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# Youth Must Lead India To Greater Heights: LG Sinha

LG Urges NCC Cadets To Promote Unity, Discipline And Patriotism At National Integration Camp In Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAY 24:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon the youth of the country to take responsibility for building a stronger and more united India, asserting that the nation places its hope and confidence in the younger generation to lead it to greater heights.

Addressing cadets at the Special National Integration Camp organised by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Di-



rectorate Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh in Srinagar, Sinha said the camp reflected the true spirit of India where diversity is transformed into unity through shared values and national commitment.

He urged NCC cadets to uphold the ideals of unity, discipline and patriotism in their daily lives and carry those values back to their communities across the country.

"India places its hope and confidence in its youth, trusting that the young generation will lead the nation to greater heights," the Lieutenant Governor said, adding that cadets must honour that trust through service, leadership and social responsibility.

Sinha said the leadership qualities and spirit of national integration

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# "Beneficial And Sustainable" Trade Deal With India Soon: Rubio

US Secretary Of State Says New Delhi And Washington Have Made "Tremendous Progress" In Talks

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, MAY 24:** The United States and India are close to finalising a long-awaited trade agreement that will be "beneficial and sustainable" for both countries, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday after extensive talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the national capital.

Rubio said the proposed agreement would strengthen economic ties and support the long-term interests of both nations, while also helping restore momentum in bilateral relations that had faced strain over trade and tariff disputes in recent months.

"We have made tremendous progress, and I think we are going to end up with a trade agreement between the United States and India that will be enduring, beneficial to both sides and sustainable," Rubio said during a joint media briefing.



The discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade, critical minerals, energy and defence sectors. Rubio's four-day visit to

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# Self-Reliance In Defence A Strategic Necessity: IAF Chief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**BENGALURU, MAY 24:** A P Singh on Saturday asserted that self-reliance in defence production is a strategic necessity for India, stressing the need to build resilient indigenous capabilities to strengthen the nation's aerospace and military preparedness.

Addressing the graduation ceremony of the 48th Flight Test Course at the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS), the Chief of Air Staff said test crews would play a critical role in advancing indigenous defence programmes and supporting the modernisation of the Armed Forces.

A total of 17 officers, including 14 from the Indian Air Force, one from the Indian Army and two from the Indian Navy, completed the rigorous 48-week multidisciplinary training programme. The graduating batch comprised 11 test pilots and six flight test engineers.

According to an official statement, the graduates will join the Aviation Wing of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, regarded as one of the premier testing units of the

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# Art 370 Abrogation Led To Revival Of Development, Change Of Mindset: Dr Jitendra

HT NEWS DESK / PIB

**KATHUA, MAY 24:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that abrogation of Article 370 led to revival of development with change of mindset in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister was addressing a training camp under the Pandit Deen-



dayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026 at Lakhampur on Sunday.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative changes witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the abrogation of Article 370 brought not only developmental transformation in Jammu & Kashmir but also a profound change in mindset, giving people the feeling of belonging as

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# Face Authentication Achieved 100 Per Cent Success In UPSC Prelims

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, MAY 24:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026 was conducted successfully across nine designated examination centres in Kashmir on Sunday under extensive security and administrative arrangements.

An official spokesman said the examination was held under the strict supervision of the Divisional Administration Kashmir, with authorities ensuring uninterrupted power supply and all essential facilities for candidates to guarantee the smooth conduct of the examination.

In a major technological development, face authentication for attendance marking was introduced for the first

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# Organised Gang Involved In Paper Leak Network: Court Extends Probe In NEET Scam

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, MAY 24:** A Delhi court on Sunday sent accused Shubham Khairnar to judicial custody till June 6 in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, while the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) continued its nationwide probe into what investigators described as an organised network involved in leaking confidential examination papers for financial gain.

Special Judge Ruchi Aggarwal allowed the CBI's plea seeking judicial custody of Khairnar after prolonged custodial interrogation conducted over the past several days. The court had earlier observed that the allegations pointed to the existence of an "organised gang" engaged in circulating leaked examination papers and exploiting candidates through a coordinated racket.

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# This Initiative Will Become A Model For Ecological Restoration Across Ladakh: LG Saxena

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**LEH/JAMMU, MAY 24:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday launched a major ecological restoration project aimed at reclaiming nearly 800 acres of barren land near Spituk and transforming it into a productive ecosystem through freshwater recharge techniques.

The initiative, described by



officials as a landmark step towards reversing land degradation in the cold desert region of Ladakh, seeks to utilise excess water from the restored Igoo-Phey Canal to improve soil moisture, replenish groundwater and encourage natural vegetation growth.

Officials said around 800 acres of land near Spituk village in Leh, which has remained barren

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# CM Omar Abdullah visits residence of MP Er Rashid, expresses condolences

HT NEWS NETWORK

**LANGATE (HANDWARA), MAY 24:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the residence of Member of Parliament Er Rashid and MLA Langate Khurshed Ahmed Sheikh to offer his heartfelt condolences on the demise of their father, Khizar Mohammad Sheikh, who passed away last week after a prolonged



illness.

Khizar Mohammad Sheikh, 85, breathed his last at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi where he had been undergoing treatment.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister Javid Ahmed Dar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Choudhary Mohammad Ramzaan, several legislators and

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# US GoPro Shipped To China Traced To Lashkar Terrorists, NIA Ascertain Supply Chain: Officials

HT NEWS NETWORK

**PAHALGAM, MAY 24:** Even as the NIA has filed a comprehensive chargesheet in the Pahalgam terror attack, investigators are aggressively tracing a global supply chain to determine how a US-manufactured GoPro camera supplied to China ended up in the hands of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit, senior officials said on Sunday.

The high-tech camera recovered from the terrorists, who were neutralised in an encounter in Dachigam forests last July following the attack, has opened a critical new line of inquiry into the external logistics network supporting



terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir. Terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir have increasingly been using cameras

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# It Is Our Duty To Help Our Fellow Citizens: J&K Govt Makes Reserved Seats Mandatory For Women

HT News Desk / Agencies

**JAMMU, MAY 24:** The Jammu and Kashmir Transport Department has made reservation of seats for women and specially-abled passengers mandatory in all public service vehicles operating across Jammu and Kashmir, warning transport operators of strict legal action, including suspension and cancellation of permits, for any violation.

The directive was issued through a circular by the office of the Transport Commissioner after authorities found

that earlier instructions regarding reserved seating were not being implemented properly by vehicle operators and permit holders, causing inconvenience and hardship to passengers entitled to the facility.

Under the revised instructions, seats numbered 1 to 12 in big buses and seats numbered 1 to 9 in medium and mini buses will remain exclusively reserved for women and specially-abled passengers. The reservation has now been incorporated as a mandatory

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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**Youth Must.....**

developed during the camp should be used to strengthen society and encourage harmony among people from different backgrounds.

Highlighting the importance of diversity, he said India's greatest strength lies in its ability to unite people of different cultures, traditions and regions under one national identity.

The Lieutenant Governor also said that while the world is facing rapid changes and uncertainties, India's youth possess the confidence, creativity and skills needed to face future challenges with determination.

Referring to the NCC motto "Unity and Discipline," he asked cadets to contribute towards social harmony, resolve differences through dialogue and mutual respect, and work for the progress of the nation.

The event featured cultural performances by NCC cadets showcasing the country's rich traditions and diversity. Around 340 cadets and NCC officers from different parts of India participated in the camp.

Senior Army, Police and civil administration officials were also present on the occasion, including Virendra Vats, Balbir Singh and Anshul Garg.

**"Beneficial And....."**

India is being viewed as an important diplomatic effort to reinforce strategic and economic engagement between the two countries.

Defending the trade policies of President Donald Trump, Rubio said the administration's approach was part of a broader effort to address long-standing global trade imbalances and was not directed specifically at India.

"This is not about India," Rubio said. "The President believes the existing trade structure involving the US economy is no longer workable and that major imbalances need to be corrected."

He added that similar concerns had been raised with several countries, including key American allies, but noted that India's growing economic influence made the ongoing negotiations particularly significant.

"India is a massive economy and one of our leading trade partners. We do substantial trade with India, and these discussions are naturally of great importance," he said.

Rubio also announced that a US trade delegation would visit India shortly to continue negotiations on the proposed agreement.

