

Srinagar
Sunday
May 31 | 2026
14 Dhu'l-Hijjah, 1447 AH
Issue No: 129
Volume: 16
Pages: 08
Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS
9999038812
9419008414
Radio Colony, Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

Writers shape Civilizations and Public Thought: LG Sinha

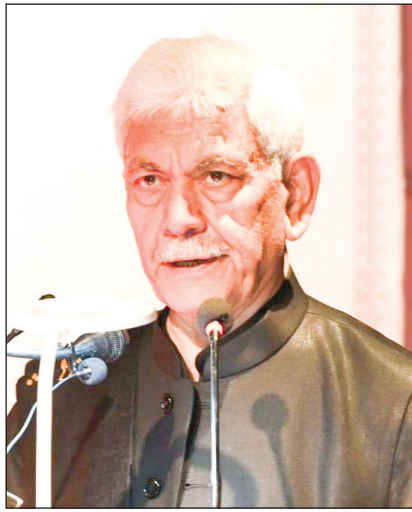
Calls For Reclaiming India's Authentic History, Asserts that Single Novel Can Achieve What Institutions Can't

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday underscored the transformative power of literature, stating that a single novel can leave a deeper and more enduring impact on society than institutions spending vast amounts of money.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Kashmir Literature Festival 2026 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Sinha said writers, poets and scholars are among the most influential architects of civilization, shaping the ideas, values and direction of societies across generations.

Turn on Page 2



Statehood Day celebration of Goa Held in Lok Bhavan

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Lok Bhavan Jammu Kashmir today hosted a special programme to mark the statehood day of Goa. The event was attended by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, senior officials,

Turn on Page 2

Zero Tolerance Towards Encroachments and Illegal Infiltration Along Border Areas: Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BHUJ/NEW DELHI, MAY 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed authorities to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards unauthorized encroachments and illegal infiltration along the India-Pakistan border, while emphasizing the need for stronger coordination among security and civil agencies to address emerging threats in border and coastal regions.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting in Bhuj, Gujarat, Shah reviewed security arrangements in the state's border and coastal districts and discussed challenges related to infiltration, smuggling, financial crimes, radicalization, drone activity and narcotics trafficking. The meeting was attended by senior Gujarat Government officials, district administrators and police chiefs from border districts.

Highlighting the progress made in recent years, Shah said that border fencing, maritime security measures and the strong commitment of the state government had brought about a significant transformation in Gujarat's security environment, leading to the complete ces-



sation of infiltration and border smuggling. Home Minister directed officials to maintain strict vigilance over unauthorized encroachments within the border belt and called for close monitoring of activities linked to radicalization in frontier areas. He also instructed District Magistrates to regularly track and report demographic changes in border districts to ensure timely assessment of security concerns.

Stressing the need for a coordinated Turn on Page 2

Over 500 Agniveers Inducted Into Army After Training In J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: A fresh batch of 540 Agniveers was on Saturday inducted into the Army after completing months of rigorous training here in Jammu and Kashmir.

An Attestation and Passing Out



Parade was held at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) Regimental Centre in the outskirts of the city here, a defence spokesman said.

In a splendid display of military precision, discipline and patriotism, 540 Agniveers of the seventh batch successfully passed out from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry

Turn on Page 2

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

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAY 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that the Indian Navy forced "the entire Pakistan Navy to remain confined to its ports during Operation Sindoor".

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 'Nausena Shaurya Vatika', an open-air naval museum here, Singh said, "The Navy played a significant role in maintaining pressure on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor."



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

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. The military conflict was halted after both

Turn on Page 2

Armed Forces Ready For Operation Sindoor 2.0 If Need Arises: Army Chief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

PUNE, MAY 30: The armed forces are fully prepared for 'Operation Sindoor 2.0' if the need arises, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi said on Saturday, asserting that all three services are enhancing synergy for modern multi-domain warfare that extends beyond land, air and sea.

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the passing-out parade of the 150th course of the National Defence

Turn on Page 2

Ladakh Well Placed to Lead by Example in Sustainable Development: LG Saxena

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, MAY 30: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on Saturday directed all government departments to implement austerity measures and sustainable practices in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for responsible resource management and environmentally conscious governance.

Stressing the need for a coordinated and time-bound approach, Saxena said Ladakh's unique ecological character and vast potential make it ideally suited to become a model for sustainable development and efficient public administration. "The Prime Minister has given a timely and visionary call for adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives, governance systems

Turn on Page 2

Had a Satisfying and Excellent Tenure: Gen Chauhan Bids Farewell

Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani to assume charge as CDS on Sunday

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 30: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Saturday concluded his tenure at the country's



highest military post, describing his service as "very satisfying and excellent" as he formally bid farewell to the armed forces after more than three years in office.

Speaking after receiving a ceremonial tri-services guard of honour, Gen Chauhan reflected on his tenure, during which he spearheaded efforts to

Turn on Page 2

Properties Worth ₹2 Crore Attached Under NDPS Act in Srinagar

Police Vows To Dismantle Financial Infrastructure Of Drug Trafficking Networks

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Reaffirming its determination to curb the drug menace, Srinagar Police on Saturday said it is committed to dismantling the financial infrastructure of drug trafficking networks, attaching immovable properties worth approx-

imately Rs.2 crore allegedly acquired through proceeds from narcotics trade.

The action forms part of an intensified anti-drug campaign aimed at targeting not only those involved in drug peddling but also the assets allegedly generated through illegal narcotics activities.

In one of the major attachments, Police Station Bemina seized a double-storey residential house along with around four marlas of land situated in Firdous Colony, Bemina, valued at nearly Rs. 1.5 crore. The property belongs to accused drug peddler Mudasir Ahmad Pir, also known as Sahil and Doge.

Police said the attachment was carried out under Section 68F(1) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after receiving confirmation from the Competent Authority under SAFEMA in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Investigations

Turn on Page 2

Dr Jitendra Launches AI Chatbot for Grievance Redressal

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, MAY 30: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, today launched the CPGRAMS AI-enabled Voice "Chatbot" "Samadhan Didi", developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Bhasini, at Kartavya Bhawan, here.

Delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh termed the transformation to CPGRAMS AI-enabled Voice Chatbot as the "Democ-



ratization of the Public Grievance Mechanism" in the nation showcasing the Government's unwavering commitment to enhance "Ease of Using" public services for citizens. He noted that a

Turn on Page 2

Justice (retd.) Ranjana Desai-led 8th CPC to visit J&K tomorrow

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: The Eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC) is scheduled to arrive in Jammu & Kashmir tomorrow for a six-day visit to interact with various stakeholders, including government employees, unions, and associations.

According to details accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the panel will be in the Union Territory from May 31 to June 5. During this period, it will hold a series of meetings with stakeholders to gather inputs for finalising its recommendations.

According to sources, a key

interaction is planned with the administration of Jammu & Kashmir at the SKICC Srinagar on June 1, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The meeting will be led by the Chief Secretary and will include additional chief secretaries from departments such as Jal Shakti, Power, Finance, CM Secretariat, Tourism, Agriculture, and Public Works. Principal Secretaries from Home, LG Secretariat, and Election Department, along with commissioner secretaries of General Administration and Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, as well as heads of the

Turn on Page 2

پیشاپہ
Preserve Your Ideas
We Bring Them to Life
LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
We Publish in
Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri
Contact us:
9697071471 | 9999038812
lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Writers shape.....

Addressing a gathering of renowned writers, historians, researchers and academicians from across the country, the Lieutenant Governor said literature possesses a unique ability to influence minds and inspire change in ways that institutions often fail to achieve despite substantial investments.

"A literary work can create an impact that institutions spending crores of rupees often cannot," he said, emphasizing the enduring power of creative expression in shaping public consciousness.

Sinha called upon India's literary and academic community to play a leading role in presenting the nation's true historical and civilizational legacy. He said India's contributions to mathematics, science, astronomy, medicine and culture must be highlighted and communicated to future generations with authenticity and confidence.

Referring to the need to move beyond colonial influences on historical interpretation, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that India must reclaim its own narrative and ensure that its achievements are neither overlooked nor distorted. He observed that inadequate documentation of the country's history had allowed misconceptions about the origins of knowledge and scientific advancement to persist.

Highlighting the enduring legacy of great authors and thinkers, Sinha said writers attain immortality through their works, which continue to guide and inspire societies long after their creators are gone.

He also spoke about India's contemporary progress, noting that the country has emerged as one of the world's leading economies and expressing confidence that it would achieve the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Rejecting the notion that reading culture is in decline, Sinha said technological advancements and digital platforms have expanded access to books and knowledge, creating unprecedented opportunities for writers and intellectuals to engage with global audiences.

The Lieutenant Governor urged scholars and writers to use these platforms to promote constructive ideas and strengthen awareness of India's civilizational heritage and modern achievements.

The two-day festival, which concludes on Sunday, features literary discussions, poetry sessions, historical debates and interactive engagements involving prominent writers, historians, researchers and academicians from across the country.

Statehood Day.....

invited guests from Goa who are living in Jammu Kashmir and artists.

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

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

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

"I strongly believe that Goa's ancient arts and vibrant heritage have enriched the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' As the Konkani proverb wisely reminds us, 'Ekvatantakad, rashtrantpragati'- unity is the bedrock of a nation's progress," he said.

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

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

Zero Tolerance.....

administrative response, Shah said all government agencies, from local revenue officials to police personnel, must work together to identify and facilitate the deportation of illegal infiltrators already settled in border regions. He further asked district administrations to prepare district-specific operating procedures to address local security challenges, including threats posed by drones and narcotics smuggling.

In a move aimed at strengthening inter-agency cooperation, Shah ordered the formation of Security Coordination Groups in every border district. These groups will include representatives from the Border Security Force, Coast Guard, Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate and banking institutions to improve intelligence-sharing and enforcement efforts.

The Home Minister also called for stringent monitoring of hawala transactions, shell companies, suspicious financial activities and money laundering networks operating in border areas. He urged enforcement agencies to work closely with financial regulators to strengthen surveillance and prevent illegal financial flows.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of coastal security, Shah directed authorities to ensure seamless coordination with the Coast Guard and enhance preparedness along the maritime boundary. He also instructed officials to ensure full implementation of all Central and State Government

welfare schemes in border villages, alongside development initiatives aimed at strengthening frontier communities.

