

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication



Srinagar • Wednesday 27, May 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 129 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

J&K Bank Records Over 12 Cr Transactions Worth ₹15,000 Cr In Pre-Eid Week

GMK NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Bank, the premier financial institution of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, has powered seamless banking services during the festive week leading up to Eid-ul-Azha, recording over 12 crore transactions worth more than ₹15,000 crore, officials said on Tuesday.
 An official said that the Bank registered its highest ever single-day transaction volume on May 25, when customers carried out nearly 1.69 crore transac-

tions involving ₹2,848 crore, setting a new benchmark in the Bank's digital banking history, they said.
 More than 95 per cent of the total transactions were executed digitally, reaffirming the growing customer preference for technology-driven banking services, the officials added.
 At the forefront of this digital surge was the Bank's flagship mobile banking platform mPay Delight Plus, which delivered flawless performance even during peak load conditions and broke all previous records with an all-time high single-day transaction volume. **•P-06**



Promises Justice CM Meets Family Of Minor Girl Brutally Murdered In Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK
BUDGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday visited the family of the minor girl who was brutally murdered on Sunday morning.
 The Chief Minister visited the bereaved family at their residence in Galwanpora village

of Budgam district and offered words of comfort and solidarity during this hour of immense grief.
 Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic loss of the child, the Chief Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the family and assured them that the government stands firmly **•P-06**

BSF Gave Befitting Reply To Pak During 'Operation Sindoor': Shah

Says Strong Coordination Among Security Forces, Citizens Essential For Securing Borders

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Praising Border Security Force (BSF) for playing a key role in 'Operation Sindoor,' Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the force gave a befitting reply to Pakistan and ensured safety of the people living in frontier areas.

Addressing BSF personnel at the Sanchu Border Outpost along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, Shah, said, "I want to appreciate the BSF personnel for the role they played during Operation Sindoor. Wherever the force was deployed, it stood firm and gave a befitting response whenever required. Along with guarding the border, the BSF also ensured that the morale of people living in border districts remained high."

Shah said the Sanchu border post occupies an important place in India's military history and recalled its role during past conflicts with Pakistan.
 "This outpost is written in



golden letters in the history of India's wars. It is a matter of pride for me to stand here and interact with BSF personnel," he said.
 'Operation Sindoor' was launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack and targeted infrastructure linked to terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. During the operation, Indian forces carried out strikes on nine locations, including sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Home Minister said the Centre was taking steps to strengthen border security against emerging threats, particularly the smuggling of narcotics and weapons through drones.
 He said anti-drone systems would be installed within the next six months to counter such activities.
 "It is our responsibility to remain alert against smuggling attempts through drones and other modern **•P-06**

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMAIN ALERT AGAINST smuggling attempts through drones and other modern equipment. The government is working on installing anti-drone systems within six months," Shah said.

'Unwarranted' India Rejects References To J&K In China-Pakistan Joint Statement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Rejecting China-Pakistan remarks on Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday asserted that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India and no other country has the locus standi to comment on the same".

Earlier, the joint statement released by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Islamabad had briefed China on developments in Jammu and Kashmir.
 It stated that China described the issue as "left over from history" and said it should be resolved "peacefully in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements."

In response to media queries regarding unwarranted references to Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China **•P-06**

LG, CM Greet People On Eid-Ul-Adha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday extended their heartfelt greetings to the people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, which is being observed today.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all."

Eid-ul-Adha celebrates the spirit of sacrifice, unity, and brotherhood. The **•P-06**

CS Reviews Progress Of Digitization, Modernization Of Land Records

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the ongoing digitization and modernization of land records across Jammu and Kashmir, with a strong emphasis on ensuring accurate, transparent and technology-driven revenue administration in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Financial **•P-06**

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Public Outreach Programme held in Magam

DC focuses on Civic Development, Public Welfare

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BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a Mega Public Outreach Programme at Town Hall, Magam.

The outreach programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from prominent citizens, traders, Ex-PRIs members, former councillors and residents from Kanihama, Watamagam, Shippora, Makhama, Burden, SK Pora, Panchas, Narbal, Mazhama, Batapora and several adjoining areas, who projected a range of developmental concerns and public grievances before the district administration.

During the interaction, the participants highlighted several pressing issues related to infrastructure development, civic amenities and public welfare. Among the major concerns raised were drinking water scarcity, some localities, immediate macadamization of roads, to improve connectivity and commuter safety, and the need for uninterrupted power supply along with installation of dedicated electricity meters for better load management.

The locals also demanded establishment of designated parking spaces to decongest the main market area, installation of additional street-



lights to facilitate smooth business activities during evening hours, construction of public washroom facilities for tourists and shopkeepers, and strengthening of sanitation and drainage systems.

Concerns regarding the increasing stray dog menace were also brought into notice during the programme.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the District administration is committed towards the holistic and planned development of Magam Town and adjoining areas.

He assured the participants that all genuine grievances and developmental demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

He further stressed the

to channelize their energies towards education, sports and constructive activities, stating that safeguarding the younger generation from the menace of drugs is a shared responsibility of every section of society.

Later, the DC also visited Markazi Imbarara Magam to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the visit, he inspected facilities related to sanitation, drinking water, electricity, traffic management and other essential services at the venue.

He directed all concerned departments to ensure seamless coordination and adequate arrangements for the convenience of devotees and smooth conduct of religious gatherings during the holy month.

Senior officers including ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal; SDM Beerwah, Toufeeq Gazi; CPO Budgam, Javed Ahmad Najjar, ACP, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, district officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Health, Rural Development and other concerned departments were present on the occasion and took note of the grievances and issues raised by the public for prompt redressal.

importance of coordinated efforts between the administration and the public for effective execution of developmental works.

The DC urged the citizens to actively cooperate with line departments in maintaining cleanliness, proper waste disposal practices and safeguarding public assets for sustainable development of the area.

On the occasion, the DC also Calls for Collective Efforts towards building a drug-free society. He further called upon parents, teachers, religious leaders, civil society members and community representatives to join hands with the administration in building a drug-free society.

The DC urged the youth

DC Budgam reviews Eid-ul-Adha, Muharram arrangement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

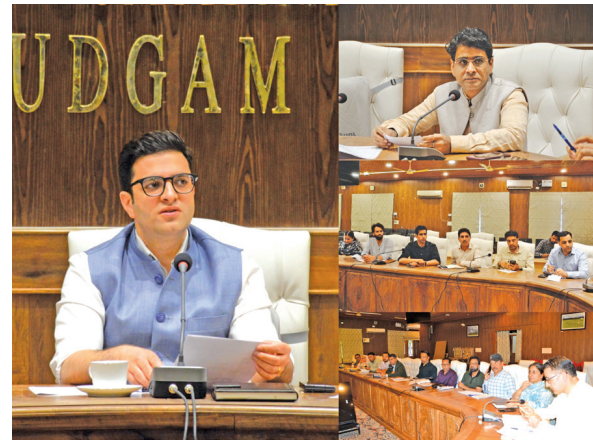
BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a follow-up review meeting of officers from various departments to assess the arrangements being put in place across the district for Eid-ul-Adha and the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed preparations related to transport, sanitation, uninterrupted water and power supply, health-care services, market regulation and availability of essential commodities to ensure smooth observance of the religious occasions.

A detailed discussion was also held regarding arrangements required for the smooth and peaceful conduct of processions and majalis during Muharram-ul-Haram.

The DC reviewed various aspects including scheduled power and water supply, repair and surface levelling of key roads and link roads, timely distribution of ration, LPG and firewood, sanitation measures, installation and restoration of street lights, healthcare facilities, transport and traffic management, besides other essential services.

The DC directed concerned departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance



to facilitate the public and avoid inconvenience during Eid-ul-Adha and Muharram-ul-Haram.

The Power Development Department was directed to ensure smooth and scheduled power supply, while the Jal Shakti Department was instructed to maintain uninterrupted drinking water supply and ensure availability of water tankers across all subdivisions of the district.

Municipal authorities and Urban Local Bodies were instructed to undertake comprehensive sanitation drives around mosques, shrines, Eidgahs and major congregation points in coordination with local committees.

Executive Officers of Municipal Committees were also directed to ensure proper installation and maintenance of street lights well ahead of Muharram.

The Health Department

was asked to keep ambulances and medical teams available at major congregation points and during processions and gatherings.

Forest Department was asked to ensure adequate supply of firewood, while the FCS&CA Department was directed to ensure advance distribution of ration.

Cooperatives Department was instructed to make rice, sugar and other essential commodities available through temporary outlets across the district.

Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments were instructed to ensure adequate availability of poultry and sacrificial animals at notified locations and approved rates for the convenience of the public.

Directions were also issued for proper disposal and scientific management of offal and animal waste to maintain hygiene and

cleanliness.

R&B Department and Urban Local Bodies were directed to complete road repairs, drainage clearance and related works in advance. ARTO Budgam was instructed to formulate a comprehensive transportation plan for major centres across the district.

Emphasising strict market regulation, the DC directed joint market checking teams comprising officials from Revenue, Food Safety, FCS&CA, Municipal Council, Legal Metrology and Police departments to intensify inspections to ensure quality and fair pricing of essential commodities including mutton, poultry, vegetables, fruits, bakery and confectionery items.

Stressing coordinated efforts and proactive public facilitation, the DC instructed all SDMs and concerned officers to closely monitor arrangements on the ground and remain available for grievance redressal and public assistance at all times.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal; CPO Budgam Javed Ahmad Najjar; all SDMs, SE Hydraulic Circle Budgam, ACD, ACP, CMO, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD and PHE, Tehsildars, Executive Officers, ARTO, officers from Police, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti and other line departments.

JKEDI concludes Management Dev Programme under RAMP Initiative



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, successfully concluded the 9th Management Development Programme (MDP-9) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Initiative at its District Office, Srinagar.

The programme focused on building entrepreneurial and managerial capacity among 22 women entrepreneurs from Srinagar. Through structured training modules, participants were equipped with essential skills in business planning, financial management, marketing, and regulatory compliance to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar, and Manager, JKEDI Syed Miftah Andrabi. Addressing the partici-

pants, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI appreciated their active involvement and enthusiasm throughout the programme. He urged the trainees to leverage the knowledge and skills gained to build scalable businesses and contribute to local economic development. He further emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives under RAMP are crucial for promoting grassroots entrepreneurship and empowering women.

The JKEDI course team provided continuous academic and mentoring support during the training period.

Participants expressed deep gratitude to JKEDI for its guidance and for creating a platform that strengthens women-led enterprises in the region.

The RAMP initiative, supported by the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, and the World Bank, aims to enhance the performance and competitiveness of MSMEs across J&K.

NIT Srinagar pushes fitness, sustainability through Cycling campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised the 75th edition of its flagship fitness initiative "Sundays on Cycle" at the institute campus, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, staff, and children.

The cycling event, organised to commemorate Commonwealth Day, was held on the Institute's main circuit road and aimed at promoting physical fitness, environmental awareness, and community participation.

The rally was flagged off by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman in presence of NSS Coordinator Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, NCC Coordinator Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan, EBSB Coordinator Dr. Ashok Kumar and other senior faculty members.

In his message, Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia said that reaching the 75th edition of the initiative reflects the institute's sustained commitment towards wellness, sustainable living, and creating a healthy campus culture.

"Such programmes



strengthen community spirit and encourage students to adopt fitness-oriented lifestyles," he said.

Registrar Dr. Atikur Rehman appreciated the large turnout and highlighted the importance of cycling in promoting both personal health and a pollution-free environment on campus.

In-charge Dean Students' Welfare (DSW) Dr. Shashikant Kumar said the participation of children alongside faculty members and students reflected the spirit of inclusiveness and unity fostered by the event.

NSS Coordinator Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav said the continued success of the programme demonstrates the growing awareness among youth regarding health and fitness.

ANO NCC Lt. Dr. Nitika

Kundan said such activities help inculcate discipline, leadership, and teamwork among students.

The cycling competition witnessed energetic participation across multiple categories, including faculty and staff, students and wards of faculty members. Due to a large number of entries, the boys' student category was conducted in two separate heats.

In the faculty and staff category, Dr. Dasari Karthik secured first position, followed by Dr. Manoj Kumar and Scientific Officer NIT Srinagar, Er. Mustafa Zargar.

In the girls' student category, Aishwarya Kichlu bagged the first position, while Priyanka and Mehr Un Nisa secured second and third places, respectively. In the boys' category,

Aakash emerged as the winner, followed by Syed Nimran and Kaiser.