Expressing optimism over the future of bilateral ties, the US Secretary of State said the ongoing efforts were expected to lead to trade arrangements that would benefit both countries while further strengthening their strategic partnership.

**Art 370....**

equal citizens of India. This, he said, resulted in renewed self-confidence, self-esteem and aspirational resurgence among the people.

He observed that in recent years, young boys and girls from Jammu & Kashmir have overcome their fears and excelled in various fields across the country.

Recalling the passage of the legislation on Article 370, he said they had considered themselves fortunate to witness a historic moment that ushered in complete transformation in the region. He described Article 370 as contradictory to democratic values and a tool that enabled exploitation by vested interests.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that although interviews for several government posts had been abolished nationally from 2016, the reform could not be implemented in Jammu & Kashmir due to Article 370. He also referred to the issue of regional discrimination in earlier years, noting that people are now witnessing positive changes.

Highlighting the journey of governance since 2014, the Minister said the country had moved from an atmosphere of pessimism, negativity and corruption towards optimism, development and nation-building. He remarked that the last 12 years have significantly enhanced India's value and standing.

Remembering the contribution of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Modi Government ensured that he received due recognition by naming the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir after him – the first major project in the region to bear his name.

Listing key development initiatives in Kathua and Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Singh referred to the upcoming Biotech Park in Kathua, stating that it would enable around 25 entrepreneurs to generate employment opportunities. He noted that three out of the 14 medical colleges established in Jammu & Kashmir are located in Kathua district.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the establishment of two AIIMS institutions in

the Union Territory and said Prime Minister Modi had accorded special priority to the region in view of the neglect it had suffered under earlier regimes.

Speaking about sports infrastructure, he said efforts are underway for the development of an international stadium at Hiranagar on around 300 kanal of land, with discussions being held with the J&K administration regarding land transfer.

He lauded the success of the Aroma Mission in Jammu & Kashmir, saying it is creating remarkable opportunities for livelihoods and entrepreneurship. He asserted that the present dispensation has completed several unfinished projects left pending by previous governments.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that a 3000 MW power project is proposed in Kishtwar, which is expected to become one of the country's largest power plants.

Calling the present phase of governance both a matter of pride and a responsibility, Dr. Jitendra Singh urged people to maximise the opportunities created by good governance and work collectively towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. He expressed confidence that future generations would look back with pride and gratitude for the work accomplished during this period.

**Face Authentication.....**

time across all centres and recorded 100 per cent success, officials said.

Nearly 2,000 candidates, including 27 disabled aspirants, appeared in the highly competitive examination, which serves as the gateway to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Forest Service (IFS), and other Group A central services.

Officials said special arrangements were made to ensure accessibility and convenience for disabled candidates. A dedicated examination centre was established at the Government College of Education, Srinagar, exclusively for disabled aspirants and equipped with all required facilities.

The administration expressed satisfaction over the peaceful and orderly conduct of the examination across the Valley, with elaborate arrangements in place to ensure a secure and fair examination process.

**Self-Reliance.....**

Indian Air Force.

The Air Chief underlined the importance of reducing the time taken from design to operational deployment while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality. He said professional competence and technical precision were essential to ensure aircraft and systems fully met operational requirements.

Urging the officers to uphold integrity, honesty and excellence in service, Singh said the graduating officers would contribute significantly to capability enhancement and the long-term strengthening of India's defence infrastructure.

Singh, himself an alumnus of the 17th Flight Test Course, presented certificates and awards to officers for outstanding performance during the programme.

Squadron Leader K K Singh received the 'Suranjan Das Trophy' for best all-round student test pilot, while Squadron Leader Aditya Jamdagni was awarded the 'Chief of the Air Staff Trophy' for excellence in flight evaluation.

Wing Commander Abhinav Kumar won the 'Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword' for best all-round student flight test engineer. Wing Commander Pranav Sharma received the 'Dunlop Trophy' for excellence in flight evaluation, while Squadron Leader Paras Sharma was awarded the 'Kapil Bhargava Trophy' for best performance in ground subjects.

**Organised Gang.....**

Khairnar and four others were initially remanded to CBI custody on May 14. His interrogation was subsequently extended by five days on May 20 after investigators informed the court that further questioning was necessary to identify additional accused persons and trace the distribution chain of the leaked NEET-UG 2026 question paper.

The CBI told the court that digital devices, communication records and financial transactions linked to the alleged paper leak network were being examined. Investigators also stated that the broader conspiracy and the original source of the leaked paper were yet to be uncovered.

According to the agency, Khairnar was required to accompany investigators to various locations across the country, including Nashik in Maharashtra, as part of efforts to identify places where examination questions were allegedly disclosed to candidates before the test.

Meanwhile, Pune-based physics lecturer Manisha Sanjay Havaladar, who was arrested on Friday, remains on transit remand and is expected to be produced before the concerned court on Monday.

Court sources said five other accused

persons are also scheduled to be produced before the court after completion of their CBI custody on May 25.

The CBI has so far arrested 10 individuals in connection with the case.

The NEET (UG) 2026 examination for admission to undergraduate medical courses, conducted on May 3, was cancelled two days later following allegations of a question paper leak. The Central Government subsequently handed over the investigation to the CBI and ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities.

**This Initiative.....**

for centuries, was identified for the pilot project on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor. Excess water from the canal will be diverted across the degraded landscape through temporary channels and controlled earthwork interventions using machinery.

Ladakh receives less than 100 millimetres of annual rainfall and largely depends on glacial meltwater. Rapid runoff during early spring has contributed to soil erosion, low groundwater recharge and declining soil moisture, leading to the expansion of unproductive land across the region.

According to officials, the project is designed to allow freshwater to spread and gradually seep into the soil, restoring groundwater levels and improving soil quality. The process is expected to flush harmful salts from the land, rehydrate dry subsoil layers and activate dormant seeds, leading initially to the growth of grasses and shrubs before larger vegetation develops over time.

Authorities said the project is expected to deliver long-term ecological benefits, including vegetation regeneration, soil stabilisation, reduced erosion and improved groundwater recharge. The development of plant cover is also expected to strengthen soil structure and help prevent further land degradation.

The initiative is likely to generate agricultural and economic benefits as well. Improved soil moisture and irrigation support could eventually make the restored land suitable for crop cultivation and livestock grazing, creating new livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"This initiative is expected to become a model for sustainable irrigation expansion, improved agricultural productivity and ecological restoration across Ladakh," Saxena said while highlighting the significance of the project.

He added that the initiative supports the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land across the country by 2030.

Officials said the project follows the successful implementation of Project Him Sarovar, which focuses on strengthening long-term water security through the creation of small water bodies for snow resource conservation.

The initiative also comes shortly after the restoration and operationalisation of the Igoo-Phey Canal on May 15, 2026, a key irrigation network expected to irrigate more than 4,300 hectares of agricultural land across several villages in Ladakh.

**CM Omar.....**

other dignitaries.

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

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

**US GoPro.....**

to record their ambushes for propaganda and psychological warfare.

Investigators believe that unearthing this specific supply chain could expose critical vulnerabilities or complicity in the underground networks that funnel funds, hardware and tactical gear across borders to anti-India outfits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Besides feeding them, the terrorists were provided 'Haldi' (turmeric),

'mirchi' (red chillies) and salt in a polythene bag, along with a cooking utensil, blankets and a tarpaulin.

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

**J&K Govt.....**

condition under public transport permits.

The circular further directs that all reserved seats must carry clearly visible markings stating "Reserved for Women and Specially-abled Persons" in bold white lettering on the back of seats or adjacent parts of the vehicle. Responsibility for ensuring compliance and proper display has been placed directly on vehicle owners and operators.

Authorities clarified that the reserved seats may be temporarily occupied by other passengers only when no eligible passenger is present. However, such seats must be vacated immediately once a woman or specially-abled passenger boards the vehicle during the journey.

The Transport Department has made drivers and conductors personally responsible for enforcing the reservation policy inside vehicles without exception.

To ensure implementation, enforcement agencies including the Motor Vehicles Department and Traffic Police have been directed to conduct regular inspections and special drives at bus stands, transit points and during routine vehicle checking.

