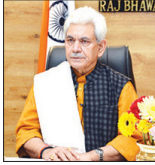


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
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We must erase every trace of the colonial mindset & ensure that people abroad do not distort our history and present to serve their own narratives. It is the responsibility of writers to correct such errors and take the truth to global readers:
Lieutenant Governor

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J&K Hajj Pilgrims Decry Baggage Curbs Ahead Of Return Flights



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: As the return phase of Hajj-2026 approaches, the Jammu & Kashmir pilgrims in Mina have voiced resentment over fresh baggage restrictions, demanding restoration of the traditional 40-kilogram luggage allowance. They questioned the decision to transport baggage separately by road from Ahmedabad to Srinagar.

A video accessed shows pilgrims expressing concern that the reduced baggage allowance could damage or delay their belongings, including gifts and items purchased for their families during the pilgrimage.

The pilgrims said Hajj travellers had historically been allowed to carry 40 kilograms of luggage and questioned why the policy had changed this year.

"We have been preparing for months and bought gifts and essentials for our

families back home. Now, suddenly, we are being told that most of our luggage will come separately by road. We are worried our belongings may get damaged or delayed," said one of the pilgrims.

Another pilgrim said that for years, Hajjis were allowed to carry 40 kilograms of baggage. "Every year, the policy changes, and this creates confusion and stress for elderly pilgrims. We request authorities to restore the previous allowance or ensure the luggage reaches safely and quickly," he said.

Responding to the concerns, J&K Haj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi said that the restrictions were linked to the ongoing runway maintenance work at Srinagar International Airport.

"As per our Hajj guidelines and the training provided to pilgrims, the normal allowance is 40 •P-06

■ 'Erase Every Trace Of Colonial Mindset'

LG Sinha Urges Writers To Shape Positive Discourse On India

Inaugurates Third Edition Of Kashmir Literature Festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called for erasing every trace of colonial mindset, and urged writers on shaping positive discourse on India through fiction, non-fiction and other creative forms.

"We must repeatedly remind the world that when the Vedas were composed some 6,000 years ago, India was the center of the world's economy, education, culture, and philosophy. For centuries, India was the engine of global civilization and culture. It laid the foundations for socio economic advancement across the world through its gift in science, mathematics, astronomy, and medicine," the Lieutenant Governor said while inaugurating the third edition of Kashmir Literature Festival in Srinagar. On the occasion, the Lie-



utenant Governor urged writers on shaping positive discourse through fiction, non-fiction and other creative forms and inspire people because writer's craft lives not only in words, but in the pulse of people.

Addressing a gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that we must erase every trace of the colonial mindset and ensure that people abroad do not distort our history and present to serve their own narratives. He said it is the responsibility of writers to correct

such errors and take the truth to global readers.

He stated that there is an urgent need to restore history and convey its true form to every section of society so that India's narrative is properly shaped. The Lieutenant Governor observed that our ancestors, since the Vedic age, recorded facts and transmitted knowledge with great accuracy, but for various reasons modern times saw India lose the habit of writing its own history.

"We failed to communicate our priceless traditions, culture, knowledge, and sciences and that's why many people to claim that certain things came from other places or introduced by the invaders. These assertions are baseless," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that foreign historians have, sometimes deliberately, omitted India's ancient discoveries and achievements in science, literature, art, and architecture.

"When India •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.

...Two Arrested By NCB Odisha-Kashmir Cannabis Smuggling Racket Busted

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested two alleged drug traffickers from Kashmir in connection with an interstate cannabis smuggling racket linking Odisha with Jammu and Kashmir.

According to reports appearing in the media, a nine-member NCB team had been tracking the accused in Kashmir for the past five days before arresting them. The arrested persons have been identified as Vikram Singh and his associate, Dharminder Singh. Both were brought to Bhubaneswar on Saturday for further investigation.

The NCB said the accused were allegedly transporting cannabis concealed inside steel containers sourced from Odisha's Kandhamal district and supplying it to different cities across the country. Kashmir politics coverage

Investigators revealed that the contraband was hidden in trucks carrying apples from Kashmir and then transported to the northern parts of India. Officials suspect that the cannabis was subsequently routed to markets in Jammu and Kashmir.

The interstate smuggling network came to light after the seizure of a vehicle loaded with cannabis in Sambalpur district. Further investigation into the case is underway.

'Will Get An Opportunity...' NTA To Re-Examine CUET-UG 2026 Candidates Affected By 'Technical Glitch'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: After the technical disruption that affected the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate 2026, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced that candidates who were impacted will be provided another chance to take the exam.

Earlier, the CUET 2026, conducted for admission to undergraduate programmes at universities across India, experienced delays at certain examination centres on Saturday because of a technical issue.

The NTA said in a post on X, "We know today's unfortunate technical disruption

caused distress for some CUET (UG) 2026 candidates. Candidates who did their Biometric Registration and were present at their examination centres today (i.e. 30.05.2026 in Shift-I), but couldn't complete their examination due to this technical glitch, will get an opportunity for examination."

"TCS has reported that a technical glitch at their end delayed the commencement of CUET UG 2026 at some centres on Saturday. The issue has since been resolved, and the exam is being conducted with full compensatory time so that no candidate is disadvantaged," the NTA said on X. •P-06

Sakeena Itoo takes stock of hailstorm damage across Kashmir division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday expressed deep concern over the extensive damage caused by a recent hailstorm that severely impacted orchards and agricultural lands across several areas of Kashmir division, including D.H. Pora in Kulgam district.

The Minister described the hailstorm as an unfortunate natural calamity that has dealt a significant setback to orchardists and farmers who depend heavily on the forthcoming harvest season for their livelihoods.

Taking prompt cognizance of the situation, Sakeena Itoo established direct communication with the district administrations and the Director Horticulture to obtain a detailed assessment of the damage caused by the hail-



storm. She directed the Deputy Commissioners to undertake immediate ground-level assessments and ensure that affected orchardists and farmers receive timely assistance and compensation as per the established government norms.

The Minister emphasized that the district administration has been instructed to conduct a comprehensive and accurate

evaluation of losses, facilitate expeditious relief measures, and extend all possible support to the affected farming community without delay.

She further directed the concerned departments, including Horticulture, Agriculture and Revenue, to work in close coordination to expedite the compensation process and provide necessary technical guidance and support to farmers for crop recovery wherever feasible.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards the welfare of farmers and orchardists, Sakeena Itoo said that the Government stands firmly with the affected families during this challenging period and will ensure that genuine losses are assessed fairly and compensated in accordance with the prescribed norms.

The Minister also instructed the Deputy •P-06

'Op Sindoor' Defined India's Response To Provocation: Army Chief

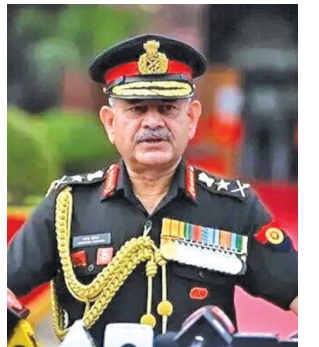
AGENCIES

PUNE, MAY 30: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Divedi on Saturday said Operation Sindoor had set a benchmark for when national will was expressed with precision and resolve, defining India's response to provocation.

Reviewing the passing-out parade of the 150th course at NDA, Khadakwasla, General Divedi said the world cadets were stepping into "does not pause for introductions" and threats today "do not always arrive in uniform or on a declared front".

"From contested grey zones to high-velocity hybrid warfare, today's security environment demands that those who serve must think sharply as they act," he said while addressing the parade.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated that and set the benchmark when national will was expressed with precision and resolve, defining



how Bharat responds to provocation. That standard now belongs to you to uphold," the Army Chief said.

He said that the integrated response seen in Operation Sindoor, India's military exercise against terror infrastructure in Pakistan in May 2025, was built on the kind of jointness the NDA instills from day one.

"As our defence services deepen their integrated structures, remember, irrespective of the uniform we wear next, you will serve •P-06

Indian Navy Confined Entire Pak Navy To Its Ports During Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that during Operation Sindoor, the Indian Navy had confined the entire Pakistan Navy to its ports.

"Our Navy was deployed in the Arabian Sea with full preparedness and strength, maintaining constant pressure on the adversary. As a result, Pakistan's entire Navy remained confined to its ports."

Speaking on the occasion, Raksha Mantri described the Nausena Shaurya Vatika as not only a tourist attraction, but also a symbol of inspiration that would remind future generations of the true cost of freedom and security. He added that the park would



serve as a constant reminder of the nation's safety and security, safeguarded through the valour and sacrifices of its bravehearts. "It is not just an architectural design or a product of structural craftsmanship; it rekindles the sense of gratitude we hold for our soldiers. The idea is to awaken the zeal for nation-building

among our youth," he said. Rajnath Singh commended the Indian Navy for its robust presence and operational readiness at sea, underlining that amid the present geopolitical turmoil, the key to global peace and prosperity lies in securing maritime routes. He praised the Indian Navy's exceptional contribu-

tion during Operation Sindoor, alongside the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. "Our Navy's formidable posture in the Arabian Sea instilled a constant sense of fear in the mind of the adversary. As a result, the Pakistan Navy remained confined to its ports," he said.

DM Singh noted the government's special emphasis on making the nation secure and prosperous through a strong military and a self-reliant defence industry. He emphasised that the growing strength of the Indian defence forces is the outcome of the sustained efforts and strategic planning of the Government headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

"India can truly be considered powerful •P-06

Orchardists Devastated As Fifth Hailstorm Hits Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: A fresh spell of hailstorm accompanied by gusty winds and rain wreaked havoc across several parts of south Kashmir on Saturday evening, causing damage to apple orchards and further aggravating the distress of fruit growers already reeling from repeated weather-related losses this season.

The hailstorm lashed several areas of Shopian district, including the main town, Batpora, Meemander, Ramnagri and adjoining villages, besides affecting Aihal and nearby areas of Pulwama district. Large hailstones pounded orchards for several minutes, damaging tender apple fruit, bruising leaves and snapping branches laden with developing fruit.

Orchardists said that the storm struck at a crucial stage of fruit development when apple crops are highly vulnerable to physical •P-06

'Kashmir's Eid-ul-Adha Livestock Trade Hits Rs 384 Crore'

'Nearly 1.92 Lakh Sheep Brought To Valley In 1,200 Trucks In Last 15 Days'



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley witnessed a good influx of sacrificial animals during the Eid-ul-Adha this year, with nearly 1,200 trucks carrying sheep entering the Valley during the last 15 days, the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) said on Saturday.

The Association General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said each truck carried more

than 160 sheep on average, taking the total number of livestock brought into Kashmir to nearly 1.92 lakh sheep ahead of the festival.

"About 1,200 trucks carrying sheep entered the Valley during the last 15 days till May 27. Every truck was carrying over 160 sheep," he said.

He said the average price of a sheep this season remained around Rs 20,000, pushing the overall Eid-ul-Adha livestock •P-06

CM Omar backs innovation, mentorship as SANGAM-3.0 begins at NIT Srinagar

Event aims to boost collaboration, research, and global networking: Director

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on Saturday extended his greetings as the two-day global alumni reunion SANGAM-3.0 commenced at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, expressing confidence that the initiative would promote innovation, mentorship, collaboration and knowledge-sharing while contributing to the academic and professional growth of the institution and the region.

Organised by the Office of Dean Alumni and International Affairs in collaboration with the Alumni Association of REC-NIT Srinagar, the event aims to strengthen alumni engagement, foster academic and professional collaboration, and reconnect former students with their alma mater.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Common Hall of the institute and commenced with the National Anthem, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and formal welcome of alumni, guests, and dignitaries.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the organisers and participants.

In his message, he lauded NIT Srinagar for fostering a strong alumni network and providing a platform that reconnects generations of graduates.

He expressed confidence that SANGAM-3.0 would strengthen collaboration, innovation, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing, while contributing to the academic and professional growth of the institution and the region.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. B K Kanaujia, while



addressing the gathering, said that SANGAM-3.0 represents the Institute's vision of building stronger bridges with its alumni community across the globe.

"Our alumni are the pride and strength of this institution. SANGAM is a celebration of our collective achievements, shared memories and future aspirations. The success stories of our alumni continue to inspire students and contribute immensely towards the growth and reputation of NIT Srinagar at national and international levels," he said.