Among wards of faculty above 10 years, Azaan Ilahi secured first place, followed by Syed Md Zayan and Aliza Fatima. In the below-10 category, Atif Ahmad secured first position, while Mohamad and Nandini Bhatt finished second and third, respectively.

A valedictory ceremony was later held at the Institute's lecture hall, where winners were felicitated with trophies and certificates. Participation certificates were also distributed among other participants.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and renewed commitment towards promoting fitness and social responsibility among youth.

Basharat Rasool reviews arrangements for Annual Urs at Muqam Shahwali

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Tehsildar Dragmulla, Syed Basharat Rasool Tuesday conducted a visit to the revered shrine of Hazrat Zeti Shah Wali Sahib (R.A) at Muqam Shahwali Anderhama to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of the

preparedness and ensure adequate arrangements for the devotees expected to participate in the annual religious congregation.

On the occasion, the Tehsildar took stock of the overall preparations and issued necessary instructions to the concerned departments for ensuring uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation measures, availability of



annual Urs scheduled to be held on 30th and 31st May.

During the visit, the Tehsildar was accompanied by officials of various line departments including PDD, Jal Shakti, Wakf, Rural Development Department (RDD), FCS&CA, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned departments.

A joint inspection was conducted to assess the

essential commodities, fire safety arrangements and other public conveniences for the smooth conduct of the Urs.

The concerned departments were directed to work in close coordination and ensure timely completion of all arrangements to facilitate devotees and ensure the peaceful and successful observance of the annual Urs.

CUS launches Ph.D. journey with interactive session for inaugural batch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Marking a historic milestone in its academic journey, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) organized a high-level interactive session with its maiden batch of Ph.D. scholars for the academic session 2026.

The landmark event was held on at the Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar.

A total of 37 scholars have enrolled in the university's Ph.D. programme across nearly 15 disciplines offered by its constituent colleges. These include Government College of Education (IASE), Sri Pratap College, Government College for Women M.A. Road, Amar Singh College, and Gov-



ernment Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin briefed the scholars about the curriculum and framework of the Ph.D.

programme. He highlighted the university's core vision of promoting high-quality research, academic excellence, and fostering a culture of innovation. The interactive session provided a unique platform for

the newly enrolled scholars to engage directly with the university administration and gain deep insights into the institution's research ecosystem.

In her address to the scholars, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz emphasized the critical importance of dedication, academic integrity, and innovative thinking in shaping the future of higher education. She strongly urged the pioneer batch to undertake meaningful and socially relevant research that contributes significantly to both global academia and local society, while making optimal use of the advanced resources and opportunities available at the university.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof.

(Dr.) Syed Wilayat Rizvi, Registrar, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Controller of Examinations; Dr. Ghulam Hassan Dar from the Department of Biochemistry; and other faculty supervisors from various constituent colleges of the university.

Among the dignitaries present were Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq, Principal, Government College for Women M.A. Road Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat, Principal, Government Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina; and Prof. (Dr.) Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal, SP College Srinagar, along with other faculty members and university officials.

Awareness Programme on Mental Health held at GDC Magam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, under the supervision of Bilal Ahmad Mir, District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam, organized an awareness programme on Emotional Well-Being, Mental Health and Counselling at Government Degree College (GDC) Magam to promote mental wellness, stress management and psychosocial support among students.

The programme commenced with an introductory session by Afroza Ahad, District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti Budgam, who elaborated on the objectives and components of

Mission Shakti. She highlighted its two major components—Sambal and Samarthyaa—which focus on the safety, security, empowerment and rehabilitation of women. Afroza Ahad also sensitized the participants about various women-centric schemes and services being implemented under Mission Shakti, including One Stop Centre, Women Helpline 181, Shakti Sadan, SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Addressing the gathering, Mutina Rashid, Social Worker, Mental Health Unit, District Hospital Budgam, delivered an insightful session on emotional well-being and stress manage-

ment. She emphasized the importance of maintaining emotional balance, adopting healthy coping strategies and seeking timely support during periods of stress and emotional distress.

The technical session on mental health, counselling and stress management was conducted by Aijaz-ul-Asad, who highlighted the importance of mental health awareness among youth. He discussed common mental health concerns, the role of counselling in overcoming psychological challenges and the need to break the stigma associated with seeking professional help. He also shared practical techniques for managing stress and promoting overall psychological well-being.

CM Omar meets delegations at Raabita

Discussions held on banking, youth development, heritage conservation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday met several delegations at his Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) here and held discussions on matters relating to banking, youth development, heritage conservation, and the promotion of art and culture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, called on the Chief Minister during a courtesy meeting. Various issues concerning the banking sector, financial outreach and customer services were discussed. The MD & CEO briefed the Chief Minister on efforts

to further strengthen the Bank's operations across Jammu and Kashmir for improved customer experience and service delivery.

Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Lt. Gen. Virendra Vats, accompanied by Additional Director General, NCC Directorate J&K and Ladakh, Maj. Gen. Anupinder Bevi, also met the Chief Minister. The delegation discussed matters relating to NCC activities, youth engagement and the expansion of cadet initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), led by its Convener and Head, Saleem Beg,

and Principal Architect, Sameer Hamdani, gave a detailed presentation to the Chief Minister on the preservation and restoration of heritage assets in Kashmir.

The delegation also highlighted concerns regarding water management in the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir in the context of climate change and stressed the need for sustainable conservation measures.

The Chief Minister assured the visiting delegation that the government remains committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of the rich artistic, cultural and architectural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

LG chairs high-level meeting of Central Committee of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of the Central Committee of Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; Dr Satish Vimal; Prof Bashir Bashir, and Principals of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu and University of Kashmir.

The Central Committee granted in-principle approval to several key proposals, including affiliation for continuing Calligraphy Course, Annual Plan of Expenditure for the FY 2026-27 and the designing of a new Academy logo, which will feature all five official languages of Jammu Kashmir.

JKAACL's recent milestones.

The committee was informed that the Academy successfully organized over 470 events across Jammu, Kashmir, and other parts of the country, engaging 14,117 artists and writers. Major commemorative events included 150 Years of Vande Mataram celebrations, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra, Nukkad Natak under Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign, Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas, Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, and Constitution Day.

It was further informed that The Jammu & Kashmir Tableau was a major attraction during the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on 31st October 2025. Furthermore, the J&K Tableau clinched the Second Prize at the Republic Day Parade 2026 in New Delhi, a historic national achievement for the Union Territory after 24 years.

The Committee also reviewed the Action Taken Report from the previous meeting which was held in 2021. On the occasion, a Shina-Urdu dictionary and Annual Report of the Academy were also released.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for accelerating the digitization process of all Academy libraries and implementing a well-crafted plan for capacity building of the Academy artists and staff.

He instructed the Academy to expedite the process of accreditation of artists and filling the vacant posts.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a comprehensive strategy involving the Education, Sports, and Culture departments must be formulated to promote vibrant cultural activities in schools and colleges to boost youth engagement.

The Lieutenant Governor also applauded the Culture Academy's performance in the Vande Mataram initiative.

Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department, gave a detailed presentation highlighting

Delhi HC grants interim bail to MP Rashid to attend father's '40th day' rituals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to jailed Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, from June 25 to June 30 to enable him to attend the post-death rituals of his father.

Sources said a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain directed that Er. Rashid be released on interim bail for the second time, allowing him to participate in the ceremonies observed on the 40th day of his father's burial in Srinagar.

The court made it clear that Rashid must surrender on June 2 after the expiry of his current interim bail, which was granted on May 18 to attend his father's last rites. "After the interim bail expires on June 2, the appellant shall surrender. How-



ever, for the period from June 25 to June 30, interim bail is again granted to enable him to participate in the rites and ceremonies on the 40th day," the court ordered.

The bench imposed the same conditions as his current release period, including that he shall always be accompanied by at least two police officials in plain clothes from Tihar Jail until his return from Srinagar. He will be permitted

to visit the burial ground or any place of worship but shall not move anywhere else from his residence sources added.

Rashid's senior counsel had sought an extension of interim bail, which was initially granted on April 28 for one week to meet his ailing father. That period was later extended till May 10 after his father was shifted to AIIMS, New Delhi, where he passed away. (KNS)

DGP reviews security arrangements for Eid, Amarnath Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police J&K, Nalin Prabhat-IPS, chaired a meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review security arrangements for upcoming Eid-ul-Adha & Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY-2026) at PCR Kashmir.

The meeting witnessed participation from senior officers of the J&K Police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and various security agencies. Among those present were the IGP Kashmir Zone; IG BSF Ftr Hqrs Srinagar, IG CRPF Srinagar Sector; all range DIG of Kashmir Zone; DIG Railway; DisG of BSF SHQ Srinagar, Ops BSF FTR HQ Kashmir, and BSF SHQ Bandipora; DIG SSB Srinagar; DisG of CRPF KOS, CRPF South/North Srinagar, CRPF Anantnag, CRPF SKOR Awantipora, CRPF NKR Baramulla, and CRPF Bandipora; DIG CISF; DIG ITBP Srinagar; all district SSSP/PDs of Kashmir Zone; SSSP of PCR Kashmir, Railways Kashmir, Traffic Rural Kashmir, and APCR Kashmir; Col GS (IS) 15 Corps; Asstt. Commandant CISF Airport Srinagar, and other senior officers.

Emphasizing the importance of peaceful Eid celebrations, DGP J&K directed officers to ensure com-

prehensive crowd management arrangements at mosques and key congregation venues across the Valley. Shri Nalin Prabhat-IPS stressed the necessity of strengthening security measures, safeguarding public movement, and deploying personnel at sensitive locations to prevent overcrowding. He further instructed field officers to enhance surveillance, carry out random inspections at vulnerable areas, and intensify patrolling to effectively address any potential security concerns during the festive occasion.

During the meeting, the participating officers presented detailed briefings on the proposed security and logistical arrangements, as well as preparedness measures for the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026. Officers from the CAPFs and other security forces also shared their assessments and underscored the need for seamless coordination and synergy among all agencies involved.

Additionally, the officers briefed the chair regarding the administrative and logistical arrangements made for the incoming CAPF companies.

The DGP issued directives for the smooth induction of CAPF companies and emphasized that district heads must ensure

proper arrangements for incoming units and their efficient ground deployment. Emphasizing the importance of robust security management, DGP J&K directed officers to ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and adopt proactive strategies to counter potential threats. He stressed the need for heightened vigilance to safeguard pilgrims and maintain a secure environment throughout the yatra period.

Shri Nalin Prabhat-IPS further instructed field formations to intensify efforts aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem and strengthening area domination along the pilgrimage routes. Directions were also issued for the deployment of Anti-Sabotage teams and the use of advanced surveillance systems and real-time monitoring mechanisms to enhance threat detection and response capabilities.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from all participating agencies to maintain the highest level of coordination, preparedness, and operational efficiency to ensure the peaceful, secure, and successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. (KNS)

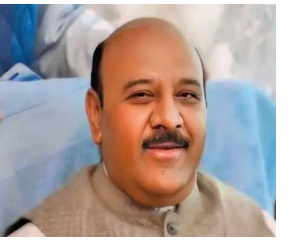
Dy CM greets people on Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday extended warm Eid-ul-Adha greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the auspicious occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the occasion holds immense religious and cultural significance for Muslims across the world and is celebrated with highest fervour and gaiety across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the festival symbolizes sacrifice, discipline, devotion and complete surrender to the will of the Almighty, while also inspiring the people to uphold the values of compassion, generosity and



brotherhood.

The Deputy Chief Minister observed that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a shining example of mutual understanding, communal harmony and respect for all faiths, adding that its people have consistently upheld the spirit of brotherhood, love and togetherness.

He prayed for peace, prosperity and progress for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo extends Eid-ul-Adha greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday extended her warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

In her message, the Minister conveyed heartfelt wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, praying that the blessed occasion brings peace, prosperity, happiness and good health to every household.

Sakeena Itoo said that Eid-ul-Adha symbolizes the spirit of sacrifice, compassion, brotherhood and selfless service to humanity. She



expressed hope that the festival would further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, unity and togetherness across J&K for which our region is known.

The Minister also prayed for continued peace, progress and well-being of the people and wished everyone a joyous and blessed Eid-ul-Adha.

Rana greets people on Eid-ul-Azaha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, describing the festival as a symbol of sacrifice, compassion and selflessness.

In his message, the Minister said that Eid-ul-Azha reflects the values of benevolence, generosity and devotion, inspiring the people to strengthen the spirit of mutual respect and brotherhood in society.

"I hope that this auspicious occasion further enhances the atmosphere of harmony and togetherness and serves as a beacon of peace, prosperity and development for the people



of Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister said.