The circular warned that violations would attract action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, particularly Section 192A relating to breach of permit conditions. Penalties may include fines, suspension of permits and cancellation of permits in cases of repeated violations.

Regional Transport Officers and Assistant Regional Transport Officers have also been instructed to verify compliance during inspections, issuance and renewal of fitness certificates and while processing transport permits.

Meanwhile, Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan appealed to transport operators and the public to ensure dignity, safety and equal access for women and specially-abled passengers using public transport services across the Union Territory.

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAY 24:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized youth empowerment, healthy lifestyle, sports culture and collective efforts to build a strong and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

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

Speaking about his personal



journey and values, the Minister reflected on the lessons of discipline, sacrifice and resilience learned from his roots. He stated that the strongest foundations of success are often built quietly through dedication and effort.

Addressing the young generation, Satish Sharma highlighted the importance of healthy

living and urged the students to adopt nutritious and natural food habits. He expressed concern over the growing influence of processed and unhealthy food choices among youth and stressed the need to reconnect with healthier lifestyle.

"A strong nation is built on healthy citizens. The choices young people make today regard-

ing health and lifestyle will determine the future strength of our society," he said.

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

future leadership roles.

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

"Sports grounds, classrooms and creative spaces must become centers of aspiration for our youth. A child engaged in sports learns resilience, determination and the value of hard work," he remarked.

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

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

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

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, MAY 24:** District Kupwara witnessed the successful organisation of a series of awareness and outreach programmes under the nationwide "Jan Bhagidari Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" IEC Campaign in various tribal villages and far-flung areas of the district.

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

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

During the programme, officers and officials interacted directly with the local residents and sensitized them about various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities. Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness regarding health, nutrition, sanitation, education, women empowerment, livelihood opportunities, and social welfare initiatives.

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

The district administration reiterated its commitment towards strengthening public participation and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every deserving household residing in remote and underserved areas.

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

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

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

## 26 Year Old Martial Art Player From Pampore Won Gold Medal At 11th District Pencak Silat Championship 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**PAMPORE, MAY 24:** The 11th district pencak silat championship 2026-2027 concluded at Birla Open Minds International School Pampore. The two day event was organised by the district pulwama pencak silat association and witnessed participation from over 400 boys and girls across all age groups.

Shah Younis a 26-years-old martial arts player from



namlbal pampore who fought in the under 85 kg category won a gold medal.

Shah Younis, a resident of namlbal pampore has participated in various championships and won 15 nationals in the mix Martial arts, pencak silat, thang ta, Arnis, Mix boxing, kick Boxing, Thai boxing, and other games federation of India two times in Thang Tha and Thai boxing, and secured bronze medal in all India inter University pencak silat twice and secured bronze medal.

The organizing committee congratulated all medal winners, runner up, coaches, and participants for their commendable performance and sportsmanship.

## Sakeena Itoo visits Budgam victim's family

Calls for strict punishment to culprits

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, MAY 24:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited the bereaved family in Budgam to express solidarity and condolences following the tragic incident that has shaken the area.

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

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

She called for time-bound inves-



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

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

## KVK trains farmers in scientific livestock rearing at Village Khalloo -Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**DODA, MAY 24:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Doda, under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) on Sunday organized a comprehensive training programme on deworming, vaccination and animal nutrition at Village Khalloo.

The Animal Husbandry Department also coordinated in hosting the event.

The programme aimed at creating awareness among livestock farmers regarding scientific animal healthcare practices and sustainable dairy farming techniques.

The training programme was conducted under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu Dr B.N. Tripathi and under the supervision of Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu Dr. Amrish Vaid.

A large number of livestock farmers, dairy farmers and rural youth par-



ticipated enthusiastically and interacted with experts on various issues related to animal health and dairy management.

The programme was organized by Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Doda Dr. Amit Singh Charak. FPO Development Officer Arsalan Gana, under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JK-CIP), welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), government welfare schemes and scientific

livestock management practices for enhancing milk production and improving farmers' livelihoods.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Vishal Kotwal from the Animal Husbandry Department delivered expert lectures on balanced feeding of dairy animals, prevention and control of common livestock diseases, vaccination schedules, clean milk production techniques and scientific management practices. He stressed that proper nutrition, timely vaccination, regular de-

worming and hygienic milking practices are essential for improving milk quality, enhancing animal productivity and increasing farmers' income.

The experts also emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in cattle sheds, proper sanitation during milking operations and regular health check-ups of animals to minimize disease outbreaks and ensure sustainable dairy farming.

Officials from the Animal Husbandry Department informed farmers about various veterinary healthcare services and government schemes available for livestock development in the district.

An interactive session was also held in which participants raised various queries related to livestock diseases, vaccination and dairy management practices. The experts responded in detail and encouraged farmers to adopt modern scientific techniques for better animal health and sustainable livelihood generation.

## Mega Padyatra under 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan to be held today at Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, MAY 24:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today appealed to the people of the district to participate in the Mega Padyatra being organized tomorrow under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

She said that the Lieutenant Governor launched the 100 Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan across Jammu and Kashmir from April 11, 2026, with the objective of intensifying the fight against drug abuse and taking the message of a drug-free society to every household.



The DC informed that the Mega Padyatra in Bandipora district will be conducted on 25 May 2026 (Monday) starting from S.K Stadium Bandipora and culminate at Ajar Chowk.

"Tomorrow's Mega Padyatra is not merely an event, but a collective pledge of the people of Bandipora against drug abuse. Every citizen's participation will strengthen this mission and send a strong message that society stands united for a Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir," the DC said.

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

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

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

HT EDITORIAL

Digital Census Must Bridge Jammu and Kashmir's Democratic Gaps

India's decision to conduct its first fully digital census in 2027 is being projected as a milestone in modern governance. The move reflects the country's growing confidence in technology-driven administration and data-based policymaking. For a nation of India's size and diversity, the transition from paper-based enumeration to a real-time digital system is undoubtedly ambitious. Yet, while the exercise promises efficiency and transparency, it also raises critical democratic concerns — especially in regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where geography, connectivity, migration, and social realities make census operations particularly sensitive.

The importance of the upcoming census cannot be overstated. India has not conducted a census since 2011, leaving policymakers dependent on data that is now nearly a decade and a half old. During this period, Jammu and Kashmir itself has witnessed enormous political, economic, and demographic changes. Urban expansion in Jammu and Srinagar, migration patterns, shifting employment trends, tourism growth, infrastructure development, and changing educational aspirations have transformed the region significantly. Without updated and reliable data, effective planning becomes difficult and, at times, inaccurate.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the census carries an even deeper significance because development and representation in the Union Territory depend heavily on demographic realities. Allocation of resources, welfare schemes, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, road connectivity, and employment programmes all rely on accurate population figures. A credible census is therefore not merely a statistical exercise; it is central to equitable governance and democratic trust.

The proposed digital framework certainly offers advantages. Real-time data collection, geo-tagging, cloud uploads, and automated verification can improve speed and reduce traditional errors associated with manual entries. Policymakers could obtain quicker access to information about housing shortages, unemployment, educational gaps, healthcare needs, and rural infrastructure deficiencies. In a geographically diverse region like Jammu and Kashmir, such technology could help authorities identify underserved areas with greater precision.

However, the success of a digital census in Jammu and Kashmir will depend not on technology alone, but on inclusiveness. The region continues to face a significant digital divide. While cities may adapt relatively smoothly to app-based or online systems, many remote villages in hilly and border districts still suffer from weak internet connectivity and limited digital literacy. Areas in Pir Panjal, Chenab Valley, and parts of north Kashmir continue to experience communication challenges that cannot be ignored during a nationwide digital exercise.

There is also the human dimension. Elderly citizens, rural women, nomadic communities, migrant labourers, and economically weaker sections may find digital self-enumeration difficult. If the system relies excessively on online participation, the risk of exclusion becomes real. Any undercounting in such areas would directly affect future development allocations and democratic representation. In Jammu and Kashmir, where regional sensitivities around identity and representation have historically remained strong, even perceptions of exclusion could generate distrust.

The government must therefore adopt a balanced approach. Technology should assist enumeration, not replace human outreach. Well-trained field enumerators, multilingual digital interfaces, offline data collection mechanisms, and special support teams for remote regions will be essential. Authorities must also ensure strong safeguards for data privacy and cybersecurity, particularly in a sensitive border region where public confidence in institutional processes remains crucial.

