

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication



India places its hope and confidence in its youth, trusting that the young generation will lead the nation to greater heights. NCC cadets must honour that trust by living the values of the NCC & spreading across communities.

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LG Inspires NCC Cadets To Become Torchbearers Of National Unity



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Calling India's diversity its greatest strength, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha urged NCC cadets from across the country to become ambassadors of unity and social harmony during the Special National Integration Camp held in Srinagar on Sunday.

Sinha was speaking at the 'Special National Integration Camp' organised by National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. During his interaction with NCC cadets from across the country, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that this special camp is a living symbol of India's spirit, where every cadet is

not just witnessing history but actively shaping it.

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"India places its hope and confidence in its youth, trusting that the young generation will lead the nation to greater heights. NCC cadets must honour that trust by living the values of the NCC and spreading across communities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that for India, diversity is the greatest

Missing 12-Year-Old Girl 'Raped, Murdered' In Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A 12-year-old girl, who was reported missing in central Kashmir's Budgam district, was found murdered around 200 metres from her house on Sunday, police said.

A senior police officer said the girl was reported missing on Saturday evening from Galwanpora area of the district.

"A case of abducting a minor child was registered and searches were carried out. Unfortunately, the body of the child was found on Sunday morning," Budgam SSP Hariprasad KK said.

He said the body was sent for post-mortem.

"Prima facie it seems to be



a case of rape and murder. We have added the relevant sections to the FIR," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has strongly condemned the

brutal murder of a young preteen girl in Budgam district, describing the incident as "shocking and deeply distressing."

Expressing profound grief over the tragedy, the Chief Minister condemned the heinous act in the strongest possible terms and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

"May she find place in Jannat," the Chief Minister said while expressing solidarity with the grieving family.

The Chief Minister said the incident should serve as a moment of serious introspection for society at large. "While the appropriate agencies enquire into the circumstances of her murder, it's also fitting that we reflect on where we as a society are headed when our young children are not safe," he said.

"I condemn this brutal attack without

5-Member SIT Formed, All Angles Being Explored: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police on Sunday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to

probe the death of a 12-year-old girl whose body was recovered near her residence in Galwanpora area of Budgam hours after she went missing, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam K K Hari Prasad said that a

Police Warn Against Sharing Minor Victim's Identity Online

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police in central Kashmir's Budgam on Sunday warned people

against sharing the identity of a minor girl linked to a recent death case in Galwanpora, saying strict legal action would be taken against violators.

In a statement, police said some individuals were circulating photographs

Waheed Jeelani Meets LG Sinha, Raises Concerns Of Artist Fraternity



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Renowned artist and cultural activist Waheed Jeelani on Saturday met Manoj Sinha and discussed various issues being faced by the artist community across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Jeelani, who heads The Kashmir Music Club Srinagar, highlighted the need for stronger welfare measures for artists and stressed the importance of preserving the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the administration to take concrete steps for the promotion and protection of traditional art forms, particularly Sufi, folk and traditional music and dance.

He also invited the Lieutenant Governor, who is also the President of the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, to inaugurate the upcoming two-day grand music and dance

CM Omar Visits Residence Of MP Rashid, Expresses Condolences

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LANGATE: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the residence of Member of Parliament Er Rashid and MLA Langate Khurshid Ahmed Sheikh to offer his heartfelt condolences on the demise of their father, Khizar Mohammad Sheikh, who passed away last week after a



prolonged illness. Khizar Mohammad Sheikh, 85, breathed his last at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

where he had been undergoing treatment. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister Javid Ahmed

Dar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Choudhary Mohammad Ramzaan, several legislators and other dignitaries.

During the visit, the Chief Minister spent time with the bereaved family and expressed deep sorrow over the loss. He offered words of comfort and solidarity to the family members during this

Search For Terrorists Intensifies In Rajouri After Encounter

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday intensified search operations and strengthened the cordon in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district with the deployment of additional troops to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the area, officials said.

They said the operation in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla belt was expanded following a brief encounter

between the security forces and the terrorists during an intelligence-based operation on Saturday.

"Search

operations have been intensified in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla area and the cordon has been strengthened,"

ence-based operation on Saturday.

"Search

Delhi Red Fort blast NIA Chargesheet Reveals Abuse Of AI Platform For 'Terror Engineering'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the Red Fort area car blast case in Delhi has found that a chargesheeted accused, linked to an offshoot of global terrorist outfit Al-Qaida, allegedly misused an artificial intelligence (AI) platform for "terror engineering", official sources said on Sunday.

They said the accused persons had



also made rocket Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and tested them in the Qazigund forest in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The glaring findings are part of a voluminous 7,500-page chargesheet filed

Pahalgam Attack Probe

NIA Traces US-Made GoPro Shipped To China To Lashkar Terrorists

AGENCIES

PAHALGAM: Even as the NIA has filed a comprehensive chargesheet in the Pahalgam terror attack, investigators are aggressively tracing a global supply chain to determine how a US-manufactured GoPro camera supplied to China ended up in the hands of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit, senior officials said on Sunday.

The high-tech camera recovered from the terrorists, who were neutralised in an encounter in Dachigam forests last



July following the attack, has opened a critical new line of inquiry into the external logistics network supporting terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir.

Terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir have increasingly been

using cameras to record their ambushes for propaganda and psychological warfare.

Investigators believe that unearthing this specific supply chain could expose critical vulnerabilities or complicity

in the underground networks that funnel funds, hardware and tactical gear across borders to anti-India outfits.

In a bid to uncover the device's origin, the NIA officially reached out to the US manufacturer GoPro Inc to ascertain where the device had been sold. In its formal response, the US-based firm reported that the specific device was originally shipped to an authorised commercial distributor in China, according to officials.

The officials familiar with the

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WHO Declares Ebola Outbreak Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Gol Advises Citizens to Avoid Non-Essential Travel to Congo, Uganda, South Sudan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: In light of the reported outbreaks of Ebola Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO), under the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005, on 17 May 2026, determined the situation to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has also officially declared the ongoing outbreak of Bundibugyo strain Ebola Virus Disease affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS). Further, the WHO IHR Emergency Committee on

22 May 2026 issued temporary recommendations to strengthen disease surveillance at Points of Entry to "detect, assess, report and manage travellers with unexplained febrile illness arriving from areas with documented Bundibugyo virus detection" while also "discouraging travel to areas with documented Bundibugyo virus detection".

Countries bordering the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, including South Sudan, are assessed to be at high risk of disease transmission.

Ebola Disease is a viral haemorrhagic fever caused by infection with the Bundibugyo virus strain of Ebola Virus. It is a serious disease with a high mortality rate. At present, no vaccines or specific treatments have

been approved to prevent or treat Ebola Disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain.

India has not reported any case of Ebola Disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain. In view of the evolving situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other affected countries, and in line with WHO's recommendations, Government of India advises all Indian citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan until further notice.

Indian citizens currently residing in or travelling to these countries are advised to strictly follow public health guidance issued by local authorities and maintain heightened precautions.

NIT Srinagar set for mega global alumni meet 'SANGAM 3.0' on May 30

Director, Registrar stress collaboration, mentorship and Institutional growth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The newly elected Executive Committee of the REC-NIT Srinagar Alumni Association reviewed the final arrangements for the upcoming Global Alumni Meet-2026, "SANGAM 3.0," scheduled to be held on May 30 at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with the participation of more than 100 alumni.

The meeting was convened under the guidance of Dean of Alumni & International Affairs, Prof. (Dr.) M.A. Shah, and attended by newly elected members of the Executive Committee of the REC/NIT Srinagar Alumni Association for the term 2026-2029, along with senior faculty members and organizers associated with the event.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding reception arrangements, registration of alumni delegates, hospitality, accommodation, cultural activities, technical sessions, networking events, and coordination with various committees to ensure the smooth conduct of the mega alumni gathering.

The committee also finalized logistical preparations



for the inaugural function scheduled on May 30.

Organizers stated that alumni from different parts of the country and abroad are expected to participate in the event, aimed at strengthening institutional bonds and fostering collaboration among alumni, students, and faculty members.

The detailed report was presented by the Associate Dean Alumni & International Affairs, Dr. H.S. Pali, and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran.

The newly elected Executive Committee announced for 2026-2029 includes Er. Malay Chatterjee (Civil Engineering, 1979-1984) as President, Er. Sayyed Parvaiz Qalandar (Civil Engineering, 1975-1980) as Vice President of the leadership body, and Er. Irfan Rashid Ashai as General Secretary. Other office bearers include Dr.

Fayaz Ahmad Soti (Civil Engineering) and Er. Muzafer Ahmad Beigh, who will serve in key leadership and coordination roles within the association.

Farhan Manzoor (Electrical Engineering, 2006-2010) has been appointed Additional Secretary-II, while Dr. Sajad Hussain Din (Mechanical Engineering, 2017) will serve as Joint Secretary-I. Er. Toyibah (Chemical Engineering, 2014-2018) has been named Joint Secretary-II, Er. Mohd Hanief Dar (PhD Civil Engineering) as Joint Secretary-III, and Dr. Sajad Ahmad Mir (PhD Physics, 2016) as Treasurer-cum-Cashier.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that alumni are among the strongest ambassadors of the institute and their achievements continue to inspire the student com-

munity.

"SANGAM 3.0 would further strengthen the bond between the institute and its alumni while opening new avenues for academic, research, and industry collaboration," he added.

Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Atikur Rehman said the Institute administration is committed to extending full support for the successful conduct of the global alumni meet.

He stated that such initiatives help in building a vibrant alumni ecosystem that contributes significantly towards the growth and development of the institution.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) M.A. Shah congratulated the newly elected team and expressed confidence that the association would play a significant role in enhanc-

ing alumni engagement, academic collaboration, mentoring initiatives, and institutional development.

On the occasion, Dr. H. S Pali emphasized the importance of alumni participation in shaping the future roadmap of the institute. He said SANGAM 3.0 would serve as a vibrant platform for meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas among alumni across generations.

Er. Sayyed Parvaiz Qalandar expressed gratitude to the alumni fraternity for reposing trust in the new team and said the committee would work with dedication and commitment to serve the alma mater to the best of its capabilities while strengthening the global alumni network of NIT Srinagar.

The organizers appealed to alumni of REC/NIT Srinagar across the globe to actively participate in the event and contribute towards strengthening the alumni network of the institute.

Initiatives like ABC underscore the Institute's commitment to strengthening alumni engagement as a cornerstone of institutional growth, and we will continue them as regular events at the Institute.

Extensive IEC Campaign under Jan Bhagidari Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle held across Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Kupwara witnessed the successful organisation of a series of awareness and outreach programmes under the nationwide "Jan Bhagidari Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" IEC Campaign in various tribal villages and far-flung areas of the district.

The programmes were conducted in coordination with different departments with the objective of ensuring last-mile delivery of government welfare schemes and services to the tribal population.

The district administration, under the guidance of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI organised extensive IEC campaigns, Jan Sunwai programmes from May 21 to 23rd May 2026. Plantation drives, cleanliness drives, Aadhaar generation and updating camps, PMMVY enrolment drives, health awareness programmes, and community interaction sessions were also conducted across several tribal panchayats and villages of the district.

During the programme, officers and officials interacted directly with the local residents and sensi-



tized them about various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities. Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness regarding health, nutrition, sanitation, education, women empowerment, livelihood opportunities, and social welfare initiatives.