Javed Rana prayed for lasting peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed hope that the festival would reinforce communal harmony, amity and social cohesion among all sections of the society. The Minister also urged the people to celebrate the festival with a spirit of unity, compassion and care for the underprivileged, in keeping with the true essence of Eid-ul-Azha.

Javid Dar greets people on Eid-ul-Adha, prays for peace, prosperity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The Minister expressed hope that the festival would further enthuse harmony, compassion and strengthen the fabric of peace in the society.

In his message, the Minister said that Eid-ul-Adha is a sacred occasion



that symbolizes the timeless values of sacrifice, generosity, empathy and devotion. He said the festival offers an opportunity to reflect upon the importance of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect while fostering a spirit of

togetherness among people from all walks of life.

"May this blessed festival usher in peace, prosperity and happiness in every home and illuminate our lives with hope, positivity and compassion," the Minister said.

The Minister also wished for the well-being, good health and continued success of the people. He urged the people to celebrate the festival with a spirit of love, sharing and compassion while remembering the less privileged sections of society and extending support to those in need.

Altaf Bukhari urges ulamas to use Eid pulpits to inspire social reform

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Expressing his deep concern over the alarming decline of moral and social values, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday urged Ulemas and religious scholars to use Eid pulpits to spread the message of introspection, repentance, and seeking forgiveness from Almighty Allah.

Extending his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid al-Adha, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that the sacred festival should not only be celebrated with joy and devotion, but must also serve as an occasion for collective reflection on the moral decline of our society.

"As we celebrate the blessed occasion of Eid al-Adha, we must pause and reflect on the painful deterioration of our social and moral fabric," he said.

In a strongly worded statement, the Apni Party President said society is facing a grave crisis of values and conscience.

"As a society, we urgently need to introspect and ask ourselves why we are steadily losing our religious, moral, and even basic human values," he said.



Referring to the recent horrific rape and murder of a minor girl in Budgam, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said the tragedy should shake the conscience of every individual.

"The heart-wrenching incident in Budgam is a grim reminder of how far we have drifted from morality and humanity. This deeply tragic incident demands serious reflection and a complete transformation in our social behaviour and collective mindset. The rising incidents of crime, violence, and the growing menace of drugs are clear signs that our society is drifting away from morality and humanity," he said.

Emphasising the need to protect social values, he said, "If we fail to protect our social fabric today, one can only fear what kind of future awaits us tomorrow."

Expressing concern over the continuous moral decline over the years, he said, "This

decline did not happen overnight. We have witnessed it declining over the years and decades. We were not like this before. Our ancestors may not have been as educated or well-read as we are today, but they possessed far greater character, morality, and humanity."

Recalling the spiritual legacy of Kashmir, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "This land was once known for peace, dignity, and spirituality. Our valley was proudly called 'Peer Waer' (the land of saints). Sadly, it feels as though we have lost that identity, and with every passing day, we are drifting even further away from it."

Calling for collective repentance he said, "Even nature may not forgive us for our negligence towards society. Perhaps nature has already started warning us. Look at the changing weather patterns, the frequent natural calamities, the shrinking glaciers, and the loss of our water resources. These may be signs of nature's anger and imbalance. The Holy Quran reminds us that when people become morally corrupt and turn away from virtue, Allah's wrath descends upon them."

Mehbooba Greets People on Eid Al-Adha; Calls for Compassion, Unity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a heartfelt message on the eve of Eid Al-Adha, Mehbooba Mufti extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the Muslim Ummah across the world, praying that the sacred occasion brings peace, compassion and relief to every household.

She said Eid Al-Adha is not merely a festival of celebration, but a reminder of the values of sacrifice, patience, humility and unwavering faith. "The spirit of Eid teaches us to stand by the distressed, care for the underprivileged and strengthen the bonds of humanity and brotherhood," she said.

Mehbooba Mufti expressed concern over the hardships being faced by people across Jammu & Kashmir due to unemployment, economic distress and growing uncertainty, stating that festivals should serve as moments of healing and collective hope. She urged the administration to ensure uninterrupted electricity, water supply and availability of essential ser-



vices during the Eid days so that people can observe the occasion with dignity.

The PDP President also appealed to people to remember families affected by violence, imprisonment and tragedy in their prayers and extend support to those who are struggling silently. She said the true essence of Eid lies in sharing happiness with others and ensuring that no family feels abandoned or forgotten.

She further urged the ulema and religious scholars to use the sacred occasion to guide and enlighten society against growing social evils, particularly the menace of drug addiction and the alarming rise in crime. Mehbooba Mufti said religious and community leaders have an important role in spreading awareness, strengthening moral values and steering the younger generation towards a path of responsibility, compassion and hope.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

A Heartbreak Beyond Words

The crushing news out of Galwanpora village in Budgam has left a heavy, suffocating silence over the entire Valley. A little girl went missing on a Saturday—a day that should have been filled with nothing but laughter and play, and was found the next morning lifeless in a nearby field. It is the kind of nightmare that stops a parent's heart, a brutality so senseless it leaves an entire community struggling to breathe through the grief. While the police moved quickly, arresting a suspect within 36 hours, handcuffs cannot undo the shattering of a home. When Chief Minister Omar Abdullah sat with the grieving family, it felt less like an official visit and more like a shared weight. His promise that justice would be swift and unyielding spoke directly to the raw, collective ache of a region mourning one of its own.

An unspeakable tragedy like this forces us to confront the questions we usually try to avoid: How safe are our children when they step outside our front doors? Where did the safety nets of our neighborhoods fail? What must we change in our homes, schools, and communities to ensure "never again" actually means something?

Laws, police forces, and courtrooms are vital, but they only react after the worst has already happened. True protection starts earlier. A society's soul is measured by how safely its smallest citizens can walk its streets. When a child is stolen from us like this, it isn't just one person's wickedness, it is a quiet, collective failure that should make us all look hard in the mirror.

"Delayed justice is just a continuation of a family's trauma." For a family trapped in this living hell, every day spent waiting for a verdict is a day the wound is kept wide open. We don't just need justice; we need it now. Fast-track court proceedings for crimes against children must become the standard, not the exception. The promised exemplary punishment needs to be delivered swiftly, serving as a stark, unmissable warning that our children are entirely off-limits.

Kashmir has always prided itself on its warmth, its deep compassion, and a social fabric where neighbors look out for one another. A crime this horrific tears at the very fabric of who we are. Right now, the air is thick with outrage, but anger alone isn't enough. If we let this anger fade into forgetfulness as the news cycle moves on, we fail this little girl all over again. This heartbreak has to be a turning point. It must spark a permanent shift toward fiercely protecting our children, looking out for each other's families, and rebuilding a community where innocence is sacred.

We cannot give this family their daughter back. Her absence will leave a permanent, aching quiet in their home. But what we can do is promise them two things: that we will fight alongside them for absolute justice, and that we will work tirelessly to ensure no other family has to carry a grief this heavy.

Echoes Of Ibrahim

A Journey Of Faith, Sincerity And Sacrifice

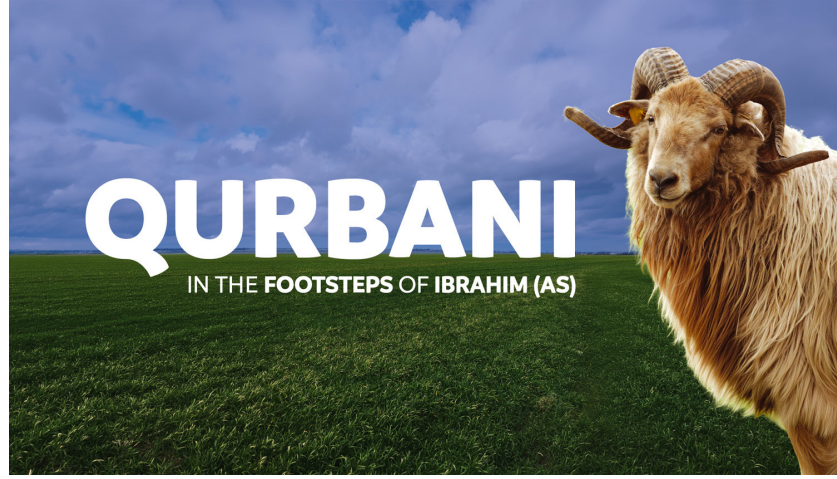
MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

Ye faizan-e-Nazar tha ya maqtab ki thi Qaramat, Sikhaye-Jisney-Ismael ko aadab-e-farzandagi. Dr Iqbal (R,A)

Eid-ul-Azha is the day that commemorates the sacrifices of Hazrat-e-Ibrahim (a.s.) offered in compliance to God's commandments. It signifies the sincerity of a prophet while being obedient to God. And also the obedience of a son to his father only in order to fulfill the obligations towards God. And at the same time it reflects the spiritual stand of prophets and saints. As the legends go that God ordered Ibrahim (a.s) to sacrifice his son Ismail in the way of Allah. And the prophet while submitting to God asked for the consent of Ismail (a.s).

What is Qurbani: Qurbani, or U iya as it is known in Arabic, is the practice of sacrificing an animal for Allah (swt). Every year, on the days of Eid al-Adha (from 10th to 13th of Dhul Hijjah), Muslims around the world sacrifice an animal to mark the completion of Hajj. This practice commemorates the sacrifice of Ibrahim (as) thousands of years ago, who was prepared to sacrifice his beloved son for Allah's sake (read his story below). Qurbani is not simply the slaughtering of an animal and the distribution of its meat, and it is more than a commemorative ritual. The word 'Qurbani' is derived from the Arabic, 'qurban', which has its root in the Arabic word 'qurb' - meaning 'nearness'. The purpose of offering Qurbani is to draw near to Allah (swt). Through Qurbani, we reaffirm what we sometimes forget in the hustle and bustle of everyday life - that we completely submit to Allah, and we are willing to sacrifice whatever is asked of us to be close to Him and gain His pleasure, just as Prophet Ibrahim (as) did so many years ago. Thus, an important part of Qurbani is remembering to hold onto our sincere intentions and striving to be closer to Allah through this symbolic sacrifice.

Ibrahim's Firm faith and piety: "Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you." Surah Al-Haj(22:37).



This verse is indicative of the sincerity of a believer. It emphasizes on the piety and chastity of a believer. Allah ordained his prophet to sacrifice what was the most dearly and near to him. Although he sacrificed abundant animals, but reply was: you must sacrifice what is the dearest to your heart. And it is obvious that a child is the dearest to his parents and it involves human heart. And when we are asked to sacrifice our children it checks our dedication towards Allah and sincerity in our approach. Otherwise Ismail was the only child from second wife of Ibrahim (a.s) that too in an extremely old age. This is evident from the following verses of Holy Quran. "Praise to Allah, who has granted to me in old age Ishmael and Isaac. Indeed, my Lord is the Hearer of supplication. My Lord, make me an establisher of prayer, and [many] from my descendants. Our Lord, and accept my supplication." (14:39-40- https://myislam.org/surah-ibrahim/ayat-39/).