Prof Kanaujia said that Institute is actively working towards enhancing research collaborations, innovation ecosystems and industry-academia partnerships with the support and guidance of its alumni network.

Institute Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said that the alumni meet provides an important platform for meaningful interaction between alumni, faculty members, and students.

"The institute deeply values the emotional connection and continued support of its alumni. Such events help in strengthening institutional identity and creating opportunities for mentorship, networking and collaborative initiatives," he said.

Dean Alumni and Inter-

national Affairs, Prof M A Shah, said the overwhelming response to SANGAM-3.0 reflects the strong bond alumni continue to share with the institute despite being spread across different parts of the world.

"We are witnessing participation from alumni belonging to different batches and professions. The event has been designed not only as a reunion but also as a platform to promote innovation, academic collaboration, entrepreneurship, and student mentorship," he said.

"SANGAM is not just an event but a long-term movement aimed at reconnecting generations of alumni with the institute and encouraging them to contribute towards academic excellence, research, innovation and institutional growth," Prof. Shah said.

President Alumni Association REC/NIT Srinagar, Er Malay Chatterjee, described the alumni community as the "torch bearers" of the institution and urged graduates to remain connected with their alma mater through academic, professional and philanthropic contributions.

Guest of Honor, MLA Surankote and distinguished alumnus, Er. Chaudhary Muhammad Ikram, MLA Surankote termed the alumni meet a

bridge between the government and the alma mater and appreciated the institute for reconnecting generations of alumni through SANGAM-3.0.

Vice President of Alumni Association REC/NIT Srinagar, Er Sayed Parvez Qalandar, while addressing the gathering, stressed the importance of maintaining strong alumni-institute relations and called upon former students to actively contribute towards mentoring and supporting young graduates.

Chairman Bureau of Public Enterprises, J&K Government, Er Talat Parvaz (IAS), also addressed the gathering and highlighted the growing role of technical institutions in shaping future leadership, governance and innovation.

The institute also felicitated silver, golden, and diamond jubilee batches along with ten distinguished alumni for their outstanding contributions in academics, administration, engineering, entrepreneurship and public service.

Earlier Er. Irfan Bashir Ashai, General Secretary of the Alumni Association REC/NIT Srinagar, delivered the Welcome address and warmly welcomed the guests, alumni, faculty members, and participants. He highlighted the importance of staying

connected with the alma mater and strengthening the bond among alumni of NIT Srinagar.

A major highlight of the inaugural session was the release of "Bridges & Beacons: A Chronicle of NIT Srinagar," a publication documenting the Institute's journey, milestones, achievements and contributions over the decades.

During the programme, the Member-Secretary of the Alumni Association Election Commission presented an exclusive report regarding the elected members of the Alumni Association and highlighted the role of alumni in strengthening the institute's outreach and development initiatives.

Later, alumni shared their professional experiences and success stories during the "Voices of Experience" session, inspiring students and young graduates with valuable insights from diverse fields.

Associate Dean Alumni and International Affairs Dr H S Pali presented the vote of thanks and appreciated the efforts of organisers, faculty members, volunteers, alumni and participants for making the event successful.

In the afternoon session, alumni participated in the "Alumni Back to Classroom (ABC)" programme, and the overall event was coordinated by Dr Dinesh Kr. Rajendran. The alumni interacted with students in various departments and shared professional experiences, industry insights, and career guidance.

Alumnus also visited the library, workshop, CRF, WRC, laboratories, and research centres of the institute to witness recent academic and infrastructural advancements achieved by NIT Srinagar.

DC Shopian presides over monthly NCORD meeting

Stresses for destruction of illicit crop cultivation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) committee meeting was held Saturday here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

During meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing enforcement, monitoring and preventive initiatives being implemented by the concerned departments. Stressing the need for a coordinated and proactive approach, the DC directed all stakeholders to intensify efforts for effective control of drug abuse.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took department-wise action taken reports and laid stress on creating awareness against the drug and substance abuse.

The concerned departments informed the chair about their activities



against the ongoing fight on drugs. It was apprised that strict enforcement is being done against the illicit crop (poppy) cultivation in the district.

Directions were issued to strengthen the fight against drug abuse, keeping close vigil on the cultivation of poppy across the district and informing the police about illegal crop cultivation.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of keeping strict vigil on poppy cultivation across the district

to raise awareness about drug abuse.

Besides, various other issues including continuous inspections of pharmacies, Drug Free Panchayats, intensifying illicit crop cultivation destruction drives, enforcement of COTPA, role of village level functionaries was discussed and future action plan devised.

SSP, Shopian, Mush-taq Ahmed Choudhary; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; SDM, Bilal Ahmad, Tehsil-dars, district officers and other officials were present.

GM NHPC Uri issues Rebuttal to concerns being circulated on Social Media

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: General Manager (Civil), Uri-I Stage-II Hydroelectric Project of NHPC Limited, Saturday issued a rebuttal to concerns being circulated on various social media platforms regarding the safety of construction activities associated with the Uri-I Stage-II Hydroelectric Project.

In a communication, NHPC clarified that the project has secured all major statutory clearances, including environmental, forest, defence and

other requisite approvals, besides obtaining no-objection certificates from the concerned ministries and departments.

The GM stated that the proposed tunnel is located approximately 400 metres inside the mountain cover, with an additional lateral cover ranging between 300 and 500 metres, thereby ensuring the safety of the construction activities.

It was further informed that any blasting required for project execution will be carried out through controlled methods under the supervision of experts

from NHPC and government-approved national-level technical institutions.

Describing the project as one of national importance, NHPC emphasized that the safety and security of local residents and establishments had been accorded due consideration during the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The organization reiterated its commitment to adhering to all prescribed safety standards and regulatory requirements during the execution of the project.

PROANG Applauds J&K Police's Relentless Anti-Drug Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Provincial Retired Police Officers Association of J&K (PROANG) has lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their unwavering commitment and remarkable success in combating drug abuse, crime and other social evils across the Union Territory.

In a statement issued through PROANG spokesperson Mir Niyaz Ahmad, Chairman Gh Hassan Zargar praised the force's tireless efforts, saying their dedication and prompt actions have significantly strengthened public trust and made communities safer.

Highlighting PROANG's active participation in the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (NMBA) J&K, Zargar said retired police personnel across Awantipora, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Kupwara and Bandipora have been conducting awareness campaigns, counselling sessions and community outreach programmes to safeguard youth from the growing

menace of drug addiction.

Calling drug abuse a serious threat to society and future generations, he stressed the need for a united approach involving police, civil administration, educational institutions and citizens to eradicate the menace completely.

The PROANG Chairman also expressed profound grief over the recent tragic incident in Budgam and extended solidarity with the bereaved family. He strongly condemned the heinous crime and praised the Budgam Police, including the SSP, Additional SP, SHO and other officers, for solving the case and arresting the accused within just 36 hours.

He said the swift and professional action demonstrated by the police has further reinforced public confidence in law enforcement and reaffirmed the force's commitment to justice, public safety and the rule of law. PROANG also reiterated its resolve to support all initiatives aimed at building a peaceful, secure and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

DM B'pora reviews NCORD measures; Stresses Awareness against Drug Abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the implementation of anti-drug measures and illicit drug trafficking in the district.

During the meeting, the SSP presented a detailed review of cases registered under the NDPS/PIT NDPS Act across different police stations in the district. He also briefed the meeting regarding attachment and freezing of properties of drug peddlers, demolition of illegal structures and action taken in commercial quantity cases.

The Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of NDPS cases, acquittals, bail applications and challenges filed before courts. Stress was laid on ensuring

effective prosecution.

Reviewing enforcement measures, the DM stressed strict action against drug peddlers and directed the concerned authorities to expedite cancellation/Suspension of DL, Passport, contractor cards, Arms Licences and other documents of accused involved in narcotics-related offences. She also emphasized enhanced coordination among departments for sustained enforcement.

The meeting was informed that CCTV surveillance had been strengthened in various educational institutions and hotspot areas. The DM directed the Education Department and Principals of Government Degree Colleges to ensure installation of CCTV cameras in all schools, colleges and coaching centres, particularly in vulnerable and shadow areas.

The Education Department and Government Degree Colleges apprised the meeting about aware-

ness and outreach programmes conducted under NMBA, including debates, seminars, essay competitions and student interaction programmes aimed at sensitizing youth against drug abuse.

The Rural Development Department (RDD) was directed to further intensify awareness activities at the grassroots level by conducting regular anti-drug programmes in wards and Panchayats across the district.

The Excise Departments informed the meeting about measures taken against illicit poppy cultivation and destruction drives conducted in different areas of the district.

The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting regarding inspections conducted across medical shops and action taken against violations. The DM stressed strict implementation of computerized billing systems and installation of CCTV cameras in

pharmacies and medical establishments to check misuse of scheduled drugs.

The DM directed the ARTO and Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) to further intensify awareness programmes and strengthen enforcement measures in their respective sectors to support the anti-drug campaign.

The meeting also reviewed implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). The DM directed concerned departments to conduct zonal-level meetings for effective implementation of COTPA and ensure strict monitoring around educational institutions and public places.

During the meeting, departments presented progress reports regarding the 100-day NMBA campaign, including awareness drives, mega rallies, "Dosti Discussions", and IEC activities conducted across the district.

Commissioner JMC inspects encroachment situation in City Chowk, Malhotra Mohalla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav Saturday conducted an on-site inspection of Ward No. 11, covering City Chowk and Malhotra Mohalla areas, to assess the issue of encroachments on public footpaths and roads.

The visit was undertaken following repeated representations and requests from locals, who highlighted the difficulties being faced by pedestrians due to the

widespread encroachment of footpaths by vendors and shopkeepers. During the inspection, Dr. Yadav observed that several vendors and traders had occupied pedestrian pathways by displaying and selling goods on the footpaths, leaving little or no space for public movement.

Acting on the spot, the Commissioner directed the concerned vendors and shopkeepers to immediately remove the encroachments and ensure that footpaths remain accessible to pedestrians. He empha-

sized that public spaces are meant for the convenience and safety of citizens and cannot be allowed to be obstructed.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Devansh Yadav stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to finding a sustainable and practical solution to the issue. He informed that a meeting will soon be convened involving traders and business representatives from the affected areas, along with the local MLA and other stakeholders to dis-

cuss measures for regulating commercial activities while safeguarding public convenience.

The Commissioner further noted that unchecked encroachments not only create hardships for pedestrians but also contribute significantly to traffic congestion in the city. He stressed that effective management of roadside vending and the commercial activities are essential to prevent traffic bottlenecks and ensure smooth vehicular movement across Jammu city.

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER ACHABAL

No: NHM/B/A- 1621

Dated:- 25-05-2026

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed / eligible/ registered suppliers for the supply of drugs, diagnostics reagents and hospital equipments for health institutions of Medical Block Achabal. The tender must be accompanied with the CDR of Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) pledged in the name of **BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER SDH ACHABAL**. Interested parties/firms may collect the detailed tender document from this office during working hours within 7 working days from the date of publication of this notice. The said parties must produce all the relevant documents (PAN Card, Registration Certificate, GST Certificate etc) at the time of collection of list of tendered items/tender documents. The tender should reach to the office of the undersigned within **07(seven) working days** from the date of publication of this notice. The tender will be opened in the office of BMO Achabal on a very next working day in presence of tenderer who may wish to present.

DIPK-1677-26
DT: 30/05/2026

Block Medical Officer
Achabal

Amit Shah chairs security review meeting on border-related issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, chaired a security review meeting in Bhuj, Gujarat, focusing on security-related issues concerning the border and coastal districts of Gujarat situated along the India-Pakistan Border (IPB). Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Chief Secretary, DGP, Gujarat, along with other senior state government officials, as well as the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of Kutch, Vav-Tharad, and Patan were present in the meeting. With a view to achieving more robust and comprehensive border management, the meeting focused on the challenges, threats, and emerging concerns in these border areas along the India-Pakistan Border, and emphasized the active and effective role of the state government—particularly the DMs and SPs—in this regard.