Equally important is public awareness. Citizens must understand that the census is not an instrument of surveillance or political manipulation, but a constitutional exercise aimed at ensuring fair development and representation. Building trust through transparency will be as important as deploying advanced technology. The 2027 digital census has the potential to become a landmark in India's governance reforms. For Jammu and Kashmir, it could provide an opportunity to map developmental needs with greater clarity and fairness than ever before. But that promise can only be fulfilled if every household, whether in a metropolitan colony or a remote mountain village is counted with equal accuracy and dignity.

Technology can modernize governance, but democracy demands inclusion. The real success of India's digital census will not be measured by the sophistication of its software, but by its ability to ensure that no citizen of Jammu and Kashmir remains invisible in the nation's records.

THE TRAP OF MATERIALISM



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In an age defined by rapid technological advancement and an ever-expanding consumer culture, materialism has emerged as one of the most influential forces shaping human behaviour and societal values. While the pursuit of material prosperity has undoubtedly contributed to economic growth, innovation and improved living standards, an excessive focus on wealth and possessions is increasingly eroding human happiness, emotional well-being and social connectedness.

Materialism, the belief that material possessions and physical comforts are the primary indicators of success and fulfillment, has become deeply embedded in modern society. The rise of social media, digital marketing and aggressive advertising has intensified the pressure to acquire the latest gadgets, luxury vehicles, branded clothing, and other status symbols. As individuals become trapped in the relentless pursuit of "more," many find themselves feeling dissatisfied, disconnected and emotionally unfulfilled.

A growing body of research suggests that materialistic values can have serious consequences for mental health. Studies across the globe have consistently indicated that individuals who prioritize wealth and possessions over relationships and meaningful experiences often experience higher levels of anxiety, stress, loneliness and life dissatisfaction.

The underlying problem lies in the tendency to equate self-worth with material success. When personal value becomes dependent on possessions, individuals are drawn into an endless cycle of comparison and competition. Social media platforms, where curated lifestyles and displays of affluence dominate, further amplify feelings of inadequacy and insecurity. Instead of fostering contentment, materialism often



fuels a persistent sense of insufficiency, regardless of how much one acquires.

Beyond its impact on individuals, materialism poses a significant threat to social cohesion. Communities thrive on shared values, mutual trust, compassion and collective responsibility. However, when personal gain becomes the primary goal, these essential social bonds begin to weaken.

Volunteerism, civic engagement and acts of kindness are increasingly overshadowed by a culture that celebrates personal achievement and material accumulation. As a result, social capital—the networks of trust and cooperation that bind communities together—gradually diminishes. In times of crisis or need, societies with weakened social bonds often struggle to mobilize collective support and solidarity.

Strong communities are built not on wealth alone, but on empathy, cooperation and shared purpose. When these qualities are neglected, the social fabric that sustains human well-being begins to unravel.

The effects of materialism extend far beyond human relationships and mental health; they also pose serious environmental challenges. The constant demand for new products drives excessive consumption, resource depletion, waste generation

and environmental degradation.

Industries driven by fast-changing consumer trends, particularly the fashion and electronics sectors, contribute significantly to pollution and carbon emissions. The pursuit of endless consumption places enormous strain on natural resources and accelerates ecological damage.

If current patterns continue unchecked, future generations may inherit a planet burdened by depleted resources, biodiversity loss and worsening climate-related challenges. Sustainable living requires a fundamental shift away from excessive consumption toward responsible stewardship of the environment.

In response to these growing concerns, many scholars, social thinkers and environmental advocates are calling for a cultural shift toward mindful consumption and purposeful living. Movements such as minimalism encourage individuals to prioritize experiences, meaningful relationships, personal growth and community engagement over the accumulation of possessions.

Researchers have suggested that long-term happiness is more closely linked to strong relationships, a sense of belonging, meaningful work and contribution to society than to material wealth alone. Likewise, sustainable consumption practices

can help reduce environmental harm while promoting a more balanced and fulfilling lifestyle.

Material prosperity is not inherently harmful. Economic progress remains essential for improving quality of life and addressing societal needs. However, when material wealth becomes the sole measure of success, the consequences can be profound—affecting mental health, weakening social bonds and threatening environmental sustainability.

As society navigates the complexities of the twenty-first century, it is crucial to reassess the values that guide our lives. A more balanced and holistic approach—one that places relationships, community, compassion and environmental responsibility alongside economic achievement—can help restore a sense of purpose and connection.

Materialism may offer immediate gratification, but its long-term costs are becoming increasingly apparent. By embracing values that prioritize human well-being over material accumulation, we can build a more compassionate, resilient and sustainable future for generations to come.

THE AUTHOR IS FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB PUNJAB

Path Toward Mansar Lake



■ MOOL RAJ

As Jammu and Kashmir positions itself as a premier destination for eco-spiritual tourism, Mansar Lake stands at the forefront of this transformation.

Tucked within the emerald folds of the Shivalik range, Mansar Lake remains the undisputed crown jewel of the Duggar region, serving as a living testament to the harmony between nature and divinity. Located in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, approximately 62 kilometers from the bustling hub of Jammu city and 19 kilometers from Samba town this sprawling body of water is far more than a mere geographical feature. It is a vibrant tapestry of Vedic mythology, ecological significance, and the resilient cultural spirit of the Dogra people. In 2026, as the global travel landscape shifts toward "slow travel" and spiritual grounding, Mansar Lake has evolved into a sophisticated destination that bridges the gap between ancient legend and modern sustainability.

The lake's very existence is inextricably linked to the Indian epic, the Mahabharata, lending it a sanctity that earns it the prestigious title of the "Mansarovar of the Duggar region." Local tradition vividly recounts the aftermath of the Kurukshetra war, when the warrior Arjuna performed the Ashwamedha Yagna. In a twist of fate, Arjuna's sacrificial horse was intercepted by Babruvahana, the ruler of this land who was, unbeknownst to him, Arjuna's own son. The ensuing battle saw the fall of the legendary Pandava, a tragedy that triggered a desperate quest for redemption. Overcome with grief upon discovering his lineage, Babruvahana sought the Mani, a divine jewel, from the serpent king Sheshnag in the underworld to revive his father. Tradition holds that he pierced the earth with a single arrow to create a tunnel—the entrance of which became Surinsar Lake—and eventually emerged

at the spot where the earth split and water gushed forth to form Mansar.

To this day, the Sheshnag Temple on the eastern bank stands as a silent sentinel of this history, where the air is often thick with the scent of incense and the sound of bells. Devotees flock here not just for ritual, but to feel the weight of a story that has survived millennia, offering milk and prayers to the serpent deity. The spiritual atmosphere is further enriched by the presence of the Durga and Umapati Mahadev temples, which complete a sacred circuit anchoring the lake's identity. Mansar is truly the heartbeat of local social customs; it is a common sight to see newly married couples performing the Parikrama, or circumambulation, of the lake's four-kilometer perimeter to seek blessings for a long and harmonious union. Similarly, families gather on the banks for the Mundan ceremony, the first ritualistic tonsuring of a child, believing that these sacred waters ensure a prosperous and protected future.

Beyond its divine reputation, Mansar is a biological marvel that demands conservation. Since its designation as a Ramsar Site in November 2005, the Surinsar-Mansar wetland complex has gained international recognition for its critical role in biodiversity. As part of the Mansar-Surinsar Wildlife Sanctuary, the lake provides a sanctuary for a diverse array of fauna, including spotted deer, nilgai, and various species of monkeys that play among the surrounding forests. For birdwatchers, the lake is a seasonal paradise; the waters host both resident species and migratory guests that fly in from the far reaches of Siberia during the winter months. Below the surface, the lake is famous for its thriving population of fish and its ancient, large tortoises, which have become a star attraction for children and nature enthusiasts alike.

Recent conservation efforts in 2024 and 2025 have focused on sophisticated desilting and eco-restoration projects, ensuring that the underground springs feeding the lake remain unclogged and vibrant. The introduction of solar-powered aeration systems has further improved oxygen levels for aquatic life, showcasing a commitment to 21st-century stewardship that protects the lake's ecological integrity for future generations. For the casual visitor, Mansar offers a serene escape from the stifling heat of the northern plains. The well-

maintained walking path that circles the lake is perfect for morning meditation or a peaceful evening stroll, where the calm water beautifully reflects the shifting colors of the sky.