C o n f r o n t a t i o n with Nimrod: According to Romano-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Nimrod was a man who set his will against that of God. Nimrod proclaimed himself as a living god and was worshipped as such by his subjects. Nimrod's consort Semiramis was also worshipped as a goddess at his side. Before Abraham was born, a portent in the stars tells Nimrod and his astrologers of the impending birth of Abraham, who would put an end to idolatry. Nimrod therefore orders the killing of all newborn babies. However, Abraham's mother escapes into the fields and gives birth secretly. Flavius Josephus mentions that Abraham confronts Nimrod and tells him face-to-face

to cease his idolatry, whereupon Nimrod orders him burned at the stake. Nimrod has his subjects gather enough wood so as to burn Abraham in the biggest fire the world had ever seen. Yet when the fire is lit and Abraham is thrown into it, Abraham walks out unscathed. In Islam, it is debated whether the decision to have Ibrahim burned at the stake came from Nimrod and the temple priests or whether the people themselves became vigilantes and hatched the plan to have him burned at the stake. According to Muslim commentators, after Abraham survived the great fire, notoriety in society grew bigger after this event. Nimrod, who was the King of Babylon felt that his throne was in danger, and that he was losing power because upon witnessing Ibrahim coming out of the fire unharmed, a large part of society started believing in God and Abraham being a prophet of God. Up until this point, Nimrod was pretending that he himself was a god. Nimrod wanted to debate with him and show his people that he, the king is indeed the god and that Ibrahim was a liar. Nimrod asked Ibrahim, "What can your God do that I cannot?" Ibrahim replied, "My Lord is He who gives life and death." Nimrod then shouted, "I give life and death! I can bring a person from the street and have him executed, and I can grant my pardon to a person who was sentenced to death and save his life." Abraham replied, "Well, my lord God makes the sun rise from the East. Can you make it rise from the West?" Nimrod was confounded. He was beaten at his own game, on his own territory and in front of his own people. Abraham left him there speechless and went back to his

mission of calling people to worship God. (Source : Wikipedia) and the result was what a poet says:

Nari namrood ko kiya gulzar tuney, Doust ko yun bacha liya tune

Resistance against Satan's distraction: the way Ibrahim and Ismail resistance against satin is noteworthy. And it has been recorded in Quran in the form of a dialogue between Ibrahim, Ismail and Satan. At the time Hazrat Ibrahim was leading Ismail towards Maidan-i-Arafat Satan appeared in te form a man and asked Ibrahim where are taking your son. Ibrahim replied that I am going to sacrifice him for the will of Allah to which Satan replied that Indeed Shaitan has misguided you and Ibrahim resented. "Get away from me, enemy of God! By God, I will most certainly continue to do what my Lord has commanded". Then Satan turned to Ismail and tried to distract him and Ismail replied if it the order of Allah , my father must do as per the will of God. And then Satan was defeated. When the young man had rebuffed him, Iblis went to Hagar, the mother of Ishmael who was still at home. Iblis said to her: "Oh mother of Ishmael! Do you realize where Abraham is going with Ishmael?" She replied: "They have gone to gather wood for us in the mountains". He said: "He has actually gone in order to sacrifice him!" She replied: "It cannot be! He is too kind and too loving towards him to do that!" Iblis said: "He claims that God has ordered him to do that!" Hagar said: "If his Lord has ordered him to do that then he must submit to the command of God!" So the enemy of God returned exasperated at not being able to influence the family of Abraham as he wished.

This is how the legacy of Ibrahim (a.s) goes and what we must learn is that Allah doesn't need our worship, sacrifice and other things, but what He requires from believers is submission and sincerity that this Edul-Azha teaches us. In order to attain spiritual atonement we have to undergo various tough tests and the conclusion is that Jannah can't be got while sleeping in bed and enjoying worldly luxuries. And sometimes it is resentment and rebellion against the Satanic agencies to attain the favour of Almighty.

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People Returning Again On Wooden Cots

A Renaissance Of Tradition, Health And The Environment Amidst Modern Lifestyles

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

There was a time when wooden cots were an integral part of life in Indian homes, courtyards, community halls, and fields. From morning tea to nighttime sleep, the cot was not just a piece of furniture but the center of social, cultural, and family life. But as the influence of modernity increased, urbanization gained momentum, and new types of beds, sofa-cum-beds, and expensive mattresses began to appear on the market, the cot gradually began to disappear from homes. It was considered archaic, rural, and a symbol of backwardness. But the wheel of time is turning once again. Today, people are returning to the wooden cot. This return is not just a return to a traditional object, but also a symbol of changing attitudes towards life, awareness of health, and the search for balance with nature.

The cot has a long history in Indian society. It is also known by names like charpai, manji, or khatiya. This structure, made of a sturdy wooden frame and woven with ropes or strips, formed the foundation of Indian life for centuries. Cots were the hallmark of village community gatherings. Family elders made decisions while sitting on cots, farmers rested on them after a hard day's work, and children grew up playing and playing on them. It was not only a means of rest but also a platform for social dialogue. Even today, discussions held on cots in rural India are considered the most spontaneous and natural expression of democratic dialogue.

The past few decades have seen significant lifestyle changes. People have embraced modern furniture as a symbol of progress and prosperity. Large beds, thick mattresses, and attractively designed fur-

niture have become essential household items. Advertisements have also convinced people that comfort lies only in expensive mattresses and modern beds. As a result, the cot gradually faded from use. But now, as people face health problems, increased stress, and the adverse effects of a sedentary lifestyle, they are beginning to reconsider traditional options they once abandoned.

The biggest reason for the popularity of wooden cots is their health benefits. Modern lifestyles have rapidly increased back pain, neck pain, and spinal problems. Sleeping on overly soft mattresses has proven uncomfortable for many. In contrast, the frame of a cot provides balanced support. The cot, woven from ropes, distributes body weight evenly, reducing unnecessary pressure on the spine. Even today, many elderly people in rural areas appear to be in good physical condition due to years of sleeping on cots. Although each person's health needs vary, cots are considered a natural and balanced means of rest.

In India, where the climate is hot, the usefulness of a cot is even greater. Foam and spring mattresses often trap body heat, increasing discomfort in summer. In contrast, a cot allows for airflow both above and below the bed. This natural ventilation cools the body and improves sleep quality. This feature of a cot becomes especially important in an era of increasing electricity consumption and dependence on air conditioners.

The importance of cots is also increasing from an environmental perspective. Today, the world is talking about sustainable development and environmental protection. The modern furniture industry widely uses plastic, synthetic foam, and chemicals, which have adverse

environmental impacts. In contrast, cots made from wood and natural ropes are relatively eco-friendly. They last longer, are easily repaired, and most of their parts can be recycled or decomposed naturally. At a time when people are becoming more sensitive to the environment, cots are seen as a sustainable option.

One reason for the return of the khat is economic. The prices of expensive furniture and branded mattresses are constantly rising. On the other

They last longer, are easily repaired, and most of their parts can be recycled or decomposed naturally. At a time when people are becoming more sensitive to the environment, cots are seen as a sustainable option.

hand, khats made by local artisans are relatively inexpensive and durable. Khats are still available at low cost in rural and semi-urban areas. They can last for years and can be refurbished by replacing the ropes when needed. Thus, the khat is not only a cultural heritage but also an economically viable option.

Interestingly, the return of the khat isn't limited to rural areas. Even in larger cities, people are embracing it in new

forms. Interior designers have begun reimagining the traditional khat with a modern aesthetic. Many homes today feature khats as both decorative and functional pieces in balconies, gardens, terraces, or living spaces. Resorts, cafes, and homestays are also incorporating khats into their premises to offer customers a desi and traditional experience. This demonstrates how blending tradition and modernity is possible.

Social media has also played a significant role in increasing the popularity of the khat. Today, themes like "sustainable living," "slow life," "desi lifestyle," and "return to the roots" are gaining popularity among young people. People share photos of the khat in their homes and farmhouses. Many young people, who once considered the khat a village-only item, now see it as a part of their lifestyle and identity. This change indicates that the new generation is viewing its cultural heritage from a new perspective.

The khat holds no less cultural significance. It is frequently mentioned in Indian literature, folk songs, and films. It has been a symbol of rural life, intimacy, and togetherness. When family members sat together on the khat and conversed, communication evolved naturally. Today, in the digital age, where people are often preoccupied with mobile screens even while living in the same home, communal seating spaces like the khat can once again become a medium for social closeness.

However, the return of the cot doesn't mean that modern furniture has become completely irrelevant. Modern life demands different demands, and modern beds may be more convenient in many situations. However, the growing popularity of cots does indicate that people are increasingly prioritizing not just convenience, but also health, the

environment, and cultural connection. They are seeking alternatives that can make life more balanced and natural.

In fact, the return of the khat is part of a broader social shift in which people are striving to return to their roots. Whether it's traditional food, organic farming, pottery, or wooden khats—people are now realizing that development doesn't just mean adopting new technologies. Development also means understanding traditions that have stood the test of time and have the potential to make life simpler, healthier, and balanced.

Today, as the world changes rapidly and life becomes ever more complex, the wooden cot offers a message of simplicity. It reminds us that comfort can be achieved not only through expensive means, but also through a lifestyle in harmony with nature. The return to the cot is a sign that society is beginning to re-value its cultural memories, traditional knowledge, and environmental understanding.

The cot may never again become a staple in every home in the years to come, but its renaissance certainly proves that tradition never completely disappears. As the challenges of modern life increase, society often seeks solutions within its roots. The return of the wooden cot is a story of this search—a story that encompasses health, the environment, culture, and the desire to make life more humane.

This is why people today are returning to wooden cots. They are not simply adopting an old piece of furniture, but are reviving a philosophy of life based on simplicity, balance, intimacy, and harmony with nature. This is the ultimate meaning and greatest achievement of this return.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

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Good Morning **Kashmir**

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir
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Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing
Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
Layout Designer
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Eid-Ul-Azha

Sacrifice, Social Reform And The Moral Duty Of Islamic Clerics

Reclaiming The Spiritual And Social Purpose Of One Of Islam's Greatest Festivals

MOHD AMIN MIR

Among the two great festivals of Islam, Eid-ul-Azha occupies a position of profound spiritual, historical, and moral significance. It is not merely a celebration marked by the sacrifice of animals, festive meals, or exchange of greetings. Rather, it is a living reminder of obedience to Almighty Allah, sacrifice for truth, compassion for humanity, and moral discipline in personal and social life. The festival revives before Muslims the timeless example of Prophet Ibrahim (AS), whose willingness to sacrifice everything for the command of Allah became an eternal symbol of submission, faith, and righteousness.

In the contemporary world, however, the relevance of Eid-ul-Azha extends far beyond ritual observance. Societies today face moral and social crises that threaten the very foundations of families and communities. One of the gravest dangers confronting Kashmir and many Muslim societies today is the rapid spread of drug addiction and substance abuse. The growing menace of narcotics has devastated thousands of families, destroyed the future of youth, increased crime, weakened moral character, and eroded the social fabric that once distinguished Kashmiri society.

At such a critical juncture, the message of Eid-ul-Azha acquires renewed relevance. The philosophy of sacrifice teaches believers to sacrifice evil habits, destructive tendencies, unlawful desires, and social evils for the sake of Allah and collective welfare. Therefore, Eid-ul-Azha is not only a festival of animal sacrifice but also a call for moral purification and social reform.

In this mission of reform, Islamic clerics, Imams, preachers, and religious scholars carry immense responsibility. Their influence upon society remains unparalleled. In villages, towns, mosques, madrasas, shrines, and public gatherings, the voice of the clergy reaches millions of hearts. If this moral authority is directed toward the Nasha Mukht campaign—the movement for a drug-free society—it can become one of the most transformative social movements in recent Kashmiri history.

This is the moment when religious leadership must rise beyond ceremonial sermons and become an active force for social healing. Eid-ul-Azha offers an ideal opportunity to launch a spiritual revolution against addiction, moral decay, and social destruction.

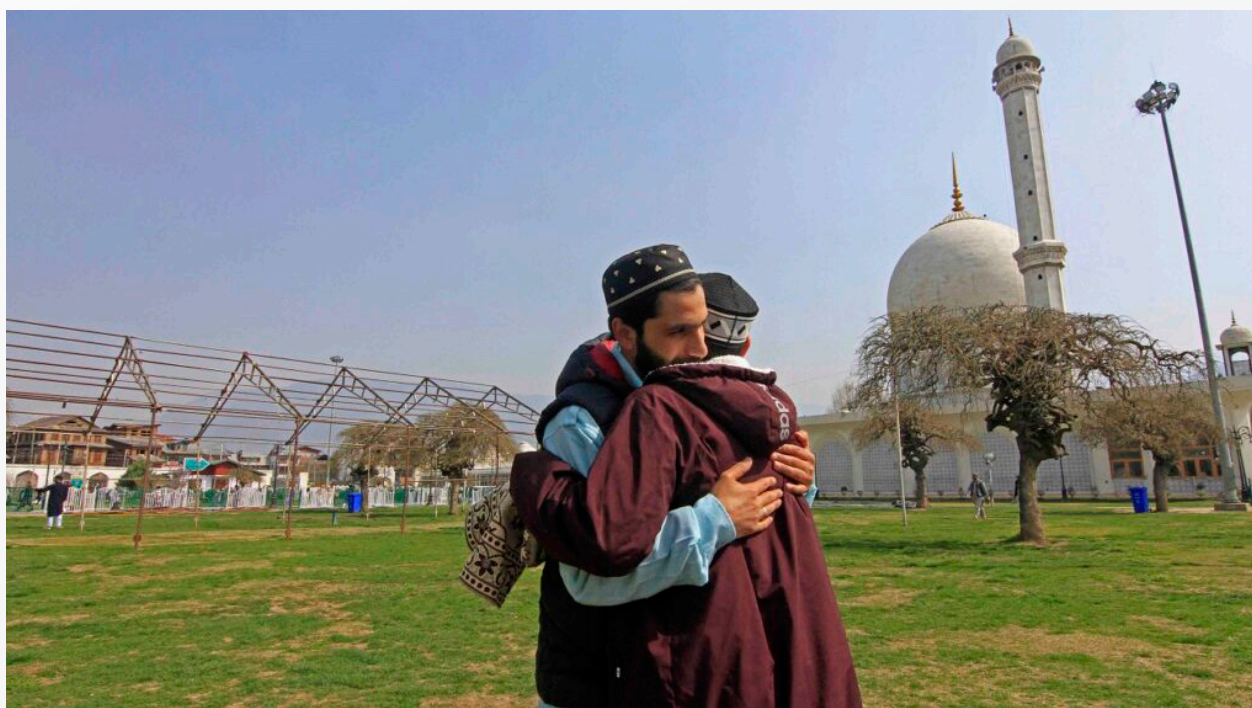
The history of Eid-ul-Azha is deeply rooted in the life of Prophet Ibrahim (AS), one of the greatest prophets of Islam, revered not only by Muslims but also by Christians and Jews. The Holy Quran repeatedly mentions his unwavering faith, patience, and devotion to Allah. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) spent much of his life struggling against idolatry and falsehood. He challenged the unjust traditions of his society and called humanity toward monotheism. His faith was tested repeatedly through immense hardships. He was thrown into fire by his people, forced to migrate from his homeland, and subjected to severe personal trials. Yet every trial only strengthened his submission to Allah.