During the meeting, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, said that border fencing, maritime border security, and the strong political will of the state government have brought



about a significant transformation in Gujarat's security landscape, resulting in the complete cessation of infiltration in the state and smuggling on the border. He emphasized that a zero-tolerance approach should be adopted towards all unauthorized encroachments within the 0-15 km belt along the international border, and efforts should be made to eliminate them. He also stressed the need to maintain a close watch on centres of radicalization in border areas. Politics

Amit Shah said that demographic changes in border districts pose the most serious challenge, and District Magistrates should ensure strict monitoring and regular reporting of such developments. He stated that reverse

migration happening in border areas due to the establishment of industrial units is a welcome development. Shah said that everyone—from police station to patwari—should work in unison to ensure deportation of already settled illegal infiltrators. He said that the local administrations should formulate SOPs for specific challenges and requirements of each border district, to ensure identification of existing infiltrators, as well as threats related to drones and narcotics.

Union Home Minister said that Security Coordination Groups should be formed in every district, comprising the BSF, Coast Guard, Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the Lead

Bank Manager. He said that the responsibility for the effective enforcement of Income Tax, anti-money laundering, and Customs laws should rest with the District Magistrate (DM), Superintendent of Police (SP), and Inspector General (IG), Border Range.

Shah emphasized the need to maintain strict vigil over hawala transactions, financial dealings, mule accounts, shell companies, suspicious vehicles, and GST collections in border districts. He stated that agencies combating financial crimes should strictly be kept apprised regarding border areas, and that the Income Tax Department, in collaboration with the RBI, should conduct extensive survey campaigns.

Union Home Minister said that, given the proximity to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), there is a need to prioritize coastal security and ensure effective coordination with the Indian Coast Guard. He further directed that, alongside the 'Vibrant Villages' initiative, 100% saturation of every scheme—both of the Central and State governments—must be ensured in the border villages.

Sakeena Itoo convenes grievances redress camp; emphasizes enhanced public service delivery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday convened a public grievances redress camp at Circuit House Pulwama.

The event was attended by MLA Pampore Justice Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Zainapora Showkat Husain Ganie, Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Medical Officer Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and other line departments besides officers from the Health, Education and Social Welfare departments.

During the camp, deputations from different villages and urban areas of Pulwama and Shopian, representatives of trade bodies, social organisations, senior citizens and other stakeholders projected a wide range of public issues and development demands and submitted memoranda of demands concerning their respective areas.

The issues raised during the interaction included strengthening of healthcare facilities, improvement of educational infrastructure, augmentation of sports facilities, water



supply schemes, development of public parks, establishment of scientific dumping sites, road connectivity, widening and upgradation of roads, deployment of adequate staff in health and educational institutions besides concerns related to agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and sought on-the-spot feedback from the concerned officers regarding the issues raised. She directed the officers to take immediate measures and ensure timely resolution of genuine public grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Pampore expressed gratitude said that such interactions provide an effective platform for addressing the genuine concerns of the people. He expressed hope that similar programmes would continue in future to strengthen the public participation in governance and ensure prompt redress

of public issues. MLA Zainapora, while addressing the gathering, said that the visit of the Minister to directly interact with the people and listen to their concerns at their doorstep demonstrates a people-centric approach aimed at ensuring that the voice of every citizen is heard and considered in the decision-making process.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo assured the participants that all genuine issues projected during the meeting would be examined and addressed in a timebound manner. She said that a follow-up review meeting would also be conducted to assess the progress achieved on the issues raised and ensure their effective redressal.

The Minister expressed gratitude to the people from different areas of Pulwama and Shopian, particularly senior citizens, community representatives and members of the civil society, for participating in

the interaction and sharing their valuable suggestions for development of the districts.

Sakeena Itoo further directed the officers to adopt a people-centric approach in discharge of their duties and ensure improved delivery of public services. Stressing the importance of accountability and responsiveness, she called upon all the departments to work in close coordination for welfare and betterment of the people.

Highlighting the significance of the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the Minister said that these sectors form the backbone of the local economy and livelihood of a large section of the population. She directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of irrigation water and other essential facilities to the farmers and orchardists during the ongoing growing season so that productivity and income generation are not affected.

CUET-UG exam hit by technical glitch; NTA orders probe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of candidates appearing for the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET-UG) 2026 faced disruption on Saturday after a technical glitch at several examination centres delayed the commencement of the first shift, prompting the National Testing Agency (NTA) to order an investigation and announce a special re-examination for affected students.

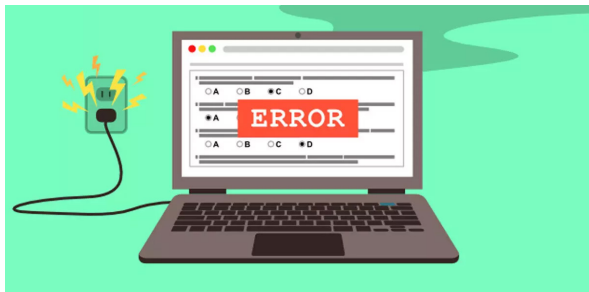
In an official statement, the NTA said the technical issue, reported by its service provider TCS iON, affected the start of Shift-I examinations at some centres across the country.

While the problem was later resolved and the examination resumed with compensatory time, the disruption caused inconvenience and uncertainty for candidates and their families.

According to the agency, nearly 95 per cent of candidates were able to complete their examination after services were restored.

However, 3,765 candidates who had reported to their centres, completed biometric registration and were present for the examination chose to leave before the test could restart.

The NTA said these



candidates would be given a fresh opportunity to take the examination through a one-time rescheduled test.

The date and other details of the special examination will be announced separately on the official CUET website.

"The technical service provider, TCS iON, has been directed to conduct a root-cause analysis and submit its report immediately," the agency said, adding that no candidate who remained at the centre would be disadvantaged as full compensatory time was provided. The agency further revised the schedule for the afternoon session, postponing the commencement of the examination by one hour.

Candidates were asked to report at 2.30 pm, while the examination began at 4 pm instead of the originally scheduled 3 pm.

NTA expressed regret over the disruption, stating that it understood the distress caused to students and parents.

It reiterated that candidates who were present at their centres on May 30, completed biometric verification but could not complete the examination due to the technical failure would be accommodated through the rescheduled test.

The incident comes weeks before the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026, scheduled for June 21.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the Delhi Government would provide free travel in all Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses for NEET-UG 2026 candidates on examination day upon presentation of a valid admit card.

"No student should face inconvenience on a day that holds such importance for their future," the Chief Minister said in a post on X and extended her best wishes to aspirants appearing for the medical entrance examination.

LG directs Ladakh Admin to adopt austerity measures as per PM's call

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed departments to promote austerity, adopt sustainable practices and ensure the judicious use of natural resources, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's austerity call.

The directions aim to reduce government expenditure, cut fuel consumption, promote renewable energy, encourage the use of sustainable products, strengthen local livelihoods and enhance environmental sustainability, officials said.

Saxena also called for greater promotion of domestic tourism, natural farming, renewable energy and efficient utilisation of public resources across sectors.

The Lieutenant Governor said he has already reduced the number of vehicles in his official motorcade by 50 per cent following the Prime Minister's appeal.

Calling for a coordinated and time-bound approach, Saxena directed all administrative secretaries to implement the measures through their respective departments and issue necessary instructions to



subordinate offices and field formations.

"The Prime Minister has given a timely and visionary call for adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives, governance systems and developmental activities. Resource conservation, promotion of renewable energy, support to local products, healthy lifestyles and sustainable development are collective responsibilities," Saxena said.

He said Ladakh, with its unique ecology and immense potential, is well placed to lead by example in implementing such transformative measures.

The Lieutenant Governor directed all departments to submit a consolidated Action Taken Report (ATR) to the Chief Secretary within 30 days and launch public aware-

ness campaigns on energy conservation, domestic tourism, local products, healthy lifestyles, natural farming and sustainable development.

Under these directions, the general administration department has been asked to maximise the use of video conferencing and digital platforms for meetings and training programmes, reduce official travel and examine the feasibility of work-from-home and hybrid working arrangements wherever appropriate.

The Power, Transport and Urban Development departments have been tasked with promoting energy conservation, accelerating installation of rooftop solar systems in government buildings, expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure

and encouraging the use of public transport and electric vehicles. The public works department has been directed to encourage environmentally sustainable construction materials, promote the use of plastic waste in road construction where feasible and explore green technologies such as bio-bitumen.

The Industries and Commerce, Handicrafts and Handloom, and Rural Development departments have been asked to strengthen the promotion of local products under the 'vocal for local' and 'one district one product' initiatives and support MSMEs, artisans, self-help groups and cooperatives. The tourism department has been directed to intensify campaigns to promote Ladakh as a preferred domestic tourism destination and encourage responsible and sustainable tourism practices. The agriculture and horticulture departments will promote natural farming and sustainable agriculture through awareness programmes and capacity-building activities, and the Health Department has been asked to conduct campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles and balanced dietary habits, officials said.

Two killed as truck plunges into nallah, catches fire in Ramban

AGENCIES

RAMBAN: Two persons were killed after a truck veered off the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), plunged into a deep gorge, and burst into flames near Gangroo in the Ramban area of Ramban district on Saturday, officials said.

The truck was heading from Jammu to Srinagar when the driver apparently lost control on the mountainous stretch. The vehicle skidded off the road, rolled down into the gorge, and was soon engulfed in flames, officials said.

Rescue teams, local police, and volunteers rushed to the spot and launched an operation. After the fire was doused, two charred bodies were recovered from the wreckage.

The deceased are believed to be the driver and the cleaner of the truck, though their identities have not been established yet, an official said.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

Meanwhile, The incident has once again raised concerns over road safety on the vulnerable NH-44 stretch in Ramban, which witnesses frequent accidents due to sharp curves and difficult terrain. (KNS)

Kulgam Police attach houses worth over Rs 1 crore in anti-drug crackdown

AGENCIES

KULGAM: Police in south Kashmir's Kulgam district have attached two residential properties worth more than ₹1 crore, alleging they were acquired using proceeds from illegal drug trafficking, officials said on Saturday.

The first property, a residential house valued at ₹50 lakh and belonging to Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir of Kujjar Frisal in Yaripora, was attached in connection with FIR No. 10/2021 registered at Yaripora police station. Police said the property had been identified as being purchased through income generated from the illicit trade of narcotics.

In a separate action, police attached a single-storey residential house worth ₹52 lakh belonging to Feroze Ahmad Khan of Munnad, Yaripora. The attachment was carried out in connection with FIR No. 72/2023 registered at Behibagh police station. Authorities alleged that the property was acquired from proceeds of drug-related activities.

Police said the attachments were carried out under Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after obtaining approval from the competent authority under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEMA).

The proceedings were conducted in the presence of an executive magistrate and a police team, with officials stating that all legal formalities were followed.

Police said the action forms part of an ongoing campaign against drug trafficking in the district, aimed at dismantling both narcotic networks and the assets allegedly created through the illegal trade. Authorities appealed to the public to share information related to drug trafficking and other narcotics-related activities. The proceedings were conducted in the presence of an executive magistrate and a police team, with officials stating that all legal formalities were followed.

Div Com Kashmir reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements

AGENCIES

ANANTNAG: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting here to review the preparedness for the smooth conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra 2026, officials said.

The meeting was attended by senior civil and police officials, representatives of line departments, and district administrations involved in the pilgrimage. Discussions centred around strengthening infrastructure, security, traffic management, healthcare, sanitation, power and water supply, and emergency response mechanisms along the yatra routes.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, gave a detailed presenta-



tion on the district administration's preparedness, including ongoing works, accommodation, medical facilities, and inter-departmental coordination for a hassle-free yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and directed all agencies to complete pending works well before the pilgrimage commences. He asserted

that every effort must be made to ensure a safe, comfortable, and smooth experience for pilgrims heading to the holy cave shrine.

Officials assured the chair that all necessary measures are being taken on priority and that preparations are progressing as per schedule for the successful conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra 2026. (KNS)

Hailstorm Hits Shopian, Kupwara as Unpredictable Weather Pattern Persists

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Fresh hailstorm struck several areas of Shopian and Kupwara districts on Saturday, underlining the continuing spell of unpredictable weather that has affected different parts of Kashmir in recent weeks.

The weather disturbance triggered concern among inhabitants and farming communities, particularly in districts dependent on horticulture and agriculture where sudden hail and rainfall often raise fears of crop and orchard damage.

Reports said multiple localities in Shopian and Kupwara experienced hail accompanied by changing weather conditions, with residents witnessing abrupt shifts from warmer conditions to stormy skies.

