

Kashmir Convener



'When Will PM Break His Silence?' Congress On Trump's Truce Claims

P/02



India reaffirms Commitment to Glacier Preservation at the High-Level International Conference in Dushanbe

P/02



Indian Naval Academy Holds Spring Term 2025 Passing Out Parade

P/02

Bullets Will Be Answered With Cannon Balls: PM Warns Pak

KC News Network

BHOPAL: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said proxy wars by terrorists will not work and bullets will be answered with cannon balls, adding that 'sindoor' has become a symbol of valour following India's response to the Pahalgalam terror attack.

He also described Operation Sindoor as the biggest and most successful anti-terror operation in the country's history.

Speaking at the 'Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Maha Sammelan' here on the occasion of the legendary queen's 300th birth anniversary, Modi said, "Through a decisive response, Bharat gave a message that proxy war by terrorists will not work. Bharat, a land of culture and values, sees sindoor as a symbol of women's power. Today, that same sindoor has become a symbol of our valour and resistance to terrorism." "If you fire bullets, then rest assured that they will be answered with cannon balls," Modi said.

"India is a country of culture and



traditions, and sindoor is a symbol of women power in our tradition. Hanuman ji, who is immersed in Ram Bhakti, also sports sindoor. We offer sindoor in Shakti Puja. This sindoor has become a symbol of bravery," he said.

Earlier this month, Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied

Kashmir under Operation Sindoor. The operation was conducted two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Kashmir's Pahalgalam.

Sindoor or the vermilion mark symbolises the marital status of Hindu women, and its use as the operation's name resonated powerfully in light of the April 22 Pahalgalam massacre.

"In Pahalgalam, terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians, but also attacked our culture. They tried to divide our society and the biggest thing is that they challenged the women power of India," Modi said.

"This challenge has sounded the death knell for terrorists and their handlers. Operation Sindoor is the biggest and most successful operation in the history of India against terrorists. While the Pakistan army could not even imagine, our army destroyed the terrorist hideouts," he added.

Talking about the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Bill, which aims to reserve one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, the PM said, "This time, 75 women have become members of Parliament. Our effort is to increase this number." This is the spirit behind the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Women reservation in Parliament and state assemblies had remained pending for a long time, but has been achieved now, he said.

>>>SEE ON P-7

UN glaciers' meet

"Pakistan violating IWT through terrorism"



KC News Network

NEWDELHI: India has said that Pakistan should stop blaming it for the breach of the Indus Water Treaty, as the unrelenting cross-border terrorism from its soil is interfering with the treaty's implementation.

Addressing the plenary session of the first UN conference on glaciers in Tajikistan's Dushanbe on Friday, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said that Pakistan itself was violating the treaty through terrorism.

"We are appalled at the attempt by Pakistan to misuse the forum and to bring in unwarranted

references to issues which do not fall within the purview of the forum. We strongly condemned such an attempt," he said.

Singh said it is an undeniable fact that there have been fundamental changes in circumstances since the Indus Waters Treaty was signed, which requires a reassessment of the treaty's obligations.

These changes include technological advancements, demographic changes, climate change and the ongoing threat of cross-border terrorism, he said. The minister said that the treaty's preamble states it was

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Upper reaches receive snowfall, rains lash plains



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Amid the dip in mercury, the higher reaches of Valley have received fresh snowfall on Saturday while the intermittent rains lashed plains including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the fresh and untimely snowfall has

occurred at multiple places in the higher reaches of Kashmir including Affarwat in Gulmarg, Tulail and Razdan Top areas of Gurez valley, Sadhna Top, Zojila Pass, Sinthan Top, Pir Ki Gali and parts of Warwan Valley in Kishtwar.

The rains, however, lashed the plains of Kashmir since the intervening night of Friday—

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Mughal road among other roads closed

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: The fresh snowfall has led to the closure of multiple roads across Jammu and Kashmir including Mughal Road and SSG Road while an advisory has been issued for Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

The National Highway-44 remained open for two-way passenger traffic on Saturday even as heavy rainfall lashed the region, causing difficulties for commuters. Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) were allowed to ply from Jammu towards Srinagar, traffic authorities said.

An official from the Traffic department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that despite the inclement weather, passenger traffic is moving smoothly in both directions on NH-44.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Bandipora-Gurez Road Closed

Wahid Rafiqi

BANDIPORA|| The 85-kilometre Bandipora-Gurez road has been closed due to snowfall

at Razdan Top.

Razdan Top, the mountain pass connecting Gurez Valley with Bandipora district in North Kashmir, recorded snowfall at an elevation of approximately 12,000 feet on Saturday morning.

OC BRO Avinash Kumar confirmed to Kashmir Convener that the Bandipora-Gurez road is closed due to

>>>SEE ON P-7

Jammu all set to manufacture anti-cancer drugs: Dr Jitendra Singh

Says June 26 to be observed as 'Black Day'

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Saturday announced that Jammu is all set to manufacture medicinal and anti-cancer drugs.

Dr Singh, who is a Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), convened a comprehensive constituency-level



meeting via video conferencing today to finalize a month-long series of activities commemorating 11 years of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr Singh also announced the upcoming cannabis cultivation initiative in collaboration with IIM Jammu and private partners to manufacture medicinal and cancer drugs in the Jammu region.

He said that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been empowered to generate employment and income. Moreover, he highlighted the development of an AI-based agricultural decision-making system for J&K,

aimed at transforming traditional farming practices.

Dr Singh said that as part of the Gram Krishi Seva Yojana, four Agromet Observatories have been commissioned in Ladakh, Srinagar, Jammu, with four new district-level Agromet units in Kupwara, Baramulla, Kathua, and Reasi, backed by SKUAST.

Dr Singh laid out a comprehensive schedule for the month-long celebrations marking 11 years of the Modi Government. The planned activities include public exhibitions, media interactions, professional meets, and coordinated grassroots-level efforts aimed at ensuring widespread public engagement and awareness. These initiatives are designed to showcase the government's achievements and encourage active citizen participation in the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon officials to ensure that the "Viksit Bharat Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan" reaches every district and mandal.

He also asked the officials to ensure 100% saturation of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat. "Don't leave any beneficiary unregistered. Every citizen must experience the impact of the Modi Government's transformational schemes," he stated.

Highlighting recent strides in science-driven agriculture, Dr. Jitendra Singh showcased a series of transformative initiatives reshaping the agri-economy of the region.

"The Biotech Industrial Park in Kathua has been made operational and integrated with Biotech Kisan Clusters, serving as a hub for innovation and farmer-scientist collaboration. The Purple Revolution, marked by the successful cultivation of lavender in Bhaderwah in collaboration with IIM Jammu, has now spread to neighbouring states

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'Operation Shield' Civil Defence Drills Held Across J&K

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: As a part of the nationwide Civil Defence Exercise 'Operation Shield', mock drills were conducted in key districts of Jammu and Kashmir regions on Saturday.

An official, while sharing details, said, "Today's



mock drill in J&K, part of 'Operation Shield', tested the emergency response to potential attacks. It involved air raid sirens, blackouts, evacuation drills, and coordination among civil administration, police, SDRF, and fire services."

The drill, he said, was simultaneously carried out in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Kulgam districts in Kashmir and in the Jammu division the exercises were carried out in Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and Kathua.

The exercise, part of a larger Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) initiative under the Directorate General of Fire Services, Civil Defence & Home Guards (DGFS-CDHG) involved simulated drone strikes, air raids, mass

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Constitution Should Be Credited For Keeping Country United During Crises: CJI Gavai

KC News Network

PRAYAGRAJ (UP): Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai on Saturday said that whenever the country has faced a crisis, it has remained united and strong, and that the



Constitution should be credited for this.

The CJI was addressing a function after the inauguration of advocate chambers and a multi-level parking at the Allahabad High Court here. "When the Constitution was being made and its final

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Army Chief Felicitates BSF Woman Officer For Role During Operation Sindoor

KC News Network

JAMMU: Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi has awarded a BSF woman officer and praised the paramilitary force and ex-servicemen for their role during Operation Sindoor, the army said on Saturday.

The chief of Army Staff (COAS) reached Jammu on a two-day visit on Thursday and attended the high-level security review meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah.

"General Dwivedi reviewed operational preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir's Paragwal sector and visited the Tiger Division where he commended troops for their outstanding performance in Operation Sindoor.

"He stressed the importance of staying agile and vigilant in



response to evolving security dynamics," the additional directorate general of public information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army wrote on X on Saturday.

It said the COAS also praised the BSF's close operational integration with the Army and lauded the bravery of Assistant

Commandant Neha Bhandari and her team for defending the forward posts in the Akhnour sector of Jammu.

"He also acknowledged the valuable contribution of ex-servicemen in supporting the armed

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First parcel train carrying 24 tonnes of cherries leave J&K for Mumbai

KC News Network

JAMMU: A parcel train containing 24 tonnes of cherry left Jammu and Kashmir's Katra station for Mumbai on Saturday, marking the first such initiative which was described by the Jammu division of the Northern Railway as "historic".

The parcel train, which will reach Mumbai's Bandra station within 30 hours, was earlier scheduled for June 3 but was advanced to facilitate two more indents for loading of cherries, one from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station and another from Jammu station, in the coming days, a railway official said.

The fruit growers in Kashmir welcomed the initiative and hoped that the much-awaited Kashmir rail link will be connected to the railway network soon to facilitate transportation of the perishable

fruits directly from the valley to various destinations across the country.

"Today will be counted as a historic day in the recently created

Railway authorities, fruit growers associations and horticulture department of Jammu Kashmir.

"After this success, Jammu division has two more indents



Jammu division of Northern Railway as railways took a unique initiative to transport 24 tonnes of cherry from Katra to Bandra Terminus," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM), Northern Railway, Jammu, Uchit Singhal said.

He said it has been possible after a lot of discussion among the

for loading of cherries, one from Katra and one from Jammu, in the coming days to transport the produce to different destination stations," Singhal said. He said this is a good beginning and the initiative would be a win-win situation for both railways and fruit growers

>>>SEE ON P-7

Pm Inaugurates, Lays Foundation Stone Of Multiple Development Projects In Bhopal

Bhopal: On the occasion of the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Mahasammelan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

According to the Press Information Bureau, Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects, highlighting the significance of this milestone in India's history.

In his address, the Prime Minister paid tribute to 'Maa Bharati' and praised the strength of Indian women. Expressing gratitude for the large gathering of sisters and daughters, he said he felt honored by their presence. Marking the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, Shri Modi described it as an inspiring occasion for 140 crore Indians and an opportunity to further the nation-building efforts.

Quoting Devi Ahilyabai, he emphasized that true governance means serving people and improving their lives, noting that today's program embodies her vision. The Prime Minister announced the launch of the Indore Metro and the addition of air connectivity for Datia and Satna, which will boost infrastructure, accelerate development, and create employment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh.

Modi expressed deep reverence for Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai, calling her a symbol of strong will and determination. He recalled how, centuries ago, she achieved extraordinary feats despite adverse conditions, and how she treated service to the divine and service to

the people as one—always carrying a Shiva Lingam as a symbol of devotion.

Leading her state during difficult times, Devi Ahilyabai provided new direction, empowering the poorest and preserving India's cultural heritage, including restoration of temples like Kashi Vishwanath.

Modi remarked on his privilege to serve Varanasi, a city where she had undertaken significant development work.

Highlighting her governance model, the Prime Minister said she prioritized welfare of the poor and marginalized, promoting agriculture, cottage industries, handicrafts, and water conservation. She supported tribal and nomadic communities by encouraging cultivation on unused lands and contributed to the textile sector by establishing Maheshwari saree weaving industries.