The greatest of all these trials came when Allah commanded him in a dream to sacrifice his beloved son, Prophet Ismail (AS). For any father, the sacrifice of his child is unimaginable. Yet Prophet Ibrahim (AS) recognized the dream as a divine command and prepared himself to obey without hesitation. The Holy Quran beautifully narrates this event. When Ibrahim (AS) informed Ismail (AS) about the divine command, the obedient son replied with extraordinary faith: "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, among the steadfast."

This dialogue between father and son represents one of the greatest examples of faith and obedience in human history. Both submitted themselves completely to the will of Allah. But when Ibrahim (AS) proceeded to fulfill the command, Allah replaced Ismail (AS) with a ram and declared that the test had been fulfilled. Thus, the sacrifice became symbolic rather than literal. Allah never desired human blood; rather, He wished to demonstrate the sincerity of faith and the willingness to sacrifice worldly attachments for divine truth.

"It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your piety that reaches Him." This verse defines the entire philosophy of Eid-ul-Azha. The true essence of sacrifice lies not in slaughter alone but in piety, sincerity, discipline, and obedience.

The concept of sacrifice occupies



a central place in Islam. Every act of worship involves some form of sacrifice. Fasting sacrifices physical desires. Charity sacrifices wealth. Prayer sacrifices comfort and time. Hajj sacrifices convenience and worldly attachment. Eid-ul-Azha combines all these dimensions into one powerful spiritual message. The sacrifice performed during Eid-ul-Azha symbolizes the believer's willingness to surrender ego, greed, arrogance, selfishness, hatred, and sinful desires. It teaches that true faith requires moral courage and self-control. Unfortunately, many people today reduce Eid-ul-Azha to ritualism. Animals are sacrificed, feasts are arranged, and social gatherings take place, yet the moral message of the festival often remains neglected. If sacrifice does not produce compassion, discipline, honesty, humility, and social responsibility, then its spirit remains incomplete. Modern society urgently needs to revive this deeper understanding of sacrifice. The youth today are surrounded by temptations, addictions, consumerism, and moral confusion. The philosophy of Eid-ul-Azha offers a path toward inner purification and moral reconstruction.

One of the most beautiful dimensions of Eid-ul-Azha is its emphasis on social equality and collective welfare. Islam does not allow sacrifice to become an act of personal luxury or social display. Rather, the meat of the sacrificed animal is meant to be distributed among relatives, neighbors, and especially the poor and needy. This system strengthens social solidarity and ensures that even the weakest members of society share in the joy of the festival. The rich and poor sit together, eat together, and celebrate together. In a world increasingly divided by economic inequality, social isolation, and material competition, Eid-ul-Azha reminds humanity of compassion and shared responsibility. The festival also discourages extravagance and vanity. Islam teaches moderation in all matters. The true honor of sacrifice lies not in the price of the animal but in sincerity of intention and concern for humanity.

While Eid-ul-Azha carries messages of sacrifice and moral discipline, Kashmir today faces a crisis that directly contradicts these values—the growing epidemic of drug addiction.

The spread of narcotics among youth has become one of the most alarming social problems in the region. Drugs have infiltrated urban centers, rural villages, educational institutions, and even school environments. Substance abuse is destroying physical health, mental stability, educational progress, family relations, and social peace. Many young people initially fall into addiction through peer pressure, unemployment, depression, social frustration, or curiosity. But once addiction takes hold, it rapidly destroys human dignity and self-control. Families suffer silently. Parents sell property for treatment. Mothers spend sleepless nights in fear. Educational careers collapse. Crime increases. Social trust weakens. Entire households are pushed into emotional and financial devastation.

Drug addiction is not merely a medical problem; it is a moral, social, economic, and spiritual crisis. The tragedy becomes even greater in a society historically known for spirituality, scholarship, modesty, and cultural refinement. Kashmir once produced saints, scholars, poets, and intellectuals. Today, many families fear losing their children to narcotics.

This crisis demands collective

action from government institutions, educational systems, civil society, families, and religious leadership.

The term "Nasha Mukht" means freedom from intoxication and addiction. It represents a broader movement aimed at creating a drug-free society through awareness, prevention, rehabilitation, counseling, and moral education. The campaign cannot succeed through police action alone. Arrests and legal restrictions may control supply temporarily, but long-term success requires transformation of social attitudes and moral consciousness. Drug addiction thrives where there is hopelessness, moral emptiness, broken social bonds, and lack of spiritual guidance. Therefore, the battle against drugs must be fought not only in courts and police stations but also in homes, schools, mosques, and hearts. Religious institutions possess enormous potential in this regard because spiritual guidance addresses the moral roots of addiction. Islam categorically prohibits intoxicants. The Quran describes intoxicants as destructive tools of Satan that create hatred, weaken intellect, and distance human beings from prayer and righteousness.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) strongly condemned all forms of intoxication and warned against anything that clouds human judgment. Thus, participation in the Nasha Mukht campaign is not merely a social service for Islamic clerics; it is a religious obligation. In Muslim society, the Imam and religious scholar hold a position of deep moral authority. People listen to their sermons with respect. Their words influence behavior, shape attitudes, and guide community values. Unlike political leaders, whose influence may fluctuate with circumstances, religious leaders maintain continuous contact with society through mosques, Friday sermons, religious gatherings, funerals, marriages, and educational institutions.

This influence becomes especially powerful during Eid-ul-Azha when mosques witness large congregations and people become spiritually receptive. If clerics dedicate even a portion of their Eid sermons to the dangers of drugs and the moral duty of protecting youth, the impact can be transformative. Religious scholars must recognize that silence in times of social destruction amounts to neglect of responsibility. Islam does not separate spirituality from social welfare. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) addressed every dimension of human life—moral, social, economic, educational, and political. Therefore, modern Islamic leadership must confront contemporary social evils with courage and wisdom.

Eid-ul-Azha provides an ideal platform for launching awareness campaigns against addiction because its central message revolves around sacrifice, discipline, and obedience. Islamic clerics should emphasize that the greatest sacrifice today may not simply be the slaughter of animals but the sacrifice of destructive habits and harmful lifestyles. Young people must be encouraged to sacrifice addiction for dignity, immoral company for righteous companionship, and hopelessness for faith and purpose. Parents should be advised to monitor their children compassionately rather than harshly. Communities should be encouraged to support rehabilitation rather than stigmatize victims of addiction.

The mosque must become not merely a place of ritual prayer but also a center of social guidance and emotional healing.

During Eid sermons, clerics can address several critical themes:

- *The Islamic prohibition of intoxicants.*
- *The physical and spiritual consequences of addiction.*
- *The responsibility of families in protecting children.*
- *The importance of companionship and moral environment.*
- *Compassion toward recovering addicts.*
- *The need for collective social vigilance.*
- *The role of faith in overcoming despair.*
- *Such sermons can awaken public consciousness on a massive scale.*
- *Why Religious Silence Becomes Dangerous*

One of the greatest dangers in times of social crisis is the silence of moral leadership. When addiction spreads openly while mosques remain silent, society begins to perceive the issue as secondary or unimportant. Religious discourse cannot remain confined only to ritual subjects while society suffers moral collapse. Islam is a complete way of life concerned with human welfare in every dimension. The early Islamic scholars actively addressed social corruption, injustice, exploitation, and moral decline. They guided society through practical engagement rather than passive observation. Today, Kashmir requires a revival of socially responsible religious leadership.

Clerics must understand that the youth trapped in addiction are not enemies of society; they are victims needing guidance, compassion, counseling, and rehabilitation. Harsh condemnation without emotional support often drives addicts further into isolation. Therefore, religious guidance must combine firmness with mercy.

A deeper analysis of addiction reveals that many young people suffer from emotional emptiness, social alienation, unemployment, anxiety, and lack of purpose. Modern life often promotes materialism without spirituality. Social media creates unrealistic expectations and psychological pressure. Family structures weaken. Educational competition intensifies stress. Economic uncertainty increases frustration. In such an environment, vulnerable youth seek temporary escape through intoxicants. This is where spiritual guidance becomes essential. Islam offers inner stability through prayer, remembrance of Allah, moral discipline, and meaningful community life. The mosque can become a protective institution for youth if religious leaders actively engage with younger generations.

Instead of limiting interaction to formal sermons, clerics should organize youth discussions, counseling sessions, sports activities, educational seminars, and moral awareness programs.

Young people need mentors who listen to them, understand their struggles, and guide them with wisdom.

Families also carry enormous responsibility in protecting youth from addiction. Eid-ul-Azha strengthens family bonds through collective worship, gatherings, and shared meals. Parents should utilize this occasion to communicate with children emotionally and spiritually. Many families fail to recognize early signs of addiction because of social denial or lack of awareness. Open communication, emotional support, and moral education are essential. Children who feel

neglected, constantly criticized, or emotionally isolated become more vulnerable to harmful influences. Therefore, the home must become a place of trust, compassion, discipline, and spiritual nurturing. Parents should teach children the real meaning of sacrifice—not merely ritual slaughter but sacrifice of ego, dishonesty, addiction, and moral weakness.

The Nasha Mukht campaign requires cooperation between schools, colleges, religious institutions, civil society, and administration. Educational institutions should invite Islamic scholars, doctors, psychologists, and rehabilitation experts for awareness programs. Religious sermons should be reinforced by scientific education about the harmful effects of drugs. This integrated approach creates stronger social resistance against addiction. Mosques and schools together can shape a morally conscious and socially responsible generation.

Islam does not abandon sinners or addicts. The doors of repentance remain open for every human being. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized mercy, reform, and rehabilitation. Society must avoid humiliating recovering addicts because social stigma often prevents treatment and recovery. Communities should encourage rehabilitation centers, counseling services, vocational training, and psychological support. Religious scholars can play a powerful role in motivating addicts toward repentance and recovery. Spiritual healing often strengthens medical treatment. A recovering addict who regains faith, dignity, and community support can rebuild life successfully.

The Muslim world today urgently needs to revive the original spirit of Eid-ul-Azha. The festival should not become limited to external rituals while social evils continue unchecked. The sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) teaches courage, moral conviction, and willingness to struggle against falsehood. Modern believers must apply this spirit against contemporary evils including addiction, corruption, dishonesty, violence, and moral decline. If Eid-ul-Azha inspires society to protect youth, support families, strengthen morality, and fight addiction, then its spiritual purpose will truly come alive.

The Islamic clerics of Kashmir stand at a historic crossroads. Their voice can either remain confined within traditional boundaries or become a transformative force for social reform. The growing drug crisis demands immediate and organized religious intervention. Every mosque should become a center of awareness. Every Eid sermon should address moral discipline and social responsibility. Every Imam should consider protection of youth part of his religious mission. The future generation is watching. Families are waiting for guidance. Society is searching for moral leadership. Religious scholars must rise to this challenge with wisdom, sincerity, and courage.

Eid-ul-Azha is far more than a festival of sacrifice. It is a timeless declaration of obedience, moral courage, compassion, discipline, and social responsibility. The story of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) teaches humanity that true faith requires sacrifice of ego, temptation, and worldly attachment for higher moral principles. Today, Kashmir faces a dangerous challenge in the form of drug addiction. This menace threatens families, youth, education, morality, and the future of society itself. The battle against addiction cannot be won through law enforcement alone. It requires moral awakening, spiritual guidance, social compassion, and collective responsibility. In this mission, Islamic clerics possess extraordinary influence and responsibility. Eid-ul-Azha provides them a historic opportunity to connect the philosophy of sacrifice with the urgent need for a Nasha Mukht society.