The latest weather event forms part of an erratic pattern witnessed across Kashmir, where intermittent rain, gusty winds and hailstorms have repeatedly disrupted normal weather conditions.

While the extent of damage, if any, was not immediately known, locals said the sudden hailstorm caused concern among orchardists and farmers.

The affected districts are known for horticulture activity, and weather-related disturbances during the season often draw close attention from growers monitoring crops and orchards. The fresh spell once again highlighted the uncertain and rapidly changing weather conditions being witnessed across parts of the Valley. (KNT)

Good Morning Kashmir

Putting Farmers And People First

When Minister Sakeena Ito recently pushed for better government teamwork, stronger support for farmers, and getting development projects done on time, she hit on something that affects the daily lives of everyone across Jammu and Kashmir. At the end of the day, "development" is just a buzzword unless its benefits actually reach the ground and make life a little easier for ordinary people. In Jammu and Kashmir, agriculture and horticulture aren't just lines on an economic spreadsheet, they are the literal lifeblood of thousands of families. From the apple orchards in the Valley to the farming fields in rural communities, countless households rely entirely on a successful harvest just to get by. Because of this, ensuring that farmers have reliable irrigation water and essential tools isn't just a checklist item for local administration; it's an absolute necessity to protect people's livelihoods and keep rural communities thriving. The Minister's call for officials to stay alert and responsive to what farmers actually need comes at a critical moment. Between unpredictable weather patterns, shifting market prices, and the rising costs of running a farm, our agricultural communities are already under a massive amount of pressure. Having the government step in with timely, practical support can make a world of difference in helping growers weather these storms and keep food on our tables. The Cost of Delay: Every time a local infrastructure project gets put on the back burner, real people pay the price. Just as important is the focus on getting development projects finished on schedule. All too often, bureaucratic delays leave communities waiting months or years for basic roads, public facilities, and essential services that they need every single day. A delayed project isn't just an administrative hiccup—it's a missed opportunity to improve someone's quality of life.

What people genuinely want from leadership isn't a list of grand announcements; they want action. They want to see projects finished on time, services delivered smoothly, and departments actually talking to each other to solve problems rather than passing the buck. Real accountability and teamwork are what separate a frustrating bureaucracy from a government that actually cares. As Jammu and Kashmir moves forward, the success of any government plan shouldn't be measured by statistics or reports. It will be judged by what happens on the ground. When our farmers get the backing they need and local projects are finished without endless delays, the whole community grows stronger, the economy gets a boost, and daily life simply gets better for everyone.

From Rank Holders To Problem Solvers



DR. ANJUM QURESHI

Educational institutions often prioritize helping students achieve high examination scores, emphasizing rote memorization and adherence to textbook solutions. While this approach may lead to academic accolades, it falls short of equipping students for the real-world challenges they will encounter. It is essential to recognize that the true aim of education is to prepare students to navigate life with confidence, positivity, and a sense of responsibility.

When students focus solely on passing exams, their learning becomes confined to the content of textbooks, leading them to rely on predetermined solutions. However, real life presents a myriad of unpredictable situations and challenges that cannot be addressed solely through academic knowledge. This narrow approach can leave students feeling unprepared when faced with complex issues that require creativity, independent thought, and effective problem-solving skills. As they navigate various responsibilities—such as financial obligations, interpersonal relationships, and workplace dynamics—they must develop resilience and adaptability. Relying exclusively on textbook knowledge may hinder their ability to cope with the pressures that accompany adulthood and career advancement. Therefore, it is essential to encourage students to engage with diverse learning methods alongside their traditional studies to foster a more comprehensive understanding of the world around them.

Examinations play a crucial role in assessing students' learning, yet the emphasis on top performers can lead to negative feelings among others, fostering a fear of failure. It is essential to convey that academic scores do not solely define a person's abilities or worth. Students must cultivate resilience to effectively navigate setbacks and rejection in life. Beyond grades, success in the real-world hinges on strong communication skills, empathy, adaptability, and a genuine concern for others. A student may excel academically but struggle to engage with peers or manage stress in challenging situations. Therefore, high achievers in exams should not automatically be regarded as successful individuals; they must learn to adapt, solve problems, and continuously grow from their experiences to truly thrive in life.



Classrooms should foster an environment that promotes critical thinking, encouraging students to ask questions, think independently, and seek solutions beyond textbooks and AI tools. Essential life skills such as financial literacy, leadership, emotional intelligence, teamwork, and communication should be integrated into various activities and teaching methods. Additionally, project-based learning should be emphasized, allowing students to collaborate in teams to tackle real-world problems. For those in higher education, opportunities for internships and industry training should be provided to enable the practical application of their knowl-

This narrow approach can leave students feeling unprepared when faced with complex issues that require creativity, independent thought, and effective problem-solving skills.

edge. Furthermore, motivation and counseling are crucial for building student confidence, helping them recognize that failures are a natural part of life rather than definitive endpoints. Ultimately, schools must prioritize the holistic development of students, ensuring that, alongside academic curricula, they also learn about ethics, integrity, honesty, values, discipline, and social responsibility. The fundamental purpose of educational institutions extends beyond merely producing high achievers and academic stars; it is to cultivate responsible and engaged citizens. While examinations hold significance, they should not be viewed as the ultimate objective of education. A truly educated individual is not defined solely by their ability to pass tests or achieve high grades, but rather by their capacity to think critically, adapt to new situations, confront challenges, devise solutions, and lead a meaningful life, while also empowering others to do the same.

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Bashir Badr: The People's Poet Who Lives On

MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

Adab ki duniya huwa sey ek ore chirag gul, paski ki baqee rahi unki tasaneef, ek oure tara gir gaya anjunami ahle qalam se, ore ghir key jahaan ko andheray ma daal gaya. (Meem Alif Sheen)

Bashir Badr, born Syed Muhammad Bashir was born on 15 February 1935 and left for heavenly abode on 28 May 2026. He was an Indian who taught Urdu at the Aligarh Muslim University. He primarily wrote in the Urdu language particularly ghazals. He also wrote a couplet titled Dushmani Jam Kar Karo in 1972 during Shimla Agreement that revolves around the partition of India. Most of Badr's unpublished literary work, including an uncertain number of poems was lost during the 1987 Meerut communal riots, and later he moved to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Early Life and Education: Badr was born in United Provinces of Agra and Oudh (in modern-day Bukiya near Hanswar, Ambedkar Nagar, and Uttar Pradesh, India) on 15 February 1935. After he did his early schooling, he attended the Aligarh Muslim University where he did his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and PhD. Later, he served at the same university as a lecturer. He also served at Meerut College for over seventeen years. After his property, including his house and books, was damaged in the 1987 Meerut violence, he permanently moved to Bhopal.

Career: Badr started writing poems at the age of seven. He wrote some collections of ghazals titled Ikai, Kulliyate Bashir Badr, Aamad, Image, Aahat and Devanagari script ghazals titled Ujale Apni Yadon Ke. During his career, he wrote two books titled Azadi Ke



Bad Urdu Ghazal Ka Tanqidi Mutala (Critical study of Urdu ghazal after independence) and Biswin Sadi Mein Ghazal (Ghazals in 20th century) focused on literary criticism. He also served at the Bihar Urdu Academy as a chairman.

His poetry and the message therein: Bashir Badr is known for his poetry of compassion and love. His poetry is the most appealing and heart touching as it covers the themes of a common man that is why he is called the people's poet. His famous ghazals; "Ankhood ma raha dil ma utter kar nahi dekha", "Kashti kay musafir ney samander nahi dekha"

Is touching the theme of nostalgia and complaint about the beloved. The metaphoric language is at once appealing and thought provoking. Ye phool mujhe virasat ma mujhe mile hai, Tum ney mera kanton bhara bistar nahi dekha

Means that nothing comes without any adventure and trouble. And flowers come only on the thorny pants. Life is not the siege of flowers, but a bed of thorns also. And the ending couplet; Pathar mujhe kehta hai mera

chahaney wala, Ma moum hoon usne mujhe choo kar nahi dekha

Is at once complaining about the beloved who only finds shortcomings of the poet, but doesn't come close to him and doesn't try to understand him.

I would like to quote one more ghazal from his pen which focuses on unparalleled nature of poet's beloved. And the faith on beloved combined with his passionate love for his beloved. And mutual love is the core concern of this ghazals.

agar tal sh kar n ko mil h j .eg magar tumh r tarah kaun mujh ko ch heg tumheñ zar r ko ch hatoñ se dekheg magar vo ñkheñ ham r kah ñ se l .eg na jaane kab tire dil par na. s dastak ho mak n h l hu hai to ko aa.eg maiñ apn raah meñ d v r ban ke baiTh huuñ agar vo aay to kis r ste se aa.eg tumh re saath ye mausam farishton jais hai tumh re baa'd ye mausam bahut sat .eg

The poem starts with an optimistic view that on search

he can find anyone. At the same time declares that no one will be like his beloved. In second verse, the poet shows his deep love and value of his beloved. And the poem ends with a nostalgic feeling that the poet will miss the angelic atmosphere that he would see in the company of his beloved.

Influence on politics: His couplets appear to have had an influence on Indian politicians, and are sometimes quoted in the parliament of India by the leaders such as prime minister of India Narendra Modi and 2014's prime minister candidate of Congress Rahul Gandhi. In 1972, his couplet was quoted by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Later life and death: Badr later suffered from dementia and was believed to have forgotten his Mushaira years as a result. Badr died in Bhopal on 28 May 2026, at the age of 91.

Awards: Badr received the Padma Shri award in 1999 for contribution towards literature and Sangeet Natak Akademi. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu for his poetry collection "Aas" in 1999.

Legacy: Badr is one of the most quoted shayars in Indian

pop-culture. A popular radio show Ujaale Apni Yaadon Ke on Vividh Bharti derives its title from one of Badr's most popular sher.

uj le apn y doñ ke ham re saath rahne do, na jaane kis gal meñ zindag k shaam ho jaa.e

The 2015 film Masaan contains various examples of poetry and shaayari by Basheer Badr, along with works by Akbar Allahabadi, Chakbast, Mirza Ghalib and Dushyant Kumar. Explaining this as a conscious tribute, the film's lyrics writer Varun Grover explained that he wanted to show the character of Shaalu (played by Shweta Tripathi) as a person whose hobby is to read Hindi poetry and shaayari, as this is a common hobby of Millennial and Generation X youngsters in Northern India, especially when in love, but this aspect is rarely shown in Hindi films.

Bashir Bader was a modern romantic poet who appeals to the senses of modern man. And whose poetry is an antidote to the modern man who is shorn of emotions due to materialistic pressure and competition. Bashir Bader has left a great vacuum in the literary sphere of current times. No doubt poets will come, but they can't replace him in the field of poetry. Although he has left us, he will continue to live among us by means of his poetry that will definitely stand the test of the times. So at the end I would like to pay a sincere tribute to him in the form of a verse that I think will be the best way to express my sentimental association with him.

Hazaroon aaye ore ayengay iss dour mey, Par tuj sa shayed hi koe hoga, jis ney, Mahsoor kardiya apnay qlalm kay jadhoo sey, Ore humey maqrooz kardiya apnay karam sey.

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From Home To Nation

Why Leadership Cannot Be A Decoration



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Leadership is one of the most discussed but least understood ideas in human society. Many people think leadership means holding a title, occupying a chair, giving orders, or standing above others. But real leadership is far deeper than position. It is the ability to guide people with wisdom, courage, fairness, vision, and moral responsibility. From a small family to a large nation, from a classroom to a corporate office, from a village committee to a parliament, every human unit needs someone who can provide direction, maintain balance, resolve conflict, and lead others toward peace, progress, and success.

A home without proper guidance becomes disturbed. An institution without responsible leadership becomes directionless. An office without competent leadership becomes inefficient. A country without visionary and honest leadership becomes divided, weak, and vulnerable. Therefore, leadership is not a luxury; it is a necessity for the survival and progress of every society.

What Is Leadership?

Leadership may be defined as the ability to influence, guide, motivate, and organize people toward a common goal in a responsible and ethical manner. A true leader does not merely command; he or she inspires. A true leader does not divide; he or she unites. A true leader does not exploit fear; he or she builds confidence. A true leader does not work only for personal benefit; he or she works for the collective good.