Modi praised her social reforms—raising the minimum age for girls' marriage, securing women's property rights, and supporting widow remarriage—remarkable steps for her time. She formed a women's unit in the Malwa army and established village safety groups, symbolizing women's invaluable role in nation-building.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that the government aligns with her values through initiatives focused on women's empowerment. Four crore homes have been built for the underprivileged, mostly registered in women's names, marking a historic shift in property ownership. Basic amenities like tap water, electricity, LPG, and toilets are now accessible to many women for the first time.

Ayushman Bharat has eased financial



burdens on pregnant women and families by providing free hospital treatment up to 5 lakh. Shri Modi stressed that alongside healthcare and education, financial independence is vital. Since 2014, over 30 crore women opened bank accounts under the Jan Dhan scheme, receiving direct benefits from government programs. More than 75% of Mudra loan beneficiaries are women, supporting entrepreneurship and self-employment.

With 10 crore women participating

in self-help groups, the government aims to empower 3 crore women as 'Lakhpati Didis,' a milestone already achieved by over 1.5 crore women. Bank Sakhis and Bima Sakhis are expanding banking and insurance outreach in villages, with women at the forefront.

The Prime Minister highlighted women's growing role in technology, citing the 'Nammo Drone Didi' initiative, where rural women lead the drone revolution in agriculture, enhancing income and confidence. He also noted the

increasing number of women pursuing careers as scientists, doctors, engineers, and pilots, with over 100 women contributing to the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Women's participation in policymaking has grown, with India having its first full-time woman Defence Minister and Finance Minister, and 75 women currently serving as Members of Parliament. Shri Modi praised the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, securing women's reservation in legislatures.

Referring to the symbol of sindoor as India's feminine strength, Shri Modi condemned the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, calling Operation Sindoor the largest and most successful counter-terrorism operation in India's history. He commended the bravery of women personnel in the Border Security Force (BSF) and other forces, highlighting their frontline roles from Jammu to Gujarat.

Modi celebrated the first batch of women cadets passing out from the National Defence Academy and noted women serving in forward positions across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. He recalled the Navika Sagar Parikrama, where two women officers completed a nearly 250-day sail around the world, demonstrating resilience and determination.

Concluding, the Prime Minister emphasized that India follows Devi Ahilyabai's legacy by balancing progress with cultural preservation. Madhya Pradesh now has its first metro services in Indore and Bhopal, improved rail connectivity, and new air links to Datia and Satna, enhancing access to important pilgrimage sites.

Invoking the inspiration of Lokmata Ahilyabai and other iconic women leaders, Shri Modi urged the nation to build a Sashakt Bharat (Empowered India) for generations to come.

Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav were among the dignitaries present.

Earlier Prime Minister participated in Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Mahasammelan and released a commemorative postage stamp and a special coin dedicated to Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai.

The Rs 300 coin will feature a portrait of Ahilyabai Holkar. He also presented the National Devi Ahilyabai Award to a woman artist for contribution in tribal, folk, and traditional arts.

In a major boost to last mile air connectivity, Prime Minister also inaugurated Datia and Satna airports, opening new opportunities for industry, tourism, education, and healthcare in the Vindhya region. In line with his commitment to improve travel infrastructure in the cities, Prime Minister inaugurated passenger services on the Super Priority Corridor of the Yellow Line of Indore Metro. It is expected to reduce traffic and pollution while offering a comfortable commute to passengers. Besides Prime Minister transferred the first installment for the construction of 1,271 Atal Gram Sushasan Bhavans worth over Rs 480 crore. These buildings will provide permanent infrastructure to gram panchayats, helping them manage administrative functions, conduct meetings, and maintain records more efficiently. (PIB Delhi)

India reaffirms Commitment to Glacier Preservation at the High-Level International Conference in Dushanbe

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCC), addressed the Plenary Session of the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, held from 29th - 31st May 2025, in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

According to a statement issued through Press Information Bureau, the event brought together international experts, policy makers, and Ministers to deliberate on urgent actions needed to safeguard glaciers, which serve as critical freshwater reservoirs and indicators of climate change.

In his address, Singh emphasized that the retreat of glaciers represents not only a warning but an immediate reality with far-reaching implications for water security, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of billions of people.

Highlighting the global and regional consequences of glacial retreat, the Minister underscored that the phenomenon is accelerating, with disproportionate impacts on mountain regions such as the Himalayas.

He reiterated India's deep-rooted concern, as a country intrinsically connected to the Himalayan ecosystem, and outlined a series of ongoing initiatives aimed at glacial monitoring and climate adaptation.

Singh highlighted that India is undertaking strategic actions



under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) - a key component of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) - as well as the establishment of a Centre for Cryosphere and Climate Change Studies, designed to advance research and monitoring of glaciers and small lakes in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Further, it was stated that India is leveraging advanced Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies, led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to systematically monitor changes in glacier mass, extent, and dynamics. These efforts are further strengthened through coordinated research by key national institutions, including the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, and the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE). These

initiatives are crucial to advancing scientific understanding of glacier systems and supporting data-driven policy formulation for the sustainable management of India's water resources.

India has strengthened disaster preparedness in the Himalayan region through improved early warning systems and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk mapping, coordinated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Regional cooperation was underscored as vital for strengthening resilience, improving data-sharing frameworks, and fostering coordinated responses to the challenges facing mountain ecosystems, Shri Singh informed.

Addressing the global context, the Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to equity and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR-RC) in international climate action. He emphasized that while South Asia contributes minimally to

global cumulative emissions, it remains highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India continues to pursue an ambitious and balanced climate strategy. The country has made significant progress toward its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, achieving major milestones such as:

Over 48% of the country's installed electricity capacity now sourced from non-fossil fuel-based energy;

A 36% reduction in the emission intensity of GDP between 2005 and 2020;

Creation of an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO equivalent between 2005 and 2021 through increased forest and tree cover.

It was emphasized that the need for differentiated and context-specific approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation, recognizing varying national circumstances, development needs, and historical responsibilities, are imperative.

Concluding his address, the Minister welcomed the declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and the Decade (2025-2034) of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, and called for enhanced global cooperation, shared scientific research and increased financial and technological support for developing countries.

Dr. Jitendra Singh finalizes month-long activities to commemorate 11 years of Modi Govt

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is a Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, today convened a comprehensive constituency-level meeting via video conferencing to finalize a month-long series of activities commemorating 11 years of the Modi Government.

According to Press Information Bureau Statement, Fresh from launching the "Viksit Bharat Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan" at R.S. Pura in Jammu alongside the Union Agriculture Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon officials to ensure the campaign reaches every district and mandal. Emphasizing 100% saturation of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat, he urged officials to leave no beneficiary unregistered. "Every citizen must experience the impact of the Modi Government's transformational schemes," he stated.

Highlighting recent strides in science-driven agriculture, Dr. Jitendra Singh showcased a series of transformative initiatives reshaping the agri-economy of the region. The Biotech Industrial Park in Kathua has been made operational and integrated with Biotech Kisan Clusters, serving as a hub for innovation and farmer-scientist collaboration.

The Purple Revolution, marked by the successful cultivation of lavender in Bhaderwah in collaboration with IIIM Jammu, has now spread to neighbouring states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, enabling young



agri-entrepreneurs to earn lakhs through sales in high-end perfume markets.

Dr. Jitendra Singh is also set to launch the two-day Lavender festival on 1st June at Bhaderwah. Under the Floriculture Mission in J&K, over 385 hectares have been brought under cultivation, directly benefiting more than 3,000 farmers, with breakthroughs such as genetically engineered roses that can bloom in desired colors and across seasons. Additionally, the successful expansion of tulip cultivation from Palampur to Ayodhya, even during off-season periods, stands as a testament to the power of scientific innovation in enhancing India's floricultural footprint.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted a breakthrough project by the Department of Atomic Energy and DBT to enhance shelf life and productivity of crops—

enabling Kashmiri apples to now grow in Jammu alongside

mangoes.

In a major policy announcement, Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed the upcoming cannabis cultivation initiative in collaboration with IIIM Jammu and private partners to manufacture medicinal and cancer drugs. He also noted the empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to generate employment and income.

Moreover, he highlighted the development of an AI-based agricultural decision-making system for J&K, aimed at transforming traditional farming practices.

As part of the Gram Krishi Seva Yojana, four Agromet Observatories have been commissioned in Ladakh, Srinagar, Jammu,

with four new district-level Agromet units in Kupwara, Baramulla, Kathua, and Reasi, backed by SKUAST.

Touching upon the nation's historic and cultural identity, Dr.

Jitendra Singh emphasized the importance of remembering and honoring key national milestones and movements. He recalled the Emergency of 1975 as a "Black Day", underscoring the need to observe its 50th anniversary on June 26 as a reminder of the value of democracy and civil liberties.

In anticipation of World Environment Day on June 5, he directed renewed enthusiasm for the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, encouraging citizens to participate with greater dedication and vigour. Dr. Jitendra Singh also advocated for grand celebrations on International Yoga Day (June 21), particularly at major tourist destinations, to highlight India's global leadership in wellness and mindfulness. Furthermore, he appreciated the Tiranga Yatra, linking it with the success of Operation Sindoor, and called for its continued celebration as a symbol of national pride and collective self-esteem.

As Member of Parliament, Dr. Jitendra Singh laid out a comprehensive schedule for the month-long celebrations marking 11 years of the Modi Government. The planned activities include public exhibitions, media interactions, professional meets, and coordinated grassroots-level efforts aimed at ensuring widespread public engagement and awareness.

These initiatives are designed to showcase the government's achievements and encourage active citizen participation in the vision of a Viksit Bharat. (PIB New Delhi)

‘When Will PM Break His Silence?’ Congress On Trump’s Truce Claims



NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday wondered when Prime Minister Narendra Modi would respond to US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly given more than an indication that it was he who brokered a truce between India and Pakistan during the latest armed conflict.

In a series of posts on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tagged a video clip of Trump to say this is the 11th time in 21 days that

Modi's "great friend" claimed he had a role to play in the ceasefire between the two neighbours.

"When will the PM speak up?" he asked.

Mr. Ramesh earlier said, "This is the 9th time in 20 days, across 3 countries and 3 cities. Donaldbhai keeps repeating the same sequence of events of how he got the 4-Day India-Pakistan war to stop – US intervention and the use of the trade instrument to stop nuclear escalation. The equivalence of India and Pakistan gets reiterated yet again." Mr. Trump's Commerce Secretary made exactly the same claims in his submission to the New York-based Court of International Trade on May 23, the Congress leader said.

"But Donaldbhai's friend Mr. Narendra Modi continues to ignore his claims with absolute silence. Why doesn't the PM speak up? "Is President Trump also doing what Mr. Modi does all the time and so well (i.e., lying)? Or is he speaking even 50% truth?" Mr. Ramesh said.

The Congress has been urging the government to clarify Mr. Trump's claims and object to his hyphenation of India and Pakistan.

The government has maintained that issues between India and Pakistan will be resolved bilaterally and without any third-party intervention.

Indian Naval Academy Holds Spring Term 2025 Passing Out Parade

186 trainees, including foreign cadets, graduate with honours; Midshipman Nakul Saxena bags President's Gold Medal.

NEW DELHI: The Passing Out Parade (POP) of Spring Term 2025 was conducted at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala on Saturday.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), 186 trainees, comprising Midshipmen of the 107th and 108th Indian Naval Academy Course, and the 38th Naval Orientation Courses (NOC) (Extended), and cadets of 39th NOC (Extended), 40th NOC (Regular) and 41st NOC (Coast Guard), graduated with flying colours, marking the culmination of their ab-initio training. The passing out trainees included cadets from four friendly foreign countries.

Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command reviewed the parade. The event was attended by VAdm CR Praveen Nair, Commandant, INA, other senior officers



and distinguished guests.