The real sacrifice today may be the sacrifice of addiction, hopelessness, silence, and social indifference. If mosques, families, schools, civil society, and administration unite with sincerity and determination, Kashmir can protect its youth and reclaim its moral heritage. The message of Eid-ul-Azha ultimately reminds humanity that every generation faces its own test of sacrifice. The test before contemporary society is whether it possesses the courage to sacrifice complacency and unite against the forces destroying its future. Only then can the spirit of Eid-ul-Azha truly illuminate hearts, homes, and society.

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J&K Bank Records Over

of 1.69 crore transactions worth ₹2,848 crore, they said.

A senior Bank official while taking to news agency KNS expressed satisfaction over the seamless functioning of the digital channels. "We have comprehensively upgraded all our technology platforms and our teams worked tirelessly round the clock to ensure uninterrupted services and zero inconvenience to customers during the festive rush," the official said.

"It is particularly encouraging to witness the rapid rise in digital adoption among the younger generation, especially Gen Z customers, who find our digital offerings highly attractive, convenient and dependable," the official added.

With more than 22 million account holders, J&K Bank today processes over 95 per cent of its overall transactions digitally, underlining the remarkable transformation in customer banking behaviour driven by technology, convenience and trust, the officials said.

Customers and business owners across Kashmir applauded the Bank for maintaining uninterrupted digital and branch services despite the heavy Eid rush.

Mohammad Ashraf, owner of Aksa Namkeen in Srinagar, said the Bank's digital channels worked flawlessly throughout the Eid season. "Our scan-and-pay transactions had an almost 100 per cent success rate which greatly helped our business operations during peak hours," he said.

Similarly, Azra Beigh, owner of Kashir Clothing in Chadoora, said transferring money has never been this smooth and effortless. "J&K Bank truly deserves appreciation for providing such seamless digital services during the busiest shopping days," she said.

The Bank had made special arrangements for adequate availability and fair distribution of fresh currency notes across branches, keeping in view the traditional practice of giving 'Eidi' to children in the form of fresh currency notes, officials said.

While a few isolated complaints regarding malfunctioning of ATMs in certain areas of Srinagar and adjoining districts were reported, the Bank's technical teams acted swiftly and rectified the issues promptly, ensuring uninterrupted cash dispensation and customer convenience, they added. (KNS).

CM Meets Family Of

with them in their pursuit of justice.

The Chief Minister said the incident has shaken the conscience of society and asserted that such elements have no place in a civilised society.

He said the government will ensure that the case is taken to its logical conclusion and that the perpetrator of this heinous crime is awarded exemplary punishment in accordance with the law.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Budgam Agha Muntazir Mehdi and civil and police administration of the district.

The minor girl, who had gone missing on Saturday, was found dead in a nearby field in Galwanpora village of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Sunday morning. The incident triggered widespread shock and grief across the area. Subsequently, police took cognisance of the matter and arrested the accused within 36 hours of the commission of the crime.

BSF Gave Befitting

equipment. The government is working on installing anti-drone systems within six months," Shah said.

He, however, stressed that technological measures alone would not be sufficient and called for coordination among security forces, local administration and citizens.

Shah said a "four-point security grid" involving the BSF, armed forces, civil administration and border residents was necessary for effective border management.

"Unless there is coordination among security forces, local administration and citizens, the objective of a fully secure border cannot be achieved," he said.

The Minister said meetings were being held with border states, including Gujarat, Bihar, Tripura and West Bengal, to improve coordination and strengthen security arrangements.

Referring to internal threats, Shah said authorities must also identify people inside the country who assist

cross-border smuggling and infiltration attempts.

He said strict legal action should be taken against those involved in aiding anti-national activities.

Shah paid tribute to more than 2,000 BSF personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the force was raised.

He said BSF personnel have served in deserts, forests and snow-bound areas under difficult conditions while safeguarding the country's borders.

"The nation is proud of the sacrifice and dedication shown by BSF personnel," he said.

Shah also inaugurated women's barracks at the border outpost and said infrastructure for women personnel in the force would continue to be expanded in the coming years—(KNO)

India Rejects

and Pakistan, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in an official statement said, "India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan."

India's position is consistent and well known to the concerned parties, the MEA spokesperson said.

"The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same," he said.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times," the MEA spokesperson said.

"We have also seen references to the so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' between China and Pakistan. As the two countries do not share any boundary, the question of so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' does not arise. India has never recognized the so-called 1963 boundary agreement between Pakistan and China," the statement added.

LG, CM Greet People

sacred occasion serves as a reminder for humanity to embrace the eternal values of love, compassion and forgiveness.

May this Eid usher in joy, peace and prosperity in everyone's life."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

In his message, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. He said that Eid-ul-Adha symbolizes the spirit of sacrifice, compassion, generosity and obedience to the will of Almighty Allah.

Recalling the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (Peace be upon him) and the unwavering obedience of his son Hazrat Ismail (Peace be upon him), the Chief Minister said that the occasion teaches humanity the values of faith, devotion, patience and submission to the command of Allah. He said their exemplary legacy continues to inspire people to uphold righteousness, selflessness and compassion in their lives.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would further strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, communal harmony and mutual respect among people. He urged people to remember the underprivileged and needy during the celebrations and share the joy of the occasion with them.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah prayed for peace, prosperity and wellbeing of the people and wished that the auspicious occasion brings happiness and blessings to every household.

CS Reviews Progress

Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Revenue; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Survey & Land Records; Inspector General, Registration; State Informatics Officer (SIO), NIC and other

senior officers, while all the Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the significance of correct and updated land records for the effective implementation of welfare schemes and facilitating quick access to institutional credit through integration with the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) and AgriStack initiatives.

He observed that the successful digitization of land records would play a transformative role in strengthening governance, improving service delivery and empowering farmers through seamless access to benefits and financial services.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned Tehsildars to certify that no backlog mutations remain pending in their respective jurisdictions. He further called for the freezing of Jamabandis by the Tehsildars, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and eventually the Deputy Commissioners in the coming days to ensure that the authentic and reliable digitized records are put in public domain for its utilization by citizens here.

To accelerate the process of rectification and updation of records, the Chief Secretary directed for designation of Prabhari Officers in consultation with the Financial Commissioner (Revenue). These officers would be entrusted with exclusive responsibility of handholding districts and ensuring timely correction and validation of records.

Emphasizing the need for a clear roadmap for implementation of AgriStack components, the Chief Secretary directed that the exercise should be taken up immediately after completion of digitization in the identified areas and linked with the RBI's ULI platform to facilitate easy credit access for farmers. He urged the Settlement Commissioner to lead the capacity building programme for field staff across districts and ensure completion of the process in a time-bound manner.

The Chief Secretary also stressed upon transitioning fully towards digital crop surveys during the upcoming agricultural seasons for effective implementation of AgriStack. He further directed the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) to evolve a mechanism for tracing the chain of custody of missing Mussavis and revenue records and initiate strict action against officials found responsible for any tampering or disappearance of records.

Commending the Revenue Department for undertaking the monumental task of digitization and achieving substantial progress, the Chief Secretary advised the officers to make concerted efforts to complete all components within the stipulated timelines. He also assured full support in resolving genuine issues being faced by the field functionaries engaged in the exercise.

Speaking during the meeting, Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Shaleen Kabra, emphasized upon the Deputy Commissioners to undertake rectification of records strictly in accordance with the prevailing legal provisions, particularly Section 32 of the Land Revenue Act, which empowers them to carry out such corrections. He observed that timely rectification at the district level would substantially reduce the burden of grievances reaching higher offices and help in making the land records largely error-free.

The Financial Commissioner also stressed upon tracing the complete custody trail of missing records so that the actual culprits are identified and proceeded against under the law.

Earlier, Secretary Revenue gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under various components of the digitization programme. The presentation covered the functioning of the citizen-centric 'J&K Zameen Sudhar Portal', digitization of backlog mutations for updation of records, digitization of cadastral maps, sub-parcelization of survey numbers as per ground realities, generation of ULPIN for Farmer Registry, Digital Crop Survey, Bhunaksha integration and issuance of property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme.

He further informed the meeting that significant progress has been achieved in digitization of Jamabandis with all 20 districts and 206 tehsils brought under the programme. Over 68 lakh records have been approved and digitized so far, reflecting substantial progress achieved since the last review held in March this year.

Regarding grievance collection and rectification of records, the meeting

was informed that more than 14.49 lakh grievances have been received till date, out of which over 14.27 lakh non-quasi judicial grievances have already been resolved.

Reviewing the progress in incorporation of backlog mutations, the Chief Secretary was informed that nearly 95 per cent of the target has been achieved with more than 6.47 lakh backlog mutations completed so far.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the JK Zameen Sudhar Portal aimed at modernization and digitization of land records and enhancing public access to revenue records and grievance redressal services.

On geo-referencing and digitization of cadastral maps, the officers informed the meeting that scanned and digitized maps are being shared with BISAG for geo-referencing while ground truthing and updation of mother maps are also being carried out simultaneously for accurate mapping and integration with satellite imagery.

Regarding ULPIN generation, it was given out that there has been a substantial increase in generation of Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers between March and May 2026, with over 25 lakh ULPINs generated so far and coverage extended to thousands of villages across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the Farmer Registry and Digital Crop Survey initiatives being carried out under the AgriStack framework for creation of dynamic and continuously updated Records of Rights and authenticated farmer databases. He emphasized the importance of Aadhaar-linked verification and accurate field-level validation for ensuring reliability of data.

While reviewing the progress under the SVAMITVA scheme, the meeting was informed that drone surveys and GIS-based mapping of rural abadi areas had been carried out on a large scale and property cards are being generated and distributed among beneficiaries in a phased manner.

The Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor locking and freezing of Jamabandis, disposal of grievances, verification of digitized records and completion of pending targets within the prescribed timelines. He also stressed upon maintaining high standards of data accuracy and ensuring seamless integration among all digital land governance platforms for efficient public service delivery in a hassle-free manner.



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Quad backs action against terrorism, condemns Pahalgam attack

Says terrorism in all forms, manifestations unacceptable

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: The QUAD grouping, comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia, on Tuesday strongly condemned the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack and reiterated its commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific," while expressing concern over coercive actions and rising tensions in key maritime regions.

In a joint statement issued after the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi under India's chairmanship, the grouping — comprising India, the United States, Japan and Australia, called for adherence to international law and peaceful resolution of disputes in the Indo-Pacific region.

The ministers said peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific depended on respecting sovereignty, maintaining freedom of navigation and resolving disputes without the use of force.



The statement criticised attempts to alter the status quo through coercive or unilateral measures and underlined the importance of maintaining stability in international waters.

The Quad also stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted maritime trade through crucial sea routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

The grouping condemned attacks on commercial shipping vessels and opposed measures that could hamper free navigation and trade in violation of international law, including provisions under the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Without naming any country directly, the Quad expressed serious concern over developments in the East China Sea and South China Sea, referring to dangerous manoeuvres and aggressive actions in disputed waters.

It cited incidents involving obstruction of vessels, unsafe maritime conduct and the use of water cannons and flares, and called for all disputes to be settled peacefully and in accordance with international law.

The ministers also reaffirmed the significance of

the 2016 arbitral tribunal ruling on the South China Sea, describing it as an important basis for peaceful dispute resolution.

On terrorism, the Quad condemned terror activities in all forms, including cross-border terrorism, and specifically referred to the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam.

The grouping also condemned the December 14, 2025, attack at Bondi Beach and called for stronger global cooperation against terrorism.

"We call for sustained and coordinated international action against terrorists, terror organisations, their sponsors, financiers and affiliated networks," the statement said. The Quad further raised concerns over the rise of organised cybercrime and online scam centres operating in parts of Southeast Asia.

It said such networks were linked to human trafficking, financial crimes, cyber fraud and online exploitation, and stressed the need for closer law

enforcement cooperation among countries.

On maritime security cooperation, the Quad welcomed India's operationalisation of maritime monitoring initiatives under the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram.

The grouping said efforts were underway to strengthen information-sharing mechanisms and develop a common operational picture across the Indo-Pacific region to improve maritime surveillance and coordination.

The statement also reiterated support for ASEAN centrality and regional organisations, including the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

The Quad additionally expressed concern over the continuing conflict in Myanmar and its impact on regional peace and stability—(KNO)

MLA Beerwah, DC B'gam Inaugurate Multipurpose Playfield at Watalpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multipurpose playfield at Watalpora in the Beerwah sub-division.