In this sense, leadership is not about power alone. It is about service. It is not about domination. It is about direction. It is not about personal glory. It is about public responsibility. A leader may be the head of a family, principal of a school, manager of an office, vice-chancellor of a university, chief minister of a state, or prime minister of a country. The scale may differ, but the core responsibility remains

the same: to lead people toward a better condition than where they are today.

Essential Traits of a True Leader

The first quality of a leader is vision. A leader must know where he wants to take his people. Without vision, leadership becomes only routine administration. A visionary leader sees beyond immediate problems and prepares people for long-term success. In a family, vision may mean educating children properly. In an institution, it may mean improving academic quality. In a country, it may mean economic development, social harmony, justice, and global respect.

The second quality is integrity. A leader who lacks honesty cannot build trust. People may obey a dishonest leader out of fear, but they will not respect him from the heart. Integrity means that the leader's words and actions must match. If a leader speaks about discipline but practices favouritism, people lose faith. If a leader talks about justice but protects corruption, the system begins to decay.

The third quality is competence. Good intention alone is not enough. A leader must also have the knowledge, skill, and understanding required for the position. A person leading a school must understand education. A person leading a business must understand management and finance. A person leading a country must understand governance, economy, law, diplomacy, security, and social diversity. Leadership without competence is dangerous because wrong decisions at the top affect many lives below.

The fourth quality is emotional maturity. A leader must not be controlled by anger, ego, revenge, or insecurity. In every unit of society, disagreements will arise. A leader must listen patiently, judge fairly, and act wisely. If the leader becomes emotional, biased, or arrogant, conflict increases. A mature leader controls situations; an immature leader inflames them.

The fifth quality is courage. Leadership often requires difficult decisions. A leader must have the courage to speak the truth, correct mistakes, oppose injustice, and take responsibility. A weak leader avoids problems. A courageous leader faces them. However, courage must not become stubbornness. True courage is guided by wisdom, not by ego.

The sixth quality is communication. A leader must explain ideas clearly and respectfully. Many problems in homes, institutions, offices, and countries arise not because solutions are impossible, but because communication fails. A good



leader listens before speaking and understands before deciding. Communication is not shouting; it is connecting.

The seventh quality is fairness. A leader must not favour one group unfairly over another. In a family, favouritism among children creates lifelong bitterness. In an office, favouritism destroys morale. In a country, favouritism creates division and unrest. Fair leadership gives people confidence that justice is possible.

Leadership from Home to Nation

Leadership begins at home. Parents are the first leaders' children observe. If parents lead with love, discipline, honesty, and patience, children learn responsibility. But if leadership at home is based on fear, anger, discrimination, or neglect, children carry emotional wounds into society.

In educational institutions, leadership shapes the future of students. A principal, dean, vice-chancellor, or teacher must not only manage files and timetables but also build character, curiosity, discipline, and confidence. If institutional leaders are committed, students grow. If they are careless or compromised, the institution becomes only a building without soul.

In offices, leadership determines productivity and work culture. A good manager values teamwork, recognizes effort, gives clear instructions, and supports employees. A poor manager creates confusion, fear, politics, and frustration. Many talented employees fail not because they lack ability, but because they work under weak leadership.

At the national level, leadership becomes even more critical. A national leader is not leading one family or one office; he is leading millions of people

with different languages, religions, regions, classes, and expectations. Such leadership demands wisdom, tolerance, constitutional respect, and a deep sense of responsibility. A national leader must not behave like the representative of only one group. He must act as the guardian of the entire nation.

What Happens When Leadership Fails?

When a leader is inefficient, compromised, corrupt, or morally weak, the damage spreads quickly. In a family, poor leadership creates disorder. In an institution, it lowers standards. In an office, it reduces efficiency. In a country, it can damage democracy, economy, peace, and national unity.

An inefficient leader delays decisions. A compromised leader takes decisions under pressure. A corrupt leader sells public interest for personal benefit. A biased leader divides people. An arrogant leader refuses advice. A weak leader allows stronger forces to control him. In all these cases, the people suffer.

A nation led by poor leadership may have resources, talent, and opportunities, but still fail to progress. The reason is simple: resources need direction, talent needs encouragement, and opportunities need wise handling. Without proper leadership, even a rich country can become unstable, and with strong leadership, even a struggling nation can rise.

Minimum Qualification of a Leader

One important question must be asked: should a leader have minimum qualifications proportionate to the position he holds? The answer is yes. Leadership should not be given only on the basis of

popularity, family background, wealth, caste, community, or emotional appeal. The higher the position, the higher the required level of understanding, experience, maturity, and accountability.

A school leader must understand education. A hospital leader must understand healthcare. A corporate leader must understand management. A political leader must understand the Constitution, public policy, economy, social harmony, international relations, and human rights. Formal degrees alone may not make a person a good leader, but complete ignorance is certainly dangerous.

Minimum qualification should include not only academic education but also ethical training, administrative ability, communication skill, crisis management, and a record of public service. A leader must be tested not only by speeches but also by conduct.

The Leadership We Need Today

Today the world needs leaders who can heal, not hurt; unite, not divide; guide, not mislead; serve, not exploit. We need leaders who understand that power is temporary, but responsibility is permanent. We need leaders who know that success is not measured by how loudly people praise them, but by how peacefully and confidently people live under their guidance.

Leadership is not about sitting in the front. It is about carrying the burden of those who follow. It is not about controlling people. It is about empowering them. It is not about winning arguments. It is about building a future.

A good leader creates more leaders. A bad leader creates fear, dependency, and silence. Therefore, before choosing or accepting any leader, whether at home, in an institution, in an office, or in a nation, we must ask: Does this person have vision? Does this person have integrity? Does this person have competence? Does this person have courage? Does this person have fairness?

The future of any unit, small or large, depends on the quality of its leadership. Where leadership is honest, capable, and compassionate, peace and progress follow. Where leadership is selfish, weak, or compromised, decline begins silently. That is why leadership must never be treated as a decoration of power. It must be understood as the highest form of responsibility.

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NEP 2020 And The Three-Language Vision

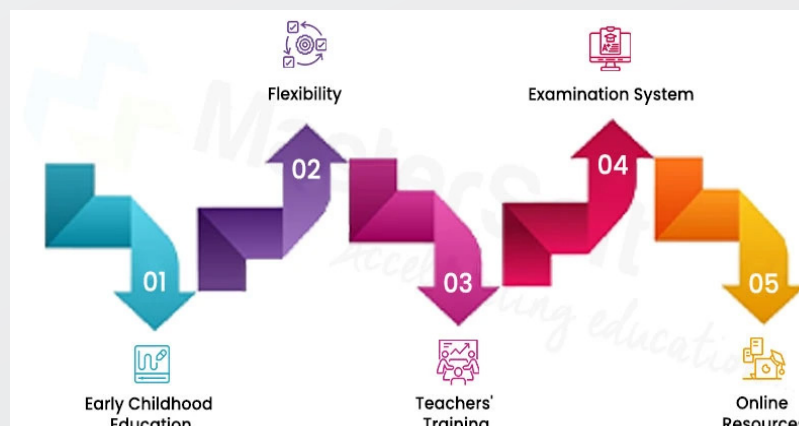
A New Horizon For India's Education System

LALIT GARGG

India is not merely a nation; it is a grand confluence of languages, dialects, cultures, and traditions. In India, language is not only a medium of communication but also the foundation of identity, culture, emotion, and social consciousness. In such a multilingual country, the question of which language should be used in education and which languages children should learn has long remained a subject of debate and politics. It is in this context that the "Three-Language Formula" emerged as a significant concept in India's educational framework. Today, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the recent decision of the CBSE have once again made it relevant in a new and meaningful form. The decision to make two Indian languages compulsory in Class IX is not merely an educational reform; it is a visionary step towards strengthening India's linguistic soul.

The Three-Language Formula essentially originated from the Kothari Commission (1964-66). Its objective was that Indian students should learn three languages: first, the mother tongue or regional language; second, Hindi or another Indian language; and third, English. The spirit behind this arrangement was to promote dialogue, mutual understanding, and national integration among India's diverse linguistic communities. The formula envisioned that children in North India would learn a South Indian language, while students in South India would become familiar with Hindi.

Unfortunately, the policy could not achieve its original objectives. The primary reasons for its limited success were political controversies and linguistic imbalance. Particularly in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu, it was perceived as an attempt to impose Hindi. A widespread sentiment emerged that the Central Government intended to establish Hindi dominance over regional languages in



the name of a national language. On the other hand, North India too failed to sincerely embrace the spirit of the Three-Language Formula. Instead of adopting a South Indian language as the third language, most northern states formally fulfilled the requirement by introducing Sanskrit. As a result, the envisioned linguistic interaction and cultural harmony could not truly develop.

Even today, the situation remains paradoxical. In many private schools across North India, students are taught foreign languages such as French, German, Spanish, and Japanese alongside English, while Indian languages continue to be neglected. In several prestigious institutions, even Hindi has been relegated to the background. Ironically, foreign languages are often regarded as symbols of modernity and prestige, whereas Indian languages and mother tongues are treated as an "extra burden." This mindset reflects an inferiority complex toward Indian languages. Surprisingly, parents do not consider learning two or three foreign languages as burdensome, but they are prepared to protest when it comes to learning Indian languages and mother tongues. Such an attitude is deeply unfortunate. The government should not retreat from its commitment under any pressure.

The Three-Language Formula is highly relevant and beneficial

for promoting Indian languages, especially Hindi. It is not merely a language-learning policy; it is a means of strengthening India's linguistic unity and cultural harmony. Through this arrangement, students in North India can become familiar with South Indian languages, while students in the South can understand Hindi and other Indian languages, thereby reducing linguistic distance and regional narrow-mindedness. Moreover, education rooted in the mother tongue enhances children's comprehension, sensitivity, and expressive abilities. In today's globalized world, knowledge of foreign languages is undoubtedly useful, but neglecting one's own languages weakens a nation's cultural self-confidence. Therefore, the Three-Language Formula is a visionary and necessary initiative aimed at giving due respect to Indian languages, strengthening Hindi as a link language, and reinforcing India's multilingual cultural consciousness.

The recent decision of the CBSE and the Central Government seeks to transform this mindset. Under the National Education Policy 2020, it has been clearly stated that among the three languages chosen by students, at least two must be Indian languages. This policy is not about imposing any particular language; rather, it seeks to provide dignity and opportunity to Indian languages. One of

the most positive aspects of the new policy is its flexibility. No specific language has been made compulsory for any state or student. Learners are free to choose languages according to their interests and regional needs. This approach is far more practical and democratic than earlier models. The greatest significance of the Three-Language Formula lies in promoting national integration and cultural coordination. Language does not merely provide words; it shapes ways of thinking, cultural understanding, and social sensitivity. When a student from North India learns Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, or Kannada, and a student from South India understands Hindi or another northern language, the psychological distance between them naturally diminishes. This weakens linguistic hostility and regional prejudices while fostering a deeper appreciation of India's diversity.

In addition, multilingual education is widely regarded as beneficial for children's intellectual development. Reports from UNESCO and several international institutions suggest that multilingual children tend to be more creative, analytical, and sensitive. Early education in the mother tongue strengthens conceptual understanding and builds confidence. This is why countries such as Japan, China, France, Germany, and Russia have achieved remarkable progress in science and technology by conducting education and administration in their own languages. Similarly, if Indian languages become mediums of education and knowledge creation in India, education can become more inclusive and accessible.

However, implementing the Three-Language Formula also presents certain practical challenges. The biggest challenge is the shortage of trained teachers. If schools in North India are to teach Tamil or Telugu, qualified teachers and suitable learning materials will be essential. Similarly, adequate resources will be required for teaching Hindi in South India.

Another concern relates to the academic burden on students. Many parents fear that learning three languages may increase pressure on children and affect their academic performance. However, these concerns are reduced when the government clarifies that the third language curriculum will be lighter, excluded from board examinations, and assessed internally.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized implementing the Three-Language Formula in a more flexible and practical manner so that India's linguistic diversity is respected and students develop multilingual abilities. In India, millions of people naturally learn multiple languages due to employment, business, and social interaction. Therefore, it is inappropriate to describe Indian languages as a burden. The new education policy is especially significant because it seeks to restore dignity to Indian languages. For decades, English was treated as the sole symbol of modernity and success. Consequently, the development of higher education and knowledge creation in Indian languages suffered greatly. It is equally important that the Three-Language Formula should not become a subject of political conflict. Language should never be imposed; it should serve as a bridge that connects people. This policy can succeed only if it is implemented with mutual respect, sensitivity, and balance.