The President's Gold Medal for standing first in the Indian Naval Academy B. Tech Course was awarded to Midshipman Nakul Saxena. Rajya Raksha

Mantri Trophy for the Most Promising Cadet was awarded to Midshipman Kiondo Michael Florence, a trainee from Tanzania. This significant achievement by a foreign cadet stands testament to the inclusive

and world-class training environment at the Indian Naval Academy. Midshipman Nithin S Nair was awarded the FOC-in-C (South) Trophy for standing first in the order of merit among ex NDA trainees while the CNS Gold Medal for best in Naval Orientation Course (Extended) and for the Naval Orientation Course (Regular) were awarded to Cadet Pawar Rohit Prakash and Cadet Rajnish Singh respectively. The Director General Coast Guard trophy was awarded to Cadet Kommu David.

On this occasion, the Commandant's Champion Squadron Banner was awarded to Cheetah Squadron for displaying excellence across a wide spectrum of training activities including academic, service subjects, outdoor training, drill, sports, and extracurricular activities throughout the term.

DLSA Bandipora Holds 2nd National Lok Adalat, Disposes 685 Cases

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted the 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year 2025.

An official spokesperson said the Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Mr. Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman, DLSA Bandipora and guidance of Mr. Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora. Mr. Choudhary also inaugurated the day-long legal settlement programme.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key dignitaries, including Iqbal Ahmad Akhoon, Chief Judicial Magistrate Bandipora,



Amandeep Singh, Munsiff Bandipora, and Zaffar Husson Shawl, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, along with panel lawyers, bar members, LADCs, and litigants.

Ten benches were constituted to ensure wide and smooth disposal of cases. These benches

were headed by judicial officers, administrative officers, and legal professionals, including:

First bench was chaired by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge while second bench was headed by Sushil Singh, Addl. District & Sessions Judge.

Iqbal Ahmad Akhoon, CJM Bandipora chaired the third bench, Amandeep Singh, Munsiff Bandipora the 4th bench, Mehak Mehboob, Munsiff

Gurez chaired the 5th bench while the 6th bench was chaired by Zaffar Husson Shawl, ADC Bandipora. Rabia Mir, Assistant Labour Commissioner chaired the 7th Bench while 8th bench was chaired by Anis Ahmad Wani, ARTO Bandipora.

Firdous Ahmad Qadri, Tehsildar Bandipora headed the 9th bench while Aijaz Ahmad Khan, CEO MC Bandipora chaired the 10th bench.

An official spokesperson said these benches worked diligently throughout the day, taking up 1,242 cases, out of which 685 were amicably settled, with a total settlement amount of 63,21,250.

The cases included matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under NI Act, civil and criminal compoundable cases, bank recovery suits, and pre-litigation matters.

Spokesperson said the National Lok Adalat is aimed at promoting alternative dispute resolution to reduce pendency and provide swift, cost-free justice. "The successful conduct of this event highlights DLSA Bandipora's commitment to accessible and efficient legal services for all".

PM Shri GGHS Sumbal Hosts Bait Bazi Event on Mirza Ghalib's Birth Anniversary

BHAT ZAHOOR

BANDIPORA: A lively Bait Bazi competition was held today at PM Shri Government Girls High School, Sumbal, where students enthusiastically showcased their passion for Urdu poetry through spirited recitations of classical couplets. The event was organized to revive interest in the rich Urdu literary tradition among the younger generation and to honor the timeless legacy of acclaimed poet Mirza Ghalib.

The competition saw active participation from students, who impressed the audience with their command over language and poetic expression. The Chief Guest, eminent poet and KAS officer Imtiyaz Anjum, graced the occasion along with several noted poets, writers, and literary enthusiasts. Their presence added inspiration and depth, encouraging students to explore and appreciate the richness of Urdu poetry.

Speaking on the occasion, Yaseen Qadri, Headmaster of PM Shri Girls High School, said, "This program was organized to reconnect our students with their linguistic and cultural roots, and to celebrate the enduring contributions of Mirza Ghalib to Urdu literature."

The event was a successful effort in promoting cultural heritage and fostering a love for Urdu literature among the youth in Bandipora.

CRPF's 3rd Battalion Holds Free Medical Camp at Chittybandy

WAHID RAFIQI

BANDIPORA: The 3rd Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Saturday organized a free medical camp in the remote village of Chittybandy in Bandipora district under its Civic Action Programme. The camp witnessed the participation of hundreds of villagers, including underprivileged and specially-abled individuals from Chittybandy and adjoining areas, who availed free medical check-ups and medicines.

The camp was inaugurated by the Deputy Commandant of the 3rd Battalion, who said the initiative aims to provide essential healthcare services to the poor and marginalized in remote areas. "This is part of a series of such camps planned across various rural pockets to address the lack of medical access," he said while interacting with media.

"We are receiving a positive response from local communities. These camps ensure people receive basic healthcare services at their doorstep, especially those who cannot afford to travel to hospitals," the officer added.

Locals lauded the CRPF's efforts, calling the initiative a vital step in addressing the healthcare needs of underserved populations. "This camp has been a blessing for our village. Many residents lack access to even basic treatment. We thank the CRPF for this noble gesture," said a local resident.

Officials confirmed that more such camps are scheduled to be held across rural parts of the district in the coming days.

Indian Army Observes Anti-Tobacco Day at LoC in Bagtore

WAHID RAFIQI

Bandipora: The Indian Army's Rana Battalion stationed at Bagtore, Gurez, observed Anti-Tobacco Day along the Line of Control (LoC) with a dedicated awareness campaign aimed at educating the local population about the harmful effects of tobacco use.

As part of the event, informative lectures and interactive sessions were organized, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco consumption.

The program witnessed active participation from residents of nearby villages, particularly youth and students, who engaged in discussions about adopting healthier lifestyles.

The initiative is part of the Indian Army's continued efforts to connect with communities in border regions and address pressing social and public health concerns.

On the occasion Army officials emphasized the importance of collective efforts to eradicate tobacco use and encouraged locals to spread the message within their communities.

An official Spokesperson said the observance of Anti-Tobacco Day underscores the Army's commitment to fostering awareness and supporting well-being among residents in remote and high-altitude areas like Gurez..

RECPDCL Transfers WRNES Talegaon Power Transmission SPV to Adani Energy Solutions Ltd

New Delhi: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) – a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power – officially handed over the WRNES Talegaon Power Transmission Limited Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to Adani Energy Solutions Limited.

An official spokesperson of the company said the project, valued at an estimated 1,807.46 crore, is part of an Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) initiative developed through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route. Adani Energy Solutions Limited was selected as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) for the project, which will be implemented on a Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis. The handover took place in the presence of top officials, with Shri T.S.C. Bosh, CEO of RECPDCL, handing over the SPV documents to Shri Sanjay Arvind Johri, Vice President (Business Development), Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. Officials from Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd (CTUIL) also attended the event.

The project is slated for completion by January 1, 2028, and involves the establishment of a 765/400 kV (2x1500 MVA) substation near South of Kalamb, a LILO (Line-In Line-Out) of approximately 89.18 km of the 765 kV Pune-III to Boisar-II line, along with other associated works.

Medicinal Plant Cultivation Offers New Hope for Youth, Farmers in Bandipora

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: With an aim to promote sustainable livelihoods and exploring alternative sources of income, the Department of Ayush, J&K, on Saturday, organized a day-long seminar on "Scope



of Entrepreneurship in Cultivation of Medicinal Plants" at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

According to an official spokesperson, the seminar was aimed at creating awareness among farmers, youth, and entrepreneurs about the potential of medicinal plant cultivation in Jammu & Kashmir's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The event was organized under the aegis of the State Medicinal Plants Board, Directorate of Ayush J&K, in collaboration with the District Ayush Office Bandipora.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, he highlighted the economic and environmental benefits of medicinal plant farming and termed it a sustainable and promising livelihood option, especially for unemployed youth and small farmers.

He assured participants that the District Administration will provide full support in facilitating access to government schemes, financial aid, and technical training for those interested in this sector.

During the seminar, Dr. Wahid-

ul-Hassan, Technical Officer, State Medicinal Plants Board, delivered a detailed presentation outlining the various schemes, incentives, and technical support available to aspiring entrepreneurs under the board's initiatives. His session offered valuable insights into the cultivation, processing, and marketing of medicinal plants.

During the event, other dignitaries also shared their views, including Dr. Firdous Ahmad Malik (District Nodal Officer Ayush Bandipora), Dr. Bilal Ahmad (Associate Professor, SKUAST Kashmir), Dr. Irfan Hussain Banday (District Nodal Officer, Medicinal Plants), and Chief Horticulture Officer, Farooq Ahmad.

The seminar witnessed active participation from medical officers, farmers, NGOs, students, and unemployed youth, reflecting a growing interest in exploring alternative livelihoods.

North Campus Clinches Inter-Department Football Championship at Kashmir University

SRINAGAR: In a nail-biting final held at the University of Kashmir, the North Campus team emerged victorious in the Inter-Department Football Tournament.



ment, defeating the Department of Management Studies in a high-octane match on Friday.

A total of 22 departmental teams participated in the tournament, which was organized by the Directorate of Physical Education. The event witnessed intense competition, showcasing top-tier football talent from across the university. The final clash drew enthusiastic spectators and lived up to expectations with thrilling gameplay and

sportsmanship.

The North Campus team sealed the championship with a display of exceptional strategy, coordination, and determination. Their consistent performance throughout the tournament culminated in a well-deserved win.

Dr. Sheikh Gh Mohammad, Director of North Campus, congratulated the winning team through the campus media secretary. He commended the players for their "discipline, dedication, and teamwork," calling the victory "a proud moment for North Campus."

The tournament not only highlighted athletic excellence but also encouraged camaraderie and healthy competition among students from different academic streams. The Directorate of Physical Education was widely lauded for smooth conduct and flawless organisation, further strengthening the university's commitment to a vibrant sporting culture.

Bandipora Admin Conducts Mock Drill To Test Disaster Response Readiness

BANDIPORA: District Administration Bandipora on Saturday conducted a Mock Drill/Exercise at NM BHSS Kaloosa with an aim to strengthen emergency response mechanisms. An official spokesperson said the event was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who presided over the proceedings and emphasized the importance of coordinated disaster preparedness and witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Zaffar Husson Shawl, Tehsildar Bandipora Firdous Ahmad Qadri; DySP DAR Ahmad Shafee; students, Fire and Emergency Services staff, members of the 7 J&K Battalion NCC Kupwara and Bandipora, officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department, and personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of such drills in building community resilience and ensuring swift and efficient re-

sponses to potential disaster situations. He lauded the efforts of all participants

ness at all levels. The mock drill aimed at evaluating the readiness of various



and stressed the importance of regular training exercises to familiarize both officials and civilians with emergency protocols.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to conducting such initiatives periodically to ensure prepared-

GDC Srinagar Conducts Sensitisation and Counselling Programme on World No Tobacco Day



SRINAGAR: To mark World No Tobacco Day 2025, the Department of Public Health Dentistry, Government Dental College (GDC) and Hospital Srinagar, held a comprehensive sensitisation and counselling programme at the Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters, Batmaloo. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among frontline personnel about the severe health risks of tobacco use and to encourage cessation.

The programme was held under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Sandeep Kaur Bali, Principal/Dean of GDC Srinagar, and was a collaborative effort with the Health Centre of Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu and Kashmir.

More than 100 fire and emergency personnel attended the awareness seminar, where Dr. Aasim Farooq Shah, Head of the Department of Public Health Dentistry, presented a detailed session on

the dangers of tobacco use, including its links to oral cancer, heart disease, and respiratory ailments. Participants were also offered one-on-one counselling sessions by specialists for tobacco cessation.

Deputy Director of Fire and Emergency Services, Mr. Raj Kumar, who presided over the event as chief guest, commended the effort and emphasized the need for such awareness programmes to be held regularly across service departments. The initiative was jointly supported and supervised by Dr. Ibrar Bashir, Medical Officer Incharge at the Health Centre of Fire and Emergency Services.