The meeting underscored the Centre's focus on integrating security, development and governance measures to reinforce the country's border management framework and address evolving threats along sensitive frontier regions.

Over 500.....

Regimental Centre during an impressive attestation and passing out parade, he said.

Set against the majestic backdrop of the Kashmir Valley, the parade marked the transformation of young recruits into proud soldiers, ready to serve the nation with honour, courage and dedication, he said.

The spokesman said the parade was reviewed by General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps, Lt Gen PK Mishra, who complimented the Agniveers on their immaculate turnout, synchronised drill movements and exemplary standards of military bearing.

The ceremony was attended by senior military officials, civil dignitaries and proud family members, whose presence added warmth and significance to the occasion, the spokesman added.

Months of rigorous physical training, tactical instruction and character building culminated in the solemn attestation ceremony, symbolising the Agniveers' unwavering commitment to the ideals of duty, courage and selfless service, he said.

The Passing Out Parade reflected the professional excellence, discipline and rich military traditions upheld by the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, he said.

Addressing the newly attested soldiers, Lt Gen Mishra exhorted them to uphold the finest traditions and values of the Indian Army and remain steadfast in service of the nation.

The Army officer commended the Agniveers for their determination, resilience and sense of purpose displayed throughout their demanding training. Lt Gen Mishra also praised the training staff and instructors for their tireless efforts in moulding the young Agniveers into disciplined and combat-ready soldiers.

The parade reached an emotional crescendo as the young soldiers took the Oath of Allegiance and marched past with confidence and pride, the spokesman said.

As the National Flag fluttered high above the parade ground and the final salute echoed across the venue, the ceremony stood as a powerful reaffirmation of patriotism and the enduring commitment of India's youth towards the unity, integrity and security of the nation.

The successful completion of training by the seventh batch of Agniveers marks another significant milestone in the Indian Army's efforts to nurture a new generation of motivated, disciplined and technologically adept soldiers, the spokesman said.

He said their induction into the ranks strengthens the Army's operational capabilities and reinforces its commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. (Agencies)

Indian Navy.....

sides reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

Talking about the opening of the Nausena Shaurya Vatika, which has been designed to showcase the legacy, operational capabilities and maritime achievements of the Indian Navy, Singh said it is not only a moment of pride and honour for the people of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh, "but also for us personally".

"In the coming years, this facility will not only become a centre of inspiration for Lucknow but will also develop into a tourist hub and emerge as one of the city's defining landmarks."

Earlier, Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Saurya Vatika in the CG City area in the presence of Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and deputy chief ministers Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Mourya.

Developed jointly by the Indian Navy and the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, the museum is dedicated to the bravery, valour and technological excellence of the naval force.

On the rationale behind establishing the naval museum in a landlocked city like Lucknow, Singh said maritime security is linked to every citizen.

"The Indian Ocean is connected to our economy, trade and energy requirements. Those who safeguard it come from every village, town and city of India.

"The Navy is an asset of the entire nation, and its strength comes from the resolve and confidence of every citizen, whether they live by the sea or in a city like Lucknow," Singh said.

Referring to the decommissioned warship INS Gomati, which forms the centrepiece of the museum, Singh highlighted its connection with Lucknow. "Just as the Gomti river flows through the city and ultimately joins the Ganga and then the sea, INS Gomati brought honour to Lucknow while serving in the Indian Ocean. The ship's crest even carried the image of Lucknow's historic Chhatar Manzil," the defence minister said.

Calling the Shaurya Vatika more than a tourist attraction, Singh said it would remind citizens of the sacrifices made by the armed forces.

"This is not an ordinary tourist destination but a living centre of inspiration. It will teach future generations the value of freedom and security. It will make people pause and reflect on the immense contributions of those who ensure the safety of our daily lives," he said.

The defence minister also referred to India's military preparedness and indigenous defence production capabilities.

"Our defence manufacturing output has risen

considerably. Before 2014, India's defence exports were worth less than Rs 1,000 crore. Today, we are exporting defence equipment worth nearly Rs 40,000 crore to countries around the world," Singh said.

Praising the state government, Singh, who has represented Lucknow in the Lok Sabha since 2014, said Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a dramatic transformation under Yogi Adityanath.

"There was a time when Uttar Pradesh was identified with criminal rule and deteriorating law-and-order. People lived in fear and investors hesitated to come here.

"Today, a state once known for 'One District, One Mafia' has transformed into 'One District, One Product'," Singh said.

"Chief Minister Adityanath provided a prime location for the museum near the Ekana Stadium and adjoining the Gomti wetland. From budget approval to monitoring every important stage of the work, he personally ensured that it was completed in record time," he said.

Announcing plans to further enhance the attraction, Singh said, "I want to assure the people of Uttar Pradesh, especially those in Lucknow, that efforts will be made to bring a submarine to this site."

A key attraction at the museum is the INS Gomati that was decommissioned on May 28, 2022. The other exhibits include the ship's anchor, CET-53M submarine obstacle equipment, main mast and propeller, an official statement said.

The visitors can also learn about maritime security, naval operations and the technological capabilities of the Indian Navy, it said. (Agencies)

Armed Forces.....

Academy (NDA) here, General Dwivedi noted that while a temporary cessation of hostilities currently exists, all three services are preparing intensively for the next phase should it take place.

India launched Operation Sindoor, a military exercise to destroy terror infrastructure in Pakistan in May 2025, in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives in April.

"As far as Operation Sindoor is concerned, firstly, it is still continuing. There is a temporary cessation of hostilities. So the Indian Army and all the three services are preparing well for Operation Sindoor 2.0 if it takes place," he said.

He noted that future warfare will not be limited to land, maritime and air alone, but would be increasingly influenced by emerging domains such as space, cyber and cognitive warfare.

Modern battlefields have become highly transparent, General Dwivedi said, adding that military planners must remain cautious about deployments and force protection measures.

"What we have seen over a period of time is 24/7. The battlefield is so transparent that every movement is known to the other side. Therefore, we have to be very cautious in terms of our deployment, in terms of our employment, and the protection which is required to protect our troops as well as the civilians in the border areas," he said.

Referring to information warfare lessons from Operation Sindoor, General Dwivedi said public trust and national cohesion would remain decisive factors in future conflicts.

"Victory is always in the mind. It's not on the ground. Therefore, information warfare is only successful if the whole of the nation gets together and trusts the people who are giving the information," he said.

"If that happens, I can assure you that the nation which trusts each other and all these stakeholders will always win the war," the Army Chief added.

He said that Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's resolve and the armed forces' ability to deliver a calibrated, precise, and purposeful response.

"This operation underlined the importance of integrated planning, real-time intelligence, precision targeting, strong air defence, secure communications, and synergy across domains," the Army chief said.

He said the Indian Army is fully conscious of modernisation transformation.

"We are transforming ourselves into a future-ready force under the 'Decade of Transformation', wherein the role of the younger generation would be pivotal," he added.

He noted the raising of industry drone battalions, Divyasthra batteries, Shaktiman regiments, Bhairav battalions, and other technology-enabled structures from within our resources is part of this transformation.

The general said the next major step is networking and data-centricity, where data becomes a strategic resource, and decision-making becomes faster, smarter, and more resilient.

Talking about the use of drones and other indigenous weapons, General Dwivedi said since he has taken over, he has been talking about "Eagle on the Arm". (Agencies)

Ladakh Well.....

and development activities. Ladakh is well placed to lead by example in implementing these transformative measures," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The directives are aimed at reducing government expenditure, lowering fuel consumption and carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, supporting local industries and strengthening environmental sustainability across sectors.

As part of the initiative, Saxena said he has already reduced the number of vehicles in his official motorcade by 50 per cent and urged all departments to follow a similar spirit of restraint and efficiency.

All administrative secretaries have been instructed to implement the measures through their respective departments and ensure compliance at subordinate offices and field formations. Departments have also been asked to submit consolidated Action Taken Reports to the Chief Secretary within 30 days.

The administration will launch public awareness campaigns focusing on energy conservation, domestic tourism, healthy lifestyles, sustainable agriculture and responsible use of natural resources.

Under the new measures, government departments have been directed to increase the use of video conferencing and digital platforms, reduce official travel and explore flexible work arrangements where feasible.

The Power, Transport and Urban Development Departments have been tasked with accelerating the installation of rooftop solar systems on government buildings, expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and encouraging greater use of public transport and electric vehicles.

The Public Works Department has been instructed to promote environmentally sustainable construction materials, make use of plastic waste in road construction where practical and explore emerging green technologies.

Departments dealing with industry, handicrafts, handlooms and rural development have been directed to strengthen support for local producers, small enterprises, artisans and cooperatives to generate employment and encourage self-reliance.

The Tourism Department has been asked to intensify efforts to promote Ladakh as a leading domestic tourism destination while ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism practices. Agriculture and horticulture authorities will focus on natural farming and sustainable cultivation methods, while the Health Department will conduct campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles and balanced nutrition.

The measures mark a significant policy push by the Ladakh Administration to align governance, economic development and environmental protection with long-term sustainability goals.

Had a Satisfying.....

strengthen coordination and operational integration among the Army, Navy and Air Force amid evolving security challenges.

"I had a very satisfying and excellent tenure," the outgoing CDS said, expressing gratitude to the armed forces and the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff for the honour accorded to him at the conclusion of his military career.

Gen Chauhan, who took over as India's second CDS in September 2022, played a pivotal role in advancing military reforms aimed at improving joint operations and enhancing the effectiveness of the armed forces. His tenure was marked by sustained efforts to promote integration among the services and lay the groundwork for the proposed system of integrated theatre commands.

He also contributed significantly to the planning and execution of Operation Sindoor in coordination with the chiefs of the three services, reinforcing the emphasis on joint military operations.