The tourism experience has become increasingly diverse, with boating remaining a primary attraction; paddle and row boats allow visitors to drift into the center of the lake for a unique perspective of the Shivalik foothills. The culinary landscape around Mansar has also seen a delightful revival. While standard fare is readily available, there is a growing movement to promote authentic Dogra cuisine, particularly during the Food and Craft Meas held in late autumn. Visitors can sample the famous Kalari, a dense and stretchy traditional cheese often called the "mozzarella of the mountains," alongside spicy Kimb salads and sweet-and-sour Ambal. The lake truly comes alive during the Baisakhi Festival in April, an explosion of Dogri folk songs, Kud dances, and local handicrafts that draws thousands of tourists and showcases the region's rich intangible heritage.

As Jammu and Kashmir positions itself as a premier destination for eco-spiritual tourism, Mansar Lake stands at the forefront of this transformation. Significant investments in infrastructure, including better road connectivity from the new expressway corridors and the introduction of battery-operated transport around the site, have made the lake more accessible than ever without compromising its inherent tranquility. This careful balance of growth and preservation ensures that Mansar remains a symbol of Jammu's history, faith, and natural beauty. It is a location where the arrow of Babruvahana still resonates in the quiet lapping of the waves, and where the modern traveler can find a rare sense of belonging to both the earth and the heavens. Whether one visits for the deep-rooted mythology, the vibrant wildlife, or the simple joy of a sunset over the water, Mansar Lake fills the heart with a profound sense of peace. It remains, as it has for centuries, a shining and indispensable jewel of the Duggar region, reflecting the soul of its people in its crystal-clear depths.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER



## BOOK REVIEW



MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

The author is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

# A Critical Review of Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar, Compiled by Sheen Shakeel

Languages remain alive and continue to grow because of the efforts of sincere people who dedicate their lives to their promotion and development. Such individuals work tirelessly for literature and culture without expecting rewards or recognition. One such personality is Sultan Akhtar, whose literary, journalistic, and social contributions have been beautifully documented in the book Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar, compiled by the noted writer and editor Sheen. Shakeel of Aurangabad.

However, this book contains much more than just a mere biographical information about Sultan Akhtar. It is a chronicle of all the activities performed by him for the sake of the promotion of Urdu. This volume is a compilation of articles, essays, poems, letters, and literary criticism about the person who has been working for the progress of Urdu.

It must be mentioned that the compiler of this book, Sheen. Shakeel deserves gratitude for compiling it in such a thoughtful way. There can be felt a respectful attitude of the author to Sultan Akhtar in it, though the compilation is quite informative. The compiler's note and acknowledgements are presented at the beginning of the book and help the reader realize what is the purpose of publishing this book and why Sultan Akhtar's works are significant.

This book is dedicated to a respected person whose name is Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi, and who is well known for his international works for promoting Urdu language. This dedication gives additional information about the idea of this book and the significance of the literary links between different countries. At the very beginning of the book, congratulatory poems from various well-known poets and writers are presented.

One of the most interesting and enlightening parts of the book comprises of analytical essays as well as appreciations written by famous literary personalities who have discussed numerous aspects of Sultan Akhtar's literary career. In fact, through the works of different

scholars and critics it is revealed that Sultan Akhtar not only writes but he also serves as a literary promoter and organizer.

Contributors to this section include some well-respected literary personalities like Noor-ul-Hasnain, Ghulam Saqib, Rafiq Jafar, M. Mubeen, Dr. Ibrahim Afsar, and Dr. Shabbir Iqbal. Each author discusses different aspects of Sultan Akhtar's literary personality; for instance, simplicity of style, social significance of his writings, commitment to the cause of truth and effective communication with the readers.

Another interesting aspect of the life and work of Sultan Akhtar discussed throughout the book is that of afsan-chi, which means writer of very short story. Critics have observed that the writings of Sultan Akhtar in this respect carry simple language and contain social relevance and human values. In fact, it can be said that these writings serve as a mirror for ordinary citizens as they reflect their life and social reality.

The biography gives comprehensive information regarding his personal as well as academic background that is important to analyze the literary path of Sultan Akhtar. He was born on 1 June 1980 in Solapur, Maharashtra. He pursued higher studies and obtained his degrees such as M.A. in Urdu and B.Ed. In terms of profession, he is connected with teaching and journalism. Both of these professions are helping him in contributing towards the growth of intellectuality of the society by stimulating their interest in Urdu language and literature.

Alongside his professional career, Sultan Akhtar is an active participant in literary societies as well. He holds the post of President of Bharatiya Urdu Kaas Foundation, Solapur, where he works consistently for promoting Urdu.

The book goes on to describe Sultan Akhtar's contributions as an editor and compiler of literary books. He has compiled several literary books in different genres throughout his life. Some notable examples include Aath Aane Ki Mithaas,



America Mein Urdu Ke Alam Bardar: Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi, Sikandar Fahmi, Muslim Science Daanon Ki Sainsi Khidmaat, and Nazir Ba Naam Sultan Akhtar. Other important compilations from his work include Naqsh-e-Wafa, Palkon Par Khwab, Dr. Javed Hussain Paloji, Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi: Hayat-o-Jihat, and Sargoshiyan.

Another important contribution of Sultan Akhtar's work is his association with different literary gatherings and cultural activities. The book describes how Sultan Akhtar organized a number of literary and cultural seminars, conferences, mushairas, release functions of different books, and online literary sessions ever since the foundation of Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi was set up in 2011.

These contributions have earned him several honors and awards. They include Maharashtra State Urdu Sahitya Academy Special Award (2025), Waris Urdu Sahafat Award (2023), Urdu Dost Award, Sufi Muhammad Ilyas Chishti Azizi Award, Ideal Teacher Award, and Nishan-e-

Imtiaz Urdu Award. This indicates that people have accorded him immense respect for his contributions over the years.

One of the most intriguing parts of the book is the section of letter writing. In today's world, the practice of literary correspondence is not very popular. However, Sultan Akhtar has succeeded in making this tradition survive by collecting many letters addressed to him. Not only have they contributed to preserving this literary form, but they also help in enriching it further since the letters discuss various aspects related to literature, language, criticism, and current events.

The letters include exchanges with a number of literary luminaries like Saleem Ansari, Qamar Jamali, Rashid Farooqi, Dr. Mohiuddin Zor Kashmiri, Dr. Ubaidullah Chaudhary, Dr. Tarannum Jahan, Muzaffar Hanafi, Waqar Shahsawar, etc. They can be extremely enlightening to literary critics and scholars who may wish to analyze the literary trends and

discourse of their times.

A number of the contributors to the book consider Sultan Akhtar as a real servant of the Urdu language. They appreciate the sincerity, devotion, and selflessness of the author and point out that he has served Urdu for many years without any personal interest. His friends and colleagues know him as a dynamic and dedicated literary person who has worked hard for the cause of the Urdu language.

There is a discussion on his style of writing in the book as well. It is said that he uses simple language which is understandable to everyone. He does not use complicated terms but makes his points crystal clear. This quality has made him quite popular among the people.

In terms of publishing, the book is also remarkable. It has been published by the Educational Publishing House, Delhi. It has a total of 112 pages, and the high quality of printing enhances its aesthetic appeal further. The beautiful cover page designed by Munawwara Uzma has certainly added to its value.

In conclusion, Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar proves to be a highly significant document for Urdu literature documentation. This book is successful in capturing and documenting the life and literary contributions of a dedicated personality who has done much for Urdu language and literature. It is indeed appreciable to note the efforts of the compiler, Sheen. Shakeel, for gathering such a rich set of literary documents and arranging them so well.

It is useful for lovers of the personality described in the book, and for anyone who wishes to know about contemporary Urdu literature. Not only does it pay homage to a single individual, but it also reflects on the ongoing endeavors being made to promote Urdu in modern times. Most importantly, it makes one realize how vital it is for a language to have individuals like Sultan Akhtar who carry forward its legacy for future generations through their passion and dedication.