Jan Sunwai programmes were also organized at various locations wherein grievances and public issues raised by the local inhabitants were heard patiently by the concerned officers and several grievances were redressed on the spot. The concerned departments assured timely disposal of pending issues and prompt service delivery in tribal areas.

The district administration reiterated its commitment towards strengthening public participation

and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every deserving household residing in remote and under-served areas.

The campaign also witnessed active participation from field functionaries, Anganwadi workers, ASHAs, youth volunteers, and local residents.

The administration further informed that all activities conducted under the campaign are being regularly uploaded on the designated portal for real-time monitoring and documentation of outreach efforts across the district.

District Kupwara shall continue to organize such public outreach and awareness programmes in tribal areas to ensure inclusive development and effective implementation of welfare initiatives under the spirit of "Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle."

Lightning kills youth as massive hailstorm batters Lolab Valley



NASIR IQBAL

LOLAB: A youth was killed and another injured after lightning struck them in Chandigam area of Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Sunday, officials said.

They said Abid Rahim Ganie, 23, son of Abdul Rahim Ganie, and Faizan Rahman Dar, 24, son of Abdul Rahman, both residents of Chandigam Lolab, were hit by lightning during severe weather conditions in the area.

The duo was immediately rushed to Sub-District Hospital Sogam, where doctors declared Abid Rahim Ganie brought dead, officials said.

They said Faizan Rahman Dar was referred to Government Medical College Handwara for further treatment.

Meanwhile, authorities handed over the body of the deceased to his legal heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities.

A massive hailstorm also lashed several parts of Lolab, damaging orchards and crops and causing losses to farmers in the area.

"We have never witnessed such huge hailstones in recent years. Orchards and standing crops have suffered extensive damage within minutes," said a local farmer. (KNS).

Historic Panchayat Secretaries meet ends in Budgam, interim UT body formed



SAHIL SHARMA

BUDGAM: A historic general body meeting of the All Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Secretaries Association was held at Panchayat Bhawan in Humhama here on Sunday, ending a long gap in the collective platform of the cadre in the Union Territory.

Representatives from both Kashmir and Jammu provinces participated in the day-long deliberations, which focused on service-related issues and the future roadmap of the Panchayat Secretaries cadre, officials said.

The meeting witnessed the presence of the Provincial President of Kashmir along with his provincial body, district presidents, block-level office bearers and a large number of basic members from the Kashmir province. The Provincial President of Jammu also participated with his provincial office bearers, district bodies, block office bearers and basic members from the Jammu province, they said.

Consent letters from a majority of district presidents of the Jammu prov-

ince, who could not attend due to unavoidable official engagements, were presented before the general body, sources added.

The general body held detailed deliberations on ten key agenda points, including clarification of Subordinate Services Recruitment Rules, gazetted recruitment rules, creation of sanitary or panchayat inspector posts, submission of a memorandum to the 8th Pay Commission, retrospective effect of Level-4 from February 22, 2008, a transfer policy for panchayat secretaries, time-bound promotions, arrears of erstwhile MPWs, day-to-day field challenges, and amendment of the association's by-laws, officials said.

After threadbare discussions, the general body unanimously resolved to formulate an interim Union Territory body to represent the cadre at the UT level in a unified and effective manner, they said.

The general body chose two convenors — Syed Tahir Mohiuddin Andrabi and Dilshad Ahmad Malik — along with a 14-member UT body. The members include Pardeep Kumar,

Arif Nabi, Lukhinder Singh, Fayaz Ahmad Shah, Jyoti Angural, Naveem Ahmad Yatoo, Mohammad Shakoore, Aftab Ahmad Wani, Mehtab Ali Mir, Ajaz Ahmad Wani, Tanjot Singh, Hilal Ahmad Reshi, Ajay Kumar and Mohammad Akbar RATHER.

The newly formed interim UT body pledged to work with dedication and collective responsibility for the larger benefit of the entire Panchayat Secretaries cadre without any discrimination, a statement said.

The general body resolved that the foremost priority of the UT body would be early clarification and resolution of the Subordinate Services Recruitment Rules, besides vigorously pursuing all other genuine demands and service-related issues before the concerned authorities.

The general body expressed hope that this historic unity would strengthen the voice of Panchayat Secretaries and pave the way for protection of their rights, service interests and professional dignity, officials added. (KNS)

Ramban admin conducts Jan Sunwai Camps in Bhingara under PM JANMAN

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: District Administration Ramban on Sunday conducted Grievances Redressal Camps (Jan Sunwai) at Village Bhingara in Pogal Paristan, Sub Division Ramsoo and Village Kalla, Dedhain-Sub Division Gool as part of the "Jan Bhagidari - Sabse Door Sabse Pehle Abhiyan" under PM JANMAN and DA-JGUA, successfully

The events witnessed enthusiastic public participation from remote and tribal areas.

At Village Bhingara, officers from the different government departments provided on-the-spot services, besides spreading awareness regarding the welfare schemes.

The local residents projected several issues related to water supply, road connectivity, health facilities and educational infrastructure. The



officers patiently listened to the grievances and registered them for systematic redressal.

Meanwhile, a similar Jan Sunwai camp was organised at Village Dedha Ward No. 06 Kalla in Gool Sub Division. The officers from multiple departments interacted with the public and facilitated access to government schemes and services. The residents raised issues concerning water supply, power supply, road connectivity and educational facilities. The grievances were

heard patiently by the officers, and necessary directions were issued for timely redressal.

Several issues at both locations were resolved on the spot through inter-departmental coordination, while clear timelines were set for matters requiring further action. The outreach initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring doorstep governance and extending the benefits of centrally sponsored schemes to the most remote and under-served tribal populations.

Choose Life, Not Drugs Poonch admin organises Exhibition Cricket Match under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan campaign, an Exhibition Cricket Match was Sunday organised here at the Sports Stadium between teams of the district administration Poonch.

The event was aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and encouraging youth to adopt a healthy, disciplined and positive lifestyle through sports and recreational activities.

The match witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of the administration. The team of DC Office led by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik

emerged victorious after an exciting contest played in a spirited atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted the importance of collective efforts in combating the menace of drug addiction and reiterated the message of "Choose Life, Not Drugs." He emphasized that sports serve as a powerful medium to engage youth in constructive activities and promote physical and mental well being.

The event also witnessed active support and appreciation from spectators, who lauded the initiative undertaken by the district administration under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Satish Sharma emphasizes youth empowerment to build drug-free J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Sunday emphasized youth empowerment, healthy lifestyle, sports culture and collective efforts to build a strong and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

He was addressing the students, teachers, parents and members of the school community at the annual prize distribution programme at JNV Jammu-II, Nardi-Bala.

The Minister underscored the role of educational institutions in shaping responsible citizens and nurturing the values of discipline, perseverance and leadership among the young minds.

Congratulating the students on their achievements, Satish Sharma said that educational institutions are not merely centers of academic excellence but nurseries where character, leadership and the future of society is shaped. He emphasized that true success extends beyond awards and recognition and lies in values such as perseverance, hard work and integrity.

Speaking about his personal journey and values, the Minister reflected on the lessons of discipline,



sacrifice and resilience learned from his roots. He stated that the strongest foundations of success are often built quietly through dedication and effort.

Addressing the young generation, Satish Sharma highlighted the importance of healthy living and urged the students to adopt nutritious and natural food habits. He expressed concern over the growing influence of processed and unhealthy food choices among youth and stressed the need to reconnect with healthier lifestyle.

"A strong nation is built on healthy citizens. The choices young people make today regarding health and lifestyle will determine the future strength of our society," he said.

The Minister also praised the role of Scouts, Guides and youth development initiatives in shaping the responsible citizens. He noted that values such as discipline, teamwork and commitment cultivated through such platforms help prepare young minds for future leadership roles.

Expressing concern over the growing challenge of substance abuse, Satish Sharma strongly advocated sports and youth engagement as powerful tools to combat the drug menace. He emphasized that sports instill discipline, focus and purpose among young people and can become a strong shield against social evils.

"Sports grounds, classrooms and creative spaces must become centers of

aspiration for our youth. A child engaged in sports learns resilience, determination and the value of hard work," he remarked.

The Minister reiterated government's commitment to expand opportunities for youth participation in sports and constructive activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the students who received awards, Satish Sharma encouraged them to continue striving for excellence while motivating others to remain determined and work hard towards achieving their goals.

The event also featured cultural performances and participation from school staff, parents and students, creating an atmosphere of celebration and inspiration.

Ladakh LG launches ecological restoration project to reclaim 800 acres of barren land

AGENCIES

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday launched an ambitious ecological restoration project to reclaim nearly 800 acres of barren land near Spituk and transform it into a productive ecosystem through innovative freshwater recharge techniques.

This was a major initiative launched by the LG aimed at reversing land degradation in the cold desert region of Ladakh.

Officials said that the pilot project has been undertaken on the directions of the LG Sinha after identifying around 800 acres of land near Spituk village in Leh that has remained barren for centuries.

"The initiative seeks to utilise excess water from the recently restored Igo-Phey irrigation canal by diverting it across the degraded landscape through temporary channels and minor earthwork interventions using tractors and other machinery", they said.

Ladakh receives less than 100 mm of annual rainfall and is heavily dependent on glacial meltwater, they said.

However, rapid runoff during early spring often leads to soil erosion, inadequate groundwater recharge and declining soil moisture, contributing to the expansion of arid and unproductive land.

According to officials, the project aims to alter the local ecosystem by allow-



ing freshwater to spread and percolate into the soil, thereby replenishing depleted aquifers, restoring groundwater levels and triggering natural vegetation growth.

The initiative is also expected to improve soil health and create opportunities for sustainable agriculture and afforestation without resorting to energy-intensive or costly engineering solutions, they said.

The freshwater recharge process is designed to flush harmful salts from degraded land, rehydrate dry subsoil layers and dissolve nutrients essential for plant growth, they said.

Authorities said the intervention is expected to deliver both immediate and long-term ecological benefits, including groundwater recharge, vegetation regeneration, soil stabilisation and desalination.

Officials said moisture

exposure is likely to activate dormant seeds present in the barren soil, leading initially to the growth of grasses and hardy shrubs, followed by larger vegetation over time.

The establishment of plant cover is expected to strengthen soil structure and reduce wind and water erosion, the primary drivers of land degradation in the region, they added.

The project also holds significant agricultural and economic potential. With improved soil moisture and reliable irrigation support, the restored land could eventually be utilised for crop cultivation and livestock grazing, creating new livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"This initiative is expected to become a model for sustainable irrigation expansion, improved agricultural productivity and ecological restoration across Ladakh. Nearly 800

acres of barren land are being watered using excess water from the Igo-Phey Canal to increase soil moisture and trigger natural rejuvenation," the lieutenant governor said.

The initiative aligns with the vision of Narendra Modi to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land across the country by 2030, he said.

The project follows the successful implementation of Project Him Sarovar, aimed at enhancing long-term water security through the creation of small water bodies to harness snow resources, officials added.

It also comes days after the restoration and operationalisation of the Igo-Phey Canal on May 15, 2026, a key irrigation network designed to irrigate more than 4,300 hectares of agricultural land across several villages in Ladakh, they said.