The project was spearheaded by the Department of Rural Development (RD) & Panchayati Raj, ensuring high-quality asset creation for the local community.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Beerwah, said that sports infrastructure plays a vital role in channelizing the energy of youth towards constructive and healthy activities. He emphasized that the newly established playfield will provide a much-needed platform for local talent



to flourish and promote a culture of sports and discipline among the younger generation.

The Deputy Commissioner Budgam, while addressing the gathering, said that District administration is focussed towards equitable development and youth empowerment.

He emphasized that such facilities will go a long way in fostering sportsmanship and keeping local youth away from negative influences.

He further stated that the administration

remains focused on creating quality public assets that directly benefit the community.

The event witnessed a massive gathering of local residents and prominent citizens of the area.

Among others present on the occasion were Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Beerwah, Toufeeq Gazi; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD); Tehsildar Magam; Block Development Officer (BDO); alongside several other senior officials from the line departments.

Centre constitutes high-level panel to study demographic changes due to illegal migration

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Central Government on Tuesday constituted a high-level committee to study demographic changes in the country arising from illegal immigration and other "abnormal" factors and suggest policy, legislative and administrative measures to address the issue.

According to the details available, the committee, announced under the High-powered Demography Mission earlier declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2025, will be headed by retired judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a post on X said that illegal infiltration and resulting "unnatural demographic change" posed a serious challenge to national security, social stability and border management.

The committee has been tasked with undertaking a comprehensive assessment of demographic shifts across the country, including those attributed to illegal immigration, economic migration patterns and other socio-environmental factors.

It will also examine population changes across communities and regions where deviations from broader trends are observed, accord-

ing to the terms of reference.

The panel will include the Census Commissioner as well as former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava and economist Dr Shamika Ravi as members. The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I), Ministry of Home Affairs, will serve as member secretary.

According to the government, the committee will analyse causes behind such demographic changes and recommend a structured and time-bound framework for addressing them.

It has also been mandated to suggest mechanisms for identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants already residing in the country, along with measures to strengthen border management and monitoring systems.

The panel will further propose ways to improve coordination between the Centre and states on issues related to illegal immigration and demographic shifts.

Officials said the committee will also recommend institutional mechanisms for continuous tracking of population trends and related security implications.

The panel has been given a one-year timeframe to submit its report, which may be extended by up to six months if required.

J&K records 887 crimes against children in 2024, NCRB data shows slight decline

Charge-sheeting rate stands at 55.4%; over 2,600 cases pending before courts

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 887 cases of crimes against children in 2024, registering a marginal decline from 910 cases in 2023 and 920 cases in 2022, according to the latest "Crime in India 2024" report issued by the National Crime Records Bureau.

According to the report, published under Chapter 4A — "Crime Against Children (States & UTs)", the Union Territory recorded a crime rate of 18.1 cases per lakh child population during 2024.

Kidnapping and abduction remained the most reported offences against children in Jammu and Kashmir, with 243 cases registered during the year, the report reveals.

Cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act also formed a major share of the crimes reported against children. The NCRB recorded 308 POCSO cases in 2024, including 228 cases under Sections 4 and 6 related to penetrative sexual assault, and 65 cases under Sections 8 and 10 pertaining to sexual assault.

The report further revealed that seven cases were registered under Sec-

tion 12 of the Act relating to sexual harassment of children, while five cases were recorded under Sections 14 and 15 involving the use of children for pornographic purposes. Three additional cases were registered under Sections 17 to 22 concerning abetment and other offences under the Act.

Besides cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Jammu and Kashmir also reported nine rape cases involving minors in 2024, including seven cases registered under the IPC and two under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Authorities also recorded three cases of assault on minors with intent to outrage modesty during the year.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau report, the Union Territory further witnessed eight cases related to the kidnapping or abduction of girls for forced marriage, four cases linked to foeticide, and eight incidents of infanticide and allied offences in 2024.

The report stated that a total of 1,339 cases of crimes against children remained under police investigation in Jammu

and Kashmir during the year. This figure comprised 449 cases carried forward from previous years, 887 newly registered cases, and three reopened investigations.

Police completed investigation or disposal in 802 cases during 2024, while 537 cases continued to remain pending by the end of the year, pushing the pendency rate to 40.1 per cent.

The NCRB data further revealed that investigating agencies filed charge-sheets in 444 cases, leading to a charge-sheeting rate of 55.4 per cent. Meanwhile, 358 cases were closed under various final report categories, and investigation in seven cases remained stayed.

On the judicial front, 2,661 cases related to crimes against children were pending before courts in Jammu and Kashmir during 2024. These included 2,217 cases pending from earlier years and 444 new cases committed to trial during the year.

During court proceedings in 2024, convictions were secured in 12 cases, while four cases ended in discharge, and 112 cases resulted in acquittal. Additionally, 16 cases were disposed of by courts without trial, the report added—(KNO)

Myntra's EORS goes live from May 29 with 6 million trend-first fashion, beauty

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Advancing its role as a growth catalyst for India's e-lifestyle ecosystem, Myntra has announced the 24th edition of End of Reason Sale (EORS), starting May 29, with early VIP access on May 28. Featuring 6 million+ styles, the event will further strengthen Myntra's role as a growth enabler for India's fashion and lifestyle ecosystem, creating scaled opportunities for emerging brands while bringing trend-first selection, compelling value and convenience to millions of customers across the country.

Among the thousands of global, domestic and home-grown D2C brands, 15,000 emerging brands, including 5,000 making their EORS debut, will leverage the platform's technology, creator ecosystem and nationwide reach to connect with millions of customers across

India. EORS continues to serve as a growth enabler, driving heightened demand for emerging brands through enhanced visibility, new selection launches and category expansion. These brands will bring nearly 13 lakh styles across apparel, footwear, accessories and more. Myntra's advanced technology enables a suite of capabilities, including search and shopping insights to decode trends and demand patterns, simplified performance dashboards and a dedicated partner support team to guide the brands in their e-commerce journey with Myntra.

This edition of EORS will offer 6 million+ styles from thousands of international, domestic and homegrown brands, giving customers access to a wide selection across fashion, beauty and lifestyle. The edition is expected to see strong traction across Men's Casual



Wear, Women's Ethnic Wear, Women's Western Wear, Workwear, Sports Footwear, Accessories, and Beauty & Personal Care, driven by the summer season, travel, work, college, weddings, and holiday-style upgrades. Several popular brands expected to see increased traction include Levi's, Nike, adidas, H&M, MANGO, L'Oréal, Lakme, Libas, Decathlon, New Balance, GUESS, ASICS, Wrogn, US Polo Assn., Puma, and Rare Rabbit, among others.

This edition will also offer the best of Beauty & Personal Care, with 2.25 lakh+ styles spanning makeup, skincare, haircare, and personal care, bringing together D2C favourites, international brands, luxe labels, and K-Beauty cult picks. Customers can shop from a line-up including MAC, Bobbi Brown, LUSH, Beauty of Joseon, L'Oréal, The Ordinary, Plum Bodylavin', Medicube, Foxtale, and many more. Along with the breadth of choice, Myntra Beauty's tech-enabled tools are designed to make beauty shopping more intuitive and simple. The platform's AI-powered Skin Analyser allows customers to discover products tailored to their specific skin needs, while the Virtual Try-On feature takes personalisation a step further by enabling customers to test multiple products, making it easier than ever to find the perfect look this season.

The mega shopping event

will also introduce 100+ new brands across all major categories. Some of the new launches include Kate Spade, Bardot, Longchamp, Aston Martin watches, ELF Beauty, Seapuri, Chloe, Pierre Cardin Bags, STRV, VAHRO, Sparklepop, Juicy Couture, Saucy, Anta, Gully Labs, Mile Collective, and Official FFEA Jerseys, among others.

Furthermore, Myntra's Rising Stars, a program built specifically for made-in-India D2C brands, is bringing new launches, including Woomn, RAJAM, Saint Peach, House of Fitness, Mayurie, Indo Aura, Femaura Crafts and House of Doras, among others.

Adding to the thrill, FWD, Myntra's Gen-Z proposition, will feature over 700K+ trend-first styles from brands including SZYN, Freakins, Bonkers Corner, Glitcheez, Anouk Rustic, Lulu & Sky, KPOP, Outzider, among many others. (PR)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN SOUTH KASHMIR DIVISION
 Address: Bijbehara-19212, Anantnag Tele/ Fax: 01932234474, Email: wildlife-south@jk.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE
 e-NIT No. 01/WLW-South of 2026-27, Dated: 25-5-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors/firms registered with the J&K Government/Central Government Departments or Organizations for the supply of Mutton/ Chicken for Mini Zoo, Pahalgam.

1. Details of Work

S. No.	Name of the Item	Approx. Cost for the year (Rs. In Lakhs)	Place of Supply	Specification	Tender Document Fee	Earnest Money Deposit
1.	Mutton	17.50	Mini Zoo Pahalgam	Fresh Dressed	Rs. 1000/-	2% (two percent) of Advertised Cost at the time of submission of Bid 1 Tenders online & 5% (five percent) Performance Security of the Allotted Cost to be submitted within 3 (three) days from the date of opening of Financial Bids by successful bidder pledged to Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir. The EMD of 2% shall be released thereafter
2.	Chicken					

2. Availability of Tender Documents
 The detailed e-NIT consisting of eligibility criteria, qualifying information, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & conditions and other related documents can be downloaded from the official website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>

3. Critical Dates

Event	Date & Time
Date of Publication of Tender Notice	25-05-2026
Bid Submission Start Date	26-05-2026
Bid Submission End Date	06-06-2026 up to 04:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bids	06-06-2026 at 12:00 PM
Opening of Financial Bids	08-06-2026 at 11:30 PM

Venue for Opening of Bids:
 Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Forest Complex, Rajbagh Srinagar

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

4. Eligibility and Documents Required
 The bidders shall upload scanned copies of the following documents along with the tender:

- Treasury Chellan towards cost of tender document deposited under Major Head "0406".
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division, Bijbehara.
- PAN Card along with latest Income Tax Return for the Assessment Year 2025-26.
- Valid FSSAI License/Registration mandatory for food/meat/chicken/fish supply. License must remain valid during contract period.
- Registration Certificate/Form-C for the same nature of business.
- Affidavit duly attested by a Notary Public regarding:
 - Non-blacklisting by any Government Department,
 - No criminal case pending before any court of law.
 - Acceptance of all terms and conditions of the tender.

5. Submission and Opening of Bids

- The bids shall be submitted online only through the e-tendering portal within the prescribed date and time.
- Technical bids shall be opened first by the Tender Opening Committee constituted by the Department.
- Financial bids of only technically qualified bidders shall be opened subsequently.
- The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.

6. Validity of Tender

- The bids shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- In case any bidder withdraws or modifies the bid during the validity period, the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited.

7. Supply Conditions

- The successful bidder shall ensure daily supply of Mutton/ Chicken to Mini Zoo Pahalgam on daily basis (except Wednesday and Sunday) by 9:00 AM every day.
- Failure in timely supply may lead to cancellation/termination of the contract.
- The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes, transportation charges, loading/unloading charges and any other incidental expenses.
- The supply shall be delivered at Mini Zoo Pahalgam.
- The quoted rates shall remain valid for a period of one year and may be extended up to six months with mutual consent and satisfactory performance.

8. Quantity Variation

- The quantity mentioned in the BOQ is approximate and may increase or decrease depending upon the requirement and number of animals housed in the Zoo/Rescue Centre.
- The contractor shall not claim any compensation for variation in quantity during the contract period.

9. Agreement and Security Deposit

- The successful bidder shall execute an agreement with the Department within seven days from the date of issuance of allotment/approval order.
- In case of failure to execute the agreement within the stipulated period, the allotment shall be cancelled and the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited.
- The earnest money of the successful bidder shall be retained as security deposit and released after successful completion of the contract period.

10. Payment

- Payment shall be released on monthly basis after satisfactory supply and verification by the concerned Range Officer/Officer-in-charge.
- Payments shall be subject to availability of funds.
- Income Tax, GST, TDS and other statutory deductions shall be made as per rules in force.

11. Penalty and Termination

- In case of non-supply, delayed supply or supply of substandard material, the Department may procure the material from the open market at the risk and cost of the contractor.
- Any additional expenditure incurred by the Department shall be recovered from pending bills/security deposit of the contractor.
- Repeated failure in maintaining quality or timely supply may result in termination of the contract and blacklisting of the contractor.