In addition to the Srinagar event, the Department extended outreach activities to five peripheral centres – Sallar, Tangmarg, Fakir Gujri, Bagh-e-Islam, and Kalantra – where health talks, oral screenings, and tobacco awareness drives were conducted by dental professionals and community health workers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aasim Farooq Shah said, "Tobacco use remains one of the most preventable causes of death. Educating individuals, especially high-risk groups like frontline workers, is critical to combating this public health challenge." He also highlighted the economic burden of tobacco-related diseases and acknowledged the visionary leadership of Prof. Dr. Sandeep Kaur Bali, under whose support the department has scaled up its outreach efforts. He announced plans to open new Tobacco Cessation Centres across the region soon.

The programme was well-received and praised by attendees and community members alike, reinforcing GDC Srinagar's commitment to building a tobacco-free society through sustained awareness, counselling, and preventive health services.

Editorial



Digital Deceit

Srinagar Police on Saturday said to have busted an online fraud racket involving a fake medical donation appeal on social media platform (Facebook). The exposure of this fraudulent online donation is a grim reminder of how digital platforms are increasingly being misused to exploit public empathy and tarnish innocent lives. Using personal photograph of a woman without consent, accompanied by a fabricated medical emergency to solicit donations, not only amounts to criminal fraud but reflects a deeply disturbing ethical decay.

The accused, now in custody, allegedly orchestrated the scam with a calculated plan—one as heartless as it is cunning. What makes the act especially reprehensible is its targeting of a highly sensitive and emotional context: public charity and medical distress. In places like Kashmir, where people wholeheartedly support such people to meet medical expenses, such deceit undermines public trust and harms those truly in need.

The swift action by Nowhatta Police in arresting the perpetrators and launching an investigation deserves commendation. It sends a clear message that digital crimes, especially those that manipulate emotions and prey on public generosity, will not go unchecked. But this should not end here. This incident should serve as a catalyst for wider systemic reforms—both in digital accountability and public awareness.

Sensitizing the public about Social Media Usage is important. Before donating online, people must verify the authenticity of appeals through trusted sources or directly with families or institutions. A culture of responsible digital citizenship—where users think before sharing, forwarding, or donating—must be cultivated, especially in vulnerable regions. This case also raises deeper questions about online journalism and the role of unverified “citizen reporters.” Misusing the label of journalism to exploit others for profit is not only criminal but damages the credibility of genuine journalists working tirelessly in difficult environments and highlighting genuine cases that need people’s attention and assistance. Let this episode be a turning point in our approach to online fraud. The digital age brings with it new opportunities—and new dangers. It is our collective responsibility, as citizens, institutions, and platforms, to ensure compassion is never hijacked for crime.

Doing Nothing vs. Doing A Little: The Difference Is Huge

DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In today's fast-paced, results-driven world, success is often associated with grand gestures, intense effort, or dramatic overnight transformation. Yet, when faced with the choice between doing nothing and making small, consistent efforts, the long-term outcomes are vastly different. While doing nothing may seem safe or comfortable in the short term, it often results in stagnation, regret, or decline. On the other hand, even the tiniest efforts, when repeated over time, can accumulate to create powerful and lasting change.

Doing nothing is often rooted in fear of failure, perfectionism, procrastination, or simply being overwhelmed. Consider someone who wishes to lose weight and become healthier. They might believe that unless they can afford a gym membership, hire a personal trainer, and dedicate an hour daily to exercise, progress is impossible. As a result, they do nothing at all. Over time, their health deteriorates, their energy levels drop, and the problem deepens. The habit of inaction becomes harder to break as time goes on.

Now imagine another person with similar health goals who begins with just a ten-minute walk each day, increases their water intake, and replaces one sugary snack with fruit. These efforts may seem insignificant at first, but after six months, they've lost weight, feel more energetic, and are more motivated to pursue further improvements. These small adjustments trigger a ripple effect, leading to better habits and sustainable outcomes.

The same pattern plays out in personal and professional growth. Someone might dream of writing a book but never begins, waiting endlessly for the “right time.” Meanwhile, another person commits to writing just 300 words a day—roughly one page. At that pace, they will have a complete manuscript of over 100,000 words in a year. As James Clear wisely states in Atomic Habits, “You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems.”

Career advancement follows a similar logic. One employee may feel stuck in their role and wait passively for an opportunity to come their way, while another makes small, deliberate efforts—reading one article daily, attending a webinar each month, or applying to one new role weekly. These steady actions lead to growth in knowledge, expanded networks, and possibly a better position within the year.

What makes small efforts so effective is their achievability. They don't require major resources or dramatic shifts. Their simplicity reduces mental resistance, making it easier to start. Over time, repetition builds habits and habits create momentum. Like



financial investments, small gains made consistently yield compound returns.

Psychologically, doing nothing often comes from the all-or-nothing mindset—the belief that unless something is done perfectly or completely, it's not worth doing. This rigid thinking is paralyzing. In contrast, taking even the smallest action breaks this cycle, proving to the brain that change is possible and reinforcing self-trust. Gradually, this shift in behavior leads to a shift in identity: you begin to see yourself as someone who shows up, someone who acts.

This idea is not new. The Japanese philosophy of Kaizen, meaning continuous improvement through small, incremental changes, helped rebuild industries after World War II. Companies like Toyota embraced this principle by encouraging every employee to make minor daily improvements, ultimately becoming one of the most efficient and successful automakers in the world. Another compelling example is Nelson Mandela. During his 27 years in prison, Mandela didn't succumb to despair. He read, wrote letters, stayed in touch with the outside world, and engaged

in deep reflection. These small daily acts of resilience helped him cultivate the strength and wisdom that later enabled him to lead South Africa through a historic transformation.

In the end, the difference between where you are and where you want to be isn't closed by one massive leap—it's closed inch by inch, step by step, through consistent, intentional action. Doing nothing guarantees failure. Small efforts, however humble, guarantee growth. So take the walk. Write the paragraph. Make the call. Save the dollar. Learn the word. The step may seem small, but it's a step in the right direction—and that's how everything begins to change.

Ask yourself today: What's one small thing I can do right now to move closer to my goal? Then do it again tomorrow. That is how transformation begins.

“

The same pattern plays out in personal and professional growth. Someone might dream of writing a book but never begins, waiting endlessly for the “right time.” Meanwhile, another person commits to writing just 300 words a day—roughly one page. At that pace, they will have a complete manuscript of over 100,000 words in a year. As James Clear wisely states in Atomic Habits, “You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems.”

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...Ink Link

We Are Faheem And Karun: Echoes From Gurez In Onir’s Tender Tapestry

DR TOYEB A MUSHTAQ

We Are Faheem And Karun is shot entirely in the breathtaking yet complex landscape of Kashmir, the film captures not

just the beauty of the region but the layered, often unheard, realities of its people.

The Director, Onir who is known for his sensitivity, courage, and commitment to authentic narratives makes this film one of the first Kashmiri language films about queer community. His vision has given space for raw performances, which is all about living the story, embodying truth, and letting the land speak through the characters.

For me, it's in the quiet precision of the small things—the devotion to getting Srinagar right (yes, not ‘Shrinagar’, but Srinagar). It's in Karun's tender call to his mother—“no one is throwing stones at me, they are friendly”—or Faheem's weary, sharp truth: “what's new, we are always the suspect.” The film carries me back to Kashmir not with grand statements, but with the intimate textures of place—the cawing of crows stitched into the background score, the wind caught between mountains like a breath held too long, the restless hum of rivers and relentless honking in crowded bazaars. I hear the mutton being

pounded for Wazwan, the far-off Azaan drifting like memory, the lullabies and old folktales that soften the film's edges. A glimpse of vegetables strung up to dry before winter—a ritual quietly sacred. The neighborhood baker, keeper of warm bread and warmer gossip. The morning prayers echoing through a local school. These are not just sounds or images; they are a homecoming. Onir has got the essence of Kashmir right.

Onir's body of work has always carried a deep emotional

resonance, often exploring themes of identity, love, and marginalization with rare sensitivity. His films—like My Brother... Nikhil and I Am—don't just tell stories; they invite the viewer into intimate, often silenced spaces. There's a palpable compassion in the way he portrays human vulnerability, making his cinema not just socially relevant, but deeply personal. For anyone who has ever felt unseen or unheard, Onir's work offers a quiet but powerful affirmation: you matter.

The symbolism used in the film is nuanced and so poignant. One of the rivers winding through Kashmir is known

as Kishanganga on one side, Neelam on the other. Faheem's mother, with quiet wisdom, asks—what difference does a name make, when all the river longs for is to flow? To move, unburdened by borders or labels, carrying its song through mountains and memories alike. In another scene “Encounter? Just another thrill,” the tourist shrugs—encounter ka mazza le liya. But a voice rises, steady and wounded: how can you speak of excitement when blood has soaked this soil? When lives

have been silenced, not staged? What to one is a spectacle, to another is grief that never leaves.

Perched high above the village, the main army bunker gazes down like a silent sentinel. It does not speak, yet its presence echoes the language of power—its concrete walls heavy with the weight of control, surveillance, and the quiet tyranny of watchful eyes.

The film reminded me of one of his earlier films called I AM - an anthology of four short films and I Am Megha was one of them, the film that dared to show the authentic cost that people (people; not Hindus not Muslims) have to pay to be living in a conflict zone. A gaze that isn't an outsiders perspective or a Eurocentric gaze or a Birds Eye point of view but unapologetically local. Shot on location in the breathtaking, often overlooked valley of Gurez, Onir's film pulses with authenticity—local artists, actors, singers all woven into its fabric. One actor put it simply, and powerfully: “I loved acting in this film, because for once, we weren't playing terrorists—we were just ourselves.”

We Are Faheem and Karun lingers long after the credits roll—not because it shouts, but because it listens. The film is tender without being sentimental, raw without being exploitative. What struck me most was its refusal to flatten its subjects into symbols. Faheem and Karun are not case studies in resilience; they are living, breathing individuals—messy, joyful, angry, brave—insisting on their right to simply be. The camera doesn't just observe; it accompanies. More like being invited into a shared space of trust, discomfort, and unexpected grace.

The actors (Akash Menon as Karun, Mir Tawseef as Faheem, Mir Salman as Zaid, Sana Javeid as the Mother, Bashir Lone as the Father) in We Are Faheem and Karun carry the film with a quiet, grounded strength. There's no performative flair—just lived truth. Many are local, their accents, gestures, and silences deeply rooted in the soil of Gurez. Their presence doesn't feel acted but inhabited, as if they are not stepping into roles but stepping forward as themselves. It's this unpolished honesty that makes every glance and line linger.

This film is a lived experience, crafted with honesty, respect, and an unflinching gaze. It is a testament to what cinema can be when it dares to tell stories that matter, in voices that have long been silenced.

Go and watch the film if you can—it's making its way through the film festival circuit right now, carrying with it stories that deserve to be witnessed.

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Kupwara Must Get Its Due, Govt Committed to Equitable Development: Sakeena Itoo

KUPWARA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo Saturday chaired the district development board meeting here and took a comprehensive assessment of the overall developmental profile of district Kupwara.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena, who is also Minister in-charge of Kupwara district, took detailed assessment of all the ongoing developmental activities in the district.

According to an official spokesperson, minister also took stock of progress on implementation of various beneficiary oriented schemes in the district.

She also reviewed the performance of Aspirational Districts Programme in Kupwara, which primarily focuses on areas like education, health, infrastructure and financial inclusion.

The Minister minutely evaluated the performance of all departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Education, Tourism, Health and other vital sectors. She also reviewed financial progress under district Capex as well as other Centrally Sponsored schemes.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Minister Sakeena highlighted that the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed for the welfare and upliftment of the people especially living in far flung areas. She underlined that district Kupwara, being a border district, needs special focus for its overall development and this government will give prime focus

in its development across all sectors.