Mega Padyatra under 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan to be held today in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Sunday appealed to the people of the district to participate in the Mega Padyatra being organized tomorrow under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

She said that the Lieutenant Governor launched the 100 Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan across Jammu and Kashmir from April 11, 2026, with the objective of intensifying the fight against drug abuse and taking the message of a drug-free society to every household. The DC informed that the Mega Padyatra in Bandipora district will be conducted on 25 May 2026 (Monday) starting from S.K Stadium Bandipora and culminate at Ajar Chowk.

"Tomorrow's Mega Padyatra is not merely an event, but a collective pledge of the

people of Bandipora against drug abuse. Every citizen's participation will strengthen this mission and send a strong message that society stands united for a Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir," the DC said.

Appealing to the people of Bandipora district, including youth, students, civil society members, traders, religious leaders, PRI, government employees and the general public, the DC urged them to participate in large numbers.

The DC emphasized that drug abuse is a serious social menace and collective public participation is essential to fight this challenge effectively and to protect the younger generation from the harmful effects of substance abuse.

She further urged citizens to come forward with a sense of responsibility and join hands with the administration in making Bandipora a drug-free district.

Mehbooba shocked over murder of Budgam minor

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister and President of the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti has expressed deep shock and anguish over the brutal murder of a minor girl in the Galwanpora area of Budgam, terming the incident heart-breaking and a grim reminder of the growing vulnerability of children and women in society.

Taking to X, Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "Devastated to hear about the cold blooded murder of a 12 year old girl in Budgam. The allegations of rape just make it all the more shocking, disconcerting & unsettling. One shudders at the thought if our children are really safe."

In a statement issued today, Mehbooba Mufti said the horrific incident

has shaken the conscience of every Kashmiri and demanded a swift, transparent and time-bound investigation to ensure exemplary punishment for those involved.

"The barbaric killing of an innocent child has left the entire society devastated. No words can ease the pain and trauma suffered by the family. Such incidents strike at the very moral fabric of our society and demand collective introspection alongside strict legal action," she said.

Mehbooba Mufti urged the administration to conduct the investigation in a professional and impartial manner and ensure that justice is delivered without delay. She also called for stronger mechanisms to safeguard children and women, saying that rising incidents of violence and abuse cannot be allowed to become a disturbing new normal.

Department of Consumer Affairs expands scope of GATC

Cerification of CNG, LNG and hydrogen dispensers enabled

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has amended the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013, to further strengthen India's legal metrology ecosystem and expand the country's verification infrastructure for weights and measures.

A key feature of the amendment is the expansion of the scope of Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) to include verification and re-verification of additional fuel dispensing systems. The move is expected to enhance the availability of verification services, improve efficiency and support the growing adoption of cleaner fuels across the country.

Under the amended Rules, the following five categories of dispensing systems have been added to the list of instruments that can be verified by GATCs:

With the inclusion of these instruments, Government Approved Test Centres can now



undertake verification and re-verification of a total of 23 categories of weights and measures under the Legal Metrology framework.

The inclusion of CNG, LNG and Hydrogen dispensers under the GATC framework comes at a time when the use of cleaner fuels is increasing across the country. The measure will help ensure accurate fuel delivery and greater transparency in transactions.

Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) are approved facilities with the required infrastructure and technical expertise to undertake verification and re-verification of specified weights and measures under the Legal Metrology Act and Rules. By involving qualified private laboratories and indus-

tries, the GATC framework helps expand the country's verification capacity and improve access to verification services.

The amendments empower State Governments to notify additional categories of weights and measures for verification through GATCs under their respective Rules. This will help expand verification services based on local requirements. To improve administrative efficiency, officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above have also been authorised to exercise powers under relevant provisions of the Rules, enabling quicker processing of approvals and related matters.

Under the amended Rules, the verification fee for Petrol and Diesel dis-

pensers has been fixed at ₹5,000 per nozzle, while the fee for CNG, LPG, LNG and Hydrogen dispensers has been fixed at ₹10,000 per nozzle.

Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) are already playing an important role in providing timely and reliable verification services for weighing and measuring instruments across the country. The expanded scope of GATCs is expected to further strengthen India's verification infrastructure, improve service delivery and reduce delays.

The reforms will also enable State Legal Metrology Departments to focus more on inspection, enforcement and consumer grievance redressal. The initiative supports the Government's vision of technology-driven governance, transparency in trade practices and Atmanirbhar Bharat, while strengthening India's metrology system in line with global best practices and recommendations of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

Sakeena Itoo visits Budgam victim's family, expresses solidarity

Calls for strict punishment to culprits



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Sunday visited the bereaved family in Budgam to express solidarity and condolences following the tragic incident that has shaken the area.

Interacting with the family members, the Minister conveyed deep sorrow over the unfortunate incident and assured them that the Government stands firmly with them during this difficult time.

Sakeena Itoo strongly condemned the incident and termed it highly unfortunate and unacceptable in a civilized society.

She called for time-bound investigation into this incident and said that those involved in the act must be dealt strictly in accordance with the law and called for exemplary punishment to the culprits.

MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Aga Syed Mehmood and others also accompanied the Minister.

Two Drug Peddlers Arrested in Anantnag; Cash, Contraband Seized

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police in south Kashmir's Anantnag district have arrested two alleged drug peddlers and recovered a substantial quantity of contraband substance during naka checking, officials said.

Acting on a checkpoint operation, a police party intercepted an Eon vehicle bearing registration number JK04D-2959. A thorough search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 4 kilograms and 475 grams of charas-like substance, which was reportedly wrapped in corn husk and concealed inside cavities of both front doors. Cash amounting to Rs 50,000 was also seized from their possession.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sajad Ahmad Bhat, son of Gh. Ahmad Bhat, resident of Dedmerbagh Chadoora in Budgam, and Abdul Gani Dar, son of Ali Mohammad Dar, resident of Tulkhani Bijbehara.

In this connection, FIR No. 138/2026 has been registered at the concerned police station under Sections 8/20 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and investigation has been initiated to trace both forward and backward linkages of the alleged narcotics network.

Police said efforts are underway to dismantle drug trafficking networks operating in the region and urged the public to share information related to narcotics activity to assist enforcement agencies.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Sheep Traders Resort To Loot

As Eid-ul-Azha approaches and only two days remain for the sacred ritual of Qurbani, the livestock markets across Kashmir have turned into centres of exploitation rather than places of religious preparation. Common people, already crushed under inflation and economic uncertainty, are being subjected to open loot by sheep dealers who appear to have no regard for either ethics or affordability. Despite the government fixing rates for live sheep at Rs 375 per kilogram, the reality on the ground tells a different story. Buyers allege that many traders are openly violating official rates, demanding exorbitant prices while silencing anyone who dares to negotiate. Bargaining, once a normal part of livestock trade, is now being met with arrogance, intimidation and raised voices. The helpless customer is left with only two choices, either surrender to the inflated demands or abandon the religious obligation altogether.

What is more alarming is the complete absence of market regulation and enforcement. Authorities seem to have vanished precisely when their presence is needed the most. Rate lists exist only on paper while violations continue in broad daylight. If government orders can be ignored so brazenly, then one must ask whether there is any administrative control left over these seasonal markets.

Eid-ul-Azha is not meant to become a festival of financial torture. Qurbani symbolises sacrifice, compassion and devotion — not exploitation of the poor and middle class. Sadly, some traders have converted this sacred occasion into an opportunity for profiteering, showing little concern for the struggles of ordinary families trying to fulfil a religious duty with dignity.

The administration must immediately launch strict market inspections, impose penalties on violators and ensure that official rates are implemented without compromise. Silence at this stage would only embolden those who are fleecing the public under the cover of festive demand. The people deserve protection from this unchecked greed before Eid loses its spirit to commercial exploitation.

Beyond Submission

The True Philosophy Of Sacrifice In Eid-Ul-Adha

AZHAR NASEER

Eid-Ul-Adha is one of the greatest religious festivals of Islam. It is celebrated every year on the 10th of Dhul Hijjah by Muslims across the world with deep devotion, respect and spiritual enthusiasm. This sacred occasion is not merely a celebration of new clothes, delicious food and outward happiness. It carries a powerful message of sacrifice, obedience, patience, faith and submission to the will of Allah Almighty. Eid ul Adha reminds humanity of the unparalleled sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Prophet Ismail (AS). It teaches people that true success lies in surrendering personal desires, emotions and worldly interests for the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

The history of Eid ul Adha is deeply connected with one of the greatest events in Islamic tradition. Allah Almighty tested Prophet Ibrahim (AS) many times during his life. Every trial was faced with patience, courage and complete trust in Allah. The greatest test came when Allah commanded him through a dream to sacrifice his beloved son, Prophet Ismail (AS). For any father, this command would have been emotionally overwhelming. Yet Prophet Ibrahim (AS) did not hesitate before the command of his Lord. He showed absolute obedience and unwavering faith.

On the other hand, Prophet Ismail (AS) also displayed extraordinary patience and submission. When his father informed him about Allah's command, he willingly accepted it and assured his father that he would remain patient. This remarkable conversation between father and son reflects the highest level of faith, sincerity and obedience. Their sacrifice became an eternal example for humanity. It showed that love for Allah must stand above all worldly attachments.

When Prophet Ibrahim (AS) prepared to sacrifice his son purely for the sake of Allah, Allah accepted his sincerity and devotion. At that moment, Allah replaced Prophet Ismail (AS) with a ram for sacrifice. This divine event became the foundation of the Sunnah of Qurbani, which Muslims continue to perform every year during Eid ul Adha. The sacrifice of animals is therefore not just a ritual. It symbolises the willingness of believers to sacrifice their selfish desires, arrogance, greed, hatred and worldly temptations for the sake of righteousness and obedience to Allah.

The philosophy of sacrifice in Islam goes far beyond the slaughtering of animals. It is a lesson in spiritual purification and moral reform. True sacrifice means removing pride from the heart, avoiding injustice, controlling selfish desires and living according to the teachings of Islam. A person who sacrifices an animal but continues to lie, oppress others, spread hatred and ignore the rights of humanity fails to understand the real spirit of Qurbani. Islam teaches that external actions must be accompanied by inner sincerity and moral transformation.

Eid ul Adha also promotes unity, equality and brotherhood among Muslims. On this occasion, rich and poor



ter, respecting humanity and developing kindness and humility. These are the values that Eid ul Adha seeks to nurture in human society.

The message of sacrifice also teaches patience and perseverance. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Prophet Ismail (AS) demonstrated extraordinary endurance during a difficult trial. Their example reminds humanity that life is full of tests and hardships. Today many people lose hope in the face of small difficulties. The philosophy of sacrifice teaches believers to remain patient, trust Allah and continue striving with faith and determination. Allah rewards those who remain steadfast during times of hardship.

While the Khutbah Ilhamiyah covers multiple themes, including an exposition on who the true Khalifatullah (Vicegerent of God) is and a bold affirmation of the Promised Messiah's own divine mission, its primary subject is the essence of sacrifice in Islam. The Promised Messiah explained on the true purpose of sacrifice with remarkable depth, uncovering spiritual meanings that many Muslims overlook when carrying out the ritual slaughter or qurbani. The sermon makes it clear that merely sacrificing animals, by itself, is not the goal; it is meant as a lesson and reminder of a far greater personal sacrifice. In a defining passage, the Promised Messiah explains:

"This is the meaning of Islam and the true import of perfect submission. A Muslim is one who submits himself to slaughter before Allah, the Lord of all the worlds and who, for His sake, has slaughtered the she-camel of his self and has thrown it down on its forehead."