As part of his farewell engagements, Gen Chauhan laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, paying tribute to soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

"With the conclusion of the guard of honour, I bid farewell to my colleagues in uniform," he said, describing the occasion as a symbolic transition from military service to civilian life.

Gen Chauhan's term had been due to conclude in September last year but was extended by the Government. Before becoming CDS, he had retired from the Army in May 2021 as a lieutenant general and was subsequently recalled to service and elevated to the rank of four-star general upon his appointment.

A veteran officer with extensive operational experience, Gen Chauhan served as Director General of Military Operations during the 2019 Balakot air strike and held several key command appointments during a career spanning more than four decades. He commanded an infantry division in the Baramulla sector of Jammu and Kashmir, a corps in the Northeast, and later the Army's Eastern Command.

Born on May 18, 1961, and commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles in 1981, Gen Chauhan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy. He has been decorated with some of the nation's highest military honours for distinguished service.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani is set to assume office as India's next Chief of Defence Staff on Sunday, succeeding Gen Chauhan at a time when the armed forces continue to pursue major structural and operational reforms.

Properties Worth.....

established that the property was allegedly acquired through proceeds generated from illicit narcotics trafficking.

In another significant operation, Srinagar Police attached a residential house and land worth approximately Rs. 50 lakh belonging to alleged drug peddler Shafiq Ahmad Khawaja of Karnah in Kupwara district. The action was taken under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act in connection with a narcotics case registered at Police Station M.R. Gunj.

According to police, both attachment proceedings were completed after following due legal procedures and establishing links between

the properties and income allegedly derived from drug trafficking activities.

Officials said the move reflects a broader strategy to weaken narcotics networks by targeting their economic foundations and preventing offenders from benefiting from assets suspected to have been acquired through illegal trade.

Srinagar Police reiterated its commitment to eliminating drug-related crimes and appealed to the public to assist law enforcement agencies by sharing information about narcotics trafficking and drug peddling in their localities. Authorities emphasized that community cooperation remains crucial to achieving a drug-free society.

Dr Jitendra.....

citizen-centric approach has remained at the core of governance reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Underscoring the transformative role of technology in public administration, the Minister noted that Artificial Intelligence is driving the democratization of grievance redressal — making it more accessible, responsive and efficient — and that AI-enabled tools are strengthening citizen engagement and improving the quality and speed of grievance resolution.

Emphasising that these steps are testimony of the Government's Whole of the Nation approach, the Minister urged the States and other stakeholders to adopt and integrate AI-driven, voice-assisted tools like Samadhan Didi into their own state-level grievance portals to reach out to the last mile.

Highlighting the paradigm shift in the public grievance mechanism in the country in the last 12 years of the Modi Government, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that when the Government assumed office in 2014, the grievance redressal system witnessed limited public participation, with only about 2 lakh grievances being registered annually, however, after the CPGRAMS reforms were undertaken, the number of grievances received through the system has now increased manifold to over 25 lakh every year. He underscored that this shift reflects growing public confidence in the Government's responsive and citizen-centric approach when the grievance disposal rate has now crossed 95%.

The Minister observed that the Chatbot reflects the commitment to governance that reaches the last citizen. He said that India's linguistic diversity must be an enabler of access rather than a barrier — embodying the spirit of a self-reliant, technologically sovereign India in which every citizen's voice is heard, in their own words and in their own language.

The Minister further informed that efforts are underway to expand linguistic accessibility on the CPGRAMS platform. Beyond the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution already supported, regional and indigenous languages such as Bhojpuri, Garo, Khasi and Mizo and Bodhi are being incorporated in a phased manner, ensuring greater inclusivity for citizens from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Dr Jitendra Singh further remarked that CPGRAMS has emerged as a global role model for citizen-centric governance, exemplifying how technology-enabled governance can enhance transparency, accountability and responsiveness while strengthening trust between citizens and the Government.

The Chatbot marks a significant step towards making public grievance redressal simpler, more accessible and truly multilingual. A citizen can now lodge a grievance simply by speaking, in their own language, describing the concern in plain words — without needing to know which Ministry, Department, category or sub-category it belongs to. The Chatbot understands the concern, asks a few relevant clarifying questions, automatically identifies the appropriate Ministry, Department, category and sub-category, and files the grievance with the correct authority.

The system integrates the language capabilities of Bhashini with grievance-classification models trained on CPGRAMS data, enabling a seamless experience across Indian languages. It has been developed within secure Government infrastructure, ensuring data privacy.

At the launch event, the Chatbot was demonstrated live and tested in different Indian languages. Secretary, DARPG, Nivedita Shukla Verma; Additional Secretary, DARPG, Puneet Yadav; senior officers of DARPG; and representatives of Bhashini were present on the occasion.

Justice (retd.).....

Finance Department, are also expected to participate. Earlier, on May 1, the Commission had invited all stakeholders wishing to meet the panel to submit memoranda and request appointments.

The Eighth CPC is headed by Justice Ranjana Desai, former Supreme Court judge. She was also chairperson of the delimitation commission constituted by Union Government for J&K in 2020. The panel also includes Prof. Pulak Ghosh as part-time member and Pankaj Jain as member secretary.

The recommendations of the Central Pay Commission (CPC) are applicable to all Central Government employees as well as personnel of Union Territories (UTs)—(KNO)

Deputy CM calls for speedy completion of Dak Bunglow project at Bagh- e- Bahu; inspects government offices

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 30: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today reviewed the progress of several ongoing development works in Jammu and conducted surprise inspection of key government offices to assess efficiency, accountability and project implementation.

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

The Deputy Chief Minister



also undertook a surprise inspection of the offices of the Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu and Chief Engineer, Mechanical and

Hospital Engineering Department (M&HED), Jammu. During the inspection, he reviewed the staff attendance and functioning

of the offices besides taking stock of the status of ongoing projects being executed by the departments.

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

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the public infrastructure and ensuring that development projects are completed in a time-bound manner for the benefit of the people.

Chief Engineer PMGSY, R&B and other senior officers of the concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspections.

Revenue Department Shopian bids adieu to Abdul Rashid Malla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 30: Revenue Department Shopian today organised a farewell function in honour of Abdul Rashid Malla, Senior Assistant, SDM Office Zainapora, on his retirement from government service after attaining superannuation.

The function was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad, tehsildars, officials of the Revenue Department.



Speaking on the occasion, the officers and employees appreciated the sincere and dedicated services rendered by Abdul Rashid Malla during his long tenure in the Revenue Department.

They described him as a hardworking, honest, and cooperative officer who carried out his duties with commitment and professionalism. The speakers highlighted his valuable contribution to the department and wished him good health, happiness, and success in his post-retirement life.

On the occasion, mementos and tokens of appreciation were presented to Abdul Rashid Malla in recognition of his dedicated services. In his address, Abdul Rashid Malla thanked the colleagues for their support and cooperation throughout his career.

PROANG Applauds J&K Police's Relentless Anti-Drug Drive, Hails Swift Budgam Murder Case Breakthrough

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: The Provincial Retired Police Officers Association of J&K (PROANG) has lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their unwavering commitment and remarkable success in combating drug abuse, crime and other social evils across the Union Territory. In a statement issued through PROANG spokesperson Mir Niyaz Ahmad, Chairman Gh Hassan Zargar praised the force's tireless efforts, saying their dedication and prompt actions have significantly strengthened public trust and made communities safer.

Highlighting PROANG's active participation in the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (NMBA) J&K, Zargar said retired police personnel across Awantipora, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Kupwara and Bandipora have been conducting awareness campaigns, counselling sessions and community outreach programmes to safeguard youth from the growing menace of drug addiction. Calling drug abuse a serious threat to society and future generations, he stressed the need for a united approach involving police, civil administration, educational institutions and citizens to eradicate the menace completely.

The PROANG Chairman also expressed profound grief over the recent tragic incident in Budgam and extended solidarity with the bereaved family. He strongly condemned the heinous crime and praised the Budgam Police, including the SSP, Additional SP, SHO and other officers, for solving the case and arresting the accused within just 36 hours. He said the swift and professional action demonstrated by the police has further reinforced public confidence in law enforcement and reaffirmed the force's commitment to justice, public safety and the rule of law. PROANG also reiterated its resolve to support all initiatives aimed at building a peaceful, secure and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

PD&M Budgam bids Farewell to Deputy Director Gul Mohd Bhat on his Superannuation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MAY 30: Warm Farewell Ceremony in honour of Gul Mohd Bhat, Deputy Director Planning/District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Budgam, was organized at the district level on the occasion of his superannuation.

The event was attended by distinguished officers and dignitaries, including Joint Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir; Abdul Rashid, Joint Director Planning, KPDCI; Javed Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Budgam; Fayaz Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar; Gulzar Ahmad, Deputy Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Manzoor Ahmad, ARTO Budgam; Hilal Arfat, BDO Khag, G.A. Qureshi; Former Director General, Economics & Statistics, G.A. Qureshi; former Chief Planning Officer, Budgam; Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Magray, besides officers and officials of the Planning Development & Monitoring (PD&M) Department and other departments, as well as prominent citizens and respected members of society from different walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, colleagues and departmental officers highly commended Gul Mohd Bhat for his distinguished service, unwavering dedication, and invaluable contributions during his illustrious 33-year career in public service.

During his tenure in the Chief Planning Office, Budgam, he played



a pivotal role in strengthening district planning mechanisms, coordinating developmental initiatives, and facilitating evidence-based planning for the overall socio-economic development of the district.

As a mark of respect and appreciation, the officers and officials presented a heartfelt citation ac-

knowledging his exemplary work ethic, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to public service. The entire department extended its warmest wishes to Gul Mohd Bhat for his future endeavours and wished him a retired life filled with excellent health, happiness, peace, and fulfilment.

Kulgam Police Attach Properties Worth Over Rs. 1 Crore of Alleged Drug Peddlers



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 30: In a major action against narcotics trafficking under its ongoing War on Drugs campaign, Kulgam Police on Friday attached two residential properties worth more than Rs. 1 crore belonging to alleged drug peddlers in the district.