Ultimately, the Three-Language Formula is not merely an educational policy—it is a national mission to weave India's diversity into a unified thread. The National Education Policy 2020 has infused new hope into this vision by making it more flexible, practical, and inclusive. If implemented with sincerity, foresight, and balance, it can lead India away from linguistic conflicts toward cultural harmony, national unity, and intellectual enrichment. Respecting Indian languages, in essence, means respecting the very soul of India.

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Div Com reviews SANJY arrangements, Interacts with stakeholders in Pahalgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday visited Pahalgam and chaired a review meeting at Pahalgam Club to assess the preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth, safe and successful conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohuddin Bhat, Chief Engineer, KPDC, CEO PDA, ADC, SP, CPO, SEs Hydraulics, PWD and KPDC, ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAHO, DFO, ALC, AD FCS&CA, CEO MCA, EO MC Pahalgam, officers from Beacon, F&ES, Traffic Police, SDRF, representatives of telecom service providers and other concerned officials. During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of arrangements being put in place along the

Pahalgam axis and other locations connected with the Yatra. Detailed discussions were held regarding augmentation of infrastructure, strengthening of essential services and ensuring seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments. Reviewing the preparedness of the Jal Shakti Department, the Divisional Commissioner directed officers to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply at all camps, halting stations and along the Yatra route. He stressed the need for installation of adequate water storage facilities and regular monitoring of water quality. While reviewing the preparedness of KPDC, he directed the department to ensure seamless power supply at all camps, service establishments and locations of importance. He also called for adequate backup arrangements to prevent any disruption during the Yatra period. The BRO authorities were directed to expedite road maintenance and repair works and ensure that all

roads connected with the pilgrimage remain motorable and safe for pilgrims and service vehicles. They were further instructed to explore the possibility of early installation of two way bridge at Sarbal besides expediting the work on construction of rain shelter sheds at all identified locations along the track towards the Holy Cave. Reviewing healthcare arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Health Department to ensure adequate deployment of medical personnel, availability of medicines, emergency response systems including ambulances and fully functional healthcare facilities at designated locations. The Municipal authorities and Rural Development Department were instructed to ensure robust sanitation measures, effective waste management and cleanliness at all camps and along the Yatra route. Further, CEO PDA, SDM and EO MC, Pahalgam were asked to devise a proper strategy for full sanitation

and cleanliness of main town Pahalgam as well as the adjoining areas. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to keep adequate firefighting and rescue arrangements in place, while the concerned telecom agencies were asked to ensure the communication facilities remain active throughout the pilgrimage period. The Divisional Commissioner emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordination and directed all departments to complete their assigned works within stipulated timelines so that all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the commencement of the Yatra. He further asked the departments to ensure the respective service providers are issued the RFID Cards well in advance for facilitating their mobilisation on the Yatra track. On the occasion, the Div Com was also briefed about the plans devised for effective transport management, status of essential commodities stocking, on spot reg-

istration facilities and other vital aspects of the Yatra. Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner chaired an interaction meeting with various stakeholders and service providers associated with the annual pilgrimage, including representatives of Pony Walas, Tent Associations, Taxi Operators, Hoteliers and other groups. During the interaction, the stakeholders projected various issues, concerns and requirements related to the forthcoming Yatra and shared suggestions aimed at improving facilities and services for pilgrims. The Divisional Commissioner gave a patient hearing to all participants and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority. Hailing the crucial role of service providers in successful conduct of previous Yatras, the Div Com observed that they are an integral component of the pilgrimage management and have always been in the forefront ensuring comfort, convenience and enriching

experience to the devotees. He urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination with the administration and expressed confidence that they would continue to uphold the tradition of hospitality and dedicated service during SANJY-2026. Besides supporting the pilgrimage, these stakeholders also play an important role in promoting tourism and boosting visitor experience in the region, he noted. Later, the Div Com visited Chandanwari and reviewed the on-ground arrangements being made for the forthcoming pilgrimage. He inspected various facilities and assessed the progress of ongoing works at the site. During the visit, he directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all pending works and maintain the highest standards in the provision of essential services and public utilities. Anshul Garg also visited the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Pahalgam to review its functioning including management of sewage

and waste treatment. He inspected the functioning of the plant and emphasized the importance of maintaining sanitation and environmental sustainability. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure optimum functioning of the facility so that the waste is managed in a scientific and eco-friendly manner. Concluding the visit, the Div Com visited Base Camp Nunwan and took first hand stock of the facilities being installed at the location. He asked the concerned agencies that all necessary facilities be installed well before the commencement of the Yatra as good number of pilgrims are accommodated at this important location. Reiterating the administration's commitment towards the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the Div Com called upon all departments, stakeholders and service providers to work in close coordination and ensure a safe, smooth and spiritually enriching pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

J&K Hajj Pilgrims Decry

kilograms of check-in baggage plus 7 kilograms of hand baggage. However, due to the runway maintenance at Srinagar Airport and the NOTAM issued from April till October, operational limitations were imposed this year," Dr Qureshi said. He said that during the outbound Hajj flights, pilgrims from Srinagar embarkation were allowed to carry 25 kilograms of check-in baggage along with 7 kilograms of hand baggage. "We allowed 25 kilograms plus 7 kilograms during departure, but when we reviewed the average luggage carried by pilgrims, it was only around 18 kilograms," he said.

Dr Qureshi said the return flights of Hajj pilgrims to Jammu & Kashmir are scheduled to begin from June 2. "Akasa Airlines is operating Hajj flights for four embarkation points, including Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Cochin and Bangalore. Across all these embarkations, the airline has now reduced baggage carriage to 35 kilograms plus 7 kilograms due to technical and operational issues," he said.

The CEO, however, said Srinagar embarkation faces additional limitations because aircraft cannot land with a heavy load while the runway maintenance work continues.

"Because of the ongoing repairs, aircraft operating to Srinagar will not be able to carry the full baggage load. Therefore, 30 kilograms of luggage belonging to each pilgrim will be transported separately by road from Ahmedabad to Srinagar," he added.

The Haj Committee CEO said pilgrims returning to Srinagar will only be permitted to carry 5 kilograms of check-in baggage and 7 kilograms of hand baggage on board the flight, while the remaining baggage will reach Kashmir separately within a few days.

"Zamzam water has already arrived in Srinagar, and it will be distributed to pilgrims at the airport after arrival," he said.

Dr Qureshi acknowledged the concerns of pilgrims who have purchased gifts and other items for their families and said efforts would be made to ensure the luggage reaches Srinagar within three to four days.

"Pilgrims requested that the baggage should remain with them, but they still have a 12-kilogram allowance on the flight. If they are carrying any perishable or important items, they should keep those with them while travelling to Srinagar," he said—(KNO)

LG Sinha Urges

stood at the peak of scientific achievement, many countries showed almost no mention of science. The earliest references to science, mathematics, and astronomy in Persia and other places appear only in the eighth century, and even those owe much to India. Europe's first Renaissance in the 12th century drew on India's treasury of knowledge, science, culture, and art. Centuries before any other countries discovered invention and innovations, India had already established itself as a scientific civilization," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India's modernity has often led the world, with scientific contributions unmatched in history. He also said that writers should present creation of our

nation's great talents in simple, accessible language. "India's story is not only of the past but of the present. Despite centuries of subjugation and plunder, we have risen to become the world's fourth largest economy, the fastest growing major economy for years, and by 2047 we aim for a fully developed nation. Today, pride and ownership of this heritage are awakening across society. The task is not self-praise, but for respected writers and thinkers to build India's new narrative on this strong foundation. They must remember that writers have the power to change civilizations," the Lieutenant Governor said.

NTA To Re-Examine

Afternoon session timing (revised): Reporting/entry from 2:30 pm; examination begins at 4:00 pm instead of 3:00 pm," the NTA said. Morning session candidates were given the full duration of the paper and were allowed to exit only after the completion of the test, it said.

"NTA sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused to the students and parents," the agency said.

The agency also provided a helpline number - 91-11-40759000 - and email support - cuet-ug@nta.ac.in - for any assistance.

In a statement, K Krithivasan, CEO and MD at TCS, said that "a brief technical issue" caused a delay of around two hours in the morning shift of CUET-UG.

"The issue was promptly identified and resolved by our technical teams and the examination has since resumed without any impact to the sanctity of the exam. We regret the inconvenience," the statement said.

Sakeena Itoo takes

Commissioners to maintain a strong field presence through officers and officials, ensure close coordination among all stakeholders, and address the concerns of affected farmers on priority so that no farmer is left unattended during this difficult time.

'Op Sindoor' Defined

shoulder to shoulder again — both men and women," he said.

Calling the occasion "a poignant and a particularly personal moment", General Dwivedi recalled passing out from the same quarterdeck over 42 years ago.

"Today, as I stand before you at the far end of a life in uniform, preparing to doff mine as you prepare to don yours, I can tell you with certainty: what you begin here endures forever," he said.

He complimented the parade commander and cadets for an "impressive standard of drill" and extended special compliments to Cheetah Squadron for winning the banner.

He also acknowledged 24 cadets from 12 friendly foreign countries passing out with the course, saying, "You came from different soils, but you leave shaped by the same ground and the same values."

Indian Navy Confined

when our defence forces do not have to depend on other nations for their weaponry. This is the very reason our Prime Minister articulated the vision

of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Through initiatives such as Make-in-India, Defence Industrial Corridors, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI), we're indigenously manufacturing state-of-the-art weapons, and exporting it to various friendly countries. India was always known as an importer of arms and equipment. However, today, the situation has completely changed, and our defence sector is steadily advancing towards complete self-reliance," said Singh.

Raksha Mantri asserted that the persistent efforts of the last decade are bearing fruit as the domestic defence production, which stood at just Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, has surged to over Rs 1.51 lakh crore, and is poised to soon touch yet another record-breaking figure of Rs 1.75 lakh crore. He added that defence exports have skyrocketed from less than Rs 1,000 crore in 2014 to approximately Rs 40,000 crore today.

Pointing out the pivotal role played by Uttar Pradesh in achieving this success, Rajnath Singh stated that while the soldiers from the state stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their counterparts from across the country to protect national interests, the Defence Industrial Corridor is significantly strengthening the defence manufacturing ecosystem. He added that the state is scaling greater heights in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture, science & technology, trade & commerce, roads, highways, and airports.

Orchardists

damage, raising fears of a substantial decline in both fruit quality and overall production.

"We were hoping for a good season after the earlier weather disturbances, but today's hailstorm has once again shattered our expectations," said Ghulam Mohammad, an orchardist from Mee-mander. "The hailstones were unusually large and intense. Many immature apples have fallen from the trees, while branches have broken under the impact."

Fruit growers from Batpora and surrounding villages reported that the storm lasted several minutes and caused extensive damage in a short span of time. "The crop was looking healthy where earlier hailstorms hadn't hit, and growers had invested heavily in sprays, fertilisers, and orchard management this year. Within minutes, nature has undone months of hard work," said another orchardist from Batpora. "Many apples have suffered direct injury, which will affect their market value even if they survive."

The latest hailstorm comes barely days after a similar weather event damaged orchards in several parts of Kashmir, leaving growers worried about the future of the horticulture sector, which forms the backbone of the Valley's rural economy.

In Arihal area of Pulwama, farmers said hailstones battered orchards and vegetable fields, causing fresh losses to already stressed farming communities.

"Our livelihood depends entirely on horticulture. Every year, we face either hailstorms, timely rains or market-related challenges. This season has become particularly difficult because weather disturbances are occurring repeatedly," said an orchard owner.

Growers said recurring hailstorms have created an atmosphere of uncertainty among farming families who rely

on apple cultivation as their primary source of income.

"The horticulture sector sustains thousands of households across Kashmir. Repeated natural calamities are pushing growers towards financial hardship. Many farmers have taken loans for orchard maintenance and now fear they may not be able to recover their investments," said Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, a fruit grower from Shopian.

The fresh damage has revived long-pending demands for the implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme and financial relief measures for affected orchardists.

"We have been demanding crop insurance and compensation for years. Every time a disaster strikes, assessment teams visit our orchards, but meaningful relief rarely reaches growers," said Fayaz Ahmad, another orchardist. "The government must announce immediate compensation and introduce a practical insurance mechanism to protect farmers from recurring losses."