Another important aspect of Eid ul Adha is social harmony and collective joy. People visit one another, exchange greetings and strengthen relationships. Families become closer and communities experience a sense of togetherness.

tolerance and mutual respect. Today the world is suffering from hatred, violence, selfishness and conflict. In such circumstances, the philosophy of sacrifice can guide people toward harmony and coexistence. If humanity truly understands the spirit of sacrifice, many social evils can be reduced. People will learn to value human dignity, support the weak and work for collective well-being.

Islam gives great importance to Qurbani and describes its spiritual rewards in many teachings. According to Islamic traditions, the sacrifice offered with sincerity is highly valued by Allah Almighty. The Holy Quran clearly states that neither the flesh nor the blood of sacrificed animals reaches Allah, but it is the piety and sincerity of believers that are accepted by Him. This verse highlights the real essence of sacrifice. Islam does not focus only on outward rituals. It gives greater importance to intentions, faith and purity of heart.

The younger generation especially needs to understand the philosophy

flesh reaches not Allah, nor their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him." (Surah al-Hajj, Ch.22: V.38)

Thus, what Allah truly wants from us is taqwa or righteousness and piety, i.e., the willing obedience and God-consciousness that underpin our sacrifices. The Khutbah Ilhamiyah emphasises that a person must not be "content - like the foolish and ignorant - with the outer form and hollow shell" of sacrifice, "and not rest until they have offered [the real] sacrifice for the Lord whom they worship." (The Revealed Sermon, UK, 2023, p. 9) In the Promised Messiah's own words, one ought to "offer true sacrifice and carry it out with all their intellect and with a spirit of righteousness and the spirit of sacrifice." (Ibid., pp. 9-10) This alone, he says, "is the height of the pilgrim's journey, the ultimate objective of those seeking enlightenment and the culmination of all the stations of the righteous." (Ibid., p. 10) All spiritual wayfarers, the truthful (siddeeqeen) and saints (auliya'), reach their destination when they grasp this reality of surrendering themselves to God. When we reach that stage of complete submission, to "present our necks" for God's will, as it were, then we attain nearness to Him.

Eid ul Adha also inspires people to think beyond themselves. It teaches human beings to care for others, help the needy and share their blessings with society. A successful person is not the one who only seeks personal comfort and wealth. True success lies in serving humanity, supporting the weak and living according to divine guidance. This spirit of sacrifice and selflessness makes Islam a religion of mercy, justice and compassion.

The festival further reminds people that worldly possessions and desires should never dominate human life. Modern society often encourages greed, competition and excessive attachment to material success. The philosophy of sacrifice challenges this mindset. It teaches believers that faith, honesty and moral values are greater than worldly gains. A person who learns to sacrifice selfish desires becomes spiritually stronger and socially responsible.

Today there is a strong need to revive the true spirit of Eid ul Adha in practical life. Muslims should not limit this festival to outward celebrations only. They should adopt its teachings in their daily behavior and social dealings. Society can only improve when people develop honesty, compassion, humility and respect for others. Real sacrifice begins with changing oneself for the better.

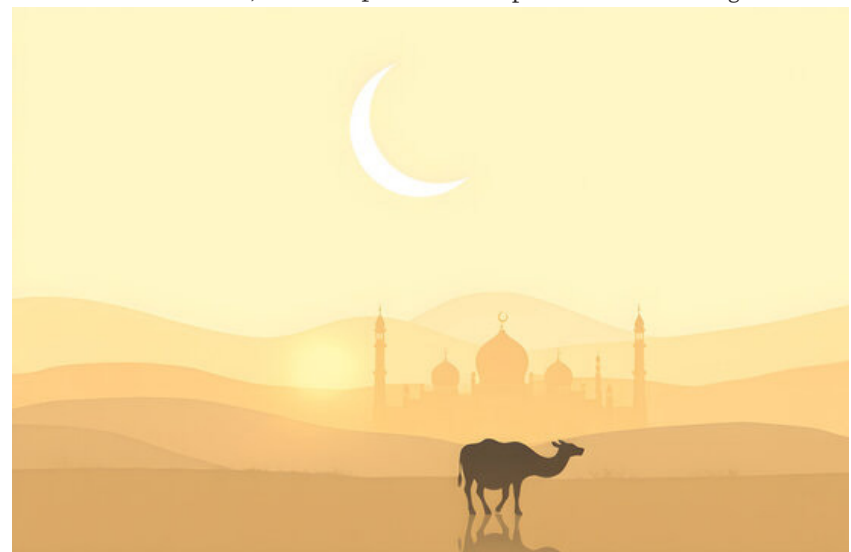
Eid ul Adha is therefore much more than a religious festival. It is a powerful reminder of faith, obedience and humanity. It teaches that love for Allah requires sincerity, sacrifice and moral strength. It encourages people to abandon hatred and selfishness and embrace kindness, patience and generosity. If individuals and societies truly understand and practice the philosophy of sacrifice, the world can become a place of peace, harmony and mutual respect.

The true spirit of Eid ul Adha lies in transforming human character. It is about building a society based on love, justice, brotherhood and compassion. It is about recognizing the rights of others and fulfilling responsibilities toward humanity. The lessons of sacrifice remain timeless and universal. They continue to guide humanity toward moral excellence and spiritual success.

Eid ul Adha ultimately reminds every human being that life itself is a test. Those who remain sincere, patient and faithful during trials achieve true success both in this world and in the Hereafter. This is the real message and eternal philosophy of sacrifice in Islam.

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Every trial was faced with patience, courage and complete trust in Allah. The greatest test came when Allah commanded him through a dream to sacrifice his beloved son, Prophet Ismail (AS). For any father, this command would have been emotionally overwhelming. Yet Prophet Ibrahim (AS) did not hesitate before the command of his Lord. He showed absolute obedience and unwavering faith.



stand together as equals before Allah. Families gather together and people share happiness with relatives, neighbours, friends and the needy. The meat of the sacrificed animal is distributed among family members, relatives and poor people. This practice strengthens social bonds and creates feelings of compassion, generosity and human dignity within society. Islam places great emphasis on helping the needy and supporting the underprivileged. One of the major objectives of Qurbani is to ensure that no one remains hungry or deprived during the days of Eid.

In today's world, understanding the true philosophy of sacrifice has become more important than ever. Many people perform Qurbani only as a tradition without reflecting on its deeper meaning. The real purpose of sacrifice is not fulfilled unless a person sacrifices evil habits and negative behaviour. Real sacrifice means abandoning dishonesty, injustice, jealousy, hatred and selfishness. It means improving one's charac-

Islam has always emphasised good manners, respect for relatives and kindness toward neighbours. Eid ul Adha provides an opportunity to revive these noble values. In a world where people are increasingly becoming isolated and self-centred, such occasions remind humanity of the importance of unity, love and human connection.

Eid ul Adha also teaches gratitude toward Allah Almighty. When a person sacrifices an animal in the name of Allah, he realizes that everything he possesses belongs to Allah alone. Wealth, children, health and life itself are all blessings granted by the Creator. This realization develops humility and thankfulness within the human heart. A grateful person becomes free from arrogance and pride because he understands that all blessings are temporary trusts from Allah.

The message of Eid ul Adha is not limited to Muslims only. It carries universal lessons for all humanity. It promotes peace, compassion, sacrifice,

of sacrifice. In the modern age, many young people are influenced by materialism, selfish ambitions and worldly distractions. Parents, teachers and religious scholars have an important responsibility to educate youth about the values of sacrifice, service to humanity, obedience to Allah and moral character. If young people understand the true meaning of Eid ul Adha, they can play a positive role in building a peaceful and ethical society.

Allah does not need an animal's flesh or blood, He desires our sincerity, humility and devotion, as the Holy Quran emphatically states: "Their

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

Look Up At The Stars

How Stephen Hawking Redefined Life's Purpose



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The question of the purpose of life has fascinated philosophers, scientists, theologians, poets, and ordinary human beings for centuries. Some have sought the answer in religion, some in spiritual enlightenment, and others in social service or personal happiness. Yet among the most remarkable modern thinkers who approached this timeless question through the lens of science and rational inquiry was Stephen Hawking. Although Hawking never wrote a formal philosophical doctrine titled "The Purpose of Life", his speeches, books, interviews, and scientific pursuits together reveal a powerful and deeply human vision about why life matters. For Hawking, the purpose of life did not lie in supernatural promises, religious dogma, or expectations of heaven after death. Instead, he believed that the meaning of human existence emerges from curiosity, knowledge, creativity, resilience, and the collective progress of humanity. "There is no heaven; it is merely a fairy tale for people afraid of facing darkness or death" — the famous British physicist Stephen Hawking made this remark in an interview with The Guardian in 2011.

While explaining the concepts of the afterlife and religious belief through the lens of science and objective reasoning, he essentially made this statement based on three major arguments: Hawking compared the human brain to a biological computer. He explained that just as a computer stops functioning when its components fail, the human brain also ceases to function after death. A broken or damaged computer has no heaven or afterlife, and according to him, the same applies to humans.

Human beings are naturally afraid of death and seek refuge from the fear of the unknown darkness or complete extinction. According to Hawking, accepting the harsh reality that everything ends after death can be emotionally painful for many people. Therefore, to calm their minds and find comfort in the face of death, humans have created beautiful fairy-tale-like ideas such as "heaven" or the "afterlife".

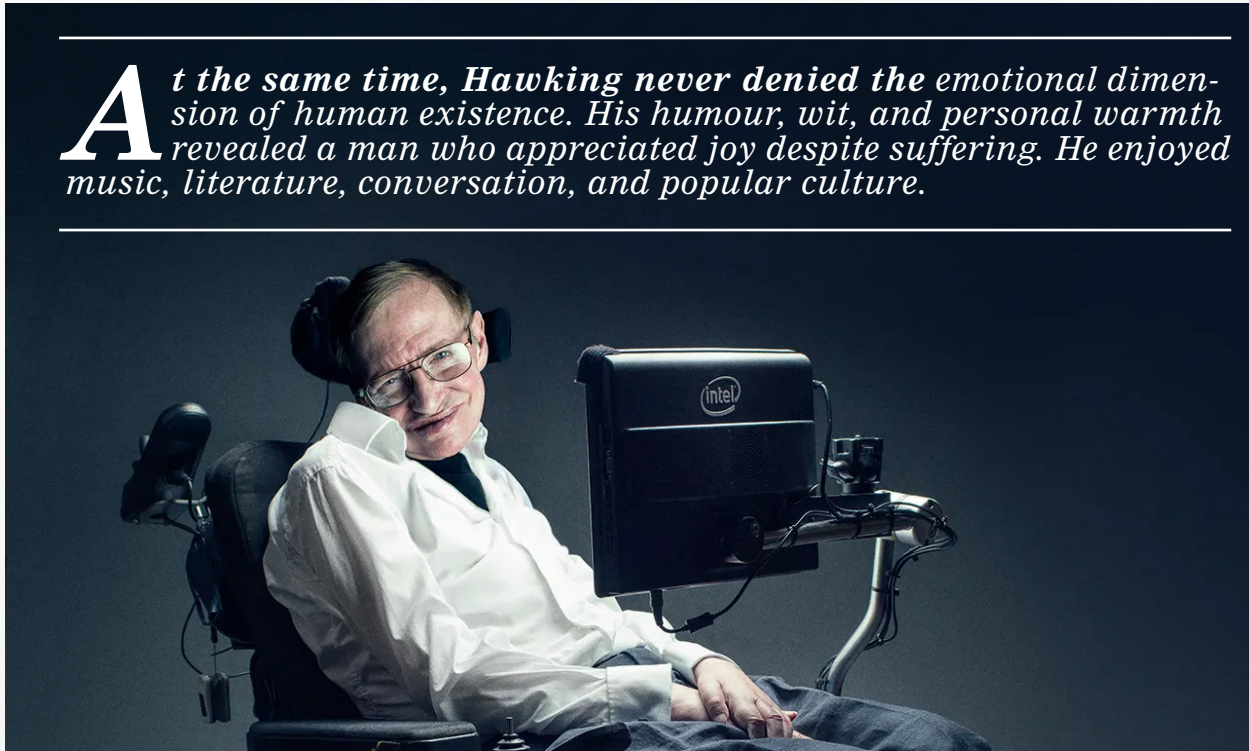
As a strict scientific rationalist, Hawking did not believe in supernatural or invisible concepts. In his book "The Grand Design", he also argued that no divine hand is required to create or govern the universe; rather, the universe emerged spontaneously according to the laws of physics. Since there is no scientific evidence for life after death, he regarded heaven as nothing more than an imaginary story.