# Hidden Flame of NCC Cadets



M S NAZKI

Not a loud excitement, not a visible celebration, but a silent fire glowing within – this is what the cadets of the National Cadet Corps truly represent. Boys and girls in NCC uniforms carry within themselves a hidden enthusiasm, a cold flame of passion, discipline and patriotism that quietly shapes their character and strengthens the nation. Their enthusiasm is not measured by applause or recognition, but by dedication, endurance and the willingness to serve without expecting reward.

Life becomes meaningful when enthusiasm drives action. An unknown NCC cadet once reflected that if one is interested in something, it must be embraced completely – with passion, commitment and courage. Lukewarm dedication achieves little, but a burning determination transforms ordinary youth into extraordinary citizens. This spirit defines NCC cadets across India. They are taught not merely to wear

uniforms or march in parades, but to believe in themselves, protect society and stand prepared for every challenge.

The modern NCC is evolving rapidly under the vision of "Naya Bharat ka Naya NCC." During his visit to NCC Guwahati Group on May 11, 2026, Lieutenant General Virendra Vats, accompanied by Major General Anurag Vij, reviewed training, outreach and performance. The Director General appreciated the dedication of officers and cadets and stressed the importance of futuristic training in cyber security and drone technology while reinforcing the timeless values of unity, discipline and selfless service. The vision is clear – to create confident, technologically capable and patriotic youth prepared for the demands of the twenty-first century.

Today, NCC is growing into a stronger and smarter organisation with nearly twenty lakh cadets, including around forty percent girls. This remarkable participation of women reflects a major shift towards empowerment and equal opportunity. The organisation is spreading rapidly into rural India and has established its presence in more than seven hundred districts. Through this expansion, NCC is nurturing discipline, leadership and self-belief among young Indians from every corner of the nation.

Technology has become a vital part of NCC training. Cadets are now receiving exposure to drone operations, cyber awareness and digital defence systems. A partnership with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology has enabled cadets to learn digital hygiene and practical cyber defence skills. Such training is preparing youth for the realities of a technologically driven world where future warfare and national security increasingly depend upon cyber capability and unmanned systems.

The National Cadet Corps itself has a proud and inspiring history. Formed in 1948, shortly after India's independence, NCC emerged from earlier organisations such as the University Corps and University Training Corps established during British rule. The first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, played a significant role in promoting NCC as a national youth movement dedicated to discipline, service and unity. The Girls Division was introduced in 1949, while the Air Wing and Naval Wing followed soon after, transforming NCC into a complete Tri-Services organisation.

Over the decades, NCC cadets have contributed immensely during national crises. During the wars of 1965 and 1971, cadets supported civil defence authorities, assisted ordnance factories, managed traffic and participated in

rescue operations. The organisation gradually shifted its focus from pure military training to leadership development, social service and youth management. Today, NCC cadets actively participate in nationwide community programmes, disaster response activities and social awareness campaigns.

The motto of NCC – "Unity and Discipline" – perfectly captures its spirit. It brings together youth from different religions, languages, cultures and regions and moulds them into disciplined citizens committed to the nation. In an age where division and negativity often dominate public life, NCC continues to stand as one of India's greatest unifying forces.

Lieutenant General Virendra Vats himself embodies the ideals of dedication and service. Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment in 1988, he has served in several important military appointments including command positions in the North East, Kashmir and international peacekeeping missions in Congo. Decorated with the Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal and Yudh Seva Medal, he now leads NCC with a futuristic vision focused on technological preparedness, leadership and patriotism.

Modern warfare itself is undergoing a revolutionary transformation. Cyber attacks, artificial intelligence and drone

warfare are redefining battlefields across the world. AI-guided drones, autonomous swarms and advanced counter-drone systems are becoming essential elements of military strategy. Recognising this changing reality, NCC is preparing cadets not just for traditional service but for the future challenges of digital and technological conflict. Human-machine coordination, cyber awareness and technological adaptability are becoming as important as physical strength and discipline.

Yet beyond all training and technology lies the true spirit of NCC – enthusiasm. It is the silent electricity of life that transforms fear into courage and ordinary individuals into determined leaders. A small child once touched a frightening insect and proudly declared, "I conquered my fear." That same fearless enthusiasm lives within every NCC cadet who learns to rise above hesitation and serve with confidence.

Ultimately, enthusiasm is the force that separates mediocrity from achievement. It is passion, determination, courage and belief combined together. The NCC teaches young Indians that service to the nation is not merely a duty but a way of life. Behind every cadet's calm face burns a hidden flame – a cold fire of patriotism, discipline and selfless devotion that continues to illuminate the future of India.

# Satish Sharma terms sports a strong weapon against drug abuse

## COMMENDS BSF'S ROLE IN NATION BUILDING AT SPANDAN LEAGUE CLOSING CEREMONY

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAY 24:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, today attended the closing ceremony of the BSF Jammu Region Lawn Tennis Spandan League 2026 held at the Tennis Court, SHQ BSF, Indreshwar Nagar, Miran Sahib, Jammu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Highlighting sports as one of the most effective deterrents against substance abuse, the Minister said that active participation in sports keeps young minds positively engaged and channels their energy towards productive and meaningful pursuits. "Every young individual who chooses sports chooses discipline over addiction and determination over distraction. Sports create a sense of belonging and purpose, helping youth stay away from destructive influences," the Minister said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of TABASUM.NABI D/O GH NABI BHAT R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his own favor

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BHAT community having annual income 603936// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..GH NABI BHAT Father 59 years Govt employee
- 2...NASEEMA BAGUM Mother 54 years H/W
- 3...SABREENA NABI sister 24 years student
- 4...TABASUM.NABI self 21 years student
5. HAIFA NABI sister 14 years student
- 6.... ABIROO NABI sister 10 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my father's name Lt BASHIR AHMAD GANAI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 02120400007 wants to be registered on my name ADIL BASHIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD GANAI If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....ADIL BASHIR  
S/O...LT BASHIR AHMAD GANAI  
R/O ...KREERI  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my husband's name HASSAN MIR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002609 wants to be registered on my name HAFIZA BEGUM W/O HASSAN MIR If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....HAFIZA BEGUM  
W/O...HASSAN MIR  
R/O...KALANTRA BALA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father's name MALLA MOHDA (GHULAM MOHI UD DIN MALLA ) Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002549 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD MALLA S/O late MALLA MOHDA If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MANZOOR AHMAD MALLA  
S/O ...LATE MALLA MOHDA  
(Ghulam Mohi ud Din Malla)  
R/O...KALANTRA BALA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

### Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the consumer recorded in the electricity records of JKPLC Wagoora under Consumer ID No. 021204000298 has been entered wrongly as Gulshan Mir S/o Mohd Abdullah Mir R/o Soripora Kreeri.

The correct name of the consumer is Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/o Soripora Kreeri.

Now, therefore, objections, if any, regarding the correction/change of name should be conveyed to the office of JKPLC Wagoora within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained and the concerned department shall proceed with the correction accordingly.

Applicant:

Ghulam Mohammad Mir  
S/o Mohammad Abdullah Mir  
R/o Soripora Kreeri  
Consumer ID: 021204000298

## Series of awareness camps held across Rajouri under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, MAY 24:** As part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness programmes, outreach activities and pledge-taking ceremonies were organized across district Rajouri today to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society.

An awareness programme on Nasha Mukht Abhiyan was organized by the Municipal Committee Thanamandi at the MC Hall. The programme witnessed participation from Municipal workers, employees of PHE and members from civil society. Speakers highlighted the ill effects of drug addiction and urged participants to actively contribute towards building a drug-free society. The programme was appreciated for its effective outreach and awareness generation among the attendees.

The Rural Development Department organized awareness programmes across all Panchayats of the district. Panchayat functionaries, field staff and locals were sensitized to the harmful consequences of substance abuse. They were motivated to play an active role in spreading awareness at the grassroots level to evolve a drug-free society.

Pledge-taking programmes were organized at Doongi, Barmandal, Chowki, Peli, Patrara and Ratal Panchayats. The locals and ex-panchayat representatives pledged to reaffirm their commitment to continue their fight against drug abuse.

At Kalakote, a Nasha Mukht Abhiyan programme was held at the Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel to educate students and locals about the dire consequences of substance abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

The Forest Department also organized awareness activities under the campaign in different forest ranges and blocks of the district.