According to an official statement, a residential house valued at approximately Rs. 50 lakh belonging to Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, son of Mohammad Maqbool Mir, resident of Kujjar Frisal, Yaripora, was attached after investigations revealed that the property had allegedly been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal trade of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The attachment was carried out in connection with FIR No. 10/2021 registered at Police Station Yaripora.

In another significant action, police

attached a single-storey residential house worth around Rs. 52 lakh belonging to Feroze Ahmad Khan, son of Ghulam Ahmad Khan, resident of Munnad, Tehsil Yaripora. The property was also found to have been allegedly acquired from proceeds of drug trafficking and was attached in connection with FIR No. 72/2023 registered at Police Station Behibagh.

Police said that the attachment proceedings were conducted under the provisions of Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after obtaining approval from the competent authority under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEMA). The operation was carried out by a duly constituted police team in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, ensuring complete adherence to legal procedures and transparency throughout the process.

Reaffirming its commitment to making Jammu and Kashmir drug-free, Kulgam Police stated that it will continue to target not only individuals involved in drug trafficking but also the financial assets generated through such illegal activities. Police also appealed to the public to cooperate and share any information related to drug peddling and narcotics trade in their areas.

The latest action forms part of the intensified anti-narcotics drive being carried out by Kulgam Police under the banner of "Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir", aimed at dismantling drug networks and curbing the menace of substance abuse in the region.

BCS Staged Kashmiri Play "Daengh Sehh" in GHSS Gbl



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 30: Traditional theatre activities sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi are continuing actively across the Kashmir Valley. As part of this initiative Badshah Cultural Society "BCS" Repora Lar Ganderbal Kashmir presented a Kashmiri stage play titled "Daengh Sehh" at Govt. Higher Secondary School Wutlar under the Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India New Delhi. The play is a dramatic adaptation of the famous short story "Jaman Ka Ped" written by renowned subcontinent writer Krishan Chander. The Kashmiri theatrical adaptation has been done by noted playwright, theatre expert and

director Reshi Rashid. The play was directed by young theatre director Shahid Malik. The artists delivered remarkable performances which were highly appreciated by the audience. It is pertinent to mention that Reshi Rashid has previously adapted works of Munshi Prem Chand, Akhtar Syed Madan, Lady Gregory and Krishan Chander into Kashmiri theatrical productions. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of Govt. Higher Secondary School Wutlar, Zubair Ahmad Malik expressed gratitude to Badshah Cultural Society and especially to Rishi Rashid for organizing the programme. He hoped that such meaningful and educational cultural events would continue to be held in the institution in future as well, assuring full cooperation from the school administration.

Awareness programme under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan held at Traru

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, MAY 30: As part of the ongoing 100 Days Campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, an awareness programme was organised at Traru to educate the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kalakote Mohammad Tanwir and witnessed the participation of locals, youth and community representatives.

During the programme, participants were sensitized about the social, economic and health-related consequences of substance abuse and its adverse impact on individuals, families and society. The speakers highlighted the need for collective efforts to prevent drug addiction and promote a healthy and responsible life-



style among the younger generation.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC urged the general public, particularly the youth, to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a drug-free society. He emphasized that community participation, awareness generation and timely intervention are crucial in effectively tackling the menace of drug abuse.

The participants were encouraged to act as ambassadors of the campaign and spread awareness in their respective localities to strengthen the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The programme concluded with a pledge by all participants to support the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan and work collectively towards realizing the vision of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

HT EDITORIAL

Need of the hour; proper disposal of garbage

Disposal of garbage has always been a problem in Kashmir valley. Day in and day out there are media reports about improper disposal of garbage across the length and breadth of the union territory. In the Srinagar district the Achan area falling in the vicinity of SKIMS-Soura has come up as a hot-spot in this regard. Huge mountains of garbage are found at this place as most of the garbage being produced by the households of Srinagar is dumped at Achan.

In addition to Achan there are many other areas in the Srinagar district where mounds of garbage are found on a daily basis. Areas like Rawalpura, Jawahar Nagar, Barzulla, Bohri Kadal and others present a messy look as huge garbage is piled up there. The garbage collection trucks of Srinagar Municipal Corporation come to these areas during the day time and by that time the people as well passersby have to face huge problems in moving around.

Students as well as office goers have to face the brunt in this regard since they leave their homes early so as to reach the educational institutions and offices. Ideally the disposal of garbage should take place in the early hours of day. This would ensure that there are very few problems for the people once the garbage is lifted and placed in the garbage trucks. For reasons best known to the people at helm this step has not been taken so far.

Despite getting the tag of a smart city many steps have to be taken so that Srinagar city becomes a smart city in the real sense. Proper disposal of the garbage is one of the primary steps to be taken and it is important that the government pulls up socks in this regard. It is imperative that the disposal of garbage takes place along scientific lines so that there is minimum trouble for the people. Sooner it is done better it will be for the people of Srinagar.

The government should also lay its focus on the disposal of garbage in the other districts and towns of the Kashmir valley. The practice of dumping garbage on the busy intersections and roads should be done away with. State land that is of no use should be utilized and garbage sheds should be constructed. Latest technology should be put in place for treating the garbage and people should not suffer at any cost.

The Likes That Lie: Social Media and the Slow Undoing of a Generation

What we owe the young people growing up inside the machine



■ DR ANKIT KUMAR DUBEY

There is a fourteen-year-old girl somewhere right now who has checked her phone seventeen times since she woke up this morning. She is not looking for news. She is not staying in touch with distant relatives. She is checking a number – the small, glowing count of hearts and thumbs beneath a photograph she posted last night before she fell asleep. That number, she has learned, tells her something important. She is not entirely sure what. But she checks it anyway, the way you check a wound.

She is not unusual. She is, in fact, the norm.

We are roughly two decades into the great social media experiment, and the results are beginning to come in. They are not encouraging. Across country after country, researchers are documenting rising rates of anxiety, depression, loneliness, and disordered self-image among adolescents – and the timeline of that rise maps, with uncomfortable precision, onto the mass adoption of smartphones and social platforms. The correlation does not prove causation, the technology companies remind us. They are correct, technically. They are also, as we shall see, not entirely acting in good faith.

■ **A Platform Built on Insecurity**

Let us begin with a fact that is no longer in serious dispute: social media platforms are not neutral tools. They are engineered environments, designed by some of the most talented behavioural scientists and product designers in the world, optimised for a single metric – time on platform – and that metric is served, above all else, by emotional activation.

Outrage keeps people scrolling. Envy keeps people scrolling. Anxiety keeps people scrolling. The algorithm does not care whether you leave the app feeling better or worse about yourself or the world. It cares only that you come back. And it has become extraordinarily good at ensuring that you do.

For adults, this is troubling. For adolescents – whose brains are still developing, whose identities are still forming, whose capacity for emotional regulation is not yet fully built – it is something closer to predatory.

The teenage years have always been difficult. The search for identity, the desperate need for belonging, the acute sensitivity to peer judgement – these are not new. What is new is the infrastructure that now surrounds and amplifies all of it, twenty-four hours a day, with no off switch and no closing time.

■ **The Evidence We Cannot Ignore**

For years, the debate over social media's effects on young people was genuinely contested. Researchers disagreed. Effects seemed small. Methodology was disputed. The technology companies funded their own studies and found, reassuringly, that their platforms were largely benign.

That period of reasonable uncertainty is over.

Internal research conducted by Meta – Facebook's parent company – and leaked by whistleblower Frances Haugen in 2021, revealed that the company's own scientists had found Instagram to be harmful to the mental health of teenage girls. One internal presentation noted that among teenagers who reported suicidal thoughts, thirteen percent of British users and six percent of American users traced those thoughts directly to Instagram. The company knew. It continued optimising for engagement.

This is not an allegation. It is documented. And it shifts the conversation from one about uncertain



social science to one about corporate ethics and regulatory failure.

Beyond the internal documents, independent research has accumulated to a point where dismissal requires more effort than acknowledgement. Studies across the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and increasingly in India have found consistent associations between heavy social media use and elevated rates of depression and anxiety in adolescents, particularly girls. Sleep disruption – one of the clearest mechanisms linking phones to mental health – has become near-universal among teenagers. Young people are going to bed exhausted and waking up more tired than they went down.

■ **The Comparison Engine**

At the heart of social media's harm to young people is a mechanism that any psychologist could have predicted and that the platforms understood very well: social comparison.

Human beings are comparative creatures. We have always measured ourselves against those around us. But historically, the reference group was local – your school, your neighbourhood, your family. Social media has replaced that local reference group with a global, curated, filtered highlight reel. The girl in your class is no longer comparing herself to the ten or fifteen other girls she sees every day. She is comparing herself to the most photogenic teenagers from every country in the world, all of whom are presenting their best angles, their most flattering lighting, and their most enviable moments.

The comparison is structurally impossible to win. And it never ends.

The impact on body image has been particularly well-documented. Studies involving experimental manipulation – randomly assigning some teenagers to use social media more and others less – have found measurable differences in body satisfaction and self-esteem within weeks. The effect is not subtle. It is not marginal. It is the kind of effect that, if it were produced by a food additive or an environmental pollutant, would trigger immediate regulatory action.

■ **Boys Are Not Immune**

The conversation around social media and youth mental health has rightly focused on girls, who appear to be disproportionately affected. But it would be a mistake to conclude that boys are unharmed.

The harms are different, but they are real. Boys are more likely to encounter extreme content – radicalising political material, misogynistic communities, violent gaming content – through recommendation algorithms that learn, quickly, that outrage and transgression generate more engagement than moderation. A teenage boy who watches one provocative political video on a platform may find, within days, that his entire recommendation feed has shifted toward increasingly extreme content. He did not seek this out. The algorithm found him.

There is also the quieter harm of displacement. Time spent on social media is time not spent on the ac-

tivities – sport, creative pursuits, face-to-face friendship, unstructured outdoor play – that developmental psychologists consistently identify as protective for adolescent mental health. The harm is not only what social media puts in; it is also what it takes out.

■ **What the Platforms Owe Us**

The technology companies have spent years deflecting responsibility for these outcomes. They have blamed parents. They have blamed schools. They have pointed to the complexity of adolescent mental health and argued that social media is one factor among many. All of this is, to varying degrees, true and beside the point.