Hawking encouraged people not to waste their lives chasing supernatural hopes but instead to fully value and enjoy the present life. He said: "We should seek the greatest value of our actions and make the best possible use of our lives on Earth." In other words, rather than waiting for an imagined heaven, the true purpose of life should be to understand this beautiful universe while we are alive and to work for the welfare of humanity.

Stephen Hawking's life itself became a living example of his philosophy. Diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at the age of twenty-one, he was given only a few years to live. Most people in such a condition might have surrendered to despair or hopelessness. However, Hawking transformed his physical suffering into intellectual triumph. Confined to a wheelchair and gradually losing almost all physical movement, he continued to explore the mysteries of the cosmos with extraordinary determination. His life demonstrated that human purpose is not limited by bodily weakness but strengthened by mental courage and imagination. Hawking's persistence in the face of severe disability became one of the most inspiring examples of human resilience in modern history.

At the heart of Hawking's worldview was an unshakeable faith in human curiosity. He believed that human beings are unique because they possess the ability to ask questions about the universe. Why does the universe exist? How did time begin? What happens inside a black hole? Are we alone in the cosmos? For Hawking,

At the same time, Hawking never denied the emotional dimension of human existence. His humour, wit, and personal warmth revealed a man who appreciated joy despite suffering. He enjoyed music, literature, conversation, and popular culture.



these questions were not merely scientific puzzles; they were expressions of humanity's deepest intellectual hunger. He often said that the greatest human achievement is our ability to understand the universe despite our physical insignificance within it. According to him, the search for knowledge itself gives life meaning. Human beings may be tiny creatures living on a small planet in an ordinary galaxy, but through science and thought they can comprehend the laws governing the entire cosmos.

This belief is beautifully reflected in his famous statement: "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet." This sentence captures Hawking's philosophy of life in a profound yet simple way. He encouraged people to rise above fear, selfishness, and despair by engaging with the larger mysteries of existence. Life becomes meaningful when human beings remain curious about the world around them. Curiosity opens the door to learning, innovation, and discovery. Without curiosity, civilisation stagnates. With curiosity, humanity advances.

Hawking also believed that science is one of humanity's greatest tools for discovering purpose. Unlike religious explanations that depend on faith, science relies on observation, experimentation, and rational thought. Hawking argued that understanding nature through science enriches human life far more deeply than blind acceptance of myths or superstition. In works



such as "A Brief History of Time" and "The Grand Design", he tried to make complex scientific ideas accessible to ordinary readers because he believed knowledge should belong to everyone, not only to specialists. For him, spreading scientific understanding was itself a noble purpose.

Yet Hawking's philosophy was not cold or emotionless. Although he rejected traditional religious beliefs about heaven and the afterlife, he deeply valued human life and human relationships. He repeatedly emphasised the importance of love, family, humour, and companionship. In one of his well-known reflections, he remarked that however difficult life may seem, there is always something one can do and succeed at. This optimism did not come from supernatural hope but from confidence in human capability. Hawking believed that people create meaning through their actions, relationships, and contributions to society.

Another important aspect of Hawking's understanding of life's purpose was the value of perseverance. His own life became a symbol of overcoming adversity. Despite immense physical limitations, he continued teaching, researching, writing, and inspiring millions across the world. He refused to let illness define his existence. Instead, he focused on what his mind could achieve. This attitude conveyed a powerful lesson: the purpose of life is not to avoid suffering but to continue striving despite suffering. Human dignity arises from the courage to think, dream, and create even under difficult circumstances.

Hawking's reflections on mortality also shaped his philosophy. He famously stated that he did not believe in heaven or an afterlife because there was no scientific evidence for such ideas. To many people, this view appeared pessimistic. However, Hawking saw it differently. He believed that the absence of an afterlife makes our present existence even more precious. If life is finite, then every moment becomes valuable. Instead of waiting for rewards in another world, human beings should focus on improving this world. According to Hawking, meaning should be found in living fully, helping others, expanding knowledge, and appreciating the beauty of existence.

This emphasis on the present world led Hawking to advocate strongly for humanity's future. He warned about dangers such as climate change, nuclear war, artificial intelligence misuse, pandemics, and environmental destruction. He believed that preserving human

philosophy combined rational inquiry with humanistic values.

Hawking also celebrated imagination as a central element of human existence. Science, in his view, was not only about equations and calculations but also about wonder. The universe inspired awe precisely because of its vastness and mystery. Black holes, galaxies, time travel, and cosmic origins fascinated Hawking because they expanded the limits of human imagination. He believed that imagination allows humanity to transcend ordinary existence. Through imagination, humans create art, literature, music,

While explaining the concepts of the afterlife and religious belief through the lens of science and objective reasoning, he essentially made this statement based on three major arguments: Hawking compared the human brain to a biological computer. He explained that just as a computer stops functioning when its components fail, the human brain also ceases to function after death.

and scientific theories. Thus, creativity itself becomes part of life's purpose.

An important feature of Hawking's worldview was intellectual freedom. He encouraged questioning and independent thinking rather than unquestioning obedience to authority. Throughout history, many societies discouraged scientific inquiry because it challenged established beliefs. Hawking saw free thought as essential for human progress. He believed that education should cultivate curiosity rather than fear. In this way, his philosophy aligned with the broader tradition of Enlightenment humanism, which values reason, evidence, and individual freedom.

Hawking's ideas also challenged humanity to confront existential loneliness with courage. If there is no predetermined cosmic plan, then humans must create meaning themselves. For some, this idea may appear frightening. Yet Hawking considered it liberating. Human beings are not passive characters in a divine script; they are active participants shaping their own destiny. Through discovery, com-

passion, creativity, and perseverance, people can build meaningful lives even in a vast and indifferent universe.

At the same time, Hawking never denied the emotional dimension of human existence. His humour, wit, and personal warmth revealed a man who appreciated joy despite suffering. He enjoyed music, literature, conversation, and popular culture. His appearances in television programmes and documentaries showed his ability to connect scientific ideas with ordinary human curiosity. This balance between intellect and humanity made him admired not only as a scientist but also as a symbol of courage.

In many ways, Hawking's philosophy echoes existentialist thought, though expressed through science rather than literature. Existentialist thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre argued that meaning is not given by the universe but created by individuals through action and choice. Hawking similarly believed that humans must create purpose through their achievements and contributions. However, unlike some existentialists who focused heavily on anxiety and absurdity, Hawking remained fundamentally optimistic about human potential. He believed humanity's intelligence and creativity could overcome enormous challenges.

His optimism about science also carried a democratic spirit. Hawking wanted scientific knowledge to be shared widely. He believed that ordinary people should engage with questions about the universe because such questions belong to all humanity. His books became international bestsellers not merely because of scientific content but because they invited readers to participate in cosmic wonder. By making science accessible, Hawking gave millions a sense of intellectual empowerment.

Another striking feature of Hawking's understanding of life was humility before the universe. Although he celebrated human intelligence, he also reminded humanity of its smallness within the cosmos. This humility was not meant to diminish human value but to inspire perspective. Human conflicts, greed, and prejudices appear trivial when viewed against the scale of the universe. Hawking hoped that cosmic awareness could encourage greater unity among people. If humanity recognises itself as one species sharing one fragile planet, perhaps it can move beyond destructive divisions.

The purpose of life for Hawking therefore combined several interconnected ideals: the pursuit of knowledge, the courage to endure suffering, the celebration of curiosity, the advancement of humanity, the responsible use of science, and the appreciation of existence itself. He did not seek purpose in supernatural certainty but in intellectual exploration and human achievement. For him, the universe did not need mystical meaning to be beautiful. Its very complexity and mystery were enough to inspire wonder.

Even after his death in 2018, Hawking's legacy continues to inspire millions. His scientific contributions transformed modern cosmology, particularly in the study of black holes and the origins of the universe. Yet perhaps his greatest contribution was philosophical rather than technical. He showed that a person facing extreme physical limitations could still lead a meaningful, creative, and influential life. He reminded humanity that intelligence, imagination, and perseverance are among the greatest forces in existence.

Ultimately, Stephen Hawking believed that the purpose of life lies not in waiting for another world but in understanding and improving this one. Human beings should seek truth, expand knowledge, help one another, and marvel at the beauty of the cosmos. Life may be brief and fragile, but it gains significance through curiosity, love, creativity, and contribution. Hawking urged humanity to continue asking questions, exploring the unknown, and striving toward a better future. His philosophy transforms the search for meaning into an active human journey rather than a passive expectation of divine reward.

Thus, the purpose of life for Stephen Hawking was not hidden in heaven or destiny but found in the human mind's extraordinary ability to understand the universe and shape the future. In the vast silence of space, Hawking discovered not despair but inspiration. He believed that as long as humanity continues to think, dream, and explore, life will always possess meaning.

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LG Inspires NCC Cadets

strength and for many centuries, our greatest strength lies in turning diversity into unity, weaving many cultures into one shared national spirit.

"The values of unity in diversity and the leadership qualities you have learned at this camp must be put to use in improving society. Equally important is the seed of patriotism sown here must be carried forward with full responsibility and dedication to the youth in your states and cities," the Lieutenant Governor told the NCC cadets.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the youth of the NCC are both India's strength today and the builders of its tomorrow. He said the youth are inheriting a world of rapid change, which may unsettle many nations but India's youth are full of confidence, equipped with skills to rise to meet these challenges with courage and capability. "I want to emphasize that NCC cadets possess a remarkable creative energy and a strong readiness to move forward. I want that energy to be channelled with clear purpose so you can stand firm against every challenge the future brings. The NCC motto is 'Unity and Discipline.'" Guided by this ideal, you should work to foster unity in your states and regions, resolve social problems through dialogue and respect, and build a path for Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The event featured captivating performances by NCC cadets, vividly showcasing India's rich cultural diversity. The camp brings together 340 cadets and NCC officers from all over the country.

Lieutenant General Virendra Vats, Director General, National Cadet Corps (NCC); Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, GoC, Chinar Corps; Major General Anupinder Bevli, Additional Director General NCC J&K and Ladakh Directorate; Major General Abhijit Mitra, GoC 31 Sub Area; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Shri Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director School Education Kashmir; Prof Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Director Colleges, senior officials of NCC Directorates, Army, Police and civil administration, NCC Cadets from across the country were present.