12. Arbitration and Jurisdiction

- Any dispute arising out of the contract shall be referred to the Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K for arbitration.
- The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties.
- The jurisdiction for any legal proceedings shall be Srinagar only.

13. Force Majeure
 In the event of natural calamity, epidemic, public emergency or any unavoidable circumstance affecting the supply process, the Department reserves the right to modify, suspend or terminate the supply order without any liability.

14. General Conditions

- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to technical or network issues.
- The Department reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity during the contract period.
- No claim for escalation in rates due to increase in fuel, transportation or market rates shall be entertained.
- The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

No: WLW-South/2026-27/119-21
 Dated: 25-05-2026

DIPK-1626-26
 DT: 26/05/2026

Sd/-
 Wildlife Warden,
 South Kashmir Division

IPL 2026: Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been 'on fire' this season, says RCB pacer Hazlewood

IAN S

DHARAMSHALA: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) pacer Josh Hazlewood showered praise on his new-ball partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar ahead of Qualifier 1 against Gujarat Titans (GT) at the HPCA stadium, calling the veteran seamer one of the biggest reasons behind RCB's strong bowling performances this season.

Speaking before the crucial clash, Hazlewood highlighted the advantage of bowling alongside Bhuvneshwar, whose ability to strike early has consistently put opposition teams under pressure. "It's pretty handy. You're bowling the second over at probably number three and four batters sometimes. So you don't even need to do your homework on the opener sometimes," Hazlewood told the broadcasters ahead of the match.

The Australian quick also praised Bhuvneshwar's remarkable consistency this season, especially his control with the new ball. "Bhuvni has been in fantastic form. I still think he's leading the wickets, maybe, and his economy is unbelievable. So he's been on fire," he added.

Bhuvneshwar is having an outstanding IPL 2026 campaign, leading the race for the Purple Cap as the tournament's top wicket-taker with 24 wickets in 14 matches. Playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), he has become the cornerstone of their bowl-



ing attack, proving age is just a number with an average of 16.38 and a good economy of 7.70.

Hazlewood also stressed the importance of creating pressure against the Gujarat Titans' top-heavy batting line-up, which has relied heavily on its leading batters throughout the season. "Obviously, they rely pretty heavily on the top three. They've done most of their work at the top of the order throughout the whole tournament," Hazlewood said.

"They're class players. If you bowl poorly, they hurt you big time. But if you can string a couple of dots together, create pressure and get a couple of early wickets, that's key,"

he added.

The Australian fast bowler admitted the hectic IPL schedule leaves little room for extensive training sessions, especially for pacers, and said team discussions have become more important during the tournament.

"Training, as you know, in these tournaments, you can train when you can, really. There's so much travel and recovery after games. There's a game every couple of days, so it is tough to train sometimes, especially as a quick," he said. "It's probably been more the messaging and just getting the boys together from time to time and talking about what's to come," he added.

UEFA Conference League: Rayo Vallecano seek historic triumph against Crystal Palace in final



IAN S

MADRID: Spanish side Rayo Vallecano will look to win the biggest trophy in the club's history on Wednesday when they face English club Crystal Palace in the UEFA Conference League final in Leipzig.

The side from Madrid's working-class Vallecacos neighbourhood has already made history by reaching the first European final in the club's history in only its second continental campaign, and coach Inigo Perez believes his players are ready to go one step further.

"We travel with confidence, calm, and maximum expectation," Perez said after Rayo eliminated AEK Athens and Strasbourg in the knockout rounds. Rayo survived a major scare against AEK after nearly throwing away a 3-0 first-leg advantage before Isi Palazon's vital away goal secured passage to the semifinals. Perez's side then produced com-

manding performances home and away to eliminate Strasbourg, reports Xinhua.

Perez, 38, has been at the heart of the club's remarkable rise. Formerly assistant to Andoni Iraola, he took charge midway through the 2024-25 campaign with Rayo battling relegation and has since guided the club to an eighth-place finish in La Liga while balancing domestic and European commitments on one of the division's smallest budgets.

Perez had originally been set to join Iraola's coaching staff at Bournemouth, but after being denied a work visa by Britain's Home Office following Brexit-related regulations, he remained in Spain instead. Wednesday's final will be his last match in charge, but he already leaves behind a remarkable legacy.

On the pitch, Rayo have built their identity around aggressive pressing and direct attacking football. Jorge de Frutos and Sergio

Camello provide pace and movement in wide areas, while Brazilian striker Alemao offers a physical presence capable of troubling opposing defenses.

Isi Palazon and Unai Lopez are expected to anchor the midfield, while goalkeeper Augusto Batalla lines up behind central defender Florian Lejeune. Full-backs Andrei Ratiu and Pep Chavarria are also key to the team's attacking approach, regularly pushing high up the pitch. Pathe Ciss could either partner with Lejeune in central defense or move into midfield, depending on Perez's tactical approach. Wherever he plays, the Senegal international brings physicality, aerial dominance, and relentless energy.

That commitment has become one of the defining features of Perez's Rayo side, with the coach demanding intensity from the touchline and the club's passionate supporters expected to create a fierce atmosphere in Leipzig.

Hashmatullah Shahidi to lead Afghanistan squad for multi-format India tour

IAN S

KABUL: Hashmatullah Shahidi will lead Afghanistan in both the ODI series and the one-off Test against India, with the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) unveiling strong squads for the upcoming multi-format tour. The ACB on Monday revealed two separate 15-man squads, one each for the ODI series and the one-off

like Rahmat Shah and Gurbaz retain their places while Ikram Alikhil and Afsar Zazai have been picked as keepers.

Rashid Khan has not been included in the Test squad, with Afghanistan preferring spinners such as Qais Ahmad and Nangyal Kharotai, along with Sharafudin Ashraf.

India's home series against Afghanistan will begin with a one-off Test



Test match, with Shahidi continuing as the skipper in both formats.

Stars like Rashid Khan, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Mohammad Nabi, and Azmatullah Omarzai feature heavily in the visiting side for a prestigious series against India.

The ODI squad retains a lot of the tried and tested white-ball players, with Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran expected to open the innings. Shahidi, Rahmat Shah, and Darwish Rasooli are expected to provide the stability in the middle order, while all-rounders Nabi and Omarzai give the side an all-round balance.

The bowling attack is again expected to be centred around Rashid Khan, with young spinner AM Ghazanfar and pacers Bilal Sami, Fareed Malik, and Zia-ur-Rahman Sharifi also included. Nangyal Kharotai also makes it to the squad, while Qais Ahmad, Saleem Safi, and Bashir Ahmad are named as reserves.

For the one-off Test, the Afghanistan side has opted for a slightly different selection with Abdul Malik, Rahmanullah Zadran, and Sharafudin Ashraf coming into the red-ball squad. Stalwarts

in New Chandigarh from June 6 to 10 before the action shifts to the 50-over format. The three-match ODI series will then be played across Dharamshala, Lucknow, and Chennai on June 13, 17, and 20, respectively, with Hashmatullah Shahidi set to lead Afghanistan in both formats.

Afghanistan ODI squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharotai, AM Ghazanfar, Zia-ur-Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Malik, and Bilal Sami.

Reserves: Qais Ahmad, Saleem Safi, and Bashir Ahmad.

Afghanistan Test squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (captain), Abdul Malik, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmanullah Zadran, Afsar Zazai (wk), Ikram Alikhil (wk), Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafudin Ashraf, Nangyal Kharotai, Qais Ahmad, Bilal Sami, Zia Sharifi, and Saleem Safi.

Reserves: Bashir Ahmad, Bahir Shah, and Ismat Alam.

French Open: Australian wildcard Walton upsets Medvedev in five-setter

IAN S

PARIS: Daniil Medvedev's wretched run at Roland Garros continued on Tuesday as the world No 5 bowed out in the first round once again in stunning fashion, losing to Australian wildcard Adam Walton in five sets in an astonishing contest on the Suzanne-Lenglen Court.

The former US Open champion was outplayed by Walton 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 in three hours and 22 minutes on the clay and claimed the biggest win of his career, as well as his first over a top-10 player.

It was Medvedev's seventh first-round exit at the French Open in 10 visits and leaves him with a dismal 0-4 record in five-set encounters at Roland Garros.

The match swung from side to side in a real battle between the two, and it took a lot for Walton to keep going as Medvedev looked to gain the upper hand in the last three sets, even needing a timeout at the change of ends in the second set to take a salt tablet while battling the



Paris heat.

Medvedev was seemingly cruising towards victory when he took a 4-2 lead in the fifth, but Walton turned it around by winning four consecutive games to seal victory as Medvedev unraveled in the last set.

Medvedev was caught on camera getting an on-court reprimand from his wife over his actions at times throughout the encounter.

World No. 97 Walton, playing his first clay-court match of the year, admitted that last year's victory over the Russian at the Cincinnati Masters had given him a taste of what he could do

against the 27-year-old.

"Pretty tired now. It was an up-and-down match. I felt like the ebbs and flows of the match were quite large today," Walton said.

"Just really proud of my efforts in the fifth set to come from a break down to get the win. It's huge. Beating him in Cincinnati definitely gave me the belief today. I knew I could do it. I believed. Just really happy with the performance. Just really excited right now."

Walton will play world No. 108 Zachary Svajda of the US in the second round.

Elsewhere, there was success for French tennis, with 17-year-old Moise Kouame producing an incredible upset over former US Open champion Marin Cilic on his Grand Slam debut to win 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-1.

With the home crowd firmly behind him in Court Simonne-Mathieu, the wildcard, who is nearly half the age of Cilic, delivered a maturity far beyond his years to outplay Cilic, who had already reached a top-20 ranking by the time Kouame was born.

French Open: Coco Gauff kicks off title defence with straight sets victory over Taylor

IAN S

PARIS: Defending champion Coco Gauff launched her French Open title defence with an imperious 6-4, 6-0 victory over fellow American Taylor Townsend, marching into the second round of the French Open at Stade Roland Garros in Paris on Tuesday.

The World No. 4 needed just an hour and twenty minutes to end Townsend's challenge on Court Philippe-Chatrier, extending her perfect record of reaching the second round at the French Open to seven successive appearances.

The final scoreline suggested a more straightforward con-

test, but Gauff had to overcome an early scare when Townsend broke her serve in the opening game of the match and looked on course to take a decisive early lead. Townsend, who beat a then-15-year-old Gauff in Charleston in 2019, attacked with ferocious intent and had a great chance to build a 4-1 lead with a double-break advantage.

However, Townsend just missed a return on a break point when Gauff's first serve let her down, allowing the defending champion to regain the initiative.

From that moment, Gauff dominated proceedings.

The reigning French Open champion won 11 of the last

12 games of the match, and not a single one in the second set, as Townsend's challenge wilted under constant pressure from the baseline.

It was the second set in particular that showcased the vast gulf in class between the two Americans. Having secured an early break, Townsend missed another presentable opportunity to reel it in with a simple backhand into an open court on break point, and the visible frustration of the American was punished immediately as Gauff extended her advantage.

The 22-year-old will now face Egypt's Mayar Sherif in the second round in her attempt to retain the French Open crown.

'The ball's coming out great,' says Rabada on strong IPL 2026 performance

IAN S

DHARAMSHALA: Gujarat Titans (GT) pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada expressed confidence in his form and rhythm ahead of Qualifier 1 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, saying the ball has been "coming out great" as he prepares for the final phase of IPL 2026.

Speaking before the high-pressure clash, Rabada said he is happy

with the way he has bowled so far in the tournament and hopes to carry that momentum into the playoffs.

"The ball's coming out great. I think that's pretty evident. So I'm happy with the way that things have gone thus far," Rabada told broadcasters ahead of the clash.

"Now I'm into the final push. So hopefully it just keeps happening my way," he added.

The South African fast bowler has been one of the Gujarat Titans' key performers this season, using both pace and variations effectively in crucial phases of the innings. He has taken 24 wickets in 14 matches.

Rabada explained that while there is planning involved behind the scenes, his use of slower deliveries and change-ups often depends on instinct during the game.

Eid MUBARAK

Movies Schedule

Wednesday, 27th May

<p>BHOOTH BANGLA U/A16+ Hindi - 02:40 PM, 06:00 PM</p>	
<p>PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO UA16+ Hindi - 03:00 PM</p>	
<p>CHAND MERA DIL U/A16+ HINDI ATMOS - 02:00 PM, 04:45 PM, 07:30 PM</p>	
<p>Drishyam 3 U/A16+ Malayalam with English Subtitles - 05:45 PM</p>	

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