The tobacco industry also argued, for decades, that smoking was one factor among many in lung cancer. The question was never whether other factors existed. The question was whether a powerful industry, aware that its product was causing harm, had an obligation to act – and whether governments had an obligation to require action if the industry would not.

Social media companies have the technical capacity to design their platforms differently. Age verification is tractable. Recommendation algorithms can be tuned to reduce harmful content amplification. Engagement metrics – the visible like counts and follower numbers that drive so much adolescent anxiety – can be hidden or removed. Night-time usage limits can be built into products rather than left as optional parental controls buried in settings menus. These are choices. And they have been made, overwhelmingly, in favour of engagement over wellbeing.

■ **The Role of Regulators and Parents**

The state has been slow. Regulatory frameworks for social media companies remain, in most countries, far behind the pace of the industry's development and the accumulation of evidence about its harms. India, home to some of the world's largest populations of young social media users, is only beginning the long work of constructing meaningful digital protection for minors.

Other governments are moving faster. The United Kingdom's Online Safety Act establishes duties of care for platforms with child users. Australia has moved to ban social media for children under sixteen. The United States remains mired in legislative gridlock, though the momentum is building.

Parents, meanwhile, find themselves in an impossible position. The advice to simply take away phones ignores the degree to which social media has become the infrastructure of adolescent social life. A teenager without a phone is not just offline – they are cut off from the group chats, the shared references, the low-stakes daily contact that constitutes friendship in 2025. This is why individual solutions cannot substitute for structural ones. The problem was not created by individual families. It cannot be solved by them.

■ **What We Are Really Talking About**

Step back far enough, and the debate about social media and young people is not really a debate about technology at all. It is a debate about what kind of childhood we believe children deserve, and what obligations we – as a society, as an industry, as a regulatory state – have to protect it.

Every generation worries about what the new thing is doing to the young. Television, video games, comic books – each in its turn was blamed for youth moral corruption. The social media sceptics cite this history often. But the analogy only goes so far. Television did not know your name. It did not learn your insecurities and serve you content calibrated to exploit them. It did not show you a feed of peers whose lives appeared more glamorous than your own, or enable strangers to comment on your appearance at three in the morning. The technology is different in kind, not just in degree.

The precautionary principle – which we routinely apply to pharmaceuticals, to food safety, to environmental risk – ought to apply here too.

■ **A Generation That Deserves Better**

The fourteen-year-old checking her phone is not weak. She is not failing to cope with something that is merely difficult. She is responding, reasonably and predictably, to an environment that has been professionally designed to capture her attention and hold it, regardless of the cost to her.

She did not build this environment. She did not choose it in any meaningful sense. She was born into a world where it already existed and where everyone around her was already inside it.

We built it. We deployed it. We allowed it to scale to billions of users, including hundreds of millions of children, before we seriously asked what it was doing to them. That is not her failure. It is ours.

The least we can do now is take the question seriously – not with the performative concern of the occasional parliamentary inquiry, but with the sustained, structural seriousness that the evidence demands. Regulate the design features that cause harm. Hold companies accountable for research they conduct and bury. Fund independent science that is not beholden to platform money. Build digital literacy into school curricula as a core subject.

And perhaps, most importantly, listen to the young people themselves – who are, in growing numbers, telling us clearly that something is wrong, that the platforms sold to them as connection are leaving them feeling more alone than ever. They are not wrong. And they are owed more than a like.

The views expressed in this editorial represent the position of public interest in child welfare, technology regulation, and social policy.

The author is a Associate Professor, CSE-AIT, Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab, India

Dachigam National Park - Kashmir's living wilderness in a changing world



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Just 22 kilometers from the heart of Srinagar lies one of India's most remarkable natural sanctuaries — Dachigam National Park, a 141-square-kilometer expanse of forested slopes, alpine meadows, and clear mountain streams nestled in the Zabarwan Range. This park, whose name means "ten villages" in Kashmiri, was established over a century ago to protect the water catchment of the Dal Lake. Today, it stands as the last refuge of the critically endangered Kashmir stag, or Hangul, and as a living symbol of the fragile harmony between people and nature in the valley.

Dachigam is not just a wildlife reserve; it is an ecological lifeline. Stretching from an altitude of around 1,700 meters to over 4,200 meters above sea level, the park's landscape transforms dramatically from lower temperate forests of oak, walnut, and birch to high-altitude coniferous woods and alpine grasslands. Its rich diversity of habitats supports a wide array of species that have adapted to these steep altitudinal gradients and varying climates. Every turn of its narrow trails reveals a different ecosystem — cascading streams, dense canopies, snow-fed cliffs, and serene meadows alive with birdsong.

The Hangul, with its elegant antlers and reddish-brown coat, is the crown jewel of Dachigam's biodiversity. Once found across the entire Kashmir Valley, its population declined drastically due to habitat loss, poaching, and human encroachment. By the late 20th century, the Hangul had vanished from almost all its historical ranges, surviving only within Dachigam. Recent census reports conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department indicate that the Hangul population now stands at around 260 individuals. While this number marks

a slight increase from earlier years, it remains alarmingly low for a species once regarded as the pride of Kashmir's forests. Conservationists now regard Dachigam as the last stronghold of the Hangul, a species teetering on the edge of extinction.

The park's importance extends far beyond this single species. Dachigam's forests are home to the Himalayan black bear, leopard, serow, musk deer, and the elusive snow leopard, which occasionally roams its higher ridges during harsh winters. Over 150 species of birds have been recorded here, including the Himalayan monal, koklass pheasant, blue magpie, and crimson tragopan. Streams running through the park harbor brown trout and other aquatic life, sustaining an intricate food web that keeps the ecosystem in balance. During spring and summer, Dachigam bursts into colour with wildflowers carpeting its meadows and slopes, attracting pollinators and adding to its scenic charm.

Despite its protected status, Dachigam faces mounting ecological pressures. Urban expansion from Srinagar's outskirts has encroached dangerously close to its boundaries, bringing with it pollution, noise, and waste. Studies conducted in 2023 revealed a troubling 7 percent reduction in forest cover within the park since the 1960s, alongside a threefold increase in built-up areas around its periphery. Grazing by livestock in the buffer zones, unregulated tourism, and the spread of invasive plant species have further strained its fragile ecosystems. What was once an isolated wilderness now stands as an island of green amidst growing human activity.

These environmental stresses also threaten the water systems that Dachigam was originally established to protect. The park's upper streams feed into the Dagwan and Marsar rivers, which flow down to sustain the Dal Lake — the heart of Srinagar's ecology and tourism. Any degradation within Dachigam directly impacts the quality and quantity of water that nourishes the city and its people. In that sense, the park's conservation is not only a matter of wildlife protection but of human well-being and urban sustainability.



Efforts to safeguard Dachigam and its inhabitants have intensified in recent years. The Hangul Conservation Project, led by the Department of Wildlife Protection in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, focuses on habitat management, anti-poaching surveillance, and population monitoring. During sensitive breeding and rutting seasons, entry into the park is temporarily suspended to minimize disturbance to wildlife. The most recent closure took place in September 2023, ensuring that the Hangul's breeding period proceeded without human interference. Such measures highlight the delicate balance between conservation and public access.

The government has also reintroduced controlled visitor permits through an online booking system. Visitors can now access designated trails and educational facilities under strict supervision. This approach seeks to promote eco-tourism — tourism that educates and inspires without harming the environment. For researchers, students, and nature enthusiasts, Dachigam offers a living classroom to observe the intricate relationships between species, habitats, and human actions. However, officials emphasize that the park cannot accommodate mass tourism; its preservation depends on restraint and respect.

One of the major conservation strat-

egies now under consideration is the creation of the Greater Dachigam Landscape, a connected ecological corridor linking the park to neighboring forest divisions such as Overa-Aru, Wangat, and Sindh Valley. These areas once formed the Hangul's migratory routes before fragmentation confined the species to Dachigam. By restoring connectivity, conservationists hope to allow gene flow between isolated populations and reduce the risks of inbreeding and disease. Such landscape-level planning represents a modern approach to wildlife management that looks beyond the boundaries of a single protected area.

Dachigam also holds deep cultural and emotional significance for the people of Kashmir. For generations, its slopes have been a source of pride, its forests a symbol of natural abundance. Yet this pride must now translate into collective responsibility. The health of the park reflects the health of the region itself. If Dachigam's forests fall silent, so too will the streams that sustain Srinagar's lakes and farmlands. Conservation, therefore, is not merely an environmental duty but a moral and social imperative.

The challenges are real and growing. Climate change has begun to alter snowfall patterns and vegetation cycles, affecting both plant and animal behavior.

Warmer winters shorten hibernation periods for bears and disrupt the breeding patterns of deer. At the same time, rising tourism and urbanization increase human presence in sensitive zones, amplifying stress on the park's limited resources. These issues demand scientific management, sustained funding, and active community engagement — not sporadic interventions.

For local residents living near Dachigam, sustainable livelihoods are key to reducing pressure on natural resources. Eco-guiding, handicrafts, regulated tourism services, and environmental education programs can provide economic alternatives that align with conservation goals. When communities become stakeholders rather than bystanders, protection becomes more effective and enduring.

Today, as the world grapples with biodiversity loss, Dachigam stands as both a warning and a beacon. It warns of what can happen when neglect and exploitation overtake care and stewardship. Yet it also offers hope — that with awareness, science, and community effort, fragile ecosystems can still recover. The slow but steady rise in the Hangul population, however modest, proves that nature responds positively when given space and protection.

Dachigam is not merely a park on a map; it is a living, breathing system that connects the mountains to the valley, the forests to the city, and the wild to the human spirit. Its preservation demands more than regulations — it requires respect, restraint, and recognition of its priceless value. Every visitor, policymaker, and citizen has a role to play in ensuring that this sanctuary endures.