During the deliberations, the Minister emphasized on the need for cent percent saturation of all beneficiary-

of key sectors like PWD, Health, Rural Development and Education, Minister Sakeena derved upon the officers to speed up the pace of works and ensure

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan briefed the Minister about the district profile and latest achievements and ongoing projects in the district. The DC informed that Rs.456.69 crore have been expended under District CAPEX Budget till March 2025.

Regarding macadamization of roads, the Minister was informed that 1958.80 kms of road length have been macadamized by different departments in the district during last two financial years.

Under JJM, it was informed that out of the 156000 households, 129000 households have been connected with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) and work is apace to connect the rest of the households.

Under Rural Development Department, it was informed that 100% expenditure have been made under MGNREGA till March 2025. 10024 houses have been completed under PMAY-G and 718 houses are under construction. 42640 houses have been surveyed under PMAY-G 2.0 Survey 2025-26.

The Minister was also informed about PMAY-Urban, Health Sector, Education, ICDS, KPDC, Agriculture, Employment & Skill Development, NRLM and Social Welfare.

Later, Minister Sakeena also distributed Appointment Orders among the newly recruited Anganwari Workers. She also distributed Motorized Tricycles among Specially abled persons.



oriented schemes, underlining that no eligible individual should be left out of the welfare net. She directed the concerned departments to ensure timely identification, registration and inclusion of all entitled beneficiaries, particularly from marginalized and underserved communities.

“Our Government’s focus is clear, we are committed to uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people of J&K through inclusive growth and equitable development. Kupwara holds immense potential and the administration must ensure that the benefits of all centrally and UT sponsored schemes reach the grassroots”, Sakeena stated.

While reviewing the performance

completion of all ongoing projects within the stipulated time frame.

Regarding flagship programmes like PMAY, MGNREGA, Ujjwala, Jal Jeevan Mission and other social welfare schemes, Minister Sakeena impressed upon the officers for regular field-level monitoring for smooth implementation of these schemes. She instructed the district administration and other stakeholders to conduct regular outreach camps and grievance redressal sessions to bridge gaps in service delivery.

During the meeting, the Minister also heard various developmental issues of the MLAs and passed on the directions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of these issues.

Clean Air a Necessity, Not a Choice: SMC Commissioner Dr. Owais

SRINAGAR: With Srinagar’s air quality high on the agenda, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed Saturday chaired

finalizing the slate of projects planned for the 2025-2026 financial year under NCAP. While acknowledging the meaningful progress made so far, Dr. Owais



a review meeting at the SMC headquarters to take stock of the city’s progress under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP).

The meeting focused on

pointed out the areas that still need attention to ensure tangible improvements in air quality.

“Clean air isn’t just a goal – it’s a necessity,” Dr. Owais

said, adding “We have a shared responsibility to ensure our citizens breathe air that is safe and healthy.

This requires teamwork, urgency, and smarter ways of working.”

Dr. Owais urged departments to accelerate current projects, improve coordination, and cut down red tape.

Emphasizing the importance of openness and accountability, he called on officials to make the process smoother and more transparent for everyone involved.

The meeting ended with a collective resolve from all present to double down on efforts, push projects forward, and stay committed to building a cleaner, healthier Srinagar for the generations to come.

DC Pulwama chairs District Rent Assessment Committee meeting

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) here today.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on cases pertaining to the assessment and approval of rents for government-occupied private premises across the district.

During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama provided a detailed, case-wise briefing to the chair regarding the formalities completed for each case.

A total of 78 cases were presented before the committee during the session.

These cases involved premises being utilised by multiple departments including Health, Handloom, Social Welfare, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Irrigation, Education and others.

While reviewing the cases, Dr. Qayoom emphasized the need for transparent and timely processing of rent assessment proposals and reiterated the importance of maintaining clear communication with concerned landowners and departmental heads to avoid unnecessary delays.

He also directed that all assessments must strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines issued by the Government.

1,36,020 cases settled in 2nd National Lok Adalat across J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority successfully held the 2nd National Lok Adalat of 2025 across all districts of the Union Territory on Saturday.

Despite being deferred from its original date of May 10, the Adalat saw overwhelming participation and resolved 1,36,020 cases out of the 1,82,786 taken up, with a settlement amount of over 60.28 crore.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson said the event was held under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and was inaugurated by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman of J&K Legal Services Authority, at the District Court Complex in Srinagar.

Upon arrival, Justice Kumar was received by Member Secretary Shazia Tabasum, Principal District & Sessions Judge Tasleem Arief (Chairperson, DLSA Srinagar), and other judicial officers. He inspected multiple benches, interacted with presiding officers, lawyers, and litigants, and commended the efficient conduct of the Adalat.

Justice Kumar also distributed Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) compensation cheques to eligible claimants on the spot, providing much-

needed relief.

The 173 benches across J&K handled a diverse range of disputes, including motor accident claims, cheque bounce cases, matrimonial and civil matters, labour disputes, bank recoveries, and



public utility bills. Speaking to the media, Justice Kumar appreciated the contributions of judicial officers, advocates, paralegal volunteers, DLSA staff, and litigants for their wholehearted involvement. He described Lok Adalats as “a powerful tool of justice delivery” that help settle disputes swiftly, amicably, and free from the burden of prolonged litigation.

He also urged citizens to take advantage of Lok Adalats as a means to promote harmony, legal awareness, and access to justice at the grassroots level.

DC Baramulla reviews implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme

BARAMULLA: In a concerted effort to accelerate the implementation of the PM

scheme, with particular attention to beneficiary registration, skill development training,



Vishwakarma scheme, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the DC Office Complex, here.

An official spokesperson said the meeting focused on assessing the district’s progress under the

distribution of toolkits and loan disbursement status.

Reviewing the pendency in loan cases, DC directed the Lead District Manager (LDM) and all concerned departments to organize dedicated outreach and facilitation camps at the block and panchayat levels. These camps will help ensure that eligible

artisans are provided with timely support, including collateral-free credit, skill training, and modern tools. Officers from concerned departments briefed the chair about the implementation status, sharing data on training programs, toolkit distribution, and progress in loan sanctioning.

DC also instructed the Rural Development Department to identify any unregistered artisans through field-level staff to ensure 100% saturation of the scheme in rural areas.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Principal Industrial Training Institutes, Chief Executive Officers of Municipal Councils and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

DC Udhampur unveils Dogri Song "Dhol Tu Bajaa Sajna"

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai released a Dogri video song “Dhol Tu Bajaa Sajna” here at an event held in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The release function was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, the production team and other officials.

Sung by budding folk artist Deep Kumar, the song celebrated the vibrant culture and scenic beauty of Udhampur district. It is now available on YouTube and other social media platforms. Commending the production team, DC Saloni Rai praised Deep Kumar for promoting Dogri language and heritage. She emphasized the importance of encouraging local talent and preserving the region’s rich folk traditions.

Labour Commissioner visits Ganderbal, chairs review meeting for SANJY-2025

GANDERBAL: Labour Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, Charandeep Singh today visited Ganderbal and chaired a comprehensive review-cum-awareness meeting to assess preparedness for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025 and to ensure effective implementation of labour laws.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, and was co-chaired by Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ganderbal.

The review meeting primarily focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination for SANJY 2025 and ensuring statutory compliance by all stakeholders involved in the Yatra arrangements.

Labour Commissioner emphasized the mandatory registration of Executive Engineers as Principal Employers under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, and directed the officers to ensure that all engaged contractors are also registered with

the Labour department and are extending essential facilities to workers.

He reiterated that workers engaged for SANJY 2025, particularly those from other states, must be registered under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to safeguard their rights and ensure their welfare.

Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of timely deposit of cess under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 with the designated Cess Collector, i.e., the Assistant Labour Commissioner, to facilitate welfare measures for construction workers.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Ganderbal underscored the importance of strict enforcement of labour laws at the grassroots level and suggested that similar awareness programs be held at block and tehsil levels to ensure broader outreach and compliance. The meeting was attended by Deputy Labour

Commissioner Kashmir, Najwan Nazki, Assistant Labour Commissioner Ganderbal; Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and other senior officers of the district administration and allied departments besides works department and Labour department.

Following the meeting, Labour Commissioner visited the ongoing registration camp at Kangan for SANJY 2025 service providers, including ponywalas, pithuwalas, and other support personnel.

He interacted with the intending service providers and urged them to complete the registration process at the earliest to facilitate the timely issuance of RFID cards, which are mandatory for their participation in the Yatra.

The visit and interactions form part of a broader effort by the Labour Department to ensure that all labour-related aspects of SANJY 2025 are addressed well in advance, with a strong focus on transparency, accountability, and worker welfare.

Srinagar Conducts ‘Operation Shield’ Mock Drill to Strengthen Civil Defence

SRINAGAR: As a part of ‘Operation Shield’ a Civil Defence Mock Drill was conducted at Amar Niwas Complex here on Saturday to assess on ground preparedness regarding Civil Defence, Emergency Response in Srinagar District.

The exercise took place in presence of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who is also the Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority in bolstering readiness and addressing critical gaps to handle emergencies and ensure the safety of critical installations

and residents in Srinagar District. Personnel from multiple Civil



Defence services participated in the Mock Drill as part of the nationwide exercise to test and strengthen the preparedness. The ‘Operation Shield’ has

been designed to simulate hostile situations, including air raid sirens,

was also aimed to replicate real-time scenarios that may arise from potential external threats, any troublesome circumstances besides measures being taken to further strengthen the Civil Defence mechanisms, ensuring security of critical infrastructure and citizen safety.

The Drill is expected to significantly improve inter-agency coordination, public awareness, and the ability of the administration to respond swiftly and efficiently in the event of any hostile actor or natural disasters and test the effectiveness of safety protocol

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for forthcoming Eid-ul-Adha

SRINAGAR: In view of the ensuing festival of Eid-ul-Adha, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Saturday held a meeting of officers to review arrangements for the smooth & peaceful celebration of the auspicious occasion.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed CEKPDCL to ensure uninterrupted electricity on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha across Kashmir Division, especially at Aasar-i-Sharief Hazratbal, Kalashpora, Jenab Sahab, Soura, Ziyarat Sharief Kabamarg, Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Makhama, and Ziyarat Aham Sharief, Bandipora.

He also directed the concerned to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water and timely resolution of any water supply issues. Regarding availability of essential items, Div Com emphasized on ensuring adequate supply and availability of all essential items including rice, flour, sugar, etc during these auspicious days.

For the availability of sacrificial animals, he directed Director Sheep Husbandry to

ensure availability of sacrificial animals across the Kashmir Division on the eve of Eid-ul-

drives to ensure cleanliness in and around mosques, shrines, marketplaces, and residential



Adha, to meet the expected demand.

Further, to ensure availability of essential items in the market, he directed for comprehensive market inspections to prevent hoarding, overpricing, and the sale of substandard goods.

Div Com underlined close coordination between enforcement agencies to ensure fair pricing and availability of essential commodities, particularly mutton and poultry, on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha.

To ensure environment of festivity, Div Com emphasized on conducting special sanitation

areas, especially at Aasar-i-Sharief Hazratbal, Kalashpora, Jenab Sahab, Soura, Ziyarat Sharief Kabamarg, Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Makhama, and Ziyarat Aham Sharief, Bandipora.

For smooth traffic flow on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha, Bidhuri directed traffic authorities to regulate vehicular movement near main mosques and marketplaces.

Additionally, he stressed on arranging adequate public transport on important routes to facilitate commuters, especially for Eid prayers.

To provide health services, he called for deployment of medical staff at all major shrines and mosques, to cater to the expected high footfall and to provide immediate medical assistance in case of emergencies.

Moreover, he directed for installation of water posts and deployment of sufficient numbers of water tankers in and around the shrines, particularly at Aasar-i-Sharief Hazratbal and other major locations, to facilitate the devotees during Eid-ul-Adha prayers.