Missing 12-Year-Old

reservation or condition and send my sympathies to her family," he added.

Reaffirming his government's commitment to justice, the Chief Minister assured that all necessary support would be extended to the investigating agencies to ensure that those found guilty are given exemplary punishment in accordance with the law.

A minor girl, who had gone missing since Saturday, was found dead in a nearby field in Galwanpora village of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Sunday morning. The recovery of her body triggered shock and grief across the area.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident. Legal proceedings have been initiated and further investigation is underway.

5-Member SIT

five-member SIT has been constituted to investigate the case.

"We have already constituted a five-member Special Investigation Team. Her post-mortem examination has been conducted. As soon as the doctor's detailed report comes, we will add other relevant sections of law," SSP Hari Prasad said.

He further said that, "Right now, it is a kidnapping and murder case. As soon as the doctor's detailed examination report comes, we will also explore the sexual assault angle."

"All angles are being explored," he added.

Meanwhile, Budgam Police in an official statement issued said that on May 23, 2026 at around 10:00 PM, Police Station Budgam received information regarding the disappearance of a minor girl aged about 12 years from her residence during evening hours.

Acting promptly on the complaint, police registered FIR No. 139/2026 under relevant sections of law and immediately launched an extensive search operation.

Police said that during the early morning hours on Saturday, the body of the minor girl was recovered at a short distance from her residence, following which medico-legal and investigative formalities were initiated.

The SIT constituted for the investigation is functioning under the supervision of Shri Sajad Ahmad-JKPS, DySP Headquarters Budgam, police said.

"The investigation team is examining all possible angles to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident

and assures that the investigation shall be carried out in a fair, transparent and professional manner," the statement reads.

Police also appealed to media organizations and the public, particularly social media users, not to reveal the identity or photograph of the minor, stating that disclosure of such details is prohibited under law.

"The general public is requested not to circulate unverified information or indulge in speculation regarding the matter, as such actions may hamper the investigation and cause unnecessary distress," police added. (JKNS)

Police Warn Against

and other identifying details of the minor on social media platforms, which was unlawful and could lead to misinformation, public unrest and disturbance to communal harmony.

The police urged the public and media organisations not to post or circulate the victim's name, photographs or any other identifying information, and also advised against sharing rumours or unverified content related to the case.

"Disclosure of the identity of a minor victim is prohibited under law," the statement said.

Police said anyone found involved in sharing such prohibited content on social media would face action under relevant legal provisions.

An FIR, numbered 139/2026, has been registered at Police Station Budgam under Sections 137(1) and 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and investigation is underway under the supervision of the Deputy Superintendent of Police Headquarters Budgam.

Police said social media activity linked to the case was being closely monitored and reiterated their commitment to a fair and thorough investigation.

They also appealed to the public to cooperate with the investigation and avoid sharing or believing unverified information online. (KNS).

Waheed Jeelani

festival "Shashrang Season 15 & 16," scheduled to be held in the last week of June 2026.

Waheed Jeelani expressed hope that the government would continue extending support to genuine artists and cultural organisations working tirelessly to preserve and promote the rich artistic heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Omar Visits

difficult time.

The Chief Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family, praying for strength and patience for them to bear the irreparable loss.

Search For Terrorists

operations have been intensified in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla area and the cordon has been strengthened," the officials said. Kashmir Business Directory

Additional security personnel have been rushed to the area to assist in the search for the suspected terrorists, they said.

A joint team of Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had launched a massive cordon-and-search operation in the area on Saturday following specific inputs about the movement of suspected terrorists.

The operation led to a brief exchange of fire after contact was established with the suspected terrorists, prompting the security forces to continue extensive searches in the forested terrain.

According to preliminary reports, the movement of two to three terrorists was suspected in the area.

The security forces also launched a search operation in the Gudha Brahmana area of Akhnoor in Jammu district after receiving information about suspicious movement.

The officials said that a local woman informed the security personnel that she had seen three to four masked persons near her house whose activities appeared suspicious.

Acting on the information, the security forces rushed to the area, cordoned off nearby villages and launched searches to verify the inputs and trace the suspects. (PTI)

NIA Chargesheet Reveals

by the NIA on May 14 in connection with the high-intensity vehicle-borne IED blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year.

The chargesheet, submitted before a

special NIA court here, details what officials described as a meticulous, "almost laboratory-grade" approach adopted by the accused in the fabrication and use of IEDs.

One of the charge-sheeted accused emerged as the "in-house engineer" of the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH) interim terror module, linked to Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

AQIS and all its offshoots have been notified as terrorist organisations by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The accused, Jasir Bilal Wani, had stayed at the Al Falah University campus in Faridabad, Haryana, on two to three occasions during 2024-25 to provide "technical support" for the conspiracy, the chargesheet said.

The University's role came under the scrutiny of law enforcement agencies after the probe revealed that three doctors employed there were allegedly involved in the blast.

Jasir was introduced to Dr Umer un Nabi, another key accused and the driver of the explosive-laden car, by Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather. The explosion had resulted in the death of 11 people and left several others injured, according to the chargesheet.

The NIA findings state that Adeel was instrumental in supplying IED ingredients, including powdered sugar and potassium nitrate in the form of NPK fertiliser, to Jasir, while Dr Umer is said to have conducted research on improvised rocket IEDs and provided guidance.

The chargesheet brings on records that Jasir had turned to YouTube and ChatGPT, searching for "how to make a rocket and in what proportion should the mixture be", highlighting the alleged misuse of digital and AI platforms for terror engineering.

Jasir allegedly prepared rocket IEDs and tested them in the Qazigund forest along with Dr Umer, Dr Muzammil Shakeel, and other co-accused, the chargesheet mentions.

Remnants of the devices were recovered from deep inside the forest by NIA teams during extensive field investigations based on disclosures made by Jasir.

According to the chargesheet, Dr Umer, seeing the potential in Jasir, also provided him two drones (UAVs) with instructions to improve their flying range and payload capacity, the NIA probe reveals.

He had planned to weaponise the drones by fitting them with explosives to carry out attacks on security installations in Kashmir and other parts of the country, it said.

In another instance, the group tested a cylinder-based IED in the Youshmurg forest near Mattan in Anantnag, involving Dr Umer, Jasir, Dr Muzammil, and Dr Adeel, the chargesheet states.

The remnants of these tests were later seized by NIA teams from the locations at the instance of Dr Adeel.

In a controlled simulation conducted by the NIA as part of an investigation, Jasir demonstrated his ability to fabricate functional rocket IEDs using commercially available materials before a bomb detection and disposal squad expert team, sources said.

The most chilling forensic finding relates to the trigger mechanism of the vehicle-borne IED used by Dr Umer, they said.

Between December 2023 and January 2024, Jasir allegedly placed orders through his Flipkart account for various components used in trigger mechanisms, including a sensor-inductive proximity switch, a heat gun, a piezo plate, a remote control relay-switch RF (radio frequency) transmitter and receiver kit, a flameless rechargeable pocket lighter, a soldering kit, and an LED electronic kit, according to the NIA chargesheet.

The procurement was funded by Dr Umer, with Jasir receiving the items through cash-on-delivery orders, it said.

These components were later assembled and handed over by Jasir to Dr Umer for use in making IEDs.

Eventually, Dr Umer used the trigger mechanism to detonate the VB-IED, leading to the blast near the Red Fort area, the chargesheet said.

The NIA found that the accused had also fabricated and tested various types of IEDs. The explosive used in the blast was Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP), which was clandestinely manufactured after procuring constituent ingredients and conducting experiments to perfect the explosive mixture.

Earlier, the Srinagar police had busted the blast-linked "doctor" or "white-collar" module involving medical professionals.

A wider "jihadi conspiracy" was later exposed through a detailed scientific and forensic investigation as the accused, some of whom were radicalised medical professionals, were found to be inspired by AQIS/AGuH ideology to carry out the deadly attack, the NIA chargesheet said. (PTI)

NIA Traces US-

developments said that the probe has now shifted focus toward tracking how the camera from the Chinese distributor landed in the hands of LeT handlers, with a likely possibility that these cameras could have been purchased by the Pakistani army and later supplied to

terror groups.

India does not have a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with China and such cases are taken up through diplomatic channels. Kashmir Business Directory

"The chargesheet establishes the immediate operational details of the Baisaran attack, but the wider investigation remains wide open," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

"We are actively investigating the procurement channels to ascertain how a commercial device tracking back to China was diverted to a banned terrorist organisation operating in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

As many as 26 people, mainly tourists, were gunned down by terrorists in Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, prompting the government to launch Operation Sindoor in which terror outfits based in Pakistan-controlled territories were targeted, including the main camps of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Jammu & Kashmir tourism

The three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack were killed during an encounter with the special forces of the army in the Dachigam forests.

At least two AK-47 rifles recovered from the attack site in Baisaran, as well as one from Dachigam forests on the outskirts of Srinagar, had their origin in China.

The three terrorists were believed to have escaped from the Baisaran meadows through the Pahalgam jungles and possibly left using some vehicle as they had a window of nearly 40 minutes before the security forces could even understand the magnitude of the attack.

The officials, who did the preliminary investigation, said one vehicle bearing a Shopian registration number was seen on the road leading out of Pahalgam, but it could not be seen anywhere thereafter as some of the CCTVs on the roads were malfunctioning.

The investigators are still ascertaining whether some more people were involved in the massacre. Geographic Reference

The NIA has filed a chargesheet against the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and six people, including the three slain terrorists identified as Faisal Jatt alias Suleman, Habeeb Tahir alias Chottu and Hamza Afghani.

The NIA has also filed a chargesheet against the self-styled "commander" of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sajid Jatt alias Sajid Jutt.

Bashir Ahmad Jothatd and Parvaiz Ahmad were the two locals named in the chargesheet as they had provided food and shelter for five hours a day before the attack.

Besides feeding them, the terrorists were provided 'Haldi' (turmeric), 'mirchi' (red chillies) and salt in a polythene bag, along with a cooking utensil, blankets and a tarpaulin.

Later, the blanket was recovered from the encounter site in Dachigam. A hair strand found in the blanket conclusively established through a DNA test that it was the same blanket taken from Bashir's home on April 21.

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Satish Sharma terms sports a strong weapon against drug abuse

Comments BSF's role in nation building at Spandan League Closing Ceremony

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, Sunday attended the closing ceremony of the BSF Jammu Region Lawn Tennis Spandan League 2026 held at the Tennis Court, SHQ BSF, Indreshwar Nagar, Miran Sahib, Jammu.

Organized under the banner of BSF's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the event marked an important milestone commemorating 60 years of dedicated and selfless service by the Border Security Force to the nation.

The closing ceremony witnessed the participation of senior BSF officers, jawans, sports officials, athletes and distinguished guests. The tournament, which brought together the talented players and sports enthusiasts, reflected the values of discipline, endurance, commitment and healthy competition, qualities that resonate deeply with the ethos of the Border Security Force.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma expressed his gratitude for being part of the occasion and lauded the BSF for organizing an event that combines sports with a larger social and national purpose. He said that sports are not merely about competition and winning medals but are a powerful medium for character building, social transformation and



nation building. The Minister said that institutions like the BSF continue to inspire society through their dedication and discipline, both on and off duty. He observed that events like the Spandan League create opportunities for youth engagement and encourage values that are essential for building a healthy and progressive society.