The quiet rustle of leaves, the flowing streams, and the distant call of the Hangul remind us that true progress lies not in expansion, but in coexistence. If Kashmir is the paradise on earth, then Dachigam is its living heart — beating with the rhythm of nature, fragile yet eternal, waiting to be protected for generations yet to come.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha

World No Tobacco Day



■ RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

The history of World Anti-Tobacco Day dates back to 1987 when the World Health Organization (WHO) passed a resolution calling for a day dedicated to highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use. It is observed on May 31st every year to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to promote policies that reduce tobacco consumption. At union and state levels, multiple legislations have been created to check the unabated use of tobacco and other deleterious and noxious products. But in public places like hospitals, hotels and restaurants, educational institutions, public transport and playing fields, the reckless and persistent use of tobacco and other unhealthy products is most concerning as well as worrying. In public transport, drivers and conductors are seen smoking, thoughtlessly and irresponsibly not considering about its ill-effects and adverse impacts. Going back to the history of tobacco, it is asserted that the Christopher Columbus along with his companions, while landing on Tobago island in 1492, found the local people using tobacco leaves for pleasure. Since then the habit of smoking has spread all over the world, and it has assumed the shape of an industry but at the cost of human health. Researchers have come



up with some astonishing facts, according to them tobacco smoke contains over 4000 chemicals, out of these 43 are carcinogenic cancer causing, which include some chemicals like polycyclic hydrocarbons. It also contains ammonia, formaldehyde and oxides of carbon which are thought to be cellular irritants. Carbon monoxide, one of the dangerous culprits reducing oxygen carrying capacity of haemoglobin is also found in tobacco. However the major component, most harmful and affecting the nervous system of humans is the Nicotine, which is highly addictive, it enhances heart rate and causes hypertension. It's story doesn't end here, the Tar in tobacco smoke is responsible for causing Lung cancer and

smokers are ten times more likely to die from lung cancer than those not smoking. During pregnancy, smoking can increase the risk of low birth weight and even premature babies. Passive smoker are also at high risks of developing many diseases and it is here the need to check the smoking at public places arises. It is a silent killer which needs an immediate check. Besides making stringent laws to curb the menace of smoking, through strong campaigning all the world, people are made aware about the dangerous effects of smoking in the long run. Alongside our elderly people, youngsters are becoming increasingly addictive to smoking, wasting the hard earned money of their parents in buying costly cigarette

packs, completely neglecting the warning lines "Cigarette smoking is injurious to health" "Smoking causes Cancer" written in bold letters on each pack. Smokers apart from injuring themselves, are an imminent threat to whole public, when smoking is freely allowed at public places. Reports of altercations between smokers and nons-smokers have appeared both in electronic and social media in the past, but non-seriousness of the law enforcing agencies to ensure full enforcement of these laws have given them a free hand to put the human health at stake. Drivers and conductors are seen smoking in public transport while ferrying dozens of passengers, people dining in hotels and restaurants are enjoying cigarette puffs

while dozens of non-smokers around them and also a big chunk on shop fronts relishing hookah without thinking about its chilling effects and disastrous consequences. To put a blanket ban on sale and consumption of tobacco and other related products, it is crucial to get the laws implemented at grassroot levels, giving awareness to reduce ignorance among the people and prohibiting children to have an easy access to such things both at home and school. Religious clerics, teachers and social activists can play a big role in forbidding local people as well as non-locals from consuming tobacco, Gutkha, Nevla and Paan the smokeless tobacco products. It isn't out of place to mention here that, seminars, debates and awareness camps are conducted each year on No Tobacco Day, in educational institutions, health institutions and other places but to make all our strides effective and result oriented, collective efforts at individual and community level needs to be initiated at an earliest. In educational institutions, at morning assembly, awareness regarding ill-effects of smoking and tobacco products can help in disseminating a powerful message to curb this ill-practice. So to safeguard human health, instead of hating smokers, we must teach them how smoking is injurious and bad for the health besides imploring and insisting them to quit it. Lastly, we all must inculcate a civic sense to discourage smoking at all public places and restrict sale of tobacco and cigarette products near places where big gatherings are witnessed on daily basis.

Writer is a columnist hailing from Gazigund Kashmir

Views, Opinions, facts etc Expressed by the Authors are their Own and Headlines Today doesn't acknowledge the viewpoint in any manner. And the claims made by the advertisers, promoters through their write-ups need to be ascertained by the readers and Headlines Today Shall not be held responsible for any misleading information in any manner...



Sakeena Itoo takes stock of hailstorm damage across Kashmir division

Directs immediate assessment, relief measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today expressed deep concern over the extensive damage caused by a recent hailstorm that severely impacted orchards and agricultural lands across several areas of Kashmir division, including D.H. Pora in Kulgam district.

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

Taking prompt cognizance of the situation, Sakeena Itoo established direct communication with the district administrations and the Director Horticulture to obtain a detailed assessment of the damage caused by the hailstorm. She directed the Deputy Commissioners to undertake



immediate ground-level assessments and ensure that affected orchardists and farmers receive timely assistance and compensation as per the established government norms.

The Minister emphasized that the district administration has been instructed to conduct a comprehensive and accurate evaluation of losses, facilitate expeditious relief measures, and extend all possible support to the affected farming community without delay.

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

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

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

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband's name AB AHAD MALIK S/O AB SAMAD MILAK R/O KHASIPORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000280 wants to be registered on my name KHATIJA BEGUM W/O late AB AHAD MALIK R/O KHASIPORA .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.KHATIJA BEGUM., W/O ...late AHAD MALIK R/O ..KHASIPORA KREERI

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card of my daughter is incorrectly printed as Sheikh Mehnoor.However, her correct and official name, as per school records and other valid documents, is Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh.The details are as follows:Incorrect Name in Aadhaar Card: Sheikh Mehnoor Correct Name: Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh, Father's Name: Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, Date of Birth: 09/11/2011, Address: Hanji Shart, Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir - 193302. Any Objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI and their Seva Kendra Offices within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops
DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES
REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS

SERVICE FOR ALL LAPTOPS

DELL hp lenovo

7006083461

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that the electric power connection bearing Consumer ID No. 021204000532, presently standing in the name of Late Gh. Mohd Bhat S/o Fatah Bhat R/o Kreeeri, is intended to be transferred in favour of his son mohammad Moqbool Bhat S/o Late Gh. Mohd Bhat R/o Kreeeri.

If any person has any objection regarding the transfer of the said power connection, he/she may file the objection before the office of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited KPDC. Wagooora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the connection shall be transferred in favour of the applicant and no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

Applicant: Mohammad Moqbool Bhat S/o Late Gh. Mohd Bhat R/o Kreeeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeeri

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeeri

Transport Commissioner felicitates CBSE toppers

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 30: Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Mahajan, attended a felicitation programme at a coaching institute in Jammu as the chief guest and honoured students for their perfor-

mance in the CBSE Class 12 examinations.

The Transport Commissioner congratulated the students for their hard work and success. He encouraged them to remain focused, work with dedication and pursue their future goals. He interacted with the students and shared guidance on career opportunities, personal growth and facing challenges.

Vishesh Mahajan also appreciated the efforts of the institute for their contribution towards students' academic development.

Those felicitated include Diya Rakesh, Ananya Slathia and Arham Jain.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER, GANDERBAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Subject: Show Cause Notice for Expired Fitness of Vehicles.

Whereas, this office is in receipt of Official Communication from the office of the Transport Commissioner J&K and also it has been observed from records of Online Vahan-Portal that various vehicles are plying in district Ganderbal without having a valid Fitness.

Whereas, such violations are in contravention of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and pose a serious threat to public safety, road infrastructure, and overall traffic discipline;

As such, you are hereby called upon to Show Cause within 07 Days from the date of issuance of this notice as to why appropriate legal action should not be initiated against you;

You are required to renew your Fitness as early as possible and submit your written explanation along with any supporting documents to the undersigned authority within the stipulated time period. In case of failure to respond within the specified time, it shall be presumed that you have no explanation to offer, and further action shall be taken ex parte as deemed fit under the law.

The list of Vehicles with expired Fitness is hereby enclosed with this Notice as Annexure "A"

Enc. 02 Leaves (60 Vehicles)