Programmes were conducted at Block Budhal-B under Kandi Range, Block Kalalkas at Badhoon Chowk in Forest Range Kandi and in Comapartment No. 108/R of Thanamandi Block. Officials and field staff interacted with locals and spread awareness regarding the need for collective efforts to eradicate drug abuse from society.

### Public Notice

I have last Number plate of my vehicle (Bike) bearing No JK05 G4588 at somewhere Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may contact with ARTO SOPORE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....AADIL AHMAD KHAN  
S/O ...SHABIR AHMAD KHAN  
R/O ...HAIL JAGIR KREERI  
Dist...BARAMULLA

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MUHAMMAD ASHRAF TELI S/O HABIBULLAH TELI R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward classes ) in Favor of daughter RAFIA ASHRAF.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the TELI community having annual income 110000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MUHAMMAD ASHRAF TELI Father 43 years Farmer
- 2..SHAMEEMA BEGUM Mother 41 years H/W
- 3... RAFIA ASHRAF applicant 16 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

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# Jan Bhagidaari Week: Tribal Welfare & Jan Sunwai Camps strengthen last-mile governance across Kishtwar

ADDC chairs major outreach camp at Kither- Bounjwah to redress public issues

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**KISHTWAR, MAY 24:** In continuation to the 7-day Mega IEC Campaign "Jan Bhagidaari Sabse Door-Sabse Pehle," the district administration Kishtwar on day-6 organised a series of Awareness, Tribal Welfare and Benefit Saturation Camps across remote tribal belts of the district to ensure inclusive governance and last-mile delivery of welfare schemes.

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

At the awareness/Beneficiaries Saturation Camp-cum-Jan Sunwai held at PS Know, Block Bounjwah, the programme was presided over

by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vinod Kumar Behnal.

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

Several public issues were raised during the Jan Sunwai, particularly by the residents of Kither area. The major concerns included soil erosion in nallah areas, damaged water supply pipes, requirement of electric poles, construction of bridges, urgent restoration of "khuls" (traditional irrigation canals) and construction of roadside drains to prevent water from damaging agricultural land.

The ADDC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for immediate



redressal of several issues. The Jal Shakti Department was directed to address water supply and soil erosion concerns, while the Power Development Department was instructed to ensure electrification of every household.

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

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

Departmental stalls were also established to disseminate information regarding welfare schemes and citizen-centric services.

Officers and officials from multiple departments, includ-

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

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

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

## Rahul Gandhi become biggest source of rumours & negativity: Bali Bhagat

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU, MAY 24:** Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat on Sunday launched a fierce attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his reported statement predicting the fall of the Narendra Modi-led government within a year, accusing him of spreading misinformation, promoting instability and attempting to create unrest after repeated electoral defeats.

Bhagat said Rahul Gandhi's remarks made during the Congress Party's minority advisory meeting exposed the "desperation, frustration and anti-democratic mindset" of the Congress party.

"Rahul Gandhi's statement is not a casual political remark. It reflects a dangerous conspiracy to destabilise a democratically elected government through confusion, unrest and anarchy. After repeated defeats, Rahul Gandhi is now dreaming of capturing power through chaos because he knows the people are rejecting him electorally," Bhagat said.

He asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to enjoy the trust and blessings of 140 crore Indians and said no conspiracy can weaken a government backed by the people's mandate.

"The Modi government stands strong because it is built on the faith of the people, not on appeasement, propaganda or dynastic politics. Governments in India are changed through ballots, not through manufactured unrest," he added.

Taking a sharp dig at Rahul Gandhi, Bhagat said the Congress MP has failed to uphold the dignity of the Leader of Opposition's post and has instead become "the biggest source of rumours, negativity and misinformation in the country."

"He has no vision, no seriousness and no connect with the aspirations of modern India. His politics today revolves around spreading lies, dividing society and weakening public confidence," Bhagat alleged.

The BJP leader further attacked Congress leaders for allegedly using abusive language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"These are the same Congress leaders who keep abusing Prime Minister Modi day and night. Rahul Gandhi called the Prime Minister a 'traitor', while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge compared him to a 'terrorist'. People of the country can clearly see their mentality. Those who have no moral ground, no political credibility and no respect for democratic institutions cannot lecture the nation or make predictions about India's future," Bhagat said. He claimed Congress has lost relevance across the country and survives only due to regional political equations.

"The Congress party has virtually disappeared from large parts of North and East India. Wherever it wins, it is because other parties lose ground, not because people trust Rahul Gandhi," he said.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's earlier predictions, Bhagat said Congress has a history of making "baseless claims." "In 2019, after Congress was reduced to 44 seats, Rahul Gandhi claimed people would rise against PM Modi. Instead, the country gave Modi ji an even stronger mandate. Today again, he cannot digest India's growing global stature under Modi's leadership," he said.

Concluding his remarks, Bhagat said Congress has abandoned Gandhian values and transformed into "a frustrated and directionless force driven only by hatred for Narendra Modi."

"This is no longer the Congress of national interest and democratic values. Continuous defeats have pushed the party into political frustration and dangerous conspiracies," he said.

## District administration Ramban conducts Jan Sunwai Camps at Bhingara, Dedha under PM JANMAN, DA-JGUA Abhiyan

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**RAMBAN, MAY 24:** District Administration Ramban on Sunday conducted Grievances Redressal Camps (Jan Sunwai) at Village Bhingara in Pogal Paristan, Sub Division Ramsoo and Village Kalla, Dedhain-Sub Division Gool as part of the "Jan Bhagidaari - Sabse Door Sabse Pehle Abhiyan" under PM JANMAN and DA-JGUA, successfully

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

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

The local residents projected several issues related to water supply, road connectivity, health facilities and educational infrastructure. The officers patiently listened to the grievances and registered them for systematic redressal.

Meanwhile, a similar Jan Sunwai camp was organised at



Village Dedha Ward No. 06 Kalla in Gool Sub Division. The officers from multiple departments interacted with the public and facilitated access to government schemes and services.

The residents raised issues concerning water supply, power supply, road connectivity and

educational facilities. The grievances were heard patiently by the officers, and necessary directions were issued for timely redressal.

Several issues at both locations were resolved on the spot through inter-departmental coordination, while clear time-

lines were set for matters requiring further action. The outreach initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring doorstep governance and extending the benefits of centrally sponsored schemes to the most remote and underserved tribal populations.

The locals appreciated the district administration for organising the camps in far-flung areas, stating that such initiatives help bridge the gap between the administration and the people while ensuring easy access to government services and welfare schemes.

## NIT SRINAGAR SET FOR MEGA GLOBAL ALUMNI MEET 'SANGAM 3.0' ON MAY 30

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR, MAY 24:** The newly elected Executive Committee of the REC/NIT Srinagar Alumni Association reviewed the final arrangements for the upcoming Global Alumni Meet-2026, "SANGAM 3.0," scheduled to be held on May 30 at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with the participation of more than 100 alumni.

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

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

The committee also finalized logistical preparations for the inaugural function scheduled on May 30.

Organizers stated that alumni from different parts of the country and abroad are expected to participate in the event, aimed at strengthening

institutional bonds and fostering collaboration among alumni, students, and faculty members.

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

The newly elected Executive Committee announced for 2026-2029 includes Er. Malay Chatterjee (Civil Engineering, 1979-1984) as President, Er. Sayyed Parvaiz Qalandar (Civil Engineering, 1975-1980) as Vice President of the leadership body, and Er. Irfan Rashid Ashai as General Secretary. Other office bearers include Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Soti (Civil Engineering) and Er. Muzafar Ahmad Beigh, who will serve in key leadership and coordination roles within the association. Farhan Manzoor (Electrical Engineering, 2006-2010) has been appointed Additional Secretary-II, while Dr. Sajad Hussain Din (Mechanical Engineering, 2017) will serve as Joint Secretary-I. Er. Toyibah (Chemical Engineering, 2014-2018) has been named Joint Secretary-II, Er. Mohd Hanief Dar (PhD Civil Engineering) as Joint Secretary-III, and Dr. Sajad Ahmad Mir (PhD Physics, 2016) as Treasurer-cum-Cashier.

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

"SANGAM 3.0 would further strengthen the bond between the institute and its alumni while opening new avenues for academic, research, and industry collaboration," he added. Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Atikur Rehman said the Institute administration is committed to extending full support for the successful conduct of the global alumni meet.