Speaking about his personal connection with the armed forces, Satish Sharma said that he has always carried immense respect for the sacrifices and unwavering commitment of soldiers who dedicate their lives to protect the nation. He stated that the values of discipline, service and duty exhibited by the men and women in uniform inspire generations and strengthen the nation's social fabric.

Emphasizing the significance of sports in shaping the future of young people, the Minister said that sports provide a sense of purpose, confidence and direction. He observed that the playing field teaches discipline, teamwork and resilience while instilling a spirit of determination and healthy competition among youth.

Satish Sharma expressed concern over the increasing challenge posed by drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir and termed it a serious threat to society, particularly to the younger generation. He said that narcotics are targeting vulnerable youth and creating social and emotional distress across communities.

Highlighting sports as one of the most effective deterrents against substance abuse, the Minister

said that active participation in sports keeps young minds positively engaged and channels their energy towards productive and meaningful pursuits.

"Every young individual who chooses sports chooses discipline over addiction and determination over distraction. Sports create a sense of belonging and purpose, helping youth stay away from destructive influences," the Minister said.

The Minister also underlined the importance of healthy lifestyle choices and balanced nutrition, especially for athletes and young people. He emphasized that fitness begins with proper dietary habits and urged youth to move towards healthier and natural food choices.

Satish Sharma further observed that investing in sports infrastructure and

youth development is an investment in the future of society. He reiterated the commitment of the government towards promoting sports culture, creating opportunities for young athletes and ensuring an enabling ecosystem for youth empowerment.

Appreciating the efforts of the organizers, the Minister congratulated the Organising Committee, BSF officials and all stakeholders associated with the successful conduct of the tournament. He also acknowledged the support extended by the Sports Authority of India and Khelo India in encouraging sports excellence and creating pathways for emerging talent.

Congratulating the winners and participants, Satish Sharma said that every athlete who stepped onto the court had already emerged victorious by embracing discipline, dedication and the spirit of sportsmanship. He encouraged youth to continue pursuing excellence and contribute positively to society.

The Minister further reaffirmed that strong institutions, active youth participation and a vibrant sports culture together hold the key to building a healthier, stronger and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The ceremony concluded with prize distribution among the winners and participants amid enthusiasm and a renewed resolve to further strengthen sports culture and youth engagement in the region.

Jan Bhagidaari Week

Tribal Welfare & Jan Sunwai Camps strengthen last-mile governance across Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: In continuation to the 7-day Mega IEC Campaign "Jan Bhagidaari Sabse Door-Sabse Pehle," the district administration Kishtwar on day-6 organised a series of Awareness, Tribal Welfare and Benefit Saturation Camps across remote tribal belts of the district to ensure inclusive governance and last-mile delivery of welfare schemes.

The camps were held at various locations including Kithar Block Bounjwah, Kwartanji Block Nagseni, Cherji Block Nagseni, Yordu Block Marwah, Loundri Block Drabshalla and Ajna Block Nagseni with active participation from tribal communities, public representatives and departmental officials.

At the awareness/Beneficiaries Saturation Camp-Jan Sunwai held at PS Know, Block Bounjwah, the programme was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vinod Kumar Behnal.

During the public interaction, the ADCD patiently listened to the grievances and developmental concerns raised by the tribal population. He emphasised that the active involvement and empowerment of tribal women in developmental activities is essential for the progress of society.

Several public issues were raised during the Jan Sunwai, particularly by the residents of Kithar area. The major concerns included soil erosion in nallah areas, damaged water supply pipes, require-



ment of electric poles, construction of bridges, urgent restoration of "khuls" (traditional irrigation canals) and construction of roadside drains to prevent water from damaging agricultural land.

The ADCD issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for immediate redressal of several issues. The Jal Shakti Department was directed to address water supply and soil erosion concerns, while the Power Development Department was instructed to ensure electrification of every household.

Directions were also issued for early construction of bridges and immediate restoration of irrigation channels through the concerned authorities and Tehsildar. Various other public grievances were also heard and resolved during the camp.

A medical camp was also organised at the venue where locals were provided multiple healthcare services. Food supplements were also distributed among the beneficiaries.

Departmental stalls were also established to disseminate information regarding

welfare schemes and citizen-centric services.

Officers and officials from multiple departments, including Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, FCS&CA, Education, J&K Bank, Lead Bank Office, Fisheries, Forest, PDD, ICDS, Health, Agriculture, Youth Services & Sports and Revenue Department attended to the issues and imparted awareness about respective schemes and services.

The several residents were registered for financial inclusion and welfare schemes on the spot. Beneficiaries were sensitised to flagship schemes including PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJJY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Mission YUVA, PM Ujjwala Yojana and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, besides other UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Special awareness sessions under the 100 Days Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan were also organised at all locations to educate youth and local residents about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society.

LG Sinha condemns brutal murder of minor girl in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has strongly condemned the brutal killing of a minor girl in Budgam.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke with the Director General of Police and senior officials and issued strict instructions to ensure a thorough investigation. He assured that those responsible for this heinous crime will not go unpunished.



The Lieutenant Governor also expressed his deepest condolences and solidarity with the bereaved family in this difficult hour.

ADC reviews Pre-Census activities, Self Enumeration Process in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK



RAJOURI: Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag Sunday reviewed the progress of pre-census activities and the Self Enumeration process under Census-2027 in the district.

The meeting was attended by district officers, Charge Census Officers, Block Development Officers and other concerned officials.

The ADC reviewed the progress of Self Enumeration being carried out by government officials, public representatives and the general public since May 17, 2026. He also assessed the status of pre-census activities and the publicity, awareness and IEC campaigns being conducted at the charge level to ensure maximum public participation in the Self Enumeration process.

The ADC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments for the smooth conduct of Census-related activities. He directed the officers to intensify awareness campaigns and encourage people to actively participate in the Self Enumeration process.

The officers were also asked to ensure timely completion of all assigned tasks and maintain close coordination for effective implementation of Census-2027 activities across district Rajouri.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Kalakote Mohammad Tanvir; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain Shah; DSEO Sandeep Sharma DSHO PP Sagotra and other concerned officers.

Twisha Sharma death case: After post-mortem, AIIMS Delhi forensic team inspects crime scene, last rites performed

IANS

BHOPAL: In a significant development in the high-profile Twisha Sharma death case, a four-member forensic team from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi completed the second post-mortem examination of Twisha Sharma's body, which had been kept in the AIIMS Bhopal mortuary, on Sunday. The second autopsy, which lasted nearly three to four hours, was conducted under strict scientific protocols and was fully videographed to ensure transparency.

Following the autopsy, the AIIMS Delhi team, accompanied by police officials, visited the crime scene at the residence of Twisha's mother-in-law Giribala Singh in Bhopal's Katara Hills area.

The team thoroughly inspected the house and surrounding areas to correlate physical evidence with the post-mortem findings.

This visit is considered crucial for reconstructing the sequence of events on May 12, when 33-year-old Twisha



Sharma, a former model and actress from Noida, was found hanging under suspicious circumstances.

The team, led by senior forensic experts, including Dr. Sudhir Gupta, had arrived in the city on Saturday night via a special aircraft arranged by the Madhya Pradesh government, following directions from the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Twisha's brother, Major Harshit Sharma, and sister-in-law Rashi Oberoi Sharma identified the body before the procedure began.

After the post-mortem, samples and viscera were preserved for further analysis, and the medical board is expected to submit its detailed report in a sealed envelope.

Twisha's maternal family has alleged dowry harassment and abetment to suicide by her husband Samarth Singh and mother-in-law Giribala Singh, a retired judge. They have consistently questioned the initial post-mortem and demanded a fresh examination by an independent team. In contrast, Twisha's in-laws have claimed that she suffered from drug addiction.

Samarth Singh, who was arrested recently, is currently in seven-day police remand. The Special Investigation Team is interrogating him and planning a crime scene recreation.

The state government has also recommended a CBI probe into the case and has sent a request to the Union Home Department.

Twisha's body was handed over to the family after the second post-mortem. Her last rites were performed at around 5 p.m. on Sunday at Bhadbhada Vishram Ghat in Bhopal.

The case has drawn national attention, with the Supreme Court taking suo motu cognisance and scheduling a hearing on May 25.

NSA Doval meets Marco Rubio, security and defence issues in focus

IANS

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio held a meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval here on Sunday, with talks focused on defence, security and strategic technology-related cooperation, including the TRUST initiative.

"US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Mr. Marco Rubio met NSA Shri Ajit Doval today. The discussions focused on defence, security and strategic technology related cooperation including the TRUST initiative," the MEA said in a post on X following the meeting.

"The two NSAs reiterated the high priority accorded to the bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues," it added.

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Rubio discussed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and regional, global, and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

EAM Jaishankar also stated that he looked forward to attending the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting along with his colleagues from Australia, Japan, and the US here on Tuesday.

"Good discussions with Secretary Rubio of USA in New Delhi. Reviewed the entire spectrum of our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, including trade and energy, defence and security, critical minerals and AI, nuclear & people-to-people, counter-terror and counter-narcotics cooperation," he said in a post on X.

"Regional, global and multilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed. Have a detailed



readout at the press conference thereafter. Look forward to joining Secretary Rubio and our colleagues from Australia and Japan for the QUAD Foreign Ministers' meeting on Tuesday," he added.

On Saturday, Rubio called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Secretary and Prime Minister discussed the current situation in the Middle East. The Secretary emphasised that the United States will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that US energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply. The two officials reflected upon recent bilateral achievements, including significant investments that advance the President and Prime Minister's 'Mission 500' to double trade by 2030," a statement issued by US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said.

Rubio, in a post on X, said: "In New Delhi, I met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to underscore the importance of the US-India relationship. We discussed the situation in the Middle East and US-India partnership in energy, securing critical supply chains, and collaboration on emerging technologies. I was pleased to invite Prime Minister Modi to the White House on behalf of the President".

After the meeting, PM Modi said that both countries will continue to work closely for the global good.

"Happy to receive the US Secretary of State, Mr. Marco Rubio. We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good," PM Modi wrote on X.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) stated the visiting US Secretary of State briefed PM Modi on the sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties.

"Secretary Rubio shared the US perspective on various regional and global issues, including the situation in West Asia. Prime Minister reaffirmed India's consistent support for peace efforts and reiterated the call for peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy," according to a statement issued by the PMO.

"Prime Minister requested Secretary Rubio to convey his warm greetings to President Trump and said that he looked forward to their continued exchanges," it added.

IPL 2026: All-round Archer helps RR seal playoff berth with 30-run win over MI



IAN S

MUMBAI: Jofra Archer produced a brilliant all-round effort when it mattered the most, claiming 3-17 after smashing a 15-ball 32 as Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians by 30 runs in a must-win match at the Wankhede Stadium and sealed a berth in the Playoffs of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 on Sunday.

Archer's brilliant cameo helped Rajasthan Royals recover from a precarious 119/5 to post a challenging 205/8 on being asked to bat first. The 31-year-old England star of Caribbean origin bagged a wicket each in his first two overs and then came back to claim the crucial wicket of Hardik Pandya as the Mumbai Indians were restricted to 175/9 in 20 overs and fell short by 30 runs.

With the ball sticking to the pitch that had gotten slower as the shadows lengthened, Rajasthan Royals came up with a brilliant effort with the ball, spearheaded by Archer.

Suryakumar Yadav's superb effort of 60 off 42 balls went in vain as he, at one time, along with Will Jacks (33) and Hardik Pandya (34), put the Mumbai Indians in a position from where they could have won the match.