S. No	Registration No	Registration Date	Office Name	Vehicle Class	Owner Name	Fitness Place/Track Center Name	Fitness Validity	Vehicle Category
1	JK02AL5793	2009-09-22	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Bus	NEW DREAMLAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-22	MEDIUM PASSENGER VEHICLE
2	JK160180	2010-08-10	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	ASSADULLAH MIR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-25	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
3	JK160199	2010-08-26	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	FAYAZ AHMED SHAH AND OTHERS	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-19	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
4	JK160210	2010-08-27	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Bus	SONAULLAH KHAN	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-04	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
5	JK160223	2010-08-28	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Bus	NAZIR AHMAD MALIK	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
6	JK160354	2010-10-27	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	AADIL NAZIR	BUGGAM ARTO (JK-4)	2026-04-28	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
7	JK160515	2010-12-08	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-12	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
8	JK160711	2011-01-25	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MANZOOR AHMAD MAGRAY	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-21	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
9	JK160746	2011-02-03	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHD IQBAL GOJJAR JAGUL	JAMMU RTO (JK-2)	2026-03-26	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
10	JK160798	2011-02-21	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	FAROOQ AHMAD DAR	JAMMU RTO (JK-2)	2026-03-23	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
11	JK160809	2011-03-01	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	FRIDOUS AHMAD GANI	KUPWARA ARTO (JK-9)	2026-02-05	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
12	JK160934	2011-04-02	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	GHULAM AHMAD RAINA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-31	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
13	JK160959	2011-04-08	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	GHUAM MOHAMMAD WANI	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-08	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
14	JK160996	2011-04-13	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHD HALEEM AKHOON	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-31	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
15	JK161066	2011-05-04	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	GH QADIR MIR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-24	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
16	JK161687	2011-09-28	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.D.D DIV	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-15	MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLE
17	JK162334	2012-03-30	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	GHULAM MOHD BABA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
18	JK162359	2012-04-04	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	AYAZ AHMAD DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-21	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
19	JK162474	2012-04-26	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	JAVAJ AHMAD DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-04	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
20	JK162502	2012-05-03	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-25	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
21	JK162649	2012-06-01	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	RIYAZ AHMAD RATHER	SRINAGAR RTO (JK-1)	2026-02-28	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
22	JK162755	2012-07-03	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH SHEIKH	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-10	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
23	JK162778	2012-07-06	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-01	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
24	JK162901	2012-07-31	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	UMAR MOHD	BARAMULLA ARTO (JK-5)	2026-02-09	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
25	JK162919	2012-08-02	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	JAVAJ AHMAD RAINA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-17	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
26	JK163180	2012-10-01	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	MOHAMMAD RAFIQ SONTRA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
27	JK163491	2012-12-15	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	NISAR AHMAD WANI	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
28	JK163504	2012-12-19	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MEHRAJ UD DIN HAJAM	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
29	JK164064	2013-05-11	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Private Service Vehicle	NEW WAVE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-11	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
30	JK164177	2013-06-03	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	GHULAM NABI MALIK	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-10	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
31	JK164190	2013-06-06	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	KHURSHID AHMAD GANIEE	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-25	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
32	JK164199	2013-06-08	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	ABDUL HAMID TANTRAY	ANANTNAG ARTO (JK-3)	2026-02-02	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
33	JK164212	2013-06-11	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD ILYAS SHAH	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-28	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
34	JK164364	2013-07-10	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	SHOWKAT AHMAD DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
35	JK164436	2013-07-22	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL TELI	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
36	JK164690	2013-09-19	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Three Wheeler	ARSHID AHMAD SHEIKH	BARAMULLA ARTO (JK-5)	2026-03-11	THREE WHEELER(T)
37	JK165268	2013-12-28	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	ADIL SHAFI BAKTOO	SRINAGAR RTO (JK-1)	2026-02-18	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
38	JK165504	2014-03-07	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Three Wheeler	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-31	THREE WHEELER(T)
39	JK165617	2014-04-17	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	BASHIR AHMAD PARRA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-07	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
40	JK165674	2014-05-03	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	ABDUL HAMID LONE	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-30	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
41	JK165708	2014-05-17	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Three Wheeler	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-07	THREE WHEELER(T)
42	JK165908	2014-06-23	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Private Service Vehicle	NEW WAVE PUBLIC SCHOOL	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-11	MEDIUM PASSENGER VEHICLE
43	JK166061	2014-12-13	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-24	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
44	JK166578	2014-12-13	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Three Wheeler	MOHAMMAD ALTAZ MAGRAY	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-01-03	THREE WHEELER(T)
45	JK166625	2014-12-22	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	ISHFAQ HUSSAIN SHEIKH	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
46	JK166911	2015-03-04	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Bus	RIYAZ AHMAD SOFI	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
47	JK167018	2015-04-08	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MEHRAJ UD DIN MALLA	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-07	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
48	JK167037	2015-04-13	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-11	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
49	JK167042	2015-04-13	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD SALEEM DAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-20	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
50	JK167910	2015-09-08	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Maxi Cab	LUBNA MUZAFFAR	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-25	LIGHT PASSENGER VEHICLE
51	JK168164	2015-10-20	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	BASHARAT AHMAD SHEIKH	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-28	MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLE
52	JK168279	2015-11-18	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Bus	APCO INFRA TECH PVT LTD	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-16	MEDIUM PASSENGER VEHICLE
53	JK168436	2015-12-30	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	APCO INFRA TECH PVT LTD	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-16	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
54	JK168785	2016-03-28	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Three Wheeler	BASHIR AHMAD WAGAY	SRINAGAR RTO (JK-1)	2026-03-25	THREE WHEELER(T)
55	JK168872	2016-04-12	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	MOHAMMAD SHAFI SYED	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-29	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
56	JK168911	2016-04-21	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	WASEEM AHMAD KOUL	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-02-21	LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE
57	JK1682451	2017-08-05	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	APCO INFRA TECH PVT LTD	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-04	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
58	JK1682459	2017-08-05	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	APCO INFRA TECH PVT LTD	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-04	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
59	JK1682464	2017-09-14	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	APCO INFRA TECH PVT LTD	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-04-04	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE
60	JK211666	2017-10-31	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	Goods Carrier	RAFEQA BANO	GANDERBAL ARTO (JK-16)	2026-03-21	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE

No: ARTO/MVD/GBL/2026-27/311-14 | Dt: 25.05.2026

Sd/- Anis Ahmad Wani, (KAS)
Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Ganderbal

DIPK: 1682/26 | Dated: 30-05-2026

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE KREEERI

Empowering Minds, Building Futures.

ADMISSIONS OPEN

SESSION 2026-27

ARTS STREAM

Major in

- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- URDU LITERATURE
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- EDUCATION
- HISTORY
- SOCIOLOGY

MODERN FACILITIES FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

- WELL EQUIPPED LIBRARY
- SMART CLASS ROOMS
- BROWSING CENTER
- GIRLS COMMON ROOM
- EXCELLENT SPORTS FACILITIES
- GREEN, CLEAN CAMPUS
- CCTV SURVEILLANCE
- PURE DRINKING WATER
- CONSTANT POWER SUPPLY

ADMISSION THROUGH CENTRALISED ADMISSION PORTAL

Based on 10+2 Merit (Non-CUET Only)

<http://jkadmissions.in>

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration & Preference Filing: 09 May - 27 May 2026

1st Merit List: 30 May 2026

Admission (1st Round): 01 June - 06 June 2026

2nd Merit List: 09 June 2026

Admission (2nd Round): 10 June - 15 June 2026

Spot Round: 18 June - 25 June 2026

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES

- Winter Zone Colleges: 15 June 2026
- Summer Zone Colleges: 15 July 2026

ELIGIBILITY

10+2

MERIT BASED ADMISSION

SECURE YOUR FUTURE WITH GDC KREEERI

APPLY NOW!

FOR DETAILS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.GDCTK.EDU.IN

OR VISIT COLLEGE ADMISSION FACILITATION CENTER

ADMISSION COORDINATOR: Dr. Khursheed Wani (9682169453)

- GREEN CLEAN CAMPUS
- SAFE & SECURE CAMPUS
- DISCIPLINE & VALUES
- QUALITY EDUCATION
- BETTER TOMORROW

Learn. Grow. Succeed. | Your Journey. Our Commitment.

Space Devoted by Headlines Today in Public Interest

Satish Sharma meets Union Railway Minister

Pitches for revival of Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch Rail connectivity project

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, MAY 30: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today met Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and strongly projected the long-pending demand for rail connectivity to the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

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

The Minister highlighted that a survey for the proposed rail alignment had been conducted in the past and stressed

the need for its revival and early execution. He underscored that Rajouri and Poonch remain among the few major regions in the country without rail connectivity despite their strategic importance and substantial population.

Satish Sharma informed the Union Minister that the twin border districts frequently face connectivity challenges due to adverse weather conditions, road disruptions and difficult terrain, which adversely impact the movement of people, essential commodities and emergency services. He maintained that rail connectivity would provide a reliable, all-weather transportation network, significantly improving the accessibility, boosting economic activity and enhancing the overall quality of life of the people. Emphasizing the national security dimension of the project, Sharma noted that Rajouri and Poonch share a sensitive international border and have historically played a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's interests. He said that a rail corridor to these districts



would not only strengthen the civilian connectivity but also enhance logistical capabilities and facilitate faster movement of personnel and resources, whenever required.

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

ate their socio-economic development.

During the discussion, Satish Sharma urged the Railway Ministry to immediately commission a fresh feasibility study based on the earlier survey, declaring the project a national priority in view of its strategic location and consider appropriate budgetary provisions for its implementation. He also conveyed the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir government to extend

full cooperation at every stage of the project, including survey work, land acquisition, clearances and other administrative requirements.

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

opportunities.

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

In addition to railway infrastructure, Satish Sharma also raised several issues pertaining to the Information Technology sector. He sought enhanced support from the Government of India for accelerating Jammu and Kashmir's digital transformation journey.

The Minister urged the Union Minister to facilitate establishment of advanced IT infrastructure and innovation ecosystems in Jammu and Kashmir, including IT parks, incubation centres and digital skill development hubs. He emphasized that such initiatives would create new employment opportunities for the

youth and position the Union Territory as an emerging destination for technology-driven investments.

Satish Sharma highlighted the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir's young and educated workforce. He called for greater collaboration between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the UT Government in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, e-governance, digital service delivery and startup development. He stressed that focused investments in the IT sector would help generate sustainable livelihoods and reduce regional disparities.

The Minister also sought support for expanding the digital infrastructure in remote and border areas, ensuring seamless internet connectivity and access to the digital services. He noted that improved digital access would strengthen the governance, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and citizen service delivery, particularly in underserved regions.

DC Shopian presides over monthly NCORD meeting

Stresses for destruction of illicit crop cultivation

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 30: The District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) committee meeting was held today here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

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



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

The concerned departments informed the chair about their activities against the ongoing fight on drugs. It was apprised that strict enforcement is being done against the illicit crop (poppy) cultivation in the district.

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

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of keeping strict vigil on poppy cultivation across the district to raise awareness about drug abuse.

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

SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; SDM, Bilal Ahmad, Tehsildars, district officers and other officials were present.

DM Bandipora reviews NCORD measures; Stresses stronger enforcement, Awareness against Drug Abuse

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 30: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the implementation of anti-drug measures and illicit drug trafficking in the district.

During the meeting, the SSP presented a detailed review of cases registered under the NDPS/PIT NDPS Act across different police stations in the district. He also briefed the meeting regarding attachment and freezing of properties of drug peddlers, demolition of illegal structures and action taken in commercial quantity cases. The Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of NDPS cases, acquittals, bail applications and challenges filed before courts. Stress was laid on ensuring effective prosecution.

Reviewing enforcement measures, the DM stressed strict action against drug peddlers and directed the concerned author-

ities to expedite cancellation/ Suspension of DL, Passport, contractor cards, Arms Licences and other documents of accused involved in narcotics-related offences. She also emphasized enhanced coordination among departments for sustained enforcement.