To ensure safety at the congregation places, he directed for deployment of fire tenders and security staff for smooth & peaceful celebration of the festival. Meanwhile, Div Com also reviewed the latest status of preparations for the celebration of Mela Kheer Bhawani and asked officers to ensure all the required arrangements are put in place.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, officers of various departments including Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA, Health, KPDC, PHE, SMC, PWD, Fire Services, ULB, Wakf board and Legal Metrology Department.

AYUSH Shopian conducts School Health Camps to promote student well-being

SHOPIAN: In alignment with the directions of the Director Ayush J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, Ayush Health and Wellness Centre (AHWC) at Wachie and Reshinagri successfully conducted school health check-up camps, focusing on the holistic well-being of school children.

These health camps were organized as part of AYUSH’s ongoing commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare. The initiative included comprehensive general health assessments, dental check-ups, and basic blood investigations, aiming to evaluate and enhance the overall health

of students. A total of 22 students underwent detailed health screenings during the camps. The dedicated medical teams from AHWC Wachie and Reshinagri ensured a thorough examination process and provided personalized health advice to the students where required.

Bangladesh Is Losing Its Battle With Air Pollution



MOHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA

In the capital Dhaka and beyond, transport and industry emissions continue to blight the ‘most polluted country in the world’ despite strong words from the government

Mahmuda Khatun has travelled west from her home in Bangladesh’s Narsingdi district to the capital. She is fighting to breathe. The 50-year-old asthma sufferer found herself in Dhaka’s National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital following a decline in her condition. “Earlier, her problem worsened only

The government had therefore been focussing on phasing out bricks from governmental or government-sponsored construction by June 2025, but Haque says this has been derailed by factors including the pandemic. A new target of 2029 has now been proposed.

The Third Pole speaks to Abdus Salam, a professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Dhaka. He is sceptical of these government construction claims: “Let alone the private construction sites, there are a number of megaprojects [almost all backed by the government] going on across Dhaka, but how many were [subject to these regulations] during the construction works?”

Haque says ageing vehicles are another major cause of Bangladesh’s poor air quality: incomplete fuel combustion, common among older vehicles, releases the dangerous air pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Salam confirms: “The older the vehicle, the more pollution it causes.”

The September 2023 study “State of Global Air: South Asia, a Regional Air Quality Snapshot” says the growing concentration of NO₂ in Dhaka’s air (the opposite of global trends) is now a cause for serious concern.

Pollution and Public Health in South Asia”. The report says that due to prevailing northwest-to-southeast winds, an estimated 30% of pollution in Bangladesh’s largest cities originates in north India.

To combat transboundary air pollution, four South Asian countries – Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan – agreed on the need to reduce national annual average PM 2.5 levels to 35 micrograms per cubic meter by 2030. The declaration was forged in Nepal in December 2022, during meetings facilitated by the World Bank and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

According to Haque however, this transboundary agreement has yet to garner political endorsement: “It will take time.”

International finance and national initiatives
According to September’s “State of Global Air Quality Funding 2023” report by the NGO Clean Air Fund, Bangladesh was the third-top recipient of international funding for outdoor air quality improvements between 2017 and 2021. During this period, the country received 17% of such funding, behind China (37%) and the Philippines (20%). The report also says Bangladesh received USD 2.4 billion in international development funding for air quality improvement between 2015 and 2021.



in winter, but in recent years, it deteriorates two to three times in a year,” says Mahmuda’s son, Ahmed Hossain.

Chronic air pollution is shortening average life expectancy rates in Bangladesh. Rapid urbanisation, unregulated construction and the changing climate are also exacerbating acute respiratory diseases and economic losses.

According to a recent study Bangladesh has the most polluted air in the world. The Air Quality Life Index 2023 (compiled by the University of Chicago’s Energy Policy Institute with 2021 data) found that the air in Bangladesh had an average PM 2.5 level of 74 micrograms per cubic meter. By contrast, levels of 58.7, 30.2 and 7.8 were recorded for India, China and the US respectively.

The latest World Health Organisation global Air Quality Guidelines, published in 2021, are designed as a set of air quality targets for governments to meet. When the national average pollution of Bangladesh in 2021 is measured against these targets, it is estimated that each resident of the country is losing 6.8 years of life.

The Third Pole speaks to Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, the head of Bangladesh’s Directorate General of Health Services: “Heavy metals that the air carries mix with blood and cause various communicable diseases. There is no denying that air pollution cuts life expectancy.”

Alam does not possess statistics regarding Bangladeshi death rates in relation to air quality, but the surgeon confirms that the number of patients suffering from poor air quality is rising.

Two years of relentlessly unhealthy air
According to Muhammad Ziaul Haque, the environment department’s director of air quality management, the problem is particularly bad in the country’s capital city. “Poor air quality in Dhaka is increasing every year,” he says. “Usually, air quality improves when the rainy season comes, but this year the situation was different due to the late rainy season.”

The severity of air pollution in Bangladeshi cities often makes global headlines. It is caused by an atmospheric soup of emissions from old vehicles, brick kilns, massive construction works and burning fossil fuels and biomass.

According to the environment department, which posts daily pollution data recorded in its cities, the air quality in Dhaka and the neighbouring city of Gazipur (an industrial hub) did not achieve “good” average air quality for any month during 2021 or 2022.

An Air Quality Index score between 0 and 50 is considered “good”, while 151–200 indicates “unhealthy” levels and likely negative health impacts for the general public. In November last year, for example, Dhaka’s average air quality rating was “unhealthy”, peaking at 234 (“very unhealthy”) on 23 November.

Construction and transport pollution
Government officials tell The Third Pole that tackling national air pollution requires overhauling several sectors.

For example, pollution caused by Bangladesh’s kiln-fired brick industry prompted a national sustainability strategy in 2017. “We are penalising the authorities, but it is not working,” says Haque. “Construction companies rarely listen to us.”

NO₂ exposure can irritate airways, aggravate existing respiratory diseases, increase the risk of asthma in children, and increase the frequency and severity of asthma symptoms in children and adults. This pollutant is not only impacting human health, but it is depleting Earth’s stratospheric ozone layer.

In August 2023, the government – under pressure from transport businesses – decided not to implement its own order to cap the working life of commercial buses and lorries at 20 and

These international funds appear to be supported by national actions. The government has formed a high-powered air pollution committee, headed by the cabinet secretary and populated with the senior secretaries of relevant ministries.

According to Saber Hossain Chowdhury, an environment and climate change envoy to the prime minister, clean air legislation is progressing. Following the drafting of a Clean Air Act, the government’s cabinet division chose to incorporate it into



25 years respectively. This means tens of thousands of decades-old vehicles may remain on Bangladesh’s roads.

According to data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, the number of vehicles on the road without a road fitness certificate is growing. As of April, about 568,000 registered vehicles did not have fitness certificates – 60,000 more than in January 2022.

Indoor and transboundary air pollution
As people grow increasingly concerned about outdoor air quality in Bangladesh, the air is often no safer at home. Data collected by the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital shows its admissions related to indoor air pollution are on the rise, from 11,783 admissions during 2020 to 15,942 in 2022.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 77% of households still use biomass (such as leaves, wood and dry dung) for cooking fuel, which is a major source of air pollution in rural areas.

“We have to ensure clean fuel in every part of the country,” says Haque. “It will take a huge amount of time to shift this vast cooking system.”

Meanwhile, air pollution is drifting into Bangladesh from elsewhere; unfit road vehicles, brick kilns and cooking with biomass are all polluting the air in Nepal and India, too. Earlier this year, the World Bank published “Striving for Clean Air: Air

1995’s Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act. This led to the publication of Air Pollution Control Rules in 2022. These rules form the basis for the National Air Quality Management Plan, which Haque says will be finalised in early 2024.

But there is a big issue in actually implementing these rules, especially without clear data, according to Haque. In 2018, The Third Pole reported that the environment department was running three continuous air-monitoring stations (CAMs) in Dhaka; Haque says another 13 CAMs were in place across Bangladesh at the time, but only one more has been installed in the intervening six years, at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka. Haque adds that these stations can only measure PM 2.5 and cannot identify emission sources.

However, Chowdhury remains bullish: “We have identified sources of both indoor and outdoor pollution and it is time to act.” He says monitoring cells will be established to align private construction activities with air pollution initiatives, for example. “We are on a war footing against air pollution in Bangladesh.”

Author Mohammad Al-Masum Molla is a Dhaka based journalist. This article was originally published on Dialogue Earth under the Creative Commons BY NC ND licence.

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“Each resident of Bangladesh is losing 6.8 years of life due to polluted air. We are breathing poison daily,” says a health official, as PM 2.5 levels soar far beyond global safety benchmarks.

”

NO₂ levels in Dhaka are rising, unlike global trends. Combined with soot and dust from brick kilns, biomass burning, and unregulated construction, this cocktail continues to poison the air.

”

Continued From P1...

Bullets Will

“This means the BJP government is empowering our sisters and daughters at every level and in every field,” he said.

He also said the world is witnessing the capability of India's daughters in the defence sector today.

“To achieve this, the government took many steps in the last decade. From school to the battlefield, the country today has unprecedented faith in the bravery of its daughters,” he said.

Referring to Lieutenant Commanders Roopa A and Dilna K, who recently returned to India after circumnavigating the globe in a sailing boat, the PM said the two brave daughters of the Navy completed the 250-day voyage.

“They circumnavigated the earth by travelling thousands of kilometres in a boat that runs not on a motor but on wind. Imagine staying at sea for 250 days,” he said.

He also praised Ahilyabai Holkar, describing her as the guardian of India's heritage. She protected the country's temples and pilgrimage sites when they were being attacked, he said.

“Our government is working on the mantra of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’ (citizen is god), which was the philosophy of Ahilyabai Holkar,” he added.

Rani Ahilyabai Holkar was born on May 31, 1725, at Chondi village in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar. She ruled the Malwa region of central India from 1767 to 1795, as the queen of the Holkar dynasty in the Maratha Empire.

“When we talk of girls' marriageable age, some people in the country see secularism in danger. They think it is against our religion. But Devi Ahilyabai thought about the marriageable age of girls in those times,” he said.

“She got married at an early age. She knew the way to girl's progress. In Malwa Sena, she created a special battalion of women. These people of the western world do not know. They curse us in the name of the rights of women and try to portray us in a bad light. Women were in our army even 250-300 years ago. At village level, she created safety groups for women,” Modi noted.

“When the country was in shackles of slavery 250-300 years ago, it was not easy to do something so impactful that future generations would remember it. But Devi Ahilyabai did it. She never separated devotion to God from service to the people,” he said. She was a great guardian of India's heritage. When temples and pilgrimage sites were being attacked, she took the initiative to rebuild and preserve them, including Kashi Vishwanath, he added.

“I consider myself fortunate that the same Kashi has given me the opportunity to serve. When you visit Kashi today, you will find signs of Ahilyabai's work. She created a model of governance where the poor and deprived were given priority,” he added.

Earlier, Modi released a commemorative stamp and Rs 300 coin to mark her birth anniversary. (ANI)

Pakistan violating

concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and that honouring the treaty in good faith is essential.

“However, the unrelenting cross border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with an ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions.

“Pakistan, which itself is in violation of the treaty, should desist from putting the blame of the breach of the treaty on India,” he said.

At the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said his country would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

“India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable,” Pakistani newspaper Dawn quoted Sharif as saying.

Following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people, India announced the suspension of the treaty as part of several punitive measures against Pakistan.

The Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with the World Bank as a signatory, governs the sharing of the Indus River system's waters between the two countries.

The three-day UN conference on glaciers, which ends on Saturday, aims to highlight the important role of glaciers in maintaining global ecological balance and addressing water-related challenges.