He stated that such initiatives help in building a vibrant alumni ecosystem that contributes significantly towards the growth and development of the institution. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) M.A. Shah congratulated the newly elected team and expressed confidence that the association would play a significant role in enhancing alumni engagement, academic collaboration, mentoring initiatives, and institutional development.

On the occasion, Dr. H. S Pali emphasized the importance of alumni participation in shaping the future roadmap of the institute. He said SANGAM 3.0 would serve as a vibrant platform for meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas among alumni across generations. Er. Sayyed Parvaiz Qalandar expressed gratitude to the alumni fraternity for reposing trust in the new team and said the committee would work with dedication and commitment to serve the alma mater to the best of its capabilities while strengthening the global alumni network of NIT Srinagar.

## Electricity Crisis in Bishnah: Neeraj Kundan Demands Immediate Resolution of Power Cuts

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**BISHNAH, MAY 24:** A constituency-level meeting was organized today at Morchapur in Bishnah Constituency by Madan Bhagat Ji. The meeting was graced by the presence of Constituency Incharge Sh. Dwarka Choudhary Ji.

District President Neeraj Kundan strongly highlighted the ongoing electricity crisis in the area while addressing the gathering.

He said, "Smart meters have been installed in the area but reliable power supply is still not available. Daily power cuts are severely affecting the public, especially the farming community. This electricity crisis needs immediate resolution."

Neeraj Kundan further stressed the need for strengthening the party at the grassroots level and resolving public issues.

"We must work collectively to make our organization strong from the booth level to the constituency level. Our priority is to make every worker active and connected with the people. We are reaching every village and household in Bishnah Constituency to listen to their real issues and problems," he added.

He appealed to all party workers: "I urge every karyakarta to participate wholeheartedly in this constituency-level campaign. Let us turn this into a mass movement. Our strength lies in unity and continuous ground-level work. Together, we will resolve public issues, including the electricity crisis, and strengthen the party in every corner of Bishnah Constituency."

# Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri Holds Key Literary Meeting, Organises Anti-Drug Mushaira



HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAY 24:** A significant literary and organisational meeting of the Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri was held under the chairmanship of its president Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, where various important matters related to the forum's literary, cultural and organisational activities were discussed in detail.

The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by comprehensive discussions on the forum's ongoing activities and future programmes. Special attention was given to the pub-

lication of the forum's literary magazine "Anhar", preparations for the proposed Baba Reshi Conference, encouragement of young writers, and future literary initiatives.

Speakers highlighted the importance of literary and cultural activities in promoting positive thinking, cultural awareness and creative expression within society.

During the meeting, it was decided that the literary magazine "Anhar" would be further strengthened and expanded by introducing a permanent Urdu section alongside its Kashmiri section, thereby providing better opportunities to

writers associated with Urdu language and literature to showcase their creative works.

The forum also resolved to establish a special section titled "Yaad-e-Raftagan" in the magazine to pay tribute to deceased poets, writers and former members associated with the forum. The section will preserve and highlight the literary, cultural and social contributions of personalities who played an important role in strengthening the literary traditions of the region.

In his presidential address, Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim said that the present body of the forum would continue to work sincerely for the promo-

tion of literature, culture and intellectual values by following the rich legacy of its predecessors and senior members. He reiterated the forum's commitment to seeking continuous guidance and consultation from senior poets, writers and intellectuals to further strengthen its literary traditions.

A key resolution was also adopted during the meeting, stating that organisational discipline would be strictly maintained and that any form of indiscipline, unnecessary propaganda or activities against the forum would not be tolerated. It was further decided that disciplinary action would be initi-

ated against members who remain continuously absent from meetings or attempt to undermine the dignity of the forum.

New members who recently joined the forum were welcomed during the session, with participants expressing hope that their inclusion would bring greater dynamism and freshness to the forum's literary activities.

Following the meeting, a grand and thought-provoking mushaira titled "Nasha Mukht Abhiyan" was organised. The poetic symposium was presided over by noted poet and writer Noor ud Din Hosh Wanigami, while the proceedings

were conducted by the forum's General Secretary Syed Sharif Qadri. The presidium also included Syed Saad ud Din Saadi, Roshan Qamar and Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim.

Poets participating in the mushaira presented literary works focusing on social evils, the responsibilities of the younger generation, moral values and awareness against drug abuse. Their performances received wide appreciation from the audience.

The meeting and mushaira were attended by several distinguished literary personalities and members, including Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim,

Syed Saad ud Din Saadi, Noor ud Din Hosh Wanigami, Roshan Qamar, Syed Sharif Qadri, Syed Ghulam Mohiuddin Andrabi, Mumtaz Rashid, Rashid Roshan, Mumtaz Hamdani, Shaukat Tilgami, Abid Ashraf, Mohiuddin Dilawar, Syed Tasaddiq Danish, Mohammad Ashraf Ashraf, Mushtaq Arsalan, Abu Salihi and others.

Concluding the programme, Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim thanked all participants, poets and guests, expressing hope that the Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri would continue its positive contributions towards literature, culture, public awareness and social reform in the future.

## Cummins on Malinga and Sakib: 'A captain's dream'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD:** Pat Cummins is one of the world's most celebrated fast bowlers, but he has admitted to learning from the way his colleagues at Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have bowled during IPL 2026, picking out Eshan Malinga and Sakib Hussain for their impact through the season.

Malinga is SRH's leading wicket-taker with 19 strikes in 14 games, and Sakib, in his debut season, has picked up 15 in 10 games. The two of them were instrumental in SRH's 55-run win over Roy-



al Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Friday night, using their slower balls to telling effect during RCB's chase and finishing with combined figures of 8-0-64-3. Their combined economy rate of 8.00 was particularly impressive given that SRH had posted a mammoth 255 for 4 batting first.

Malinga and Sakib made crucial contributions in the powerplay, bowling three overs between them in that phase and taking a wicket each to slow down RCB after Venkatesh Iyer had given them a blazing start.

"They've been fantastic," Cummins said after the match. "I've actually learned a lot off those guys as well, the way Eshan's bowled all season, particularly in that powerplay, he's been the form bowler of the comp, with his slower balls and he's mixing up different things, and of course, Sakib there as well, so captain's dream." SRH's victory meant they ended the league stage tied on 18 points with RCB and Gujarat Titans (GT), but the latter two teams finished in the top two spots courtesy their superior net run rate (NRR). SRH's effort with the bat put them in a position to leapfrog RCB into the top two, but they would have needed to restrict RCB to below 166 if they had to do so.

# Raghuvanshi ruled out of IPL 2026 after suffering concussion and finger fracture

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHANDIGARH:** Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) wicketkeeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been ruled out of the remainder of IPL 2026 due to a concussion and a fracture on a finger of his left hand. Raghuvanshi suffered the twin blows as a result of a collision with team-mate Varun Chakravarty while attempting to take a catch in KKR's previous match, against Mumbai Indians (MI), on Wednesday.

On the fifth ball of the 11th over of MI's innings, Tilak Varma risked an attempted slog off Varun. While Varun moved to his

left with his eyes on the ball, Raghuvanshi also rushed towards the bowler. The two eventually collided, and Varun dropped the catch on impact with Raghuvanshi despite having taken it cleanly while falling to the ground. Raghuvanshi walked off the field four balls into the 14th over of the innings, and was replaced by substitute wicketkeeper Tejasvi Dahiya.

When KKR chased, they sent in Manish Pandey instead of Raghuvanshi at No. 3, with the latter out due to concussion. Eventually, Dahiya officially replaced Raghuvanshi as the concussion substitute in the match.



Dahiya came out to bat at No. 7 when KKR required 24 runs to

win in 28 balls in their chase of 148, and scored 11 off 12 balls before being dismissed by Corbin Bosch.

With 422 runs in 13 matches, Raghuvanshi is KKR's highest run-getter this season. That includes hitting five half-centuries in 12 innings, and marks the second successive season when he has tallied 300 or more runs for KKR. KKR next play Delhi Capitals (DC) at Eden Gardens on Sunday, in what is the last league-stage fixture of the season. While DC are out of the race for a spot in the playoffs, not only do KKR need to beat DC but also hope that other results go their way if they are to find a place in the final four.

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