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

The Education Department and Government Degree Colleges apprised the meeting about awareness and outreach programmes conducted under NMBA, including debates, seminars, essay competitions and student interaction programmes aimed at sensitizing youth against drug abuse.

The Rural Development Department (RDD) was directed to



further intensify awareness activities at the grassroots level by conducting regular anti-drug programmes in wards and Panchayats across the district.

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

The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting regarding inspections conducted across medical shops and action taken

against violations. The DM stressed strict implementation of computerized billing systems and installation of CCTV cameras in pharmacies and medical establishments to check misuse of scheduled drugs.

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

The meeting also reviewed

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

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

The DM stressed coordinated efforts, continuous monitoring and proactive public participation to effectively combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Deputy District Election Officer Bandipora; ACP Bandipora; CMO Bandipora; CAO Bandipora; MS DH Bandipora; Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Bandipora; Tehsildar Bandipora; Medical Officer ATF Bandipora, besides other concerned officers, while other officers joined the meeting virtually.

GM NHPC Uri-I Stage-II issues Rebuttal to concerns being circulated on Social Media

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, MAY 30: General Manager (Civil), Uri-I Stage-II Hydroelectric Project of NHPC Limited, has issued a rebuttal to concerns being circulated on various social media platforms regarding the safety of construction activities associated with the Uri-I Stage-II Hydroelectric Project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Central Kashmir Excise Range destroys poppy cultivation at multiple locations

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the Illicit cultivation of Narcotic crops (Poppy) under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and destroyed illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations across the Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range. The drive was conducted in collaboration with Police,



Revenue and Agriculture Department and the FIR was lodged under the relevant sections of NDPS Act at the concerned Police Stations.

All legal formalities including seizure, Sampling and destruction were reportedly completed on spot and Case FIR No. 16/2026 and U/S 8/18 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Lar Ganderbal and investigation has been taken up. The enforcement action exemplifies the commitment of the Excise Department to curbing illegal activities and upholding the rule of law under the supervision of the Excise Commissioner and the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir.

Quiz Competitions, Awareness Programmes held across Bandipora under NMBA

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 30: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Saturday organised quiz competitions, pledge ceremonies and awareness programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among students.

Pledge taking ceremonies under NMBA were organised at High

School Panar and Government High School Nadihal, while a special morning assembly focusing on awareness against substance abuse was held at HSS Gadakhud.

Health Awareness Quiz programmes were organised at PM SHRI Government High School Odina, HSS Gadakhud, HSS Nowgam, High School Ahamsharif, H/S Ketson, HS Koragbal and HSS Quilmuqam. Students participated enthusiastically in the quiz competitions and awareness ac-

tivities focusing on health, well-being and prevention of drug abuse.

At HSS Quilmuqam, students and staff also participated in a Nasha Mukht pledge ceremony reaffirming their commitment towards a healthy and drug-free society, while winning teams in the quiz competition were awarded prizes. Meanwhile, Government Degree College Sumbal organised a "Dosti Discussion" under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, where

students held interactive discussions on substance abuse, peer pressure, mental well-being and the importance of healthy lifestyles.

HKM Degree College Bandipora also organised a Student Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse under the banner of NMBA through its NSS Youth Club and Red Ribbon Youth Club. Convener NCORD, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasized the need for collective efforts to

protect youth from addiction. The College also organized an interactive awareness session on the drug menace for 4th Semester students under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and staff members across the district, reflecting the continued commitment of educational institutions towards strengthening awareness and preventive outreach under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Storm delays Gujarat Titans' arrival in Ahmedabad for IPL final

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: Stormy weather has delayed Gujarat Titans' (GT) arrival in Ahmedabad for Sunday's final. This leaves them with less than 24 hours to prepare for their third IPL final, on home turf, against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).

GT were slated to depart Chandigarh on Saturday afternoon via a charter, following their win against Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2 on Friday. However, torrential downpour in north-western

India, centred around Punjab and Rajasthan, meant airport authorities couldn't issue take-off clearance in Chandigarh, delaying several flights out of the city. GT are likely to arrive in Ahmedabad only after 10pm, before they head to their hotel in Gandhinagar, another 30-minute drive away.

This is the first time a team has had to travel a day before the final, after the BCCI opted to host three playoffs across three venues as opposed to two earlier. In contrast, RCB arrived in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, and had two



solid training sessions in the lead-up to their second straight IPL final.

"Yes, because after Qualifier 1 we got enough time to rest and recover. At the same time, GT are coming straight from Qualifier 2," Patidar said when asked if their early arrival was a positive. "There is some sort of advantage, but not a huge one because both teams are very good and have played excellent cricket."

Sunday's match will be Ahmedabad's fourth IPL final. As things stand, the forecast seems clear. However, the

final involving Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans in 2023 was severely rain-affected, requiring the match to go into a reserve day. The game eventually ended in the wee hours on the third day after the organisers were forced to apply a two-hour extension to complete the final.

GT are eyeing their second title. Having won in 2022, they came within one ball of defending their crown against CSK, before Ravindra Jadeja's heroics helped deliver a fifth title for the MS Dhoni-led team.

Gill: Physically RCB might have advantage, but finals are all about mental strength

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans (GT) face the unenviable task of playing a third game, at a third venue, in six days on Sunday in Ahmedabad. Their captain Shubman Gill isn't too perturbed by it, though he conceded that their well-rested opponents Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) may have an edge heading into the final.

Usually, IPL knockouts are held in only two venues, but this year's scheduling has given the winner of Qualifier 1 a bigger advantage.

"Yeah, I mean, Dharamsala [the venue for the first qualifier] is kind of a difficult venue to get there and travel," Gill said after beating Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Qualifier 2. "Yes, physically they might have an advantage, but I think finals are all about mental [strength], so the team that is men-



tally up there for the challenge is the one that's going to win."

The conditions in Ahmedabad, especially, amplify GT's strengths and their squad construction. They have won five of the seven matches they have played so far in Ahmedabad this season. And of the three knockout games they have played at the venue over the years, they have won two, including the IPL 2022 final.

"Honestly, I don't really get [the issue of] burden of expectations [of playing another final in Ahmedabad]," Gill said. "You know, there are advantages. That's how I see it. There's familiarity when we play there. We know the wicket and the ground. So we know what kind of cricket we need to play there to be able to win. So in that context, I see it as an advantage because there's a little bit of familiarity." Gill himself has been prolific in Ahmedabad, where he has scored almost 25% of his T20 runs at an average of 54.

After his non-selection for the T20 World Cup earlier this year, Gill has come out with greater attacking intent, especially in the powerplay this IPL. He has been going at 9.55 runs an over in the first six overs without compromising on the high volume of runs, which GT prioritise at the top.

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

Asian Games trials: I will come back, says Vinesh after semifinal loss to Meenakshi

■ AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Soon after losing the 53kg semifinal bout against Meenakshi Goyat, wrestler Vinesh Phogat went straight to her corner before returning to the mat a few seconds later. On her way back, she gave a friendly but short smile to her victorious opponent before reaching closer to Wrestling Federation of India president, Sanjay Kumar Singh, who was seated next to the mat along with a few dignitaries.

"Mai vapisi aayugi (I'll come back)," she told the WFI president before heading away from the mat but not the limelight as the camerapersons and scribes followed her leaving behind the winner Meenakshi.

On being asked why she said that to Sanjay Singh, the two-time World Championships bronze medallist told the journalists, "The message was for all those who wanted to watch me fail. But I didn't fail. In fact, I am proud of myself as I have returned to mat only 10 months after giving birth to a baby boy. A lot of girls will take inspiration from me. Every girl present at the venue was happy to see me back. They were taking selfies with me but they cannot express their happiness openly



as they are under pressure."

The loss in the selection trials might have ended her bid to make a comeback into the national team for the upcoming Asian Games but she claimed she is walking away with a lot of positives from her first tournament in almost two years since the 2024 Paris Olympic heartbreak. The three-time Olympian said she returned to the wrestling mat to keep her bid for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics alive and will work harder to come back stronger next time. "I am not averse to losing as you will win some and lose some while wrestling on the mat. This is not my first loss and every failure teaches you a lot. But the whole system is against me and despite that

I have continued to fight, that's why I see myself as a winner," she added.

The WFI president, however, affirmed the trials were held in a fair manner and congratulated both the winners and losers advising the latter to be better prepared for the next tournament. "The trials were held in presence of an observer each from the sports ministry and Indian Olympic Association. If someone still feels she was cheated then I cannot do much about it," said the federation chief.

Sanjay Singh might have tried to sound unperturbed but it looks highly unlikely that he will not have a faceoff with Vinesh in future. At least Vinesh's open statement (challenge) after the semifinal bout suggests so.

Ros Rivaz appointed to ICC board as independent director

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Dr Ros C Rivaz has been appointed to the ICC board as an independent director. She is set to join the board on an initial three-year term, which can be extended for a maximum of three more years. Rivaz, who is currently chair of Anglian Water and the lead independent director at Aperam SA and Victrex plc, Europe-based material science companies, has experience in executive roles in blue-chip companies, both in the UK and internationally, "providing a broad perspective on strategy, risk and performance management," as an ICC statement described. "Throughout her career, Dr Rivaz has been an active and engaged board member, undertaking site visits and stakeholder interactions across government, commercial, and community sectors," a statement said. "Her deep understanding of governance, corporate strategy, and operational effectiveness is complemented by her commitment to diversity and inclusion, making her a strong addition to the ICC Board." Rivaz has also been involved in several community and educational initiatives, including supporting STEM uptake among young women through the Your-Life campaign, chairing the Council of the University of Southampton, and actively participating in local community projects and charities such as Water Aid. "It is a privilege to join the ICC Board at such an exciting time for the sport," Rivaz said. "Cricket continues to reach new audiences, inspire communities and strengthen its position as one of the world's most influential global sports. I look forward to working alongside the ICC Chairman, fellow Board members, and the wider cricket family to support the continued growth of the game. Strong governance, long-term thinking and an inclusive approach to decision-making will be central to ensuring cricket continues to thrive and create opportunities for future generations across all parts of the world."

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

9999038812
9419008414

Radio Colony,
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:
Dr Basharat Khan
Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.