The conference is being attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organisations. (PTI)

Jammu all set

like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, enabling young agri-entrepreneurs to earn lakhs through sales in high-end perfume markets,” he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted a breakthrough project by the Department of Atomic Energy and DBT to enhance shelf life and productivity of crops—enabling Kashmiri apples to now grow in Jammu alongside mangoes.

Touching upon the nation's historic and cultural identity, Dr Singh emphasized the importance of remembering and honoring key national milestones and movements. He recalled the Emergency of 1975 as a "Black Day", underscoring the need to observe its 50th anniversary on June 26 as a reminder of the value of democracy and civil liberties.

In anticipation of World Environment Day on June 5, he directed renewed enthusiasm for the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, encouraging citizens to participate with greater dedication and vigour.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also advocated for grand celebrations on International Yoga Day (June 21), particularly at major tourist destinations, to highlight India's global leadership in wellness and mindfulness.

Furthermore, he appreciated the Tiranga Yatra, linking it with the success of “Operation Sindoor,” and called for its continued celebration as a symbol of national pride and collective self-esteem.

Dr. Jitendra Singh is also set to launch the two-day

lavender festival on 1st June at Bhaderwah. Under the Floriculture Mission in J&K, over 385 hectares have been brought under cultivation, directly benefiting more than 3,000 farmers, with breakthroughs such as genetically engineered roses that can bloom in desired colors and across seasons. Additionally, the successful expansion of tulip cultivation from Palampur to Ayodhya, even during off-season periods, stands as a testament to the power of scientific innovation in enhancing India's floricultural footprint. (KNO)

Civil Defence

casualty evacuations, and a blackout drill at 8 PM to test coordination between civil, police, military, and emergency medical agencies.

In Srinagar city, the exercise was organized at the Amar Niwas Complex, the office of the Deputy Commissioner, where a mock evacuation, rescue operation, and emergency coordination setup were conducted to mirror real-time response to aerial threats.

The details with KNO said multiple departments, including the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Civil Defence, SDRF, health services, and local youth groups participated actively in the drill.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohidin while talking to reporters as per KNO, said the aim of the drill was to prepare both the public and administration for unforeseen emergencies. “Such exercises are vital to check our preparedness levels and correct any gaps before real threats emerge,” he said.

Moreover, local residents were alerted in advance and advised not to panic as sirens, emergency announcements, and power blackouts were part of the simulation.

In Anantnag and Kulgam, Civil Defence and police personnel practiced urban evacuation, medical triaging, and communications drills. In Baramulla, the scenario involved managing drone attack aftermaths with medical teams responding to mock casualties and coordinating air and ground rescue.

In the Jammu division, the drills saw similar intensity. Poonch and Rajouri, close to the Line of Control (LoC), simulated enemy drone attacks on border installations, followed by coordinated civil-military evacuation of civilians to designated relief shelters.

In Doda and Kathua, medical teams conducted mock emergency surgeries and created triage zones to demonstrate preparedness for mass casualty events. Also, the emergency alarms were tested across all districts to familiarize the public with possible future alerts.

The Operation Shield was rolled out in frontier states. On May 28, the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a circular announcing that the second phase of Operation Shield would be conducted on May 31, today across UTs of J&K, Chandigarh and in western frontier states including Gujarat and Haryana.

The exercise aimed to simulate 'hostile military threats such as missile attacks, air raids and drone strikes' and test the response of district administrations, youth forces, medical staff, and Civil Defence wardens.

The MHA circular, revealed that one major scenario would involve an enemy drone attack on a military installation, prompting civil evacuation, medical treatment, and rapid response coordination with the Indian Air Force.

The drills also tested the ability to mobilize 30 units of blood for hypothetical mass injuries, besides communications checks between Civil Defence control rooms and military command centers.

Notably, the Civil Defence drills follow heightened national security concerns after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists. In response, the Government of India announced a series of preparedness measures, including Operation Shield, to assess the civil administration's ability to support defence forces during large-scale emergencies. (KNO)

Upper reaches

Saturday, bringing down the mercury further in Jammu and Kashmir.

The region amidst the fresh wet spell has witnessed cold days with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 14.5 degree Celsius, which was 12.2 degree Celsius below than normal.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 13.0 degree Celsius, which was 12.6 degree Celsius below normal while Pahalgam recorded 8.2 degree Celsius and 14.8 degree Celsius below normal.

Kokernag, Kupwara and Gulmarg have recorded a maximum temperature of 12.0 degree Celsius, 12.8 degree Celsius and 6.8 degree Celsius respectively.

Jammu region has also recorded the cold day with winter capital recording a maximum temperature of 32.9 degree Celsius while Banihal and Batote recorded 14.6 degree Celsius and 18.1 degree Celsius respectively.

Bhaderwah has recorded a maximum temperature of 18.4 degree Celsius while Katra recorded 28.6 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, an independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng told KNO that the weather conditions would improve from tomorrow while short spells of showers can continue during the next three days.

“Temperature will remain near normal to below normal during the next three days,” he added—(KNO)

Mughal road

“HMsVs have been allowed to move from Jammu towards Srinagar. However, the entire highway stretch has witnessed heavy rain, which has made the road slippery at several points,” the official said.

He added that commuters have been advised to strictly follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion and possible accidents.

Regarding the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road and Sinthan Top Road, the official said traffic movement is stopped and the clearance operation is ongoing.

The road will be operational again after receiving clearance and a green signal from road maintenance agencies. “Currently, no movement on these roads is permitted until the roads are cleared, and for that, operations are ongoing by the concerned agencies,”

he said.

Meanwhile, the historic Mughal Road, which connects Shopian in South Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region, remained blocked due to fresh snowfall at Peer Ki Gali. “There is no traffic movement on the Mughal Road as the area received fresh snowfall, making the stretch unsafe for travel,” the official said.

Moreover, the authorities have urged travellers to remain in touch with the traffic control units and follow regular updates and advisories before planning their journey.

Bandipora-Gurez

snowfall and low visibility at Razdan. “Snowfall still continues and road will be opened once snowfall stops,” He added.

SDM Gurez Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that due to snowfall at Razdan top & adverse weather as a precautionary measure, movement on the Bandipora-Gurez road has been suspended until further orders.

Officials have advised commuters to avoid travel on this route

Army Chief

forces during operation Sindoor,” the Army said, sharing several pictures of Gen Dwivedi's visit.

Before returning to Delhi on Friday, the Army chief awarded BSF Assistant Commandant Neha Bhandari with the Commendation Disc for her exceptional courage and operational proficiency during Operation Sindoor in the Jammu frontier.

Commanding a border outpost within eyeball-to-eyeball contact of a Pakistani post along the International Border, the assistant commandant led her troops to silence three forward hostile posts across the zero line (the area closest to enemy territory) by giving a befitting reply.

“On 30 May 2025, COAS General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, felicitated Assistant Commandant Neha Bhandari of BSF Jammu with the Commendation Disc for her exceptional courage and operational proficiency during Operation Sindoor,” BSF Jammu had said in a post on X.

She gallantly commanded a forward-deployed BSF company under challenging conditions, it said.

Apart from Neha, six women constables held gun positions at a forward border post, with their ‘josh’ rising with every bullet they fired at the enemy positions across the International Border in the Samba, R S Pura and Akhnoor sectors.

Apart from Neha, six women constables held a gun position on a forward border post, with their ‘josh’ rising with every bullet they fired at enemy positions across the IB in Samba-R S Pura-Akhnoor sectors.

Neha, a third-generation officer from her family in Uttarakhand, takes pride in being part of the BSF and commanding a border outpost in the Pargwal forward area of the Akhnoor sector in the Jammu district during Operation Sindoor.

“I feel proud to be manning a post along the International Border with my troops. It is approximately 150 meters away from the Pakistani post in the Akhnoor-Pargwal area,” she told PTI here on Wednesday.

Neha's grandfather served in the Indian Army and her parents are from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), making her a third-generation officer in the family.

“My grandfather served in the Army. My father was in the CRPF. My mother is in the CRPF. I am a third-generation officer in the force,” she said. (PIB)

First parcel

and in turn the economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ali Mohammad, a member of New Kashmir Fruit Association Srinagar, who reached Katra to oversee the loading of Cherry said this is a very good initiative by the northern Railways as it will not only reduce the time taken by the perishable produce to reach its destination but will also bring down the transportation charges.

“We brought cherries in trucks from Kashmir and loaded it in the parcel train before it left for its destination in Mumbai at 10 am,” he said.

“However, he said they are eagerly waiting for the start of the direct rail service between Kashmir and the rest of the country so that the produce is loaded at the train in different stations in the valley, bringing more respite to the fruit producers.

“We request the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the rail service to Kashmir as soon as possible since the track is ready for a long time now. Earlier, we used to book the parcel train from Amritsar and this is for the first time we have booked the cargo from Katra and hope that the day is not far when we book it from stations in the valley itself,” he said.

The Prime Minister was supposed to inaugurate the direct train service from Katra in Jammu to Srinagar early this month but the function was put on hold due to inclement weather. No new dates were announced for the inauguration so far. (PTI)

Constitution Should

draft was presented before the Constituent Assembly, at that time some people used to say that the Constitution is too federal while some used to say that it is too unitary.

“Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had replied that the Constitution is neither wholly federal nor wholly unitary. But one thing I can tell you is that we have given a Constitution which will keep India united and strong both in times of peace and war,” CJI Gavai said.

He said India has been on the path of development after independence due to the Constitution.

“Today we see what is the condition of our neighbouring countries. And India is making a journey towards development after independence. Whenever there has been a crisis in the country, it has remained united and strong. The credit for this should be given to the Constitution,” he said.

“It is our fundamental duty to reach out to the last citizen of this country who needs justice. Be it the legislature, the executive or the judiciary, everyone has to reach out to that citizen,” the CJI told the gathering. (ANI)

Indian Delegation Impact

Colombia Withdrew

Condolences To Pak: Tharoor

BOGOTA: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who is leading an all-party delegation, on Saturday said Colombia has withdrawn its statement conveying “heartfelt condolences” to Pakistan for the loss of lives following Indian military strikes in response to the Pahalgam terror attack and assured support to India on the issue.

Tharoor had earlier voiced his deep disappointment over Colombia's statement.

Tharoor said he held an excellent meeting with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio, and her senior colleagues dealing with the Asia-Pacific.

“I expressed India's view of recent events and voiced disappointment at Colombia's statement on 8 May conveying ‘heartfelt condolences’ to Pakistan. The Minister assured me that the statement had been withdrawn and that our position was now properly understood and strongly supported,” Tharoor posted on X.

“The all-party Parliamentary Delegation met Colombia's Vice Foreign Minister, Ms Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio, conveying India's firm policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and its proactive approach to counter cross-border threats. The Colombian side responded positively,” the Embassy of India in Colombia posted on X.

The delegation also engaged in a “meaningful interaction” with Colombian MP Alejandro Toro, President of the Second Commission of the Chamber of Representatives, and MP Jaime Raul Salamanca, President of the Chamber of Representatives, conveying India's firm resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and its new approach to counter cross-border terrorism.

The Colombian side reciprocated their resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism, the mission said.

“Both dignitaries expressed full understanding of our position and voiced strong support for India's right to defend itself, its territory and its sovereignty,” Tharoor said. The delegation held an in-depth and wide-ranging interaction with members of the Colombian Council on International Relations. The discussions focused on various aspects of India-Colombia relations. “Delightful lunch discussion with thought leaders at the Colombia Council for International Relations today. Engaging exchange of ideas on global geopolitics, India's role in Latin America, economic development opportunities for India and Colombia. Always enriching to connect with such influential minds,” Tharoor said on X.

The delegation also visited Tadeo University in Bogota and paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

The delegation reflected on Gandhi's profound contributions to the global struggle against colonialism and oppression, and how his philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience continues to inspire movements for justice, freedom, and human dignity across the world.