Horticulture experts said repeated hailstorms during the early fruit formation stage can significantly affect yield, fruit quality and orchard productivity.

They said growers should immediately spray recommended fungicides in hail-affected orchards to prevent fungal infections and secondary diseases. They advise maintaining proper drainage, avoiding immediate pruning and ensuring balanced nutrition to help damaged trees recover.

Kashmir has witnessed multiple hailstorms during the current season. Major weather events in April and May caused extensive damage to orchards in Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts, resulting in significant losses to the horticulture sector.

Orchardists said the weather has become increasingly unpredictable. If timely support is not provided, many growers may find it difficult to sustain their orchards and continue farming, they said, urging government intervention—(KNO)

'Kashmir's Eid

trade in Kashmir to nearly Rs 384 crore. Mehraj-ud-Din said the majority of the sheep brought to Kashmir were imported from outside Jammu and Kashmir to meet the festive demand in the Valley.

He added that besides the outside imports, additional livestock supply from Rajouri, Jammu and other parts also continued to arrive in Kashmir, although the exact figures of the inbound local supply were not immediately known.

Markets across Srinagar, especially the Eidgah livestock mandi, and several district-level animal markets witnessed good public rush in the run-up to Eid-ul-Adha as families thronged markets to purchase sacrificial animals for Qurbani.

However, Mehraj-ud-Din said that despite the huge inflow of livestock and large-scale trade, sales this year remained comparatively lower than in previous years.

"The stock this year sold far less than the previous year," he said, adding that many dealers were still left with unsold stock despite the festive rush.

Notably, Eid-ul-Adha is one of the biggest festivals in Kashmir and witnesses good demand for sacrificial animals every year, leading to a sharp rise in livestock imports and mutton trade across the Valley—(KNO)

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Satish Sharma meets Union Railway Min; pitches for revival of Jammu-Poonch Rail connectivity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday met Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav and strongly projected the long-pending demand for rail connectivity to the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma urged the Union Railway Minister to accord priority to the proposed Jammu-Akhnoor-Dori Dager-Sunderbani-Nowshera-Rajouri-Poonch rail corridor. He described it as a project of immense strategic, economic and social significance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those residing in the border districts.

The Minister highlighted that a survey for the proposed rail alignment had been conducted in the past and stressed the need for its revival and early execution. He underscored that Rajouri and Poonch remain among the few major regions in the country without rail connectivity despite their strategic importance and substantial population.

Satish Sharma informed the Union Minister that the twin border districts frequently face connectivity challenges due to adverse weather conditions, road disruptions and difficult terrain, which adversely impact the movement of people, essential commodities and emergency services. He maintained that rail



connectivity would provide a reliable, all-weather transportation network, significantly improving the accessibility, boosting economic activity and enhancing the overall quality of life of the people.

Emphasizing the national security dimension of the project, Sharma noted that Rajouri and Poonch share a sensitive international border and have historically played a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's interests. He said that a rail corridor to these districts would not only strengthen the civilian connectivity but also enhance logistical capabilities and facilitate faster movement of personnel and resources, whenever required.

The Minister stated that the project would open new avenues for tourism, trade, industry and employment generation in the region. Improved rail infrastructure, he said, would help integrate the border districts more closely with the national economy and accelerate their socio-economic development.

During the discussion, Satish Sharma urged the Railway Ministry to immediately commission a fresh feasibility study based on the earlier survey, declaring the project a national

priority in view of its strategic location and consider appropriate budgetary provisions for its implementation. He also conveyed the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir government to extend full cooperation at every stage of the project, including survey work, land acquisition, clearances and other administrative requirements.

Reiterating the aspirations of the people of Rajouri and Poonch, Sharma said that rail connectivity is not merely an infrastructure project but a long-awaited developmental necessity that would bring the border districts closer to the national mainstream and ensure equitable access to growth opportunities.

The Union Railway Minister assured the J&K Minister that the concerns and demands raised during the meeting would be examined sympathetically. Satish Sharma expressed hope that the long-pending project would receive due consideration and move towards implementation in the larger interest of the people and the strategic development of the region.

In addition to railway infrastructure, Satish Sharma also raised several issues pertaining to the Information Technology sector. He sought enhanced support from the Government of India for accelerating Jammu and Kashmir's digital transformation journey. The Minister urged the Union Minister to facilitate establishment of advanced IT infrastructure and innovation ecosystems in Jammu and Kashmir, including IT parks, incubation centres and digital skill development hubs. He emphasized that such initiatives would create new employment opportunities for the youth and position the Union Territory as an emerging destination for technology-driven investments.

Statehood Day celebration of Goa Held in Lok Bhavan

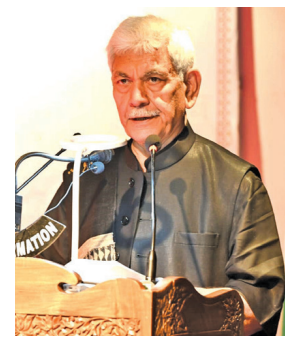
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lok Bhavan Jammu Kashmir Saturday hosted a special programme to mark the statehood day of Goa. The event was attended by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, senior officials, invited guests from Goa who are living in Jammu Kashmir and artists.

The Lieutenant Governor said that between 1946 and 1961 many brave sons of Mother India laid down their lives in the struggle to liberate Goa. Hundreds were jailed and subjected to brutal hardships, yet the unity and courage of the freedom fighters kept the movement alive.

"Today I pay homage to Bala Raya Mappari of the Azad Gomantak Dal, the first martyr of Goa's freedom struggle. Great figures such as Luis de Menezes Braganca, Mohan Ranade, Tristao Braganza da Cunha, Purushottam Kakodkar, Prabhakar Vaidya, Nana Kajrekar and Sudhir Phadke kept the spirit of satyagraha alive across Goa, Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Today we salute their dreams and resolve, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the enduring ideals of service to humanity, commitment to national prosperity, and the preservation of culture have long shaped



the Goan contribution to modern India.

"I strongly believe that Goa's ancient arts and vibrant heritage have enriched the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." As the Konkani proverb wisely reminds us, "Ek vatant takad,

rashtantpragati"-unity is the bedrock of a nation's progress," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the bond between Jammu Kashmir and Goa goes back centuries.

"Seen through that ancient bond, a priceless and enduring connection unites Goa's golden shores with the majestic mountains of Jammu & Kashmir. Today's celebration in Goa is also a moment to weave together the timeless philosophies and values nurtured along the banks of the Tawi and Terekhol rivers with the principles that continue to guide our lives today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Deputy CM calls for speedy completion of Dak Bunglow project at Bagh-e-Bahu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday reviewed the progress of several ongoing development works in Jammu and conducted surprise inspection of key government offices to assess efficiency, accountability and project implementation.

During his visit to Bagh-e-Bahu, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the Dak Bunglow and reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed at the site. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed the concerned officials to expedite the execution while strictly adhering to the prescribed quality standards so that the facility is completed within the stipulated timeframe and serves the visitors effectively.

The Deputy Chief Minister also undertook a surprise inspection of the offices of the Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu and Chief Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department (M&HED), Jammu. During the inspection, he reviewed the staff attendance and functioning of the offices besides taking stock of the status of ongoing projects being executed by the departments.

Emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability and efficiency in public service delivery, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers and officials to maintain punctuality and ensure timely completion of all developmental projects. He said that quality infrastructure and efficient governance remain key priorities of the government and any delay in project execution would be viewed seriously.

'Spend a Day in Jammu' Campaign Launched Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several Jammu-based organizations have launched a "Spend a Day in Jammu" campaign ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, seeking to promote the city as a religious and tourist destination and encourage pilgrims to spend more time exploring the region.

The initiative comes amid concerns over comparatively lower religious and tourist footfall in Jammu, with many pilgrims and visitors preferring to proceed directly to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine instead of staying in Jammu city and nearby areas.

As part of the campaign, organizers have released a special poster highlighting Jammu's major religious, historical and tourist attractions in an effort to

showcase the region's cultural and spiritual heritage.

Members associated with the campaign said the initiative aims to draw attention to Jammu's tourism potential and encourage local destinations, heritage sites and hospitality.

One member associated with the campaign said that if the "Spend a Day in Jammu" initiative materializes and gains wider public response, it could significantly boost Jammu's economy and benefit local businesses dependent on pilgrim and tourist activity.

The campaign has also urged the Tourism Department to provide free sightseeing bus services for devotees during the Amarnath Yatra to facilitate travel to important destinations across Jammu.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Awareness Programme on NALSA Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Sind Forest Division Ganderbal, organized an awareness programme on the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025 at the Conference Hall of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sind Forest Division Ganderbal.

The programme was conducted under the Supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The programme was organized with the objective of sensitizing participants about the provisions and benefits of the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025, which aims to provide legal assistance, facilitate access to compensation and rehabilitation measures, and ensure effective legal support to affected persons and their families.

The programme commenced with an inaugural address by Iqbal Rasool, Divisional Forest Officer, Sind Forest Division Ganderbal, who highlighted the increasing incidents of human-wildlife conflict and emphasized the importance of forest conservation, protection of wildlife habitats, and public awareness to minimize such conflicts.

He observed that destruction of forests and natural habitats often compels wild animals to move towards human habitations, resulting in increased human-wildlife interactions. He appreciated the initiative of DLSA Ganderbal in creating awareness regarding the legal rights and remedies

available to victims.

Tanveer Ashraf and Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, informed the participants about the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025 and explained the procedure for seeking compensation and legal assistance.

They highlighted the ex-gratia relief available in cases of death, permanent incapacitation, grievous injuries, and minor injuries resulting from human-wildlife conflict. The participants were also informed about the documents required for compensation claims, including medical records, postmortem reports, FIRs, photographs, and other relevant records.

Awareness material was distributed among the participants. They further highlighted the role of DLSA in providing free legal aid, facilitating access to compensation and rehabilitation measures, and assisting victims and their families in availing the benefits of various welfare schemes.

The participants were also informed about the mandate of the Legal Services Authorities under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and various welfare schemes implemented by NALSA for vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

The participants appreciated the joint initiative of DLSA Ganderbal and Sind Forest Division Ganderbal and observed that such awareness programmes are highly beneficial for the public as they create awareness about legal rights, compensation mechanisms, and the remedies available to victims of human-wildlife conflict.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Maheena Anis (Old Name) to Mahina Rasool (New Name). In future I will be known as Mahina Rasool. Now I want the same change to be updated in my passport bearing no B1602236.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the father's name of my daughter Hadiya Shafi, who is studying in Ingenious School, has been wrongly recorded in the school records as Mohammad Shafi Lone. That her correct father's name is Mohd. Shafi Lone. Now, I request the concerned authorities of the school to correct the father's name in their official records from Mohammad Shafi Lone to Mohd. Shafi Lone. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mohd. Shafi Lone Father of Hadiya Shafi
R/o Fatepora Gbl.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 0205030003352 from ABDUL AZIZ RATHER TO IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision TULLMULLA PDD Ganderbal. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained.

IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL AZIZ RATHER
R/o HAT BARAH GANDERBAL

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss MANZOOR AHMED GANAI S/o GHULAM MOHD GANAI, Resident of: WZ BLOCK 114 TODAPUR VILLAGE, NEW DELHI DL 110012 in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler/Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL2CAX7541 Chassis No MA3EUA61500B41756, Engine No. F8DN5900158 In favour of: MANZOOR AHMED GANAI S/D/W of: GH MOHD GANAI Resident of: WAKURA GANDERBAL JK 191131 (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/ Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
GANDERBAL

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER (REVENUE) J&K
Rail Head Complex Jammu, 180001/Amar Niwas Tankipora Srinagar, 190001 (www.fcr.jk.gov.in)
Phone No. 0194-2459372, 0191-2470212, E-mail address jk-fcrev@jk.gov.in

Subject: Appointment to the post of Patwari (Revenue Department) District Cadre in pursuance to Advertised Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021 issued by the JKSSB, release of waiting list for Item No. 455 (District Cadre Pulwama), Item No. 475 (District Cadre Baramulla).

Ref: 1. Letter No. Rev-NG/13/2023(7152177) dated 10-03-2026 from Administrative Department, J&K.
2. Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/1/2025-03(E-7627406) dated 05-02-2026 from J&K Service Selection Board.