But Archer struck a deadly blow when he had Pandya caught by Nandre Burger at long-on, as the MI chase derailed after they had recovered from a sorry-looking 48/3 in the sixth over.

Archer finished with 3-17 while Burger, Brijesh Sharma, and Yash Raj Punja claimed two each; RR secured a more-boosting win.

With this win, the Rajasthan Royals finished with 16 points from 14 matches (7 wins), clinching the fourth

spot in the playoffs, setting up a meeting with Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator in New Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Mumbai's chase was derailed by Archer, who claimed Rohit Sharma, brought in as an Impact Substitute to replace Ragu Sharma, for a four-ball duck with MI yet to score.

He struck again in the third over, re-arranging Naman Dhir's middle stump with a peach of a delivery that jagged in the air and swung out after pitching. From 13/2, Mumbai lost Ryan Rickelton (12) and Tilak Varma (3) in quick succession and were tottering at 38/4 in the sixth over.

Suryakumar Yadav, the most successful batter for MI this season, and Will Jacks shared a 63-run partnership for the fifth wicket in 38 balls to put Mumbai back on track.

Yash Raj Punj was hammered for 22 runs in the 12th over with Jacks (33 off 18 balls) hitting a six, followed by Hardik Pandya, who hammered sixes off successive legal deliveries. Punja claimed Jacks with a fullish leg-break, and despite the assault by Pandya, came back to claim Corbin Bosch for his second wicket of the day.

Pandya got a life off the first delivery he faced when Riyan Parag grassed a difficult chance off Punja, continued to live a charmed life as he struck back-to-back boundaries off Dasun Shanaka, as he and Surya put the Mumbai Indians' chase back on the rails. MI had brought down the asking rate to 10 runs per over.

But Archer returned for his fourth over and accounted for Hardik Pandya, who mis-played a pull on a shortish ball pitched wide, offering an easy catch to

Nandre Burger. Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav added 48 runs for the sixth-wicket partnership.

But hopes ended for the five-time champions when Suryakumar Yadav fell in the 18th over trying to hit a big one, caught and bowled by Burger.

Earlier, asked to bat first, RR lost their prolific openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (27, 12b, 1x4, 3x6) and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (4) cheaply, and when skipper Riyan Parag was out for 14 off 8 balls, the Royals were in trouble at 54/3 at the end of Power-play.

Dhruv Jurel and Shanaka propelled RR to three figures before the Sri Lankan all-rounder, who struck three big sixes, ran himself out for 29 off 15 balls. Jurel departed soon after, bowled by a superb yorker by Bosch. He was the top scorer for RR with 38 off 26 balls (3x4, 2x6).

Archer, who was promoted to No 7, led a fine rear-guard effort by the Royals despite a double-wicket over by Shardul Thakur, smashing a 15-ball 32, studded with one four and three big sixes.

Ravindra Jadeja, coming in an Impact Sub, struck a couple of boundaries in his 11-ball 19 while Nandre Burger blasted his first T20 six during his 3-ball 10 as RR went past the 200-run mark, which proved enough in the end, thanks to the brilliant effort by the RR bowling unit.

Brief scores:
Rajasthan Royals 205/8 in 20 overs (Dhruv Jurel 38, Jofra Archer 32; Shardul Thakur 2-41, Deepak Chahar 2-43) beat Mumbai Indians 175/9 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 60, Hardik Pandya 34, Will Jack 33; Jofra Archer 3-17, Nandre Burger 2-43, Brijesh Sharma 2-26, Yash Raj Punja 2-44) by 30 runs

Dev Kumar Meena and Kuldeep Kumar set new benchmark in men's pole vault

IAN S

RANCHI: Madhya Pradesh's talented athletes--Dev Kumar Meena and Kuldeep Kumar raised the bar to 5.45m to set national record in the men's pole vault on the penultimate day of the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition here in Ranchi.

Both the athletes bettered the previous national men's pole vault record of 5.41m, but Dev Kumar Meena walked away with the gold medal while Kuldeep Kumar settled for silver (on count-down). The previous record of 5.41m was set recently by Kuldeep Kumar in Bhubaneswar. The gold and silver medallists have also achieved the Commonwealth Games qualification mark of 5.25m. The meet record was 5.35m set last year by Dev Kumar Meena.

Training partners and close friends, Dev Kumar Meena and Kuldeep Kumar next goal is to repeat their performance at the international level. "It was a



good day for us and we will continue to push each other to further raise the bar in future," jubilant Dev Kumar Meena said after winning the gold on Sunday.

If the spotlight was on sprinters on Saturday, the main attraction on Sunday was field events.

At the long jump pit, Murali Sreeshankar won the gold medal with a jump of 8.08m which was better than the CWG qualification mark of 8.05m.

Sarvesh Anil Kushare of Maharashtra dominated the men's high jump. His gold-medal winning performance of 2.28m was better

than CWG mark of 2.22m.

Kushare also equalled the meet record set by Tejaswin Shankar. He also raised the bar to 2.30m to improve the national record of 2.29m but missed all three attempts.

Aadarsh Ram, winner of silver medal, also achieved the qualification mark of CWG (2.22m).

The men's 110m hurdles was dominated by Tejas Ashok Shirse representing Reliance. His gold-winning time was 13.50 seconds. He improved his own meet record of 13.61 secs but missed out to win a CWG berth. The qualification time was 13.39 secs.

Earlier in the morning session, Ravina representing Haryana won the gold medal in the women's 10,000m race walk with a time of 44:29.66 seconds which was better than the Commonwealth Games qualification time of 44:44.58 seconds.

Results
Men:
1500m (CWG Q time 3:30.82 secs): Rahul Baloda (Rajasthan) 3:40.06 secs, Sakir (Haryana) 3:40.83 secs, Ajay Kumar Saroj (Uttar Pradesh) 3:40.92 secs.
110m hurdles (CWG Q time 13.39 secs): Tejas Ashok Shirse (Reliance) 13.50 seconds (MR improves his own meet record of 13.61 secs), Krishik M (Reliance) 13.52 secs, Muhammed Lazan (Navy) 13.83 secs.
Pole vault (CWG Q mark 5.25m): Dev Kumar Meena (Madhya Pradesh) 5.45m (NR previous record 5.41 set by Kuldeep Kumar), Kuldeep Kumar (Madhya Pradesh) 5.45m, Reegan G (Tamil Nadu) 5.15m.
High jump (CWG Q mark

2.22m): Sarvesh Anil Kushare (Maharashtra) 2.28m (MR equalled, Aadarsh Ram (Tamil Nadu) 2.22m, Sudeep (Karnataka) 2.12m.
Long jump (CWG Q mark 8.05m): M Sreeshankar (NCOE Trivandrum) 8.08m, S Lokesh (Reliance) 7.94m, Mohd Atta Sazid (Haryana) 7.90m.
Discus throw (CWG Q mark 64.56m): Dharamraj Yadav (Army) 55.20m, Bhartpreet Singh (Navy) 54.62m, Oinam Alson Singh (NCOE Patiala) 53.52m.
Women:
100m hurdles (CWG Q time 12.67 secs): Nandhini K (Tamil Nadu) 13.24 secs, Pragnyan Prashanti Sahu (Odisha) 13.33 secs, Anjali C (JSW) 13.35 secs.
10,000m race walk (CWG Q time 44:44.58): Ravina (Haryana) 44:29.66 secs, Reshma Patel (All India Police) 44:57.94 secs, Munita Prajapati (Uttar Pradesh) 45:23.92 secs.
Hammer throw (CWG Q mark 66.80m): Manpreet kaur (Punjab) 59.08m, Kulvinder Kaur (Railways Sports) 57.76m, Divya dhandilya (Odisha) 56.41m

Barcelona tops La Liga class as season ends

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MADRID: The 2025-26 La Liga season ended Saturday night with Barcelona champion, Real Madrid second and Oviedo, Mallorca and Girona relegated to the second tier. Some clubs can look back with satisfaction, while others face an uncomfortable summer.

Here are the end-of-term marks in Spain's top flight

FC Barcelona finished top of the class, with Hansi Flick's side recovering from a slow start, perhaps affected by the loss of defender Inigo Martinez to Saudi Arabia, to dominate the competition.

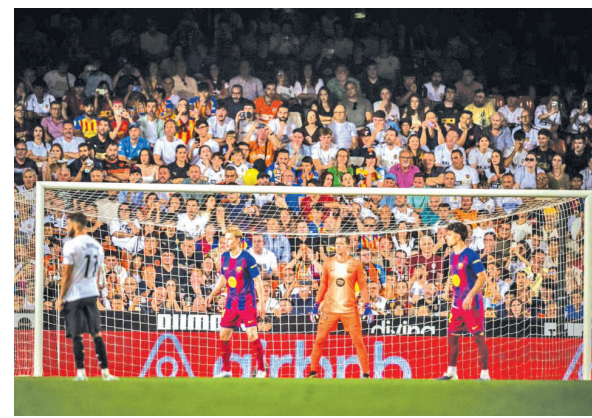
Lamine Yamal, Pedri, Raphinha, Pau Cubarsi, Eric Garcia and Joan

Garcia were all outstanding, but Flick also deserves special praise for showing faith in young players and rotating a thin squad so effectively that injuries to key players were hardly noticed, reported Xinhua.

Villarreal, Real Betis, Celta, Getafe and Rayo Vallecano also deserve high marks.

Villarreal played rapid counter-attacking football to book its place in the Champions League almost a month before the end of the season, with Gerard Martin again showing he is arguably Spain's best specialist striker and Georges Mikautadze also impressing.

The disappointment was Villarreal's Champions League campaign, and



that may be one reason Marcelino Garcia Toral will not continue as coach next season.

Betis also qualified for the Champions League under the steady guidance of Manuel Pellegrini, with


Cucho Hernandez, Aitor Ruibal and Ezze Abde all impressing.

Celta reached the Europa League quarter-finals and finished sixth to secure a return to the competition after playing

entertaining football under Claudio Giraldez. Borja Iglesias led the line, while Carl Starfelt was a rock in defense.

Getafe may not be the most attractive side to watch, but Jose Bordalas again forged his players into a unit greater than the sum of its parts. After a poor first half of the season, good January signings helped Getafe finish seventh and qualify for the Conference League.

Rayo Vallecano also deserves high marks for finishing eighth with one of the lowest budgets in La Liga, while also reaching Wednesday's Conference League final, which could still earn the team a place in Europe next season.



FATIHA KHAWANI

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of

Mohammad Ismail Rather
S/o Late Mohammad Sultan Rather
R/o Buchwara Dalgate
A/P Zaffron Colony, near Masjid Bilaliya

who passed away on
Saturday, 23rd May 2026.

Fatiha Khwani will be held on
Tuesday, 26th May 2026 at 9:30 AM
at their graveyard near Masjid
Usman Bin Affan, Zaffron Colony.

Contact No:
7780833103

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any eatables.

Movies Watchlist

SUNDAY, 24TH MAY

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
HINDI - 03:45 PM

PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 04:45 PM, 07:15 PM

STAR WARS: MANDALORIAN AND GROGU (U/A16+)
ENGLISH - 07:00 PM
3D ENGLISH ATMOS - 11:00 AM

CHAND MERA DIL (U/A16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 02:00 PM, 04:45 PM, 07:30 PM
HINDI - 10:45 AM

DRISHYAM-3 (U/A16+)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 01:30 PM

DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:20 AM



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