“Humbled to pay floral tribute at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Tadeo University in Bogotá today. A poignant moment reflecting on his enduring legacy of peace & non-violence, so relevant in our world. Grateful to the university for preserving his memory and values,” Tharoor said.

From Colombia, the delegation would travel to Brazil. It will be in the United States on the last leg of its five-nation trip.

India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted

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This is an information for general public that in my Disability Certificate Case diagnosis as Multiple Disabilitie, while as my Actual and correct diagnosis Case is Locomott Disabilitie , now i want to apply for change my Multiple Disabilitie certificate to Locomott Disabilitie certificate, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the CMO office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shameemah Bano
D/O Abdul Khaliq Sheikh.
R/O Bonakoot Bandipora.

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This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No:0216020007760, which is Registered in the name of Mohd Sideeq Rather, S/O Ab. Ahad Rather, Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mohammad Rafeeq Rather. S/O Mohd Sadeeq Rather. In this regard any person having any objection he/, she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohammad Rafeeq Rather.
R/I Malpora Qazipora District
Bandipora.

to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damages to a number of key Pakistani military installations including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites. (ANI)

BJP Names Two MLAs As Deputy Leaders, Another Chip Whip In J&K Assembly

JAMMU: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Saturday assigned key responsibilities to several of its MLAs to strengthen the party's organizational structures and legislative functioning in the assembly.

BJP vice-president and Samba MLA Surjit Singh Salathia and Udhampur West MLA Pawan Gupta have been nominated as the deputy leaders of the opposition, while Jasrota MLA Rajiv Jasrotia has been nominated as the party's chief whip, said a BJP spokesperson.

BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma made the nominations in consultation with party's national president Jagat Prakash Nadda, party's general secretary (organization) B L Santhosh and party's national general secretary and in-charge for J&K Tarun Chugh, he added.

Suchetgarh MLA Gharu Ram Bhagat and Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi have been nominated as the whips of the party, while Bahu MLA Choudhary Vikram Randhawa has been nominated as the secretary, the spokesperson said.

Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta has been nominated as the treasurer, while Chenani MLA Balwant Mankotia and Doda West MLA Shakti Raj Parihar have been nominated as the spokespersons, he added.

The BJP spokesperson said "these appointments reflect the party's commitment to empowering its legislative team and ensuring effective representation of public interests in the assembly".

“The BJP continues to strive for responsive, accountable and development-oriented governance in Jammu and Kashmir,” he added. Meanwhile, Jasrotia expressed gratitude to the BJP's leadership for his appointment and said that he would uphold the party's core principles and ideology.

“As the chief whip, I will ensure party discipline and cohesion within the legislative assembly and that party members

adhere to the party's whip and voting instructions,” he said. The former minister pledged to highlight pressing public issues in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, ensuring the government remains accountable and remind them of their electoral promises. Jasrotia also vowed to address genuine concerns of all societal sections amicably.

The BJP continues to strive for responsive, accountable and development-oriented governance in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Schools in JK enrol only 54% students: MoE

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Despite having a share of more than 77 percent of government-run-schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the School Education Department has managed to enrol only 54 percent of students—thus raising a question on quality and functioning of the department. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Ministry of Education (MoE) for Government of India (GoI) in a recent report has said, “The UT has 77.32 percent government schools out of the total number of schools. However, a matter of concern is that only 54.06 percent of students are enrolled in these government-run schools.”

NOTICE

Inadvertently My D.OB has been mentioned as 16-03-1965 in Driving license bearing no JK10 19853523018 while my actual D.O.B is 01-04-1966. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of RTO Kashmir within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Zahoor Ahmad
S/O abdul Salam
R/O Tikya Pandanch , Srinagar

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Haseena Begum.
W/O Late Mohammad Amin Hajam.
R/O Ward NO: 05 Bandipora.

David Willey Haunts Yorkshire To Lead Northants To Victory

Northamptonshire 237 for 4 (Broad 67, Willey 54) beat Yorkshire 224 for 9 (Wharton 58, Sutherland 58, Willey 3-42) by 13 runs

Captain David Willey haunted his former side as Northamptonshire's captain starred with bat and then ball in a remarkable opening night Vitality Blast win for the Steelbacks, by 13 runs, against Yorkshire at Headingley.

Willey led Yorkshire's T20 side before returning home in 2022. Here, he smashed six sixes in 54 off 24 balls in a mammoth 237 for 4 total - his county's highest ever in this format.

Justin Broad top-scored with a career best 67 off 32 balls, the pair sharing a third-wicket stand of 85 inside six overs during the second half of the innings.

Last year's quarter-finalists then reduced Yorkshire's chase to nine for three inside five balls, Willey striking twice with his left-arm pace en-route to 3 for 42. But runs kept coming as Yorkshire recovered to finish with 224 for 9.

James Wharton and Australian overseas all-rounder Will Sutherland hit 58 apiece, the latter hitting four of his six sixes in one over. He faced 30 balls.

Ricardo Vasconcelos shared an opening 73 inside six overs with South African Matthew Breetzke after the Steelbacks had been inserted.

The latter contributed 36 with three sixes - one of which was pulled out of the ground over backward square-leg against under-fire New Zealand quick Will O'Rourke.

Off-spinner Dom Bess bowled Breetzke in his first over, but the Steelbacks maintained the



New captain Dawid Malan hoisted Willey out to deep midwicket before Will Luxton edged the next ball to slip. A wide ball followed before Adam Lyth was run out at the striker's end coming back for three to deep midwicket, leaving Yorkshire nine for three.

momentum through more measured Vasconcelos and Broad, who took the score to 105 for 1 after 10 overs on a batting paradise of a pitch.

Bess struck again to bowl Vasconcelos for 48 - 116 for 2 in the 12th - but that brought Willey in. He reached his fifty off 20 balls after Broad's had come up in 23. The former was brutal in favouring the leg-side.

Broad, particularly strong against spin in his 20th career appearance, hit five of 17 sixes in an innings which saw debutant O'Rourke return figures of nought for 67 from four overs. Yorkshire's hopes of reeling in what would have been their highest successful run chase in Blast history were then hurt badly inside five balls.

New captain Dawid Malan hoisted Willey out to deep midwicket before Will Luxton edged the next ball to slip. A wide ball followed before Adam Lyth was run out at the striker's end coming back for three to deep midwicket, leaving Yorkshire nine for three.

Northamptonshire had taken three wickets in three legal deliveries. But fourth-wicket pair Harry Duke, batting for the first time in his sixth T20 appearance, and Wharton then threatened a revival with a scintillating 81-run partnership inside six overs.

Duke hit four sixes in an 18-ball 37 before

being bowled sweeping at Australian leg-spinner Lloyd Pope's third ball. Wharton continued on and reached 50 off 27 balls before playing on pulling at Willey, leaving Yorkshire 141 for 5 in the 12th over.

Sutherland then clattered compatriot Liam Guthrie - nought for 68 from three overs - for four sixes in the 13th to reach 50 off 26 balls before falling caught at long-off against Pope in the next - 174 for six.

Yorkshire continued to hang tough, taking the target to 30 off the last two overs and 22 off the last. But George Scrimshaw got his side over the line. Just. (IE)

Northamptonshire had taken three wickets in three legal deliveries. But fourth-wicket pair Harry Duke, batting for the first time in his sixth T20 appearance, and Wharton then threatened a revival with a scintillating 81-run partnership inside six overs.

Young Indian team capable of achieve something special on England tour if it believes: de Villiers

India's young guns have the talent to achieve something special in the upcoming England Test series, provided they back themselves, said AB de Villiers here on Saturday, adding that it's time for the new generation to step up.

With the 25-year-old Shubman Gill at the helm, India will start a new cycle of the World Test Championship with a five-Test tour of England next month without their seasoned campaigners in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who both announced their retirement recently.

India will also miss the services of off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin who retired during last year's tour of Australia, and senior pacer Mohammed Shami, who was not selected for this tour owing to his lack of fitness for the conventional format.

"Yes, it's time for the younger guys to step up... Shubman Gill taking on the responsibility," de Villiers told the media on the sidelines of a NGO Project Mumbai event here.

"There's lots of talent in India and largely credit to the IPL for that, (it is) really giving great exposure to some of the youngsters at a very early age."

"We saw Vaibhav Suryavanshi this year (and) many other youngsters, they come in their first year and they look very mature and ready to play cricket and it's a great platform for Indian cricket," he said.

The former South African skipper said the tour of England will be a tough test for the young Indian side, but keeping the belief could help them pull off a favourable result.

"They've got to take some responsibility on in England, it'll be a tough test, but they have all the talent in the world and if they believe, maybe they can achieve something special."

De Villiers, who shares a special bond with his former Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Kohli, said he will be missed in Test cricket.

"He followed his gut feel. I think he has done a lot for cricket around the world over the years. Luckily, we'll still see him on the cricket field. He will be missed in Test matches, there is no doubt about it, but he leaves (behind) a great legacy with the red ball," de Villiers said.

Talking about the Indian Premier League, de Villiers still backed Punjab Kings, who suffered an eight-wicket thrashing at the hands of RCB in Qualifier 1, to reach the final.

PBKS will take on Mumbai Indians in Ahmedabad on Sunday for Qualifier 2.

(espncriinfo)



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'He's A Vaccine For Any Illness' - Aaron, Moody In Awe Of Bumrah

"He's like an antidote, a vaccine that can cure any illness, which a bowling side can have."

That's Varun Aaron describing Jasprit Bumrah after the Mumbai Indians (MI) seamer produced figures of 1 for 27 in his team's win against Gujarat Titans (GT) in the IPL 2025 Eliminator. Bumrah conceded only 6.75 per

over in a game where the run rate across 40 overs was 11.20.

"If you want wickets, he comes and gets you wickets. If you want to stop runs, he stops runs for you. Man, what a bowler," Aaron said on ESPNcricinfo's Time Out. "And the belief he has in his ability. You have an international coach [Mahela Jayawardene] who is obviously panicking because his bowlers have suddenly started to go to the cleaners, and he just turns around and is like 'just calm down, I'll do the job for you'. Comes in, runs in, gets hit for a six and then gets that ball."

The ball Aaron was talking about was the yorker Bumrah produced in the 14th over of the chase to flatten Washington Sundar's leg stump and leave him face-down on the floor. At the time, Washington was well-set on a 23-ball 48 and, in B Sai Sudharsan's company, on course to chase 229 down. But the dismissal, in a four-run over, made GT's chances of a win plummet from 41.82% to 23.31% on ESPNcricinfo's Forecaster. Apart from being a contender for ball of the tournament, it was a moment from which GT never really recovered.

"For him to bowl from that angle is really difficult," Aaron said. "It's easier for him to go wide to a left-hand batter but for him to actually target that leg stump of Washington Sundar... Washy was setting up for something wide or something in his arc, but that was just impossible to negotiate."

Bumrah's latest spell left him at the top of the charts for best economy and best average in IPL 2025 (min. five overs). Despite playing four games fewer than the rest of his MI teammates, he is No. 6 on the wicket-takers' chart too.

While Hardik Pandya called him a "luxury" at the post-match chat on Friday evening, Tom Moody opted for "pure class".

"The challenge every opposition has to Mumbai Indians, and Jasprit Bumrah more importantly, is that the 24 balls he bowls are such a threat," Moody said. "It's not impossible but it's so difficult to get big overs against him. So you're really playing 20 overs versus 16 to a certain extent. And he is so far ahead of the rest, it's ridiculous."

"The thing with Bumrah is that he's got that genuine wicket-taking ability just through his pure class. That yorker he bowled to Washington Sundar, you just don't bowl a better ball than that. That is the absolute perfect leg-stump yorker that's gone between his legs. At pace. To a batter that's in. Set."

"You see that quite often with a new batter because they still haven't picked up the pace of the game. This is a batter that's in and he's going at 200 strike rate. It just totally blew him away."

(espncriinfo)