ORDER No: 58-FC (REV) of 2026
DATED: 26-05-2026

On the recommendations of the J&K Service Selection Board, endorsed by the Administrative Department vide their letter referred above, Sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of the below mentioned candidates as Patwari in the Revenue Department (District Cadre), in the pay level-4 (Rs 25500-81100):-

S. No	DV. Sr. No.	Roll No.	Name of the candidate (Mr./Ms)	Parentage (Mr.)	Address	Category	Cadre/ Item No. Allotted
1.	67-KMR	30110311	MUDASIR AHMAD SHAH	GH NABI SHAH	BOHU AWANTIPORA Pulwama Kashmir 191222	OM	Pulwama/ 455
2.	459-KMR	30070195	AADIL AHMAD BHAT	MOHD LASSI BHAT	97 BONPORA MAHIND Anantnag Srigufwara DACHNIPORA Kashmir 192401	EWS	Baramulla/ 475

2. The appointee shall report to the Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Srinagar within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order and shall be allowed to join after the production of following documents/ certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently: -

- Academic/ qualification Certificates.
- Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificates.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the competent authority.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

3. The above appointment shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

- That if the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him/her unless a satisfactory report in respect of (a) above is received in his/her favour.
- The appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if, on verification, genuineness of the qualification /category certificate from the concerned issuing authority are found fake/forged, the appointment shall be treated to have been cancelled ab-initio.
- The appointee shall be initially on probation for a period of two years.
- The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO 400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
- The appointee appointed under RBA and ALC/IB category shall be posted in such areas at least for 7 years.
- The inter-se-seniority of the appointees shall be determined in accordance with the merit secured by him/her in the selection list prepared by the J&K Service Selection Board and in terms of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.
- The cadre allocated by appointing authority/SSB shall not be changed under any circumstances.
- This appointment order is issued subject to outcome of any writ petition(s) pending in any competent Court/Tribunal, etc.

4. If the appointees fail to join within a period of 21 days (twenty one) days from the date of issuance of this order they shall forego their right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

No: FCR-NGAZ/49/2025-06 (7671652) Sd/-
Dated: 26/05/2026 DIPK-1668-26 DT: 30-06-2026 (Shaleen Kabra) IAS
Financial Commissioner, (Revenue) (J&K)

IPL 2026: Gill hails Sudharsan's intensity, targets second title with Gujarat Titans

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill credited his opening partner Sai Sudharsan's unwavering intensity and consistency as one of the biggest strengths behind the team's success, as the 2022 winners prepare to face Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the title clash to be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

GT enters a final at its home venue after beating Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in Qualifier 2 in New Chandigarh, where Gill hit a majestic 104 and shared a 167-run opening stand with Sudharsan, who hit 58. "I think in a tournament like IPL, when I first started playing, one of the challenges that I faced was to keep playing the matches at the same intensity, and I think that is one of his (Sudharsan's) biggest strengths.

"You play so many matches there could be days where mentally you don't feel up to the mark or physically you don't feel up to the mark, but to be able to have the same intensity in all of the matches and be consistent in your preparation (and) in your routine is not that easy. He is someone who is very consistent in his routines, in his life outside of cricket... so that is what makes him consistent on the field as well," said Gill in the pre-final press conference.

Sudharsan has crossed the 700-run mark for the second successive season, forming a prolific partnership with Gill that has



already produced 886 runs in IPL 2026. Another stand, especially if it crosses 54 runs in the final, would take them past the record set by Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers in 2016.

"We spend a lot of time in the IPL together on the field, off the field as well, and then we are in the Test team as well, so we have a lot of conversations. There are things that we talk about cricket, and outside of cricket.

"But I think there are many players in our team who also play for the country, and hopefully we are going to play together for a long period of time, and it's very important for us to know each other well to have a great equation that automatically translates to on-field performances," added Gill.

Gill also pointed to the importance of batting fundamentals in T20 cricket despite the rise in high scores this season. "Sometimes the wicket tends to be a bit on the slower side. Then it is important to hit the gaps, still look to run well, because I think that

is the foundation of any format you are playing. The team that plays less number of dot balls has a better chance of getting a better score, so yes, the T20 game has evolved, you see bigger scores, but the wickets have also gone a little bit flatter."

"I think that not many people talk about this. Before these two new teams (GT & LSG were added to the league in 2022), there used to be eight teams, and we used to play on similar wickets. (But) Back in the day, in the second half of the IPL, we used to see 150, 160, 140 scores a lot more, in Eden Gardens and even in Bombay.

"In some of the venues now, because at least four or five times in a season, we get a five-day break or a seven-day break, which gives the chance to play on fresh wickets, better wickets.

"So I feel cricket is the same, it's all about the kind of wickets that we play on, the kind of grounds that we play on... If we play on challenging wickets, the scores are going to be

similar, maybe a 5-10 runs difference here and there, but still I feel that cricket is pretty much similar," he explained.

Gill himself has adapted to the demands of the format, raising his power-play strike rate from 143 last season to 159 this year, making his credentials to re-enter the India T20I team strong.

"I mean, I'd be happy to play if I get picked for the T20 team, but honestly, I want to keep working on my game. It doesn't matter what format it is. I want to keep getting better as a T20 batsman, as an ODI batsman, as a Test batsman... cricket is such a game you can never really get perfect, but obviously you can strive for it, and that's what I try to do."

With GT chasing their second IPL crown, Gill said the winner in the final would be decided more by mental strength than physical freshness. "I mean, Dharamshala is kind of a difficult venue to get to and travel, but yes, physically they might have an advantage, but I think finals are all about mental (strength), so the team that is mentally up for the challenge is the one that is going to win."

"Honestly, I don't really get the burden of expectations. Obviously, there are advantages, that's how I see it. There's familiarity when we play there, we know the wicket, we know the ground, so we know what kind of cricket we need to play there to be able to win, so in that context, yes, I see it as an advantage because there's a little bit of familiarity."

T20 Mumbai League: Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Sayali Satghare among captains present at grand season launch

IAN S

MUMBAI: As the city gears up for the mega cricket carnival, the star captains of participating teams in the T20 Mumbai League 2026 and the inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League came together for a grand season launch event in Mumbai on Saturday, setting the stage for what promises to be an exciting two weeks of high-voltage cricketing action starting June 1.

The event was attended by Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), Rajdip Gupta, Chairman of the League Governing Council, the members of the Apex Council, League Governing Council, along with the members of all 11 teams and their operators, came together to celebrate the beginning of an exciting cricketing season.

Since its inception in 2018, the T20 Mumbai League has been a launchpad for some of the most promising cricketing talent, establishing itself as one of India's premier franchise-based domestic T20 tournaments. The upcoming season will feature a host of global stars alongside emerging talents across both the men's and women's competitions.

Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association, said: "It is a matter of pride for us that players like Ajinkya Rahane, Shardul Thakur, and Shreyas Iyer went on to represent India after playing for Mumbai, and will now share the dressing room with youngsters and pass on their knowledge and experience. The exposure these young players will gain from playing



alongside such stalwarts will be immense. Similarly, for the women's players, the opportunity to share a dressing room with established stars will be invaluable. Players like Shivam Dube and Suryakumar Yadav performed in the first season of the league and went on to win the T20 World Cup for India."

Rajdip Gupta, Chairman, League Governing Council, said: "The main task I was assigned by the apex council members was to have the women's tournament started, and I would like to thank the apex council members, the governing council members, and the President Ajinkya Naik for giving me a free hand, and with everyone's support, we were able to do it. I officially announce the launch of the T20 Mumbai League and the T20 Mumbai Women's League."

Adding to the excitement was an engaging fire-side chat featuring captains and vice-captains, offering insights into their preparations and expectations ahead of the tournament. The event also featured a host of engaging performances, creating a fitting build-up to the 13-day tournament, which is set to showcase some of the city's finest cricketing talent.

"Really happy and excit-

ed for the season. First of all, congratulations to the Mumbai Cricket Association for providing this platform to all the young cricketers. For players who have worked really hard, this is a great opportunity to express their talent and take the next step in their careers. From our point of view, it's all about going out there and playing with freedom," said Ajinkya Rahane, Captain, North Mumbai Panthers.

"I feel it's a great opportunity for the youngsters, especially those coming up the ranks in domestic cricket, to showcase their talent and skills at this level. I feel it has definitely gotten bigger and better since last season. It's a great opportunity for the youngsters, and I am excited to be part of it," Shreyas Iyer, Captain, SOBO Mumbai Falcons, commented.

"I will try my best to replicate hitting those five sixes from the first season. I can't say whether I will definitely do it, but I will certainly try my best to repeat it," said Shivam Dube, Captain, Arcs Andheri. "The talent sitting here on the podium is exceptional. Mumbai is known for producing great batters over the years. I feel every batter is going to

come out hard. We know what's at stake. It's going to be a fierce battle, and we're hoping for the best," said Shardul Thakur, Captain, Eagle Thane Strikers.

"Obviously, winning the trophy last year was a special moment for all of us. We want to do it again, but we're not focusing too much on the result. I will just try to help my teammates and the youngsters perform to their potential. It's going to be a competitive league. We have to start from zero this year," Siddhesh Lad, Captain, Mumbai South Central Maratha Royals, added.

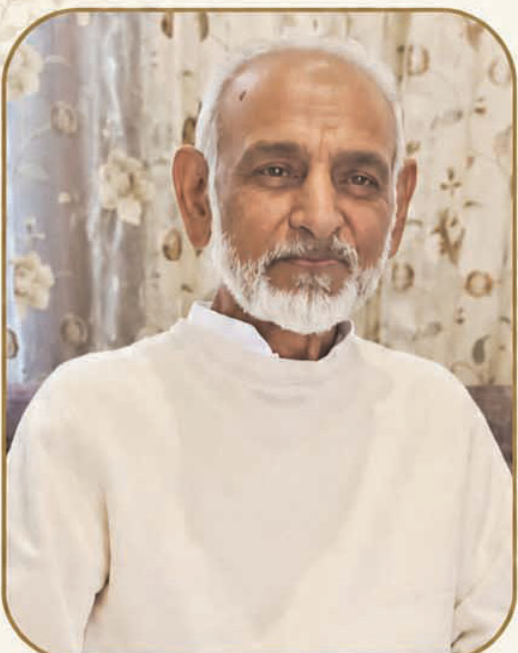
"I am a bit more aggressive, while Musheer is calmer. But when it comes to the field, no one is your brother or friend; he will be a rival," Sarfaraz Khan, Captain, Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs said.

"I am grateful to the team management and owners for giving me the opportunity to captain the side this season. I hope to repay their faith in me. The boys have been practising really well, and we will look to go out there, play hard and enjoy the game," Suved Parkar, Captain, Bandra Blasters, added.

"Our team has been training really well. Suryakumar Yadav is an experienced player, so the youngsters in the team will learn a lot from him. Hopefully, we will do well," Akhil Herwadkar, Vice-Captain, Triumph Knights Mumbai North East, said.

The inaugural edition of the T20 Mumbai Women's League, featuring three teams, will add a new chapter to the league's history as the women cricketers in the city are set to get a platform to showcase their talent.

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون



DEMISE


Fatiha Khawani

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

Haji Mohammad Yousuf Khan

S/o Late Noor Mohammad Khan (Mohua exports)

residing at Water Works Road, Brein, Nishat, Srinagar.

 Fatiha Khawani shall be held at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 2, 2026**, at the graveyard near Mil Stop, opposite Power Grid, Nowshera, Srinagar.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمَهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ

May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bestow strength and patience upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatable things here.

Khan family
 ☎ S' 9419000256 | ☎ 94190 22000 | ☎ 7006208099

Show TIMINGS

SUNDAY, 31ST MAY

 **BHOOTH BANGLA** (U/A16+)
Hindi

 **PATI PATNI AUR WOH DO** (U/A16+)
Hindi

 **CHAND MERA DIL** (U/A16+)
Hindi

 **OBSESSION** (A)
English

 **THE GREAT GRAND SUPERHERO ALIENS KA AAGMAN** (U)
Hindi

 **DHURANDHAR: THE REVENGE** (A)
Hindi

 **TATA IPL FINAL 2026** (U)
English

01:50 PM
07:10 PM

04:25 PM

10:55 AM
01:30 PM
06:55 PM

12:10 PM

11:05 AM
05:05 PM

02:30 PM

07:30 PM



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Call: 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets