - 07:00 PM 3D 3D ENGLISH ATMOS - 11:00 AM	
4	CHAND MERA DIL (U/A16+)	
	HINDI ATMOS - 02:00 PM, 04:45 PM, 07:30 PM HINDI - 10:45 AM	
5	DRISHYAM-3 (U/A16+)	
	MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 01:30 PM	
6	DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (UA16+)	
	HINDI - 11:20 AM	

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